DIGEST

Around and About

NEW HOMES: Five juvenile courts have been moved from overcrowded Eastlake and Metro Annex to the seventh floor of the Criminal Courts building downtown . . . The Interns and Resident Physicians building will be dedicated tomorrow morning (June 29) at Martin Luther King hospital; it will house 216 doctors . . . Health Services computer operations will move from County-USC Medical Center to Downey next January.

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THE CITIZENS economy and efficiency commission is scheduled to report back to the Board of Supervisors July 9 on its opinion of Supervisor James Hayes' proposal to create an "elite" unit of 15 to 20 auditors and investigators who would work for the Board and report to it on selected County operations.

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ACCOLADES: From the National Association of Counties, ten awards to L.A. County for its purchasing procedures, tax payment system, traffic management, Model Neighborhood program, South Bay bicycle path, et al. . . . From the American Public Works association, recognition for County engineer Harvey Brandt as one of the "Top Ten Public Works Men" for 1974.

JUNE 28
1974
Volume 7 Number 5

HEALTH PLANS:

Rates Up, But Deductions Down

DIRECTOR OF personnel Gordon Nesvig will ask the Board of Supervisors in early July to approve the new, higher health plan insurance rates that have been announced by the four County-sponsored health plans—Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Kaiser, and Ross-Loos.

Because the rate increase has slowed down, compared with last year, Nesvig said the new rates will be more than offset by the $5 a month boost in the County's health plan contribution, starting July 1.

Net result will be that health plan deductions will drop 99 cents to $4.39 a month, depending on the type of coverage.

Health plan rates are revised each summer in response to changes in medical care costs.

The changes in health plan deductions will be reflected in the Aug. 9 paychecks—the same checks that will show 1974-75 pay increases for most County employees.

The auditor-controller will automatically adjust the changed rates for Aug. 9 with no action required by the 58,000 County subscribers to the four health plans.

Workers who carry health insurance for themselves only will continue to find no deductions from their paychecks. The County pays their entire premium. The same is true for employees subscribing only to Blue Shield's hospital-only coverage.

For others, the drop in deductions will be:

BLUE CROSS. Coverage for an employee and one dependent, $3.65 less a month. For an employee and two or more dependents (family coverage), $3.49 less a month.

BLUE SHIELD. For employee and one dependent, $3.01 less. For family coverage, $2.76 less.

ROSS-LOOS. For employee and one dependent, $4.39 less. For family coverage, $2.57 less.

KAISER. For employee and one dependent, $2.16 less. For family coverage, 99 cents less per month.

Nesvig said the employees who carry Blue Shield's hospital-only plan as an extra policy along with

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Pay Pacts Adopted

THE BOARD of Supervisors last Tuesday (June 25) adopted agreements granting pay increases to five late-signing units of 5,700 County nurses, supervisory peace officers, attorneys, and corrections officers. The increases, averaging 7 to 8 percent, are comparable to the 1974-75 raises already voted for 35 other units whose salary year begins next Monday (July 1).

Only two units of the July 1 group are still locked in negotiations. They are nonsupervisory peace officers, with 4,200 members, and a small unit of 50 public defender investigators.

On other employee relations developments:

• LACEA Local 660 has replaced California Nurses association as bargaining representative for both the supervisory and nonsupervisory units of registered nurses. A count of ballots in a runoff election (June

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Some Jobs Frozen

THE BOARD of Supervisors, during its 1974-75 budget deliberations this week, voted to save $26 million by freezing or deleting 1,130 proposed new positions and sharply reducing hiring to fill future vacancies when employees leave.

By freezing 1,000 of the 1,564 new jobs proposed by CAO Arthur Will and deleting 130 planned for DPSS the Board reduced the budget $18 million.

Supervisors also directed Will to save $8 million by shrinking the County's 80,000 work force by 2 percent, or 1,600 positions. The shrinkage would involve no layoffs of County employees. Instead, jobs left vacant by resignation, retirement, or death would remain unfilled unless the CAO and Board of Supervisors approved a replacement.

3 Incumbents Coast In

THREE COUNTY incumbents won easy reelection in the June 4 primary. The primary results also set the scene for a vigorous runoff next November to fill the seat of retiring Third District Supervisor Ernest Debs.

Sheriff Peter Pitchess got 78 percent of the vote against three opponents, Assessor Philip Watson 75 percent with two opponents, and First District Supervisor Pete Schabarum, facing two contenders, got 71 percent of the total vote.

Among the ten candidates seeking Debs' seat, Los Angeles City councilman Ed Edelman won 33 percent of the vote and his fellow councilman, John Ferraro, 26 percent. They will settle the matter Nov. 5

Mrs. Campbell Named

MRS. LENORE Campbell, 61, has been named director of adoptions. The Board of Supervisors appointed her (May 28) to the post she had held on an acting basis since Walter Heath's retirement in April last year. Mrs. Campbell started with the department in 1961 as a part-time child welfare worker.

PAY PACTS

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13) to determine who should represent the supervisory nurses showed 233 for Local 660, 158 for CNA.

• The County's first, and so far only, gilt-edge union has disbanded. The unit, including 100 engineering administrators earning up to $31,000 a year, was formed last July with California Association of Professional Employees as its representative. Last month 63 of the 100 members petitioned the employee relations commission to decertify CAPE as their representative. ERCOM granted the request (June 3) with no objection from CAPE.

HEALTH PLANS

(Continued from page 1)

another health plan, and so must pay the entire premium themselves, will have increases of 93 cents a month for an employee-only policy, $2.29 more for an employee and one dependent, and $3.29 more a month for family coverage.

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An open enrollment period for all County-sponsored health plans has been scheduled for next October. Details will appear in a forthcoming DIGEST.

Retirements:

THE RETIREMENT board has announced the departure of six employees with more than 30 years County service. They are:

Alice Alvord and Edwin Skinner, health services; Albert Gray and Harry Sholes, road department; Hilda Markowitz, public defender; and Rolland Orsat, parks.

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GOVERNOR REAGAN has signed Assembly Bill 3232 (June 19), which permits retirement allowances of County employees to be increased 4, 5 or 6 percent a year, if justified by rises in the federal cost-of-living index. Present law permits increases no greater than 3 percent a year.

AB 3232 goes into effect in a county only if adopted by its Board of Supervisors.

Deduction Changes

AUDITOR - CONTROLLER Mark Bloodgood has sent instructions to departmental payroll clerks on how to handle employees who want to start, stop, or change voluntary paycheck deductions.

If an employee is dealing with a credit union, labor organization, or similar outside-the-County group, Bloodgood said the staffer should send his request—either to start or stop a deduction—directly to the group involved. Forms for these authorizations are furnished by each department's payroll office. The outside organization then will forward the requested change to the auditor-controller.

For other types of deductions, the employee deals only with his departmental payroll office. These deductions include those for County-sponsored life or health insurance, AID, U.S. savings bonds, and changes in withholding for state and federal income taxes.

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BLOODGOOD URGED the 8,000 employees who signed up for new life insurance or accidental death and dismemberment policies during the recent open enrollment to inspect their July 10 paycheck stubs to be sure the proper amount is being deducted for premiums.

Life insurance deductions will appear opposite one of deduction codes 11 through 16. The accidental death policy deduction will be opposite either code 17 or 18.

An employee who detects any errors should call the County insurance office, 974-2474.

County of Los Angeles
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