

RECORD TIMES

NOVEMBER
2020

Special Thanksgiving Edition

Vol. 26 / No. 11

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



Voted as the Best Overall Costume - Northeast as "The Nightmares of 2020"
Also voted as Best Large Group Costume

The best dressed for costume success this year

Clerk employees voted this month in the two annual Office Fall season contests to determine the best costumes of 2020

The Office's Annual Fall Costume Contests were recently held in which **381** votes were cast by employees to determine the winners for 2020. The two contests were the **Employee Costume Contest**, which was held on Oct. 31, and the **Paws-tume Contest**, which was held Nov. 2 - 4.

The Employee Costume Contest provided staff an opportunity to dress up in costume on Oct. 31 and have their photos taken. Six categories were then created from the photos based on similarities, and then a survey was developed by ITG that allowed all

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NE had 2020 vision for best costume - Left to right standing: Sheri Jaffe (firefighter), Alexandria Mittelstaedt (Rona the Fake News Reporter), Christine Jacobsen (juggling home school mom), Farah Azadeh (Ruth Bader Ginsburg angel), Heather Gearhart (Bad Luck Black Cat), Jerria Williams (In memory of Kobe Bryant), Sandy Seeley (Healthcare worker), Leslie Groeneveld (Mystery Seeds). In circle - Kelly Slesseman (COVID Tester). Kneeling - Naomi Marruffo (remote school student), and Vanessa Garcia (Murder Hornet)

employees to vote for their favorite costumes in each category. In total, **46 employees** participated in this year's contest. The record amount of participants for the costume contest was 101 in 2007.

The Paws-tume Contest was held Nov. 2 - 4 when employees submitted photos of their pets in costumes. The same process as the Employee Contest was held where categories were created and all staff were able to vote for their favorite pets in costume through a survey.

There were **193** votes in the Employee Contest and **188** votes in the Paws-tume contest. See [pages 2 - 4](#) to view all of the contest winners and participants.

THE COSTUMES VOTED AS THE BEST OVERALL

1ST - Nightmares of 2020

2nd - Angels & Devils

3rd - Golden Girls

4th - Miguel from Coco

5th - Kitty Cat

6th - Dr. David

7th - Plague Doctor

8th - Banana

9th tie - Mardi Gras

Unicorn & Aussie

FALL AWARDS

The costumes voted as best for 2020

BEST SMALL GROUP COSTUME



The Golden Girls

Alicia Buscaglia as Rose, Carmen Camacho as Blanche, and Andrea Rodriguez as Dorothy

BEST ANIMAL-RELATED COSTUME



Kitty Cat

Cecilia Alfaro-Ardnt

DUEL OF THE DOCTORS



Dr. David
David Wolff

BEST FUN AND FICTIONAL COSTUME



Miguel from Coco
Savanna Sharp



BEST ACTUAL PERSON COSTUME



Mardi Gras Participant
Laura Martinez

More photos on next page

MORE PHOTOS

Additional Costume Participants



Mouse
Courtney Smith



Unicorn and Aussie
Britt Silvernail and her dog



Volunteer Firefighter
LeAnn Baukol



Plague Doctor
Shannon LaSpaluto



The 5 Dwarves
Wendy Browning, Lisa Jackson, Carol Camacho, Marcie Tarin, and Suzanne Lambries



3 Witches & Halloween Spirit
Debra Cooper, Andrea Madrid, Sulma Magana, and Maria Adame



Little Red Riding Hood
Shantel Jessen



Banana
Robert Miranda



Angels and Devils
First photo - Standing: Jennifer Cardenas, Shantel Tavares, Chris O'Neill, Heline Johnson, Bianca Barrett. Kneeling: Eufemia Vasquez, Jenela Fierro, and Ashley Hatch. Second photo - Aida Plascencia, Miguel Marin, Angela Romero, Anna Valenzuela, and Maye Patterson



Paws-Tume Awards

Employee's pets in costume

THE 2020 CHAMPION!



Tater as an "Ewok from Star Wars"
owned by Yvonne Zych



Bolt as "Maverick from Top Gun"
owned by Diana Norzagaray



Buddy as "Simba from the Lion King"
owned by Diana Norzagaray



George as a "Prince" and Nina as a "Bumble Bee"
owned by Nicole Butzbach



Duchess as "Wonder Woman"
owned by Courtney Smith



Penny as a "Taco"
owned by Shannon LaSpaluto



Shimy Shimy and Coco Popo as "Dias de los Muertos Sisters"
owned by Pamela Bryant



Thanksgiving Tributes

Who are you thankful for?

"I am very thankful for the **Courtroom Services' Criminal team**. Everyone's hard work and dedication throughout this difficult year is admired. They are all so appreciated!" - **Jenny Black**

"Saying THANK YOU is simply not enough to convey how grateful I am for the Operations staff (**Julie Garcia, Aurora Avina, Jessica Bernal, Evelyn Laborin, Vincent Mclvor, Jackie Ortiz, Savanna Sharp**) and the Courtroom Clerks (**Diane Berkland, Tiffany Nosker, Tammy Schnurr, Valerie Stevens, Katie Summers**) at Northwest for their willingness to always go above and beyond to assist their co-workers and others when necessary. NWR staff paints a true picture of what teamwork looks like." - **Michelle Wolf**

"I am thankful for the entire **DT CRS Non-Criminal team**. During this year of rapid and ever-evolving change, our courtroom clerks and my co-supervisors have really rallied together to get things done. It is especially appreciated because they could have bowed out due to personal safety and/or fatigue, but they have remained resilient and steadfast in ensuring we are here to support the Bench and the public during this pandemic. They have stretched themselves to learn new things quickly and then expertly implement them with no interruption in the services they provide. For these things, I am both grateful and thankful!" - **April Cannon**

"Several times during this unpredictable and tumultuous year, someone threw out a life preserver and fished a drowning 'me' out of the ocean. She listened—a lot—and helped me find my sea legs again. Thank you **Carrie Montoya** – you helped me weather quite the storm." - **Laurie Hurley**

"I am thankful for the **Criminal Courtroom supervisors** and all of **my co-workers**. Under novel conditions, the supervisors worked hard to lay the groundwork for keeping the office running, courts covered, and clerks safe. In addition, with it being vitally important, all of my co-workers step up and jump in immediately to assist with unexpected absences, etc." - **Rebecca Miller**

"I am thankful for the entire **DT Criminal Courtroom Clerk and Supervisory team**. This year has been filled with sudden changes in the way everyone performs their jobs. I truly appreciate the teamwork, flexibility and dedication everyone has shown. I am grateful to be working with such an amazing team!" - **Donna Courtemanche**



"I am thankful for several people: First, **Kelly Marquez** - You motivate your employees, make tough decisions, and support your colleagues. You are a true inspiration. Your compliments motivate us to do better; Second, **Ana Valenzuela** - You help with any problem and answer any question. Thank you for being our very own Google. You have unlimited patience, offer support, and your dedication has earned you much deserved admiration. **Jennifer Cardenas** - You lead your colleagues and inspire them to follow your vision. You are highly motivational and have a contagious attitude. Thanks for making work enjoyable." - **Maye Patterson**

"I have been here for the last 15 (or more) years. I am thankful for **Jessica Folts** and **Vanessa Martinez**, who have been here longer than myself. They are so very helpful and they are great to work with after all these years of working with the public." - **Sharon Szakacs**

Thanksgiving Tributes

Who are you thankful for?

"I want to recognize Business Analyst **Jeanette Farrison**. She has worked very hard on the Office's new RFR System and she has always been there to help with learning and working in the new system. I personally have been waiting almost my entire 16 years here in this office for this new system and I really appreciate Jeanette's hard work." - **Cyndie Rego**



"This year, I am especially thankful for all of the **courtroom clerks, specialists, leads, supervisors and managers of the Non-Criminal CRS team**. Each of you have done your part to contribute to the overall success of our work unit. Your patience and support throughout the challenges of this year make me very grateful to work with such a fine group of individuals. Also, I am thankful for **our executives**, for their guidance and support.

I am thankful for the **operations group** for supporting the CRS team and to **ITG** for all of the support, guidance and assistance as we worked through the various challenges to create a remote work unit. Everyone has been AMAZING! (I hope I didn't leave anyone out, but, if I did, you are AMAZING, too!)" - **Debora Wells-Guevara**

"I am thankful for the **Human Resources Department**. They are always available for the many questions staff and I have on time card codes, COVID-related questions, etc. They are quick with responses and are always available to assist." - **Kim Crofts**

"I'm thankful for the **DT Non-Criminal CRS Team!** This year has been like no other with many unplanned process changes, remote coverage of court hearings, and unprecedented election challenge cases (to name a few). The **CRS Specialists, Clerks, Leads and Supervisors** have worked very hard to fulfill our responsibilities in challenging circumstances with excellent problem-solving skills, an inspiring amount of teamwork, and an extraordinary amount of resilience! We are a stronger, better team because of each team member's contribution in 2020. Words are not enough to express my sincere appreciation and I am honored to work with such a great team!" - **Leslie Wilkins**

"I am so very thankful for the wonderful group of courtroom clerks that we have working at SEF (Southeast Adult). This year has been a challenge in so many ways. All of our courtroom clerks have shown amazing patience, flexibility and understanding while they were provided with new processes, procedures and schedules often during a short time span. The **courtroom clerks at SEF** have always been an amazing group; however, this year they truly stepped up and outdid themselves! I am grateful for each and every one of you and the job you do each day!" - **Tracy Henninger**

"I am thankful for the team of people I get to work with each day starting with my manager, **Leslie Wilkins**; my co-supervisors **April Cannon, Tracy McMillian, and Shannon Stulz**; the Downtown Training Team led by **Sig Perez**; the **Downtown Family Court clerks**; and the Downtown Specialists, **Margaret Brickman** and **Betty Lopez-Mori**. They make coming to work a rewarding experience." - **Susan Morris**

"I am especially thankful for the **Public Records team** (Government Desks and Public Records Front Counter staff). Despite all the challenges of this past year, including unexpected staffing shortages, they have continued to produce quality customer service to our customer base. I am very proud of them all." - **Ken Shipley**

"I am very thankful for **Alana Callahan**. I am her courtroom clerk trainee and she has been so patient with me and with all of my questions!" - **Kristina Jenson**

CLERK CONNECTION

eFiling is expanding in Juvenile Court

by Dorothy King, Business Analyst

The Clerk's Office is expanding eFiling in Juvenile Court to include subsequent filings for four additional case types: Adoption Certification (AC), Adoption (JA), Dependency (JD), and Severance (JS). This is tentatively planned for early December. Future plans include the acceptance of case initiating petitions and motions for the same four case types in the first quarter of 2021. Further review is required for the Guardianship (JG) and Emancipation (JE) case types because they involve the payment of filing fees. Case types JI (Indian Relinquishment), JP (Order of Protection/Injunction Against Harassment), and JR (Relinquishment) will not be included for eFiling.



A little more in the paycheck just in time for the holidays

Employee's paychecks on December 9 may be a little higher because benefits premiums will not be deducted. The month of November has three pay periods - November 1, 15, and 29. This is why the December 9 paycheck (for the pay period that ends on November 29) will not have benefits premium deductions. This includes contributions to a health savings account and/or flexible spending account. If you have questions, you may contact the Employee Benefits Division at (602) 506-1010.

Take a scroll across the country



The National Association of Counties has a feature on its website called "County Explorer" that allows you to scroll over any county in the nation to find out specific information for that location. One of the options for information about the county includes confirmed COVID-19 cases per 10 thousand residents. This appears on the initial window when you open the site. If you desire to find out additional information about a county, then deselect (or click off) the initial window and then you will be able to scroll over each county, select a county of interest, click on it, and then you can view additional information like County Contacts, Website, County Structure, County Demographics, Economy, and Historical Population. You may view the County Explorer [here](#).

All in a day's work - Last fiscal year, the Clerk of the Court's Office processed a daily average of **\$520,384** in monies and averaged **8,132** transactions through the Cash Management system daily.



Employee Spotlight

This Month: **Jennifer Escarcega**



Title: Courtroom Clerk Lead

Years with Office: 17½ years

Some Things You Enjoy About Your Job and Working Here: The support and teamwork of the people I work with and the fact that I am always learning new things. Also, I enjoy the friendly atmosphere and the positive affirmations.

What Are Some Of Your Responsibilities: Training and cross-training new clerks and the specialist, backup supervisor as needed, special projects/duties as assigned.

Your First Job: I was a line server in a restaurant.

Hometown: Freeport, Illinois

A Hobby/ Favorite Activity: I have a small collection of decorative boxes and I like to go fishing.

A Memorable That You Have Done: Visiting the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, IL.

Best Vacation Spot: San Diego, CA or Las Vegas, NV // **Where Would You Like To Travel To:** Washington D.C.

Favorite Meal: Red beef burro, enchilada style with a side of rice // **Favorite Place to Eat Out:** It closed down.

Someone You Would Like to Meet: The singer Tom Jones

Favorite TV Show When Growing Up: *Gilligan's Island* and Saturday morning Tarzan movies.

Favorite TV Show/Movie: I have seen all the episodes of all seasons of *Big Brother*, *Amazing Race*, and *Survivor*

Something You Are Proud Of: I am proud of my ongoing career development, including the development of my public speaking, and overcoming extreme shyness.

What Would You Like To Be For A Day: Either Tom Jones' personal assistant or a paranormal investigator.

Something On Your Bucket List: I haven't been to the Grand Canyon yet. I would like to take that train ride to the Canyon from Williams, AZ.

Nobody Would Believe It If They Knew... I am fascinated by and a believer in most things paranormal and UFO-related. // **Do You Have A Favorite Quote:** "Smile a while and give your face a rest."

An Interesting/Unusual Job You Had: When I was a teenager, I helped run the rides for a carnival.

What Advice Do You Have For A New Clerk Employee: Be patient and give yourself some time to learn.

What Do You Like To Do In Your Spare Time: Read, catch up on TV programs that I recorded....oh, and Candy Crush!

An Ability You Wish You Had: Predicting the future // **Your Dream Car:** Lexus

// **Favorite Animal:** Dog - specifically Yorkshire Terrier

Who Would You Like To See In Concert: Tom Jones, of course, with Celine Dion a close second. // **A Pet Peeve:** Drivers who cut you off in traffic when there is space behind me. // **Influential Person(s) In Your Life:** My husband. He took an extremely shy and introverted person and brought her out of her shell.

Three Important Business Skills You Think Are Important: To be a good listener, have a very strong work ethic, and have the ability to multi task and prioritize.

Any Hidden Talents: I've been told that I make restaurant quality enchiladas.

Best Advice Someone Has Given You: Stop worrying so much. It's never as bad as you imagine it will be.



NOVEMBER NOTES

The cost of a classic Thanksgiving meal in 2020



According to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the cost of the traditional Thanksgiving feast for 10 is **\$46.90**, which is a \$2.01 decrease in price from last year and averages out to be less than \$5.00 per person.

"The average cost of this year's Thanksgiving dinner is the lowest since 2010," AFBF Chief Economist Dr.

John Newton said.

The AFBF survey shopping list includes turkey, bread stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a relish tray of carrots and celery, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and beverages of coffee and milk, all in quantities sufficient to serve a family of 10 with leftovers.

The highest cost item was the 16-pound turkey, which came in at \$19.39 – that is roughly \$1.21 per pound and down 7% from last year. The survey showed retail turkey prices are the lowest since 2010. Items that showed the decreases this year, in addition to the turkey were: whipping cream, \$1.74 and sweet potatoes, \$3.44. Items that increased in price were: dinner rolls, \$2.66; cubed bread stuffing, \$2.81; and pumpkin pie mix, \$3.39.

More than 230 volunteers from all 50 states gathered this information looking for the best possible prices without taking advantage of any special promotional coupons. The AFBF's Annual Thanksgiving dinner survey was first conducted in 1986.

Annual average cost of a Thanksgiving meal	
2012	- \$49.48
2013	- \$49.04
2014	- \$49.41
2015	- \$50.11
2016	- \$49.87
2017	- \$49.12
2018	- \$48.90
2019	- \$48.91
2020	- \$46.90

Dishing out some Thanksgiving trivia



The person who wrote the classic rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb," also played a role in making Thanksgiving a national holiday. After a 17-year letter-writing campaign, magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale finally convinced President Lincoln to issue an 1863 decree recognizing the tradition.



More Americans are forsaking Butterballs for Turduckens. What is a Turducken? It is a turkey stuffed with duck stuffed with chicken.



The original TV dinner was the result of a Thanksgiving miscalculation. In 1953, an executive of Swanson miscalculated the company's upcoming Thanksgiving turkey sales which left the company with 260 tons of frozen turkey. A company salesman suggested packaging the excess products into trays - along with traditional sides - and selling them to consumers as TV dinners.



In recent years, more people have traveled to Orlando, Florida than anywhere else during the Thanksgiving holiday.



The Inside Track

on Employee News

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BIRTHS

- Congratulations to Criminal Docket's **Tara Alameda** on the birth of her 7 lb. 10 oz. granddaughter on November 14. Her new grandchild's name is Eleanor. This is her second grandchild.



OFFICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following Clerk employees celebrate a milestone anniversary with the Office in November:

20 YEARS - Laura Franco

15 YEARS - Cheryl Hancey and Tammie Martin

10 YEARS - Linda Berger

5 YEARS - Soila Garcia, Debra Adams, Loraine Barrett, and Carmen Villasenor

NEW EMPLOYEES

The Clerk of the Superior Court's Office welcomes the following new employees:

- **Customer Service Center Support Services Unit - Nathalie Rivas and Jessica Espinoza-Cobain**
- **Billing and Deferral - Alice Turietta**
- **Criminal Operations - Ellie Castillo**

EMPLOYEE MOVES

- **Jennifer Cardenas** was promoted to Court Operations Lead at the Downtown File Counter.
- **Sherry Kristiansen** was recently promoted to Court Operations Lead at the Criminal Financial Obligations Unit.

EMPLOYEE SPECIAL CASUAL DAYS

The following are the scheduled **Arizona Cardinals Casual Days** in December. You may wear your Cardinals' Apparel on these days (unless you are appearing in court).

- Friday, December 4 (vs. LA Rams)
- Friday, December 18 (vs Philadelphia)
- Thursday, December 24 (vs San Francisco)



Special Features

Where in the world has the Record Times been?



The newsletter experiences some old time friendliness in a small Northern town

Each month, employees are invited to submit photos of themselves with the newsletter while they are on vacation. Last month, the newsletter was seen in a national park in Wyoming (WY). This month, it is seen in a city park that is just a state over from WY.

Pictured to the left is Electronic Document Management Quality Control's **Bev Macdonald**, who posed with the newsletter while she was in Dresser, Minnesota. The town was named after one of her ancestors.

You may submit a photo of yourself with the *Record Times* at any time. To submit a photo: **1)** Print the newsletter front page; **2)** Take a photo(s) with the page during your vacation; **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 Maricopa County lapel pin (pictured here).



Picturing the Past

Below is a blast from the past photo from 15 years ago this month of a Clerk of the Court employee posing with the *Record Times* newsletter while she was on vacation.



Who: Former staff, Deb Whitford
Where: Cogh, Ireland
When: November 2005
What: Photo with statue of immigrants from the Irish potato famine

Know-vember

A few things to know about November

November is "Adopt A Senior Pet Month." Here are some interesting national statistics reported in the *National Association of Counties News* related to this event.



- Number of households with pets** 65%
- Senior animals** Fastest growing population
- Pets adopted from shelters** 3.2 million a year
- Animals entering a shelter** 6.6 million a year
- Americans spend** \$72 billion on pets annually

What November could have been called

November was originally named for its position in the old Roman calendar. "Novem" means "nine" in Latin. After January and February were added to the calendar by Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory, November became the eleventh month of the year, but kept its old name. If it were changed to reflect its new position, then it could have been named **Undecimber** (from the Latin "undecim" for eleven).

THANK YOU!

This Thanksgiving season, we are ESPECIALLY thankful to all of our Clerk of the Court staff for your professionalism, perseverance, and positivity in 2020. We wish you an enjoyable, safe, and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM (Photo taken in 2019 before COVID)



Chief Deputy
Nancy Rodriguez



Deputy Director
Mike Nimtz



Clerk of the Court
Jeff Fine



Chief Innovation &
Technology Officer
Rich McHattie



Deputy Director
Valerie Clark