

FRANKLY SPEAKING

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY MARIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES

When Isn't a Pound a Pound?

By Fred Crowder—Ag/Wts. & Meas.

That consumers no longer habitually watch for the "thumb on the scale" or the "weight in the chicken" indicates the success of weights and measures enforcement in our marketplaces.

To give some historical, one of the oldest regulations on the books refers to weights and measures in Leviticus 19:35: *Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment in meteyard, in weight, or in measure, and 19:36: Just balances, just weights, a just ephah (dry measure), and a just hin (liquid measure) ye shall have....* ■ In March, Supervisor **Susan Adams** sponsored a resolution recognizing the Marin County Weights and Measures Inspectors (W&M), and the Board of Supervisors recognized March 1-7 as National Weights and Measures Week. ■ The Constitution of the United States recognizes that enforcement of standardized weights and measures provides the societal cornerstone for fair commerce and consumer protection. That consumers no longer habitually watch for the "thumb on the scale" or

the "weight in the chicken" indicates the success of weights and measures enforcement in our marketplaces.

■ Inspectors for Marin County Weights and Measures check all 7,850 commercial weighing and measuring devices in Marin, including gas pumps, taxi meters, scales, pricing scanners, and even pints at the pub. In contrast, there are many countries where consumers routinely are cheated, and their only recourse is to go where they are cheated least. ■ Beer drinkers are a committed group, and it is not unusual for bars to be caught with their "pints down," that is, advertising a "pint" but serving the froth in a 14-ounce glass. Weights and Measures inspector **Scott Wise** investigated a complaint alleging a local brewery was charging more for



Photo by Charles Hsu

Anita Sauber checks a scale at the Farmer's Market.

happy hour pints than was advertised. Reporting to the scene, Scott bellied up to the bar, ordered a pint, and found they indeed were overcharging. Scott also checked the volume of the glass and found it short as well. After issuing a violation notice and bringing the bar into compliance, the patrons noticed

Continued on page 11

Getting the Word Out

By Mary J. Brown—HR

These two Marin County word enthusiasts were honored by the Board of Supervisors on April 15 for their outstanding contributions to county programs.

What do a library program coordinator and a writer have in common, besides a love of words? These two Marin County word enthusiasts were honored by the Board of Supervisors on April 15 for their outstanding contributions to county programs. ■ As *Outstanding Supervisor of Volunteers* for 2007-08, **Victoria Gonzalez** (Library) is described as a "phenomenal and caring" supervisor and manager of the Library Beyond Walls program. Two years ago,



Photo by Mary J. Brown

Victoria Gonzalez

Victoria took over the fledgling program in which volunteer liaisons deliver library books, tapes, and videos to homebound patrons. She's since expanded the program to 32 volunteers serving 50 patrons and has a special talent for matching the interests of her volunteers with their readers. Known for her cheer and warmth, Victoria enjoys her work and shares that she and her volunteers have the opportunity to help keep patrons connected to the world. She remarks, "Everybody wins. It proves that one person can change a person's life, so powerful is the gift of friendship." ■ *Outstanding Volunteer of the Year* for 2007-08, **Shirley Trimble** (HR/Civic

Photo by John Trimble



Shirley Trimble

Center Volunteers) didn't know when she started volunteering 11 years ago that she'd become such an essential player within CCV. As a profile writer for *The Volunteer View*, she's interviewed hundreds of volunteers and made the newsletter a pleasure to read every month. "I like the surprises each interview brings and the challenge of making each story come alive for our readers," she said. Shirley's ability to connect with people, draw out their stories, and produce excellent copy—time and time again—has earned her this special recognition. ■

FRANKLY SPEAKING

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Reporter of the Quarter: Tom Vasgird

Schedule

Articles Due	Publication Date
Friday, May 30	Friday, Aug. 15
Friday, Sept. 5	Friday, Nov. 7
Friday, Nov. 29	Friday, Jan. 30, 2009

Correction



Photo by Angela Nicholson

Equal Employment Division's Heritage Month winners are L to R: Gail Wiemann, Pamela Cringle, Josie Cenicerros, Yzaida Miranda, Karen Kindig, and Marlene Cornejo.



Photo by Sarah Gibson

Matt Chan and others line up to donate blood.

Long Lines Tell the Story

By Kellie Moore—Fire

On February 16, hundreds of people gathered at the Marin County Fire Department's Marin City Station for what turned out to be one of the largest blood drives in the history of Blood Centers of the Pacific. The event was on behalf of Fire Captain **Ruben Martin**, who was critically injured in an accident on February 11 at the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station. ■ The blood drive and barbecue were spearheaded by Fire Engineers **Jamie Byrnes** and **Mike Tribolet**, while Engineer **Breanna Buchanan** took on the task of food and logistical support. A team of Marin County Fire employees and retirees planned the day. Word spread not only throughout Marin County and local public service agencies, but also throughout the greater Bay Area. Although the blood drive was scheduled to run from 12–5 p.m., people already were in line by 11:30 a.m. to get their blood drawn. Blood Centers of the Pacific provided 18 donation stations; the International Association of Firefighters (Marin Local 1775 and the Santa Clara Local 1171) had two barbecue trailers, cooking more than enough tri-tip; and on- and off-duty personnel volunteered wherever needed. ■ The event concluded at 7 p.m., two hours after the scheduled close. Over 179 pints of blood were collected. Some waited up to three hours to donate blood. This truly was a remarkable outpouring of support for an esteemed public servant. The latest word is that Ruben is making steady progress and his spirits are high. ■



Photo by Janice Hughes

Cathy Selmi teaches a computer class in room 271 at the Civic Center.

What's in #271 at Big Pink?

By Cathy Selmi—IST

IST has added a new training room in room 271 at the Civic Center. Part of the jail conversion project, the training room can accommodate 16 students. The room is equipped with a work station for the trainer, a ceiling-mounted projector, and DVD and video equipment. Currently, SAP/MERIT is offering classes in the new facility. The training room located at 371 Bel Marin Keys Blvd. in Novato is still available for computer-related classes. ■

FRANKLY SPEAKING Purpose and Priorities

COMMUNICATION · DIVERSITY · RECOGNITION · EDUCATION · NEWS · FUN · INTERACTION

The Marin County newsletter is intended for internal communication. The newsletter will not include partisan or non-partisan political activity, or issues related to labor disputes and grievances.

New Undersheriff Named

By Jeff Edwards—Sheriff's Office

Sheriff **Bob Doyle** has named Captain **Tim Little** to the post of Undersheriff. The appointment comes following the retirement of **Dennis Finnegan** after 32 years of dedicated service. ■ Tim brings 29 years of experience to his new post of duty. Beginning his career as a Deputy Sheriff in Alameda Co. in 1979, he came to Marin in 1981 and has held assignments including custody and patrol duty, Investigations Sergeant, Investigations Lieutenant, and Captain of Patrol Services. ■ A Marin County native who grew up in Fairfax, Tim will run the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office. As Undersheriff, he also will supervise the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force and probation

Photo by Janice Hughes



Marin County's new Undersheriff, Tim Little

enforcement unit. ■ "I'm looking forward to maintaining the high professional standard the Sheriff's Office has set in the community and improving the customer service the residents of Marin have come to expect," says Tim. ■

The 411 on 211

By Lisa Sepahi—H&HS

Many of us are familiar with the array of three-digit numbers available, such as 511 which gets us handy up-to-date travel information, 411 for directory assistance, and, of course, 911 for emergencies. Adding to this list is 211, a free, confidential information line connecting anyone to community services such as childcare, job training, senior services, counseling, food, shelter, and so much more. ■ In a world where it is becoming increasingly difficult to get an actual person on the line, 211 is a welcome breath of fresh air for anyone in need of help and information. 211's motto, "Get Connected. Get Answers."

sums up this fast, free service which provides callers with personal attention from trained information and referral professionals. The service is available in more than 150 languages and covers the Bay Area, so if you are



Betty Creary and Helen Rosen of 211 stand with Cicity Emerson (center) from Public Health at the 211/Network of Care Launch in February.

calling from San Rafael but want to know about a service in San Francisco, 211 has the information right at hand. To ensure the information you receive is up-to-date and accurate, 211 has partnered with Marinlink, the local connection which updates and maintains a comprehensive listing of community resources in the county. ■ 211 also has partnered with the free information website *Network of Care*, <http://marin.networkofcare.org>. You can find 211's comprehensive listing of services at this website. ■ Thanks to 211, getting connected to community services couldn't be easier. ■

Photo by Lisa Sepahi



PETTERLE'S PERSPECTIVE

By Steve Petterle—P&OS

I have a new county cell phone. Of course, it didn't come with a manual (because small electronic devices don't come with manuals anymore—I think it's a new law), but I knew it was capable of more than just dialing a number.

■ So I went online. I found an instruction booklet on the Internet. The publisher asked if I wanted to download a 300-page manual. Not really. I don't need to earn college credit. I just wanted to know how to use some of the features of my new phone. ■

So I did a little investigation. I surfed, I googled. Finally, I found an interesting website that promised to unlock the many secrets of any small electronic gadget. At the prompt, I entered the manufacturer and model number of my new phone. In a couple of seconds, I got the results I wanted—and then some. ■ I can make phone calls with my new phone. It's got a clock and a calendar. I can set different ring tones. I knew those things. But I didn't know that if you press and hold the 3, 7, and # keys simultaneously, it activates a small vacuum cleaner. And when 9 and * are pressed together, it becomes a razor (which is incidentally the name of a popular phone—coincidence?). And there's a mini-hair dryer, an electric toothbrush, a universal remote, and a can opener. I can actually talk on the phone while brushing my teeth! Or while opening a can! It's like a super-techno Swiss Army knife. Unfortunately, I hurt myself seriously when I inadvertently triggered the electric stapler. ■ I like my new phone. The features are nice, but mostly I need it to dial a number. ■

Illustration by Phoenixia Thomas

Greenest County Fair on Earth

By Rick Fraites—BOS

With the installation of 744 photovoltaic panels atop the fairground's Marin Center/Exhibit Hall roof, the county has joined the ranks of over 25 fairgrounds statewide to install major photovoltaic projects. The solar panels will provide approximately 40% of the building's annual kilowatt usage. ■ However, **Jim Farley**, Director of

Photo by Janice Hughes



Jim Farley has a very green idea.

Cultural and Visitor Services, and maestro of county fair planning and production, has crossed the Rubicon regarding his commitment to further reducing the carbon footprint of the Marin County Fairgrounds. ■ "This year the theme of the Marin County Fair is *The Greenest County Fair on Earth*," stated Jim. "This year's fair is going to go Green using almost every conceivable idea and product that is available." ■ The 63rd edition of

the Marin County Fair will feature green practices and businesses throughout the fairgrounds. This will be made possible through extensive collaboration with and cooperation of other county departments, as well as numerous agencies and organizations in the community. ■ Visit the Carbon Cube, comprising four kiosks containing computers. The Cube allows fairgoers to calculate the size of their individual carbon footprint, and suggests means to reduce their impact upon the environment. This structure is designed and constructed by middle and high school students from the Intel Computer Clubhouse in San Rafael.

■ The fair will incorporate Green themes and categories into the competitive exhibits program wherever possible. Highlights of the new contests include:

- Light Bulb Art
- Decorated Windows
- Recycled Glass Art
- Decorated Water Bottles
- Backyard Compost
- Celebrate Arbor Day

Be sure to visit the Marin Alternative Fuel Car Expo. The Expo will showcase over 20 alternative fuel and high MPG vehicles. The vehicles and fuel types may include hybrid, electric, hydrogen, compressed natural gas, plug-in hybrid, high MPG gasoline, ethanol, and bio-diesel. Other eco-friendly vehicles on display will include electric bicycles, mopeds, and two and three-wheeled scooters. ■ Another theme exhibit is the transit vehicle display, ranging from a

Some of the many Green practices to look for at the fair are:

- Expansion of the Healthy Food Choice program to all concessionaires, including Butler Amusements
- Use of Green cleaning products for all janitorial services
- Placement of 20 recycling stations on the fairgrounds, with new signage and containers
- Required use of selected biodegradable or compostable cups, plates, and flatware
- Use of recycled paper content with the printing of all fair publications
- Development of an educational component with workshops on Green lifestyle choices

SMART light rail car to a new hydrogen-powered Golden Gate Transit bus. ■ Even the stage and grounds entertainers will feature environmental themes in their programs. Come see Dr. Solar, the Walking Treeman, and Earth Capades. ■ *The Greenest County Fair on Earth* will run July 2 through July 6. For additional information and other innovative fair features, please log on to www.marinfair.org and click away. ■ The Marin County Fair has been consistently recognized as one of the best in America. The 2008 Marin County Fair will continue the tradition of outstanding entertainment, excellence in children's programming, and leading innovation. Don't miss it! ■

Merrill Award

Congratulations to the Marin County Fair for winning the prestigious and esteemed Louis B. Merrill Award for superior achievements at last year's Aquatic Adventures Fair. It is the highest award that can be achieved by any of the 150 member fairs of the Western Fairs Association. The award was granted to Marin County for the third time, a very impressive feat that only three counties have achieved in the award's history. This prominent honor confirms Marin County as home to one of the nation's finest fairs. ■

In Memoriam

Gaile O'Connor, a former supervising senior attorney in the Public Defender's Office, passed away from cancer. Gaile was a fierce advocate on behalf of the indigent and the less fortunate in our community for more than twenty years, and was known for her eloquence and compassion. She is survived by her daughter and brother. ■

No Bars Held

By **Nancy Grisham**—County Counsel

In November, the Marin County Counsel's office was moved to new quarters. For decades, the County Counsel's office resided in Rooms 303 and 315 of the Civic Center. There was so little room that the office was bursting at the seams. Some attorneys had their offices on a different floor and at a different end of the building. The office had no room for summer law clerks, storing necessary files, law books, supplies, and no place for meetings and depositions. **Patrick Faulkner**, Marin County Counsel, said that when he was hired almost 30 years ago, he was told by **Doug Maloney**, then County Counsel, that the only office space for the new attorney was a corner in the office law library. "But don't worry," Doug told him, "we're soon going to get enough space for all our attorneys to have an office." Patrick continued, "It took over 30 years, and now that promise finally came true." ■ The new space is located where the old county jail used to be, at the north end of the Hall of Justice. Patrick saw the potential for a well-planned office area. "When I first saw the space, though I could see it would be a big job, I was excited about the potential of extending

the Frank Lloyd Wright concept of the central mall or walkway into the space. I was very pleased with the great job that the architect did with the ceilings and central library areas in that regard."

■ Although some of the work was contracted out, much of the oversight of the remodeling was handled by the very capable staff in the Public Works Department, under **Kevin McGowan**, Principal Civil Engineer. The point person was **Larry Beaton**, whose help and expertise were greatly appreciated by County Counsel staff. Larry said the job was complicated. "The major demolition required was a big challenge. The metal bars and steel doors had to be removed, the plumbing completely redone, new electrical ducting and floors installed, all while the Sheriff's office conducted business on the floor below. The demolition alone took about six months," said Larry. ■ The architect was Carey and Company, and the construction was done by AMG. The building improvements were done by Zolman Construction. Larry and Patrick had words of praise for all involved, and especially appreciated the building maintenance section of



Photo from DPW Archives

Before



Photo by Jeanine Michaels

After

DPW. Besides Kevin and Larry, **David Vaughn, Mike Norton, Pat Cunningham, Rich Leahy, Rich Wallace, Tracie Holland, Brendon O'Hagan** (DPW), **Dave Speer** (CAO) and **Steve Marthinsen** (IST) all contributed to its success. Patrick also appreciated the efforts of James Magsombol and his staff at Zolman Construction, and had praise for the architect, Nancy Goldenberg. ■ Larry said, "Most importantly, this project was a great team effort. Everyone involved helped to make the project a real success." ■

The Spirit of Si Se Puede

By **Jose Varela**—Public Defender's Office

The spirit of Si Se Puede (Yes, We Can) was alive on March 27 as the Board of Supervisors joined the Organization of Latino Employees (OLE), Health and Human Services, the Public Defender, the Probation Department, SEIU, and other community members in commemorating the Cesar Chavez Day state holiday. At the afternoon event, MYC youth programs participants created a Cesar Chavez salad featuring fresh, traditional ingredients as part of Generation Chef. ■ The celebration included moving oral reflections and a historical slide presentation by several county employees. **Ellen Szakal** and **Oscar Guardado** (H&HS) conducted a presentation on healthy food choices, complete with prizes. **Raul Munoz** (H&HS) reflected on his personal meeting with Cesar Chavez and then performed a lovely Chilean song. ■ **David Escobar** (BOS), of the planning committee, noted: "The county Cesar Chavez Day festivities accentuated the true spirit of Cesar Chavez." ■ Five years ago, a small group of county



Photo by Josie Canteros

L to R: **Miguel Villarreal**, Nutritional Service Manager for the Novato Unified School District; **Cesar Lagleva**, H&HS & SEIU; **Rosaura (Rosie) Alvarez**, Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Department; **Susana Tabunat**, Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Department; **Stacy Carlsen**, Agricultural Commissioner, shared their personal stories

employees formed OLE. Since then, the organization has grown to approximately 60 county employees. OLE is an inclusive group providing information about issues affecting Marin's Latino community. OLE meets for lunch several times per year to exchange information and address emerging issues, and works with other groups to sponsor events that strengthen cultural competence among county staff. ■ If you are interested in being a part OLE, please email **Jose Varela** (DA) at jvarela@co.marlin.ca.us. ■

The panel of county employees shared their personal stories of Cesar Chavez; how he affected their lives and how his legacy as a civil rights activist and labor leader lives on through the United Farm Workers Union.

Photo by Jennifer Walter



Ashley Ontiveros keeps voting fun and interesting.

The Elections Department displayed its spiffy new absentee ballot box in the lobby on Election Day, thanks to **Ashley Ontiveros** (Registrar of Voters). Ashley took an old UPS box home, added wheels and a secure locked door, and adorned it with stars and stripes for a new look. Says Ashley, "I wanted to get the younger people into voting and to celebrate the fact that we can vote. It seems too many people forget." ■

Photo by Joan Brown



L to R: Jose Varela, Margaret Grosch, and Joe Spaeth

Margaret Grosch (Treas/Tax) was appropriately rewarded for her skill, kindness, and magnanimity. Margaret has been a volunteer at the Public Defender's Library for the last ten years. Her skills and attention to detail are much appreciated by Public Defender **Joe Spaeth** and his staff. ■

Matt Bronson's (CAO) wife Samantha gave birth to son Reid Matthew on January 29. Just remember, Matt, everything you thought you knew about raising kids is wrong. Policies and procedures don't apply. Best wishes. ■

Janene Conner (Probation) and husband Jeff decided that it was time for son Jake to have a baby sister. They welcomed daughter Julia on February 22. Jake must be busy checking out this new situation. ■

Christie Woolard (DPW) and husband Todd nearly brought the place down when they visited Pisa, Italy. Don't

worry, the infamous leaning tower is still standing. Soon after returning from Italy, baby Ryan was born on August 11. ■

Dr. **Malini Nijagal** (H&HS) became a Board Certified OB-GYN in January. She flew to Dallas and back within 24 hours, during which time she took the intense examination. She passed with honors and we love having her at Women's Health Services. ■

Six months ago this column featured a story about interpretative naturalist **David Herlocker** (P&OS) who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. This unique and gifted man returned to work recently! We're all thankful to have him back. ■

Photo by Ed Harris



Norma and her mother in the desert

Norma Johnson (Courts) visited Israel with her mother in February. On a rigorous schedule that required plenty of walking up and down hills and stairs and through tunnels, they saw such sites as the Temple Mount, the Dead Sea, and Bethlehem. They enjoyed a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and a tram ride to the cliffs of Masada. ■

Marilyn Boatright (Library) turned it all around and continues to move it around. After receiving inspiration from her 20-ish daughter, and losing 70 pounds, she has committed to completing the

Photo by Todd Coleman



Lean till you drop. Christie Woolard at the Leaning Tower

Bolder Boulder (Colorado) 10K race on Memorial Day. This grueling, high-elevation race is not for softies. Marilyn trains in her neighborhood and cross-trains at the YMCA. Some people talk about the pain associated with serious training. Not Marilyn; for her it is all about having fun and feeling good. ■

Doug Allen's (Assessor-Recorder) alter ego is Time-Out Teddy. Doug belongs to the Santa Rosa chapter of the Exchange Club. At their recent awards dinner Doug



Doug as Time-Out Teddy

got his debut as the lovable Teddy. The Exchange Club supports and honors law enforcement around California. One of their functions is to place teddy bears in police cars and EMT units for children who are going through a painful experience. This small act can be a very big thing to a child who is having a difficult time. ■

Steve Soldavini and co-worker **Steve Fleak** (DPW) recently went to the 50th anniversary of the Daytona 500 to celebrate Steve Soldavini's 50th birthday. They brought along their good friend and mascot Froggy (from the Rohnert Park radio station) for added companionship. In the midst of all this excitement they visited the Everglades, and nearly got eaten while eating gator jerky. ■

As a follow-up to the front page article in the last issue of *Frankly Speaking*, have you found the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) closest to where you work? ■

Please e-mail the information from your department to the Odds & Ends columnist, Tom Vasgird, at tvasgird@co.marlin.ca.us.

Photo by Jean Fenstermaker

Some Of Our Best Friends

Compiled by Janice Hughes—DA's Office



1. Whiskers
Marcie Lynch—DA
2. Katie
Paula Kluge—H&HS
3. Miss Kittie
Francie Hubert—IST
4. Kai fish
Elizabeth Turner—Courts
5. Cato
Sherry Sweet—P&OS
6. Lambchop & Barney
Lori Goldwyn—H&HS
7. Carina
Carlos & Charla Gonzalez—H&HS
8. Clawzy
Emily Moussamih—H&HS
9. Harley & Diesel
Victoria Gould—DA
10. Abby & Honeybuns
Sandy White—HR
11. Charlie & fish
Teresa Ramirez—Courts
12. Milo
Bridget Fricke—Assessor
13. Bocce
Lisa Lue Ronconi—DA
14. Hailey
Donna McMorrow—H&HS
15. Cassie
Donna McMorrow—H&HS
16. Adam
Chris Comiola—H&HS
17. Sally
Marc Pelissetti—Assessor
18. Ollie
Heather Giusti—Courts
19. Sunny the Fish
Joy Madayag—Courts
20. Chata
Diana Alonzo-Valderrama—H&HS
21. Aria
Elizabeth Turner—Courts
22. Daisy
Joan Brown—HR
23. Dojo
Julia Barnes—DPW
24. Tristan & Lulu Belle
Roy Anclaux—H&HS
25. Harry
Larry Grace—CDA
26. Lucy
Deborah Skaar—Farm Advisor
27. Cricket
Greg Pryor—Assessor
28. Milo
Teresa Ramirez—Courts
29. Everette & Macie
Greg Erickson—H&HS
30. Nina, Oso & Dolly
Raquel Armas—H&HS
31. Calvin
Paul Haakenson—Courts
32. Charlie
Teresa Ramirez—Courts
33. Kitty
Jim Halligan—DA
34. Trixie
Carla Wyatt—Assessor
35. Springzilla
Michael Eckart—H&HS
36. Annie & Toby
Louise Pagone—Sheriff

Photo by Janet Linette



L to R: Kenyetta Wilson, Matt Murphy, Rebecca Leacock, Jeana Reynolds, Marsha Leonard, John Dury, and Mike Ertz

Team of the Quarter

By Jennifer Walter—Public Administrator's Office

The Probation Department's Programs of Responsive Treatment and Linkages (PORTAL) team has been selected as the newest Team of the Quarter. The members of this dynamic team are **Jeana Reynolds, John Dury, Kenyetta Wilson, Matt Murphy, Marsha Leonard, Rebecca Leacock, and Mike Ertz.** ■ The PORTAL program was

started in April 2007 by grant funding from the State of California to assist minors with mental health issues by providing them and their families with resources for mental health treatment. Many of these children are not identified as needing attention for depression and other issues until they are detained in Juvenile Hall. The PORTAL staff

includes four mental health practitioners, a mental health supervisor, a deputy probation officer, and two part-time family support staff. They provide assessments and evaluations, and recommend the types of therapy needed to return these minors to their family environments. **Nicki Kuhn**, Director of Juvenile Probation Services, says, "The goal of this program is to get these juveniles out of locked facilities and into treatment as soon as possible. Services are provided in the home to tackle difficult situations such as family crises around violence, substance abuse, and mental health-related issues." ■ Although in place for less than a year, this program has helped considerably to reduce the Juvenile Hall population. The department can recommend release from custody for some youth because treatment opportunities are available to them and their families through the PORTAL program. ■

Look, Ma, No Hands!

By John Wanamaker—DPW

I once heard someone say that if you need two hands to drive a car, your mind should be along for the ride, too. That isn't necessarily the case with cell phones. Our minds can be elsewhere when we are driving and talking on the phone. It seems like most of Western Europe got it right when they banned the use of cell phones while vehicles are in motion; while not entirely solving the problem, a new California law is a step in the right direction. ■

The law goes into effect on July 1. It requires all drivers talking on a cell phone to use a hands-free kit. Drivers will be subject to a \$20 fine for a first offense, and \$50 for subsequent offenses; this does not include penalty assessments, which can be more than triple the base amounts of the fines. This law is similar to ones passed in Connecticut, the District of Columbia,



L to R: Tom Buell, Phillip Thomas, Jerry Channel, and James Johnstone

New Jersey, and New York. Its purpose is to make the roads safer, because we all know it is the "other person" using the cell phone who causes the problem. ■ The law does allow use of a handheld phone while driving in the event of emergency. This includes calls to law enforcement, medical providers, and other emergency service agencies. ■ The County Communications Department is in the process of bringing the county fleet into conformity with the new cell phone laws. Staff at the Communications Shop do all of the installation work and system testing of the new hands-free kits. **Tom Buell,**

Jimmie Hudson, and James Johnstone are members of the team that ensures proper in-vehicle operation. Communications Technicians **Jerry Channel** and **Phillip Thomas** make sure that the cell phones are registered and operating correctly. ■ The County Communications Division makes safety paramount to all other considerations. The new state cell phone mandate is considered to be a safety feature that will save lives. If any problems occur within your county vehicle cell phone kit, please give a call to the County Communications Shop at 499-7313. ■



Phillip Thomas checks a cell phone.

Photos by John Wanamaker

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Photos by Janice Hughes

EDMUND DEA



JANUARY

Edmond Dea has worked for the County of Marin since July 1990. As Senior Accounting Assistant for Schools and Special Districts in the Auditor-Controller's Office, he has always been a consistent, knowledgeable, and professional resource. His willingness to address problem areas, take ownership, and ensure follow-through is unwavering. He has made considerable efforts to guide and mentor his peers and clients, walking them through and patiently explaining complex accounting entries. Edmond also has served as the primary liaison with IST and the Treasurer's Office for check disbursement downloads, validating files, check payments, and resolving remedy tickets. He often is called into action to address critical deadlines and has done so without hesitation in a calm, steady manner. He continually is sought out for assistance, and is valued for his knowledge and SAP skills. Edmond's work ethic and commitment to excellence represent the best in a Marin County employee. ■

By Karen Shaw—Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office

LANEY MORGADO



FEBRUARY

In her three years in the Public Works Department, **Laney Morgado** has excelled in every aspect of her work. She has demonstrated the ability not only to take care of business, but to do it with style, elegance, and a huge smile. As an Administrative Services Technician for the Disability Access Program, she works to ensure that all county programs, services, activities, and facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. Her position requires strong organizational skills; familiarity with an array of laws, policies, and procedures; and people and communications skills. Her positive attitude brightens the office environment. Laney is highly respected for her ownership of tasks and willingness to take on challenges. Her versatility and dedication have made her a true asset to the county. She is a role model for others, possessing a vast knowledge of county policies and programs. Laney's competent performance, personal warmth, and sense of humor exemplify public service at its finest. ■

By Jenny Choi—DPW

DAVID BROWN



MARCH

Chief Deputy Public Defender **David Brown** deserves his recognition as employee of the month. With a ready smile on his face, David goes that extra mile helping public defender clients. He works well beyond the call of duty with his clients' best interest at heart. After more than 25 years, David still exhibits the enthusiasm and joy of someone new and eager to help clients. An experienced litigator respected by his colleagues, deputy district attorneys, and court personnel, David is courteous, kind, professional, and respectful. ■ David is on the board of directors for the Marin County Bar Association and has served on the Human Rights Commission. A dedicated father of two young children, David makes time to be actively involved in their daily activities. ■ He is a shining example of the Public Defender's mission to protect our clients' constitutional rights while treating them with respect and encouraging them to lead productive and positive lives. ■

By Debra Leyva—Public Defender's Office



Photos by Sandy Dusak



Jennifer and Milya hold display materials.

Milya Jacobson and Jennifer Livingston (Library) attended the *To the Moon and Beyond* seminar sponsored by NASA. This was part of NASA's outreach and education efforts to garner support for their Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Mission planned for the fall of 2008. According to Milya, the goal of the seminar was to bring space science into our libraries and community programs. The greater long-term objective is to get today's kids excited about space, the new frontier of tomorrow.



Jennifer tries out the controls.

Marin Transit is on the Move!

By Amy Van Doren—DPW

The Marin County Transit District (Marin Transit) is really on the move. On March 1 it moved from the Civic Center to new offices at 750 Lindero Street, Suite 200, in San Rafael.

Although its three staff persons, **Amy Van Doren**, **Suzanne Chen-Harding**, and **Lauren Gradia**, are employees of the Department of Public Works, Marin

Transit is a special district.

■ Marin Transit was formed by a vote of the people of Marin County in 1964 and was given the responsibility for providing local transit service that begins and ends in Marin County. ■ Although Marin Transit is responsible for local services, it owns a small number of buses and does not employ its own drivers. Instead, it contracts with four operators, including Golden Gate Transit (GGT) for local

regular bus routes and Whistlestop Wheels for paratransit services. Marin Airporter operates its community shuttles with routes that serve Larkspur, Marinwood/ Terra Linda, and Santa Venetia, where large buses are not required. Marin Transit is also responsible for the West Marin Stagecoach, Muir Beach Dial-a-Ride, and E-Z Rider in Novato. In June, it will reroute Route 29 to serve the Health and Human Services' new health and wellness center in the Canal area of San Rafael.

■ GGT had provided local service as an offshoot of its regional services based on revenue-sharing agreements with Marin Transit. In 2002 it became apparent that this arrangement had to change. With reduced state sales tax revenues, substantial cost increases, and service restructuring, it became clear that Marin Transit and GGT needed to redefine their roles to reflect their changing responsibilities and the travel needs of local and regional riders. The problem was that there was no source of funds to pay for a local transit system. ■ Two major changes occurred in 2004 that led to expansion to a \$25 million annual program budget in FY 07/08. The first event was approval of the Transportation Sales Tax, Measure A, in November 2004, which allocates 55% of its revenues to transit services. The second was an agreement with GGT that more accurately reflected the costs and revenues associated with local fixed route bus service and defined Marin Transit's role and responsibilities for funding, planning, and management. Staff has increased from one to three persons since 2006 to handle the increased responsibilities. Marin Transit signed a ten-year service agreement with GGT, which began in January 2008. Marin Transit now is responsible for nearly 40% of the service currently provided by the Golden Gate Transit District. ■ Yes, Marin Transit is really on the move. For more information, visit www.marintransit.org. ■



L to R: Amy Van Doren and Suzanne Chen-Harding Not pictured: Lauren Gradia



Shuttle

Roving Reporter

By Connie Siebler—Assessor's Office

April 12 is "Walk on Your Wild Side Day." How do you walk on your wild side?

Kathy Harrington (IST): "Oh boy, you couldn't have picked a less interesting person. I consider alpha-betizing my spices exciting."



Photos by Connie Siebler

Joe Oncina (IST): "I'm just a weekend warrior. All week it's work, gym, sleep. I let loose on the weekend, ride my Harley on sunny days, listen to live music, go into the city for some night life."



Cris Ruiz (Treas/Tax): "In the way I live life. I watched TV shows like Jacques Cousteau and what I saw seemed like a fantasy. I started scuba diving 18 years ago. I've done it in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Hawaii. It's nice to make the dream a reality."



Cathryn Tait (Treas/Tax): "Living in the Russian River area is always 'wild.' When I am not kayaking on the river or hiking on the park trails of Armstrong Woods, I enjoy creating whimsical mosaic garden art."



Haiku

By Bob Beaumont—DPW

Deep down in the earth
Trolls are teased and tantalized
By forgotten dreams.



Smooth Ride Ahead

By **Bob Beaumont**—DPW

Construction ahead! In response to the county's growing backlog of deferred maintenance on our roads and bridges, in 2006 the Board of Supervisors approved a five-year program to begin the process of catching up. Last summer more than 200 roads received some form of resurfacing, improving over 25 miles of roadway. The funding comes from a variety of sources, including the county general fund, permit fees, Transportation Measure A funds, and the state. In addition to resurfacing, each project is evaluated for inclusion of facilities related to bike and pedestrian access, access for people with disabilities, transit, and traffic safety. The extensive design and construction process is accomplished through the dedicated efforts of many DPW staff members. Among them are **Ernest**



Resurfacing a section of roadway

Photo from DPW archives

Klock, head of engineering design, **Craig Parmley**, Superintendent of Road Maintenance, **Marl Madayag**, Chief of Construction, and **Amanuel Haile**, Traffic Engineer. ■



Laurel Thomassin tests a pump for accuracy.

A Pound cont'd

From front cover

the change and offered a round in Scott's honor. He could not take them up on the offer, so as a compromise, they designated him their patron saint. ■ In cases that extend beyond local enforcement remedies, W&M works with the District Attorney's office. Deputy District Attorneys **Bob Nichols**, **David Ball**, **Andy Perez**, and **Madeline Duffy** bring considerable muscle to the table. The DA's consumer protection team has garnered widespread respect in the industry for its record of negotiating many statewide weights and measures settlements for amounts exceeding six figures. ■ Bob's team worked with Marin County W&M to investigate a complaint concerning deceptive packaging by Lancôme face cream. W&M Inspector **Charles Hsu** discovered the company had inserted a sleeve into their container, making it appear as big as the competitor's product but actually containing 30% less face cream. This clearly was a case of deceptive packaging. Bob and his team worked out a settlement that not only corrected the problem, but ensured the company would not do it again. It also fired a warning shot across the bow of other companies that *thou shall have a just hin*. ■ In spite of these enforcement and regulation efforts, fraud and error still are possible. So next time you buy something from a pump, over a scale, or in a package, you can protect yourself by paying attention. If

something doesn't seem right during the transaction, ask the clerk. If the clerk cannot provide a satisfactory answer, ask for the manager. If you still are not satisfied, contact W&M. Here are some tips to ensure you get what you pay for:

- Pay attention when the clerk runs your purchase over the scanner—scanner price overcharges are common.
- When buying over a scale:
 - Check that the scale readout is at zero ("0.00") before the weighing.
 - Check that a *tare* (adjustment) is taken for deli containers—you only pay for product, not the package!
 - During weighing, watch the indicator for any jumps or odd behavior—the scale may not be operating correctly or there may even be a thumb on it. Request reweighing on another scale.
- On hanging scales or old spring scales, make sure the scale settles before the weight is determined—don't let the operator bounce up the weight.
- Don't be deceived by the size of the package! Read product labels; compare different manufacturers' product prices against label weight to determine unit cost and best value.
- Check that the price on the gas pump is the same as the price advertised at the street.
- Stop and check the total price of gas at 10 gallons; it should be 10 times the price/gallon, if the sign says \$3.79 a gallon, the price at 10 gallons should read \$37.90. ■

The DA's consumer protection team has garnered widespread respect in the industry for its record of negotiating many statewide weights and measures settlements for amounts exceeding six figures.

Photo by Fran Hestley



Weights and Measures Inspectors—Back row L to R: **Scott Wise**, **Hugo Abaurre**, **Al Powell**, **Jeff Stiles** Front row L to R: **Anita Sauber**, **Susan Ventura**, **Laurel Thomassin**, **Joanne Van Cleave**, **Johanna Good**

WELCOME FAREWELL!

Welcome to New Employees! Listed in order of hire date from November 1, 2007 to February 13, 2008

Lillian Jang
Alison Clayton
Eric Newburn
Carmen Lienkaemper
Carly Bonnell
Erika Martinez
Sharon Marrero
Melanie Doyle
Lee Hamovitz
John Sanchez
Nicole Terry
Jesus Contreras
Noushin Farrakhnia
Jessica Mills
Monika Farrar
Craig Parmley
Kelly Warren
Catherine Clary
Erica Robertson
Douglas Lee
Fredric Baker
Janell Hampton
Anthony Tantarelli
Scott Jensen
Sheila Ali
Pamela Pankey
Tamara Chellam
Jesse Wennik
Amanda Foust
Lorna Shamrock
Andrea Bizzell
James Adam
Gwendolynn Sorosky
Auna Harris
Alberto Diaz
Kathleen Ah San
Kimberly Allen
Jill Peeler
Dora Morales
Scott Bauer

Sr. Clerk/Typist, H&HS
H&HS Program Coord., H&HS
Comm. Tech., DPW
Library Asst. I, Library
Eligibility Wkr. I, H&HS
Library Branch Aide II, Library
Sr. Clerk/Typist, H&HS
Library Tech. Asst. I, Library
Assessment/Record Tech. I, Assessor
Park Ranger, P&OS
Bookmobile Asst., Library
Int. Clerk/Typist-Biling., Probation
Techlgy. Support Analyst I, DPW
County Counsel III, Co. Counsel
Physical Therapist, H&HS
Road Maint. Superintendent, DPW
Personnel Analyst II, HR
Sr. Systems Support Analyst, IST
Int. Clerk/Typist-Conf., HR
Building Maint. Wkr. I, DPW
Sr. Accounting Asst., Treas/Tax
Admin. Analyst II, CAO
Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff
Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff
Comm. Dispatcher I, Sheriff
Asst. Dir. Child Support Svcs., DCSS
Deputy Public Defender II, PD
Mental Health Nurse Pract., H&HS
Librarian I, Library
Accounting Asst., Retirement
Employment Devel. Counselor, H&HS
Admin. Svcs. Officer, Library
Staff Psychiatrist, H&HS
Chief of Admin. Svcs., Sheriff
Asst. Chief Fiscal Officer-H&HS, H&HS
Accounting Asst., Treas/Tax
Public Health Program Mgr. I, H&HS
Comm. Dispatcher I, Sheriff
Librarian II, Library
Dep. Dir. County Library Svcs., Library

Mary J. Brown
Mary Colla
Janet Mercado
Chad Higgs
Laurie Lewis
James McIssac
Giao Nguyen
William Brandt
Brittany England
Lucy Burlingham
Sharon Jones
Sara Duggin
Bijan Karimi
Scott Greeley
Carrie Ann Colton
Lynette McLamb
Vanessa Kittelson
Angela Struckmann
Vanessa Littleton
John Semerad
Roy Toupin
Maria Contreras
Carolyn Glendening
Travis Parsons
Hannah Lee
Sheryl Rand
Grace Sipin

Admin. Services Spec.-Conf., HR
Systems Support Analyst II, IST
Support Svc. Wkr.-Biling., H&HS
Eligibility Wkr. I, H&HS
Eligibility Wkr. I, H&HS
Road Maint. Wkr. I, DPW
Library Branch Aide I, Library
Accounting Asst., H&HS
Child Welfare Wkr. II, H&HS
Library Asst. I, Library
Social Service Wkr. II, H&HS
Library Branch Aide I, Library
Asst. Emergency Svcs. Mgr., Sheriff
Planner, CDA
Equal Employment Spec., HR
Clinic Physician-Biling., H&HS
H&HS Planner/Evaluator, H&HS
Social Service Wkr. II, H&HS
Child Welfare Wkr.-Biling., H&HS
Engineering Asst., DPW
Tech. Support Analyst I, Sheriff
Comm. Dispatcher I, Sheriff
Board Aide, BOS
H&HS Personnel Mgr., H&HS
Jr. Engineer, DPW
Staff Psychiatrist, H&HS
Accounting Asst., Sheriff

Farewell to Retirees!

Cathy Johnson
Glen Hallaway, Jr.
Winifred Lau
Barbara Baker
Brian Meuser
Veronica Berlin
Douglas Kirchgessner
Monica Patenaude
Gaile O'Connor
David Hansen

Public Health Program Mgr. I, H&HS
Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff
Social Svc. Wkr. II, H&HS
Support Svcs. Spec., H&HS
Fire Battalion Chief, Fire
Secretary, H&HS
Traffic Safety Maint. Wkr., DPW
Legal Process Spec., Probation
Dep. Public Defender, PD
Planning & Acquisition Mgr., P&OS

Lucky 13 Pix Contest

By Janice Hughes—DA's Office



Vacation photos wanted! ■ It's entry time for our 13th Annual Photo Contest. Employees must be either the photographer or in the photo taken any time since the fall of 2007. Previous participants are welcome. Printed or digital photos (high-resolution) are welcome and should be submitted to Janice Hughes, c/o DA's Office, Rm. 130 Civic Center, or jhughes@co.marin.ca.us by September 5. Winning photos will be published in the Fourth Quarter *Frankly Speaking*, displayed in the Civic Center Cafeteria, and awarded prizes by Marin Film Works. ■

"Success comes in cans—Failure comes in can'ts."

—Anonymous

Marin Women's Study: Progress & Suggestions

Since October 2006, over 7,000 surveys have been received by the Marin Women's Study (MWS). The MWS staff is now looking at the returned breast cancer risk factor questionnaires and is in the process of writing its first scientific article. If you would like to take part in the study, you can ask for a questionnaire when you have your next mammogram, or call 507-4077 to have one mailed to you.

The Marin Women's Study gives the following suggestions on how to reduce your breast cancer risk:

- Practice early detection
- Limit alcohol consumption
- Lose excess weight
- Be active every day
- Breast feed your baby
- Consider the risks of hormone replacement therapy
- Minimize radiation
- Protect yourself from harmful chemicals