



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

In the February 10, 2017 CSA Weekly Update:

- [New Supervisors Spotlight: Alton Joe Shepherd, Apache County](#)
- [AACE Talks Transportation Needs](#)
- [Session Snapshot](#)
- [CSA Legislative Update](#)
- [Military Camel Corps in the Southwest](#)
- [Next Week: Committee Agendas](#)
- [NACo Advocates for County Transportation Priorities at Infrastructure Hearing](#)
- [Calendar](#)

New Supervisors Spotlight: Alton Joe Shepherd, Apache County

With the county elections that occurred across Arizona in 2016, 18 new supervisors were elected to office. With the large number of new faces added to the roster of county supervisors, we would like to take the opportunity each week to introduce one of them, in alphabetical order by county, then district number.

Name: Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd

County: Apache County

District: 2

Occupation: In addition to his work as an Apache County Supervisor, he is also a member of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, and serves as Chairperson of the Resources and Development Committee.

Education:

- 1990-1992 Yavapai College General Studies
- 2001 Pima Community College Law Enforcement Services

Family: Has been married to Wendy D. Shepherd, of Dilkon, for 17 years. They have four beautiful daughters: Shaunda, Annalysia, Callista Belle, and Leilani Star.

Favorite Place in Apache County: Being a lifelong resident of Apache County, Supervisor Shepherd's favorite place is his home in Ganado, Arizona.

Civic organization involvement: Coach, Ganado Little League Baseball

Best piece of political advice received: For Supervisor Shepherd, his parents played a very influential role in fostering his drive to take on the challenge of improving services for the citizens of Apache County. Supervisor Shepherd's father, the late Ambrose Shepherd, was a long-time Apache County Supervisor (from 1980-1988, and again from 1993-1996) who passed down a great deal of insight and knowledge to his son. There is one particular piece of wisdom received from his father that has stuck with Supervisor Shepherd. "Leadership will take you many places and you can accomplish many good deeds for the people, but when it is all said and done, the only thing you will take is your last name. Don't ever tarnish it." Supervisor Shepherd explained, "I take his words to mean that leadership is a privilege, not a right, and with that privilege you are held at higher standards and ethics."

Favorite Book: Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Inspiration to run for county supervisor: When asked about his main inspiration to run for Apache County Supervisor, Supervisor Shepherd stated that his goal was to "help my people and my constituents to bring progressive change and promote common interest to improve our communities and road infrastructure."



[Top](#)

AACE Talks Transportation Needs

This week the Arizona Association of County Engineers (AACE) met in Yavapai County for their Board of Directors meeting.



Yavapai County Supervisor Jack Smith welcomed the attendees to his county, including Karen Riggs, President of AACE.

During the meeting, presentations and discussions covered a variety of issues, including pavement preservation and maintenance, traffic data management systems, and Arizona bridge retrofit projects.

Craig Sullivan, CSA Executive Director, presented an update on the 2017 Legislative Session.

For more information on AACE, please [click here](#).

[Top](#)

Session Snapshot

Today marks the 33rd day of the 53rd Legislative Session. As of today, 1,053 bills and 98 memorials/resolutions have been introduced. Customarily, around 1,200 pieces of legislation are introduced each session prior to the bill introduction deadline.

The Senate hasn't been allowed to introduce new bills since January 30, but today was the final day for House members to introduce new legislative proposals.

Next Friday, February 17, is the final day for bills to be considered in their chamber of origin and the last day for committee hearings to hear bills from the opposite chamber is March 24.

As always, our staff will continue to analyze and monitor each bill as it moves through the process and we will determine if it has an impact on our counties.

For more information on legislative deadlines, please [click here](#).

[Top](#)

CSA Legislative Update

CSA's legislative agenda continues to move forward. Please see below for a list of our bills:

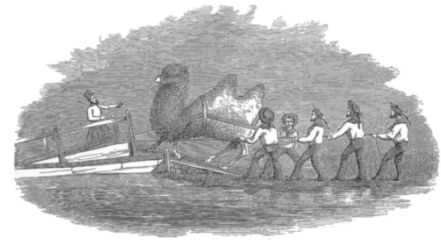
- 1) [HB 2065 waste tire disposal; continuation](#) (Coleman), **passed the House 59-0.**
- 2) [HB 2230 intergovernmental public transportation authority; taxation](#) (Shooter), **passed House Transportation & Infrastructure, 8-0;** also referred to House Ways & Means.
- 3) [HB 2258 county contributions; hospitalization; medical; repeal](#) (Thorpe), **passed House Appropriations 11-2;** also referred to House Health.
- 4) [HB 2332 property tax valuation appeals](#) (Campbell), **will be heard in House Ways & Means, Wednesday February 15, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.**
- 5) [HCR 2011 motor vehicle fuel taxes](#) (Campbell), **passed House Transportation & Infrastructure 7-1;** also referred to House Ways & Means.
- 6) [SB 1406 contributions; committed youth; repeal; committee](#) (Fann) **passed Senate Appropriations 10-0.**

[Top](#)

Military Camel Corps in the Southwest

Arizona's adventure with camels began in 1855 when Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War and later President of the Confederacy, was sold on the idea of importing camels to build, and travel on, a wagon road through the Southwest. Secretary Davis pitched his idea to Congress, explaining that the camels would be used for military purposes and reconnaissance. Instead of being laughed out of the room, the measure was approved and even received a \$30,000 appropriation.

The camels arrived from the Middle East through the port city of Indianola, Texas where they immediately stirred up quite a sensation among the citizens. The Army soon discovered one problem: the Arabian camels didn't understand English. Hadji Ali (who became known as Hi Jolly) and his fellow camel-speaking associate arrived in February of 1857 to teach the soldiers how to handle the animals.



Lieutenant Edward Beale, one of the Southwest's great explorers, set off with his camel cavalry on an expedition to map a possible southern route for a transcontinental railroad. Lieutenant Beale marveled at the "noble beast" and its capacity to go without water for days, he touted their ability to pack heavy burdens of corn and oats, and admired their skill at wading across rivers with ease. Lt. Beale imagined that one day the desert dwelling dromedaries would carry mail back and forth across the country, and urged Congress to send off for another 1,000 camels. Unfortunately, the Civil War became a more pressing issue and troops were dispersed to the eastern states to do battle. Disappointingly, it meant that the camel corps was no more.

Some of the camels were sold, some were utilized in eastern Arizona mining towns, and some escaped into the wild. Though there were many unsubstantiated reports of camel sightings in Arizona well into the 1930's and 1940's, the last surviving camel was shot and killed in 1893 by an Arizona farmer, thus ending the camel's curiously compelling connection to Arizona and the Southwest.

Source: [AZ Central Archives](#) & Illustration by Gwinn Heap - *For Jefferson Davis' report to the Senate in 1857*, [Wikimedia Commons](#)

[Top](#)

Next Week: Committee Agendas

- The [House Banking and Insurance Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 13, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 5.
- The [House Education Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 13, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Military, Veterans, & Regulatory Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Monday February 13, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 3.
- The [Senate Commerce & Public Safety Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 13, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- The [Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 13, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [House Appropriations Health and Welfare Subcommittee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 5.
- The [House Commerce Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 3.
- The [House Federalism, Property Rights, & Public Policy Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 4.
- The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [Senate Transportation & Technology Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.

For all committee listings, please [click here](#).

[Top](#)

NACo Advocates for County Transportation Priorities at Infrastructure Hearing

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Central Region Representative Cindy Bobbitt, chair of the Grant County, Okla. Board of Commissioners, testified Wednesday before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on modernizing the nation's infrastructure system.

Bobbitt emphasized counties' vast transportation infrastructure responsibilities. Counties own and maintain 45 percent of public road miles and nearly 40 percent of bridges, and are involved in a third of the nation's public transportation systems and airports.

She noted that county infrastructure plays a critical role in moving freight and other goods to market, while modernizing industries, higher crop yields, and new methods of energy extraction create immense stress on rural roads.

Additionally, Bobbitt underscored that the federal-state-local partnership on infrastructure, informed by county input, is crucial for economic competitiveness.

"Counties stand ready to work with our federal partners to achieve our shared goals — improving transportation, increasing public safety and boosting our economy," she said.

To view the testimony, please [click here](#) or click on the video above.



[Top](#)



County Supervisors Association of Arizona

1905 W. Washington, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85009

www.countysupervisors.org

[Leadership](#) / [Research](#) / [Advocacy](#) / [Newsletter](#) / [Speakers](#) / [Counties](#) / [Alliances](#) / [Calendar](#) / [Contact](#)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? Email us at csaupdate@countysupervisors.org or call us at 602-252-5521.