County DIGEST

April 30, 1992 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

ON THE MOVE

The Paramedic Guru and the Boot Camp King

Editor's note: For only the second time since the Employee Recognition Program started in 1984, there are two Employees of the Month. Congratulations to the Probation Department's Edward Paez and the Fire Department's Robert Kaufman.

Supervisor Deane Dana, right, congratulates Robert Kaufman, left, and Edward Paez.

As a U.S. Army Airborne Ranger, Edward Paez rocketed through the ranks and wound up winning Soldier of the Year honors in Europe.

And with only three years County service, the Probation Department Juvenile Crew Instructor is again on the fast track, grabbing many department honors and the coveted County Employee of the Month title.

Paez's rise started after getting assigned to transform Camp Munz and Mendenhall in the San Gabriel Mountains into drug treatment youth boot camp type programs with military-style training and discipline.

In just four weeks, he completed the task. But the effort took more than just countless hours hard work and training.

He solicited and got a wide range of private sector goods to refurbish camp dorms, construct an obstacle course and build an amphitheater.

In addition, Paez has appeared on TV, radio and before community groups to discuss his work with probationers.

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Message from the Auditor-Controller Daniel O. Ikemoto

In keeping with the president's plan to increase wage-earner spending and boost the economy, the Internal Revenue Service has asked all employers to reduce the federal income tax withholding of low and middle income taxpayers. Starting with the March 13 paycheck, some County employees may have noticed less federal taxes withheld. In most cases, there will be an insignificant change in the federal withholding for employees who claim "single" on their Form W-4 and earn salaries greater than $53,200, or more than $90,200 for those who claim "married." But caution is advised.

The reduction is not a tax credit and may reduce or

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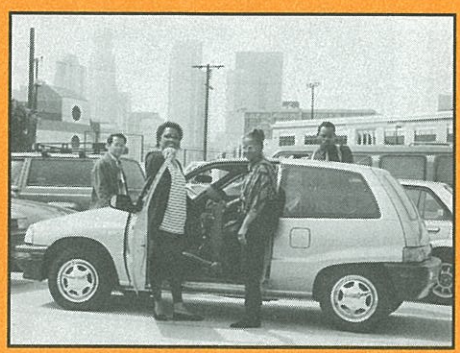
SMART RIDE



Four carpoolers arrive at the Public Social Services Civic Center Office, which along with five other locations, represent the first worksites to achieve 1992 air-quality trip reduction goals. Other sites surpassing trip reduction goals include the Finance, East Valley and El Sereno DPSS facilities; the Public Works Headquarters, with a four-day workweek; and the Probation Department's Challenger Youth Center.

Employees of the Month: Kaufman and Paez

(Continued from page 1)

When firefighters need paramedic training, they go see the expert – Robert Kaufman, March's Employee of the Month.

As a 23-year Fire Department veteran, Kaufman's title is firefighter/paramedic. But that's just part of the picture.

In addition to ensuring that County firefighters are prepared to provide emergency trauma services, he's taught paramedic courses at a wide range of institutions, including Harbor College, Torrance Memorial Hospital and Harbor/UCLA Medical Center.

And Kaufman's expert knowledge has led to a long list of advisory board appointments and commendations.

He's served as the State Rescue and Paramedic Association's president, and as a member of the State Emergency Medical Services Commission and the State Task Force on Emergency Medical Services.

He's also picked up two Board of Supervisors' awards, including one for service during the ARCO refinery fire in 1985. •

Life's a Picnic

...with U.S. Savings Bonds in your financial plan. Money invested in U.S. Savings Bonds is safe, backed by the United States, and growing at a guaranteed rate, if bonds are held for five years. Bonds enjoy tax privileges and are an easy way to save. That's a picnic for sure.

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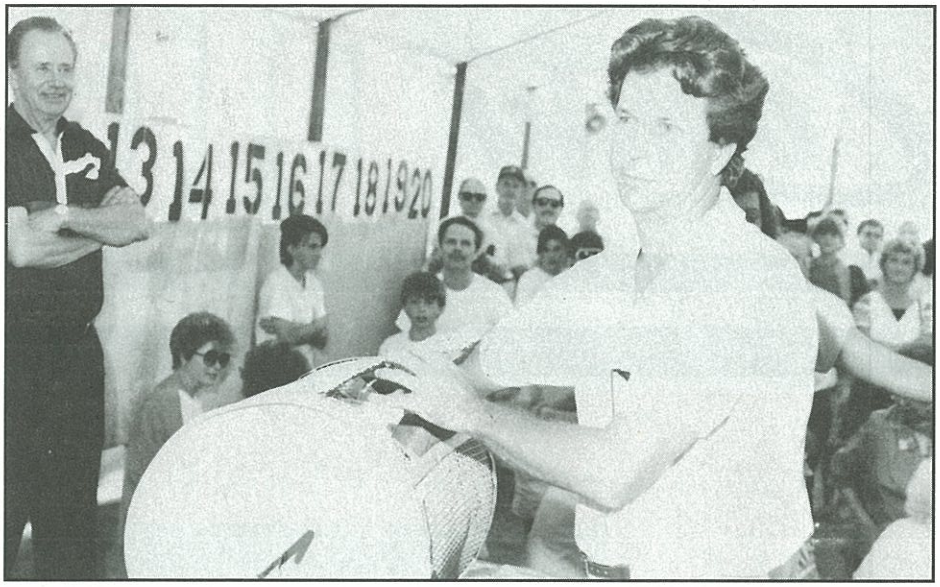
THE GREAT AMERICAN INVESTMENT



Dave Hutchison, a certified public accountant, draws the winning 1991 raffle tickets while...

LANCASTER'S HIGH DESERT HOSPITAL

Raffling Off the American Dream

Raffle tickets for a $188,000 house, a vacation in the Bahamas and $10,000 cash are now up for grabs in the third annual High Desert Hospital Auxiliary fund-raiser.

Only 3,500 tickets are available for this year's July 17 drawing, which raises funds to improve patient care at the Lancaster-based hospital. Last year's money purchased a $62,000 hospital sterilizer. In 1990, the profits bought an ultrasound machine and helped refurbish the main lobby.

"The raffle serves an extremely important purpose because it makes it possible for the hospital to make major equipment purchases and meet other expenses we would not be able to afford otherwise," said hospital volunteer coordinator Sandy Groves-Smith.

Besides the house and the trip, the hospital will raffle off three prizes of $2,500 and 10 $250 prizes. The Auxiliary is requesting a $100 donation per ticket. *For more information and to buy tickets, call (805) 945-8269.* •

a packed house waits for results.

Auditor's Message

(Continued from page 1)

eliminate your year-end refund, cause you to owe tax or increase the amount owed in 1993. IRS penalties for underpayment of estimated taxes in 1992 will be waived only if underpayment is a direct result of the reduction in withholding tax. Employees – especially those with working spouses or those receiving outside income from interest, investments or self-employment – should review withholding amounts.

Employees wishing to change their amount of withholding should obtain a Form W-4 from their department's payroll office, complete it and return it to their payroll office.

The IRS recommends that employees wishing to keep their withholding at the unreduced rate should not change the number of allowances. Instead, additional withholding amounts should be held each payday.

Additionally, estimated tax payment requirements have been revised for certain employees in 1992. Employees earning more than $75,000 (more than $37,500 if married and filing separately) or whose 1992 income exceeds the previous year by more than $40,000 (more than $20,000 if married and filing separately) may need to pay estimated tax for 1992. Employees who earn less than these amounts in taxable income will generally avoid penalties for underwithholding if their current year's withholding is at least 90 percent of their current year's tax obligation, or is at least 100 percent of what was withheld last year. This regulation is unchanged from previous years.

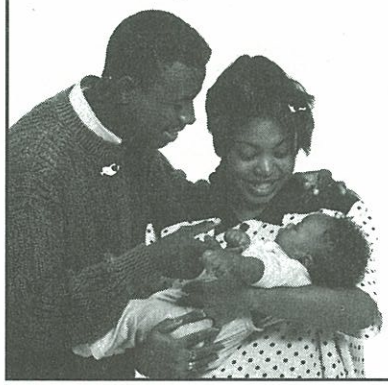
For more information, see your tax advisor or pick up the IRS Publication 919 – *Is My Withholding Correct for 1992?* or Publication 505 – *Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.* Both are available at the IRS Forms Office, 300 N. Los Angeles St., Room 1016 or by calling 1-800-829-3676. Additional IRS tax information is available at 1-800-829-1040. •

MAY HAPPENINGS

WALK ON

Thanks to the effort of more than 1,200 employees, this year's WalkAmerica ended as a major fund-raising success. And there's still time to turn in any pledge cards or donations. For more information, call (213) 974-1778.

Walk for things you hold dear.



Nearly 40,000 babies die every year. Many more are born with birth defects.

Join the March of Dimes WalkAmerica.

Walk for healthier babies.

Call the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and sign up today!

10th Anniversary *Walk a Mile to Save a Mind Set for May 16*

Walk a Mile to Save a Mind, the United Negro College Fund's 10th annual walkathon, takes place May 16 at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, 3650 Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd.

Featuring live entertainment, celebrity appearances and prizes, the 9 a.m. event benefits the 41 private, historically black colleges and universities supported by the fund, including Tuskegee, Xavier and Dillard.

On a Supervisor Kenneth Hahn motion March 24, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed May 16 UNCF Walk a Mile to Save a Mind Day and encouraged "all residents" to support this worthwhile cause.

For more information, call (213) 382-7357. •

Chess Championship Takes Place May 14

The sixth annual County Employees Chess Championship gets underway May 14 at the Public Works Conference Room A, 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra.

Starting at 6:30 p.m., the event features both open and amateur divisions.

The event also offers trophies for the top winners in both divisions. *For more information, call Joe Milanez at (818) 458-5926.* •

Surf-Side Recycling to Get National Award

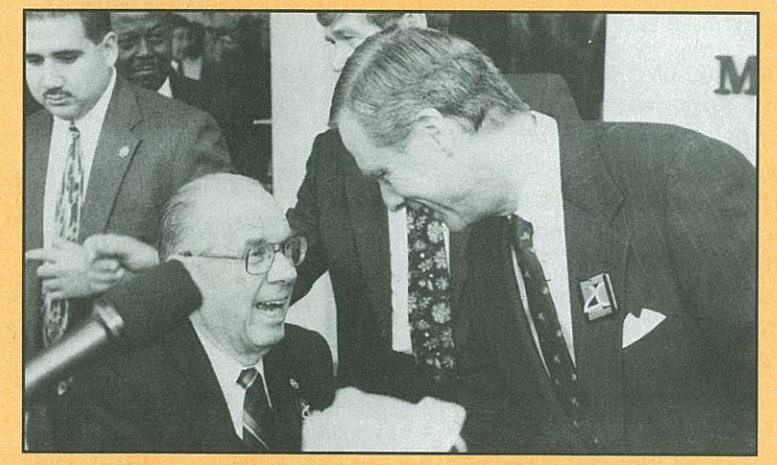
Highlighting this year's Public Service Recognition Week, the Department of Beaches and Harbors will receive the National Public Service Excellence Award from the Public Employees Roundtable for its Beach Recycling Program. This year's national festivities, running May 4 - 10, pay tribute to public employees' dedication and inform citizens about the range and quality of services provided. •

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

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

ASSESSOR: Frank Gonzales
CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Peter McDonald, Senaida Vigil
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Alberta M. Beitman, Robert E. Kiehl, Sterling S. Suga
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN: Michael D. Aviani, Harry I. Batchelder, Jack L. Frame, Allyn W. Holton, Frank J. Karoleski, Luke S. Salerno, John R. Sanford, Ray O. Shackelford, James E. Steele
HEALTH SERVICES: Alice C. Addison, Geraldine Childress, James Conlon, Helga Crawford, Rosalind Freedman, Franklin D. Crump, Blanche W. Daniel, William Grant, Carol Harnish, Kenneth R. Hensley, Miyoko Higashi, Richard Horton, Asako James, Wallace E. Lemmons, Ellis F. Lynch, Ruby McGary, Lonnie Moore, Herbert Navarre, Betty J. Richardson, Luciano Thamboni, Patricia A. Wilson
INTERNAL SERVICES: Ronald H. Franzen, Grady Taylor
MUNICIPAL COURTS: Joseph W. Blocker, Antony R. Chavez
PARKS & RECREATION: Alejandro C. Rivas, William Rogers
PROBATION: Raymond M. Berger, Richard Goodman, Jerry Rickerson, Robert L. Turner
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Yvonne Beamon, John Cappello, Ed K. Collier, Beatrice Gibson, Margaret Holmes, Wilma Morris, Lois C. Walker
PUBLIC WORKS: Eugene J. Duvernay, James B. Holcombe
SHERIFF: John L. Autry, Delmar D. Coleman, John P. Flaherty, Jr., Donald L. Hayden, Larry M. Lujan, Leon B. McGhee, Melvin Mulleary
SUPERIOR COURT: Phyllis Johnson

A Warm Welcome



Supervisor Kenneth Hahn welcomes Governor Pete Wilson to Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital in March for a tour of the neonatal intensive care unit and the emergency room. "This hospital has a very caring and dedicated staff, who treat thousands of victims of automobile accidents and gunshot wounds," Hahn said, adding that plans are underway to build a new state-of-the-art trauma center. The Governor also announced the allocation of $34.5 million in Medi-Cal reimbursements to Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital, which will help offset the costs of treating patients without insurance.

New Publication Spotlights County Health Care Issues

Health Care Connection, a new monthly publication covering the County's efforts to manage employee health care benefits, rolls off the presses in April. Distributed to worksites, the publication examines plans for improving health care quality, cost, service and employee satisfaction.

Today, skyrocketing costs threaten County health care benefits. During recent years, average costs have jumped 18 percent annually. If this trend continues, the average monthly cost for family coverage will be more than $1,100 by 1997.

From Sacramento to Washington, the nation's health care costs is a burning political and social issue. *Health Care Connection* helps spotlight the problems and offers worthwhile alternatives for employees. •

County DIGEST

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