



Board Appoints New County Counsel

The Board of Supervisors appointed Nicholas S. Chrisos as County Counsel on April 1, replacing the retired Ben de Mayo. As head of the County's civil litigation team, Chrisos manages the legal advisement and representation for the Board of Supervisors and all 24 County departments and agencies. Chrisos most recently served as Senior Assistant County Counsel for the past three years.

Chrisos began with the County in 1980 as a Deputy Public Defender. Five years later, he moved into the County Counsel's Office, where he has since acted in every section of the department covering issues related to public works projects, land use, housing, child abuse, assessment appeals, and labor relations.

"It is a great privilege to serve the Board of Supervisors and County departments as County Counsel," said Chrisos. "I look forward to serving the needs of the Board while leading and working alongside the professional and exemplary employees of the County Counsel's Office."

The broad scope of the County Counsel's Office affects matters significant to the operation of County government in areas relating to labor and employment issues, purchasing contracts, law enforcement policies and procedures, tax assessment and collection, child protection, public health,

and other topics of great interest to the community. The department has 102 employees, 67 of which are attorneys.

"Nick brings a wealth of legal experience and will provide prudent guidance and strong leadership to the Board of Supervisors and our County departments in order to effectively serve the public and manage the vast areas of responsibility covered by County programs and services," said Board Chair Patricia C. Bates.

Nick attended law school at the University of California, Los Angeles and has been practicing law since 1977. ■



Nick Chrisos began his new role as County Counsel on April 1.

Get to Know Your Neighbors at the O.C. Zoo

A light breeze rustles the surrounding groves of coastal live oak and sycamore as a group of giggling children forms a single-file line outside the Orange County Zoo, eagerly anticipating the arrival of some very special new friends.

Education Coordinator Marcy Crede-Booth greets the happy visitors and takes a few minutes to explain the best way to approach their guests of honor, who are being escorted over from a build-

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ing nearby. She loves teaching and interacting with young patrons, and has been doing so at this location for the past 8 years.

Willie the Owl, no bigger than the size of a traveler’s coffee cup, emerges perched upon the gloved hand of a volunteer docent. One yellow eye alertly observes the day’s school group, which is but a small portion of the approximately 20,000 kids who will take part in a guided tour and hands-on learning lesson this year. The other eye, a glassy blue, was blinded when Willie sustained serious injuries and was found on the side of the road in Modjeska Canyon.

Next on the scene is Wesley, a colorful California Mountain Kingsnake whose black tongue flicks and body curls around the arm of a caretaker as visitors gently pet his scales with their fingertips. Guests at the zoo are given the chance to get close to these and some of their wildest neighbors, like coyotes and mountain lions, in a safe park setting filled with

naturalistic habitats. They can also touch and feed sheep, goats, pigs and chickens within the expanding barnyard area.

“Of the many animals who call the zoo home, 95% have been hurt, orphaned or confiscated and are unable to survive independently,” said Zoo Manager Donald Zeigler, who has served as a vital member of the County team for more than 18 years in animal keeper, zoo curator, and park ranger capacities.

“They will receive veterinary care and compassion here for the rest of their lives. It’s a commitment we make,” said Zoo Curator David Merner, whose background includes 28 years with the San Diego Zoological Society.

Flora from the Southwestern United States grow throughout the 5-acre facility, where accompanying interpretive signs provide plant descriptions, botanical information and interesting facts about traditional Native American use.

Wild peacocks are not the only creatures that combine explorations of the zoo with trips to the Irvine Regional Park, where the zoo is nested. The park’s trees, shaded turf areas and two lakes provide a serene setting for leisure activities. Picnic shelters are available for reservation and private concessions offer horseback riding, land and water bicycle rentals, pony rides and snacks. The Irvine Park Railroad also operates a train ride inside the park.

For more information about the Orange County Zoo, please call Marisa O’Neil at (714) 973-6870 or visit www.OCParks.com/OCZoo.



[Click here](#) to see slideshow. (If a security window appears, select “allow.”)

Community Indicators Report Available Online

The ninth annual Community Indicators Report, published by the County along with its partners – the Children and Families Commission of Orange County and the Orange County Business Council – was presented to the Board of Supervisors last month. Included in the report are key markers of economic, social and environmental trends in

Orange County, along with comparisons to other areas in the state and nation.

Each year, the Community Indicators report is assembled through a collaborative effort by many County departments, as well as other agencies

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and organizations. These groups have contributed information and data during the preparation of the report that allows for a broad range of statistical markers to be presented. These indicators are used by many public and private organizations as they develop their own internal strategic plans and policies.

The 2009 Community Indicators report is available online [here](#).



Earth Day 2009 Volunteer Opportunities and Events

LAGUNA NIGUEL:

Spring Planting at Niguel Botanical Preserve

Saturday, April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
29751 Crown Valley Pkwy., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Participants will help plant, build and fix garden projects in a 20-acre flowering garden with a great view.

MISSION VIEJO:

Artes de la Vida

Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Village Green at Oso Viejo Community Park
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA, 92692

Artes de la Vida blends celebrations of Earth Day, Arbor Day and the arts into one event.

NEWPORT BEACH:

Earth Day 2009 – Learning From Nature

Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center
2301 University Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660

There will be scavenger hunts for all ages, science discovery and craft booths, environmental exhibits, an opportunity drawing with great prizes, refreshments, live music and much more!

Please visit <http://www.newportbay.org/earth09a.htm> for more information.

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO:

San Juan Capistrano's Earth Day 2009

Thursday, April 23 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
City of San Juan Capistrano Community Center Gymnasium
25925 Camino del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Topics include: stormwater pollution, water conservation, household hazardous waste, used oil programs, trash and recycling, native plants, trails and more.

The Ecology Center Earth Day Celebration and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
32701 Alipaz St., San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

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While every day is Earth Day at The Ecology Center, on April 25 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. doors will be opened to the community for a special celebration. Bring your family and friends for the grand opening of our demonstration gardens, plant sale and hands-on educational experiences for all ages.

For more information please call 949-443-4223 or visit <http://www.theecologycenter.org>.



CAPS+ Learning Center Goes Live

More than 650 County employees attended the March 9 All-Hands County Accounting and Personnel System (CAPS)+ meeting, with an additional 200 workers in virtual attendance by way of the live feed broadcast. The gathering was led by Auditor-Controller David Sundstrom and discussed the next steps in the CAPS+ project along with important training information.

To accommodate those who could not attend the meeting due to budget deadline preparations and other busy workloads, the Auditor-Controller's Office has posted links to the presentation and the video replay at: <http://capsplus.ocgov.com/>. These links will only be up for a limited time.

Listed below are highlights from the meeting:

- The CAPS Learning Center (CLC) link <http://clc.ocgov.com/> is located on the OC Intranet page at <http://ocintranet.ocgov.com/>.
- On the CLC page, under "My Courses," is a list of classes that supervisors and managers suggested for completion. The Auditor-Controller's Office is suggesting that employees only sign up for specific courses that are listed under their names. This will ensure that there are enough seats for all immediate and critical users.

- Employees are advised to contact their supervisor or manager if there is a course not listed under "My Courses" that they would like to attend. Supervisors and managers may submit approval for an employee's name to be added to the "My Courses" listing by sending an e-mail to CAPS+Security&Workflow@ac.ocgov.com.
- All Computer Based Training (CBT) is a pre-requisite and must be completed before taking an Instructor Led Training (ILT) CAPS+ class.
- Registration for CAPS+ ILT classes began March 9. ILT classes began April 6.
- If you are experiencing connection issues with the CLC link, contact caps.user.support@ocgov.com.
- Should you require instructional support for access into Training Partner, the help link is www.ocgov.com/hr/trainingpartner/.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please feel free to contact us at CAPS+_Upgrade@ocgov.com.

Taffy the Bloodhound Finds a New Friend

The Sheriff's Department received a special request from a resident in Lake Forest last month. A critically ill woman facing a high-risk operation had a long-time desire to see firsthand how highly-trained bloodhounds find missing persons, fugitives and lost evidence.

The woman's interest in bloodhounds developed after reading Virginia Lanier's Bloodhound Series of crime novels.

On March 30, the woman got her wish when Taffy the Bloodhound sidled up beside her. Led by Sheriff's Reserve Captain Doug Williams, Taffy demonstrated how she searches an area to make a discovery in a simulated search and rescue at a local park.

Taffy is the department's longest serving bloodhound, who has used her keen sense of smell to search for missing children and older adults, as well as escapees for the past nine years. Earlier this year, the prestigious American Kennel Club honored Taffy as its Search and Rescue Dog of the Year.



[Click here](#) to see slideshow. (If a security window appears, select "allow.")

Save the Date Victims' Rights March and Rally

Led by DA Tony Rackauckas and
Sponsored by the Board of Supervisors

Monday, April 27, 2009

9:30 a.m. Reception

Orange County District Attorney's Office
401 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

10:30 a.m. March

Old Orange County Courthouse
211 W. Santa Ana Boulevard
Santa Ana, CA 92701

11:00 a.m. Remembrance Rally

Old Orange County Courthouse

[Click here](#) to see The Orange County Victims' Rights March And Rally event flyer.

Recent Retirements



County Department Heads Jan Goss, Ben de Mayo and Julie Poulson were recently honored upon their retirement. [Click here](#) to see slideshow. (If a security window appears, select "allow.")

Get the 411 on OC Clerk of the Board

- In order to make filing and accessing information convenient and easy for both community members and internal County customers, the Clerk of the Board (COB) has made automation one of its highest priorities.
- Visitors to the County’s web site can now search Board of Supervisors meeting agendas with active links to all supporting documents – even during live broadcasts. County employees with Intranet access can use query tools to search by a particular subject, department or meeting date for agenda items going back as far as 1998.
- Since 2004, COB has provided taxpayers with the option to file for property assessment appeals online. Due to the recent market decline, appeals have more than tripled in the past two years from 5,500 to nearly 18,000 filings.
- Staff is responsible for collecting and managing 5,000 Conflict of Interest Disclosure Filings (Form 700s) annually. After concluding a successful pilot project in the Hall of Administration, COB made online filing available to all County agencies and departments this year. Those using the system can even file from home, where they may have easier access to personal records.

To get more of the 411, visit www.ocgov.com/cob.



Service Awards

For the Month of March

35 YEARS

Eva Nunez
OC Community Resources

Darlyne Pettinicchio
Probation

John Tomaszewski
Probation

30 YEARS

William Feccia
District Attorney

David Wagner
District Attorney

Sally Torres
Health Care Agency

Ines Lozano
Human Resources Department

Noel Jackson
Probation

Jerry Carlsen
Sheriff-Coroner

Steven Sharpe
Sheriff-Coroner

Donald Singer
Sheriff-Coroner

25 YEARS

Melva Gipson
County Executive Office

Shirley Davis
OC Community Resources

David Dixon
Health Care Agency

Susana Ontiveros
Health Care Agency

Marguerite Adams
Human Resources Department

Douglas Forsman
Sheriff-Coroner

Jay Hanson
Sheriff-Coroner

Kevin Leahy
Sheriff-Coroner

Patrick Przybyla
Sheriff-Coroner

Ronald Reese
Sheriff-Coroner

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