



Highlights

Page 2
MACo Health Care Trust

Page 4
Pre-Conference Fun Planned,
People and Wildlife Workshop

Page 5
Prairie County Commissioner
Chosen, Steve White Honored

Pages 7-8
NACo News

Page 9
Around Our Counties

Page 10
Announcements & Reminders

Advertisers

Page 2
MACo HCT,
Stahly Engineering

Page 3
MT Dept. of Commerce

Page 4
RDO Equipment,
Morrison-Maierle, Gaelectric,
MT Correctional Enterprises

Page 5
NorthWestern Energy,
Great Plains Towers,
MACo Risk Management

Page 6
Arthur J. Gallagher

Page 7
MDU Resources,
Robert Peccia & Associates

Page 8
U.S. Communities,
NACo/Nationwide,
Joint Powers Trust,
Nittany Grantworks,
Get 'Er Done Wiest

Page 9
MACo JPIA Personnel Services,

Counties lose three elected officials

By Mike Harbour, MACo Communications Officer

June was a devastating month for three Montana counties, as illness and an accident claimed the lives of two commissioners and a sheriff. June 24 saw the passing of Powell County Commissioner Gail Jones, 69, after a long illness, and Fallon County Commissioner Dennis Afrank, 64, following an accident on his farm. Just two days later, Yellowstone County Sheriff Chuck Maxwell, 67, died after a three-year battle with cancer.

Jones, a Montana native, was appointed to fill a one-year unexpired term in 1994. She later won re-election in 2000 and 2006. Her present term was to expire in 2012; she also was the commission chairwoman.

In addition to her county service, Jones was elected city alderwoman in 1991, where she served a two-year term. While born and raised in Butte, Jones, her husband Bill, and their children moved to Deer Lodge in 1975.

Afrank, also a Montana native, served as a commissioner since 2004; his term

would have ended in 2010.

After a 30-year career with Shell Oil while raising quarter horses and cattle, Afrank — who spent most of his life in Baker — retired to run a variety of businesses, from restaurants to a bed and breakfast inn, with wife Deborah Peters Wolf.

Maxwell, who settled in Montana from his native Pennsylvania courtesy of the U.S. Air Force in 1964, became sheriff in 1993. He was appointed to fill the term of Mike Schafer, who

passed away just days before from cancer. Maxwell was re-elected four times; his term also was to expire next year.

His career in Yellowstone County began in 1977 when he left Custer County as its undersheriff. Among his accomplishments was being named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the U. S. Marshals Service for his work during the Montana Freeman siege and the subsequent trials.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these fine public servants.

In Memoriam
Gail Jones, 1940-2009
Powell County Commissioner
Dennis Afrank, 1945-2009
Fallon County Commissioner
Chuck Maxwell, 1942-2009
Yellowstone County Sheriff
Your service will be not be forgotten!

MACo planning for 100th anniversary continues

After a lot of work by many Montana clerk and recorders and your MACo staff, almost 800 postcards were mailed last month to former county elected officials to remind them about attending our upcoming 100th Annual Conference in September.

Those postcards are traveling the length and breadth of Montana, from Antelope to Willard, as well as states from the East Coast to the Southwest, so former officials will know they'll soon receive a formal invitation to Helena for the conference on Sept. 20-24.

Yet, as thorough we've tried to be, we know some folks will slip through the cracks, so we'd like to again ask for your

help to find them. If you know of any former county elected official who hasn't received a postcard about the conference by mid-July, please let Karen Houston, MACo meeting planner, know immediately. She can be reached at 444-4375 or khouston@mtcounties.org.

We've also added an electronic registration page at our Web site. If you're ready to register, you may do so by visiting maco.cog.mt.us, then clicking the registration link. Hotel information and a draft agenda also have been posted online.

If you haven't made plans to attend, please do so now. We're looking forward to celebrating our centennial with you!



MACo News

HCT continues to set record numbers, signs 27th county

By Owen Voigt, MACo Health Care Trust Administrator

MACo recently welcomed Mineral County as the 27th county to the Health Care Trust (HCT). With that addition, the trust now has 27 member counties and 35 special districts. Total participants in the trust are at a record 1,803 with total lives (including dependents) covered of more than 2,500. Total contributions to the trust for 2009-10 are expected to be just over \$13,000,000.

The MACo HCT was started by a handful of counties that saw the need to have alternative health benefit plans for county and special district employees. Petroleum County started with the trust on May 15, 2005, followed by Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Granite, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Treasure and Valley counties effective July 1, 2005. These counties knew the importance of having a MACo health benefits pool available and just how critical membership is to the stability of the pool.

It is important to note not one group has left the HCT since it began. That is an amazing feat in today's health market climate with medical and prescription drug costs skyrocketing. It is a testament to the commitment of the member groups and MACo to partner together seeking a common goal of fairly priced plans with quality benefits.

The HCT showed a small gain the first year of operation, then a small loss in year two. Years three and four have shown solid but cautious financial growth in total reserves and overall premium. There was an increase in the per employee cost in the stop loss, however, the HCT board felt it best to maintain its cautious approach to handling county monies because of volatility in the medical claims area.

The MACo HCT is governed by a seven-member board of trustees: Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County commissioner and MACo president, chairs the trust with

Meagher County's Herb Townsend, Valley County's Dave Reinhardt, Madison County's Dave Schultz, McCone County's Pat Eggebrecht, Carbon County's John Prinkki and MACo Executive Director Harold Blattie serving as the board. The board of trustees along with MACo staff dedicated to the HCT continually strives to meet the needs of Montana county and special district employees, retirees and their families.

To provide the administrative services for the HCT, the board of trustees enters into an annual renewable contract with MACo. Also, MACo HCT has entered into contracts for services with Allegiance Benefit Plan Management for the administration and payment of claims, Actuaries Northwest for actuarial services, Caremark prescription benefit manager for prescription drug management, and several other vendors for specialty services such as peer medical review and case management.

Prior to July 1, 2007, the trust contracted with the Montana School Services Foundation (MSSF) for administrative services. Under that contract, the trust paid MSSF a percentage of premiums. With MACo providing administrative services, the actual cost is nearly \$200,000 less than it would have been under the MSSF contract. Added to revenue being earned in interest earnings from reserves to the trust, cost to the membership continues to be offset netting in overall premium savings to members.

The relationship MACo HCT initially established with MSSF and the Montana Unified School Trust (MUST) continue to pay off in a big way as the HCT and MUST join forces in negotiating vendor contracts. By having a larger group to go to the markets with both entities enjoy the ability to negotiate better contract rates.

For information on how your county or special district can become a member of the HCT, contact HCT Administrator Owen Voigt at (866) 669-6428 or ovoigt@mtcounties.org. You also may contact Pam Walling at 535-6893 or pwalling@mtcounties.org. Pam is MACo's Lewistown-based marketing/member services representative and generally handles eastern Montana.

Health Care Trust Calendar of Events

July 13	Annual notices mailed
Oct. 16	January renewal rates mailed
Nov. 1-Dec. 15	January open enrollment period



MACoHCT
MACo Health Care Trust

A Cost-Effective Alternative for Health Insurance Benefits for Counties and County-Related Boards and Districts

Welcome Mineral County and Mountain View Med.

406.443.8102 ♦ 406.535-6893 (Lewistown office)
ovoigt@mtcounties.org ♦ www.macohct.com



STAHLY
EST. 1970
ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Engineers and Land Surveyors

3530 Centennial Drive, Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-8594

7585 Shedhorn Drive, Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 522-9526



State of Montana

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Department of Commerce

Anthony J. Preite, Director



...committed to the state's vision for economic prosperity and serving the many citizens, communities, businesses, and organizations.

Direct technical assistance and training for Montana's entrepreneurs, businesses, and their employees in partnership with communities, counties, and local and regional development groups:

Andy Poole; Deputy Director
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2707
E-mail: apoole@mt.gov
Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Financing for Montana businesses that generate a positive financial and economic return for the state and its citizens:

Gary Morehouse, Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2732
E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate

Financing for homeownership and rental assistance for Montana families:

Bruce Brensdal; Executive Director
Board of Housing
Phone: (406) 841-2840
E-mail: bbrensdal@mt.gov
Website: housing.mt.gov

Local government financing:

Dave Cole; Administrator
Community Development Division
Phone: (406) 841-2776
e-mail: dacole@mt.gov
Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/>

One-stop reference source for virtually all state, federal and local development based public finance programs:

Gary Morehouse; Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2732
E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: mtfinanceonline.com

Louise Welsh; Bond Program Officer,
Board of Investments, INTERCAP Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-0891
E-mail: Lwelsh@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/Intericap

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate



MACo News

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.

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.

Riparian presentation available

The Governor's Task Force for Riparian Protection has contracted with Headwaters Policy/Planning Partnership, LLP, to provide outreach to Montana communities through an interactive PowerPoint presentation. Topics covered include why riparian areas next to rivers and streams so important to maintaining our Montana lifestyle, how healthy riparian areas protect private property and local economies, what scientific information is available to understand the effects of development along rivers and streams, and more.

To schedule a presentation, contact Mary Vandembosch or Jeff Erickson from Headwaters at (406) 449-3229 or headwaters@q.com. For more information about the task force, visit <http://water.montana.edu/setback>.

MORRISON - MAIERLE

ENGINEERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PLANNERS

Providing resources in partnership with clients to achieve their goals

Billings • Bozeman • Helena • Kalispell • Great Falls • Missoula • Phoenix

MACO Associate Member Phone: 406-442-3050 Fax: 406-442-7862 Web page: www.m-m.net

MORRISON MAIERLE, INC. An Employee-Owned Company

MCE Working on the inside... Succeeding on the outside

Montana Correctional Enterprises

Prison Industries
*Producing Office Furniture,
 Traffic Signs & Printing Services*
 Jack Hinkle, Marketing & Sales
 350 Conley Lake Road, Deer Lodge, MT 59722
 (406) 846-1320 ext. 2270
 www.cor.mt.gov/mce
 mce@mt.gov

HARVESTING THE WIND

We're working with landowners, utilities, state officials and transmission companies to develop state and regional energy solutions.

Gaelectric
POWER FROM NATURE

RENEWABLE AND ENERGY STORAGE DEVELOPMENT

600 Central Plaza
Great Falls, MT 59401

406.452.2526
www.gaelectric.ie

John Deere G-Series Motor Grader! From RDO Equipment Co.



Standard Controls **Fold Out Cooling Package** **Fingertip Controls**

The New Industry Leader

RDO Equipment Co. is excited about the many new options and features of the NEW G-Series Motor Grader from John Deere. Call your local RDO Equipment Co. store for details.

Ask about other products we carry!

RDO EQUIPMENT CO. **Customer Focused. Quality Driven.**

Billings	Bozeman	Great Falls
5221 Midland Road 406-259-5536 800-234-5420	257 Laura Louise Lane 406-388-8353 800-927-3001	4900 Tri Hill Road 406-452-8521 800-823-3337



County News

Prairie County commissioner chosen

By Jessica Benz, *The Terry Tribune*

The Prairie County Board of Commissioners appointed Deanna Bockness to serve in the district two commission seat during its June 15 meeting. Commissioners Ann Marie Davis and Todd Devlin made the selection from a list of four candidates.

Bockness will be filling the remainder of former commissioner Bill Leach's term, which will end in 2010. Leach vacated the seat April 30.

The appointment was made at the tail end of the commission meeting. Although the vote was on the agenda to occur at 9:30 a.m., discussion on the candidates didn't take place until after 5 p.m.

Commissioners took part in a lengthy discussion on each candidate and reviewed whether or not constituents would support the commissioners' preference for an appointee.

The choices were narrowed from four to three candidates, as it was ultimately determined that Mark Dolatta was ineligible as he had not resided in the appropriate district for the required length of time.

With both commissioners needing to agree on the appointment, it initially appeared as though more names would be sought, as neither Davis nor Devlin were willing to support the other's first choice. Ultimately both commissioners supported Bockness in large part due to her conservative stance on issues.

White recognized by builders

The Southwest Montana Building Industry Association last month announced Gallatin County Commissioner Steve White was recognized by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) as the 2009 NAHB Local Official of the Year.

The award was presented to White during the 2009 Montana Building Industry Association's annual convention held in Big Sky on June 12.

White was recognized with the award for his continued support of affordable housing for working-class families and his commitment to long-range planning in Gallatin County. Besides his efforts for more open and transparent government, he also has testified on property rights and economic development issues at the Capitol.



Delivering a Bright Future

NorthWestern Energy is one of the largest providers of electricity and natural gas in the Upper Midwest and Northwest, serving approximately 640,000 customers in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Our utility operations consist of regulated electric and natural gas distribution, transmission, energy supply and non-regulated electric operations.

J. Michael Pichette

Director-Government Relations/Montana
208 N. Montana, Suite 104, Helena, MT 59601
406/443-8996 michael.pichette@northwestern.com
www.northwesternenergy.com

MACo
Risk Management and Training
Emelia McEwen
 Senior Loss Control Specialist
Fred Hansen
 Loss Control Specialist
Phone: (406) 444-4370
Fax: (406) 442-5238

GREAT PLAINS TOWERS, INC.
 126 SIXTH STREET WEST
 WEST FARGO, ND 58078-1536
 E-MAIL kreski@greatplaintowers.com
www.greatplaintowers.com

OFFICE	701-282-2236
FAX	701-282-2148
OFFICE	800-853-2236



Gallagher

Public Entity & Scholastic Division

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.

Crime Prevention Tips for Businesses

Part 2 of 2

There are a number of simple preventative measures any business owner can employ to reduce crime. In addition, office managers may be able to adopt the following tips and suggestions:

Burglary Safeguards, cont.

- Alter the safe combination and/or alarm code with the departure of any employee who had access.
- Perform a check of all windows, doors, alarm systems and interior of the business at closing time.
- Eliminate exterior blind spots that might offer concealment to a potential burglar.
- Research and seek knowledgeable professional assistance to install an alarm or video surveillance system suitable to the needs of your business.

Reducing Vandalism

- Install good exterior lighting to illuminate potential areas which may be vandalized or spray painted.
- Clean up exterior graffiti as soon as possible. Try to employ paint-resistant material or prohibit access to the exterior of the building with prickly hedges or shrubbery, or even metal fencing.
- Prevent access to stairwells or other exterior blind spots which might conceal vandalism activities.

Reduce Shoplifting

- Identify and eliminate blind spots in your business.
- Train employees how to identify potential shoplifters and the methods they employ.
- Have only one point of entry and exit where possible and place the sales counter near the exit. Have your register staffed or locked at all times.
- Use concave mirrors or video surveillance at strategic points within your business.
- Lock all small, expensive items in display cases to be accessed only by designated employees.
- Do not place merchandise too closely to exits.
- Clearly display store policies about the number of dressing room items and indicate you have a video monitoring system in place.
- Do not allow employees to congregate.
- Use bar codes and inventory control equipment and/or theft prevention devices at the exits.

CONTENT DISCLAIMER: The information provided above is provided from a general insurance/risk management perspective and is NOT legal advice. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (AJG) does not provide legal advice as it is not qualified to do so. AJG recommends that you seek the advice of legal counsel in order to become fully apprised of the legal implications related to the information provided above as such implications are highly dependent on the unique facts and circumstances applicable to an individual situation.

We are a leader in providing Risk Management solutions to Public Entity and Scholastic organizations. We provide:

- *First Dollar or Deductible Programs*
- *Pools, Captives, or Risk Retention Groups*

Large or small, we'll be your partner in providing Risk Management services for your Public Entity.

Please contact Richard Terlecki or Debbie Young at (800) 524-0191 for more information.

Arthur J. Gallagher
7380 Sand Lake Road, Suite 390, Orlando, FL 32819
(800) 524-0191, Ext. 3512
www.ajg.com



Western Interstate Region: Agriculture/Rural Affairs

By Kathy Bessette, Hill County Commissioner and NACo Agriculture Subcommittee Chair

The Ag and Rural Affairs Steering Committee met May 20, 2009 at the Western Interstate Region Conference held in Pendleton, Ore. Chairman Keith Langenhahn called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Since we drove to Oregon a day prior to the conference opening, we were able to attend the ag tour of Umatilla County which was very informative. We were impressed by all the paved county roads, the amount of irrigation and innovative methods of utilizing water, the hilly areas that are farmed and all the established vineyards which have cropped up around the county.

The first speaker was Scott Reed, vice provost and university outreach & engagement director, Oregon State University Extension Service. Reed said Oregon is a very diverse state, has 3.8 million residents, hasn't passed a sales tax and doesn't allow people to pump their own gas! The counties are involved with developing wind power, bio-fuels and the costal counties are looking at developing wave energy. Agriculture is a large part of the economy of Oregon and many farmers have diversified their operations by planting grapes instead of wheat on part of their acreage. Extension is working on the future and planning on how extension should look in the future.

Robert Kidd, Council for Agricultural Research Extension & Teaching (CARET), spoke about the future of extension in the west. Dr. Rashid Shaw was appointed by

President Obama to serve as head of extension in western states and Kidd said it is unclear exactly where her priorities are focused. Hopefully they will coincide with the people she will be representing.

Dave Williams, Oregon State director of USDA Animal & Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services, described his position and the services his agency provides. Wildlife Services employs individuals with expertise in protecting agriculture, property, natural resources and human health and safety from damage or threats posed by wildlife. Some of the assistance activities are:

- protecting livestock and crop resources from predators,
- protecting timber from bear and beaver damage,
- conducting wildlife disease surveillance and monitoring throughout the state,
- protecting people and pets from injuries and diseases caused by wildlife, including predators like cougars, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, and bears
- protecting airport operations from wildlife hazards.

Agriculture is an economic force in all 36 counties Oregon counties. A 1997 National Agriculture Statistics Service study reported Oregon farmers lost \$158 million

Please see "WIR..." on page 11

CIVIL ENGINEERING | TRANSPORTATION | PLANNING | SURVEYING



ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

For more than 30 years, Robert Peccia & Associates has offered clients throughout Montana and the United States quality and innovative engineering and related services.

- ▣ Water Supply
- ▣ Wastewater Management
- ▣ Drainage
- ▣ Site Development
- ▣ Traffic & Transportation
- ▣ Highways & Road Design
- ▣ Airport Design
- ▣ Environmental Studies
- ▣ Natural Resources
- ▣ Surveying
- ▣ S.U.E.
- ▣ Graphic Design/Mapping

HELENA - (406) 447-5000
KALISPELL - (406) 752-5025
BUTTE - (406) 533-6770

www.rpa-hln.com

An Employee-Owned Company



Building a Strong America

Our company reflects a multi-dimensional enterprise comprised of regulated and non-regulated businesses operating in different geographic locations and offering a broad spectrum of high-quality products and services.

MDU Resources' lines of business include:

- Construction Materials and Mining
- Construction Services
- Electric and Natural Gas Utilities
- Natural Gas Pipeline and Energy Services
- Natural Gas and Oil Production

Gary Forrester, Government Affairs
2527 Gardiner St., Billings, MT 59101
406/259-7243 gary.forrester@mduresources.com
www.mduresources.com



NACo News



NACo debuts e-newsletter

To better address informational needs about criminal justice, NACo recently created a bi-monthly electronic newsletter with stories from NACo and around the nation, technical assistance opportunities, trainings, events, and funding opportunities.

The *Criminal Justice Newsletter* features a free webinar on youth detention alternatives (please look in the Technical Assistance section for additional details and registration information). Also, please be sure to look in the funding section for the many grant opportunities now available. Click [here](#) to see the second installment.

Webinar to examine Recovery Act reporting

The White House Office of Management and Budget last month released guidance for required reporting under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The first report is due Oct. 10. NACo tentatively has scheduled a Webinar to inform and educate counties about Recovery Act reporting for July 16 at noon.

To read the guidance, visit whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default. For more information about the Webinar and how to access it, visit naco.org or contact Mike Belarmino at (202) 661-8840 or mbelarmino@naco.org.

MACo
Telephone
Numbers

Main office
406/444-4360

Claims
406/442-1178

Health Care
Trust
406/443-8102

JPIA/JPA
Trusts
406/444-4370

Legal Services
406/441-5473

Before

Get 'Er Done Wiest
RURAL
Hedge, Brush, or Tree Removal
Fuels Reduction
561 Wiest Road, Brady, MT 59416
Ph. **406-753-2393**
Fax: **406-753-2395**

After

Advertise in *MACo News* — It can make a differ-

The 2009 Directory of Montana County Officials

Still some left! Visit maco.cog.mt.us to get yours!

These days, finding money to pack away for your future isn't easy. But it's not as hard when you know where to look. That's where Nationwide Retirement Solutions comes in. We've been helping public sector employees save smarter and better for over 30 years.

Food for thought
Simply pack your lunch a couple of times a week, and invest that savings toward retirement.

Each money saved (per pay period)	\$20
By month (per year)	x 26
Total money saved (per year)	\$520
Savings over 10 years with inflation	\$29,164*
Invested over 10 years	\$92,015*

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

Call 1-877-677-3678 to put a Retirement Specialist from Nationwide on your side or visit NRSFORU.com to learn more about how to invest for your future with deferred compensation.

NACo **Nationwide**
On Your Side

NITTANY GRANTWORKS

Helping communities identify, secure and administer grant funding to support these and other project areas:

- Economic Development • Housing • Social Services
- Hazard Mitigation • Parks & Recreation • Water & Wastewater

Visit us online at www.nittanygrantworks.com or call 406-222-6111.

U.S. Communities Government Purchasers

SAVING YOU MONEY
Over 7,000 public entities purchase quality products with the most favorable government pricing.

YOU CAN TOO!

All contracts are competitively solicited, non-exclusive and require no charge to participate.

- Office and School Supplies
- Office Furniture
- Technology Products
- Carpet and Flooring
- Procurement Card
- Electrical and Communication Data Supplies
- School/Classroom Furniture
- Janitorial Supplies
- Tools and Materials Handling

Contact: www.info@econcommunities.org
www.econcommunities.org

From complete, turn-key full coverage health plans to pooling stop loss for self-funded plans, the JPT can assist!

JOINT POWERS TRUST
Vern Peterson, Plan Administrator
396 Montsen Lane
Lewistown, MT 59457
Ph: 866.886.8612
Email: jpt@wb.mudrivers.com

We invite you to compare us with your current health plan!



Around Our Counties

Personnel

GRANITE COUNTY Attorney Mark Jones was not ordered by the state Supreme Court to resign in response to a complaint, despite what a Philipsburg newspaper reported in June. Instead, the Court agreed his resignation was a satisfactory resolution to the complaint, which centered on routine office matters. Jones will resign from his position next January.

LINCOLN COUNTY's June request to postpone an agreed-upon pay raise was rejected by unionized employees of the sheriff's office. A three-year contract signed in May 2008 provided for raises — ranging from 2.5 to 7.3 percent — to deputies, dispatchers, detention officers and secretaries. Commissioners said the economy has declined since the Teamsters agreement was made so board members felt fiscally obligated to ask for the postponement.

BUTTE-SILVER BOW COUNTY has a new chief deputy attorney: Samm Cox. The 1995 graduate of the University of Montana Law School was appointed by Eileen Joyce, his opponent in last year's county

attorney election. Cox was named to the position in late May.

Land Use

FLATHEAD COUNTY commissioners in early June unanimously approved a move to make the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan part of the county growth policy. The years-long process ended with only two changes, including a debated land use amendment that changed three parcels north of the town from an agricultural to a light industrial designation. The amendment was only recently revealed after four years of meetings held by community committees or the planning board.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY commissioners in early June approved a tax abatement for a new peak power plant to be built soon near Culbertson. The \$100-million Basin Electric project is a gas-fired generating station designed to operate only infrequently and will employ two full-time employees once it's online in January. The abatement program will save the company \$5.2 million of more than \$14 million it will pay in local taxes over the next 10 years after completion.

Miscellaneous

GALLATIN COUNTY's new detention facility, under construction following a voter approval of a \$32 million bond last fall, ran into a problem in June when testing revealed under-strength concrete piling caps. Further testing proved the caps, which sit atop a series of screw-in piles, did indeed meet specs created for on-site requirements. The county and concrete supplier Kenyon Noble split the \$1,800 cost of testing; the issue was not expected to affect the schedule or budget.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY's Rimrock Auto Arena will keep its moat, after it was realized in June the 12-foot-deep ditch around three sides of the facility exists for a reason. The moat was discovered when workers were repairing a sidewalk; they soon learned it was actually a deck. It turns out the moat was created because the arena's foundation wasn't designed to withstand pressure from the sides.

MISSOULA COUNTY commissioners unanimously approved in early June the creation of a Rural Special Improvement District to

overhaul the Clinton water system. A minor protest from users of the leaky system mostly evaporated during a commission meeting when they discovered the \$750,000 project would be fund largely by government grants. If the project meets funding requirements, the project could begin as soon as mid-July.

DAWSON COUNTY agreed in May to work with the City of Glendive to pave two blocks of Colorado Boulevard. The entities will split the \$150,000 cost of the project, which will allow for smoother access to the fairgrounds and softball field. The city and county each will pay half of the gravel and paving charges, and each landowner will pay for adjacent curbs and gutters.

BIG HORN COUNTY's historical photograph collection grew by more than 10,000 images in early June after the heir of Billings photographer Kenneth F. Roahen donated the collection to the museum in Hardin. The photos, taken from the 1930s to 1970s, range from Native American subjects to landscapes. They'll be displayed in a gallery that's part of a future expansion.

MACo JPIA
Property and Casualty Insurance for Public Entities

Personnel Services

Jack Holstrom
 Attorney at Law
 (800) 471- 6304

jholstrom@mtcounties.org
www.maco.cog.mt.us

MACo
Property and Casualty Insurance
 &
Workers' Compensation Insurance

For Public Entities

Greg Jackson
 JPIA/JPA
 Trust Administrator
 Phone (406) 444-4370
gjackson@mtcounties.org



Announcements & Reminders

WIR: Agriculture/Rural Affairs

Continued from page 8

in crops to wildlife damage, which affected 47 percent of Oregon's farms. Unfortunately, these losses are felt mostly by small farmers and ranchers. Ninety-five percent of Wildlife Service customers are small family farms.

Williams stated 54 percent of funding for his position comes from county funds. Some of the issues he and his agency work on are: BSE, Chronic Wasting Disease, rabies, TB, Avian Influenza, hair loss syndrome (louse on deer), invasive species, endangered species, COOL and the re-introduction of wolves.

Jeff Deiss, acting Oregon State director of USDA Rural Development, spoke about all the programs and funding sources available through his agency. He also discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and its impact on Rural Development programs.

Erik Johnston, NACo Associate legislative director, updated the committee on the Clean Water Restoration Act and advised everyone to check the NACo Legislative Alerts to be aware of the status of this bill and any other legislation that would affect counties.

Mark Your Calendars

July

- July 3 State/county/MACo offices closed (Independence Day)
- July 8 Economic Affairs Interim Committee Meeting*
- July 9 Water Policy Interim Committee Meeting*
- July 10 Energy & Telecomm. Interim Committee Meeting*
- July 24-28 NACo Annual Conference & Expo, Nashville, Tenn.

August

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

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 20-24 **MACo's 100th Annual Conference***
- Oct. 18-20 AGRIP Governance & Leadership Conf., Seattle, Wash.
- Nov. 17-19 MACo Joint Insurance Pools Trustee Retreat*
- May 2010 NACo WIR Conference, Billings

*All meetings are held in Helena unless noted.

To advertise in *MACo News*, please contact Mike Harbour, Communications Officer,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County

1st Vice President

Carl Seilstad, Fergus County

2nd Vice President

John Ostlund, Yellowstone County

Fiscal Officer

Allan Underdal, Toole County

Urban Representative

Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County

Past President

Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County

MACo STAFF

Harold Blattie, Executive Director

Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

Tom Swindle, Finance Officer

Mike Harbour, Communications Officer

Karen Houston, Meeting Planner

Sara McGowan, Accounting Technician

Talia Knudsen, Administrative Assistant

Greg Jackson, JPIA/JPA Trust Admin.

Mike Sehestedt, Chief Legal Counsel

Maureen Lennon, Assoc. Legal Counsel

Greg Bonilla, Assoc. Legal Counsel

Carol Knight, Legal Secretary/Ad. Assist.

Emelia McEwen, Sr. Loss Control Specialist

Fred Hansen, Loss Control Specialist

Jack Holstrom, Personnel Svcs. Admin.

Fran Monro, Member Services Rep.

Keith Stapley, Claims Administrator

Wendy Sesselman, WC Claims Supervisor

Dennis Jupka, Senior Claims Adjuster

Bonnie Knopf, Data Specialist

Christine Holling, Claims Adjuster

Kerissa Lyman, Claims Admin. Assist.

Owen Voigt, Health Care Trust Admin.

Alyce Bailey, Enrollment/Eligibility Specialist

Pam Walling, Marketing/Member Services Representative

Laurie Goltry, Admin./Enrollment Asst.

Tom Beneventi, Custodian/Maint.

DISTRICT CHAIRS

1. Richard Dunbar, Phillips County

2. Mark Rehbein, Richland County

3. Donald Reiger, Fallon County

4. Russ Tempel, Liberty County

5. Arnold Gettel, Teton County

6. Leslie Burroughs, Golden Valley Co.

7. Maureen Davey, Stillwater County

8. Andy Hunthausen, Lewis & Clark Co.

9. Bernie Lucas, Meagher County

10. Carol Brooker, Sanders County

11. Carlotta Grandstaff, Ravalli County

12. Tom Rice, Beaverhead County

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Leo Gallagher, Lewis & Clark Co. Attorney

Amanda Kelly, Judith Basin County

Clerk & Recorder

Marilyn Craft, Jefferson County

District Court Clerk

Steve Immenschuh, Granite County Sheriff/

Coroner

Gary Olsen, Broadwater County

Justice of the Peace

Diane Inbody, Teton County

Superintendent of Schools

Gregory Hintz, Missoula Co. Sheriff's Office

Pam Shelton, Rosebud County Treasurer

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Diamond Sponsors

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Orlando, FL

MT Dept. of Commerce, Helena

Silver Sponsors

MDU Resources, Billings

NorthWestern Energy, Helena

Gaelectric, Great Falls

Bronze Sponsors

Allied Waste Services, Missoula

MT Correctional Entps., Deer Lodge

Morrison-Maierle, Inc., Helena

WGM Group, Missoula

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP, Missoula

Nittany Grantworks, Livingston

Copper Sponsors

Beck Consulting, Red Lodge

Norman Grosfield, Attorney, Helena

Life Care Services, Missoula

Tractor & Equipment Co., Billings

ColorMax/ArcaSearch, Paynesville, MN

LandAmerica Lender Svcs, Covina, CA

MSU Extension Service, Bozeman

AFFILIATE MEMBER

MT County Road Supervisors (MACRS)

MACo NEWS

444-4360 Fax: 442-5238

mharbour@mtcounties.org