



MACo news

Vol. 35 No. 12 December 2006

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Elected County Officials' Orientation/ Commissioner Certification: Phase I

Monday, December 11, 2006

3:00 pm **REGISTRATION**, Lobby
 6:00 pm **Dinner with MACo Board of Directors**, Executive Room: Welcome and Introduction to the Training John Prinkki, MACo President and Carbon County Commissioner
Keynote Address: Welcome to Public Service, Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger

10:00-10:30 am
 10:30-12:30 pm

services and how they are delivered.

Break, Natatorium
Course 105.1—Local Government Law: A review and discussion of how to find and use the law related to county government.

12:30-1:30 pm
 1:30-3:30 pm

Lunch, Executive Room
Course 106.1—The Montana Legislative Process, Capitol Room: A review and discussion of how the Montana legislative process works from the perspective of county government.

3:30-4:00 pm
 4:00-5:00 pm

Break, Natatorium
Course 107.1—The Montana Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties.

Dinner on your own.

Thursday, December 14, 2006

8:30-9:30 am

Course 107.1—The Montana Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties [continued]

9:30-11:30 am

Course 108.1—Human Resource Risk Issues: An in-depth review of the legal requirements and risk exposures associated with critical human resource management issues.

11:30-12:00 pm

Break—You might want to use this time to check out of your hotel room

12:00-1:00 pm

Lunch Address, Executive Room: Dr. Douglas Steele, Vice Provost & Director of MSU Extension

1:00-3:00 pm

Course 501.1—Pending Legislation Affecting Local Government, Capitol Room

3:00-3:30 pm
 3:30-5:30 pm*

Break, Natatorium
Course 507.1—Elements of Land Use Law: A review of the legal requirements for and critical elements of the land use planning process.

5:30 pm

Adjourn

*Break-Out sessions for other elected officials will be provided at this time. The registration form is on the following page (page 2).

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

8:00- 10:00 am **Introductions and participants' self introductions**, Capitol Room: John Prinkki, MACo President, Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director, Jane Jelinski, Director, Local Government Center, MSU

10:00-10:30 am
 10:30-12:00 pm

Break, Natatorium
Course 101.1—Introduction to County Government: An in-depth review of the legal basis of Montana county government, and the roles of county commissioners.

12:30-1:30 pm
 1:30-2:30 pm

Lunch, Executive Room
Course 102.1—The Commission Decision Process, Capitol Room: An overview of the decision process of the Board of County Commissioners and of the constitutional rights and limitations of Montana citizens to participate in county government decisions.

2:30-3:30 pm
 3:30-4:00 pm
 4:00-5:00 pm

Case Studies Break, Natatorium
Course 103.1—The Montana Code of Ethics: An in-depth review of the statutory requirements imposed upon all elected and appointed county officials by the Montana Code of Ethics.

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

8:00-10:00 am **Course 104.1—County Functions and Services**, Capitol Room: A review of essential county functions and

**MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' ORIENTATION/
COMMISSIONER CERTIFICATION
RED LION COLONIAL HOTEL
2301 COLONIAL DRIVE, HELENA
(406) 443-2100**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2006 THROUGH THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006

ORIENTATION PRE-REGISTRATION

Name (as you want it to appear on your name badge)

County.....

Position/Title.....

E-Mail Address

Home Telephone Number

This program is the first phase of MACo's Commissioner Certification Program. This program is an individual commissioner's option.

	<u>Pre-Registration</u>	<u>On Arrival</u>
Elected Officials' Orientation/Certification	\$150	\$165

Registration fee includes, one dinner and three lunches, cost of all materials and instructors.

Please make checks payable to MACo, and send with this entire form to MACo at **2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602, no later than Monday, December 4, 2006.** For information regarding registration, call Karen Houston at 444-4375.

REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IF CANCELLATION
IS REQUESTED BY DECEMBER 4th.



MACo News



2007 State Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day	Monday, January 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 15
Lincoln's and Washington's Birthday	Monday, February 19
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28
Independence Day	Wednesday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 3
Columbus Day	Monday, October 8
Veterans' Day	Monday, November 12
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25



The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly. —Abraham Lincoln

Travel Rates

Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The mileage rate for Montana local government is 44.5¢ per mile for the first 1,000 miles of travel within each month. The rate for mileage over 1,000 miles is three cents less (41.5¢) per mile. (2-18-503 MCA)

Per Diem Rates:	In-State	Out-of-State
Morning Meal	\$5.00	\$7.00
Mid-day Meal	\$6.00	\$11.00
Evening Meal	\$12.00	\$18.00
TOTALS	\$23.00	\$36.00

Motel/Hotel Room Reimbursement Rate

MACo policy is to follow the State of Montana travel reimbursement policy.

State Policy (Rate for Lodging)

The in-state lodging reimbursement rate is \$60 plus tax, except for those communities listed below:

- Big Sky, Gallatin County (Except West Yellowstone)
- Butte, Silver Bow County
- Helena, Lewis & Clark County
- Missoula, Missoula County
- Polson, Lake County
- Kalispell, Flathead County
- West Yellowstone (City Limits of West Yellowstone)

Please visit the following website for further information: <http://www.gsa.gov>.

Mark Your Calendars

December

- Dec 6-7 Transportation Commission, Helena
- Dec 11 MACo Board of Directors Meeting
- Dec 11-14 Newly Elected Officials Training, Helena

2007

- Jan 3 Legislative Session Opens
- Jan 10-14 **NACo Presidents & Exec's Meeting, Washington, DC**
- Jan 17-19 Loss Control, Billings—JPIA/JPA Membership Annual Meeting
- Feb 12-15 MACo Midwinter Meeting, Helena
- Feb 25-28 Transmittal Break
- Mar 3-7 NACo Legislative Conference, Washington, DC
- April 24 Legislative Sine Die
- April 25-27 JPIA/JPA/HCT Trustees meeting (TENTATIVE)
- May 8-12 WIR, Fairbanks, AK
- June 4-15 District Meetings (TENTATIVE)
- June 22 MACo Board of Directors Meeting (TENTATIVE)
- July 12-18 NACo Annual Conference, Richmond, VA
- Sept 23-27 MACo Annual Conference, Great Falls

The only king without a moustache in a deck of cards is the king of hearts.
Albert Einstein was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952, but he declined.



MACo Claims Department

The MACo Claims staff has completed their relocation to our new building. They still have some unpacking to do but are up and running.

The new physical address is 2717 Skyway Drive, Helena, however all mail should be sent to:

MACo Claims
P.O. Box 7059
Helena MT 59604

Phone numbers remain the same:

(406) 442-1178
Fax (406) 443-4161

E-mail addresses remain the same:

- Keith Stapley: keith@macoclaims.com
- Wendy Sesselman: wendy@macoclaims.com
- Bonnie Knopf: bonnie@macoclaims.com
- Christine Holling: chris@macoclaims.com
- Laurie Goltry: laurie@macoclaims.com

We are receiving quite a bit of their mail at the MACo address so we ask that you distribute this information to everyone in your county who may have need to contact them.



Risk Management

Let it Snow: Winter Driving Safety

By MT Department of Transportation

Motorists can help ensure a safer winter driving experience if they are prepared, alert and cautious.

When around snowplows, consider this

1. They travel slowly, usually 25-30 miles per hour, so if you are behind one, you may be tempted to pass. Before you do, keep in mind these important facts: When driving behind a plow, you may easily see it ahead of you - after all it is a large truck - but the plow driver may not see you.
2. Snowplow drivers need to concentrate on their task and the road conditions in front of them, so they may not spot a vehicle trying to pass. Some Snowplows are equipped with a "wing plow," an eight foot extension off the right side of the truck. It allows the operator to clear snow from the driving lane and shoulder at the same time. The wing plows are hard to see, so never pass a snow plow on the right.
3. Plows aren't just removing snow. They also spread sand or de-icer on the road. Leave enough room between the plow and you to avoid having you car peppered with grit or sprayed with de-icer.

Winter driving checklist

1. Keep your car's windows, mirrors and lights clear of snow and ice.
2. Always wear your safety belt.
3. Leave a few minutes early to allow extra time to get to your destination.
4. Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges.
5. Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles and trucks that are plowing the road. Don't pass a snowplow or spreader unless it is absolutely necessary.
6. Keep an emergency winter driving kit in your car. Use a plastic crate or a large, heavy canvas bag to store the following items in the trunk of your car: flashlights with extra batteries, first aid kit with a pocket knife, at least one blanket, extra set of mittens, socks and a wool cap, small sack of sand or cat litter for generating traction under the wheels, a small shovel, bottled water, booster cables and canned fruit, nuts and a non-electric can opener.
7. A winter car kit helps ensure a driver's safety, but vehi-



The Beartooth Highway

cles also need attention at the start of the winter season. The American Automobile Association advises drivers to prepare their vehicles for the winter season by having a mechanic check the following items: Battery, Belts and Antifreeze, Ignition system, Lights, Flashing hazard lights, Exhaust system, Heater, Brakes, Defroster and Oil level (if necessary, replace existing oil with a winter grade oil or the SAE 10w/30 weight variety).

8. Be sure you have good tires. All season radials on a front-wheel-drive passenger vehicle are adequate for most situations. Snow tires on most rear wheel drive vehicles are usually adequate. Chain restrictions in Montana are most often put into effect for commercial vehicles and do not usually affect passenger vehicles.
9. In poor visibility or even whiteout conditions, don't drive faster than you can see ahead. High speeds in poor or no visibility can lead to large chain reaction accidents. Remember you can't see around mountain curves and corners either.
10. In addition to these winter driving tips, MDT reminds all motorists to respect winter weather, conduct a pre-trip inspection of your vehicle, leave extra space between your automobile and others on the road, and never drink and drive. Of course, always buckle up.

Check out the Montana Department of Transportations online *Winter Survival Guide*: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Retirement Party for Ray Barnicoat as he ends his 20-year career as MACo Risk Manager.



Come say farewell to Ray at Fox Ridge Restaurant/Golf Course on Friday, January 19.

Registration/Payment form and details to follow in January newsletter.



Risk Management

Update: Montana Jail Standards & Model Policy Guidelines

By Fred Hansen, MACo Loss Control Specialist

After considerable work by both advisory committees the 2006 MT Jail Standards and the Model Policy Guidelines were completed in early October and ready to be distributed.

On October 9, 2006 Ray Barnicoat and Fred Hansen from MACo, Jerry Williams and Kevin Olson from MLEA, and Alan Hulse from MMIA started a trip around the state to distribute and present training on the 2006 MT Jail Standards and the 2006 Model Policy Guidelines. In four weeks, training presentations were made in 24 centrally located counties. This training was well received, with a total of 175 personnel attending the training sessions.

In the future other training locations and dates will be considered to offer training to those who were unable to attend the last sessions.



Fred Hansen, MACo Loss Control Specialist

Risk Management “Loss Control Conference”

The Risk Management Loss Control Conference, January 16-18, 2007, is presented by the Montana Association of Counties and the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

It only happens once a year—the MACo Risk Management “Loss Control Conference” will mix serious and fun days of learning. The safety sessions will teach you several ways to make your safety and health program more effective.

Sign up now! For additional information or to obtain registration forms, access MACo website: <http://www.maco.cog.mt.us> Let's spend several days together at the MACo Risk Management “learning party.”

Law Enforcement attending the conference will receive Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Credits.

The convention will be held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center: 1223 Mullaney LN, Billings, MT 59101, (800) 537-7286. Questions About The Conference? Contact Karen Houston at (406) 444-4375 or macomtg@maco.cog.mt.us.

Please see the agenda and registration form on the following 2 pages (page 6-7).

Dangerous, Even Fatal Medication Mistakes

By Sandy Longfellow, IASC Administrative Assistant

At least 1.5 million people in the US are harmed annually by medication errors, according to a report issued in July 2006 by the Institute of Medicine. Here are some tips on guarding against drug mistakes:

Mixing Medications: Your pharmacist can be your best resource in identifying drugs that interact, for example antibiotics reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives. And remember, even over-the-counter meds and supplements can interact with drugs you are taking.

Mixing Medication and Alcohol: One of the dangers of mixing drugs (especially anti-anxiety drugs like Val-

ium and Xanax) and alcohol is that the alcohol slows response time and alertness. Even mixing antihistamines with alcohol will amplify the sedative effect.

Enough Information: When you leave your doctor's office be sure you know what medication you will be taking, what it is for, and how often you should take it. Don't rely solely on your pharmacist—check your prescription when you get it.

Wrong Prescription: Be sure to check that the drugs in your bottle are the ones you are supposed to be taking.

Using Multiple Pharmacies: Be sure that all the pharmacies and doctors that you use know exactly

what medications you are on. Using only one pharmacy is safer because they will spot interactions when they fill prescriptions.

Take Medication as Directed: Statistics show that less than 50% of people filling a prescription will take it as directed. Use the containers and other resources available to remember when to take meds.

Ask Questions: If you are hospitalized and unable to ask questions about treatment, ask a family member for help. Make



sure everyone knows the medication you are on and that they are administered as directed. Doctors and nurses get distracted—your help could be life saving. Be alert and reduce your risk!



Risk Management

Risk Management “Loss Control Conference”

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

1:00 am to 5:00 pm **Registration**
 Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) & Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Annual Membership Meeting

1:00 pm **Opening Session:**
 Opening Remarks—Mike Murray, JPIA Chair, Lewis & Clark County Commissioner
 Opening Remarks—John Prinkki, MACo JPA President, Carbon County Commissioner
 Roll Call
 Explanation of the JPIA Trustee Election Process
 JPIA Annual Report
 JPA Annual Report

1:30 pm **Loss Control/Safety Program Overview:**
 Member Services Program—Greg Jackson, Marketing Director Safety Program
 Overview—Emelia McEwen, Senior Loss Control Specialist and Fred Hansen, Loss Control Specialist

2:30 pm **Break**

3:00 pm **Property Policyholder Workshop—A Layman’s Overview**

4:00 pm **Break**

4:15 pm **Health Insurance Presentation**

5:00 pm **General Business**
 Building/In-house Claims Update
 Other Business

5:30 pm **End of Session**

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

7:30 am to 5:00 pm **Registration**

8:00 am **Law Enforcement Session** (See attachment: Law Enforcement Session)

1:00 pm **JPIA Business Session (1:00 pm to 1:30 pm)**
 JPIA Trustees Election
 Other Business

MSPOA—Law Enforcement Session

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

7:30 am to 5:00 pm **Registration**

8:00 am **Introductions and Welcome**
 Greg Hintz, MSPOA Training Officer
 Fred Hansen MACo Loss Control Specialist

Law Enforcement Topics to be Discussed:

1. History of Sudden Death
2. Excited Delirium Behavioral Cues
3. Mental Health and Stimulant Abuse Issues
4. Cardiac and Medical-based Evi-

dence Regarding Safety of TA-SER Electronic Control Devices

5. Training Recommendations
6. Recommended Response Protocols For Law Enforcement, EMS etc.; Forensic Investigator and Medical Examiner Autopsy Recommendations

10:00 am **Break**

10:30 am **Continue of the Law Enforcement Topics**

12:00 pm **Lunch on your own**

1:00 pm **Concurrent JPIA Business Session “Jail Suicide”**

1. Fourteen Categories of Suicide
2. What to Look for During Intake
3. Recommendations to minimize Correctional Liability
4. Psychological Autopsy and Jail Suicide Investigations
5. Death Reporting Act of 2000

3:00 pm **Break**

3:30 pm **“Suicide by Cop”**

1. History
2. Identification and Prevention Strategies

5:00 pm **End of Session**

Safety Session

Thursday, January 18, 2007

7:30 am to 12:00 pm **Registration**

8:00 am **Introductions & Welcome**
 Emelia McEwen, MACo Senior Loss Control Specialist

8:15 am **“Safety Matters”**

8:30 am **“History of the Montana Safety Culture Act”**

8:30 am **“Montana Safety Culture Act-How It Does Apply, How Do You Implement It and How does It Affect the Counties?”**

9:30 am **Break**

10:00 am **“Mechanical Maintenance and Repair of Your Body”-- Keeping all parts moving.**

11:00 am **“How to Make Your Return to Work Program Successful”**

12:00 pm **Awards Luncheon**

1:00 pm **“The Impacts of Stress in the Workplace”**

2:00 pm **Break**

2:30 pm **“New Updates in Workers’ Compensation”**

3:30 pm **“Burning Fat with Carole Raymond”**

4:30 pm **End of Session**

Please see the registration form on the following page (page 7).

**Montana Association of Counties
&
Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association**

January 16-18, 2007

Billings Hotel and Convention Center
1223 Mallowney Ln
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 248-7151

LOSS CONTROL CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

Name: _____ County or Agency: _____.

Position/Title:

<u>Pre-Registration</u>	<u>On Arrival</u>	<u>Paid</u>
\$75.00	\$85.00	_____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE BOXES BELOW:

- Yes, I will be attending the Awards Luncheon on Thursday January 18, 2007.

- No I will not be attending the Awards Luncheon on Thursday January 18, 2007.

Registration fee includes the awards luncheon, coffee breaks, registration materials, and the cost of speakers and program.

Make checks payable to MACo, and send with this entire form to MACo at **2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602**. For information regarding the conference call Emelia McEwen at 444-4370 and for information regarding registration call Karen Houston at 444-4375.

**REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IF CANCELLATION
IS REQUESTED BY JANUARY 13, 2007**

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN LODGING RESERVATIONS!!

MACo has blocked sleeping rooms for the nights of January 16-18, 2007, at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. The cost of the rooms are \$60.00 plus tax. **TO RECEIVE THIS RATE, you must mention you are with MACo Risk**



County News

'Graduated sanctioning' reduces youth crime in Ravalli County

By Charles Taylor, Senior Staff Writer
NACo County News

Juvenile crime has decreased by more than 100 cases in each of the last three years in Ravalli County, Mont. - an achievement local officials credit to stepped-up prevention efforts and a graduated sanctioning system.

"Simply, it is upping the ante every time a kid comes into the office," said Clint Arneson, the chief juvenile probation officer in the county. Youthful offenders can still end up before a judge, but only if **other methods in the system's "balanced approach" and restorative justice model don't work.**

Located in the state's Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli County (pop. 39,000) is the nose on the "face" of Montana - a craggy protuberance along the state's western border, which resembles the outline of a face in profile. In 1998, its juvenile courts saw an average of 15 cases per week. Today, that figure has dropped to about one.

Under graduated sanctioning, probation officers with Ravalli County Youth Court Services, a state entity, serve as "gate keepers" for the court. The system is similar to the "three-strike" approach to crime that has been adopted by several states. For a young offender, the process can begin with a night in the juvenile lock-up, but rarely does it proceed to a formal, and costly, court hearing. The first two strikes, excluding certain felony offenses, are addressed through the probation office, Arneson said.

For a first misdemeanor offense, juveniles, their parents or guardians, and sometimes an attorney, meet with Youth Court Services. The probation officer will enter into a contract with all parties, **outlining the youths' and parents' obligations.**

For example, a kid accused of shoplifting, might be required to pay for the stolen item and perform community service hours, for **which the youth must pay a fee. If the youth wasn't previously involved in extra-curricular activities, he or she might be required to choose a hobby with provable results.**

Having the kid meet face-to-face with the victim is also an important part of the process, Arneson said, "so that the victims have a say **in what they see happen with the kid.**" **It's an attempt to "make them as whole as they were before they were the victim of a crime,"** he added. Hence the term "restorative justice." Hopefully, it also teaches the offender "a little empathy."

For a second offense, the youth would enter informal supervised probation. If he or she violates the agreement, the probation officer can have the juvenile placed under electronic monitoring or in shelter care or the juvenile detention facility for 24 hours or until a probable cause hearing can be held.

A third strike could bring a lengthier stay in the county's juvenile jail. "The detention center itself is a deterrent for these kids," said Lori Rodrick, who runs the facility. In Montana, some juvenile jails are run **by the Sheriff's Department, but Ravalli's is a county jail, funded by the County Board of Commissioners.**

Years ago, before being licensed by the state as a long-term facility, the six-bed jail could only keep kids overnight. Today, they can be held indefinitely.



The Bitterroot Mountains

"Kids that came in a few years ago, it was a bed in a hallway type of situation," Rodrick said. "Now we actually have the steel doors that **bang at night. It's a regular correctional facility now, and these kids do not like it at all.**"

Talk to Arneson and other officials involved in juvenile justice, and **they'll tell you that in addition to graduated sanctioning, their success can be traced to the close collaboration between state and county employees, and various human service agencies.**

Rodrick said, "Most youth courts and detention centers (in Montana) **don't work together. I've got some of my detention officers that work for some of the youth court's programming, so we're all intertwined with trying to help these kids.**

"I think that the main reason that we have been working so well," she added, "is because the state youth court, the county, the detention center - **everybody is in tune to these kids. We're all working on the same path; we're not butting heads against one another.**"

The results of this coordinated approach have been impressive. In 2003, there were more than 600 juvenile crime citations in Ravalli County; the following year, there were about 500, and in 2005, there were 405 citations. And from 1998 to 2005, the budget to place juveniles in out-of-county facilities was cut from \$480,000 to \$170,000. Rodrick said in the last six months, the jail has made \$40,000 from housing juveniles from other counties.

The graduated sanctioning system has been in place for about 10 years. So why such positive results in just the last three years?

"**Like with any other program you see that's relatively successful, it got a foothold and people understood it,**" Arneson explained. "Kids **began to see that if you go into this system, it's not going to be good for you for a little while, and so they wanted to stay away.**"

But nothing occurs in a vacuum. County Commissioner Alan Thompson believes his local government's efforts to provide more youth recreational opportunities also have made a difference. In the last several years, the county has expanded its trail system, built a new swimming pool and tennis courts. Hamilton - the county seat - and the neighboring town of Darby developed a skateboard park. "We're working hard to give them options other than to get into trouble," he said.

(For more information about Ravalli County's juvenile crime reduction efforts, contact Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Clint Arneson at CArneson2@mt.gov.)



County News

Glacier National Park Flooding Hits Historic Proportions



November 7, 2006

Glacier National Park on Swiftcurrent Creek at Many Glacier
—Photo by Don Bischoff



November 10, 2006

Glacier National Park on Swiftcurrent Creek at Many Glacier
—Photo by Norm Midtlyng

Heavy rains fell on Glacier National Park November 7, causing the water level in Swiftcurrent Lake to rise far above its' normal level. Officials with the park say that it looks as if the flood damage done to the Many Glacier Hotel is not as bad as they had first feared.

In photos, it appeared that the main floor of the historic hotel was swamped, and the next day, staffers from Glacier Park Incorporated's engineering office used powerful wet vacuums to clean up the water.

Meanwhile, Montana Senator Max Baucus says that he asking officials with the Federal Highway Administration for

emergency funds to help repair the damage done to the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

The rain, combined with melting snow, washed out parts of the scenic road.

In a letter sent to Federal Highway Administrator Rick Capka, Baucus points out that the road was already ailing before the recent damage, and noted that emergency funds are needed as soon as possible.

Baucus says the situation facing the road in Glacier Park is similar to the landslide that destroyed parts of the Beartooth Highway back in 2005.

Cascade County Earns Free Test Kits From NACo

By Kelly Zonderwyk, NACo Community Services Associate

Beginning January 1, counties across the nation will lead activities and host special events to increase awareness of the health effects of radon exposure and to promote radon testing, mitigation, and radon-resistant new construction. To assist in this effort, NACo has awarded ten counties, including Cascade County, 300 free radon test kits through the second year of its County Radon Outreach Program. The test kits, supplied by NACo, were awarded to these counties for their innovative radon outreach and education efforts concentrated in diverse and low income population areas.

Cascade County, Montana will distribute its test kits through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and AmeriCorps to 300 low-income homeowners on January 15, 2007, the National Day of Service. Radon presentations will be made during neighborhood council meetings and elementary school students will receive family activity sheets on radon to complete throughout the month.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, and odorless radioactive gas. It originates from natural deposits of radium in the soil. As the radium decays it turns into radon gas which can enter a home. Radon enters a home due to indoor air vacuums

that cause the radon laden soil gas to enter through the foundation.

The only way to know if a home has a radon problem is to test. Every home should be tested, regardless of age, construction style, or previous testing results. The cost of reducing radon exposure in the home typically compares to other common home repair investments. And, these mitigation techniques DO work!

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the country surpassed only by direct smoking, and the leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers. It is ranked by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Group A Carcinogen, which places it in the highest ranking for cancer potential, and in the same category as tobacco. The EPA has found that radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year.

The counties to earn free test kits through this effort are: El Paso County, Colorado; Pocahontas County, Iowa; Scott County, Iowa; Taylor County, Iowa; Cascade County, Montana; Hitchcock County, Nebraska; Lyon County, Nevada; Butler County, Ohio; Hamilton County, Tennessee; and Pierce County, Wisconsin.



County News

COUNTY OFFICIALS

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY'S Sheriff Chuck Maxwell has been diagnosed with cancer and will soon begin a course of low-dose chemotherapy. He believes he'll be back to work in a very short period of time, and also plans to proceed with plans to marry Sharon Flinn in January.

FLATHEAD COUNTY Sheriff's deputy Tom Snyder is retiring, turning over leadership of the county's search-and-rescue teams to deputy Jordan White.

SANDERS COUNTY'S Chief Public Health Official Cindy Morgan was recently given Montana's Northwest Region Exemplary Service Award for almost 12 years of service to the county.

CARBON COUNTY'S Dan McJunkin has been named as the new Undersheriff for the Carbon County Sheriff's Department.

STILLWATER COUNTY Commissioner Charles (Chuck) Egan has retired after 10 years in office. His replacement has not yet been named.

BROADWATER COUNTY approved K.C. Lynn as its newest commissioner.

CASCADE COUNTY'S Justice of the Peace Samuel L. Harris announced that he will resign effective December 31

PARK COUNTY Planning Director is Jackie Robbins not Linda Gillet as stated in the MACo November Newsletter. Our sincere apologies Jackie!

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY'S Treasurer Janice Thomas stepped down as treasurer at the end of October to take care of "family matters of a personal nature."

LIBERTY COUNTY commissioner Ed Diemert resigned as of November 1, 2006, and Larry Hendrickson was appointed as the county's new commissioner until December 31 and will assume it as his elected position January 1.

JAILS

MADISON COUNTY voters rejected a \$10 million bond issue to build a justice center and 35-bed jail across the street from the courthouse, as well as make an addition to the courthouse for handicapped access and records storage.

GALLATIN COUNTY paid \$180,850 to other jails, an average of \$853.07 per day from January through July 2006, to house Gallatin County inmates.

SUBDIVISIONS

PARK COUNTY commissioners approved a major subdivision, Absaroka View, just northwest of Livingston. The subdivision proposes 27 residential single-family lots ranging from about 4 to 12 ½ acres per lot.

FLATHEAD COUNTY commissioners approved a major subdivision, Haskill Mountain Ranch, near Kila on a 2-1 vote. It features 74 single-family home lots on 530 acres along Browns Meadow Road.

RAVALLI COUNTY commissioners turned down the largest subdivision in county history, Aspen Springs. It would have consisted of 671 homes on 393 acres.

GALLATIN COUNTY commissioners voted unanimously to preliminary approve a 254-lot subdivision outside four corners called Middle Creek Parklands.

MISCELLANEOUS

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY has new technology, making it easier to keep close tabs on the men and women under community-based supervision. With the aid of electronic devices, supervisors at Alternatives Inc. in Billings are now able to monitor the travels of the people they supervise or receive hourly updates on whether drunk-driving offenders are using alcohol in defiance of bond requirements or sentencing guidelines.

BIG HORN COUNTY Sheriff's Department received an award from the National Weather Service recently for its diligence in recording local weather conditions for the past 25 years.

FLATHEAD COUNTY could start handing out \$200 fines to people who drive to the landfill with garbage falling out of their trucks, beginning in the next few months. The action stems from the recent epidemic of roadside trash.

CHOUTEAU COUNTY commissioners continue to work on setting up a new drug and alcohol-counseling program in the county.

MUSSELSHELL COUNTY commissioners have formed an exploratory committee to evaluate and make recommendations on whether a Tax Increment Financing Industrial District (TIFID) would make sense for Musselshell County.

DAWSON COUNTY commissioners have resolved to implement a 4.4 percent pay increase for elected officials and their deputies for fiscal year 2006/07. Salaries for Dawson County's elected officials have increased about \$7,000, or an average of \$1,400 each year, over the last five years.

FERGUS COUNTY fire departments will be getting state-of-the-art mobile and portable radio equipment thanks to a grant in the amount of \$547,614 that was awarded to Lewistown Fire-Rescue from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

JEFFERSON COUNTY commission approved allocating \$80,000 of the county's \$1.7 million Metal Mines Trust Fund monies to Jefferson Local Development Corporation. The county intends to keep much of the fund as a rainy-day account, in the event Montana Tunnels Mine eventually closes.

CASCADE COUNTY residents who went by vehicle to settle their tax bills from November 15-30 got free parking: orange cloth bags were placed over three parking meters in front of the County Treasurer's Office as a small gesture during tax time.

Farewell, Outgoing County Officials

MACo recognizes the following elected officials who are ending their service in county government. We are grateful for their dedication, and we wish them great happiness. We tried our hardest to recognize everyone and sincerely apologize if we left anyone out.

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Commissioner Wayne Ternes
Commissioner Connie Ternes Daniels
Commissioner Rus Bilodeau
Treasurer Janice Thomas

Beaverhead County

Clerk & Recorder Rosalee B. Richardson
Sheriff William R. Briggs
Public Administrator Christopher H. Kraft

Big Horn County

County Attorney Calvin Wilson
Justice of the Peace Natasha J. Morton
Sup't of Schools Gary Hickey
Sheriff Larson Medicine Horse
Treasurer Mildred Kehler

Blaine County

Commissioner Arthur Kleinjan
County Attorney Yvonne Laird

Broadwater County

Commissioner Elaine Mann
Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer/
Sup't of Schools Judy R. Gillespie
Sheriff/Coroner Richard E. Thompson

Butte-Silver Bow County

Commissioner Michael Kerns
Commissioner Bud Walker
Commissioner Laura Lee Dunlap
Commissioner Ted Bury

Carbon County

County Attorney Kemp Wilson
Sheriff/Coroner C. Lance Bourquin

Carter County

Treasurer/Assessor Nora Kreitel

Cascade County

Clerk & Recorder/Auditor Peggy Carrico
Justice of the Peace Samuel L. Harris

Custer County

Commissioner Duane Mathison
County Attorney Garry Bunke
Public Administrator Jan Alexander
Sup't of Schools Ellen R. Zook

Daniels County

Sheriff James P. Kramer

Dawson County

Commissioner William (Bill) E. LaBree
Public Administrator Thomas Toomey
Sup't of Schools Sandra Wells

Fallon County

Sup't of Schools Marlene A. Ferrel

Fergus County

Public Administrator Steven M. Swiontkowski
Sup't of Schools Shirley M. Barrick

Flathead County

Commissioner Robert Watne
Justice of the Peace Dale Trigg
Sheriff/Coroner Jim Dupont

Gallatin County

Commissioner John Vincent
Clerk & Recorder Shelley Vance

Garfield County

Commissioner Phil D. Hill
Sup't of Schools Karla Christensen

Glacier County

Commissioner Raymond Salois
Clerk & Recorder Sylvia Berkram
Treasurer Phyllis Withers

Golden Valley

Commissioner Joy Schanz
County Attorney Anastasia (Stacy) Maloney (with Musselshell Co. too)

Granite County

Commissioner Barry Carnahan
County Attorney Blaine Cooper Bradshaw

Hill County

Public Administrator Carol Bachini-Wood

Judith Basin County

Commissioner Edward F. Arnott
County Attorney James A. Hubble
Sheriff/Coroner Robert W. Jacobi

Lake County

County Attorney Robert Long
Sheriff/Coroner William (Bill) Barron
Treasurer/Assessor Patricia J. Cook
Sup't of Schools Joyce Decker Wegner

Lewis & Clark County

Commissioner Anita Varone

Liberty County

Commissioner Ed Diemert
Clerk & Recorder Maureen Cicon

Lincoln County

Clerk & Recorder Coral M. Cummings
Justice of the Peace Terry Utter
Treasurer Geri A. Miller

Madison County

Commissioner Frank Nelson
Commissioner C. Ted Coffman

McCone County

Commissioner Kent Larson

Meagher County

Treasurer Tary Buckingham

Mineral County

Commissioner James S. Warnken
Treasurer/Sup't of Schools Billye Ann Bricker

Musselshell County

Commissioner Robert T. Goffena
County Attorney Anastasia (Stacy) Maloney (with Golden Valley Co. too)

Park County

Justice of the Peace Deanna Egeland
Sheriff Clark Carpenter
Public Administrator Darla Berumen
Sup't of Schools Rodney Olson

Pondera County

Coroner Eddy Erickson

Powder River County

Commissioner Betty Aye
Justice of the Peace Peggy D. Jones

Powell County

County Attorney Christopher G.

Miller

Clerk & Recorder Karla M. Rydeen

Ravalli County

Commissioner Betty T. Lund
Clerk & Recorder/ Sup't of Schools Nedra P. Taylor

Roosevelt County

County Attorney Fred J. Hofman
Sheriff/Coroner John Q. Grainger

Rosebud County

Commissioner Joah K. Stahl
Sheriff Tim Fulton

Sanders County

County Attorney Robert L. Zimmerman
Clerk & Recorder Pat Ingraham
Coroner Joe Brown

Sheridan County

Sheriff Mike Overland
Treasurer Shirley M. Hovland

Stillwater County

Commissioner Charles (Chuck) Egan
Treasurer Carol J. Rice
Sup't of Schools Barbara Joy Campbell

Sweet Grass County

Commissioner Elaine K. Allestad
Coroner Joseph D. Hansen
Sup't of Schools Linda DeCock

Teton County

Sheriff/Coroner George O. Anderson

Toole County

Commissioner Tom Gordon
Justice of the Peace Jack Stokes

Treasure County

Justice of the Peace Willis F. Etter

Valley County

Public Administrator M. Virginia Bortas

Wibaux County

Commissioner Sandy Nelson
Coroner Frank V. Datta



2006-2007 MACo Committees

Agriculture Committee

Kathy Bessette, Chair, Hill County
Maureen Davey, Stillwater County
Dave Schulz, Madison County
Herb Townsend, Meagher County
Bill Leach, Prairie County
Don Swenson, Blaine County
Jim Durgan, Park County
Tucker Hugher, Judith Basin County
Julie Jordan, Garfield County
Ralph Mannix, Powell County
Jim Sparks, Weed Assoc. Rep., Fergus County
Harold Blattie, Executive Director

Conference Planning Committee

Joe Briggs, Chair, Cascade County
Cynthia Johnson, 1st Vice President, Pondera County
Doug Kaercher, Past President, Hill County
Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County
Joe Skinner, Gallatin County
Connie Eissinger, McCone County
Dan Watson, Rosebud County
Harold Blattie, Executive Director
Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

Community Economic Development Committee

Mike McGinley, Chair, Beaverhead County
Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County
James O'Hara, Chouteau County
Gary Macdonald, Roosevelt County
John Jensen, Fergus County
Dennis Hoyem, Stillwater County
Adam Gartner, Dawson County
Joe Briggs, Cascade County
David Paugh, Golden Valley
Mike DesRosier, Glacier County
Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

Health, Human Services & Labor Committee

Bill Kennedy, Chair, Yellowstone County
Doug Kaercher, Hill County
Don Rieger, Fallon County
Don Steppler, Richland County
Tom Bennett, Wheatland County
Ben Ober, Toole County
Dick Murphy, Park County
Mike Kilby, Musselshell County
Peter Kurtz, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
Carl Seilstad, Fergus County
Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

Information Technology Committee

Sandra Broesder, Chair, Pondera County
Joe Briggs, Cascade County
Harvey Worrall, Chouteau County
Mark Rehbein, Richland County
Russ Temple, Liberty County
Art Pembroke, Lewis & Clark County -IT
John Jensen, Fergus County
Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

Justice & Public Safety Committee

Ed Tinsley, Chair, Lewis & Clark County
Gary Fjelstad, Rosebud
Garth Haugland, Beaverhead County
Ken Ronish, Fergus County
Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County
Mike Anderson, Hill County
Leslie Burroughs, Golden Valley
Chuck Whitson, Lake County

T. Gregory Hintz, Missoula County
Vickie Delger, Roosevelt County
Patrick Eggebrecht, McCone County
Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

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John Prinkki, Carbon County
Carol Brooker, Sanders County
Bill Carey, Missoula County
Jim Durgan, Park County
Joe Skinner, Gallatin County
Gary Hall, Flathead County
Judy Stang, Mineral County
Peggy Beltrone, Cascade County
Suzy Browning, Granite County
Jed Fisher, Weed Assoc. Rep., Flathead County
Harold Blattie, Executive Director

Public Lands Committee

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Carl Seilstad, Sanders County
Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark County
Alan Thompson, Ravalli County
Troy Blunt, Phillips County
Todd Devlin, Prairie County
Lee Iverson, Petroleum County
Dave Schulz, Madison County
B.J. McComb, Mineral County
Tom Rice, Beaverhead
Scott Bockness, Weed Assoc. Rep., Yellowstone County
Harold Blattie, Executive Director

Resolutions Committee

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Albert Brown, Carbon County
Lance Olson, Cascade County
Dave Reinhardt, Valley County
Lesley Robinson, Phillips County
Marianne Roose, Lincoln County
Jean Curtiss, Missoula County
Harold Blattie, Executive Director
Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

Taxation, Finance & Budget Committee

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Rita Windom, Lincoln County
Dan Watson, Rosebud County
Judy Stang, Mineral County
Joe Breneman, Flathead County
Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County
Mack Cole, Treasure County
Harold Blattie, Executive Director

Transportation Committee

John Ostlund, Chair, Yellowstone County
Jamie Doggett, Meagher County
Henry Johnson, Richland County
Richard Dunbar, Phillips County
Chad Fenner, Big Horn County
Bill Loehding, Carter County
Nancy Espy, Powder River County
Joe Christiaens, Pondera County
Phil Hathaway, Sweet Grass County
Larry Lekse, Musselshell County
Eric Griffin, MACRS, Lewis & Clark County
Jack Knorr, MACRS, Sweet Grass County
Jim Ghekiere, Weed Assoc. Rep., Liberty County
Harold Blattie, Executive Director



Fuel Tax Allocations to MT Counties

County	SFY 2004 Total Allocation	SFY 2005 Total Allocation	SFY 2006 Total Allocation	SFY 2007 Total Allocation
Beaverhead	\$140,940.16	\$148,268.90	\$149,141.90	\$146,141.71
Big Horn	\$143,156.42	\$139,364.08	\$138,969.05	\$140,890.64
Blaine	\$128,938.43	\$129,698.67	\$130,479.29	\$127,282.42
Broadwater	\$54,373.29	\$52,564.79	\$52,987.72	\$53,969.45
Carbon	\$86,069.22	\$82,210.79	\$82,604.52	\$82,259.06
Carter	\$69,794.57	\$64,407.97	\$64,447.05	\$65,578.01
Cascade	\$221,492.26	\$219,605.58	\$218,398.86	\$216,344.12
Chouteau	\$144,108.03	\$138,655.63	\$141,371.15	\$139,991.59
Custer	\$87,001.17	\$85,503.12	\$84,452.49	\$84,276.62
Daniels	\$54,803.81	\$51,809.76	\$51,770.98	\$51,147.36
Dawson	\$95,982.01	\$89,487.77	\$89,602.82	\$89,126.12
Deer Lodge	\$40,290.69	\$42,849.30	\$43,407.40	\$42,333.10
Fallon	\$54,426.52	\$52,687.90	\$52,589.93	\$51,825.27
Fergus	\$136,462.20	\$136,268.25	\$134,389.93	\$133,178.72
Flathead	\$447,251.78	\$455,821.99	\$458,475.91	\$474,317.87
Gallatin	\$263,807.18	\$268,704.71	\$273,704.75	\$273,991.69
Garfield	\$92,095.42	\$89,244.96	\$89,388.77	\$90,558.87
Glacier	\$114,322.10	\$116,066.42	\$117,094.46	\$117,607.41
Golden Valley	\$36,324.55	\$34,486.34	\$34,136.76	\$33,948.96
Granite	\$49,413.85	\$56,705.98	\$56,454.80	\$56,948.49
Hill	\$143,517.21	\$141,109.34	\$141,669.20	\$139,804.33
Jefferson	\$94,442.73	\$91,638.09	\$95,359.44	\$99,656.40
Judith Basin	\$68,240.06	\$65,303.14	\$65,012.55	\$64,720.04
Lake	\$181,005.04	\$180,743.28	\$182,449.95	\$183,377.42
Lewis and Clark	\$258,251.84	\$262,853.12	\$262,178.15	\$262,748.56
Liberty	\$59,351.10	\$58,660.24	\$58,176.23	\$58,198.30
Lincoln	\$195,537.80	\$219,519.37	\$220,970.65	\$221,140.00
Madison	\$106,689.32	\$115,847.36	\$116,059.77	\$115,254.21
McCone	\$77,146.51	\$70,791.04	\$72,578.81	\$70,434.30
Meagher	\$54,301.10	\$51,311.54	\$51,020.08	\$51,136.41
Mineral	\$71,547.54	\$64,116.36	\$64,393.26	\$63,453.44
Missoula	\$323,310.65	\$329,543.37	\$322,812.51	\$318,852.32
Musselshell	\$55,694.07	\$53,772.56	\$54,125.55	\$60,629.31
Park	\$107,545.94	\$113,750.88	\$116,665.38	\$114,960.30
Petroleum	\$39,059.87	\$37,196.47	\$36,790.51	\$36,974.09
Phillips	\$123,164.91	\$119,784.22	\$120,081.23	\$119,231.55
Pondera	\$75,661.76	\$72,743.00	\$73,110.82	\$72,402.51
Powder River	\$71,523.82	\$70,701.86	\$70,367.49	\$69,540.18
Powell	\$73,053.93	\$72,447.63	\$71,688.20	\$71,481.48
Prairie	\$46,132.05	\$45,244.65	\$43,618.05	\$43,585.41
Ravalli	\$260,725.31	\$278,229.68	\$281,766.48	\$284,546.31
Richland	\$97,935.07	\$93,914.78	\$93,557.18	\$92,871.28
Roosevelt	\$109,019.76	\$105,460.32	\$104,332.77	\$103,847.70
Rosebud	\$122,918.45	\$121,556.71	\$121,511.32	\$120,851.34
Sanders	\$125,681.46	\$119,358.86	\$121,970.00	\$122,383.50
Sheridan	\$82,817.65	\$79,139.66	\$77,936.90	\$76,967.53
Silver Bow	\$40,630.83	\$42,571.08	\$41,256.69	\$40,799.68
Stillwater	\$93,053.67	\$92,668.09	\$93,460.96	\$92,307.86
Sweet Grass	\$50,631.76	\$51,818.94	\$51,433.91	\$51,461.76
Teton	\$104,279.36	\$100,593.65	\$101,825.80	\$100,059.67
Toole	\$74,927.71	\$73,291.31	\$71,290.41	\$71,903.44
Treasure	\$23,625.69	\$22,529.82	\$22,297.76	\$22,269.37
Valley	\$149,339.45	\$152,326.49	\$151,613.72	\$151,396.20
Wheatland	\$38,768.04	\$36,545.88	\$36,239.44	\$36,027.65
Wibaux	\$31,181.05	\$29,616.74	\$29,395.32	\$29,497.93
Yellowstone	\$289,233.84	\$289,887.56	\$278,114.97	\$274,510.74
Totals	\$6,381,000.00	\$6,381,000.00	\$6,381,000.00	\$6,381,000.00



Announcements & Reminders

The Acts of Caring Awards

In 2007, the National Association of Counties (NACo) will recognize and promote volunteer programs through the Acts of Caring Awards, a national program honoring community-based, county government initiatives that provide a legacy for the future of our country. The Acts of Caring Awards program is designed to raise public understanding and awareness about county government and the services counties provide to the nation.

An "act of caring" is a community service provided by a county-sponsored volunteer program that enhances or preserves the quality of life.

The deadline for the 2007 program is Jan. 19, 2007. No applications will be accepted or considered after this date.

All Acts of Caring honorees will be recognized at a national ceremony that will be held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. during National County Government Week in April 2007. Additionally, they will be recognized in *County News*, on the NACo Web site and in all national media releases and promotions.

Applicants should e-mail their completed application, available at www.naco.org/actsofcaring, with an attached word document to tgoodman@naco.org. In the word document, you will describe your program and the results it has achieved by answering the seven questions on the application form. All seven questions on the application form should be answered. But you should not exceed 1,000 words or six typewritten pages (excluding the application form) to answer the seven questions. Please note that no application materials will be returned. Supplementary materials will not be considered in judging.

In addition, the completed one-page application form should be faxed to 202/393-2630 with the signature of the Chief Elected County Official, or e-mailed if you have it in a scanned electronic version.

National Expert on State Legislatures to Speak in Helena

The public is invited to hear a renowned political scientist's view on just what Americans think of their legislators and legislatures.

Alan Rosenthal, professor of public policy and political science at Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics, will discuss the cynicism surrounding state politics during a free, public forum on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Carroll College Campus Center's Lower Commons: 1601 N. Benton Ave.

He will discuss his experiences with state legislatures throughout the country, keying on the role legislators play in protecting the legislative institution and resolving the clash of values, interests and claims that exist in the nation's diverse political system.

During the evening forum, Rosenthal also will discuss why Americans think as they do about state government, and why legislatures can't escape a bad image.

But it's not all grim news when it comes to state legislatures. Despite the negativity, legislators and legislatures are doing remarkably well, Rosenthal said. He'll offer a few suggestions on how to encourage a better appreciation of state government in action, which deserves and needs all the appreciation it can get, he said. "I'll also probably suggest what responsibilities the Legislature and the legislators have in basically closing the gap between what the public thinks and how the institution works," Rosenthal said. "It's an opportunity for people to get a different perspective."

The Montana Legislative Council, the committee that oversees operation of the legislative branch, is sponsoring Rosenthal's visit to the Capital City.

For additional information contact Krista Lee Evans at Legislative Services at 444-1640.

Retirement Party

Come and help Madison County celebrate Frank Nelson and Ted Coffman's Retirement plus Happy Holidays!



Head 'em up and
move 'em out!



No, you can't
make me leave!

Everybody Welcome

There will be a potluck, with meat and dessert provided, at the Elks Lodge in Virginia City on December 23, 2006 from 2:00 - 8:00 pm.

See ya there!!

Montana Small Jail Initiative Training Program

THE JAIL AS A PART OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The National Institute of Corrections is pleased to announce the first of several jail-related training programs to be presented in 2007 as part of the Montana Small Jail Initiative. The Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, the Montana Association of Counties, and the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office are co-hosting **THE JAIL AS A PART OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT** training program at the City Center Motor Inn in Bozeman, MT on January **29-31, 2007**. The goal of this three-day training program is to develop better communication and cooperation between those who operate jails and those who provide the funding.

There is no registration fee for the training, but participants are responsible for paying their own travel, lodging and meal expenses.

You must pre-register your team in advance, providing a separate registration form for each team member. Fill out additional copies of the NIC registration form as necessary for your team members. The registration deadline is **December 22, 2006**. Please mail or fax the completed registration forms to NIC before the deadline. Space will be limited and teams will be confirmed on a first come, first serve basis.

For further information as well as registration forms, please visit the MACo website: www.maco.cog.mt.us.



Economics 101: what travel and tourism mean for your county

By Christina Crayton, Research Associate, NACo

The 2006 summer tourist season may have ended, but many smart local governments have already begun planning for the 2007 season. And it's no wonder: the American Hotel and Lodging Association reports that tourism is currently the nation's third largest retail industry, behind automotive and food stores, and one of America's largest employers. It's in the top three largest employer industries in 30 of the 50 states.

The tourism industry includes more than 15 interrelated businesses, from lodging establishments, airlines and restaurants to cruise lines, car rental firms, travel agents and tour operators. Travel is also a leading industry and source of jobs in regions and local communities, and is increasing in economic importance.

Economic impact, broad

The total economic impact of tourism is more than just the dollars a visitor spends in a community. Tourism contributes to sales, income, jobs and tax revenues. In some areas, a \$100 tourist expenditure can add \$30 to \$50 to local tax revenue.

Especially lucrative are taxes charged on overnight lodging accommodations, commonly known as a bed or occupancy tax or hotel/motel tax. In 2004, Nebraska's 93 counties generated more than \$10 million from these funds: money used to fund the Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism, county tourism marketing and attraction development efforts. Allegheny County, Pa. reported revenues in calendar year 2005 of more than \$17 million from this tax.

Overall, local and state tax revenues generated by travel spending were \$536 million in 2004. Without these travel-generated tax revenues, each household in West Virginia would have had to pay an additional \$730 in state and local taxes to maintain current service levels. During 2004, visitor spending in West Virginia directly supported more than 40,000 jobs with earnings of \$766 million. Travel spending generated the greatest number of jobs in accommodations and food services, arts, entertainment and recreation, such as performing arts, gaming, outdoor recreation and sightseeing.

According to a study conducted by the University of Arizona, tourists visiting Tucson nonprofit arts organizations generated \$96.8 million in economic activity for Pima County. The county arts industry employs more than 3,500. For every public dollar received by arts organizations, \$1.79 is returned to the county coffers in tax revenue, largely generated through tourism. The tax revenue impact was:

- \$2.9 million, state of Arizona
- \$1.8 million, city of Tucson
- \$1.1 million, Pima County

In 2004, Tippecanoe County, Ind., a county of about 150,000 people, saw an estimated \$279 million increase in revenues from travel and tourism. More than \$183 million was in direct expenditures from visitors. The tax revenue to the government was more than \$66 million: \$13 million going directly to the county government. The economic impact from local tourism also increased employment, accounting for 4,183 jobs for county workers.

In 2003, Orange County, Fla. tourism generated \$87.2 million in surplus revenues for the county and the city of Orlando. In addition, tourism generated a net fiscal surplus for the Orange County School Board of \$4 million. A fiscal surplus represents the degree to which the tourism industry not only pays for its fair share of government expense, but also subsidizes the community, which helps keep overall local tax rates lower. The total net fiscal impact of tourism in 2003 was \$91.2 million, equal to a tax savings of \$352 to \$515 for every household in Orange County.

The importance of tourism to local economies can also be seen when this important activity is disrupted. The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina devastated every aspect of life for residents of the Gulf Coast. The travel and tourism industry was a primary economic engine that drove the prosperity of the region.

In Gulfport and Biloxi, Miss., the gaming industry alone generated about \$911.5 million in annual revenues, which roughly produces \$500,000 in tax revenue on a daily basis. Post-Katrina stats reveal the following:

- Approximately 18 percent of total employment for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, or approximately one out of every five jobs, are travel and tourism specific and have been affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- In the 15 affected counties in Mississippi, \$2.8 billion is spent annually in travel-related businesses, which encompasses 38,000 jobs. This ongoing loss totals approximately \$7.7 million per day.
- In the three affected counties in Alabama, \$2 billion is spent in travel-related businesses per year, involving 30,000 jobs, with ongoing losses of \$5.5 million per day.

Last spring, communities and counties across the country celebrated See America Week, May 13-21, 2006. This event is sponsored each year by the Travel Industry Association of America. During this week, hundreds of cities and counties across the nation promote greater public awareness of the economic, social and cultural impacts of travel and tourism. The purpose of See America Week is to promote a wider understanding of travel and tourism as a major American industry that is vital to the economic stability and growth of communities nationwide.

Travel and tourism can be a significant, and even essential, part of the local economy. Tourism accounts for thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in contributions to local revenues. Local elected officials are key stakeholders in tourism development. Advocates for local development, commonly referred to as a tourism support group, include tourism councils, Chambers of Commerce, clubs, historical societies and resort associations. Travel by U.S. residents to destinations within the country has grown by an average of 7 percent in the last three years. Newer destinations that offer adventure travel, and cultural and heritage offerings, are becoming the places of choice for families. Marketing your county and strengthening the capacity of your community or region to attract travelers and tourists is one key to growing and sustaining economic vitality.

For more information on this subject, visit your local Chamber of Commerce. National and global information on travel and tourism can be found at www.tia.org.



Nationwide Retirement Solutions President Calls on Plan Sponsors to Motivate Workers to Increase Retirement Savings

By Nationwide Retirement Solutions

It's America's silent alarm. The question is, says Nationwide Retirement Solutions President Matt Riebel, "Is anybody listening?"

What's alarming is the state of the retirement savings among public employees. Two basic facts put the challenge in sharp relief:

1. About 34% of public workers nationwide participate in supplemental plans, not even half of the 70% in the private sector.
2. The average retirement-account balance among public employees is just under \$30,000, compared to about \$70,000 in the private sector.

The most common reason cited for why people don't use their 457 plans is "I can't afford to," yet we know people readily spend \$10 on movie tickets and \$1.50 for a cup of coffee.

Another common excuse is "It's too complicated." Guilty as charged. It's become quite apparent in recent years that too much choice can be paralyzing. What happens next is nothing. Human nature is to do nothing rather than risk making the wrong decision.

And, as a group, Baby Boomers have taken a rather undisciplined approach to life. But saving takes more than discipline. Saving takes the awareness that we need to save.

Time for Public Employers to Act

Riebel offers several steps public employers can take to enhance their supplemental retirement plans and motivate employee participation.

- Understand what employees need: Survey your

employees. Ask what they want. They'll let you know what is and is not working, and where the opportunities for improvement are.

- Make it easy for them: Simplify your plan design. Several studies show that too many choices overwhelm employees so much that they choose not to do anything. Have a single provider and a streamlined menu of well-chosen investment options. Give participants easy access to the resources they need to make informed decisions. This means on-site, face-to-face, during-the-work-day sessions to educate people about their plan.
- Be a cheerleader: Educate employees about why supplemental savings is so important. Enlist frontline advocates for your plan. Encourage them to talk it up among co-workers. Make sure your employees know that you understand the challenges they face and how you're working to help them to find solutions through your defined contribution plan.
- Offer help: Look into how investment advice and managed accounts can help your participants be more successful through your plan. You may be able to offer or allow participants who want a more customized investment program to get it, without driving up the cost of the entire plan.
- Broaden your vision: The job doesn't end when people retire. Plan sponsors and providers need to help participants make their assets so they'll last a lifetime.

The silence of this crisis is deafening. We cannot afford to ignore the alarms anymore. We need to help public employees understand the income gap they face and **get them to do something about it**—well before retirement.

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Conclusions

Peggy Beltrone joins 25x'25 Steering Committee

Cascade County Commissioner Peggy Beltrone is one of the newest appointees to a national policy advocacy organization for renewable energy. Beltrone is the only local elected official and only Montanan serving on the Steering Committee of 25x'25. The alliance seeks to provide 25% of the total energy consumed in the United States from renewable sources such as solar, wind, biogas, and biomass by 2025.

"Renewable energy made in rural America will make our country safer, our planet cleaner and our local economies stronger," Beltrone said. "I am pleased to bring Montana and local government views to this important discussion as we develop an implementation plan to reach 25x'25."

The 25x'25 resolution has the support of a broad coalition of 300 endorsing organizations, 21 governors, four state legislatures, over 91 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, and 28 co-sponsors in the Senate. Last month, the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture approved a resolution which embraces a new national vision of meeting 25% of the nation's energy needs from renewable sources by 2025.

"25x'25 is a bold energy vision for this nation," said Read Smith, Co-Chair of the 25x'25 Steering Committee. "It has the support of Republicans, Democrats, industry, and environmental leaders – and the agriculture and forestry communities are at its heart."

Beltrone was elected to the Cascade County Commission

in 1994 and re-elected to her third term this Fall. She has a keen interest in renewable energy and sustainable communities, springing from her years co-chairing a community driven planning process to reduce poverty in 11 counties and three Indian reservations in North Central Montana. She currently has a leadership position on the Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee at the National Association of Counties (NACo). Cascade County's Wind Energy Marketing program, which Beltrone developed, received a 2006 Center for Sustainable Communities Award. She is a local government advisor to DOE's WindPowering America.

Beltrone joined the 25 x '25 Coalition in 2005. After securing the NACo endorsement, she asked Governor Brian Schweitzer to become the first Governor in the nation to endorse the initiative. She also helped organize the Montana 25 x '25 Coalition.

What is 25x'25?

"25x'25" is a rallying cry for renewable energy and a goal for America – to get 25 percent of our energy from renewable resources like wind, solar, and biofuels by the year 2025. Increasing America's renewable energy use will bring new technologies to market and save consumers money, reduce our dependence on oil from the Middle East, create good new jobs in rural America, clean up the air and reduce urban smog and help slow increases in global warming.

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