



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

In the August 25, 2017, CSA Weekly Update:

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Maricopa County Appoints New State Representative, Dr. Peten



Last week, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors appointed Dr. Geraldine Peten (*pictured in center of photo*) as a new legislator representing Legislative District 4, which runs along the southwestern border of Arizona and includes portions of Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma counties. State law requires that the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors fill the vacancy, because the legislator who resigned last month, Mr. Jesus Rubalcava, resides in Maricopa County.

Due to the fact that Legislative District 4 has fewer than thirty elected precinct committee persons, a citizen's panel was appointed to provide the Maricopa Board of Supervisors with the names of three candidates qualified to fill the vacancy. During a special meeting of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, they voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Peten to fill the vacancy.

CSA extends our congratulations to Representative Peten.

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County Managers Meeting



Last week, county managers from across the state met to hear from CSA staff on various projects and issues they have been working on during the summer months.

CSA staff began with a presentation on county financial data collection. They detailed a variety of issues, including county revenues and cost drivers, local county anecdotes, and local cost containment efforts.

CSA staff also reviewed specifics about major State General Fund financial issues for 2018, including the ongoing Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections cost shift, the Elected Officials Retirement Plan (EORP) funding crisis, the preservation of county in-lieu lottery monies, and increasing transportation investment.

Additional discussion reviewed the various state and legislative stakeholder meetings that CSA staff has been (or will be) participating in, including the Governor's Water Stakeholder Process, the Arizona Office of the Courts (AOC) Detention Center Regionalization Task Force, the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee on the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), the Legislative Ad Hoc Joint Committee on the Tax Treatment of Digital Goods and Services, the Legislative Ad Hoc Study Committee on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), and the PSPRS Board of Trustees Study Committee on EORP.

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JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

Monthly Fiscal Highlights for July 2017 were released last week by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) announcing monthly General Fund revenues of \$778.3 million, an increase of 18.0 percent over the prior year. The growth was attributed to better than expected collections in all major tax categories, including corporate income (up \$21.6M), individual income (up \$58.1M), and sales and use (up \$25.0M). Actual revenues were up \$47.3 million for the month over forecast, or 6.5 percent.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections were \$119.2 million, a 0.4 percent increase compared to July 2016. However, this fell \$(3.5) million short of forecast, or (2.9) percent.

July General Fund spending totaled \$2.37 billion, representing a \$125.3 million increase compared with July 2016.

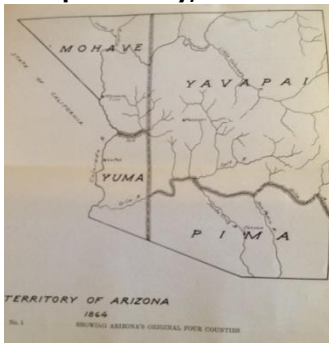
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CSA on the Road



Over the past two weeks, CSA Executive Director, Craig Sullivan, continued his outreach to the various counties across the state to brief county supervisors, administrators, and staff on the recently adjourned legislative session and CSA's efforts throughout the year in support of the counties. As CSA visits each of the counties, we will be taking a little time to feature each county and share some interesting local information.

Yavapai County, One of the Founding Four



Historically, Yavapai County is one of the four original counties formed by the 1st Arizona Territorial Legislature in September of 1864; just one year after the Territory was established. The county was named after the Yavapai Tribe, whose name translates to the "people of the sun."

Yavapai County originally encompassed 65,000 square miles and was often referred to as the "Mother of Counties," in part, because Apache, Coconino, Gila, Maricopa, and Navajo counties all developed from the original. The City of Prescott, now the county seat, was once the capital of the territorial government.

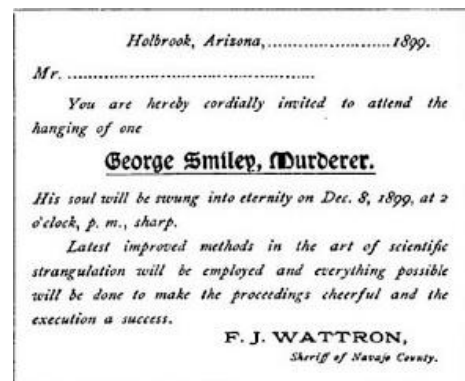
Today, with an area of 8,125 square miles, the county is larger than four states (Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island, and New Jersey), and is approximately the same size as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Navajo County: A Bit Haunted

In 1898, Navajo County erected a courthouse that would become the scene of many notorious trials over the years. The basement housed small, dark cells that no prisoner ever escaped from.

In November 1899, the new courthouse held a murderer named George Smiley. Convicted of having killed a railroad section foreman, Smiley was scheduled to hang November 11, 1899.

In a fit of humor, Sheriff Frank Wattron sent off an amusingly dark invitation for Smiley's hanging (*pictured*). It promised that the "latest improved methods in the art of scientific strangulation will be employed and everything possible will be done to make the proceedings cheerful and the execution a success." This was a little too dark for President William McKinley and Arizona Governor Nathan Murphy, who reprimanded Wattron and delayed Smiley's hanging. Wattron promptly sent out another invite with mournful language and a black border, with Smiley finally being hanged January 8, 1900.



To this day, some speculate that Smiley may be spending eternity as a roommate with Wattron himself along with a few other ghosts. The courthouse is now the home to the historical society and workers say strange noises are heard throughout the building and objects move inexplicably.

Coconino County, a View of San Francisco Bay?

When visiting Coconino County, one can't help but marvel at the majestic San Francisco Peaks, a volcanic mountain range, containing Humphreys Peak, the highest point in the state of Arizona with an elevation of 12,633 feet.



Though some have speculated that the moniker is due to the view of San Francisco Bay from the top of the highest peak, the reality is a bit more interesting.

In the 1500s, the Spanish Conquistadors explored the area searching for gold and came upon the peaks, naming them "Sierra Sinagua," meaning Mountains without Water. In 1629, 147 years before San Francisco, California, received that name, Spanish friars founded a mission at a Hopi Indian village in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, sixty five miles from the Peaks. The range was then named San Francisco, to honor the saint who founded their order. In 1853, a man by the name of Amiel Whipple, who was leading expeditions in the area to find possible routes for a railroad across the continent dubbed the mountain range "San Francisco Cone," but that name was never official and early maps still had the mountain printed as "San Francisco Peak." On many maps today, the official name is printed as "San Francisco Mountain," but many people refer to them as "The Peaks" or "San Francisco Peaks."

Over the course of the summer, we will visit each of the 15 counties to brief them on the recent legislative session and our work going into 2018.

Sources: www.yavapai.us; [National Association of Counties](http://NationalAssociationofCounties.org) & [Navajo County](http://NavajoCounty.gov); www.fs.usda.gov
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