

*A research and advocacy association, supporting efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.*



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## Happy Hanukkah from CSA!

Hanukah/Hanukkah/Chanukah/Chanukkah/Chanukka...? However you may spell it, may this year's Festival of Lights bring you and your family good health, good fortune, love, peace, prosperity, happiness, and joy! Today and always!

On the first day of Hanukkah this week, Governor Ducey shared "For all those coming together tonight to celebrate the 'Festival of Lights,' may these eight days bring peace and joy. I wish all Arizonans a very happy Hanukkah."

On behalf of the entire CSA staff, Happy Hanukkah!

Source: [azgovernor.gov](http://azgovernor.gov)

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## Apache County Juvenile Center Repurposing Efforts



On Thursday, Apache County Superior Court Judge Michael Latham and Apache County Supervisor Doyel Shamley presented on the first repurposed juvenile detention facility project in their county to the CSA Board of Directors.

The new community center for teens called The LOFT, is located in St. Johns and was opened in October of this year. The repurposed juvenile detention center now serves all high school youths in St. Johns and the surrounding areas.

Prior to the repurposing of the facility, the juvenile detention center cost the county \$1.2 million annually and there was an average daily population of just 1.7 juveniles. Now the county contracts with Pinal County to house juveniles that need to be placed in detention. The remodeled center does have an intake and temporary holding area plus a 23 hour respite, stabilization, and assessment rooms that provide juveniles in crisis an alternative to

detention.

The transformed center also works to engage local teens in a productive way through the following:

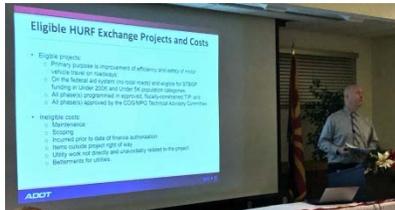
- Music
- Art
- Video/audio editing
- Tutoring
- Community college access
- Coordinating with local high schools (through dances, tail gate, clubs etc.)
- Apache County Youth Council – incentives for self-paced learning

Both Supervisor Shamley and Judge Latham stressed that there are not many safe spaces for teens to gather, and in rural Arizona, especially in Apache County.

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## Arizona Department of Transportation Presents to CSA Board of Directors



During the December CSA Board of Directors Meeting, Patrick Stone, the Federal Aid Administrator at the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), presented information on the HURF swap program and ADOT's inactive funds policy. Stone discussed the history of the program and the types of projects eligible for HURF swap funding. Additionally, he outlined ADOT's work to reduce the amount of inactive funds in the program and the guidelines for dealing with those funds.

The HURF swap program allows counties with an unincorporated population of 200,000 persons or less, cities and towns to access additional funding for local transportation projects. Additional webinar trainings on the program are targeted to be conducted by ADOT in January 2018.

To learn more about ADOT and the HURF swap program, please [click here](#).

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## Coconino County Hosts a Legislative Day

This week CSA joined the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, their Constitutional Officers, and Coconino County staff for a State Legislator roundtable discussion.

The group discussed the County's state fiscal and legislative priorities as well as other issues affecting the County. State cost-shifts to counties, transportation funding and forest health were the main topics deliberated in anticipation of the 2018 Legislative Session.

"We appreciate our Legislators joining us for a discussion regarding our County's state priorities," said Chairman of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors Matt Ryan. "It's crucial that we continue this partnership and open dialogue heading into the next legislative session. We look forward to working together to meet the diverse needs of County citizens."



Legislators who attended the event included, Representatives Bob Thorpe, Brenda Barton, and Eric Descheenie. All legislators serve portions of Coconino County.

*Source: Photo and content courtesy of Matt Rudig, Coconino County Public Information Officer*

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## County Financial Officers Organization Meets

On Tuesday, December 12, the County Financial Officers Organization met to discuss a variety of issues facing Arizona's counties. Elaine Smith, the Director of Economic Research at the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR), presented on the types of data that ADOR has and will continue to share with county officials.

The finance officers also heard from Michael Stelpstra and Megan Smith from the Auditor General's Office on the various state retirement plan liability and expenditure limitations.

CSA staff also presented a number of budget tools that will be available for supervisors and staff to leverage during the upcoming legislative session.

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## Joint Border Security Committee Meets

On Tuesday, the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee (Committee) met to discuss the use of Border Security Trust Fund monies and their use to enhance border security.

The Committee includes Senators Gail Griffin, Sylvia Allen, and Steve Smith; Speaker of the House of Representatives Javan D. Mesnard; State Representatives Darin Mitchell and Mark Finchem; Major General Michael McGuire; County Sheriffs Mark Dannels, Mark Lamb, Paul Penzone and Leon Wilmot; Director of the Department of Corrections Charles Ryan; Arizona Department of Public Safety Director Colonel Frank Milstead; Arizona Department of Homeland Security Director Gilbert Orrantia; the Arizona Department of Transportation Director John Halikowski; and Mr. Bas Aja.



Thad Smith, Cochise County Chief Deputy provided an update on how the \$219,000 awarded to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office from the Committee to develop a virtual fence was used. Smith explained one of the largest uses was the purchase of 50 buckeye camera capable of capturing both video and still photos 24 hours a day 7 days a week when triggered. The cameras send the images captured to officers for review giving them real-time actionable intelligence on activity in the area under surveillance.

The Committee authorized an additional \$55,633.94 to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for border security. In addition, the Committee made a recommendation to the full legislature for the repeal of the Committee and directed staff to take down the Committee website.

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## Maricopa County Becomes Second Chance Employer

This week, Maricopa County became a "second chance employer" by removing from most job applications the question related to prior criminal convictions. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved the policy unanimously, as a way to lower recidivism rates and provide increased opportunities for people who have served their time. Starting January 1, 2018, questions about an applicant's criminal past will no longer be allowed on the initial job application, unless required by specific departments.

"I applaud Governor Ducey for his leadership in eliminating this question from state employment applications. Implementing the same practice at the county makes sense because we want to help those with a criminal past integrate back into society so there is less chance they will reoffend," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Denny Barney, District 1.

Maricopa County is the second county in Arizona to adopt this policy. In May of this year, Coconino County unanimously approved a resolution called "Ban the Box." This resolution stipulates that the Coconino County Human Resources Department no longer requires the disclosure of prior criminal history on initial job applications. Coconino County is encouraging rehabilitated individuals with criminal records to apply for employment by engaging community partners such as treatment providers, correctional facilities reentry specialists and organizations assisting individuals in obtaining employment.

For additional information on the Maricopa policy, please [click here](#).

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## NACo Webinar: Becoming a Destination Employer

On December 19, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar titled [Becoming a Destination Employer: County Insights from Gallagher's 2017 Benefits Strategy & Benchmarking Survey](#). The webinar will highlight county-specific results from the 2017 Benefits Strategy & Benchmarking Survey. During this session the focus will be on best practices for human capital management within the public sector, and participating in Gallagher's 2018 survey. To register for the webinar, please [click here](#).

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