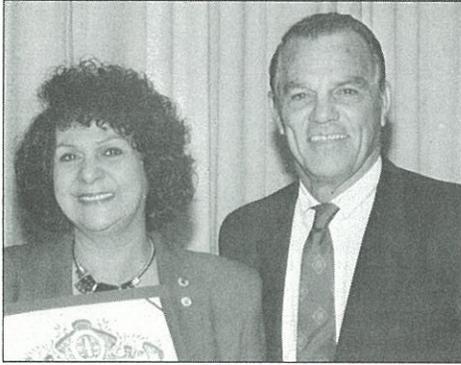




DIGEST

NOVEMBER 30, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Lupe Leyvas and Supervisor Pete Schabarum

Leyvas: A Different Kind of Firefighter

Lupe Leyvas built a reputation putting out fires in East Los Angeles. No, not as a firefighter, but as a General Relief Supervisor for the Department of Public Social Services.

Employee of the Month

(Continued on Page 2)

RACCOON? ANTEATER?

Bizarre Catch for Animal Care Dept.

It wasn't a typical complaint. The caller talked about a wild animal living in the city.

A snake, goat or zebra? Not quite. When Animal Control officers traveled to East Los Angeles in late September to investigate, they discovered a coati-mundi, a ring-tailed, long-nosed critter that lives mostly in South and Central America.

"Apparently it had been given to an East L.A. resident as a gift," said Kaye Michelson, a Department of Animal Care and Control spokeswoman. "Some of his neighbors were concerned, and the owner needed a special permit."



Frank Gil, a Downey Animal Care Center Sergeant, with his new buddy.

The owner turned the coati-mundi over to the Downey Animal Care Center, where employees bestowed the name Jeep, due to its high-pitched "jeeping" sounds.

"Coati-mundis are extremely rare in this area," said Department Director Frank Andrews. "They are commonly seen in New Mexico and Texas and south from Mexico (Continued on page 3)

Youth Boot Camps Open; Help for Area Drug Abusers

With hair shorn and boots shining, more than 200 teen-agers with drug abuse histories marched in military formation during opening ceremonies at the County's two youth boot camps.

The October 22 event formally opened camps Mendenhall and Munz, both in the San Gabriel Mountains near the small town of Lake Hughes. Teen-age drug abusers made wards of the court get a military regimen, combined with rigorous exercise, drug counseling and schooling at the camps.

Supervisor Mike Antonovich, who proposed the program, said "by replacing drugs with self-respect, we will teach these young men that manhood is judged by honor, righteousness and virtue, not gangs, drugs and crime."

The six- to eight-month intense Probation Department rehabilitation program began September 1 and involves 214 boys ages 16 to 18. And noting that 75 percent of the wards in County Probation camps have drug related problems, Antonovich said the boot camp program has three significant components: physical fitness, drug education and after care attention.

Upon discharge, probation officers will help the youths return to school, work or job training and monitor them to make sure they remain drug-free.



Supervisor Mike Antonovich, far left, and Chief Probation Officer Barry Nidorf watch more than 200 youth march in military formation during boot camp opening ceremonies.

Top Productivity Projects Save Taxpayers \$39 Million

DPSS, Mental Health Win Grand Prize

Ten award-winning County programs saved taxpayers \$39 million last year. And the Fourth Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Ceremonies in the Board Hearing Room October 30 honored these achievements.

Out of 292 submissions to the 9-year-old Productivity Commission, 10 projects were honored and received top honors from Supervisor Pete Schabarum.

The departments of Mental Health and Public Social Services captured the grand prize for "Medi-Cal/Mental Health Automated Match," which increased annual County revenues more than \$12 million by using a \$15,000 computer program. The monthly matching system allows some Mental Health services to be billed to the Medi-Cal program. Public Social Services Director Eddy Tanaka and Roberto Quiroz, Department of Mental Health Director, received the awards.



(L to R) Supervisor Pete Schabarum, Productivity Managers Network Chairwoman Linda Kaprielian, DPSS Director Eddy Tanaka, DMH Director Roberto Quiroz, DMH Productivity Manager Charles Lovely and Productivity Commission Chairman Jack Green.

Other award-winning departments included Children's Services, Community and Senior Citizens Services, Chief Medical Examiner-

Coroner, District Attorney, Health Services, Probation, Public Defender, Sheriff, Superior Court and Public Works.

Leyvas: October's Employee of the Month

(Continued from page 1)

Now, the Metro East District's trouble-shooter and crisis expert holds another title: October 1990 County Employee of the Month.

"Many times problematic clients will come into the office and specifically ask to speak to Ms. Leyvas because of her understanding demeanor," said Joe Delgado, Jr., a DPSS Deputy District Director.

But crisis intervention and trouble-shooting are only part of the picture. As a 22-year County veteran, Leyvas helped develop a "group" approach for processing general relief applications, cutting processing hours by 70 percent.

She also serves on numerous employee committees, including community support and productivity enhancement. And she received a 1990 Hispanic Employee Achievement Award from the Hispanic Managers Association. In addition, Leyvas has served for nine years on the Chicano Employees Association Board of Directors. She has also received a wide range of appreciation letters from political leaders and institutions.

And solving troublesome situations at work adds much joy to her life.

"Lives are ready to be touched and helped; all you have to do is reach out," she said. "It's definitely not an eight-to-five job."

Labor-Management Program Improves Arbitration, Representation Skills

In a historical first for the County, labor and management joined together for a three-day, September program aimed at improving employee representation and arbitration.

Management from 14 departments joined labor representatives from four County unions at the Marina del Rey Hotel and sharpened skills for dealing with civil service disciplinary cases and grievance arbitrations. With segments including cross and direct examinations as well as developing a case study, participants also attended a series of mock hearings.

"The advocacy training program was the first of its kind to involve both labor and management," said Chief Administrative Officer Richard Dixon. "It was a great success, and we look forward to hosting similar programs in the future."

Mark Burstein, Arbitrator and Trial Advocacy Adjunct Professor, served as training consultant.

The Chief Administrative Office has tentatively scheduled another joint labor-management training program for January or February and will invite all County unions and departments to attend.

Congratulations Retirees

With 40 years of dedicated service, Kathryn E. James, L.A. Municipal Court, leads this month's list of retirees. We hope that Kathryn enjoys her well-deserved leisure time.

Warm wishes and congratulations go to the following employees who are retiring after 30 years or more of County service:

Animal Care & Control: Lawrence Pickel
Fire: Bernard Hoyos, Earl E. Parker, Allen A. Watts, Jack O. Williams

Health Services: Odessa M. Matthews, Adeline Rizo, Henry Williams

Internal Services: Johnnie D. Jones

Probation: Richard M. Lindsay

Public Social Services: Yvonne Baker, David Case

Public Works: Donald W. Hinsberger, Mary Ellen Hunt, Eugene J. Reed

Best wishes are also extended to the following retirees with 25 years or more of County service:

Children's Services: Elana M. Belinkoff, Robert L. Foust

Health Services: John B. Gibson, Chie Kimoto, Henry L. Poindexter

Mental Health: David J. Lynch, John N. McFee Jr.

Municipal Courts: Linda Jo De Rossett, Paula E. Jones, Dorothy Kent

Probation: Geraldine E. Howard

Public Defender: Henry Tijerina

Public Works: Leroy Jenkins

Sheriff: James B. Dimas Sr., Robert F. Hogaboam, Everett E. Rasor



Reserve Deputy Grace Lesser and the Sunclassic golf cart.

Golf Cart Goes Off the Greens in Avalon

You won't spot it cruising the greens at the local golf course.

But in Avalon, a golf cart equipped with a two-way radio, siren, light bar and bicycle rack, is helping patrol the streets.

Yamaha Motor Corporation loaned the Sheriff's Department the Sunclassic golf cart for a six-month try out. Equipped with

removable doors, this is the department's first time using golf carts. If it makes the grade in Avalon, the department might use similar vehicles in shopping malls, parking lots and sporting events.

During the July 4 weekend, some of the department's 25 reserve deputies successfully put the vehicle to work.

New Computer Revolutionizes Paychecks

A three-month old computer system has revolutionized employee paychecks, increasing speed and accuracy of transactions such as bonuses, promotions and other payroll changes.

Installed August 15, the new system enables each County department and court to make personnel and payroll transactions at in-house terminals. Then, the data is transmitted electronically to a central payroll system that issues checks. Before, departments submitted changes to a central location staff.

The system reduces the time lag between the start of a transaction and its effective date and wipes out questions concerning the transaction's occurrence.

According to Richard Zern of the Chief Administrative Office, about 11,500 transactions occur each week. The system operates 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., driven by 350 terminals.

In addition, the County Wide Timekeeping and Payroll Personnel System, as it's called, can store a wide variety of information on employees including training, skills, emergency contacts and important dates.

Wild Catch In L.A.

(Continued from page 1)
to Paraguay."

As a member of the raccoon family, the critter sports a masked face. But a long flexible snout gives off a mini-anteater appearance. Department employees say the animal is about nine months old.

Meanwhile, Jeep's in a new home. He's been transported to a Tujunga area wildlife preserve where he enjoys the company of three other coati-mundis.

The department provides temporary shelter and seeks permanent homes for stray and wild animals. For more information, contact your local County Animal Care Center.

Gulf Crisis Help

Has one of your loved ones or a friend been sent to the Persian Gulf? Are you scared, feeling alone and having a difficult time functioning? Do you need caretaking for children of military personnel?

If you could use some emotional support during this stressful time, call the County Employee Assistance Program at (213) 744-4431.

Deputy D.A. Joins Wife On Superior Court Bench

Husband and Wife Judges are Unusual

You might say it's a judge heavy household. Or how about a marriage steeped in law and order. No matter what the term, husband and wife judges are unusual.

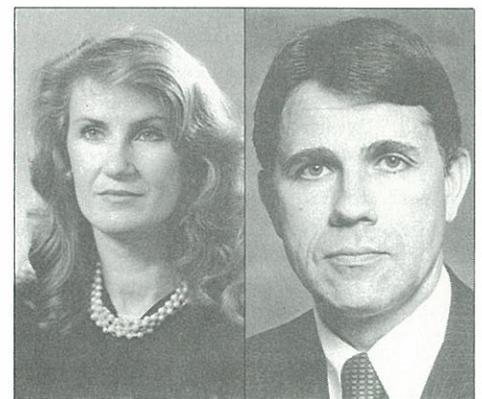
But the County recently got its second Superior Court judge couple when Gov. George Deukmejian appointed James Bascue to the Bench.

Bascue, a veteran Deputy District Attorney, was sworn in as a judge in September by his wife, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Connor. He's now working in the downtown Criminal Courts Building.

"That's quite a combination: the judges Bascue!" said Assistant District Attorney Curt Livesay.

"We're all excited," Bascue said. "There aren't too many two-judge households."

Only one other couple serves the County in the same capacity: Judge Jacqueline Weisberg, who presides over a West District courtroom in Santa Monica, and her husband,



Jacqueline Connor James Bascue

Judge Stanley Weisberg, who serves downtown.

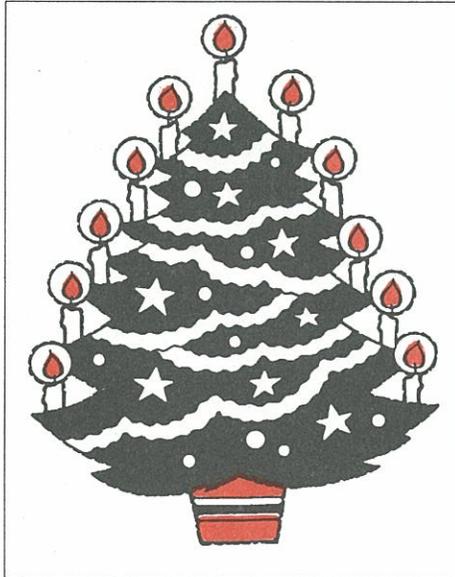
The appointment occurred just weeks before Bascue's expected return as a head Deputy District Attorney, after a three-year temporary assignment as chief trial counsel for the State Bar of California.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS: CHRISTMAS TREE PRECAUTIONS

No single item presents more fire danger in our homes than a dry Christmas tree. Even one treated with flame retardant can be consumed with fire in seconds if you don't keep it fresh. A few tips from the County Fire Department can lead the way to a safe Christmas tree:

MAKE A FRESH CUT - Make a fresh cut at the base to open up the veins clogged by the sap. The cut surface should be creamy white. Otherwise, the tree will be unable to absorb any water. You may have to drill a hole in the trunk to accommodate the pin type stands. After the cut is made and the hole drilled, put the tree in water immediately so as not to allow the sap to re-seal the trunk.

PUT IN WATER - If the tree is not going indoors right away, store it in a bucket of water in a cool place out of the wind and sun. Choose a sturdy stand which holds at least one gallon of water. Rinse the tree stand with a mixture of one capful of bleach and one cup of water prior to inserting the tree. This rinsing reduces the growth of micro-organisms which can



block the tree's ability to absorb water.

WATER DAILY - An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water daily. If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form and no more water will be absorbed. So don't

forget to add water daily. This includes flame retardant treated trees, too.

USE MINI-LIGHTS - Mini-lights produce much less heat and reduce the drying effect upon the tree. Always check the light set for frayed wires, cracked insulation or broken plugs before use. Do not attempt to repair a worn light set. Throw it away and buy a new set. Always turn off tree lights when leaving the house or going to bed.

KEEP AWAY FROM HEAT - Position the tree away from heat sources such as heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, television sets or sunny windows. Avoid blocking a door or escape route with the tree or rearranged furniture.

REMOVE THE TREE PROMPTLY - After Christmas, before the tree dries, remove it from the house for pick-up by your disposal service or your local chipping and compost program. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace. It burns too hot and too fast, jeopardizing everyone in the house.

HELPING OTHERS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

What if your family and friends stopped calling, visiting and caring about you? That's the sad state for most of the 2,200 elderly or disabled people cared for by the Department of Mental Health's Office of the Public Guardian.

The Public Guardian Volunteers' Holiday Project, which seeks to give these people a gift and a volunteer's visit, is looking for help. Volunteers are needed to deliver a wrapped gift bought with donated funds.

The gifts, now at the Office of the Public Guardian, 320 W. Temple St., Ninth Floor, Los Angeles, will need to be sorted by volunteers. Address labels for all 2,200 gifts should be ready by November 19.

Volunteers are needed to pick up gifts November 26 and thereafter to be distributed countywide. To volunteer, call (213) 974-0400, and ask for Joan or Chris.



Cleaning up the Air: How Can I Help?

1. Keep your car's air conditioner working properly
2. Never top off your tank
3. Keep your engine well-tuned
4. Combine errands into one trip
5. Drive on radial tires
6. Cooperate with the state's smog-check program
7. Report smoking vehicles (toll free) 1-800-CUT-SMOG

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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