



# DIGEST

MARCH 30, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



*President Bush, right, and Sheriff Sherman Block at the North County Correctional Facility in Saugus.*

## Bush Tours, Praises 'Super Max'

In a historical first for the County, President George Bush dedicated and toured the Sheriff Department's new maximum-security jail in Saugus and praised the department for its "war on crime."

The March 1 ribbon-cutting visit marked the first time a U.S. president traveled to the County to dedicate a correctional facility.

In a 10-minute speech to about 2,500 law enforcement and civic officials, the president praised the "state of the art" facility he dubbed "Super Max" and the department for its tough anti-crime stance.

"Yours is the largest sheriff's department in the world, 11,000 people fighting the good  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Employee Fraud Hotline Identifies Abuses

**A**fter 17 months in operation, the Employee Fraud Hotline has produced 313 referrals of fraud and other abuses, according to Auditor-Controller Mark H. Bloodgood.

In a report to the Board of Supervisors, Bloodgood reported that investigations into the referrals by the Auditor-Controller staff are ongoing with many already completed.

"The vast majority of County employees are honest, hardworking and do not want to be associated with the few who commit fraud or other types of abuses," Bloodgood said.

According to Bloodgood, employees wanting to rid the County work force of the few who tarnish the image of the majority is the basis for the hotline's success.

And although allegations of wrongdoing could not be proved in many cases, investigations often identified needed improvements in administrative and internal controls.

The Auditor-Controller also receives referrals of suspected criminal activity directly from departments.

In a recent, well-publicized investigation resulting from a referral by the Fire Department, an employee was sentenced to seven years in  
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## Persistence Pays Off for Personal Best Awardees



*Irene Riley: "You've got to keep thinking new money."*

Persistence not only pays off, it paid off in the millions for two County departments whose outstanding employees helped set precedents for future savings.

"I knew we would make it happen, I just didn't know when," Sue Stancil-Zavack said of the federal government reimbursing the County Department of Mental Health for \$6.3 million worth of client services.

Irene Riley describes her efforts to identify funding sources for Health Services as never-ending: "You've got to keep thinking new money," she said. That frame of mind resulted in the department receiving more than \$45 million in federal reimbursement. In short, neither of the recent Productivity Commission's Personal Best winners took no for an answer.  
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*Sue Stancil-Zavack: "Constant work, constant meetings and constant letter writing."*

## Bush Visits Saugus Prison

(Continued from page 1)

fight," he said. "I know every law enforcement officer here today wants only one thing, the chance to do his duty, uphold the law, and for that, you deserve our thanks. I know there have been difficulties . . . but don't let it get you down.

"You are society's unsung heroes," he added. "And I thank you for your service, not just to your community, but to our country."

With Sheriff Sherman Block as his guide, Bush toured the North County Correctional Facility, visiting the disciplinary cells and the central control room.

The \$134 million facility, designed to operate as five separate units, features three major vocational training programs in printing, bakery and clothing manufacturing. The training programs will help offset facility operation costs.

"In dedicating this facility, we are enhancing the efficiency of the criminal justice system," Block said. "And serving the safety needs and



Supervisor Mike Antonovich, at podium, is joined by, from left, Sheriff Sherman Block, President Bush and Supervisor Pete Schabarum during "Super Max" dedication.

concerns of the citizens of the County for many years to come."

Calling the 2,064 inmate capacity prison "perhaps the most modern facility in the country," Bush praised the prison's dedicated staff.

"As I walked through that facility with Sheriff Block just now and met some of the young

officers in there who are doing this kind of work, I'm saying to myself, 'This isn't the easy way,'" Bush said. "There are other ways that they could find to make a living that might be more easy, but it is the dedicated way. It is a way that really upholds the best in America's tradition of service."

## Fraud Hotline Targets Abuse

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prison for embezzlement.

Bloodgood cited numerous referrals resulting in criminal filings, dismissals and other disciplinary action:

- \* The District Attorney filed charges against a hospital administrator who paid staff members for overtime they did not work.
- \* A payroll clerk reported false overtime hours for three employees, resulting in a \$15,000 overpayment. The Sheriff is conducting an investigation.
- \* A County employee misappropriated a travel warrant. The employee, who was on probation for an unrelated matter, was dismissed and probation revoked. She was sent back to prison.
- \* An employee resigned after it was determined he was issuing food stamps to friends.
- \* Several hospital employees failed to work their shifts, an anonymous caller reported. They left work to perform errands or went home during their regular and overtime shifts. Department action is pending.

Callers can remain anonymous. In addition, employees who report improper activities are protected from retaliation by County ordinance. Hotline numbers are (800) 544-6861 or (213) 974-0914 for local calls. Or employees can write to: Employee Fraud Hotline, 320 W. Temple St., Room 380, Los Angeles 90012.

## Congratulations Retirees

Jack E. Rowe, Health Services, has retired after 41 years of County service. Our heartfelt congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

We salute and appreciate the following retirees and hope they will enjoy their well-deserved leisure time after more than 30 years of County service.

**Animal Care & Control:** Ernest L. Walker

**Assessor:** William F. Twitty, Jeanne M. Vidal

**Auditor-Controller:** John S. Rasmussen, Mary H. Sugiura, Keiko Tanaka

**Children's Services:** Virginia Benson, Sidney N. Schwarzbach, Barbara L. Terry, Marian C. Wellman

**Community/Senior Citizens Services:** Mario Rodriguez, Vincent G. Terry

**District Attorney:** Seth F. Easley, Jr., Ruth D. Forte

**Executive Office-Superior Court/County Clerk:** Esther C. Burgos, Ronald R. Mastro

**Fire:** Eldom C. Anderson, Ronald E. Martin, Johnnie L. Roberson, David L. Schwariger, Gerald R. Watts

**Health Services:** Leon Bottoms, Barbara Chapman, Gerrit D'Ablaing, Wanda E. Haas, Wilbegell K. McCarty, Adolph D. Nava, Norma H. Robertson, Shirley L. Smith, Masako Sugiura, Audrena D. Walker, Helen Esther Williams

**Human Relations Commission:** Roger A. Ragan

**Internal Services:** Jerry M. Allen, Samuel R. Davis, Charles P. Fletcher, Frank M. Garrison, George M. Hirokawa,

Frederick Humphrey, August M. Koch, Charline Moore, Everett L. Redd, Henry F. Roman, Gilbert Saiza, Walter B. Tannenbaum, Joseph V. Wilkins

**Mental Health:** Reginald DeCayette, Allen Johnson, Howard Jones, William C. Sledge

**Parks & Recreation:** Richard R. Cortez, Andres Esquivel

**Probation:** Robert A. Boysen, Roseann M. Brossard, Ruth Mae Bryant, Robert J. Di Simone, Theresa Ann Edwards, John J. Grdjan, Aiko Anne Kurosumi, Lorraine S. Smith, Sylvia E. Smith, Geraldine E. Wright

**Public Defender:** Richard E. Byrd, Leo Hargis, Eugene A. Moutes

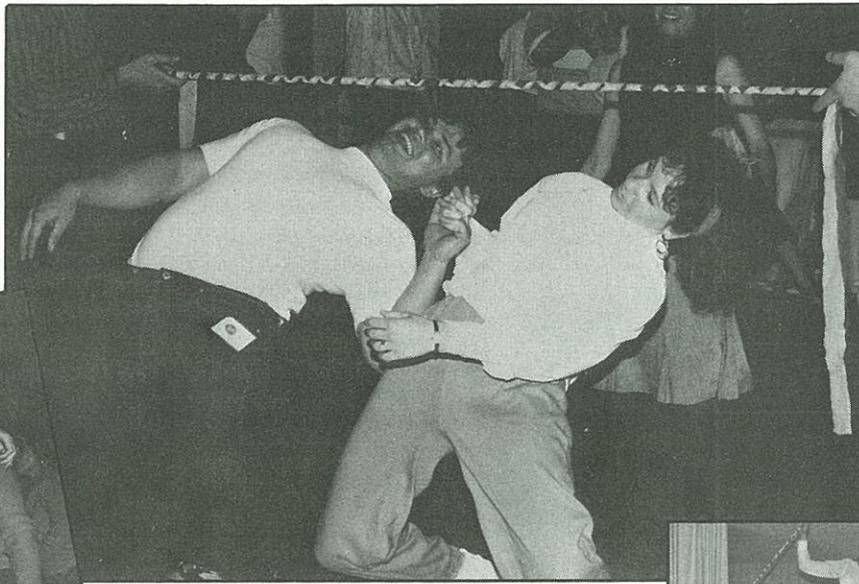
**Public Social Services:** Louie M. Bizer, Zelida M. Boyd, Claudette Doring, Renee L. Gorbitz, Rosalind W. Harris, Hazel Moody, Anita M. Pickard, Mildred B. Sampson

**Public Works:** Frank Aguerrebere, Jr., William E. Bernal, John E. Brown, Samuel Chee, Kenneth R. Clarke, Donald D. Donovan, Don G. Escandon, Arthur Gaetz, Harry H. Kondo, Andrew J. Kovacic, Masanori Nagami, Thomas T. Russi, Franklin E. Schroeter, John Sens, Paul A. Thorpe, Gary E. Wallick, Fred E. Waterworth, Robert M. White

**Registrar-Recorder:** Ruth Cobbs

**Sheriff:** Jack M. Anderson, Carlos O. Avila, Ronald C. Bailey, Eldon G. Burkett, Clarence G. Collins, Sammie L. Collins, Louis J. Derickson, Richard T. Freeman, Robert L. Gonzales, James R. Rupsa, Arthur V. Sierra, Bernard A. Thulemeyer, Lawrence Wallace, Don E. Webster, Robert C. West

Forever 50s: Poodle skirts keep the spirit alive.



It's Limbo Time: Going all out, 50s style, for the March of Dimes



Dance contestants prepare to strut their stuff at Pre-Walk-America "Back to the Fifties" dance at the Glendora Woman's Club.

## Pre-WalkAmerica Cool Cats and Chicks Gather for 50s Bash



Some arrived in poodle skirts and angora sweaters while others sported black leather jackets and Brylcreem.

And with the melodies of "Duke of Earl" and "Wipeout" floating through the air, about 150 people danced the night away at the March of Dimes Pre-WalkAmerica "Back to the Fifties" dance and pizza party.

The March 3 event at the Glendora Woman's Club served as a kick-off celebration for the 20th Annual WalkAmerica on April 28. Bonelli Regional Park in the San Gabriel Valley is the official County walk site.

"The food, prizes and music were great," Juanita Childs, March of Dimes special events coordinator, said. "We netted \$3,000 which will

help cut costs for the walk."

Highlights of the party included a dance and limbo contest, where County employees got low but not low enough to win any prizes.

All County workers are encouraged to participate in the largest walkathon in the country, where teams of families, friends and co-workers will get pledges for trekking the nine-mile route.

Last year, the County team joined thousands of other walkers in 1,300 communities across the country to raise \$42 million for the prevention of birth defects through March of Dimes sponsored research and programs.

This year, the route features shaded trails, lake side paths and three rest stops. Other spe-

cial features include a continental breakfast, County team photos, restrooms at each stop, and a wrap-up picnic featuring free hot dogs, soda and a live band.

Festivities for the 8:30 a.m. walk, including aerobic stretching exercises and disc jockey entertainment, start at 7:30 a.m. Bonelli Regional Park is located at 120 Via Verde in San Dimas.

Anyone wanting to volunteer with registration, checking in finishers, or as "cheerleaders" to encourage walkers, call Mary Sherman-Jones, Department of Public Social Services, (213) 881-5374. For additional information, call Ruben Davalos, countywide WalkAmerica coordinator, (213) 974-1759.



## CENSUS '90 A FINAL REMINDER

April 1 marks the date census workers start tabulating a projected 106 million questionnaires. If you have completed and mailed in your questionnaire, the County Board of Supervisors and County Census Coordinator Charles Weissburd thank you for your support and participation.

If you have not received or completed your bicentennial census questionnaire, please con-

tact the Los Angeles Regional Census Center, (213) 253-1275.

After the questionnaires are processed, local census bureau officials will conduct a post-census review and provide President Bush with local population counts.

### ASPA Panel Discussion

A panel discussion on diversity in local government, hosted by the County CAO Management Trainees' class of 1989, takes place April 10 at 2 p.m. at the Westin Bonaventure.

The event is part of the American Society of Public Administration National Conference. For more information, call: 974-1089.

## THE FUTURE IS YOURS . . .

New education features for U.S. Savings Bonds can benefit adults as well as children.



U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

## Blue Line Unveiling



Supervisor Kenneth Hahn unveils the logo and cars for the Metro Blue Line rail project during a recent news conference. Hahn was joined by, from left, Ray Grabinski, Long Beach City councilman and vice chairperson for the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission; Joan Milke Flores, Los Angeles City councilwoman; and Los Angeles Rapid Transit District President Gordana Swanson.

"Today represents the rebirth of the red cars in Los Angeles County and I am proud to be a part of this great occasion," said Hahn, lauded as the "Father of Proposition A." The measure, which was approved by the voters in 1980, generates more than \$400 million a year for rail transit systems in the County, including the 22-mile Metro Blue Line. "I encourage all commuters to use this great transportation system when it begins operation in July 1990," he said. "By using the Blue Line, commuters can avoid rush-hour gridlock, help cut down on smog and enjoy a safe ride."

## Chamber Music Series Returns To County

"Sundays at Four," a weekly chamber music series free to the public, moves to the County Museum of Art beginning with the April 1 concert in the Leo S. Bing Theater, Supervisor Ed Edelman announced.

The 4 p.m. concert, broadcast live on KUSC-FM, will feature pianist Althea Waites and a chamber ensemble conducted by Mark Watters. The performance will include selections by Mozart, Copeland and Bloch.

In 1985, the City of Los Angeles took over

sponsorship of the program and moved it to Barnsdall Park. The upcoming April 1 concert marks its return to the County.

"This is an outstanding example of cooperation between the City and County of Los Angeles to bring benefits to our mutual constituencies," Edelman said. "I hope that County employees, their families and friends will take advantage of this opportunity and come to the museum to enjoy these wonderful musical concerts."

## Property Tax Time

Treasurer and Tax Collector Sandra Davis reminds employees and their families that property tax season has arrived.

Property taxes must be paid by 5 p.m., April 10. Mail payments must be postmarked by midnight, April 10, to avoid penalties.

Extended office hours (from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday) for the downtown Tax Collector's office take effect March 26. Special weekend hours occur on March 31 and April 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Taxpayer telephone assistance is available 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., weekdays at 974-2111.

## Be Earthquake Prepared

April is earthquake preparedness month in California, and the County is sponsoring five earthquake emergency preparedness exhibitions in each supervisorial district.

For more information, call Constance Romero, (213) 974-1454.

DATE	LOCATION
Saturday, March 31	Museum of Science and Industry

Saturday, April 7	Pacific Design Museum
Saturday, April 14	Lakewood Mall
Saturday, April 21	Santa Anita Fashion Park
Saturday and Sunday April 28-29	Palmdale City Hall

## Personal Best Awardees Show Persistence

(Continued from page 1)

Riley took the initiative in developing a statistical methodology for identifying foreign-born health patients eligible for amnesty funding.

One weekend at home with a federal accounting book and she learned how to draw random levels. The method not only took away the burden of counting every single eligible patient in every clinic and reporting weekly, it also resulted in a substantial increase in federal funds.

As acting chief of the Revenue Management Division, Stancil-Zavack was responsible for negotiating with the Medicare intermediary for the "incident to" billing project. When she learned that other regions received reimbursements for non-physician services, such as psychologists, nurses and staff, her challenge was to obtain a more favorable interpretation for the

local intermediary.

Stancil-Zavack said the two years leading up to the decision were filled with "constant work, constant meetings and constant letter writing."

Beyond persistence and awards, the two share even more in common.

The two worked together at Olive View Medical Center early in their County careers. Working on Medi-Cal eligibility and patient billings gave "invaluable experience" to workers with a future in revenue management, Riley said.

The two also give credit to their teams.

"The cooperation was incredible," Riley said. "You have to have a supportive team — staff and managers."

"They've all been good teachers," she said. "And now it's my turn to train, so other workers can grow in their responsibilities."

County of Los Angeles

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