

Vol. 30 No. 10

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

## They do the Mash, they do the Money-ster Mash







Top row, left to right: Oni Boston, Joceyln Randall, and David Shuell. Bottom row, left to right: Desiree Ochoa-Lopez, Edie Friss, and Angelica Ahimera

#### The Accounting staff is scary good at processing the money for the Office

alloween is approaching, and if **L**a fun song were written related to this holiday about a Clerk of the Court department, it would have to be the Accounting Department, and the title of the song would be "The Money-ster Mash." The reason why is Accounting, which is comprised of five staff members and a manager, processes a remarkable \$9.5 million a month on behalf of the Office. These funds

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come in daily to the Office through the filing counters, filing fees, restitution, and other means. The Accounting Department then processes these incoming monies and "mash" the numbers accordingly and accurately for distribution to the county treasury, who handles and allocates the finances for all of the Maricopa County offices/departments.

Here are a few other financial statistics that relate to Accounting's sMASH hit work: • Based on the Payments Methods by Payment Type report in Receipting, they see an average of **2,518 daily transactions** through the Cash Management System.

• The Accounting Unit holds certain funds in trust for the Court. The total amount of those funds at the end of last fiscal year was more than **\$58.5 million**.

So this Halloween, let's give a scream and a holler to Accounting for doing the "moneyster mash" with excellence and high standards on behalf of the Office and its staff.

# **PROMoting the Annual Costume Contests**



Two contests are being PROMised to be held for employees to participate in - The Employee **Costume Contest** and the **Paws-tume Contest**. To learn more about these annual contests, see the articles on page 11. The contests provide a chance to see who will have costume PROMinence this year for having the best costumes!

# **CLERK CONNECTION**

# Now showing: "The Return to the Old Courthouse"



**E** very so often, employees who have left the Office for whatever reason, have returned to work here again. Well, this month something similar happened, but this time it wasn't an employee who returned, it was an entire Unit itself. Six years ago, the **Probate (PB) File Counter** moved from its location of many years in the Old Courthouse (OCH) to the Central Court Building across the street for operational efficiency. And now this month (on Oct. 14), the Probate File Counter returned to its roots in the Old Courthouse and is located in the exact same spot where it was before on the first floor of the building.

From left: Kiara Valdes, Kristin Melzer, Alicia Johnson, and Gaile Raines on Day 3 of the Probate File Counter's return to the OCH.

The reason for the return is the Court is consolidating all Probate and Mental Health divisions into the OCH. Therefore, the Clerk's Office re-estab-

lished the Counter to better meet the needs of attorneys in these matters and to handle emergency matters. The Office will continue to accept PB and MH cases at all other adult file counter locations.

### **Some Old Courthouse History**



The Old Courthouse was built in 1929. The seven-story facility was constructed at a cost of less than one million dollars and housed the courthouse, jail, and city hall. It originally had five courtrooms. Two different architects designed the building - one for Maricopa County and one for the City of Phoenix. At the time of its opening, the building's cell block held 223 inmates. The jail last held inmates in the 1960s.

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



E ach year, usually right 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, but it is getting started a few days

earlier this year. Here is information about this year's Drive activities:

- **Socks Drive**, which will be held Oct. 29 Dec. 3. Over the past 23 years, the Office staff have donated a total of **7,018 pairs of socks**. Last year, staff donated 219 pairs of socks.
- **Toys for Tots Drive**, which will be held Nov. 6 Dec. 9. Over the past 20 years, the Office staff have donated a total of **4,664 toys**. Last year, staff donated 215 new toys.

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

# **CLERK CONNECTION**

## **Clerk staff assisted with Juvenile's Project Restore event**



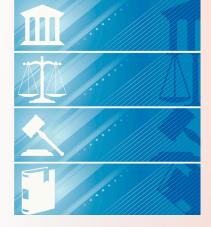
Last month, staff from the Office's Juvenile Division provided assistance to Superior Court's "**Project Restore**" event that was held to review and destroy, if criteria is met, the juvenile records of those who have a juvenile delinquency or diversion record and could be eligible for: destruction of records, restoration of civil rights, set aside of a juvenile adjudication, or expungement of marijuana offenses. The event allows the individuals to meet with a judge for review to have their records completely cleared/destroyed. Having a juvenile record, can be an obstacle for individuals as adults in obtaining employment and in other aspects of life. Having their records destroyed sets them on a fresh, new course to move ahead in life. In total, by application, 19 were granted and by applicant, 15 were granted. The Clerk's

staff who served at the event were: Carmen Camacho, Grace Cabrera, and Andrea Rodriguez.

# The functions of the Clerk of the Court's Office

The specific and special duties of the Clerk's Office are assigned by statute, the Arizona Supreme Court, and local and statewide court rules. The functions of the Clerk satisfy more than 500 state statutes and court rules. Among the Office's responsibilities are to:

Provide public access to the records of the Superior Court;



- Keep a docket;
- Store exhibits for all court cases;
- Attend each Superior Court session to record its actions;
- Provide various family support services to the public;
- Receive filings for Superior Court action in civil, criminal, mental health, probate, tax, family court matters, and juvenile, which includes delinquency, dependency, adoption, and severance cases;
- Collect and disburse court-ordered fees, fines, and victim restitution;
- Receive, distribute, and preserve official court documents;
- Process passport applications; and
- Issue and record marriage licenses.

### Fun employee trivia by the decades

Here is a list of current employees who are the first person hired and the last person hired for the past four decades.
1980s: First hired - Aurora Avina (June 1987) / Last one hired in the 80s - Susan Morris (May 1989)
1990s: First hired - Lisa Kellar (Feb. 1990) / Last one hired in the 90s is Tina Hays (December 1999)
2000s: First hired - Diana Eaton (February 2000) / Last one hired in the 00s is Alyssa Vitucci (Nov. 2009)
2010s: First hired - Anna Fagnani (March 2010) / Last one hired in the 10s is Jaime Hockerson (Dec. 2019)

# **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: Chuck Gobble From: Michelle Figueroa and the Customer Experience and Call Center Teams

"On behalf of the Customer Experience & Call Center teams, we would like to send a big KUDOS to **Chuck Gobble**! Chuck has taken new staff members on a CSC building tour when we have new hires on the team. He is always pleasant and professional, and we truly appreciate his willingness to help and show the new staff around."

### About: Penny Boettcher From: Tracy Henninger



"**Penny** has been with the Office for many years with Adult Courtroom Services. With all of the recent calendar restructuring, Penny decided to expand her horizons and check out Juvenile Courtroom Services. Thank you Penny for all of your hard work and dedication specifically with regard to the Probate and Mental Health case types. You will be missed greatly and I wish you success in your juvenile endeavors."

### About: Clerk of the Court Call Team From: Edgar Beltran

"The other day I was stranded...literally stranded! My car battery died and unknowingly I had left my phone and laptop at home charging. Time was ticking and I needed to report my absence to my supervisor, immediately. Thank goodness a kind Samaritan was willing to let me use his phone. However, I didn't have anyone's number memorized, and so I googled some Office/County numbers without success, and then I tried the Clerk Of Court general telephone number and selected option 6, which got me to a live team member. I explained my situation and asked if they could please email my supervisor. The team member and her lead did me one better and emailed my supervisor, kept me on the phone and then connected the call once they knew my supervisor could be reached and available to take the call. I was in such a disarray that I completely forgot to ask them for their name(s). But I am so incredibly grateful that they took that extra effort and found a way to connect me to my supervisor."

### **About: Stephanie Motzer**

Courtroom Clerk Josie Lizardi recently said this about Courtroom Clerk **Stephanie Motzer**: "Stephanie is helping me and I am beyond grateful. She is always more than able to go out of her way to answer any question. She is truly an asset to this organization."



### **CUSTOMER COMPLIMENTS** About: Richard Gonzalez

**Richard Gonzalez** recently helped a customer who emailed the Billing and Deferral Team. The customer had this to say after his help. "Your team is wonderful! Thank you for making this easy on me and not making me have to run-around to get this completed. It's already a stressful time and so great customer service means even more."

### **About: Jenna Ashe**

Customer Experience Team's **Jenna Ashe** recently received two compliments from customers she helped. They said Jenna was an exceedingly pleasant, very helpful, kind, and a true asset to the Office.

### About: Charli Bouise

A customer recently gave kudos to Customer Experience Team's **Charli Bouise** saying she was excellent, provided great service, was straightforward, and timely.

# The Office Bulletin Board

# Any news for the newsletter?

If you have news to submit about a birth or marriage or would like to send a commendation to a co-worker. Email your news here to Len Keso

Popular Spirit Day Is Returning The popular "Flannel Shirt Spirit Day" is returning to the Office on Tuesday. November 26. Watch for details!

### **DURANGO FITNESS WALK**

|   | Maricopa County is sponsoring a Fit-        |
|---|---|
|   | ness Walk at the Durango Campus on          |
| 5 | Thursday, October 31, The walk begins       |
| 5 | at 7 a.m. The route goes along the Flood    |
| 5 | Control Fitness Trail counterclockwise unti |
|   | 8 a.m. The starting point is 2801 W.        |
|   | Durango. For questions, you can email       |
|   | wellness@maricopa.gov                       |
|   | REPARTMENT                                  |

Did You Know... that when you call DTI Support Center for service, you can request a callback? It's a simple process that allows you to continue your daily work while waiting for them to call you back with your place in line still intact! The Support Center # is 602-506-6077.

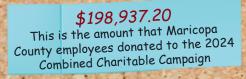


GOOD WORK

Interested in getting an Office polo to wear to work? <u>Click here</u> for details on how to do it.



The farthest place the Office's Flat Stamp-Ley Cut-Out has been pictured at was the Antarctica McMurdo Station in 2021. A Courtroom Clerk had sent it to her friend who was working in Antarctica at the time and he took the photo. It is an estimated 8,342 miles from Phoenix.





### New Employee Luncheon!

A New Employee Luncheon was held this month for 15 newly-hired employees from earlier this year. The luncheons for new hires are held each quarter.

See page 15 for this month's Pet Caption Contest



The **National Adoption Day** event is being held on Nov. 23 this year at Durango Juvenile. Last year, **77 children** were adopted and **15** of the Office's Juvenile Division employees assisted in the event.



Foruutude frees have sprouted in the Office. The trees provide a way to express gratitude to co-workers by writing a message on post-it notes. How about LEAVEing a note for someone this month?

**RECORD TIMES** 

# EMPLOYEES of the Quarter

### The Honorees For July - September 2024

### **Leslie Wilkins / Courtroom Services Administrator**

**Nomination:** I would like to nominate Leslie Wilkins for the Employee of the Quarter award in recognition of her exceptional leadership and contributions to the Clerk's Office. As the Non-Criminal Courtroom Services Administrator, Leslie has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, and a commitment to excellence that sets her apart.

Among her many notable leadership qualities, Leslie has proven to be an invaluable mentor for her team. Her mentorship has not only enhanced individual capabilities, but has also strengthened the overall effectiveness of our Courtroom Services team.

In addition, Leslie has forged strong partnerships with various

court stakeholders, ensuring seamless collaboration that enhances our service delivery. Her ability to communicate effectively and build rapport has resulted in a unified approach to numerous Non-Criminal Courtroom Services initiatives and projects. A highlight of Leslie's achievements is her leadership in the implementation of Case Center for Non-Criminal Courtroom Services. This innovative initiative has streamlined processes, improved efficiency, and significantly enhanced the user experience for both staff and our court partners. Leslie's determination was instrumental in bringing this project to fruition, showcasing her ability to inspire and drive change.

Finally, Leslie is a staunch advocate for her team, consistently championing their needs and ensuring they have the necessary resources to succeed. While advocating for her team, Leslie has also proven to be a trusted resource for many, providing insights and support that have been crucial for the growth and development of the Clerk of Court overall.

### Whitney Manas / Family Support Services, Court Operations Specialist

**Nomination:** Whitney Manas has been an invaluable member of the Clerk's Office for the past two years, consistently showcasing her extensive knowledge and thoroughness. Recently, when the Department of Economic Security (DES) transitioned systems from ATLAS to AZCARES, Whitney was specifically chosen to test and provide feedback on the arrears calculation program for non-IVD users. Her selection for this critical role stemmed from her rich experience, which enables her to effectively identify and articulate issues to both the vendor and the statewide stakeholders. Whitney's unique combination of technical skills

and her deep understanding of the processes positioned her as the ideal candidate for this important task. Once the program is implemented, it promises to benefit all counties and Superior Courts across Arizona, further underscoring Whitney's significant contributions to the team.







# EMPLOYEES of the Quarter

### The Honorees For July - September 2024

### Ken Nelson / Desktop Support Specialist, Department of Technology and Innovation

**Nomination:** "Ken has been an invaluable member of the Desktop Team since I've been with Clerk of the Superior Court, both as a co-worker and as a mentor. He is always available to answer random COSC questions, comes on site on days he doesn't have to provide extra support for our staff and employees, volunteers to take on extra work to lighten the load of others, and so on. When I tell people that their ticket is going to be assigned to Ken for further assistance, the response is always positive. Outside of our team, Ken is highly thought of, both as a technician and as fellow COSC employee. Ken is a great co-worker and I think Ken should be recognized for being as amazing as he is."





### Len Keso / Communications Officer

**Nomination:** "Len has consistently demonstrated an exceptional commitment to fostering community and engagement within our organization. Len's tireless efforts to organize different employee activities/events and recognition progams, from the spirit days to the CASE Awards to creative contests, to producing various publications/materials like the Annual Report, and taking photos, and coordinating the Holiday Drive, among other things have made a significant impact on the workplace culture. His work on the *Record Times*, our highly regarded internal communications, not only keeps staff informed, but also ensures that every employee feels connected to the broader mission and COSC community.

Through his dedication, Len has created an inclusive environment where every employee feels valued and recognized. His passion for celebrating individual and team successes has built a strong sense of community across all levels. Len's contributions ensure that our workplace remains not only productive, but also positive and supportive, making him an outstanding candidate for Employee of the Quarter."

| The Other Employee of the Quarter Recipients of This Year |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| January - March   | Christina Black (Civil and Probate Docket Auditor/Trainer)     |  |
|   | Jesus Marquez (Criminal Courtroom Services Specialist)         |  |
| April - June  | Obi Duru (Learning and Development Facilitator)                |  |
| *   | Tracy Henninger (Southeast Adult Courtroom Services Supervisor |  |
|   | Thelma Caraveo (Downtown Filing Counter)                       |  |

# **E GOT SPIRIT** Photos from the recent "Sock-tober Spirit Day"



Lisa Roubicek (Stay Pawsitive) Jennifer Lovil Taylor (black Halloween) Pamela Stockley (solid mismatched) Giovanna Abella-Leon (purple sloths) Jessica Folts (grey Halloween) Shannon LaSpaluto (striped skulls)

Justine Rodriguez, Marta Sanchez, and Graciela Cabrera

Charlotte Concholar

Charlotte



Shannon Stulz



Betty Lopez-Mori



Alyssa Viticcu

Kalemma Austin

Krystina Whitten

RECORD TIMES

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### Photos from the recent "Pro Sports Spirit Day"



From left: Ana Rodriguez, Francise Molina, Fernando Garza, Vanessa Medina, and Mariela Delvalle

Alyssa Vitucci



From left: Olga Perez Dominguez, Yuleydy Perez, Anni Vogelpohl, Tawney Bland, Mia Hernandez, Camille Atkins, Conrad Chavez, and Alex Chavez.



Kalemma Austin



Pam Stockley

**Nikki Swiss** 

> From left, standing - Maye Patterson, Aida Plascencia, Gen Farler, Victoria Gigante, Kim Whitson, Mickey Reyna, Tim O'Pry, Dana Oleson, Anna Valenzuela, Angelica Ahimera, and Teresa Varela

From left, kneeling - Jenela Fierro, Angela Romero, Emily Luetke, Christine Brown, and Vivian Diaz





Gloria Oviedo, Andrea Rodriguez, and Annette Young **Krystina Whitten** 



**Suzanne Lambries and Lorne Lambries** 

# Employee Spotlight

## **This Month: Alice Turietta**

Your Department: Billing and Deferral Unit // Years with Office: Three years Something You Enjoy About Your Job: I enjoy helping customers with any of the issues they may have. // What Was Your First Job: A cashier at K-Mart. Hometown: Silver City, New Mexico

A Hobby/Collection/or Favorite Activity: My favorite and most relaxing hobby is crafting. I enjoy the creativity of putting together original projects.

**Best Vacation Spot:** My favorite vacation spot is Elephant Butte Lake in New Mexico and being anywhere we have a family gathering.

Where Would You Like To Travel To Next: My husband and I are planning a cruise to Alaska. It is on the bucket list of many places I would love to visit.

If You Could Live Anywhere, Where Would You Live: I would like to live in Mexico City. I love the atmosphere, the joy of the people, the food, and the music going back to my roots. // Favorite Meal: A plate of tacos with nice hot salsa and Spanish rice. // Favorite Place To Eat Out: I enjoy eating out,



but I really enjoy cooking a special meal for my family and having them over to share it. **Favorite Sports Team:** My number one team is the Dallas Cowboys.

**Favorite TV Show/Movie:** The Notebook **// Favorite TV Show When Growing Up:** Growing up, I watched a lot of older Westerns with my father. I watch "Young Guns" when I can.

**Something You Are Proud Of:** I am proud of the fact that I thoroughly enjoy helping people. Every job I have ever had from being the customer service manager at TG&Y to being a 911 dispatcher to doing what I do today, I have helped customers and that makes me happy to make their day better.

If Given A Chance, What Would You Like To Be Or Do For A Day: I would like to take my mother to Mexico gh to visit her homeland now. She is 87 and has difficulty walking, but to see her in that environment would we mean the world to me. // Something On Your Bucket List: To visit New York City.

Nobody Would Believe It If They Knew: I flew a helicopter once. // Advice You Would Give To A New Employee: Be the best you can to help customers. // What Do You Like To Do In Your Spare Time: I like to do crafts and go fishing. I enjoy the peaceful quiet sound of water hitting the shore. // A New Skill You Would Like: To acquire more knowlege. Any knowledge gained is great no matter what field you are in. The more you know, the better you can assist someone or yourself. // Dream Car: The Acura TLX A-Spec. I used to have one until I was in an accident. // Have You Ever Won Anything: I did win the Lottery for \$10,000. That was fun and I had fun spending it too! // Have You Met Anyone Famous: I met Tom Cruise. I

Iove his movies! // Who Would You Like To See In Concert: I have been to many concerts (pretty much all Country) and wish that I could see Kenny Rogers again. That would be great! He was a great singer and song writer. // Favorite Vegetable/Fruit: Vegetable is Hatch Green Chile and fruit is oranges. // What Do You Think Are Some Important Business Skills: Being able to teach and have patience are important, as well as being able to communicate and know technology.

Who Is An Influential Person In Your Life: My father. He was a hard worker, very personable, and a man of his word. // Any Hidden Talents: Singing. People have told me that I sound good.
 Great Advice Someone Has Given You: Work hard, don't be late, help where it is needed, and be patient.





# Annual Contest brings new "character" to the Office

Last year, a three employees dressed up as "Alvin Land the Chipmunks," won one of the costume categories" in the Office's annual Costume Contest. This year, several employees are already in *harmony* with the upcoming event and looking to be in *tune* for costume success. To find out who will *hit the right notes* with their costume choice, the Office is holding its **Annual Costume Contest** on **Thursday, 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 1:00 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. 25 29 only;
- **3)** Include the following information with the photo:
- **A** Pet name(s); **B** Pet's costume name; **C** Your name

Last year's Paws-tume winner was a chicken dressed up as a princess



### 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.

# The Inside Track on Employee News

### **OFFICE ANNIVERARIES**

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

<u>20 YEARS</u> Gail Totter and Bonnie McGovern

<u>10 YEARS</u> April Cannon

5 YEARS Anthony Bach, Graciela Arcelo, Michael Farrow, and Urssula Becerril

### **NEW EMPLOYEES**

The Clerk's Office welcomes the following new employees:

- Courtroom Clerk, Adult Kayden Mysliwski, Jaden Bland, Alexandria Zapata, and Lindsey Ingram
   Welcome
- Courtroom Clerk, Juvenile Demi Casella and Megan Liu
- Downtown File Counter Lisa Primeaux
- Instructional Designer Media Ashley Baker
- Northeast Operations Harmoni Hill
- Southeast Adult Operations Stacy Slaughter, Riley Stergulz and Lynn Gutierrez

### **EMPLOYEE MOVES**

**CONGRATULATIONS** on being promoted...

- Sig Perez to Courtroom Services Administrator
- Emily Luetke to Court Operations Auditor
- Leslie McCarty to Northeast Court Operations Supervisor
- Victoria Spencer to Juvenile Courtroom Clerk
- Angelique Mendez to Marriage Licenses, Passports, Recording Services Supervisor at the Customer Service Center



THANK

YOU

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to the

# **Special Features**

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



### Newsletter visits another country

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 inside of a giant tree trunk in California. This month, the newsletter appears with an employee who was on another continent and more than 5,800 miles away from Phoenix.

Pictured to the left is Human Resources Manager **Jennifer de Laix,** who posed with the newsletter in Makow Mazowiecki in Poland. It is a small town about 50 miles from Warsaw.

Jennifer was in this town with her husband visiting his family.

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?



Hanging UP in the land down UNDER

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 GoudWhere is FS: Sydney, AustraliaDescription: The photo of FS was taken inSydney with the world famous Sydney OperaHouse in the background.



To submit a photo of Flat Stamp-Ley: **1)** Print it <u>(available here)</u>;

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.



A mix of various Fall-related news items

### The 10 best corn mazes in the nation in 2024

A popular family activity in the Autumn is going to a corn maze. There are hundreds of mazes across the country. The USA Today's "10 Best" recently concluded a national survey asking their readers and subscribers to vote for the best mazes in the nation. An expert panel picked out the top 20 nominees for the vote. Here are the 10 Corn Mazes in the United States that were selected by vote:

- **No. 10:** Irons Mill Farmstead New Wilmington, Pennsylvania
- No. 9: Uncle Shuck's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch Dawsonville, Georgia
- No. 8: Davis Mega Maze Sterling, Massachusetts
- No. 7: Devine's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch Harrodsburg, Kentucky
- **No. 6:** Sinkland Farms Christiansburg, Virginia
- No. 5: Liberty Mills Farm Somerset, Virginia
- No. 4: Great Vermont Corn Maze Danville, Vermont
- No. 3: Hubb's Farm Clinton, North Carolina
- No. 2: Cherry Crest Adventure Farm Ronks, Pennsylvania
- No. 1: Treworgy Family Orchards Levant, Maine

## **A NUMBER of Halloween statistics**

- **\$3.8 billion** the amount expected to be spent on costumes this year.
- \$3.5 billion the amount that is expected to be spent on candy this Halloween.
- **\$104** the projected amount to be spent per person of those participating in Halloween festivities.

**Nearly half** of Halloween shoppers purchase items before October. \*\*source: National Retail Federation

### Places to see Fall Colors in Arizona

According to the Arizona State Parks Department, these are the best State Parks to see fall colors in the state:

- Deadhorse Ranch State Park, Cottonwood
- Redrock State Park
- Slide Rock State Park
- Rockin' River Ranch State Park
- Tonto Natural Bridge State Park

### **GOURD big or go home**

Travis Gienger of Anoka MN was the champion of this year's World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off with his massive **2,471 lb.** monster gourd. He is a four-time champion of this event that is held in California each year. He won \$22,239 for his winning pumpkin.



### The next time there will be a full moon on Halloween

The next full moon that occurs on Halloween will be in 2039. Full moons on Halloween are rare, happening only once every 18–19 years on average. The last Halloween full moon occurred in 2020.



82 employees dressed in costume last year on Halloween.

**23 pets** belonging to employees were dressed in costume last year for the Office's Pet Costume Contest.

# The Employee snapshot and caption contest

In February, the Employee Recognition and Engagement (ERE) Work Group launched a fun Pet Caption Contest that provided employees the opportunity to send in photos of their pets. One photo per month is being selected for publication in the *Record Times*. Clerk staff are then asked to send in a humorous/creative caption that goes along with the selected photo. A Caption Group then votes on their favorite captions to determine a winner each month. Below are the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place captions, and the honorable mentions for October.



### Winning Caption -

▶ "Move over, I'm squeezing in!" (by Thelma Caraveo)

#### Second Place -

• "If it fits, I sits." (by Moriah Diaz)

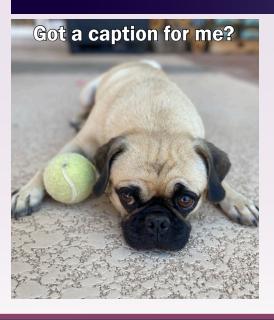
### Third Place -

• "Nothing to see here, move along." (by Rebecca Savage)

### **Honorable Mentions**

- "Shhh...my baby is listening." (by Alice Turrieta)
- "When you are fighting with your sibling over the last cookie and your mom walks in." (by Shannon LaSpaluto)
- "The purr-fect selfie partner!" (by Veronica Sanchez)
- "But you said there was room for one more." (by Charity Zapata)

Special thanks to County Collections Unit's Kelly Robinson, who submitted this photo of her cats Archer and Zeus.



### Here is this month's pet photo to caption Directions

- **1)** Send in <u>one</u> caption only for this photo at the link below.
- 2) Title the email "Pet Caption" and include your name/dept.
- 3) The deadline for caption submissions for this photo is Nov. 7.

#### What's Next

- 1) The ERE Work Group will review the captions and select a winner
- 2) The person with the winning caption will receive a small prize

**3)** This photo and the winning caption and honorable mentions will be featured in the Summer Edition of the *Record Times*, along with the person who submitted the pet photo.

Send in your <u>caption here</u> to Len Keso for this photo.