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## Montana Hosts NACo WIR Board of Directors Meeting

By: Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark County Commissioner, NACo WIR Board President

As President of WIR, I was proud to host this year's fall NACo WIR Board of Directors meeting in Montana. On Wednesday, October 13, we began with a bus trip to Great Falls and a Tour of the 341<sup>st</sup> Missile Wing at Malstrom Air Force Base. Colonel Anthony Cotton and his team provided our visitors from 15 western states an in-depth tour of the missile silos and allowed us to witness an interactive and informative training session which included allowing members to "turn the key" to launch a missile. I would like to offer our thanks and gratitude to Colonel Cotton and his staff for their gracious hospitality, as well as Cascade County Commissioner Joe Briggs for his coordination of this tour.

We then travelled to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive center, enjoyed a great lunch and tour, and then loaded the buses home. Our thanks to all of the Cascade County Commissioners for their help and hospitality in hosting this event. We wrapped up the evening with a dinner and tour at the Montana Historical Society and Museum, and a tour of the Capitol.

On Thursday morning, the group engaged in an in-depth strategic planning session, moderated by Dan Clark, Executive Director of the MSU Local Government Center. Dan guided us through a review of the WIR's purpose, mission statement, goals, and objectives, which included discussions regarding the number of meetings held each year as well as expanding the focus on issues facing the west, that may not be public lands related.

In the afternoon, we listened to a number of updates from various presenters:

Lesley Robinson provided an overview of the recent meeting held in Malta, MT with the Dept. of Interior BLM Director Robert Abbey regarding National Monument Designation. Following the presentation and discussion, the Board requested a letter be sent to Secretary Salazar and Director Abbey regarding the NACo position on use of the Antiquities Act.

Kathleen Clarke, Deputy Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food gave a power point presentation regarding how new priorities and initiatives may affect the management of public lands.

Kent Briggs, Executive Director, Council of State Governments West, gave an update on their work with Western Legislatures. In the west, water and who owns it appear to be issues in all states. Mr. Briggs spoke about his organization, which is governed by legislators from the western states.

Bill Cox, Commissioner from Rich County, Utah, provided a report on the Ruby Pipeline issue. Following the report, the Board requested that a letter be written to the BLM, requesting they use their legislative authority to reconsider its Record of Decision on the Ruby Pipeline EIS.

Ryan Yates, NACo, gave us an update on the Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy Report to Congress, and an update on pending legislation. Ryan believes it will be status quo and doesn't expect much in the lame duck session after the election.

Continued on page 4...



# MACo News

## First phase of training, commissioner certification set for next month

MACo, together with the Local Government Center at MSU-Bozeman, will be presenting Phase I of its annual elected officials training / commissioner certification December 6 - 9 in Helena in the MACo conference room.

Courses will be taught on numerous topics, such as open meeting, code of ethics, and local government laws.

For more information, please see the draft agenda below or visit our web site at [www.maco.cog.mt.us](http://www.maco.cog.mt.us).

### DRAFT AGENDA

#### MACo and Local Government Center, MSU-Bozeman Elected Officials Training / Commissioner Certification Phase I

#### Monday, Dec. 6

- 3:00-6:00 pm **Registration** - Red Lion Colonial Lobby
- 5:30-6:00 pm **No Host Reception** - Red Lion Capitol Room
- 6:00 pm **Dinner**
- Facilitator:** Dan Clark, Director, MSU Local Government Center
- Welcome:** Joush Ostlund, MACo President & Yellowstone County Commissioner
- Self Introductions**
- Keynote Address:** Dr. Douglas Steele, Provost and Director of Extension, Montana State University

#### Tuesday, Dec. 7

- 7:30 - 8:00 am **Registration** - MACO Conference Room
- 8:00 - 8:15 am **Welcome and Explanation of Certification Process:** Dan Clark, Director, MSU Local Government Center
- 8:15 - 10:15 am **Course 101.1 - Introduction to County Government:** An in depth review of the legal basis of Montana county government and the roles of county commissioners.
- 10:15 - 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 - 12:30 pm **Course 102.1 - The Commission Decision Process:** An overview of the decision process of the Board of County Commissioners and of the constitutional rights and limitations of Montana citizens to participate in county government decisions.
- 12:30 - 1:45 pm **Lunch**
- 1:45 - 2:45 pm **Course 103.1 - The Montana Code of Ethics:** An in-depth review of the statutory requirements imposed upon all elected and appointed county officials by the Montana Code of Ethics.
- 2:45 - 3:00 pm **Break**
- 3:00 - 5:00 pm **Course 104.1 - County Functions and Services:** A review of essential county functions and services and how they are delivered.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 8

- 8:00 - 9:00 am **Course 107.1 - The Montana Association of Counties & The National Association of Counties:** An overview of key organizations that support county elected officials.
- 9:00 - 10:00 am **Course 105.1 - Local Government Law:** A review and discussion of how to find and use the law related to county government.
- 10:00 - 10:15 am **Break**
- 10:15 - 11:15 am **Course 105.1** (continued)
- 11:15 - 12:15 pm **Course 106.1 - The Montana Legislative Process:** A review and discussion of how the Montana legislative process works from the perspective of county government.
- 12:15 - 1:45 pm **Lunch**
- 1:45 - 2:45 pm **Course 106.1 - The Montana Legislative Process** (continued)
- 2:45 - 3:00 pm **Break**
- 3:00 - 5:00 pm **Course 501 Pending Legislation Affecting Local Government** - A discussion of the proposed bills and pending legislation affecting local county governments.

#### Thursday, Dec. 9

- 8:00 - 10:00 am **Course 109.1 - Managing Conflict Constructively** - A review and discussion of the skills related to conflict resolution, awareness about conflict modes, conflict communication skills, and establishing a structure for management of conflict in the workplace.
- 10:00 - 10:15 am **Break**
- 10:15 - 12:15 pm **Course 506 County Special Boards Governance** - An examination of the options and legal requirements for creating and overseeing the activities of county boards.
- 12:15 - 1:30 pm **Lunch**
- 1:30 - 3:30 pm **Course 108.1 - Human Resource Risk issues Case Studies** - An in-depth review of the legal requirements and risk exposures associated with critical human management issues.
- 3:30 pm **Adjourn**

*For a more detailed Draft Agenda, please visit our web site: [www.maco.cog.mt.us](http://www.maco.cog.mt.us)*



# MACo News

## Just for Fun

### The pretzel story...

From small and crunchy to large and chewy, pretzels are a favorite snack food of people around the world. But just where did these tasty morsels come from? According to popular folklore, a monk invented the pretzel around 610 AD in Italy. The pretzel originated as a reward for children who studied and performed well. The shape was a representative of the folded arms of children. The Italian word for pretzel is "bracciatelli," which means "small arms."

The pretzel became famous in the early 1500s through an odd turn of events. The Turkish-Mongol emperor, Barbar, wanted to take over Vienna by attacking them from the inside of their great walls. Rather than building a Trojan horse, he decided to dig under the walls during the cover of night.

As the Turks were digging a tunnel, Viennese bakers, who were working in the early hours of the morning to ensure fresh daily goods, heard suspicious sounds of people digging and alerted the town council.

The Turks were easily fought off by Vienna's militia, and through a twist of fate, the pretzel, and the skilled artisans who made them, earned a place of honor in the Viennese baker's emblem.

If you look at the Viennese baker's emblem carefully, you'll see that a pretzel has been incorporated into it. Talk about ironic—these artisans, who made what was originally a student's reward for hard work, earned the highest honor among bakers...simply because they were doing their job.



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# MACo News

Continued from front page...

Randy Phillips and Cynthia Moses Nedd gave brief reports from their agencies: Forest Service and BLM. There was some discussion about the red dead trees in the forest and some hope the bugs have eaten their way through our forests.

The Board then reviewed the financial statements and the proposed 2011 budget. There were concerns about a proposed assessment to replenish the funding of the Public Lands Trust; due to the amount and the timing with Association budgets. The Board directed staff to send the invoices for the 2011 assessment, and notify Associations of the 2012 assessment by March 2011 for budgeting purposes.

The next meeting will be May 18-20, 2011 in Chelan County, Wenatchee, Washington.

## MACo News seeks your suggestions

Every month, the MACo staff strives to publish a helpful and insightful newsletter in *MACo News*. We strive to make it an indispensable source of information for county elected officials.

As part of our efforts to continuously improve the *News*, we welcome any suggestions or comments from our readers. We'll even be glad to consider any story ideas, too, as long as benefits our readers.

To talk to someone directly or to submit a note regarding *MACo News*, please contact Sharon Wilson at 449-4360 or by e-mail: [maco@mtcounties.org](mailto:maco@mtcounties.org).



## Emelia's Safety Corner

Safety tip of the Month

By: *Emelia McEwen, MACo JPA/JPIA Senior Loss Control Specialist*

### The Power of Conversation between People

Involvement, empowerment, commitment, trust, ownership, responsibility, personal accountability actively caring, and interdependence are words that are familiar. But how often are they used to describe the safety and health process? How can we develop these characteristics throughout a work culture? The answer is not rocket science, but it is easier said than done. The answer is "conversation." Conversations produce or resolve conflict between people. Conversation builds or removes barriers or decrease feelings of empowerment, commitment, and personal accountability or responsibility. Conversations help or hinder the person's frame of mind that mobilizes actively caring throughout a work culture. Conversations define culture and make breakthroughs possible.

Management is largely responsible for creating the right climate where safety will be supported in ways that are comparable to quality and productivity. Management and safety leaders can be successful in creating safety culture by improving interpersonal conversations. This will help them to develop more involvement, empowerment, commitment, trust, ownership throughout a work culture.



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 Sr. Loss Control Specialist      Loss Control Specialist

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# MACo News

## MACo Committee Appointments

MACo President John Ostlund will soon be making MACo committee appointments for the upcoming year. The appointments will be based on the preferences indicated on the Commissioner Biographies received. If you are interested in serving on a MACo committee, and did not attend the conference or submit a Commissioner bio, please do so and indicate your committee preferences by ranking them numerically 1-5.

The form can be found under "Commissioner Bio Form" on our website at [www.maco.cog.mt.us](http://www.maco.cog.mt.us)



## The Public Review Period for the Final EIS/HCP has been extended.

At the request of some members of the public, DNRC is adding 30 more days to the review period for the Final EIS/HCP. The public review period now ends **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.

The Final EIS/HCP can be accessed online at [dnrc.mt.gov/hcp](http://dnrc.mt.gov/hcp).



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# MACo News

## MACo/CRS Inmate Medical Program Celebrates its 1st Anniversary

The MACo/CRS Inmate Medical Program has completed its first full year and we are proud to announce that 21 counties are protected from catastrophic inmate medical costs by purchasing the excess inmate medical insurance. In addition to the excess insurance, six counties have also purchased supplemental coverage for mental/nervous disorders, substance abuse, maternity, security & guarding, and AIDS/HIV. And four additional counties are having their inmate medical bills reviewed for accuracy, and are provided the assurance that all billing is accurate and that appropriate discounts are applied.

As of October 31, 14 counties had submitted \$303,577 worth of medical claims for 216 inmates, which included four claims over the \$10,000 deductible level. Of those claims, \$145,064 are in processing and \$158,513 have been processed for payment. Of the claims processed for payment, counties have saved \$50,176 - an average of 32% of the claims billed and processed. The savings stem from both ineligible charges and applicable discounts.

The MACo Board of Directors has approved the renewal of the contract with CRS, who has generously waived the minimum participation requirements and has offered a great renewal price with only a marginal increase.

Counties will be receiving their renewal contracts and pricing information very soon. If you are not a part of this great program and would like more information on how to join, please contact Sheryl Wood at the MACo office.

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## NACo Webinar: Leadership Series

For NACo Members Only

November 18: Seven Habits Series: Synergize for Power

### NACo webinars on the calendar for Fall 2010

November 9: Save Money through Green Purchasing  
Enter NACo's 2011 County Green Office Competition

December 9: Staying Home: Foreclosure Prevention Programs that Help Residents and Counties

**For more information and to register go to:**  
[www.naco.org/webinars](http://www.naco.org/webinars)

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# MACo News

## 2011 Legal Holidays

### Holidays


### Observed

New Year's Day  
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 Lincoln's and Washington's Birthday  
 Memorial Day  
 Independence Day  
 Labor Day  
 Columbus Day  
 Veterans' Day  
 Thanksgiving Day  
 Christmas Day

Friday, December 31, 2010\*  
 Monday, January 17  
 Monday, February 21  
 Monday, May 30  
 Monday, July 4  
 Monday, September 5  
 Monday, October 10  
 Friday, November 11  
 Thursday, November 24  
 Monday, December 26\*\*

\* January 1, 2011 - the legal public holiday for New Year's Day - falls on a Saturday. For most State of Montana employees, Friday, December 31, 2010, will be treated as a holiday for pay and leave purposes.

\*\* December 25, 2011 - the legal public holiday for Christmas Day - falls on a Sunday. For most State of Montana employees, Monday, December 26, 2011, will be treated as a holiday for pay and leave purposes.



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# MACo News

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Dore Schwinden, Director



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### Financing for homeownership and rental assistance

Bruce Brensdal, Executive Director, Board of Housing

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### Financing for economic development

Karyl Tobel, Assistant Division Administrator, Business Resources Division

phone (406) 841-2732 \* e-mail: [karylt@mt.gov](mailto:karylt@mt.gov) \* website [www.businessresources.mt.gov](http://www.businessresources.mt.gov)



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Herb Kulow, Portfolio Manager, Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program

phone (406) 444-1218 \* e-mail: [hkulow@mt.gov](mailto:hkulow@mt.gov) \* website [www.investmentmt.com/programs/instate](http://www.investmentmt.com/programs/instate)



### Local government financing

Kelly A. Casillas, Administrator, Community Development Division

phone (406) 841-2776 \* e-mail [kcasillas@mt.gov](mailto:kcasillas@mt.gov) \* website [www.comdev.mt.gov](http://www.comdev.mt.gov)

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phone (406) 444-0891 \* e-mail [lwelsh@mt.gov](mailto:lwelsh@mt.gov) \* website [www.investmentmt.com/programs/intercap](http://www.investmentmt.com/programs/intercap)

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# MACo News

## In Memory of Milo Dean Huber 1940-2010



Milo Dean Huber, age 70, of Miles City, MT passed away October 22nd at the Holy Rosary Hospital in Miles City.

Milo was the son of Jacob and Edna Huber, brother of Elroy Huber, husband of 50 years of Mary Lou Huber, father to Deani Goyette, Dana Huber, Dion Huber, and Debbie Johnson.; father-in-law to Doug Goyette and Eric Johnson and Grandpa to Andrew, Ethan, and McKenna Johnson.

Milo's genuine laughter could be heard as he shared stories with family and friends. Working many jobs through his early years, Milo was a pillar of Miles City's Main Street for over 40 years. In 1980 he opened his own aptly titled clothing store, Milo's. With the ability to look at a man and tell him his shirt, pant, jacket and shoe size, Milo was invaluable to shoppers who relied upon him to dress family members. With a genuine aptitude and love of the retail business, Milo had a loyal customer base.

Known by nearly all residents of Custer County and several surrounding counties, Milo rarely met a stranger. He could travel anywhere and have a personal contact ready to help. As a Custer County Commissioner, Milo learned a whole new set of rules which he faithfully applied to his work for the county.

Milo was incredibly proud of his family and willingly shared stories of his daughters with anyone. He will be remembered by his loving family and countless friends. A true gentleman, Milo will be missed.

Milo was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Dion and infant twin daughters.

Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.stevensonandsons.com](http://www.stevensonandsons.com).

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to the National Alzheimer's Association; Montana Region - 3010 11th Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101 or to the charity of one's choice. Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home of Miles City has been entrusted with the arrangements.

## Commissioners give praise to the Lincoln County Staff

With school beginning, we're finding it difficult to believe that summer is already over. We feel a bit cheated with all the cold and rain, it seems that summer almost didn't happen at all. Many folks we know and work with seem to be feeling the same.

Reflecting back though, we would like to say that in spite of the downside of having poor weather, we're really proud of our Lincoln County crews. We've been able to follow pretty much from day to day just what they've managed to accomplish, and we'd like everyone to know just how blessed we are to have such wonderful staff. Hats off to county office staff for showing a lot of patience, hard work and commitment to service. They've had some real adversity to deal with, what with the introduction of new regulations and quite difficult administrative software. They carry on every day, keeping us running regardless, most of the time with a smile no matter what type of negativity they encounter. If, by chance, you've caught one not smiling, perhaps the one waited on before you wasn't too chipper. After all, everyone has an off day now and then.

And, as for our county road crews—wow! They've put in some great time and effort. Our roads and parks have a multitude of upgrades, from one end of the county to the other.

We're fortunate to have so many great people working hard for us, regardless of all the bad weather—indoors and out.

John Konzen, Marianne Roose, Tony Berget  
Lincoln County Commissioners



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# MACo News

## 2011 MACo Risk Management Loss Control Conference

By: Emelia McEwen, MACo JPA/JPIA  
Senior Loss Control Specialist

Unleashing the Power of Personal Accountability, Fall 2010 Road Reviews, Impaired Driving, and Electrical Safety, are just some of the many topics to be covered at MACo's Risk Management Loss Control Conference at Helena's Red Lion Colonial Hotel in mid-January.

The conference will open with keynote speaker Rob Krazan. He was a 3rd degree burn victim that resulted from an on the job accident. Rob would like to tell you his story and how it changed his life.

The three-day event, set for January 11-13 2011, will feature programs and sessions tailored to safety, roads, law enforcement and human resource personnel. Registration will be available on the MACo website on December 6, 2010. A draft agenda has already been posted on the website as well as a detailed description on this exciting event.

For additional information about the conference, please contact Emelia McEwen at 449-4370 or [emcewen@mtcounties.org](mailto:emcewen@mtcounties.org). For questions regarding registration, please contact Karen Houston at 449-4360 or [khouston@mt.counties.org](mailto:khouston@mt.counties.org).

## 2010 County General Election Results

We will have a recap of the elections in our next newsletter for you. We want to be able to bring you complete and accurate results. There have been some counts too close to call and are currently undecided.

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# MACo News



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## “It’s Only Peanuts”

For all intents and purposes, Pete was the perfect employee. He was never out sick, hardly late, and always willing to “go the extra mile.” He performed his job in purchasing diligently and gained the trust of his supervisors and co-workers.

The company he worked for manufactured cleaning products. Through the use of scanners, they were able to track finished goods in the warehouse along with order and shipments to customers. Consumable products such as packing materials, shrink wrap, tape, and pallets were not so well controlled. The idea was to produce, pack and ship with emphasis on controlling the finished product.

With so much product being shipped, the company routinely purchased different types of packing materials. No one ever thought of taking inventory of them because they were used so quickly. One of Pete’s responsibilities was the approval of invoices from suppliers. Because he was so trusted, his supervisor never questioned the job he was doing especially when it came to packing materials. It’s unfortunate he didn’t.

Four years ago Pete ran into some financial difficulty. It seems his gambling losses were getting out of control. He rationalized that if he “borrowed” a few dollars from the company, he knew he would win big enough to not only pay back the “loan” but perhaps have a few dollars of fun money left over. He concocted the idea of establishing a shell company that purported to be a supplier of packing “peanuts”. Checks were mailed to the shell company’s PO Box, deposited into his personal account, and then it was off to the races.

Before long Pete became accustomed to the extra cash flow. He discovered gambling with someone else’s money was a lot more fun than using his own cash. His initial intentions of paying the “loan” back were soon forgotten. The scheme went undetected for years. By this time Pete thought he would never get caught.

During one of his rare vacations, Pete mistakenly left one of his bogus invoices on his desk along with legiti-

mate ones that needed to be paid. A co-worker was asked to process the payments in Pete’s absence. When it came time to pay the shell company, she became suspicious. There was no street address or phone number for the company, only a PO box. She brought her suspicions to her supervisor who searched the internet and phone books but found no record of the company. Further digging disclosed that they paid the company close to \$500,000. When they pulled copies of the canceled checks they were shocked to see the signature of Pete, their trusted employee.

Upon his return from vacation, Pete admitted to the thefts after being confronted with the evidence. He pled guilty to criminal charges, was sentenced to time in jail, given probation when he was released, and ordered to pay restitution.

So what went wrong? This was a classic embezzlement situation. Pete had a motive (gambling debts) and opportunity (lack of controls) to steal. First, there was a lack of oversight. Pete was typical of many embezzlers. He appeared to be the perfect employee and was one of the trusted ones. No one looked over his shoulder. Second, it was great that the company controlled the finished product, but the “peanuts” were fair game. Pete knew the company never kept track of packing materials and took advantage of it. At a minimum, the company should have confirmed they received the packing materials before paying the bill. Third, there was no vendor program in place. Pete had the ability to create a shell company, issue invoices, and have them paid without any due diligence by the company. If they had a program in place, all suppliers would have been reviewed before being added to the approved vendor list. Had this been done, the company would have known immediately that Pete’s company was a sham.

It was a hard lesson, but now they know peanuts do add up.

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# MACo News

## Correction to the “New W-2 Reporting Requirement” from the August Newsletter

By Pam Walling, MACo Health Care Trust  
Marketing / Member Services Rep.

On October 12th, the IRS announced that it will not be mandatory to report the cost of benefits from the employer sponsored group health plan on the W-2 forms that will be issued for 2011. This change will allow employers more time to update payroll systems. They will be issuing more updates on the new reporting requirement for the W-2 form before year end. The IRS has stated that these amounts reported are not taxable, only informational. It is optional to include the information on the 2011 W-2 form and they have released a draft, available here:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/draftw-2.pdf>

## Health Care Reform News

By Pam Walling, MACo Health Care Trust  
Marketing / Member Services Rep.

If you are an employee of a county, more than likely you are also the member of a self-funded insurance plan or a trust for health insurance benefits. Now, more than ever, it is important that you become a conscientious consumer of health care. We all need to make an effort to keep costs to a minimum by seeking treatment only when necessary or when recommended by your health care professional. On September 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) became law as a result of healthcare reform. As a wise consumer of medical services, it is important to become aware of the changes that will impact your health benefits plan and when those changes will become effective. For most counties, the changes will go into effect when their plan year renews. For all members of the MACo Health Care Trust, the changes will go into effect on January 1, 2011.

A notable change for most healthcare plans is that preventive care services may be covered at 100%. According to the HealthCare.gov website there are over 40 preventive screenings that the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends to be covered. As a wise healthcare consumer, you should always check with your physician for their recommendation of which preventive screenings and immunizations are right for you and your family members.

Healthcare Reform has eliminated annual and lifetime dollar limits on most plans for essential benefits. This change will not have a significant impact for many participants of most health insurance plans. Other changes involving dependents include: the elimination of a pre-existing condition for children less than 19 years of age, and increasing the age from 25 to 26 for dependent child coverage. Be aware of your health benefits plan changes and how those changes will affect your coverage needs.

MACo will continue to bring you updates on healthcare reform as information becomes available.

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# Around Our Counties

## Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

A development agreement is in place for AWARE Inc. to build a new school just east of Anaconda and south off Highway 1 on reclaimed Superfund land.

County commissioners unanimously approved selling two lots in the East Yards Subdivision where AWARE plans to build its Center for Excellence.

The center will bring in kids from AWARE's residential program in Galen, providing an education for those with behavioral and mental health issues.

AWARE is already building eight community homes along nearby Pennsylvania Ave. and the Teresa Ann Terrace neighborhood, specially designed for living with autism. Six homes are nearly finished and can accommodate between four and six kids.

AWARE Chief Executive Larry Noonan said that construction will begin as soon as possible, and he hopes kids will transfer from Galen by next school year.

AWARE intends to build the Center for Excellence as well as any space in Montana, Noonan said.

"We will have the facilities to support our top-line program," he said. "This is going to be a significant part of

Anaconda going into the future."

## Cascade County

Though they wear a badge and carry a gun, it was evident by the mounds of clothes and accessories in their carts at Wal-Mart that Cascade County Sheriff deputies are big softies when it comes to kids in need.

Twelve deputies met with boys and girls from schools around the Cascade County to purchase items for the upcoming winter as part of the annual Shop with a Sheriff program.

And it was pretty easy for the young girls, especially ones paired with male deputies, to get what they wanted.

## Flathead County

A federal grant could allow the Flathead County Sheriff's Office to hire an additional deputy.

The office was recently announced as the recipient of a \$209,304 grant from the US Department of Justice.

Flathead County was one of 4,590 jurisdictions to apply for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant this year. Undersheriff Pete Wingert said the grant would cover three years of salary for a new position.

First, though, the grant will have to be accepted by Flathead County commissioners, Wingert said. The grant covers three years, but requires a fourth year of funding by local government, he said.

The grant was announced in a joint press release from Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont.

Nearly \$298 million in similar grants are expected to be allocated nationwide.

"These resources will keep officers on the streets and they'll keep Montana's communities safer for our families, neighbors and small businesses," Tester said in a prepared statement.

## Gallatin County

US Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester announced that Gallatin County has been chosen to receive a \$420,656 federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant.

The COPS grants, administered by the US Department of Justice, go directly to law-enforcement agencies to help cover costs of hiring or rehiring officers, according to a joint statement from the senators.

"This is a smart investment in Montana's communities that will

keep folks working...keep officers on the streets and help keep Gallatin County safe," Tester said.

"This investment will make a real difference on the ground for folks in Gallatin County and make Montana an even better place to live, work and raise a family," Baucus said.

## Glacier County

During a school board meeting, Browning High School Principal Juanita Cole met with Glacier County Commissioner Michael DesRosier to discuss a program called the "Cop Is a Neighbor Program." The program will help develop trust relationships between local police officers and students. Local law enforcement members will come into the high school, have lunch with the students, talk with them and work to learn more about county government. Commissioner Sitzmann said he felt this would be a great way for students to learn and understand more about the power of the vote.

## Lincoln County

Lincoln County has purchased two recycling trailers through a \$25,000 grant from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and has begun accepting recyclables.



# Around Our Counties

In Libby, the recycling trailer is parked at 952 E. Spruce St., across from City Hall. In Troy, the trailer is parked at 141 St. Regis Haul Road.

Recyclables are also accepted at Kootenai Disposal in Libby. There are containers outside for No. 1 and No. 2 plastics and for cardboard. These containers are available for use at any time. Aluminum cans, steel cans and paper products can be dropped off 10 am to 4 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

## Mineral County

County Commissioners met to discuss the possibility of declaring Mineral County a disaster area, which would give citizens the right to kill a wolf if it threatened people, livestock or big-game animals. This proposed resolution is patterned after a similar one drafted by commissioners in Idaho County, Idaho, which asked Gov. Butch Otter to allow wolves to be eradicated in north-central Idaho County by any means necessary.

Mineral County Attorney Shaun Donovan, after learning of the steps that the county is planning to take, presented the idea to commissioners.

Donovan told the commissioners he felt

that the possibility of declaring the county a disaster area due to wolves was “worth a look.” Commissioner Clark Conrow agreed that it was time that the county step up and take some sort of action.

“We’ve discussed and we’ve discussed this. We’ve sent a few letters and we sit and we wait,” Conrow said. “Maybe it’s time we grab the rope, put it on the calf, pull hard and see what happens..wolves are a problem in Montana. Wolves are a problem in Mineral County.”

## Ravalli County

Seven years into Ravalli County’s push to accurately identify and catalogue the addresses and locations of rural homes, commissioners are now considering supporting the implementation of mandatory address reform for some rural residences.

In February, nearly 1,400 letters went out to rural property owners informing them that their homes were either incorrectly numbered, difficult to identify by address or on an unnamed street.

The letter informed the recipient of their new physical address. Laid out steps they could take to notify the

US Postal Service and requested that they post the numbers of their new addresses in a conspicuous place where their driveway intersected with the road.

The goal, said County Clerk and Recorder, Regina Plettenberg, is to create an accurate county-wide database that sends emergency responders to the correct location.

## Wheatland County

The Wheatland County Sheriff’s Office announced that Deputy John Duffner (known to many as J.D.) was moved to full-time from part-time this summer.

Duffner started with the department as a Reserve Deputy in January 2004 then became a full-time officer. In late 2006 deputy Duffner requested and was granted part-time status and has since covered hundreds of hours of shift shortages.

According to the sheriff’s office Duffner’s move back to full-time was in response to a request by Deputy Everett Misner to move to part-time.

## Yellowstone County

A pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks in downtown Billings, which has been on the drawing board for

nearly a decade, could be in use by next fall.

The regional committee that decides how transportation money is spent in the Billings area gave final approval to the project. That ensures that the project will go forward, said Scott Walker, transportation planner with the city-county Planning Department, and work can begin as soon as the state signs off on it.

“That bridge, with any luck, should be on the ground by this time next year, or in the air, I should say,” Walker said.

The 111 foot long steel bridge will cross the tracks at 25th street, stretching from Minnesota Ave. on the south to Montana Ave. on the north.

The project got the green light from the Policy Coordinating Committee, made up of representatives of the Billings City Council, the Yellowstone County Commission, the Yellowstone County Planning Board and the Montana Departments of Transportation.

The committee voted unanimously to give the project \$719,000 in federal funding through the Community Transportation Enhancement program. The balance will come from donations, grants and a voter-approved bond issue.





# Calendar of Events

## Events

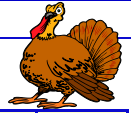
### November

- 11 Veterans' Day (MACo office closed)
- 15-16 Legislative Audit Committee, Room 172
- 15 Legislative Finance Committee, Room 102
- 16 Legislative Caucuses, State Capitol
- 16-18 MACo JPA/JPIA Insurance Pool Retreat, Malta
- 17-19 Legislator Orientation & Training, State Capitol
- 19 Revenue Orientation & Training, Room 102
- 25 Thanksgiving Day (MACo office closed)

### December

- 2 10:00 am - Council of County Officials, MACo Office, Helena
- 3 Governor IT Conference, Helena
- 6 MACo Board of Directors, MACo Office
- 6 Rules Training, Committee Chair Training
- 6-9 Newly Elected Officials-Orientation/Commissioner Certification, Helena
- 24 Christmas Eve (MACo Office Closed)
- 31 New Years Eve (MACo Office Closed)

November 2010



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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  - Tom Rice, Beaverhead County
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Marilyn Craft, Jefferson County District Court Clerk  
Steve Immenschuh, Granite County Coroner  
Gary Olsen, Broadwater County Justice of the Peace  
Diane Inbody, Teton County School Supt.  
Dave Rau, Lewis & Clark Co. Sheriff's Office  
Kim Buchanan, Gallatin County Treasurer

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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 Assistant  
Alyce Bailey, Enrollment/Eligibility Specialist  
Pam Walling, Marketing/Member Services Representative  
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