

# RECORD TIMES

The eMagazine

October  
2023

Vol. 29 / No. 10

A monthly magazine for employees of the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office

## The Budget COUNTEsses



## The acCOUNT TRACKula Team

*The Management Resources Team is scary good at tracking the budget/expenditure accounts for the Office*

If a Halloween-type name were created for the Office's **Management Resources (MR) Team**, an appropriate one for them just might be, "acCOUNT TRACKula!" The reason being is the four-member team *sinks their teeth* with precision into keeping *TRACK* of the many budget *ACCOUNTS* for the Office.

MR is not often seen by most staff, but their work efforts soar throughout the day. Due to the nature of their work, they work diligently behind their desks crunching numbers in the Downtown Justice Center where they maintain all the auditable records of the Office's budget/expenditures.

"Every dollar expended crosses our desks," Comptroller **Anita Avila** said.

### Some other interesting facts about MR are:

- They process approximately **\$4.5 million dollars** in expenses each month. This means tons of office supplies, payment of services, equipment, travel, software, leases, etc., are managed by this awesome staff!
- They renew almost **\$3 million** of software licenses at different times a year requiring a complex MR database to track multi-year payments and maintenance renewals.
- A major task of theirs is the management and preparation of the Office's budget. They are directly responsible for tracking and managing close to **\$56 million**.
- In addition, the MR staff help review processes (especially those affecting purchasing), many times assisting areas with their printing, ordering and/or stamp requirements. They are currently working on reviewing bulk envelopes, rapid print needs and mail tracking.

So this Halloween, let's give a *scream* and a *holler* to **Anita Avila, Jannet Ortega, Diana Hoover,** and **Salma Ramos** of the MR Team for their *cape-tivating* work each day!

## Are you **PUMP**ed up for Annual Contests?



Employees will have two different contests this Fall season to be PUMPKined up about – **The Employee Costume Contest** and the **Paws-tume Contest**. To learn more about these annual contests, see the articles on [page 12](#). The contests provide a chance to see who will *carve out* a win for best costume!

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# CLERK CONNECTION

## The upcoming remodeling of the two Southeast facilities

by Mike Nimtz, Executive Team Director



SEA Lobby design rendering



SEA Breakroom design rendering

Clerk's Office staff and those we serve stand to significantly benefit from two large remodel projects kicking off within the next couple months. This November, the **Southeast Juvenile Regional Facility (SEJ)** will be closing in entirety for an estimated two-year-long renovation. Once reopened, this nearly 70,000 square-foot facility will have additional courtroom capacity and much improved utilization of overall space. During SEJ's closure, Clerk's Juvenile staff are relocating to various other court facilities, including the Southeast Adult Regional Facility (SEA), where the SEJ File Counter will be temporarily located.

The Clerk's Office **Southeast Adult** space is also slated for a remodel, with the first phase of construction tentatively scheduled for late 2023/early 2024. This project will deliver many benefits, including improved efficiency through a consolidated file counter, enhanced security, dedicated courtroom services workspace, an expanded multi-purpose room, and a functional breakroom. The SEA renovation is estimated to last eight to 12 months. Through a multi-phase approach, temporary workspace accommodations within SEA, and communication efforts, we will strive to minimize the impact to staff and customers.

## Tis the season for "Merry-copa!"



Each year after Halloween is over, the opportunity for a temporary name change is merited for "Maricopa County" due to the specific generosity of Clerk of the Court employees during their Annual Holiday Drive. The name of "Merry-copa County" becomes a little more reflective because of the efforts of Clerk employees to make the holidays merrier for those in need.

Like previous years, the Clerk's Office will be conducting its annual **"Merry-copa" Holiday Drive** during the months of

November and December. The Drive includes the following activities:

- ▶ **Socks Drive**, which will be held Nov. 7 - Dec. 6. Over the past 22 years, the Office staff have donated a total of **6,799 pairs of socks**. It is just 201 pairs of socks short of reaching the **7,000 mark** this year. Last year, staff donated 339 pairs of socks.
- ▶ **Toys for Tots Drive**, which will be held Nov. 13 - Dec. 11. Over the past 19 years, the Office staff have donated a total of 4,499 toys. Last year, staff donated 128 new toys.

Donation boxes will be set up in breakrooms throughout the Office. More details to come.

# CLERK CONNECTION

## An event-FALL season for the Office

The Fall season has arrived, but it seems to be more like Spring for the Office because of the activities and events that have been springing up for staff. Here are the reasons why:

**NEW HIRE LUNCHEON** - On Oct. 4, the Office held a **New Hire Luncheon** for **12 newly-hired employees**. The luncheons are held to welcome new staff, meet with leaders, answer their questions, and help integrate them into the organization.



**OFFICE TOUR** - On Oct. 12, Clerk of the Court **Jeff Fine** led a tour for a group of more than **30 visiting students and professors** from Paradise Valley Community College. The group was a part of a Criminal Justice studies program and they were interested in learning about the functions of the Office. Jeff gave a short overall presentation of the Office and then they toured Public Records, Court Operations, and met with Superior Court Judge Pamela Gates.



**FARMER'S MARKET** - On October 14, the Employee Communications & Outreach Work Group sponsored a booth at a local Farmer's Market in Phoenix. **Four staff members** volunteered (**Tiarra Haas, Nikki Swiss, Brian Turner, and Vanessa Martinez**) to speak to the public about marriage licenses and passport services at the Market.



**PUBLIC WEBINAR** - On Oct. 26, the Communications and Outreach Team is sponsoring a **Public Webinar** titled "Consent Decrees and Spousal Maintenance." The panelists from the Office leading the presentation are Administrator **Nikki Swiss** and Supervisor **Joana White**. The webinar will help walk attendees through the process of submitting these actions using eFileAZ, break down what happens after Consent Decrees and other stipulated agreements are submitted, and discuss how spousal maintenance process works, along with other ways to file.

**VOLUNTEER LAKE CLEAN-UP** - On Oct. 30, the Communications and Outreach Team is sponsoring a community effort that helps beautify the environment called the **Lake Pleasant Clean-up**. Staff can volunteer for two hours (6 - 8 a.m.) to help with the clean up at Lake Pleasant. If you are interested here's where to [register](#) through Work Day.

**PROJECT RESTORE** - On Saturday, Nov. 4, Juvenile Durango staff members **Rachel Robles, Andrea Rodriguez, Nallely Garcia, and Carmen Camacho** will be assisting with the **"Project Restore 2023: My Record & My Rights"** event held at the Durango Juvenile facility. The event is being held for those who have a juvenile delinquency or diversion record and may be eligible for: destruction of records, restoration of civil rights, set aside of a juvenile adjudication, or expungement of marijuana offenses.

**NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY** - On Saturday, Nov. 18, many Juvenile Clerk staff members will be assisting with the **Annual National Adoption Day** event being held at Durango Juvenile. Last year, **17 Clerk employees** assisted with the event where more than **110 children** were adopted at the event.



# Clerk Work

News/articles about the work of the Clerk

## A new way to show some graTREEtude in the Office



Over the last year, “Gratitude Trees” have sprouted up along the Office walls in different locations. Gratitude Trees were developed by the **Employee Recognition and Engagement (E.R.E.) Work Group** as a way for staff to express their gratitude to their co-workers by writing encouraging messages on the leaf-shaped post-it notes. The leaves have filled the trees with kind, positive remarks from co-workers over the last several months in the Office areas of the trees.

### A New, Unbe-leaf-able Idea To Give Gratitude

However, even though the Fall Season has arrived outside the Office when the actual leaves are falling off of trees, the E.R.E. Group would like the reverse to happen inside the Office by having the **leaves fall onto its Gratitude trees** by introducing a new *tree-mendous* idea. Like actual wind that blows leaves to different locations, **why not write a gratitude leaf and send it in the direction of a co-worker at another office location to be put on their area's gratitude tree?** The Gratitude Leaf can be sent to the co-worker and/or the co-worker's supervisor. The ERE is hoping staff really *Fall* in love with this idea and *leaf* their impression on another office area's staff.

## Rustle up the leafs by expressing your gratitude on trees

by Kimmi DeSanna, Employee Recognition and Engagement Work Group Member



**W**e're all busy. That's undeniable. With all the challenges we are facing to continue to provide excellent customer service, we are relying on each other more than ever. Sometimes we take for granted that everything is working successfully, because everyone is working successfully. That's where the Gratitude Tree comes in.

Gratitude is foundational to well-being and mental health. Think of the difference between receiving a mindless, canned, ‘thanks’ and having someone take a few extra seconds to write a little note on the Gratitude Tree to show their appreciation. The little bit of effort gets noticed and contributes to a positive work environment, which in turn, creates more Gratitude.

I challenge everyone to think of one person, or group of people, who has helped you, made your job a bit easier, or just generally makes work a better place to be, and **write a note for our trees**. It means a lot when our efforts get noticed, and our trees will grow fuller with beautiful, colorful, words of Gratitude.

Think of the difference you can make in someone's day, just because you take a moment to notice the difference they make in yours.

So, let's rustle up the leaves this Fall and send them to the Gratitude Trees throughout the Office!

I'm grateful for you!

# Timely Service

**Timely Service** - A section of recent email messages, note cards, phone calls, and letters about Clerk employees who provided *timely service*.

## CO-WORKER COMPLIMENTS

**About:** **Downtown Courtroom Clerks, Ana Meza, and Jamie Eaton**

**From:** **Elizabeth Wolf**

"I want to give a blanket thank you for all the **Downtown Courtroom Clerks** for being so gracious with their assigned calendars. Thank you in particular to **Ana Meza** for being our Case Center point of contact and to **Jamie Eaton** for stepping in for an emergency proceeding."

**About:** **Samantha Punzalan**

**From:** **Alana Callahan**

"I want to thank **Samantha** for always being there for me. She is always willing to listen to me, help me see a different side of things, and take some work off my hands when I am behind. She always offers to help me when I am out of the office. Not only does she help me, but she helps out our entire team when needed, and she does it with a smile! Sam, thank you for being YOU!"

**About:** **Briar Trujillo**

**From:** **Sarah Stevens**

"Thank you **Briar** for always being a positive energy every morning! Your kindness always shines brightly through your smile and the time you take to share kind words to those who need it. I appreciate the fact you reached out to me when I was struggling and offered your sympathy when I needed it the most. I am so lucky to be working with such an amazing person!"

## CUSTOMER COMPLIMENTS

**About:** **Jenna Ashe**

A customer recently complimented Call Center's **Jenna Ashe**. The customer said, "It was a great pleasure to speak to Jenna today. The work she did for me showed me she really cares. I was really stressed before I got on the phone with her today. I

had no clue on what to do to obtain the documents I needed. She was so sweet and patient and talked me through creating an account so that I could get what I needed in minutes. I just want to give her a special thank you. I know it's her job, but it's my life and I feel she went above and beyond."

**About:** **Angie Walker**

Commissioner Van Wie recently sent a note to Courtroom Services Supervisor Christina Mai to express her appreciation for Courtroom Clerk **Angie Walker**. The Commissioner said, "Just reaching out to let you know how much we appreciate Angie in our division. She always has a positive attitude and is really helpful. I know she is doing her work extremely well, and it puts me at ease. She is meticulous. I appreciate her training people, as I know they will get thorough information. She really represents the COC well. Although this is not her assigned division, I feel like she takes excellent care of our work, not just like a temporary fill-in. She also really communicates well and we appreciate it."



**About:** **Tristan Aird**

Judge Moskowitz recently recognized Courtroom Clerk **Tristan Aird** for his patience and professionalism in resolving a delay regarding exhibits during a hearing.

**About:** **Patricia McKinley**

Judge Blaney recently thanked Courtroom Clerk **Patricia McKinley** for her hard work and her attention to detail. He stated that Patricia's diligence continues to impress him and all the judges that he speaks to about her.

# EMPLOYEES of the Quarter

The Honorees For July - September 2023

## Camille Atkins / Northeast Operations Lead

**Nomination:** Camille should have been nominated for this honor long ago due to her exceptional work. She has always provided exemplary customer service to both external and internal customers alike. Camille maintains a level of professionalism that encourages others to strive for the same. She never loses her cool in difficult situations and truly thrives under pressure. Camille has been a great co-worker, she is an essential asset to the team at Northeast, and she is a great help to customers. She, without a doubt, deserves to be recognized for her exceptional ability and persistent efforts to help everyone around her with care.



## Asha Parmar / Northwest Courtroom Clerk

**Nomination:** Asha covered a Water Trial that went from 4/24/2023 through 8/2/2023 before Special Water Master Zendri. Asha volunteered to come out of her primary Family Court division and had stated that it was her goal to be able to cover this water trial from beginning to end...and she did. When the Special Water Master learned that Asha would be the trial clerk, she said "Thank you so very much! Asha has been such a great asset to us as everyone tries to get me up to speed. I really appreciate having her experience as part of the team." The Judicial Assistant to the Water Master said "Just wanted to let you know how happy we are to see Asha's name. Asha is just a pleasure to work with. She is always helpful if we have questions or need anything." During this same time period, Asha went to the Northwest Regional Court Center on Fridays, when the Water Trial is at recess, and learned to cover the Probate calendar and has since transferred to Northwest. Asha is well-deserving for recognition.



## Kaylan Gehr / Criminal Operations Lead

**Nomination:** Kaylan has displayed an exceptional level of dedication, commitment, professionalism, and work ethic while serving in her role as Lead in Criminal Operations. She exceeds her professional expectations in addition to being a mentor, a confidant, and a friend to her peers. She displays a deeply-rooted desire to perform at the highest level and supports those around her to be the best they can be. She is intelligent, has an extremely pleasant personality, very quick wit, and her sense of humor is contagious. She is patient and kind when working in difficult situations and displays a high level of integrity when working with other departments/stakeholders. Kaylan provides exceptional customer service and the community has greatly benefited with any interaction with her. Kaylan is a true leader and the Office is fortunate to have her apart of its family.

# EMPLOYEES of the Quarter

The Honorees For July - September 2023

## Monique Iniguez / Criminal Courtroom Clerk Lead

**Nomination:** Monique is an exceptional employee and individual. Monique's knowledge of the role of a clerk and lead surpasses anyone else. She has the answer for any and every question or situation. She is the one everybody goes to when they have encountered a unique situation in the courtroom. You can always count on Monique to have an answer. What truly makes her exceptional is that if she hasn't encountered the situation herself, she will stop at no lengths to find the answer.

Beyond just being a knowledgeable clerk, Monique is a caring teacher. I have been a part of a group of trainees Monique oversees. The way she trains and teaches each of her trainees varies because she caters her style of instruction to help her students learn most effectively. It amazes me that her quality of teaching has not reduced despite being spread thin across multiple trainees.

If I am a decent clerk today, I credit Monique for the knowledge and competence I hold. The nature of our job exposes us to emotionally difficult subject matter. Monique has always made herself available to lighten the emotional load and work through things as opposed to letting them overcome us. I'm grateful to have Monique as a trainer, but also to have her support as someone who is always cheering for my success. These are amongst the endless reasons why Monique Iniguez deserves to be Employee of the Quarter.



Monique was unavailable for a photo and so she is pictured here with Clerk of the Court Jeff Fine when he presented her a CASE Award earlier this year.

## Jennifer Myers / Business Analyst (photo not available)

**Nomination:** Courtroom Services has the pleasure of working with Business Analyst Jennifer Myers. There is not a day that we cannot get through without needing some kind of assistance from her. Her profound knowledge assists us to identify and fix problems, efficiently improve our processes, and answer our never-ending questions. Her problem-solving skills are top notch because she is able to quickly offer practical solutions and sometimes takes the lead on solving our issues. Recently, one of the most beneficial contributions Jennifer has made (and she has made many), is with Case Center. She learned the program inside and out before demonstrating it to us. Thanks to her ingenuity we were able to streamline the implementation, provide training around it and create procedures for this system that seems to be continuously evolving. Her endless contributions help keep us running smoothly and successfully. She has proven herself to be a valuable asset.

## The Other Employee of the Quarter Recipients of This Year

**January - March**     **Stephanie Myers** (Downtown Filing Counter)  
                               **Esmeralda Canez** (Lead Human Resources Analyst)

**April - June**         **Rebecca Shanks** (Recording Services)  
                               **Kristi Sherrill** (Criminal Courtroom Clerk)



# Bringing up the past

A historical look at the people who have served as the Clerk of the Court in Maricopa County, AZ

## The sixth Clerk of the Superior Court - Wilson D. "Don" Palmer

In 2011, in recognition of the approaching 100th Anniversary of Arizona's statehood in February 2012, the Communications Office completed research about the people who have served as the Clerk of the Superior Court in Maricopa County starting in 1912 when the state of Arizona was first created.

The *Record Times* is re-printing that information in a series of articles over the next year. Last month, Robert E. Miller, the fifth Clerk of the Court was featured. This month, Wilson D. "Don" Palmer, the sixth Clerk of the Court, is highlighted. He served in the Office of Clerk from 1966 - 1982.

The Office still has a Wilson Palmer stamp.



Wilson D. "Don"  
Palmer

Wilson D. "Don" Palmer was born in Omaha, Nebraska on Dec. 10, 1915. During his teenage years, he had an experience that changed his life. He met Charles Lindberg, the famous aviator who was the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. This event affected his life and instilled within him a love for aviation, which became his ambition.

He graduated from Central High School and spent as much time as he could at the Omaha City Airport. In 1933, he was appointed to be an Army aviation cadet and then became a student of the University of Maryland, under the auspices of the Army. He received a business administration degree from the University in 1934.

He was introduced to Arizona through the Army Air Corps when his squadron, which was stationed in Salt Lake City, went to Arizona for winter maneuvers. His experience in Arizona made him realize that he wanted to make it home upon his retirement from the military.

His military career led him to be at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Immediately after the first wave of Japanese planes had attacked, his B-17 bomber was shot down but he was able to parachute out. He earned a Purple Heart medal.

In 1955, he retired from the military as a Chief Warrant Officer after serving for 21 years, he went back to Arizona and began working for the Bank of Douglas. In 1964, he resigned as Advertising Director of the Arizona Bank to become vice chairman of the nationwide movement to get U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater nominated as the Republican candidate for President. When he accomplished that goal, he organized "Americans for Goldwater" and was an active participant in the campaign.

In 1966, he won election as the Clerk of the Superior Court in Maricopa County. While in Office, he reduced the time it took for a lawsuit once it was filed to being entered as a permanent record from 72 days to 15 hours. It was written about him in the American Biographical Encyclopedia that he "brought the Clerk's role into the modern era and handled - with correspondingly fewer employees - a workload which increased by 118 percent.

So efficient was Palmer's administration, that the Maricopa County Clerk's Office became a Mecca for court clerks the country over. He pioneered a data retrieval system, which was copied by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Palmer was the founding president of the Arizona Association of Counties. He also served as president of the Arizona Association of Superior Court Clerks. He also was a member of the Advancement of Management. Palmer and his wife Lucille moved to Prescott Valley in the 1990s. The couple had three children and six grandchildren. Palmer passed away in 1997.



Pictured above is a scanned image of a photocopied picture of the Clerk of the Court's Office on the 2nd Floor of the Old Court-house in the 1960s.



# WE GOT SPIRIT!

Photos from the recent "Pro Sports," "Diamondbacks," and "Cardinals" Spirit Days



Lorne Lambries, Ken Shipley, Mackenzie Jones, and Maria Pedregon



Michelle Figueroa, Francise Molina, Fernando Garza, Mark Savin, Josette Serrano, and Mariela Delvalle



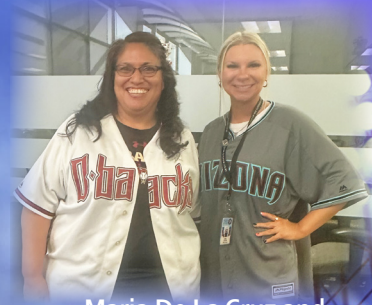
Trish Lein, Aurora Avina, Angie Bell, and Laura Martinez



Tracy Henninger



Monique Perez, Flor Rivas, Andrea Rodriguez, and Marta Sanchez



Maria De La Cruz and Emily Luetke



Angela Romero, Thelma Caraveo and Jenela Fierro



Angela Romero, Jenela Fierro, Joseph Sims, Maria De La Cruz



Jenela Fierro, Maria De La Cruz, Anna Valenzuela, Dominick Navarro, Laura Martinez, and Angela Romero



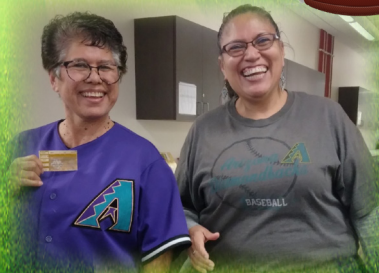
Flor Rivas, Nallely Garcia, Marta Sanchez



Alex Mittelstaedt-Chavez and Conrad Chavez



Sarah Beery and Sara Dickinson



Diana Eaton (holding a 2001 Dbax Game 7 World Series ticket) and Maria De La Cruz



Ravi Goud

# WE GOT SPIRIT!

Photos from the recent "Candy Corn" and "Overall" Spirit Days



Vanessa Martinez, Guadalupe Castro, Leticia Gutierrez and Christine Brown



Tracy McMillian and Shannon Stulz



Sarah Stevens and Dee McHardy



Christine Brown, Licxie Flores Sanchez, and Emily Luetke



Yolando Rhoads and Susan Loe



Pamela Stockley



Tracy McMillian and Shannon Stulz



Christine Brown and Emily Luetke



Isabel Jimenez and Alejandra Marrufo



Kalemma Austin

# Employee Spotlight

## This Month: **Josh Thill**



**Job Title:** Court Operations Lead, Northwest

**Years with Office:** Six years

**Something You Enjoy About Your Job:** There is always something new to learn.

**What Was Your First Job:** My parents had a cleaning company and I would help them after school.

**Hometown:** Long Beach, California

**Something Memorable That You Have Done:** Eating dinner on a cruise while dolphins swam next to us.

**A Hobby/Collection/or Favorite Activity:** I like to play a bit of video games to relax after the baby goes to bed.

**Best Vacation Spot:** A lot of my family lives in Anaheim and so I like to head there to visit, and then since I am already there, do a few days at Disneyland and the beach.

**Where Would You Like To Travel To Next:** Hawaii

**If You Could Live Anywhere in the World, Where Would You Live:** Coober Pedy, it's a city in Australia that is entirely underground.

**Favorite Meal:** Eggs Benedict // **Favorite Place To Eat Out:** Claim Jumper

**Have You Met Anyone Famous:** I met Mr T. at a steakhouse when I was a very young child.

**Favorite TV Show/Movie:** *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. I can't pick just one.

**Favorite TV Show When Growing Up:** *Avatar, the Last Airbender*

**Something You Are Proud Of:** My collection of 87 Disney pins.

**If Given A Chance, What Would You Like To Be For A Day:** I think I would like to give being a billionaire a shot for a day.

**Something On Your Bucket List:** I would like to visit every continent.

**What World Record Would You Like To Break:** To be the oldest man alive.

**Before Working Here, What Was An Unusual or Interesting Job You Have Had:** I sold hair products as a man with no hair.

**Advice You Would Give To A New Employee:** Be flexible and learn all you can.

**Do You Have A Favorite Quote:** "The soul becomes dyed with the color of its thoughts." - Marcus Aurelius

**What Do You Like To Do In Your Spare Time:** I spend all of my spare time with my 14-month old daughter.

**What Is An Ability You Wish You Had:** Function without sleep. I would have so much more free time.

**A Favorite Animal:** Elephant

**Favorite Fruit And/Or Vegetable And/Or Least Favorite:** I love strawberries and I cannot stand cauliflower.

**A Pet Peeve:** Daylight savings time.

**Best Advice Someone Has Given You:** Sound like you know what you're doing, even when you don't.



# Fun Fall Festivities



Durango Juvenile put on their "game faces" last year and won

## Annual Contest adds new "character" to the Office

Last year, a group of Durango Juvenile staff dressed Lup as "Loteria," (which is the Mexican Game of Bingo) and won the prize as the "Best Medium-Size Group" in the Office's annual Costume Contest. This year, we will see who is ready to *get in the game* and play for a chance to win. To see who might *have it in the cards* to win this year, the Office is holding its **Annual Costume Contest on Tuesday, Oct. 31.**

Here are the contest details: **1)** Photos of employees who are in costume will be taken on Oct. 31; **2)** From these pictures, categories will be created for the costumes; **3)** The categories will be sent to employees to vote for their favorite costumes; **4)** The winners will be announced in the *Record Times*.

The photos will be taken as follows: **Northeast** - 8:30 a.m.; **Northwest** - 9:30 a.m.; **Durango Juvenile** - 10:30 a.m.; **DT File Counter** - 11:45 a.m.; **Downtown** - 12:15 p.m.; **South Court Tower** - 12:45; **Downtown Justice Center** - 1:30; **Customer Service Center** - 2:30 p.m.; **Southeast Adult** - 3:30 p.m.; and **Southeast Juvenile** - 4 p.m. **NOTE:** Telecommuting employees may email Len Keso a photo of themselves on **Oct. 31 by 1:30 p.m.**

## "Show and Tail" is back – The Annual Paws-tume Contest



"Show and Tail Days" are back. Show and Tail is actually a way to describe the **Annual Paws-tume Contest** that allows employees to show their pets in costume through photos. The photos are then arranged in categories and posted in a survey that allows all staff members to vote for their favorite paws-tumes

(costumes). Here are the contest details for those who are interested in participating:

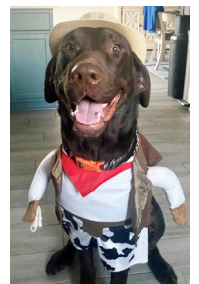
- 1)** Take a photo of your pet(s) in costume;
- 2)** Submit your photo to Len Keso between **Oct. 30 through Nov. 2 only;**
- 3)** Include the following information with the photo:  
**A** - Pet name(s); **B** - Pet's costume name; **C** - Your name

### A Few Guidelines:

- Photo may be of one pet or a group of pets. • Photo needs to be of the pet(s) only (no people).
- Photo cannot be professionally taken or from previous year's contests. • The pet(s) must belong to the employee. The winners will be announced in the November issue of *Record Times*.

⇒ **NOTE:** Please use discretion when selecting a costume and costume name for both contests mentioned above.

Last year's Paws-tume-winner was a "Cowboy"



# The Inside Track

## on Employee News

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### OFFICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following Clerk of Court employees celebrate milestone anniversaries with the Office in October:

#### 25 YEARS

**Rene Smyth**

#### 10 YEARS

**Nancy Rodriguez, Ryan Harris, and Victoria Carrizosa**

#### 5 YEARS

**Rebecca Elvir Calles**

*Thank you  
for your  
service and congratulations!*

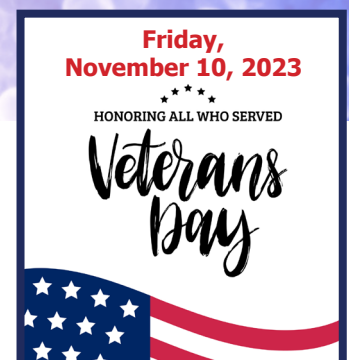
### NEW EMPLOYEES

The Clerk's Office welcomes the following new employees:

- **Accounting - Damira Music**
- **Appeals - Lori Brooks,**
- **Call Center - Josette Serrano and Mariela Devalle**
- **Courtroom Clerk - Aaliyah Farrell, Laely Penkacik, Elizabeth Ross, Sarah Isaacs, Sarah Schweitzer, and Devon Scott Ford**
- **Criminal Financial Obligations - Amanda O'Halloran**
- **EDM/Docket - Nancy Torres**
- **eFile Team - Chris McWhorter**
- **Exhibits - Victoria Galaz Hernandez**
- **Juvenile Courtroom Clerk - Amanda Knudsen**
- **Mail Clerk Courier - Tyler Miller**
- **Public Records - Mackenzie Jones**
- **Southeast Juvenile Operations - Carol Miller**
- **Southeast Operations - Makenna Holleque and Daisy Araujo-Macias**

Welcome  
to the  
**TEAM!**

**Next Paid Holiday**



### EMPLOYEE AWARDS

**Alejandra Marrufo, Isabel Jimenez, Emily Luetke, and Christine Brown** were recent winners in a random drawing to receive a Clerk of the Court specialty pin for their participation in various Spirit Days.

# Special Features



## Where in the world has the Record Times been?



### Newsletter returns to Arizona

Each month, employees are invited to submit photos of themselves with the newsletter at different destinations. Last month, the newsletter was seen with an employee who was overlooking the scenic Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. This month, the newsletter appears with an employee who is overlooking a canyon and river at a scenic spot here in Arizona.

Pictured to the left is Criminal Courtroom Clerk **Tammy Schnurr**, who posed with the newsletter at Horseshoe Bend near Page, Arizona. It has been quite a while since the

*Record Times* appeared in its home state and the first time it has been seen in Page.

**You may submit a photo** with the *Record Times* on a vacation at any time. To submit a photo:

- 1) Print the newsletter front page;
- 2) Take a photo(s) with the page during your outing (in the community, state, or out-of-state);
- 3) Email the photo to Len Keso with your name, department, and a photo description, along with any other interesting details of the photo/vacation. Anyone who submits a photo will receive a new Clerk Specialty pin (pictured here).



## Where in the world has Flat Stamp-Ley been?



### STAMP of approval for photo with famous art piece

In 2021, the *Record Times* introduced a new photo feature called **Flat Stamp-Ley (FS)**. FS is a character print-out for employees to either send to a family member/friend to take a photo of it somewhere interesting, or for the employee to take a photo of it somewhere interesting. Here's the details of this month's Flat Stamp-Ley appearance:

**Photo Submitted By:** Ravi Goud

**Where is FS:** National Gallery in London, England

**Description:** The photo of FS on a cell phone is taken next to a famous oil on canvas painting titled "Sunflowers" that was painted by Vincent Willem van Gogh in 1889. Its current value is between \$100 - \$120 million.

To submit a photo of Flat Stamp-Ley:

- 1) Print it ([available here](#)); // 2) Then either **a)** send FS to a family member/friend to take a photo of it somewhere in the world; or **b)** take a photo yourself of FS somewhere interesting; // 3) Send the photo to Len Keso with your name, department, who FS is with, where FS is located, and any other interesting note about the photo.



# The News Mix

A mix of various news items of interest

## The 10 best pumpkin patches in the nation in 2023

A popular activity during this time of year is picking a pumpkin whether it is for carving a jack-o-lantern, making a dessert, or just to have a seasonal autumn decoration. The *USA Today's* "10 Best" recently concluded a national survey asking their readers and subscribers to vote for the best and most festive places to pick a pumpkin in the nation. An expert panel picked out the top 20 nominees for the vote. Here are the 10 Best pumpkin patches in the United States that were selected by vote:

- No. 10: Swans Trail Farms - Snohomish, Washington
- No. 9: Collegetville Orchards - St. Joseph, Minnesota
- No. 8: Hank's PumpkinTown - Water Mill, New York
- No. 7: Colony Acres Family Farm - North Liberty, Iowa
- No. 6: Kelder's Farm - Kerhonkson, New York
- No. 5: Huber's Orchard and Winery - Borden, Indiana
- No. 4: Baugher's Orchards and Farm - Westminster, Maryland
- No. 3: Pumpkin Junction - Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum - Calera, Alabama
- No. 2: Devine's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch - Harrodsburg, Kentucky
- No. 1: Treworgy Family Orchards - Levant, Maine



### Can you guess where the "Halloween Capital of the World" is ... it isn't probably a place you have heard of

Anoka, Minnesota is considered to be the "Halloween Capital of the World." It is believed to be the first city in the U.S. to host a Halloween celebration to divert young people from playing pranks instead. The very first parade was scheduled for Halloween evening in the year 1920. There are lots of local events including a pumpkin weigh-off contest, Pumpkin Bowl football game, children's costume contest, a pumpkin carving contest, and a light-up night parade and bonfire. There is also a 5K race.



## What it was then and what it is now

The two photos below are taken in the exact same Clerk of Court Office space, but 15 years apart from one another (2008 and today). The space is in the Central Court Building and in 2008 it was the Accounting Operations and vault. Today, that same space is the Central Court Training Room.



### Where to see Fall colors in Arizona

According to the U.S. Forest Service, here are some of the best places to see Fall colors in Arizona from late Oct. to early Nov.:

- Arizona**
- Gila National Forest (NF)
  - Tonto NF
  - Coronado NF
  - Prescott NF



**\$212,252.78 -**

the amount county employees donated to the 2023 Combined Charitable Campaign.