



THE MUNICIPAL REPORTER

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Las Cruces Munson Senior Center Receives National Accreditation



The City of Las Cruces Munson Senior Center has become the first accredited senior center in New Mexico. The accreditation comes from the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC), part of the National Council on Aging (NCOA).

The Munson Senior Center becomes the 197th senior center

nationwide since 1998 to receive the accreditation. Accreditation status is good for five years. Centers must meet nine standards of excellence in order to receive the recognition. Accreditation is unique and demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to quality programs and services to older adults.

“This was a year-long process that was well worth it. Being the first accredited senior center in the state is a huge accomplishment and it shows that we really care and strive to offer nothing but the best for our seniors in this community,” says Shelley Modell, Senior Programs Administrator. “I am proud of this status and thank all those who have made this possible.”

The Munson Center, located at 975 S. Mesquite, is one of the four centers available to Las Cruces residents who are 50 years old and over. The center serves to assist and improve life for older adults in the areas of good health maintenance, education, recreation, home care, mobility, community service and related informational services.

For more information about the Accreditation process, contact Shelley Modell, Senior Programs Administrator at (575) 528-3000. To learn more about the Munson Center contact Sally Schutte, Senior Centers Manager at (575) 528-3017. The TTY number is (575) 528-3217. *(Photo courtesy of the City of Las Cruces)*

New Mexico Environment Dept. Seeks Applications For Clean Water Revolving Fund

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is seeking applications for eligible projects under the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) for fiscal year 2012 for placement on the CWSRF Integrated Projects Priority List. The CWSRF is a federal program administered by NMED that provides low-cost, subsidized loans to public entities for the planning, design and construction of wastewater collection and treatment facilities, storm water drainage projects and non-point source water pollution control.

NMED’s Construction Programs Bureau requests that all applications be received by April 29, 2011. Applications are encouraged from municipalities, counties, water and sanitation districts, Indian tribes and interested parties. CWSRF loans are offered at below market rates, currently ranging from zero to three percent, depending on census and economic data.

(Continued on page 2)

MANAGEMENT BEAT

By Melissa Maynard, Stateline Staff Writer

“Management Beat” provides a quick analysis of recent management and labor news in state government.

WORKER CUTS: The Minnesota state Senate has sent a bill to the House that would dramatically shrink the size of state government, Minneapolis Public Radio reports. Under the proposal, projected state spending would drop by 59 percent. The state workforce would be cut by 15 percent over the next four years, and all remaining workers would have their wages frozen for two years. The bill also would shift state workers to a high-deductible health plan that would increase their out-of-pocket costs but save the state millions of dollars, notes the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, which predicts that the proposal is “destined for a veto” from Democratic Governor Mark Dayton.

PENSION PROPOSALS: California Governor Jerry Brown unveiled a series of 12 pension proposals that would apply to all state and *(Continued on page 6)*

Clean Water Fund . . . continued from page 1

Loan subsidies in the form of grants may also be available.

Applications for projects advancing the water quality objectives of the federal Clean Water Act will be evaluated, prioritized and placed in ranking order on the Integrated Projects Priority List.

Communities are strongly encouraged to apply for financing of water quality protection projects such as watershed management and water reuse projects that address at least one of the following four federally-mandated “green” requirements:

- Green Infrastructure – green stormwater infrastructure includes a wide array of practices that manage wet weather and maintains natural hydrology.
- Water Efficiency Improvements – water efficiency improvements is defined as the use of improved technologies to deliver equal or better services with less water and encompasses conservation, reuse and loss reduction.
- Energy Efficiency Improvements – the use of improved technologies and practices to reduce the energy consumption of water quality projects, use energy in a more efficient way and/or produce/utilize renewable energy.
- Environmentally Innovative Activities – includes those projects that demonstrate new and/or innovative approaches to delivering services or managing water resources in a more sustainable way.

The US Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) full green requirements write-up, including examples, can be found at the web address listed below.

Further information on the Water Quality Control Commission-approved CWSRF priority ranking system can be found at <http://www.nmev.stste.nm.us/cpb/cwsrf.html>. For more information, contact Kara Moeller at (505) 222-9572.

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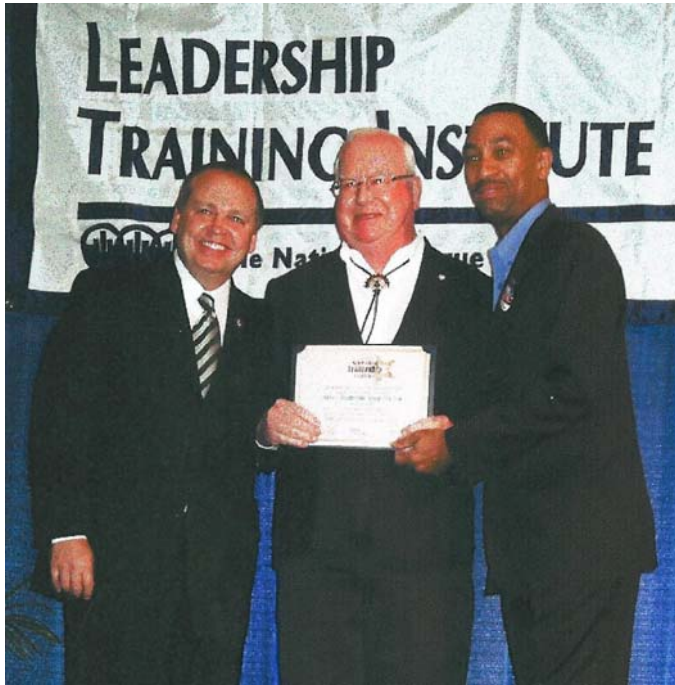
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Steve Henderson Receives NLC's Gold Level Status in Leadership Program



Roswell Mayor Pro Tem Steve Henderson (middle) receives NLC's Gold Level in its Certificate of Achievement Program from NLC President James Mitchell (right) and the Leadership Training Institute Chair Tony Thomas (left). (NLC photo)

Roswell Mayor Pro Tem Steve Henderson was recognized by the National League of Cities (NLC) for reaching the Gold Level in its Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program. Sponsored by the NLC Leadership Training Institute (LTI), the award was presented in Washington, D.C. by James E. Mitchell, Jr., NLC President and Tony Thomas, LTI Chair in March.

To achieve the Gold Level, a local official must earn 50 credits encompassing all five core competency areas of the LTI curriculum, referred to as "Cornerstone, Competent Practitioner, Communicator, Collaborator and "Catalyst."

Henderson is one of the fewer than 210 NLC members to have reached the Gold Level in the Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program since its inception.

NLC is committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of our nation's local elected officials. Each training seminar addresses one or more of the core areas of municipal leadership, including person leadership growth and development, effective governance, effective communications, skills in developing and promoting partnerships and managing change. The Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program was established in 1999. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

Henderson serves as a "Member at Large" on the New Mexico Municipal League Board of Directors and is in his third term as a Roswell City Councilor and currently serves as City Finance Committee Chair.

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Judy Stubbs Elected WMA Vice Chair

At their spring meeting held during NLC's recent Congressional City Conference, members of the Western Municipal Association (WMA) elected Roswell, New Mexico City Councilor Judy Stubbs as WMA Vice Chair to complete the term of former Scottsdale, Arizona City Council Member Wayne Ecton, who lost his re-election bid last November and was, therefore, no longer eligible to remain as a WMA officer.

In thanking WMA members for their support, Ms. Stubbs said that she "wants to be a part of furthering the purpose of the Western Municipal Association and building understanding of the challenging issues facing WMA member states."

Councilor Stubbs has been an active member of the New Mexico Municipal League for 15 years, serving twice as President and in other offices, as well. She has chaired several NMML Resolutions and Policy Committees, Budget and By-laws Committees, and meetings of the NMML Board of Directors, including annual Board meetings. She has attended both NLC's Congress of Cities and Congressional City Conference several times and has served on a variety of NLC policy committees. WMA Chair Lou Ogden, Mayor of Tualatin, Oregon, welcomed Councilor Stubbs to the WMA leadership and said that she will be a great working partner for him and an effective leader for WMA members.

Chair Ogden reiterated the purposes of the WMA – strong advocacy on issues affecting municipal governments in the West; exchange of information and research on current issues and emerging trends among WMA member leagues; and effective collaboration and communication among western state and local public officials and their associations – and how those purposes fit into NLC's mission.

Emerging Issues: Big Think Books See Big Roles for Cities in Big Global Changes

by Bill Barnes

A flotilla of Big Think Books (BTBs) about cities has heaved into view.

Five recent BTBs come from brand name authors, each with major capacity to produce and distribute. Glaeser, Florida, Kotkin, Calthorpe and Kasarda may not be household names, but they have places in the lesser pantheon of economics and urban affairs.

This column and next week's provide a glimpse of key themes in each of these BTBs and some analysis of the controversial issues on which the authors agree and disagree.

Economy in Places

Most significantly, all of the books treat the futures of cities, urbanism and spatial patterns of settlement as key components of global economic transformation rather than as backwater topics or separate but not-too-important phenomena.

This perspective puts place (cities, towns, regions) at the center of the "change" discussion. It's a welcome grounding of the abstractions that dominate too much grand policy discourse. Those abstractions unconvincingly treat

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Big Think Books . . . continued from page 4

economic, social, and technological developments as if they occur everywhere but nowhere in particular — up in the air.

In “The Great Reset,” Richard Florida offers the most elaborate framework for the urban/economic connection. He organizes the past 150 years as three “Great Resets,” each involving a basic shift in economic trends and a “new spatial fix” that went with it. Late 19th century industrialization was accompanied by huge industrial cities.

The mid-20th century Reset comprised technological innovation and consumerism and their spatial partner, suburbanization. The current Reset is rooted in the “idea-driven knowledge economy that runs more on brains than brawn” and in the limitations of the suburban model of development. “Megaregions” will be the spatial fix for this new era. They will require and thrive on new infrastructure needed for increased physical mobility, including high speed rail.

BTBs such as Florida’s are especially good at moving readers out of the routines that fill our days and into places with wider horizons. A reliable expert on books and life, the poet Emily Dickenson assures us that “there is no Frigate like a Book to take us Lands away.”

You might also view these books as competing narratives about the future of cities and regions. The operating visions that leaders and citizens use to think about the future of their communities are implicitly rooted in such stories. So it’s worth assessing these broad narratives as a way to test the feasibility of the local vision.

BTBs are the kind of publications that spell their Big Ideas with capital letters. A significant downside of BTBs, of course, is that their Big Theories tend toward the one-size-fits-all fallacy. Hedgehog thinking sells books; real life is mainly about fox thinking.

Cities and Suburbs

The BTB most recently in the spotlight is Edward Glaeser’s “The Triumph of the City.” (See Neal Pierce on Glaeser’s book in the [February 21 issue of Nation’s Cities Weekly](#).)

At a recent event at the World Bank’s Washington headquarters, Glaeser said that cities are the “crucial connectors” across the world and that the “key city characteristic” is bringing people together to learn from and stimulate each other. He’s against “sprawl” and he tends to focus on “great cities” or at least the dense, tall parts of them, like the Manhattan where he grew up.

There’s not much in the book about actual community life excepting Glaeser’s preference for taller buildings and less historic preservation in places where space is unaffordable and his personal distaste for “leafy living” in the suburbs.

Other BTB authors describe a future for cities and suburbs that contrasts with Glaeser’s preference for the Manhattan model. Joel Kotkin, in “The Next Hundred Million,” predicts “suburbia will probably remain the focal point of innovations in development.”

He says there will be a few large, dense “productive resorts — places adapted both to business and recreation — for the elite and those who work for them.” Newer “cities of

aspiration,” especially in the Sunbelt, will take on more of the urban functions for “upward mobility.”

Peter Calthorpe’s “Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change” is wisely less concerned with the unproductive city versus suburb argument. Calthorpe, a co-founder of the Congress for New Urbanism, argues that city and suburb should be integrated in “sustainable regions” that are characterized by “traditional urbanism” — walkable, mixed use, rich in public life. His book aims to “quantify many of the co-benefits that complement the carbon reductions of a more sustainable urban form.”

Florida also declares there “is no . . . city versus suburb, winner takes all battle” debate. Rather they are all part of the “new spatial fix,” the “megaregion.”

Perhaps these books and the discussions they provoke might help get us past the dead-end city versus suburb obsession and into a more sophisticated and useful exploration of inter-local and regional possibilities.

Bill Barnes is the director for emerging issues at NLC. Comments about his column, which appears regularly in Nation’s Cities Weekly, and ideas about “emerging issue” topics can be sent to him at barnes@nlc.org

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MANAGEMENT BEAT . . . continued from page 1

local pension systems in California, reports the *Sacramento Bee*. The list of “sweeping and sometimes vague” changes is less dramatic than those proposed last month by the Little Hoover Commission, an independent watchdog agency, but still quite significant. The proposals would impose a cap on benefits, prohibit public employers from skipping their annual pension contributions, curb the practice of pension “spiking” by defining compensation as regular pay and prohibit public agencies from making retroactive pension benefit increases, among other changes. Republicans in the legislature called for additional details and are demanding that pension changes be put before voters so that they will be more difficult for future legislatures to alter.

RÉSUMÉS, PLEASE: Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper is asking about 100 senior managers in agencies across state government to re-apply for their jobs, citing the need to make government more efficient, reports *The Denver Post*. Under Colorado’s structure, there are 96 high-level managers in the senior executive service who work under annual contracts for up to 25 percent higher pay than other managers but forego civil service protections. The Department of Agriculture, for example, has three managers whom the governor is asking to re-apply: the deputy director, the general manager of the state fair and the state veterinarian. “They are all good people,” John Salazar, the department director, told the *Post*. “I talked to all of them, and they’re fine. I plan to rehire them unless there’s some superstar out there I don’t know anything about.”

WORKWEEK EXPERIMENT: Utah’s four-day workweek program for state workers has received high marks from employees and saved the state money since it was put into place in 2008 in an attempt to cut down on energy costs. But driven by complaints from consumers about lack of government services on Friday, the legislature passed a bill that would move the state back to a traditional Monday through Friday schedule, reports the *Deseret News*. Governor Gary Herbert vetoed the bill, saying that he would instead issue an executive order requiring state agencies to make all “critical, public-facing services” available on Fridays. Herbert said in a statement that he vetoed the bill because “the people of Utah have grown accustomed to extended Monday through Thursday hours” and the change “would be too disruptive, and simply bad policy.”

BARGAINING ON BARGAINING: Nebraska’s legislature, which had been considering various proposals to end or severely limit collective bargaining rights for state employees, has turned to a compromise proposal in the hopes of avoiding the tumult that has engulfed Wisconsin in recent weeks, reports the *Lincoln Journal Star*. Current Nebraska law gives the power to settle labor disputes between public workers and their employers to a Commission on Industrial Relations. But cities have complained that those settlements are inconsistent and unpredictable. The compromise plan lays out criteria for the Commission to use in settling disputes, sets standards for making wage comparisons among public and private employers, and requires the Commission to consider not just wages but also benefits when making comparisons, among other changes. “We explored virtually every aspect of the employer-employee relationship,” state Senator Steve Lathrop, chairman of the Business and Labor Committee, told the *Journal Star*. “It’s a comprehensive and meaningful response to the call for change.”

Contact Melissa Maynard at mmaynard@stateline.org