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HARRY LYNCH / NEWS & OBSERVER

Page 4



Page 14



Page 23



AMY LEANG / NEWS & OBSERVER

Page 33

ON THE COVER

Following last fall's anthrax-letter attacks, U.S. residents were wary of what their mailboxes might contain.

FEATURE ARTICLES

4 Unnatural Disasters: Bioterrorism and the Role of Government

Jill D. Moore

Local governments are most likely to be the first units that will need to respond in the event of a bioterrorist attack. This article identifies some key issues they face in planning for bioterrorism. It also offers basic information about the biological and chemical agents of particular concern.

14 The Fiscal Impact of Medicaid on North Carolina Counties

John L. Saxon

North Carolina's counties share with the state and federal government the responsibility for funding Medicaid. The recent economic recession, shortfalls in tax revenues, and rapidly increasing Medicaid costs have caused significant fiscal problems for the counties. What can be done to reduce or equalize the burden on them?

23 So You Want to Do a Survey . . .

Maureen Berner, Ashley Bowers, and Laura Heyman

Surveys are becoming an increasingly popular tool of local governments. What types of surveys are local governments using, and what are the advantages and the disadvantages of each?

33 Deciding to Fund Nonprofits: Key Questions

Margaret Henderson, Lydian Altman-Sauer, and Gordon Whitaker

Everyone wants guidance in making tough funding decisions. This article describes six questions that local officials should consider in designing a funding process for nonprofits.

DEPARTMENTS

2 NC Journal

Counties Not Liable for Injuries Sustained in Criminal Attacks in Courthouses • Former M.P.A. Program Director Lauded for Accomplishments • October 2002 Deadline for HIPAA Compliance Plans

40 At the Institute

Gladys Hall Coates Celebrates 100 Years • Wicker Receives Chancellor's Award