



## Highlights

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## Congratulations to John Ostlund MACo's new President



A short Bio to start. My wife Kristie and I have five children between us, three girls and two boys. The oldest, Amy and husband Doug live in Pullman WA; Cara and Husband Ryan live in Portland OR each have a boy and a girl. Brian lives in Billings and has two boys and a girl. My step daughter Stephanie and husband Tim live in Billings and have a daughter. Tyler, the youngest, is the single man about town so altogether we have eight grand kids and our dog Jack to keep us busy.

Two years ago when elected to MACo as second V. P. I did not think a tornado would tear apart METRA or that Kristie and I would have purchased 165 acres south of Billings, would have our house on the market, and be making plans to move back out to the country. I do like to be busy so when I come home and tell my wife I only want to rest for a weekend she so kindly reminds me that usually, even when we take a vacation, after one day I am chomping at the bit to get back to work and pacing the floor by 4:30 A.M. Don't you hate it when they remind us all of the time and are right?

I appreciate the commissioner support that allows me the opportunity to serve as MACo president and pledge to make the best effort possible to serve the organization and represent the issues important to local government and voted on by MACo and know we can count on our past president, board of directors and district chairs to help ease the pain from the upcoming session.

Congratulations to past president Carl Seilstad for his service, newly elected 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. Connie Eissinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Greg Chilcott, urban representative Andy Huthausen and fiscal officer Cyndi Johnson and all of the district chairs who do so much of the heavy lifting for MACo.

I think many challenges await us in the 2011 session and most issues will be over money and how commissioners can keep our share of the entitlement funding. We all know the promises made when the state asked to collect the money for us and now will be the time to hold their feet to the fire. I am committed to spend time each week in Helena and value the input from my fellow commissioners so please call or e-mail your comments about legislation that is important.

We, as an organization, may indeed have the finest staff and best director that money can buy. My hat is off to Harold, Sheryl and the staff for the great job at the last convention. Our staff has done such a good job that we have come to expect a phone call will solve our problems or put us in contact with someone who can. So, when you call the office or stop in, please thank those who really do make our life easy.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your president and I hope you do not expect long speeches or newsletters from me; however, you may still have a shot at them in two years when Greg is president.

John Ostlund



# MACo News

## 2010-2011 MACo Executive Committee



*From left to right:*  
Past President Carl Seilstad, Fergus County; Fiscal Officer Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County; 1st Vice President Connie Eissinger, McCone County; President John Ostlund, Yellowstone County; 2nd Vice President Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County and Urban County Rep. Andy Hunthausen, Lewis & Clark County

## Seen at the Conference







# MACo News

More...





# MACo News

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# MACo News



## Donald Marble 1938-2010

Donald Marble, age 72, of Chester, MT, passed away in Tucson, AZ, of pancreatic cancer on Sunday, August 22, 2010. Donald Raymond Marble was born April 10, 1938, in

Kalamazoo, MI. He was the son of Jack and Mona Marble of Kalamazoo. Don graduated from Richland High School, Richland, MI, in 1956. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1963 with a Master's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

During his university years, Don was a summer employee of the US. Forest Service in Idaho and Montana, primarily working as a smokejumper. After college, he was employed as an engineer for NASA in Mountain View, California, and worked on landing gear for the moon mission. Seeking a simpler, rural lifestyle, Don moved to Montana where he attended law school at the University of Montana School of Law, from which he graduated in 1967. While in Missoula, Don met Harriet Pirkle, whom he married in June, 1965. Don's legal career began in Havre, MT, with the Legal Services program through which he provided legal aide to people in Liberty, Blaine and Hill counties including the Rocky Boy and Ft. Belknap reservations. In 1970, Don joined the law firm of Paul Bunn, in Chester, MT. He practiced law in Chester until 2002, when he closed his private practice after being elected to the Liberty County Commission, which he served for six years.

Community involvement was important to Don and he served the state and his profession through a variety of board positions including the Montana Committee for the Humanities, the Montana Commission on Practices, and the Montana Board of Environmental Review. He was a long time member of the Montana Wilderness Association, for which he served a term as Vice President. He was also actively engaged with environmental groups including the Sweet Grass Hills Protective Association, Montana Environmental Information, Glacier –Two Medicine Alliance, the Montana Audubon and Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument.

Don used his legal expertise to assist in the many contexts in which he served. In their remembrances of Don, the Montana Environmental Information Center said:

*Among his many important victories, Don represented the grassroots citizen groups Red*

*Thunder and Island Mountain Protectors on Montana's Fort Belknap Reservation in their attempts to prevent the wholesale destruction of the Little Rocky Mountains by open-pit, cyanide heap-leach gold mining. It was Don's legal work that resulted in the U. S. Department of Interior's decision to halt the expansion of the Zortman and Landusky mines, a major factor in Pegasus Gold's bankruptcy and ultimate demise.*

Don was instrumental in the building of both Prairie Homes and the Sweet Grass Lodge in Chester. He served several terms on the board of Liberty Arts Council. He helped bring public television to Liberty County. During the past few years, Don enjoyed doing the research and development necessary to bring wind power to the hi-line. Don represented the County Commission on the Liberty County Hospital Board, and he chaired the Liberty County Mental Health Board. For many years, he helped to lead the Adult Great Books Discussion Groups as a part of the community's adult education program. He was active in the Chester United Methodist Church and served faithfully as missions chair. He led the church's efforts to support El Pouvenir and traveled under this group's auspices to Nicaragua to help build sanitary facilities in remote areas there.

Don enjoyed being outdoors. His favorite pastimes included gardening, hiking, river floating, camping, cross country skiing and the development and maintenance of a bluebird trail. Don was an avid reader. He could usually be found with reading material at hand, whether it was a newspaper, a favorite book—ranging from spy and mystery novels to books about archaeology or western/Native American history—or one of the many magazines he loved. He also enjoyed writing poetry. Don loved quality literature and music. He and Harriet enjoyed their annual trips to the Festival of Books in Missoula and their regular trips to Great Falls to hear performances by the Great Falls Symphony.

Don is survived by his wife, Harriet, sons Justin (Vanessa) of Gaithersburg, MD, and Jay (Myrla) of Tucson, AZ; granddaughters Ivana and Alejandra; brothers Charles, of Munising, MI, Phillip of Galesburg, MI, and sister Judy George, of Sturgis, MI. His parents preceded him in death.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m., on September 17 at the Chester United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Friends of the Missouri River Foundation, 224 W. Main St., Suite 202, Lewistown, MT, 59457, or Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance, PO Box 181, E. Glacier, MT 59434.



# MACo News



## Robert "Bob" O'Leary 1932-2010

Robert T. "Bob"  
O'Leary died Friday, Sept.  
10, 2010, in Helena.

He was born Jan. 17, 1932, to Mayor Barry and Honora (Shea) O'Leary. Bob received his education at St. Patrick's Grade school and graduated from Butte Central High School. He furthered his education at the University Of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., and received his law degree from Creighton University School of Law.

On Aug. 25, 1956, he married Margaret Gail Loggins in Butte's St. Patrick's Church.

Bob had a distinguished career as a lawyer, working as a deputy county attorney in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Montana assistant U. S. attorney during the Kennedy administration, eight years in private practice, Montana U.S. attorney appointed by President Jimmy Carter and litigator for the Montana Power Co. from which he retired.


Bob also served many organizations, including 50 years with the Montana Bar Association, was a long time member of the Butte Country Club, Butte Central Century Club, Butte Sports Hall of Fame and 10 years on the Montana Parole Board with several years as chairman. He was also a member of the local Catholic Church and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Bob's interests included golf, Notre Dame football, reading, boating and winters in Arizona. He thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, who affectionately called him "Bump".

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant son Sean O'Leary, brothers; Tim, Mike and John; sister, Mary; and sisters-in-law; Florence and Lucille O'Leary.

Surviving relatives include his wife Gay O'Leary; daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Pat Fleming; son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Noreem O'Leary. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Pat (Nancy) Fleming, Katie Fleming, Jose' O'Leary and Tamara O'Leary; sister-in-law; Alice O'Leary; nieces and nephews, Pat (Harvey) McCumber, Mike O'Leary, Sr. Roberta O'Leary, Barry (Rene) O'Leary, Bill (Colleen) O'Leary; sisters-in-law, Helen Ann (Wally) O'Connell and Cis Loggins. Numerous grand-nieces, grand-nephews and cousins also survive.

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From left: Lt. Governor Bollinger, Dwight Bigness, LynnDee Schmidt, Bill Kennedy, Emelia McEwen, Keith Kelly, Bill Bremer, John Ostlund

## Yellowstone County Receives the Governor's Award

*By: Emelia McEwen, MACo's Senior Loss  
Control Specialist*

For the second year, Yellowstone County once again receives the Governor's Award for Health & Safety. The Governor's Award is the highest honor given by the State of Montana in recognition of health and safety excellence.

Yellowstone County is a great example of what happens when we all work together as team players striving for the same goal. Montana Association of Counties (MACo) JPA Work Comp Trust thanks Yellowstone County for our close working relationship.

We give special thanks to LynnDee Schmidt, Yellowstone County HR Specialist, and Kim Peterson, Safety Coordinator at the Yellowstone County Road & Bridge Department, for all their hard work in building a successful safety program. In addition, the Yellowstone County Commissioners need to be

recognized for support in their safety program. As we all know, success starts from the top. Also, we give thanks to the employees for their commitment to safety.

Yellowstone County has worked hard in promoting a safety culture. As one of the largest employers in Billings, Yellowstone County has 22 different departments in 8 different locations and 450 regular full-time and regular part-time employees. During the Montana Fair, Yellowstone County had close to 900 employees.

Since 2007 Yellowstone County went from an 86% loss ratio to 11% in 2010. That is a savings of over \$500,000 in incurred costs and has reduced the number of missed days of work due to a work related injury.

Yellowstone County strives to provide safe working conditions for each of its employees and in return we ask employees to be conscientious by observing safety practices, guidelines, and standards each work day. Teamwork is essential for a safe work environment.



# MACo News

Over the past couple of years, Yellowstone County has implemented several safety services:

- Various safety and health opportunities are offered throughout the year to all employees along with individualized departmental safety training and prevention.
- First Aid/CPR classes are offered to employees free of charge.
- An annual health fair is conducted where employees and their spouses can receive free services.
- Focus on Fitness Program is available, which incorporates a commitment to employee growth in the social, physical, emotional, financial, and occupational dimensions of life.
- Walking Montana was designed to help employees focus on fitness by promoting an active lifestyle.
- Yellowstone County promotes an Early Return to Work program.
- Yellowstone County has entered into a "Work Montana" agreement with Billings Clinic Occupational Health, and Doctors have access to all of the County's job descriptions when evaluating employees for work readiness, any work restrictions, or accommodations.
- Safety awareness is brought to the forefront by the Safety Pays Program. In a quick rundown, each Yellowstone County employee receives a Safety Pays scratch off card on a quarterly basis. Employees scratch off the silver boxes on the game card to win safety recognition prizes. The goal is to

create an environment of safety awareness by getting all employees involved and rewarding employees for being safety conscious.

- Yellowstone County is working diligently to repair the damage caused by the Father's Day tornado, keeping in the forefront the safety of the workers.

- The Weed Department recently received a grant to purchase a Polaris Ranger in order to phase out the old ATV's. The Polaris Ranger has a wider

wheel base making it less prone to roll-overs and includes a rollover cage to insure driver safety. A LED light bar was installed on the top of the Ranger to provide visual roadway safety.

- Monthly newsletters that contain topics on safety and health are

distributed to all employees and are available on the County's website.

- Fact Sheets are available for all employees to view on the County's Intranet. Topics include: Back Safety, Fork Lift Safety, Amputations in the Workplace, Lock-out/Tag-out, Office Ergonomics, and more.
- JSAs (Job Safety Analysis) are also available for employees, managers, and supervisors to print off of the County's Intranet. Supervisors work with employees to develop JSAs.

Again, MACo JPA Work Comp Trust and members greatly appreciate Yellowstone County for their excellence in their safety program and working hard to reduce claims.







# MACo News

## ATTENTION Montana Employers

Montana's minimum wage will increase from \$7.25 per hour to \$7.35 per hour on January 1, 2011. Montana's minimum wage is subject by law to a cost-of-living adjustment based on an increase in the Consumer Price Index. This adjustment is to be calculated no later than September 30 of each year.

If you would like to replace your current State Minimum Wage Poster, please go to the following website to print one off, or you may pick up a copy from your local Job Service Workforce Center.

[http://erd.dli.mt.gov/laborstandard/documents/minwageposter\\_9-2010.pdf](http://erd.dli.mt.gov/laborstandard/documents/minwageposter_9-2010.pdf)



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

At the request of some members of the public, we are 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

## Weber sworn in as County Commissioner

By: KARL PUCKETT • Tribune Staff Writer

Democrat Jane Weber was sworn in Wednesday to the District 3 seat on the Cascade County Commission, a seat Peggy Beltrone held for 15 1/2 years.

Wearing a black robe — his official courtroom attire — Brian Bulger, the standing master at Cascade County District Court, administered the oath of office to Weber, who stood straight, her right hand raised, with the U.S. and Montana flags as a backdrop.

Bulger then introduced the county's newest commissioner. The crowd applauded.

"It's amazing for me," Weber said of the moment immediately after being sworn in. "It's been a whirlwind."

Over a span of seven days — from Aug. 27 - Sept. 2 — Weber, who recently retired as director of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, went from interviewing for commissioner to tying for the job with another candidate to getting the position after a political and legal showdown between the commissioners.

Beltrone, who is a Democrat, created the opening on the three-person commission when she resigned to take a job with a wind developer. Her last

day was Friday.

Weber will serve until Dec. 31, 2012. Her appointment keeps the ratio of Democrats to Republicans on the commission at 2-1, with Democrats holding the edge.

With Beltrone gone, Joe Briggs, a Republican, becomes the longest-tenured commissioner, having been elected in 2004.

Bill Salina, a Democrat, was elected in 2008, and sworn in January 2009.

"With her background, she'll adapt to the position quicker than I did," Salina said of Weber.

The audience included Weber's husband, Jim, members of the Democratic Central Committee and friends. Among the county staff that showed up were Clerk and Recorder Rina Fontana Moore and Carey Ann Shannon, a civil attorney in the county attorney's office.

"I think she'll do wonderful," said City Commissioner Bill Bronson, who also was in the audience.

Bronson said he worked with Weber when he was with two Lewis and Clark organizations, describing her as skilled in budgeting, as well as public and government relations. Having Weber on the commission will be good for city-county relations, he added, because Weber had good relationships with the city as Interpretive Center director.

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# MACo News

## Notification Responsibilities for Health Insurance

*By: Pam Walling, MACo's Marketing/Member Services Rep.*

It is the responsibility of the County to report a Change in Employment Status within 30 days from the date of the event to the health insurance provider. A termination or reduction in hours of employment must be reported due to the urgency required when offering COBRA for continuing coverage. Federal COBRA laws require the continuation coverage notification be sent by the health insurance provider no later than fourteen (14) days after the plan is notified of the employment change. If an employee is not working their regular hours for any reason (other than vacation/sick time) it is important that these changes are reported to the health insurance provider as soon as possible. Remember, this includes employees that have taken a Leave of Absence, FMLA Leave (Family and Medical Leave Act) or Military Leave. Reporting these employment changes will not necessarily impact the employee's coverage or benefits in every situation. However, failure to properly notify the county's health insurance plan could make the county liable to the plan or former employee/covered person for medical claims incurred after the date of the qualifying event. Failure to give proper notification could potentially be costly to the employing county and possibly the health insurance provider. Please report any changes to a covered employee's employment status or an employee's reduction of hours promptly.

## MMIA has been Recognized

Congratulations to Bonnie Knopf from MACo who helped make it possible for MMIA to receive this award.

MMIA has been recognized by Computer Science Company (CSC) with the 2010 Connect Innovation Community Award. MMIA utilizes CSC's Riskmaster program for claims processing. MMIA won the award due to the proactive efforts of its IT department and adjusters to comply with the mandatory Medicare filing. Collaboration with Jan Denke from the MT Schools Group and Bonnie Knopf from MACo made this award possible. The award was given to our community because we were the first Riskmaster X client to be compliant.



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# MACo News

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Brian Schweitzer, Governor

# MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Dore Schwinden, Director



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### Financing for homeownership and rental assistance

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

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### Local government financing

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Louise Welsh, Bond Program Officer, Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program

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# MACo News

## Montana Mental Health Settlement Trust

**Applications Now being accepted!!  
Applications due by: 12-3-2010**

Hon. John Warner, the Trustee of the Montana Mental Health Settlement Trust, known as MMHST, announces that the Trust is now accepting applications for distribution of trust funds to qualified applicants.

The trust will distribute approximately 9.5 million dollars to help Montanans who suffer from serious mental illness. The trust has been funded with the proceeds from the settlement of a lawsuit in which the State of Montana was plaintiff and Eli Lilly and Company was defendant.

Forms to apply for a grant are found on the internet at: MMHST.org. Grant applications are to be submitted to the Trustee by attachment to an e-Mail sent to [jwtrustee@bresnan.net](mailto:jwtrustee@bresnan.net), in a PDF format. Other formats, telefax transmissions, hard copy submissions, or submissions by other means must have the prior approval of the Trustee in order to be considered.

Applications for grants from the Trust will be accepted until December 3, 2010. In the event that all trust funds are not distributed, a second round of grant applications may be accepted at a future time.

The Trust funds are to be distributed to programs and groups who provide services and resources in several different areas. These areas include; education concerning mental illness; training for law enforcement personnel concerning crisis intervention; crisis intervention services to persons who come in contact with the criminal justice system; transition funding for persons transitioning from an in-patient mental health treatment environment to an out-patient treatment and independent living environment; children's mental health programs; and peer-to-peer services. In addition, Trust funds may, in the trustee's discretion, be applied to or for the benefit of other programs, services and/or resources dedicated to the prevention, treatment and management of mental illness in Montana adults and children.

As a general policy, the Trust will consider grants within two tiers: Grants less than \$20,000 will require a shorter, basic application and less reporting requirements. Grants greater than \$20,000 will require more in-depth information, detailed reporting, and more stringent financial reporting requirements, which may include an audit.

In the distribution of the trust funds the Trust will seek a reasonable balance between cultural, social and economic groups, geographical distribution, and an urban/rural balance in Grants, as much as is practical in the discretion of the Trust.

Interested persons and organizations are requested to refer to the Trust web-site at [MMHST.org](http://MMHST.org) for further information. If an applicant needs further information, or has questions, it may contact the Trust at:

[jwtrustee@bresnan.net](mailto:jwtrustee@bresnan.net)  
MMHST  
2601 Broadway  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 513-1073




**600 Central Plaza, Suite 204, Great Falls, MT 59401**  
406-452-2526

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mae Nan Ellingson</b> | <b>Dan Semmens</b>  |
| <b>Jack Manning</b>      | <b>Jeremy Brown</b> |

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# MACo News

## Rosebud County Library Helps Hunters

*Courtesy of Cheryl Heser, Librarian*

The Montana State Library, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Rosebud County Library and Bicentennial Library announced the launch of a new website designed to assist hunters find the basic information they need for a successful hunting season. The "Hunting Companion" can be found at: <http://msl.mt.gov/hunting>.

The website was developed in part to assist Montana's librarians as they field requests from hunters in libraries across the state. The "Hunting Companion" is a streamlined access point for the basic information every hunter needs for a successful hunt.

The "Hunting Companion" is designed to provide answers to four questions that hunters ask, including:

- What can I hunt?
- When can I hunt?
- Where can I hunt? and
- How do I hunt?

"We've definitely seen an increase in people needing access to quality information about Montana's natural resources and hunting information," said Cheryl Heser of Rosebud County Library in Forsyth. "Additionally, many folks need a place to get online and access that information and they are able to do so at both of the public libraries by using our public access computers."

The "Hunting Companion" site has an easy-to-use interface and simplistic design and provides information from resources ranging from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Montana Base Map Service Center, and the Montana State Library.

"Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is pleased to be able to work with the Montana State Library to provide another access point to information about hunting in Montana," said Thomas Baumeister, the State Education and Human Dimension Program Manager at MT FWP.

The "Hunting Companion" is the first website to go live as part of a large project by the Montana State Library that will condense all of Montana's most important geographic and natural resources information and make it available in easy-to-access subject guides, such as hunting, fishing, mining, water resources, and farming and ranching.



## Become a MACo Associate Member A Partnership with Montana Counties

Please visit our website: [www.maco.cog.mt.us](http://www.maco.cog.mt.us) for more information and to download the application.



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# MACo News



## Gallagher

### Public Entity & Scholastic Division

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## No One is Immune. Even Government Entities Need Cyber/Tech Insurance

**Cyber breaches occur on a daily basis. Or at least it seems like they do...but consider the breaches that we don't hear about.**

Companies' fears that their brands could be adversely impacted by reports of cyber breaches mean that we rarely hear about them when they happen. What we *do* hear about are the very widespread, high profile breaches at large companies where there has been a failure protect a customer's personal information.

What we often fail to consider is that *any* entity, commercial or non-profit, public or private, can fall victim to a cyber breach. Certainly, commercial businesses would be expected to insure against such risks. But what about governmental entities? Here's one example.

The state of Oregon is investigating whether two state agencies violated the [Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act](#). Each year thousands of Oregonians become victims of identity theft. According to the Federal Trade Commission, Oregon is ranked 13th in the nation for this crime. In response, both Oregon businesses *and* government have clear direction and expectations under the *Act* to ensure the safety of the personal identifying information they maintain. Personal information includes a consumer's name in combination with a Social Security number, Oregon drivers license number or Oregon identification card, financial, credit or debit card number along with a security or access code or password that would allow someone access to a consumer's financial account. Specific protections under the *Act* are detailed on the [website of Oregon government's Division of Finance and Corporate Securities \(DFCS\)](#), and include the following:

### **Security Freeze**

All Oregonians will be able to place a security freeze on their credit file maintained by a credit reporting agency, such as Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion. A security freeze means that your file cannot be shared with potential creditors. Most businesses will not open credit accounts without first checking a consumer's credit history. There is no fee if you are a victim of identity theft or you have reported the theft of their personal information to a law enforcement agency. For other consumers, each credit reporting agency will charge a fee of \$10 – a total of \$30 to freeze your files.

If you do place a security freeze on your report you can "thaw" their file to apply for new credit. Law enforcement agencies and government agencies including child support and businesses collecting existing debt still will be able to access your credit file.

### **Notification of a Breach**

Anyone (business, organization, or individual) who maintains personal information of Oregon consumers will be required to notify his or her customers if computer files containing that personal information have been subject to a security breach.

The notification must be done as soon as possible unless law enforcement believes the notification will impede a criminal investigation. In most cases you can notify in writing, but the law allows for electronic notice if this is the primary manner of communication between you and the consumer, or telephone notice if you contact the person directly. If you demonstrate the cost of notification is more than \$250,000 or the number of individuals to be notified is more than 350,000, you may notify through major Oregon television and newspaper media.

*Continued next page...*

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

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

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



# MACo News

## Cyber/Tech Insurance continued ...

If an investigation into the breach by a federal, state or local law enforcement agency determines there is no reasonable likelihood of harm to consumers, notification is not required. The same is true if the data involved in the breach was encrypted or made unreadable.

### **Protection of Social Security numbers**

Consumers are especially vulnerable to identity theft if their Social Security number has fallen into the wrong hands. The law prohibits anyone from printing Social Security numbers on cards or documents or publicly displaying or posting a Social Security number. This doesn't apply to the use of SSNs for internal verification purposes. The law allows an exception for records that are required by law to be made available to the public or filed with courts.

### **Safeguarding personal information**

If you collect personal information from an individual, such as driver's license numbers or Social Security numbers, you must develop, implement and maintain reasonable safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of the information. This also includes the proper disposal of information.

So, in the face of this legislation, how did the Oregon government agencies allegedly fall prey to a cyber breach? Quite simply, it appears that government employees dumped into an open recycling bin records containing peoples' names and corresponding Social Security numbers.

The moral of this post is that, when thinking about cyber/tech insurance, underwriters and brokers alike need to be sensitive to the breadth of the potential buying public. Every single entity that aggregate personal data is a potential target for a cyber breach. And every single such entity should be covered by cyber/tech insurance. The market is there, however it is important that public and private institutions alike be educated about the necessity to insure against cyber risks.



## Powell County offers free prescription discount cards sponsored by NACo

Powell County launched a discount card program effective October 15, 2010, to help customers cope with the high prices of prescriptions. The county is making free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 22% off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage, and are accepted at two Powell County pharmacies, Keystone Drug and Safeway. A national network of more than 60,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

"Powell County is proud to be one of the counties nationwide participating with NACo", said County Commissioner Cele Pohle. "The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and the underinsured residents of our county, and even those fortunate to have a prescription coverage can use the card to save money on medications that are not covered by their health plan. Best of all, there is no cost to county taxpayers for NACo and Powell County to make these county saving cards available to our residents."

Residents can visit [www.caremark.com/naco](http://www.caremark.com/naco) to print an ID card and use it immediately at any participating pharmacy. Cards will also be available at the Powell County Courthouse, Powell County Post Offices, Senior Citizen Center, Deer Lodge City Hall and the Powell County Public Health Office.

County residents can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit [www.caremark.com/naco](http://www.caremark.com/naco) for assistance with the program.

"Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy," said Commissioner Pohle. "Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance."

The program is administered by CVS Caremark.





# MACo News

## NACo News

### Employer Provided Cell Phones no Longer Listed Property

On September 27, President Obama signed the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. The law includes a provision that modernizes the tax code by removing cell phones and other similar telecommunications equipment from the definition of listed property. Prior to this, the benefit an employee receives using an employer provided phone was excluded from income as long as the use was for business purposes. To substantiate the business use, employees were required to keep records of every call made on the employer provided cell phone and its business purpose. Removing cell phones and similar telecommunications equipment from listed property now relieves both employers and employees of the onerous requirements.

Contact: [Mike Belarmino](#), NACo Staff Member • 202-942-4254

## NACo Webinar: Leadership Series

### For NACo Members Only

- October 21: Seven Habits Series: Listen to Understand
- November 18: Seven Habits Series: Synergize for Power

### NACo webinars on the calendar for Fall 2010

- October 14: How Smart Growth Can Put Your County on a Path to a Green Economy
- October 19: Rural Counties and Health Reform: Opportunities for Improved Care
- October 28: Green IT Strategies that Save your County Money and Project Resources
- October 28: Justice for all: Effective County Juvenile Justice Efforts
- November 9: Save Money through Green Purchasing  
Enter NACo's 2011 County Green Office Competition

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

## 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)

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# Around Our Counties

## Blaine County

Montana native Valerie Ovitt Chipot joined Blaine County Attorney Donald Ranstrom's staff the first Monday in June as deputy county attorney. She worked part time until she completed the three day Montana bar exam on July 26-28; she became full-time on August 2nd.

Ovitt Chipot earned her undergraduate degree at Gonzaga University in Spokane and her juris doctorate from the University of Montana School of Law last spring.

Ovitt Chipot said her course work at UM was general law with an emphasis in prosecution. Among her courses were juvenile justice, domestic violence and Native American religious protections.

## Daniels County

What has been known as Scobey Cemetery for nearly 100 years is now officially Daniels County Cemetery. Actually the change started about ten years ago when, by a vote of the citizens in the western two-thirds of the county, a cemetery district was formed. This began the transition from city to county management.

Over the years, most of the deceased from the central and western part of the county were buried in "Scobey Ceme-

tery". The measure to create a district cemetery, including an area about from Madoc and west, happened when it was becoming difficult to raise enough money in just Scobey for expenses.

The process of organizing county trustees and managing board is on going and, in the mean time, the City has kept taking care of the basic records. It has been noted that some communities have cemetery societies from which volunteers may take part in beatification and upkeep.

Eastern Daniels County continues to be served by cemeteries at Flaxville, Pleasant Prairie and Whitetail.

## Flathead County

Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester announced that Flathead County will receive a \$1.4 million economic development grant.

The money will come from the US Economic Development Industry and go to the Flathead County Economic Development Authority, otherwise known as the county Port Authority, as a Community Trade Adjustment Assistance grant.

The grant money will be used by the Port Authority to purchase 75 to 100 acres of

property along the BNSF Railway tracks in Columbia Falls for a rail-served industrial park.

The Port Authority, in partnership with the Flathead County commissioners, committed themselves about six years ago to the idea of a rail-served industrial park as a way to attract new businesses and increase employment.

## Gallatin County

The Gallatin County Commissioners gave the thumbs-up to a Bozeman construction firm's plan to build a gravel pit in Clarkston, where a planned paving of the area's main road will be completed using the gravel mined onsite.

Commissioners voted unanimously to grant Sime Construction a conditional use permit to build a gravel pit within a 13.5 acre, privately owned piece of land, located about 10 miles north of the Logan Bridge off the Interstate-90 Frontage Road.

## Hill County

The Hill County Sheriff's Office has purchased two patrol vehicles through a federal grant which aims to improve cooperation between local and federal governments in protecting the borders.

Sheriff Don Brostrom said his office bought the vehicles using money from Operation Stonegarden, a Department of Homeland Security program intended to increase cooperation between federal agencies and local, state and tribal law enforcement agencies to secure the US borders.

Without the grants, in a time of budget cuts, his office could not have purchased new vehicles, Brostrom said.

Tim Lambourne of the Border Patrol said the program is nationwide, providing money to law enforcement agencies on the northern, southern and coastal borders.

"It is to increase eyes on the ground for border security," he said, adding that half of each grant can be used for equipment and half for operational overtime for officers to focus on border security issues.

## Missoula County

All systems are go for the removal of a PCB-laced cooling pond that sits in the Blackfoot River at a mill site a mile above the river's mouth.

Missoula County commissioners approved a variance from floodplain regulations that will permit Stimson Lumber Company to restore the historic riverbank using large rocks, or riprap— something





# Around Our Counties

that's been prohibited by the county except for special cases for the past 10 years.

The unanimous vote on the first day of autumn was the final hurdle in a process lined with permits since Stimson agreed to the cleanup in April.

## Park County

The new director of the Livingston-Park County Public Library will soon begin her role with the organization while the library's long-time leader transitions to retirement.

At the end of September, Jennifer Flint started her tenure as the library's director, a position Milla Cummins occupied for more than 15 years.

Flint, one of the two finalists for the job, has multiple degrees, including a master's in library science.

Cummins' last day is yet to be nailed down, as the two women will determine how much transition time they want to leave open.

Cummins has said she will stay in the area and that her retirement plans include small-scale farming of animals and produce.

## Ravalli County

The Ravalli County commissioners got a pleasant earful during their second monthly

coffee klatch.

The informal gathering had commissioners in a loose circle with more than a dozen citizens who came to make suggestions, air complaints and eat doughnuts.

The klatch idea was developed earlier this summer by commissioners who wanted to hear from citizens in a less rigid setting than the normal public meeting scenario.

## Richland County

The Richland County commissioners approved the final plat of the Lambert major subdivision.

The motion was carried unanimously to approve 14 lots for housing geared toward teachers. The decision was postponed after a minor oversight to include both Lambert school districts on the agreement.

Preliminary approval was already given by the commissioners to build the infrastructure which has potential to support 100 homes. The approved lots provide both single housing and multi-family housing units. The subdivision is funded by oil revenue from both elementary and high school districts.

Papers were signed by Lambert

Board of Trustees chairman Greg Rauschendorfer and the commissioners. The paper work was also taken to the Lambert School Board meeting for additional signatures.

## Roosevelt County

The technology at the Roosevelt County Sheriff's Office will soon be taking a huge leap into the 21st century.

Thanks to a grant from the United States Marshals Service, the RCSO will soon have a LiveScan electronic fingerprint scanner.

The new scanner will allow law enforcement to immediately check to see if a person they've arrested is a wanted fugitive. The process, which now takes several months, will now only take several minutes.

The fingerprints will be electronically scanned and compared to a national database of every criminal in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's records, which go back to 1956.

Currently, since the process takes so long, fugitives can give a false name, be out on bond and flee the area long before results are returned from the state crime lab.

Rod Ostermiller,

chief deputy of the US Marshals Service in Montana, said that he hopes to use Sheriff Crawford and Roosevelt County as a model to emulate elsewhere.

## Yellowstone County

Yellowstone County commissioners approved spending \$2.2 million on repairs to Rimrock Auto Arena at Metrapark.

The approved spending is about half of what the county hopes to spend in total on fixing the arena, which was severely damaged by a tornado on June 20th. But the commissioners said they know that unforeseen costs will pop up, so they are proceeding carefully with spending approval.

The commissioners approved spending \$595,554 on a newly designed exterior for the MetraPark box office and main entrance. The current sloping roof will be replaced by twin glass towers with curved roofs that shed snow and rain away from the sidewalk below.

The commissioners also approved spending \$839,910 on acoustic improvements, plus another \$783,850 to come from insurance payments. Improving the arena's acoustics was the most commonly heard requests from the public.



# Calendar of Events

## Events

### October

- 11 Columbus Day (MACo office closed)
- 12-14 NACo WIR Board Retreat, Helena
- 14-15 Exempt Well & Related Issues in Montana Workshop
- 18-20 AGRiP Governance & Leadership Conference, Nashville

### November

- 2 General Election Day (MACo office closed)
- 4-5 HCT Strategic Planning, Helena
- 11 Veterans' Day (MACo office closed)
- 16-18 MACo JPA/JPIA Insurance Pool Retreat, Malta
- 25 Thanksgiving Day (MACo office closed)
- 30-Dec 3 Governor IT Conference, Helena

### December

- 6 MACo Board of Directors, MACo Office
- 6-9 Newly Elected Officials-Orientation/Commissioner Certification, Helena

October 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/<br>31 | 25  | 26   | 27   | 28    | 29  | 30  |

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- 1st Vice President**  
Connie Eissinger, McCone County
- 2nd Vice President**  
Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County
- Fiscal Officer**  
Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County
- Urban Representative**  
Andy Hunthausen, Lewis & Clark County
- Past President**  
Carl Seilstad, Fergus County
- DISTRICT CHAIRS**
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  - Douglas Buxbaum, Dawson County
  - Donald Reiger, Fallon County
  - Russ Tempel, Liberty County
  - Arnold Gettel, Teton County
  - Ken Ronish, Fergus County
  - Maureen Davey, Stillwater County
  - Gail Vennes, Broadwater County
  - Randy Taylor, Park County
  - Tony Berget, Lincoln County
  - Jean Curtiss, Missoula County
  - Tom Rice, Beaverhead County
- ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS**
- Leo Gallagher, Lewis & Clark Co. Attorney  
Paula Robinson, Flathead Co. Clerk & Recorder  
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

#### MACo STAFF

- Harold Blattie, Executive Director  
Sheryl Wood, Associate Director  
Tom Swindle, Finance Officer  
Karen Houston, Meeting Planner  
Sara McGowan, Accounting Technician  
Shantil Siaperas, Legislative Coordinator  
Sharon Wilson, Admin. Assistant  
Greg Jackson, JPIA/JPA Trust Admin.  
Mike Sehestedt, Chief Legal Counsel  
Maureen Lennon, Assoc. Legal Counsel  
Greg Bonilla, Assoc. Legal Counsel  
Carol Knight, Legal Secretary/Ad. Assist.  
Emelia McEwen, Sr. Loss Control Specialist  
Fred Hansen, Loss Control Specialist  
Jack Holstrom, Personnel Svcs. Admin.  
Fran Monro, Member Services Rep.  
Keith Stapley, Claims Administrator  
Wendy Sesselman, WC Claims Supervisor  
Dennis Jupka, Senior Claims Adjuster  
Bonnie Knopf, Data Specialist  
Christine Holling, Claims Adjuster  
Liz Krzan, Asst. Claims Adjuster  
Kerissa Lyman, Claims Assistant  
Alyce Bailey, Enrollment/Eligibility Specialist  
Pam Walling, Marketing/Member Services Representative  
Laurie Goltry, Admin./Enrollment Asst.  
Tom Beneventi, Custodian/Maint.

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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