



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

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CSA Presents Session Wrap Up

During the Thursday CSA Board of Directors meeting, CSA Executive Director Craig Sullivan briefed the membership on the results of the 2017 Legislative Session, specifically the progress made towards the organization's financial and policy objectives.

Some highlights from the report include: \$19.6 million in fiscal relief to the counties, which includes a \$10 million ongoing appropriation from the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) and a one-time appropriation of \$8 million to the Arizona Department of Administration to partially reimburse counties for the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADJC) cost shift in FY 2018, reducing the county impact to \$3.26 million. Mr. Sullivan also presented on CSA's efforts to support and defeat legislation with potential county impacts.

The full session report presented will be distributed once final bill information is available, and there will be a complete summary of all enacted or vetoed legislation impacting counties available shortly.



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CSA Congratulates Angela Ruffalo on Completion of Spring Internship



At Thursday's CSA Board of Directors meeting, CSA Executive Director Craig Sullivan recognized Angela Ruffalo, on behalf of the association, for completing her service with CSA's Arizona Public Service (APS) Local Government Internship Program.

Mr. Sullivan said, "During her time with CSA, Angela has been an indispensable part of our team. Her contributions to our newsletter, her writing skills and her assistance creating presentations have helped us communicate with our membership this session. She's done an exceptional job during the internship and we are thrilled she is staying on with us for the summer."

CSA offers this internship program in partnership with APS to give students exposure to the significance of public service.

Angela expressed her thanks to APS, CSA, and Arizona State University for implementing this great program.

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AHCCCS Briefs Board on State of Medicaid in Arizona

On May 18th Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Director Tom Betlach spoke to the CSA Board about AHCCCS's current state of affairs and the effects the American Healthcare Act (AHCA) might have on the state. Betlach said that currently almost 1.9 million people are covered by AHCCCS, which covers both physical and behavioral health ailments. Counties used to be responsible for indigent care but AHCCCS assumed those responsibilities when it was created in 1982. Most of AHCCCS's funding is federal while 16% comes from the state general fund.



Regarding the AHCA, Betlach stated that it freezes Medicaid expansion in 2020 for those states that opted for enhanced matching. However, states can continue at the regular match rate. Betlach and the analysts at AHCCCS believe that starting in 2020, many people will lose their health care coverage due to expansion freezes contained in the AHCA. Betlach was confident in these projections because similar freezes occurred during the Great Recession and he expects the effects to be similar. Betlach also pointed out that AHCCCS must be fiscally responsible because money is fungible. In other words, general fund money used by AHCCCS cannot be used for other state priorities such as education, public safety, and maintenance.

Another difficulty for the health care system has been keeping health insurance plans in the marketplace. In 2014 and 2015 many Arizona counties had six to eight plans. As of this year, every county has only one plan, except Pima County that currently has two options. Betlach also mentioned that 5% of the AHCCCS population requires 50% of AHCCCS spending. While this is common for insurance programs, it still constitutes one of AHCCCS's many challenges.

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Coconino County & NARBHA Host Justice Summit

On May 15th Coconino County and the Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) Institute hosted a Justice Summit in Flagstaff. The NARBHA Institute is the nonprofit, publiccharity partner in Northern Arizona's Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA). The summit's intent was to promote justice reform that would serve all stakeholders in Coconino County's legal system. Justice reform is also one of the Coconino Board of Supervisors top five strategic goals.



Speakers at the summit included experts on mental health and the legal system, local initiatives in justice reform and other judicial, academic and administrative luminaries. Participants also engaged in guided discussions and peer-to-peer sharing in order to identify best practices and learn from each other's experiences. Coconino County will be using the information gathered at the summit to assess many of their programs and policies to ensure that they are fair, wise, and promote public safety while allowing offenders a chance at rehabilitation.

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Feature: Arizona Memory Project – Arizona's Mining History



The mining industry has been a key driver of Arizona's economy and history since the mid-1800's, and has helped to foster the growth and wealth of Arizona as a territory. After becoming a state in 1912, there were over 445 active mines, 72 concentrating facilities, and 11 smelters with the gross value of the industry that year nearing \$64 million dollars, which would be the equivalent of about \$1.6 billion today. Arizona's mines produce a wide variety of metallic and non-metallic commodities including gold, silver, lead, turquoise, azurite, zinc, and of course the most critical to Arizona's economy: copper.



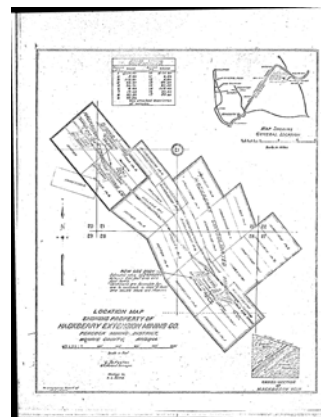
For over a century, the Arizona Geological Survey and its predecessors have collected and archived information on mines and mine activities all across the state, and with the help of the Arizona Memory Project, have been digitally archiving some of those relics to share more easily with the public. All told, the Mines Collection comprises more than 82 linear feet of files filled with old newspaper clippings, accounts of mine histories, geologic reports, mineral assessments, production reports, maps, photographs, and so much more. Most of the files were compiled between 1900 and

1960, and help to shine a light into individual mines, which, when taken collectively, illuminates the rich and diverse history of mining and miners in Arizona.

During this year's legislative session, even Arizona's state legislators recognized the importance of preserving our mining and mineral history. In April, Senate Bill 1415 passed unanimously out of both the House and Senate, and was quickly signed into law by Governor Ducey. The bill provides the needed funding to re-open the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, once a popular stop for school field trips, but was closed down in 2011 for repairs and never re-opened.

You can check out some of the collection's interesting historical documents [here](#) and you can read all about the re-opening of the Mining and Mineral Museum [here](#).

Sources: [Arizona Memory Project](#); [AZ Capitol Times](#)



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NACo 2017 Aspire Awards Opportunity

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has launched its [2017 Aspire Awards: Creating Opportunities for County Employee Retirement Readiness](#). It honors and recognizes counties for innovative solutions and for promoting employee retirement savings.



To submit an application, please [click here](#). Submissions are due May 26, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

For additional information, please [click here](#).

Winners will be notified around the week of June 12, 2017, and the awards will be presented during the NACo Annual Conference in July.

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