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## NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH



By Talia Knudsen, MACo Communications Officer

Since 1991 counties across the nation have celebrated National County Government Week to raise awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of county government. This year, the one-week event has been extended to a whole month to give counties more opportunity to plan and hold events throughout the month. The theme this year is "Healthy Counties."

National County Government Month gives counties an opportunity to address any misconceptions about local government on a local level. This can be as simple as distributing a county fact sheet, and keeping with this year's theme, you may consider including facts about your county health department and the services it provided in the past year.

Your county may also want to highlight the traditional county services and infrastructure owned and maintained by the county.

### **Plan an event**

- Create a planning committee
- Decide how big you want your event

### **Involve the media** **Open your county up to the public**

- Hold an open house
- Schedule tours
- Make displays and take them to easily accessible places where people will notice them
- Encourage volunteerism

### **Go back to school**

- Visit schools with presentations
- Plan a career day
- Schedule tours at county facilities
- Hold student contests
- Offer to teach classes at the community college
- Organize debates for students to discuss current county events

### **Make headlines**

- Keep the local media in the loop
- Make events newsworthy
- Publish a calendar of events
- Write releases and media advisories

For more ideas, materials and tips, visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) or view Montana county ideas in last month's MACo news.

## Denver Census Bureau visits Mont. tribes

By Talia Knudsen, MACo Communications Officer

The U.S. Denver Regional Census Center is taking a new approach to the Census this year. It involves driving a bright orange SUV more than 9000 miles, covering 12 states and visiting 91 tribes. Montana stops include:

APRIL 1

10-11a.m. Missoula Indian Center

1-3 p.m. Salish & Kootenai College, Pablo

April 2

1-3 p.m. Town of Browning Park

April 3

1-3 p.m. Great Falls Housing Authority, Chown Springs Park

April 5

(morning) Rocky Boy Agency

1-3 p.m. Fort Belknap

April 6

11am-1pm: Fort Peck Veteran's Memorial Site, Poplar

The tour will also include the Crow Reservation, April 26, and Northern Cheyenne, April 27. Specifics are TBA.

The goal of the tour is to share the importance and safety of the census with an underreported minority in the U.S. and the guaranteed confidentiality.

For more information, email Johnel Harrison-Barcus, Tribal Partnership Specialist at [Johnel.L.Harrison.Barcus@Census.gov](mailto:Johnel.L.Harrison.Barcus@Census.gov).



# MACo News

## BPS takes the burn out of burn season for counties

By Harold Blattie, MACo Executive Director

It is open burning season again and the sight of rising clouds of smoke is on the horizon all across Montana. What happens in your county when someone sees smoke and calls 911? Does your dispatcher know where controlled burning is taking place that day? More often than not, the dispatcher dispatches your fire department who arrive at the scene to see a farmer burning a ditch bank or someone burning leaves or grass. This is a frustration to the person doing the burning because quite often the fire department puts the fire out because the person did not have a permit or if your county does not issue burn permits, the fire department returns to the fire hall having wasted a considerable amount of effort and money on a false call.

I know that was all too often the case when I was a commissioner in Stillwater County. We struggled for years trying find a solution to issuing burn permits so the local authorities would know when controlled burns were taking place. We never found a good solution.

At the MACo Annual Conference in September, Lewis and Clark County did a presentation about their Burn Permit Service that allows citizens to obtain a burn permit 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The process is simple: The citizen enters their contact information and burn locations, then pays the associated fee using a credit/debit card or bank account and their permit is immediately generated and ready for use.

I had occasion to give Lewis and Clark County Burn Permit Service a test drive this past weekend when the weather was nice in Helena and I got the inspiration to power rake our lawn. Four hours later I had a pile of grass clippings that I know would have fed a horse most of a winter. I went to <https://BurnPermits.mt.gov> and in less than 10 minutes I had completed the on-line process and had my burn permit in hand. The permit is issued for the entire burn season. However, I must activate it each day I intend to burn.

By that time it was late, and my aching muscles were not up to any more activity on Saturday (and Betty said "enough for today!") so I waited until Sunday to activate the permit by simply returning to the website and entering my burn permit number and the start and stop times I would be burning. Lewis and Clark County also offers an automated phone system that I could have used to activate my burn permit if I did not have access to the Internet.

The system then automatically notified Lewis and Clark County dispatch so they knew the exact location of my burn and the times I would be burning. No muss, no fuss and most important- no false calls when a neighbor dials 911 to report a fire that is a controlled burn.

To date only Lewis and Clark and Gallatin Counties are utilizing the County Burn Permit Service. The benefits

incurred by both counties are immediate. In 2009 alone, the use of the County Burn Permit Service diverted over 5,000 phone calls from the Lewis and Clark County dispatch center. And in just the first three weeks of 2010 burn season the online service has diverted over 1,100 non-emergency calls in Lewis and Clark County and over 300 in Gallatin County.

This online service, developed jointly between Lewis and Clark County and the State and Montana Interactive, is available to all Montana counties and I encourage you to consider implementation of the Burn Permit Service in your county. It is a very good solution for residents, dispatch and fire departments by saving time, effort and money.

For a demonstration of the Burn Permit Service visit the Citizen site or Administrative site.

To learn more about county integration options

into the County Burn Permit service contact Becki Kolenberg, Montana Interactive at 449-3468, x224 or at [becki@egovmt.com](mailto:becki@egovmt.com).

### BPS facts

- Citizens have the ability to purchase burn permits 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.
- Citizens can view active and completed permitted burns in their area online.
- Permits can be activated by the citizen at any time via the website or automated phone system.
- Citizens no longer need to contact dispatch to activate a permit which prevents long delays for burn permit holders looking to activate a permit.
- Limits the number of calls placed to the emergency dispatch and reserves their efforts for true emergencies.
- Helps track the locations of all approved burns so dispatch can more easily determine whether a smoke plume/fire is an emergency such as a wildfire or structural fire.
- By tracking approved burns the fire department may not have to be dispatched each time smoke/fire is reported.

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# MACo News

## D.C. report from Vic Miller, Blaine Co.

### Friday, March 5

Fly to DC after spending a wonderful evening as a guest of Mary and Bill Kennedy's. Their hospitality is beyond words.

### Saturday March 6

Today was a full day of Finance Intergovernmental Affairs sub committee meetings, particularly focused pending trust land issues, updates on voting requirements and funding. And something of interest but of no consequence to Montana called the "Streamlined Sales Tax". It may have an impact if there are interstate commerce issues.

### Sunday March 7

A day of the full committee for FIGA. Essentially, all subjects were presented from the day before in less detail, but votes taken and moved to the NACo annual conference.

### Monday March 8

I went to a Department of Homeland Security workshop in the morning session. It was not what I expected but it was a run down of ALL programs available at funding levels and what DHS is looking for in grant applications.

The second session in the morning was the Montana Inmate Care Program that is now being touted as an example to be used by other states. Congratulations, Sheryl, on being at the forefront of the nation.

The afternoon general session-Time columnist Joel Klein and his political observations.

### Tuesday March 9

The morning general session featured Secretary of Health and Human Services Sibelius, Agriculture Secretary Vilsak, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. I was impressed with what all three did on their individual topics and the sense of mission they all had. I am pleased that, in spite of all the cynicism, that the team approach

across department and cabinet heads is apparent, whether you agree or disagree politically. There is a sense of purpose and a serious one that is not taken lightly.

The morning educational block I attended was on community economic development in the face of adversity. All three examples, surprisingly, had to do with communities and their relationship to federal government. In other words, in spite of all the political rhetoric about free market, there is still an understanding of infrastructure needs being met by government partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels.

The afternoon session was on climate change, the cap and trade debate and trying to understand it all. Again, regardless of my opinions on the subject, I was happy I went and heard a well balanced panel present their cases and how cap and trade is a part of the bigger picture.

*...the work was good and we are prepared for a busy annual conference. In my opinion, my time was not wasted and it was worth the sacrifice of going.*

### Wednesday March 10

Today was Montana breakfast with Senators and Baucus and Tester. That was followed up by individual meetings with our congressional leaders and staff. I would not want to be a Senator or Congressman, EVER!!!! The schedules they keep on behalf of us overwhelms me.

Overall, I liked this conference. The hours were long, the work was good and we are prepared for a busy annual conference. In my opinion, my time was not wasted and it was worth the sacrifice of going.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Miller, Blaine County  
Finance and Intergovernmental  
Affairs Sub-Committee, NACo

**Mae Nan Ellingson      Dan Semmens**  
**Jack Manning          Jeremy Brown**

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# MACo News

## Keeping air ducts clean a safety measure for counties

By Talia Knudsen, MACo Communications Officer

Most people don't think about their heating system unless it stops working. But the air ducts in the Flathead County Justice Center were a concern of Jed Fisher, Parks and Recreation Director, when he learned they hadn't been cleaned in 25 years.

So, what does an air duct look like that hasn't been cleaned for 25 years?

Judy Murphy, industrial hygienist at Montana Dept. of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Bureau said it really depends on how well the system has been maintained. If the filters are changed regularly and the ducts are sealed well, then the ducts should be fairly clean. But if the filter is allowed to get dirty or plugged and there are air leaks, organic matter can get sucked into the system, and fungus can grow on anything organic, she said. EPA recommends cleaning air ducts if there is reason to believe there is mold, vermin or dust and debris in the system. Murphy suggested having a bore scope done before embarking on the expensive journey of having duct work cleaned, because the cleaning may not be necessary.

Don Buettner, program manager at the Building Codes Bureau at Montana Labor and Industry Business Standards has seen his share of dirty ducts.

"A gray material; kind of a black tarnish, develops on the metal," he said. The material freezes hard in the summer when the air conditioning is on. Then it softens up and gets moist during the winter with heat and humidity in the ducts and provides a breeding ground for fungus.

Buettner said there are no codes that regulate cleaning air ducts, but furnace manufacturers' recommendations should be followed to prevent airborne pathogens from entering the air and causing health hazards to those breathing the air.

Following the manufacturers guidelines, changing filters regularly and inspecting heating and air conditioning systems should be a part of a county's safety program and a work place inspection, said Emelia McEwen, MACo Senior Loss Control Specialist. Dirty ducts can cause an unpleasant work place and health problems which can lead to lost work days.

In the case of the Flathead County Justice Center, the furnace has been well maintained in the last 25 years, but a thorough inspection of the duct work revealed mold. Although the inspection concluded that the mold was not airborne and is not a health hazard, Fisher is currently collecting bids from companies that provide duct work cleaning, and plans to have the cleaning done every four years. Visit [www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/airduct.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/airduct.html) for more information about cleaning air ducts.

### Signs of dirty ducts:

- Visible mold or mildew on ducts or components of the system
- Ducts are infested with rodents or insects
- Ducts are clogged with dust or debris or particles are released into the air by supply registers
- A slimy film on the inside of the ducts
- Unpleasant smells coming from supply registers

## State Project to Plan for Broadband

The Montana Department of Commerce is asking residents and businesses to log on to [www.mtspeedtest.org](http://www.mtspeedtest.org) to help map the state's broadband Internet infrastructure. Citizens are urged to take the test at home to provide the most comprehensive information.

People who take the test will find out how fast they are connected to the Internet and will help the state collect data to map broadband availability. Once the map is completed, it will be made available on-line to help public officials and consumers plan for jobs, education and broadband services. If you don't have broadband Internet at home, report your location by calling the toll free number at 1-877-448-6277 (MAPS).

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# MACo News

## Job safety analysis training for law enforcement

MACo Risk Management will host a Job Safety Analysis training session April 7 presenting Sgt. Steve Metzger, Yellowstone County Training Officer, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the MACo conference room. Metzger will discuss how to develop a training program for law enforcement.

The purpose of a JSA is to identify the hazards of a job task and to come up with solutions to reduce injury. More than likely, policy will be part of the solution. A JSA will, therefore, help your departments meet the required annual policy training and will prevent or reduce workers' compensation claims and liability claims.

This session is tailor made for a sheriff or someone in the department who is interested in being the training officer. Commissioners, safety coordinators and WC

agents are also invited to attend.

Please call 449-4360 or email smcgowan@mtcounties.org to R.S.V.P. Lunch will be provided by MACo Risk Management. If you have any questions about the training, please call Emelia McEwen, MACo Senior Loss Control Specialist at 449-4370.

**Job Safety Analysis Training**  
 April 7  
 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Helena, MT  
 Call 449-4360 or email smcgowan@mtcounties.org to R.S.V.P.

## 2010 Intermountain GIS Conference to come

Mark your calendars for "Challenges for a Changing World," this year's Intermountain GIS Conference in Bozeman, Montana, April 19-23. The conference is a full week of training workshops and sessions incorporating disciplines reaching far beyond the traditional GIS sciences. Mini-Conferences, running concurrently, will focus on Snow Sciences, Fire and Emergency Services, AmericaView, and others all included in the overall conference program.

Conference registration includes a ticket to the Museum of the Rockies – Night at the Museum Banquet and private museum viewing of all exhibit halls.

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# MACo News

## The road to better coverage is littered with choices

Owen P Voigt, ARM, AIC Trust Administrator MACo Health Care Trust

I like to road shop. Have you ever been road shopping? It works like this; you drive down the road and see something in the ditch or on the shoulder that you need so you stop and pick it up.

On a trip with my family we were driving our good pickup and I had forgotten a tarp to cover our things in the back of the pickup. As my wife and I chatted I could tell my wife was concerned about our children's ability to do well in the world given the obvious genetic intelligence defect I had contributed to their genealogy. I thought this was rather harsh for simply having forgotten to bring a tarp. However she reminded me of a few other things I had forgotten and I had to admit she had a legitimate concern.

I assured her my rural North Dakota upbringing had advantages that most people lacked, that being the ability to effectively road shop. Road shopping is quite fun, it is rewarding and inexpensive; the best part is you can get what you want and leave the rest. We drove a couple miles further and there in the ditch was the familiar blue shape and color of a plastic tarp. I pulled over, grabbed it and it turned out to be nearly new. I got our luggage covered about the time it starting raining and we were on our way. My wife agreed my North Dakota rural upbringing had now proven to have had at least one positive.

We have spent a considerable amount of time discussing other things I think were positive about growing up in North Dakota on a small sheep and cattle ranch. For example, being able to back a manure spreader several hundred feet without kinking the hitch. But that has not proven to have contributed to our family's economic well-being.

Another time while on my way to rodeos in western Nevada a friend of mine and I were running about three hours early so we slowed down and road shopped for about 80 miles. We picked up 27 truck tarp straps, a new mud flap, a box of screws, bolts, nuts and washers, a cardboard box of construction supplies, two coolers and numerous other really good things. The trunk was nearly full. It was fun and rewarding, and we were actually picking up things someone else may be paid to pick up.

When you go to the grocery store do you buy the same thing as the person in front of you? Certainly not- they rarely buy my favorite adult beverages. Is your car the same as the person who sits next to you? Is your house

the same? Nope.

So why do so many insurance carriers offer a group of employees the same plan? You should be able to "road shop" for the plan you need as an individual. Get the benefits you want and not those you don't. The Health Care Trust offers a minimum of three different plans. These plans aren't just different deductible levels but actual different benefit options.

As Pam and I travel around the state meeting with counties and special districts we are amazed at how many groups offer the 22-year-old, healthy, single road department employee and the 64-year-old, married individual with several medical issues the same health plan. Some carriers do not offer options to you. If they do, they want to charge you an administrative fee. Nearly all groups with the Health Care Trust offer at least two plans, while some offer as many as five different plans.

Good luck road shopping.

*The HCT offers a minimum of three different plans. These plans aren't just different deductible levels but actual different benefit options.*

## HCT health screenings

All employees and spouses that are covered under the county health insurance plan through MACo are invited to attend a It Starts With Me screening in their area. Others in the community are invited to attend and pay the minimal \$80 screening fee.

HCT will pay for members' basic screening. The member may select additional screenings and pay, then submit to the HCT. The HCT will pay for additional screenings subject to the annual \$300 preventive benefit.

Scheduled Screening:  
April 29 Meagher Co.

Flyers will be distributed to counties prior to screenings with more information. Preregistration is requested. Limited walk-ins will be accepted. Contact Pam Walling at 535-6893 with any questions.



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## Prevention of CTS

By Talia Knudsen, MACo Communications Officer

Carpal tunnel syndrome affects millions of workers. CTS symptoms include numbness, tingling and pain in the hands, wrist and fingers. Poor posture and sitting in the same position for long periods of time and/or working at a computer can play a role in causing CTS.

When a person assumes poor postures, particularly a slumped back, the curve in the back is lost which allows the head to leave its correct position- above the shoulders. This poor posture stresses the nerves leaving the spine and weaken the muscles of the upper back, the lower back, the abdomen, shoulders and neck. Poor postures can throw off the body's entire muscle system, leading to trigger points, which fire pain signals to other parts of the body.

Examining posture and changing work habits may prevent CTS and allow the body to heal and alleviate CTS.

### Stretch

Raise and lower your shoulders several times.

Look far to the right, then far to the left. Touch chin to chest, then tilt head back.

Stand up straight. Stretch arms high above your head. Lean forward, back, to the left and to the right.

## Forest Service planning rule sessions to come

The North Region (Region 1) Forest Service Planning Rule Regional Input session will be held in Missoula, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 13, at the Holiday Inn Parkside, located at 200 S. Pattee Street.

For signup and logistics, call Larry Lackner at 329-3659. Notes will be posted following the discussion at [www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule](http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule). Meetings will be linked through video conference.

In addition to examining posture, the following strategies may be helpful in preventing and treating CTS:

- Strengthen the muscles of the lower back to reduce poor postures with simple exercises.
- Encourage stretching and breaks while you are working. Stretch the entire body and move around to improve circulation.
- Consider massage therapy to release tension created by bad posture and help your body relearn good posture.
- Regular exercise improves overall circulation and speeds the healing process for injured tissues.

### Strengthen



Place hands flat on desk-top in front of you. Take one step back. Do 10 standing pushups.



Turn around, place palms on desk edge and do 10 triceps dips.

You can use anything as a weight to strengthen arms. Ex. A ream of copy paper weighs five pounds.

### suspire

Do jumping jacks, quick pace high knee marching or simulate jump roping.

Take a break from your desk and go up and down a flight of stairs.

• Ice sore tendons for no more than 10 minutes. If you are experiencing spasms, mild heat followed by ice may be the best treatment. If the spasms are caused by trauma, see your doctor immediately.

For more stretching exercises to add to your regimen, go to MACo's website. Visit

with your doctor to ensure a regimen is safe for you.

### MACo Risk Management & Training



Emelia McEwen &  
Sr. Loss Control Specialist

Fred Hansen, PE  
Loss Control Specialist

Phone: (406) 449-4370  
Fax: (406) 442-5238



## NACo Steering Committee Report

By Allan Underdal, Toole County Commissioner

The County and Tribal Government Relationships Subcommittee of the Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee continues to be one in which there is activity in the area of the taking of lands into trust. We passed a resolution which passed the full committee that opposes the congressional reversal of *Carciari v. Salazar* without a comprehensive examination and reform of the fee to trust process and calling on Congress to undertake such review and reform.

We went on record opposing S.1703, H.R.3697, and H.R.3742, and any other interim related action that is in line with a quick fix of *Carciari*. NACo's policy platform calls for reform of the fee to trust

process to insure: 1) meaningful notice to counties of trust applications; 2) good faith consultation with counties regarding fee to trust issues; and 3) agreements with counties to insure that the off reservation impacts of tribal development projects are mitigated (NACo Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Platform Policies 4.9.3; 4.9.5; and 4.9.6.). NACo policies further support legislative changes to the trust process which include full compensation to counties for lost tax revenue resulting from taking lands into federal jurisdiction (Policy Platform 1.6.2).

In the area of Fiscal Policy, we passed resolutions opposing federal preemption of state and local taxing authority over online travel companies (OTCs) such as Expedia, Travelocity, and Orbitz, support to continuation of the Build America Bonds Program, and support to continuation and permanency in the estate tax code of estate tax relief for America's farmers, ranchers, and other small business owners.

On elections issues, we continue to press Congress for full and continued funding for the Help America Vote Act, which puts permanent mandates on local governments that continue to evolve. The money that comes from congress passes through the states on the way to the counties and local government doesn't have significant input on how that money is spent. Congress has never fully funded HAVA nor does it propose to pay for maintenance on the voting machines and equipment that it mandates that we use. This could be very expensive to counties in the future. We continue to lobby our Congressional delegation on this topic.

Another election issue we listened to was a presentation on online voter registration from Doug Chapin, Director of Elections Initiatives, Pew Center on the States. This

is a process that we will most likely be facing us in the future, for better or worse.

We heard a report from Arnold Jackson, Associate Director for Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau on the importance of the census to local governments. This is the method used to pass on federal and state funds to local governments and we must recognize that a complete and accurate count of Montana's people is very important to each one of our counties and whatever support we can give to the local census process is a good investment in the future.

I also attended the Environment, Energy, and Land Use Steering Committee along with other members of our Montana

delegation as a non-voting substitute for John Prinkki, who couldn't attend this conference. Some of the resolutions that were debated and passed in the committee were the following: 1) If Congress should pass cap and trade legislation, the legislation should include carbon sequestration on federal forest lands as a new source of revenue through revenue sharing to counties; 2) a resolution that would provide for a definition of renewable biomass from Titles I & III of the 2008 Farm Act (Farm Bill) that would include sustainably harvested woody biomass from public and other lands; 3) a resolution on distribution of federal royalty payments for renewable energy projects on public lands which would share federal leasing and rights of way revenues from renewable energy developments (wind, solar, and geothermal) on federal lands with state and county governments where that development occurs; 4) and a compromise resolution on Benefits to Counties from Climate Legislative Initiatives that would proposed active county participation in climate legislation initiatives such as cap and trade, carbon pricing, must include a balanced approach and benefits to counties by providing revenue to communities for creating economic growth, sustainable businesses, community development, energy efficiency, and conserving parks, open spaces and natural resources that increase quality jobs, business productivity and competitiveness. NACo supports legislative initiatives that provide economic incentives to government and industry to reduce green house gas emissions.

A resolution proposed by John Prinkki that said NACo opposes a cap and trade or carbon tax but supports legislation that provides economic incentives to government and industry to reduce green house gas emissions was defeated.

*On elections issues, we continue to press Congress for full and continued funding for the Help America Vote Act, which puts permanent mandates on local governments that continue to evolve.*



# MACo News

## 2nd Chance Act grants available now

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is seeking applications for grants under its Fiscal Year 2010 Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative. State agencies, local governments and federally recognized tribes, as well as public universities and colleges, private and nonprofit organizations are eligible for the grants. Deadline has been set for April 27.

**Quick Links**

[Program Overview](#)

[Email Prog. Mngr. Angela Parker](#)

[Email Prog. Mngr. Mark Morgan](#)

[Register](#)

**You must register before applying**

The Second Chance Act authorizes grants to government agencies and nonprofit groups to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims' support, and other services to help adult and juvenile ex-offenders made a successful transition from incarceration to the community and reducing recidivism. The Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative grants may be

used to fund programs aimed at youths younger than 18 years of age.

OJJDP will make awards up to \$625,000 per award for a project period up to three years. These will be one-time awards to cover the project period. Federal funds awarded under this program may not pay for more than 75 percent of the project costs, and the source of the remaining 25 percent must be identified in the application.

Applicants must register before applying by going to [grants.gov](http://grants.gov). For more information about the program, funding and application process, click [here](#).

For further assistance, call Angela Parker at 202-353-9252 or email her at [angela.parker@usdoj.gov](mailto:angela.parker@usdoj.gov), or call Mark Morgan at 202-353-9243 or email him at [mark.morgan@usdoj.gov](mailto:mark.morgan@usdoj.gov).

## 'Tis the season for quarterly reports

By Tom Swindle, MACo Finance Officer

While most of us are thinking about preparing our personal individual income tax returns, the clerk and recorder offices and payroll clerks around Montana are thinking about the quarterly payroll reports.

The counties must prepare and file payroll reports to the IRS, State of Montana and for worker's compensations. These reports must be filed by the last day of the month following the end of a quarter.

Throughout the quarter, withholdings such as income taxes, social security and Medicare taxes are deposited with the appropriate agencies. Then, those amounts must equal the amounts reported on the quarterly reports.

The reports of the four quarters of the calendar year must reconcile to the information reported on the annual wage reports (W-2).

This is just one of many important functions handled by the clerk and recorder offices.

**MACo Contact Numbers**

Main Office 449-4360  
 HCT 443-8102  
 Legal Services 441-5473  
 Claims 442-1178

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- Always be careful when working or standing at an open edge.
- Do not carry items that block your view of the pathway. Take additional trips if needed.
- Use only step stools or ladders to reach high places. Furniture, boxes, or shelving is not designed to stand on and likely to lead to a fall or collapse.
- Ensure staff has a procedure to get a ladder or stool when needed.
- Help others. If you see a hazard that you can fix, fix it. Otherwise, report observed unsafe conditions for correction.
- Communicate. If you observe someone placing themselves at-risk of a fall from elevation, let them know.

The information contained in this document was obtained from sources that to the best of the writer's knowledge are authentic and reliable. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. makes no guarantee of results, and assumes no liability in connection with either the information herein contained, or the safety suggestions herein made. Moreover, it cannot be assumed that every acceptable safety procedure is contained herein, or that abnormal or unusual circumstances may not warrant or require further or additional procedures.

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# MACo News

## MACo Employee Profile

**Spouse's name and time together:**  
Patricia, 35 years

**Occupation:** Senior Claims Adjustor

**Years at current occupation:** 3 years plus



*Dennis Jupka*

**Profession before current occupation:**  
Investigator for Great Falls law firm

**Education:** B.S. in sociology with politics option

**Biggest challenge ever faced:** Moving to Helena after 23 years in Great Falls to start a new career.

**Goals as a senior in high school:** Graduate college

**Surprising fact about you:** I am a five-time state racquetball champion

**Most adventurous thing you've ever done:** I was a drummer in a rock band

**Favorite TV show:** "Seinfeld"

**A turning point in your life:** Marrying my wife

**A memorable moral lesson:** I should never drink tequila

**A book you've read twice:** "10 Minute Manager"

**Favorite charity/cause:** The local food bank

**Favorite movie(s):** "Animal House" and "Blazing Saddles"

**Person who had the biggest impact on your life and why:** My father; he was the most honest and forthright person I have ever known.

## Commissioner Profile

**Spouse's name and time together:**  
Patricia (Tocher) Lee, 41 years

**Occupation:** Butte-Silver Bow City-County Commissioner

**Years at current occupation:** Seven years



*Joe Lee*

**Profession before current occupation:**  
Served 27 years with the Butte-Silver Bow Law Enforcement Agency including 17 years as the undersheriff. Graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy in 1979.

**Education:** B.A. Degree in History/teaching certificate

**Biggest challenge you've ever faced:** My tour of duty in Vietnam (1968-69)

**Your goals as a senior in high school:** To attend college with the aspiration of earning a teaching degree.

**Surprising fact about you:** As a law enforcement officer, I once dressed in women's clothing to lure suspects who were snatching purses from elderly women. On the second night of the undercover operation two juvenile suspects were arrested for the purse snatching (theft) offenses.

**Most adventurous thing you've ever done:** Working underground in the Butte copper mines while attending college at Montana Tech. My first shift was on the 4200 level of the Steward Mine.

**Favorite TV show:** "National Geographic"

**A turning point in your life:** My wife giving birth to our first child at Madigan General Hospital while I was stationed at Fort Lewis, WA.

**A memorable moral lesson:** I am a strong believer in the adage, "There is no free lunch."

**A book you've read twice (or more):** "The Butte Irish: Class and Ethnicity in an American Mining Town (1875-1925)" by David Emmons.

**Favorite charity/cause:** The Butte Food Bank/Assisting our less fortunate neighbors in our community.

**Favorite movie:** "Dr. Zhivago"

**Person(s) who had the biggest influence on you/your life, and why:** My Parents. They instilled within me a strong work ethic, an appreciation for the laboring class and a respect for all people.



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# MACo News



## State of Montana

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

### Department of Commerce

Anthony J. Preite, Director



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

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

**Local government financing:**

Kelly Casillas; Administrator  
Community Development Division  
Phone: (406) 841-2776  
Email: [kcasillas@mt.gov](mailto:kcasillas@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](mailto:gmorehouse@mt.gov)  
Website: [mt.financeonline.com](http://mt.financeonline.com)

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

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



# MACo News

## Kenneth H. Krueger

7/28/1937-2/27/2010



Kenneth H. Krueger, 72, died Saturday, Feb. 27, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Ken was born on July 28, 1937, in New Salem, N.D., to Fred and Wilma (Holle) Krueger.

He lived in New Salem until he was 10 years old, moved to the Stillwater area of the Flathead Valley in 1947.

He attended Sparks, Linderman, and then graduated from Flathead County

High School.

He worked for Skyline Dairy for many years as a route driver then plant supervisor. He left the dairy to become a full-time farmer. He married Betty E. Mattheisen on Sept. 1, 1957, in Kalispell.

He was a member of the West Valley School Board; was appointed to the Montana Wheat and Barley Board by then-Gov. Swindon; the CFC (Cooperative Finance Corporation); and was a member of the National Barley Board. He served on a trade mission to Japan and Taiwan, and then hosted a trade contingent from Japan on

their family farm.

He also served as chairman of the Montana State Electric Co-operative Board for 25 plus years.

Ken conceived and started the Round-Up for Safety program with the Rural Co-operative. He served as a Flathead County Commissioner for seven years. He served Stillwater Grange for several years as Master. "Work, work, and more work" was Kenneth's motto through life.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Wilma Krueger; twin sister, Karol Krueger; daughter-in-law, Julie Krueger; nephew, Rick Shepard; and brother-in-law, Johnny Mattheisen.

He is survived by his wife Betty; son, Gary and wife Jessica and their children Derek and wife Kristen, Trent, Ryan and Carissa; daughter Kelly and husband Jeff Craig, and their son Steven, of Henderson, Nev. and numerous friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the organization of your choice. Friends can visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) where this obituary will be maintained.



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# Around Our Counties

## Law Enforcement

**DAWSON COUNTY** commissioners have offered funding to help pay a compliance officer who will monitor domestic violence offenders and ensure probation terms are followed. Amber Ellis serves ten counties and is based out of Sidney. The position is grant funded by the Montana Board of Crime Control and requires local match.

**BIG HORN COUNTY** Undersheriff Rondell Davis has resigned after several years of working for the office. Davis immediately departed from a surprised office and commission who wished him well. His replacement is to be determined.

**CASCADE COUNTY** Adult Regional Detention Center staff was cleared of any wrongdoing in the suicide of an inmate in November. The Poplar man, Clifford Wayne Granbois, 28, was being detained after attempting to run a man over with his car. Granbois used his bedding to hang himself from the top bunk of the cell bed.

**CHOUTEAU COUNTY** Deputy Justin Smith has completed a two-week advanced crime scene investigation course. Four other deputies completed a class on medical marijuana. The classes include information regarding new laws and the implications they will have on officers.

**FLATHEAD COUNTY** 911 Center and the Whitefish Police Department has begun the process of consoli-

dating. Whitefish dispatchers are learning new computer technology as well as how to handle fire and emergency medical calls. The Whitefish center has been closed and the consolidated center is scheduled to be fully functional by July.

**LIBERTY COUNTY** Undersheriff Doug Riggin got some closure after the man that shot him last February was sentenced in March. Joshua Gwynn was sentenced to 30 years for Deliberate Mitigated Attempted Homicide with all but ten years suspended, plus 20 years, all suspended for assault with a weapon. Gwynn apologized for his actions, said he was grateful that no one was seriously injured and asked the court to allow him to continue his treatment and recovery.

## Finances/Funding

**FLATHEAD COUNTY** commissioners have created a centralized finance department that will be headed by a non-elected official who will report to the commission, rather than the clerk and recorder. This move was proposed by Flathead County clerk and recorder, Paula Robinson, who said the previous fragmented methods were inadequate to deal with the complex and sizeable financial functions of the county. The new department will be responsible for the budget and general ledger and the treasurer's office will continue to

handle tax collections and the clerk and recorder will remain responsible for tax audits.

**FALLON COUNTY** will be the recipient of an \$800,000 grant for new septic systems and upgrading water service in North Baker Water and Sewer District. The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Commerce through the Economic Development Administration Funds. The project delivers prospects of more jobs in the area economically impacted by storms in 2008.

**MINERAL COUNTY** used stimulus funds to purchase a diesel, nine-passenger handicap accessible bus. The bus, which can be utilized by anyone, marks the start of the Mineral County Transportation fleet, a service by the Mineral County Pioneer Council. The nearly new bus cost \$50,000 and will be used for two trips to Missoula each month, among other transports.

**RAVALLI COUNTY** commission has decided to press on with creating a county strategic plan of operations to help cope with recent budget cuts. The plan will be created by in-county resources and a consultant paid \$50,000 from the Payment In Lieu of Taxes supplement. Commissioners hope the plan will help them decide what areas of county operations can be trimmed, which ones can't and

other ways to be more efficient.

**CUSTER COUNTY** was the recipient of over \$300,000 in state and federal grants in addition to used federal equipment worth around \$700,000 for nearly no cost to the county. The Custer County Fire Department acquired two fire engines, a bulldozer, a loader, forklifts, generators, tractors and trailers for transport for the cost of delivery and any needed repairs. More equipment for fire districts is in the works, as well as renovating the fire hall and converting a storage closet formerly used by the county attorney into a classroom.

## Projects

**SANDERS COUNTY** has embarked on the journey of preserving their historical documents. The county is working with ComStore of Spokane to scan each document and create an indestructible microfiche copy. After the project is complete, the courthouse will house one copy and another will be kept off-site for safekeeping. The oldest document dates back to soon after the county separated from the larger Missoula County, over 100 years ago.

## Personnel

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY** commissioners have introduced a sample fraud policy to department heads, with the intention of drafting and adding similar language to the personnel policy. Officials recently attended a seminar where



# Around Our Counties

they learned that auditors catch 10 percent of fraud cases and 50 percent are discovered within the organization. The new language would include protection for whistle blowers.

## **FLATHEAD COUNTY**

Deputy attorney, Jonathan Smith will retire after 31 years of serving as lead counsel on civil matters. While working at the county he served as a lawyer with the Justice Department and defended the White House after the government was sued for approving wire taps for 17 reporters who were allegedly receiving leaked information during the Nixon administration. His retirement plans include restoring classic cars.

## **STILLWATER COUNTY**

Research Specialist Else Houghton announced her retirement after 41 years of service to the county. Commissioners speculate her years of service is unmatched in the county and perhaps the state. The commission also commended her service and dedication to the work.

## **RAVALLI COUNTY**

commissioners have imposed a preauthorization and review process of any new employee requests. This measure will cover filling vacant positions and new positions. This is a result of expected drops in tax revenues and federal and state funding.

### Miscellany

**PARK COUNTY** has joined other organizations protesting BLM meeting policy.

State and federal law does not require BLM to open cooperator meetings to the public, unless a quorum of the county commission is present. Media attention and complaints have prompted the agency to re-examine the policy.

## **GALLATIN COUNTY**

will reduce 34 polling places to 24 to save money and increase efficiency. The reduction is also because of a lack of polling places available. Due to overcrowding at area schools, classrooms are either no longer available to use or there are parking and scheduling conflicts.

## **POWELL COUNTY**

residents will see transport vehicles and trailers passing through their county via Highway 200 this fall, as Kearl Oil Sands Project begins transporting 200 pre-assembled process units to a Canadian oil extraction site in Fort McMurray. The \$7 billion project will be developed by Imperial Oil. The size of the units will require raising or varying utility lines, modifying traffic structures and infrastructure.

## **DAWSON COUNTY**

and Glendive officials have finalized the details of a flood drill in preparation for this spring, which comes with the risk of the Yellowstone River escaping its banks. An emergency operating center was set up and activated, and is made up of city and county leaders from

the sheriff's office, city police, county and city fire departments, school district, city services and others. An evacuation method, notification resources and decision making processes were also discussed.

## **RAVALLI COUNTY**

has contracted with a Coeur d'Alene company to clean up and codify county resolutions and ordinances. The project will cost just over \$5,000. That price includes putting the information online.

## **BEAVERHEAD COUNTY**

has joined the Citizens for Balanced Use and Beaverhead Outdoor Association in their lawsuit against the Forest Service and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Plan. The county made the decision after the forest service denied their request for a discretionary review. The commission also filed appeals on the plan, and was denied.

## **GALLATIN COUNTY**

has decided to declare the county a "recovery zone" after much deliberation. The decision was influenced by a growing unemployment rate and number of people living in poverty, a 45 percent decrease in construction and an increase in foreclosures in the county. The status enables the county to participate in a loan program, funded by the federal stimulus act, that allows business ventures to apply for low-interest, tax-exempt loans.

## **DAWSON COUNTY**

commission has exercised their right to regulate and approve all-night poker games. Glen Bowl Lanes owner Joe Kessel requested the approval, and told the commissioners alcohol would not be served at the games after 2 a.m. and machines would not be available. Kessel said the change would bring more people to town for games.

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# Announcements & Reminders

## April

- 1 MACRS, Great Falls
- MWCA Weed mngr. course L&C Fair grounds
- 5-6 Law & Justice Comm., Capitol Rm 137
- 8 State-Tribal Relations Comm., Capitol Rm 137
- 13 HCT Trustee Meeting
- 14 JPIA & JPA Trustee Meeting
- 15 MACo Tax, Finance & Budget Comm.
- 22-23 State Veterans Affairs Comm.
- 26-27 Children, Families, Health & Human Svcs. Comm.
- 29-30 Revenue & Transportation Comm.

## May

- 26-28 NACo WIR Conference, Billings

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 26-30 MACo 101st Annual Conference, Billings

\*All events are held in Helena unless noted.

*April MACo 2010 Elected Officials Directory updates/corrections (accumulated corrections will be printed in June MACo News):*

Meagher County has changed servers. New emails are:  
 Herb Townsend: htownsend@meaghercounty.mt.gov  
 Charles "Bernie" Lucas: crogers@meaghercounty.mt.gov  
 Ben Hurwitz: bhurwitz@meaghercounty.mt.gov  
 Linda Hickman: lhickman@meaghercounty.mt.gov  
 Dayna Ogle: dogle@meaghercounty.mt.gov  
 Donna Morris: domorris@mt.gov  
 Ronda Shinabarger: RShinabarger2@mt.gov  
 John Lopp: jlopp@sheriff.meagherco.org  
 Helen Hanson: hhanson@meaghercounty.mt.gov  
 Sue Phelan: sphelan@mt.gov

Mineral County Commissioner Clark Conrow can be reached cconrow@co.mineral.mt.us and Duane Simons at doughboy@blackfoot.net.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### President

Carl Seilstad, Fergus County

#### 1st Vice President

John Ostlund, Yellowstone County

#### 2nd Vice President

Connie Eissinger, McCone County

#### Fiscal Officer

Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County

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Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County

#### Past President

Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County

#### MACo STAFF

Harold Blattie, Executive Director

Sheryl Wood, Associate Director

Tom Swindle, Finance Officer

Karen Houston, Meeting Planner

Sara McGowan, Accounting Technician

Talia Knudsen, Communications Officer

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  
 Liz Krzan, Asst. 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. Tony Berget, Lincoln County
11. Jean Curtiss, Missoula County
12. Tom Rice, Beaverhead County

#### ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Leo Gallagher, Lewis & Clark Co. Attorney  
 Penni Lewis, Richland 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 School Supt.  
 Gregory Hintz, Missoula Co. Sheriff's Office  
 Kevin Larkin, Park County Treasurer

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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Arthur Gallagher Risk Man. Svc.

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AT&T  
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