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Agency to present program at conference

By Tina R. Whitaker, ESGR Montana Committee executive director

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) will join in the historical celebration of MACo's 100th Annual Conference on Sept. 20-24 in Helena.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 to support an all-volunteer military force at the end of the draft. It provides free education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation for employers of National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security. The agency's mission is to gain and maintain active support from public and private employers for their Guard and Reserves members.

The volunteers of the Montana ESGR committee will provide valuable information to conference attendees, such as understanding and applying the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Also, attendees will learn how to re-

source the Statement of Support program as well as how ESGR recognizes the valuable support counties provide to the men and women they employ.

The many education and training opportunities available to county employers regarding National Guard missions (Homeland Security, Vigilant Guard) also will be discussed.

Finally, a "Bosslift" Civilian Employer Orientation Flight (via

Montana National Guard Helicopter) will be offered at the Helena Regional Airport (to participate, complete the form on page 2).

As the 1.2 million members of the Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions that require extraordinary actions on the part of everyday citizens, ESGR will continue to be the informational agency for the employers of America's new Minutemen.

For more information about ESGR employer outreach programs and volunteer opportunities, visit www.esgr.mil or call (877) 615-4439.



Deadlines for conference reservations near

Time is running out to register for MACo's historical 100th Annual Conference in Helena next month.

If you haven't already visited our Web site and registered online to attend the event, to be held at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel Sept. 20-24, then please do so immediately to help us better estimate attendance. Early registration ends Sept 4; online registration ends Sept. 13.

Also, if you know of any former county

elected official who hasn't received an invitation to the conference, please tell Karen Houston, MACo meeting planner, immediately; contact her at 444-4375 or khouston@mtcounties.org.

We've also included hotel information and a draft agenda detailing the informative four-day program, as well as an exhibitor floorplan.

Again, if you haven't made plans to attend, please do so now. You'll definitely want be a part of this conference!





MACo/County News

MACo — ESGR Employer Appreciation BOSSLIFT — Helena Regional Airport
Sept. 21, 2009, 1:30-4 p.m. — Form due no later than Sept. 15, 2009 — Fax to 324/3604 or 3135

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Counties receive law enforcement funds

Five Montana counties, along with 14 Treasure State city and tribal agencies, were awarded federal funding in July to add law enforcement officers to their rolls.

Big Horn, Butte-Silver Bow, Mineral, Roosevelt and Sanders counties will receive a total of \$1,074,451 for six positions from the U.S. Department of Justice via its COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP). The three-year grants, which vary in size from county to county, require the agencies to fund the positions themselves in the fourth year or risk being ineligible for future COPS grants.



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MACo/County News

Richard Llewellyn, 1944-2009

Richard Llewellyn, 64, died in Boulder on June 15. He was a former Jefferson County attorney.

A graduate of the University of Montana, Llewellyn began his legal career serving of two Montana governors.

He was the Jefferson County attorney from 1975 to 1979 and again from 1987 to 1995.

MACo plans pre-conference fun

There will be two events held before our 100th Annual Conference begins on Sept. 20 here in Helena: the first is an opportunity to play golf at the Green Meadow Country Club, while the second is a boat tour of the Gates of the Mountains on the Missouri River.

The golf event, which is being organized by Stillwater County Commissioner Maureen Davey, is set to begin at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Davey at 322-8010.

The boat tour will start at 11 a.m. at the Gates of the Mountains Marina on Holter Lake. Transportation to the lake for the two-hour tour is still being determined, but more information will be available soon.

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Turner chosen as HCT actuary

The MACo Health Care Trust trustees selected Dave Turner of Turner Consulting and Actuarial, LLC, to provide actuary services to the trust for the next three years.

Turner was selected from a field of four finalists following a request for proposal (RFP) review process that included both written proposals and an interview with a selection committee of Trustees and staff. The selection committee worked with Legacy Consulting in developing the RFP, evaluating the proposals received and with the interview process.

Turner has more than 20 years of consulting and actuary experience, including providing services to new pools, such as the California State Association of Counties and the Montana Municipal Insurance Authority (MMIA) health care pools. He is familiar with Montana laws and has provided proposed legislation review for the MMIA and developed rate adjustments to reflect implementation of new laws.

"I subjectively review all aspects of the program to provide a human element of 'actuarial intuition' that comes from over 20 years of experience projecting self-funded rates," Turner said of his philosophy.

As the HCT looks to the future, the trustees and staff will be working with Turner to look at rating methods and programs such as wellness programs, loss ratio adjustments, Safe Harbor corridors and other innovative means to encourage member county's employees to take an active role in controlling costs of health insurance.

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County News

Interoperability Montana begins statewide outreach push

By Ian Marquand, Interoperability Montana Public Affairs & Outreach consultant

2009 promises to be the biggest year in the history of Interoperability Montana. It's so big IM leaders are taking their show on the road this summer.

Call it "Tour de Talk."

"This year has the potential to be a huge success story," said IM Executive Director Kevin Bruski. "We're set up to do more construction and get more people using the system than ever before. We think county commissioners should hear that story. We also think they deserve to hear it from us, directly and in person."

To that end, Bruski and others involved in the statewide public safety communications project will travel the state to share their story with county commissioners and public safety leaders. The tour will last through the summer and, if necessary, into the fall.

Bruski envisions the meetings as part historical review, part status report and part briefing on issues and

milestones on the horizon. He also wants to listen.

"We definitely want a two-way dialogue," Bruski said. "We'll share our past, present and future story. Then we want to hear from the commissioners and their public safety folks. We'll answer their questions, address their concerns and gather their ideas."

Bruski is especially interested in gathering ideas for how to sustain and maintain the statewide system once it's complete.

IM will coordinate logistics—times, dates, places—for the county meetings, then will issue invitations to commissioners, public safety officials and other interested people in their counties. The first will be Aug. 4 in Townsend.

Counties invited to wildlife workshop

A workshop to discuss the impacts of growth and effective planning methods to conserve the future of Montana's fish and wildlife legacy is set for Aug. 3-4 at the Finlen Hotel in Butte. The Planning for People and Wildlife Workshop is being sponsored by the Sonoran Institute in Bozeman. For more information, contact Stuart Leidner at 587-7331 or sleidner@sonoraninstitute.org.



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American workers and eye injury

Part 1 of 2

Prevent Blindness America, a volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness, reports 800,000 eye injuries occur on the job each year, including 36,000 that require the injured employee to take time off from work. The organization's mission is to encourage employers and employees to make eye protection a top priority every day.

The organization isn't alone in its objective to educate the public about the need for preventing workplace eye injuries. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is sponsoring a national initiative called "Healthy Vision 2010," whose goal is to reduce the number of work-related eye injuries by involving both the public and private sectors.

In its handbook titled "Educating Your Community About Occupational Eye Injury," HHS lists the following as the most common types of workplace eye injuries:

- **Corneal abrasion:** Flying material particles such as grit, plastic bits, or metal flakes can fly into your eye, causing irritation or a scratch on the cornea. These particles can be as small as a pinhead and still cause significant damage.

- **Blunt trauma:** Falling or misdirected objects, or collisions with objects swinging from a fixed position, like tree limbs, ropes, chains, lumber, or tools can damage eyes. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) names this as the leading cause of work-related eye injuries.
- **Chemicals burns:** Hazardous chemicals can splash into eyes, damaging them. BLS says chemical burns account for 20 percent of all workplace eye injuries.
- **Radiation burns:** Ultraviolet light from welding torches can cause burns to the eyes and their surrounding tissue.
- **Infections:** Bacteria in fertilizers, waste, body fluids, and human remains can cause eye infections.
- **Eye strain:** Glare, poor lighting, and inadequate rest can cause eye fatigue, soreness, and headaches.

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NACo News



NACo committee report: Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs

By Vic Miller, Blaine County Commissioners and NACo Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Member

On the first day of the NACo Annual Conference in Nashville in late July, the subcommittee on reservations met and we were able to work on a bill that satisfied the entire group. It passed unanimously to the full intergovernmental committee. The compromise platform change got away from Indian trust lands and became more inclusive to include all lands taken by the federal or state government for trust purposes. This is in line with U.S. Sen. Schumer's bill working its way through the Senate.

On July 25, our full steering committee met. All resolutions passed with no objections.

On July 26, our opening general session featured Tamara Erickson, a leading authority on multi-generational work places. For those of us who think we don't understand younger generations, this speaker and her research was rather enlightening. While I have been to other presentations on this topic, it gives me a better understanding of what our young people are facing and what they expect from the workplace. I also realized as a generation, Baby Boomers are every bit as annoying to younger generations. It gave me a good perspective.

I attended two workshops in the afternoon. The first was the latest update on the upcoming census. The second workshop was a public health emergency preparedness workshop. I think it is safe to say our county is fortunate enough to have public health professionals who are

in front of the ball compared to other counties. Montana, in general, is better prepared.

On July 27, the Montana delegation joined with several other states for our annual breakfast to discuss Western issues. I attended two workshops on working with department heads and employees on budgeting. Inclusive budgeting is much better than top centered. The second session was on body language and non-verbal communication. What do others tell you and what do you tell about yourself? The afternoon general session featured Jon Meachum, editor of Newsweek magazine on his new biography of Andrew Jackson, "The American Lion." We also heard from Transportation Secretary Ray La Hood.

July 28 was our last general session. NACo is having an ongoing debate on how to govern itself. We now have four regional directors. Running for the leadership is open to everyone and Lenny Eliason from Ohio is our new second Vice President. In the afternoon, our regions met to pick our representative. While our very own Bill Kennedy from Yellowstone County ran a solid place, our representative (Idaho) is well-versed in Western issues.

My overall perception boils down to this: passionate debate with civility turns out pretty good results in terms of legislation. We are a country of ideals and ideas. We turn out junk when we remain petty and personal. We flourish when we allow good ideas and safe, passionate debate.

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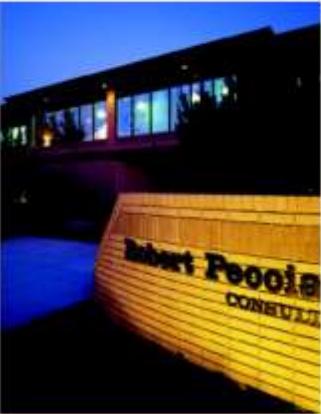
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NACo News



NACo committee report: WIR board of directors

By Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark Co. Commissioner & Lesley Robinson, Phillips Co. Commissioner

The WIR board meeting was held July 24. USDA Natural Resources and Environment Deputy Undersecretary Jay Jensen spoke to us. He was raised in Los Angeles, Calif., but spent summers on his grandparents' farm in Missouri. Keeping a connection to rural America is what has driven him to follow his profession in forestry. He feels there should be less focus on what we're taking away from the land and more on what we're leaving behind. He wants his two-year-old daughter to keep connected to the land and realize all the resources that come from the land. "People have a stake in public lands. Urban people are disconnected and don't understand what it takes to manage the lands," he said. Jensen also said the USDA secretary's focus is climate and water. President Obama has a priority of protection of roadless areas. The definition of protection was asked, but no definition was given.

Butch Blazer, New Mexico state forester, spoke. He is the first Native American state forester. Blazer said, "Ecology doesn't realize jurisdictional boundaries." He is working to have county and tribal officials work together better.

Resolutions discussed included the Clean Water Act (CWA), disapproval of civil actions brought against the livestock industry and federal land management agencies intended solely to prevent livestock grazing on public lands and PILT.

A motion was made and passed to maintain our position about not removing "navigable" from the CWA and also to oppose the amended version of S.787. A motion was made and passed to support the public lands grazing resolution if it was passed in Public Lands, which it was. The PILT formula is an issue that deserves consideration but WIR is not prepared to support a resolution on it at this time.

Please see "WIR..." on page 10

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Around Our Counties

Personnel

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY commissioners in early July named Undersheriff Jay Bell as sheriff. Bell, a 31-year department veteran, will complete the rest of the late Sheriff Chuck Maxwell's term, which ends December 2010. Undersheriff since 1993, Bell hadn't chosen his successor as of presstime. Also in Yellowstone County, Tim Miller was appointed to the public works director post, succeeding Bob Moats, who retired July 31.

LIBERTY COUNTY Undersheriff Doug Riggan was named Montana Deputy of the Year by the state law enforcement officers' association in mid-June. Riggan was shot in January as he investigated a domestic disturbance. Though injured, Riggan managed to arrest the suspect; he later made a full recovery.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY commissioners in early July hired Jim Carpita as county engineer. A Montana State University graduate and Dillon native, Carpita is a licensed professional engineer who most recently was the site manager for the Montana Heritage Commission in

Virginia City and Nevada City. Nine people applied for the half-time position.

GRANITE COUNTY has a new justice of the peace: Dick Motta. Appointed by commissioners in late June to replace JP Sam Brown, Motta was one of two applicants for the position. The now-retired Motta, a nine-year Granite County resident, was the former controller at a paper plant in Missoula as well as a small business owner.

MEAGHER COUNTY Undersheriff Jon Lopp was sworn in as sheriff and coroner in early July. Lopp will complete the rest of retired Sheriff Rick Seidlitz's term, which ends December 2010. A former U.S. Army law enforcement officer, Lopp has been a Meagher County deputy since 1997.

GALLATIN COUNTY selected a new manager for its Logan landfill. Martin Bey, who accepted the post in July, is the third manager to be hired since the county's solid waste district was created. Both previous managers were fired and the landfill has been without a manager since February.

Miscellaneous

FLATHEAD COUNTY and an electric cooperative unveiled the state's first methane-fueled power plant in late June. The \$3.5-million project uses methane from 41 wells in the county's landfill to run a generator capable of producing up to 1,600 kilowatt hours. The Flathead Electric Cooperative received no-interest Clean Renewable Energy Bonds to build the project.

BLAINE COUNTY commissioners voted unanimously to close the juvenile detention center in Chinook in late June. The center, one of only seven similar facilities statewide and one of just three in eastern Montana, had been operating in the red until the past year. It was not known how long the facility, opened in 1999, would remain closed.

DAWSON COUNTY commissioners voted in July not to take ownership of a master control site for the Interoperability Montana (IM) statewide communications project. The main issue outlined in a letter to IM officials was a lack of a guarantee that the site would not be a financial liability for the county. Despite the setback, the cen-

ter is still set to be built outside of Glendive; construction is to be in 2010.

Land Use

LINCOLN COUNTY commissioners and officials with Stinger Welding, an Arizona steel bridge maker, signed an agreement in June for the company to set up shop in the Kootenai Business Park Industrial District. Stinger will build its own facility, then sell it to the district to be leased back to the company. The agreement also includes a guarantee Stinger will employ at least 200 people or pay a penalty of \$16,600 for each job under 200 that will go to the Montana Board of Investments loan used to finance the project.

BUTTE-SILVER BOW COUNTY commissioners approved in early July the demolition of two old structures a historic commission wanted to preserve as part of the Butte National Historic Landmark District. While the state's historic preservation office said the structures contributed to the district, the federal government determined otherwise. The property owner, Dr. Rindo Sironi, plans to clear the land as it adjoins his new medical clinic.

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Announcements & Reminders

NACo: WIR board of directors

Continued from page 8

Paul Beddoe, NACo staffer, said he expects the health reform bill to have strong rural provisions in it.

The fall WIR board meeting will be held at Tillamook, Ore., in October. The 2010 WIR Conference will be held in Billings on May 19-21 (Memorial Day weekend).

Mike Murray was re-appointed to chair of NACo Public Lands subcommittee on Federal Land Payments. Lesley Robinson was appointed to chair the NACo Public Lands Federal Land Management subcommittee.

Other Montana commissioners who were appointed to NACo committees were: Agriculture (Ag subcommittee vice chair), Kathy Bessette, Hill County; Community & Economic Development (vice chair), Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County; Environment, Energy & Land Use (vice chair), John Prinkki, Carbon County; Public Lands (Management subcommittee chair), Lesley Robinson, Phillips County; and Rural Action Caucus (vice chair), Membership (chair), and NACo board (at-large member), Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County.

Mark Your Calendars

August

- Aug. 3 Law & Justice Interim Committee Meeting*
- Aug. 17-21 MT Assoc. of Clerk & Records Annual Conf., Billings

September

- Sept. 7 State/county/MACo offices closed (Labor Day)
- Sept. 9 Economic Affairs Interim Committee Meeting*
- Sept. 10-11 Environmental Quality Council*
- Sept. 20-24 **MACo's 100th Annual Conference***
- Sept. 21 Children, Families, Health & Human Svcs. Interim Committee Meeting*
- Sept. 21 Water Policy Interim Committee Meeting*
- Sept. 23 **State Admin./Veterans' Affairs Int. Committee Meeting***
- Sept. 24 Energy & Telecomm Interim Committee Meeting*

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 18-20 AGRIP Governance & Leadership Conf., Seattle, Wash.
- Nov. 17-19 MACo Joint Insurance Pools Trustee Retreat*
- January 2010 MACo Risk Management Loss Control Conf., Missoula
- May 2010 NACo WIR Conference, Billings

*All events are held in Helena unless noted.

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5. Arnold Gettel, Teton County

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MT County Road Supervisors (MACRS)

MACo NEWS

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