



## County Administrator's Office

**Return of the Suggestion Box!** – A suggestion box has been placed in the lobby of Annex 1 in Bridgeport. Ideas/comments/etc. are encouraged from staff and the public. Let's all put our heads together and come up with better ways to do our jobs and serve the public.

Thanks to Stacie Klemm and Megg Hawkins for making this idea a reality. Also thanks to the Public Works department who donated their underutilized box.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Antelope Valley enjoys more Christmas lights!** – Thanks to Supervisor Fesko for the 411 on this on. There are a few places to enjoy peoples Yuletide spirit. In addition to Assessor Bob Musil's (who received the coveted **Clark Griswold Award** last week) there is another location in north county worth seeing.



On Western drive in Walker make a turn on Hackney like you are going the Antelope Valley Community Center but instead of turning right on Mule Deer, take a left, then your first right onto Western. Make sure you turn into the driveway and drive slowly. There are a lot of decorations to see.

Now come on, the rest of you must have some Christmas and Holiday lights worth seeing! Send them in!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Assessor gets into the Spirit!** - The 2013 Musil Christmas Light Show is up and running! It will be showing nightly through New Year's Day, starting at 4:30 each evening in Assessor Musil's neighborhood. For those that have not seen the Christmas lightshow, head on up!

From Bridgeport:

Right on Eastside Lane  
Right on Camp Antelope  
Right on Burcham Flat Road, then look for all the flashing lights!

Be sure to tune your car radio to FM 94.1. There are displays all around the house, so don't be shy about driving in. Bring your friends, family and neighbors, and enjoy the show!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510



**Fiscal Projections for California Welcomed by Counties with Past Due Monies Owed** – The recent projections by the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) showing a \$5.6 billion reserve at the end of 2014-15 was welcome news to the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). RCRC has urged the State to include past due Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments in

the 2014-15 Budget, and this report provides increased optimism that the State will honor its overdue obligations to California counties.

Mono County, as part of RCRC, urged Governor Jerry Brown, collectively and independently, to honor the State's legal and financial commitment to California counties as related to the DFW's PILT obligations. Currently, the State owes 36 California counties more than \$17 million in past due PILT payments, spanning more than a decade. RCRC is urging that the State include current and past due payments in the 2014-15 State budget, and resume annual PILT payments of approximately \$1.5 million as legally obliged.

In response to the LAO's report, *2014-15 Budget: California's Fiscal Outlook*, Michael Cohen, Director of the Department of Finance under Governor Brown, was quoted in a November 22, 2013 article from the California Taxpayers Association (Cal Tax) as saying, "we're pleased that the Analyst's report shares the Governor's view that discipline remains the right course of action. The focus must continue to be on paying down the state's accumulated budgetary debt..."

California PILT was established in 1949 to offset adverse impacts to county property tax revenues that result when the State acquires private property for wildlife management areas. Fish and Game Code Section 1504 specifies that when income is derived directly from real property acquired and operated by the State as wildlife management areas, the DFW shall pay annually to the county in which the property is located an amount equal to the county taxes levied upon the property at the time title was transferred to the State. The DFW has neglected to make annual PILT payments in more than a decade.

The LAO's *2014-15 Budget: California's Fiscal Outlook* can be accessed [here](#).

CONTACT: Justin Caporusso, RCRC, (916) 447-4806

**Employee Holiday Potlucks a success!** Thanks to a multi-Department volunteer committee, this years employee Holiday Potlucks were again a great success. The Board members and staff enjoyed the get together. Everyone's pictures for the south county holiday lunch are in the common drive under Holidays-Picnics Lunches folder thanks to the Peter Parker like skills of Greg Newbry in the sub folder: "Holiday Christmas lunch south cnty-2013". Follow the Link below.

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<R:\Holidays-Picnics-lunchs etc\2013 Bridgeport Holiday Luncheon>

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510





## **Community Development**

**Service Announces Public Meetings for Sierra Amphibian Proposals** - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will hold two public meetings in January 2014 on the proposals to list and designate critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the northern distinct population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog, and the Yosemite toad.

The first public meeting is planned to be held in Mono County on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Mono County Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Mono County Courthouse (upstairs); State Highway 395 North; Bridgeport, CA 93517. This meeting is planned to be broadcasted to the Mono County Board of Supervisors Meeting Room on the 3rd Floor of the Sierra Center Mall; 452 Old Mammoth Road; Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. After the meeting, there will be informal breakout sessions held in Bridgeport.

The second public meeting is planned to be held in Fresno County on Monday, January 13, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Fresno County Board of Supervisors Chambers; Hall of Records, Room 301; 2281 Tulare Street; Fresno, CA 93721. Service personnel will be available after the meeting for further discussion.

The Service will present information and address questions and concerns at the public meetings about the proposals as well as a draft economic analysis on the proposed critical habitat rule. The draft economic analysis is expected to be available to the public later this month. Written public comments about the proposed rules and the draft economic analysis can be collected at these public meetings for the record.

On April 25, 2014, the Service proposed to list the two frogs as Endangered Species and the toad as a Threatened Species. At the same time, the Service proposed to designate 1,831,820 acres critical habitat for the three amphibians in California; 97% of the proposed designation is located on federal lands.

All three amphibian species are threatened by habitat degradation, predation, climate change, and inadequate regulatory protection.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov/cno](http://www.fws.gov/cno). Connect with our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/usfwspacificsouthwest>, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSPacSWest>, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at [http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws\\_pacificsw/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_pacificsw/).

CONTACT: Scott Burns, (760) 932-5423

**Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP)** – Monday, the Local Transportation Commission (LTC), which includes Supervisors Tim Fesko, Larry Johnston and Fred Stump, programmed over \$17 million for a variety of regional and local projects. Included are Convict Lake Road, nearby Airport Road, a variety of local rehab projects, pedestrian improvements on Hwy 203 in Mammoth, transit vehicles for Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, and a four-lane upgrade on US 395 near Olancho in Inyo County. Special thanks to Principal Planner Gerry Le Francois for his work in developing the program and Public Works staff Jeff Walters and Garrett Higerd for the Mono County projects programmed.

**Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** – Also Monday, the LTC adopted the consultant-prepared Financial Element of the RTP with the assistance of Gerry Le Francois, Leslie Chapman, Megan Mahaffey, Jeff Walters and Garrett Higerd. This update provided the policy framework and guidance for programming the above projects in the RTIP.

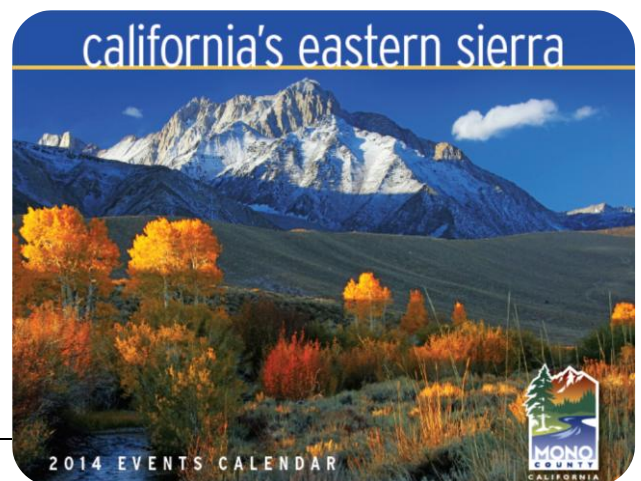
**Nightly Rentals** – Associate Planner Courtney Weiche presented an application to allow nightly rentals on four properties in June Lake to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday. The Board approved the proposed Transient Rental Overlay District, making it the third district area in the county allowing nightly rentals in single-family neighborhoods.

**Frogs & Toads meeting** – The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has announced a regional meeting on the proposed listing of Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog and Yosemite Toad as threatened and endangered species. The meeting will be held Jan. 8, 2014, at 1 p.m. in the board chambers, Bridgeport courthouse, with teleconferencing to the board chambers in Sierra Center Mall, Mammoth Lakes. The meeting will include discussion of a draft economic analysis, which should include an assessment of impacts to Mono County.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

### **Economic Development**

**Transient Occupancy Tax:** Good news! First quarter (July-September) TOT receipts show an increase over Q1 2012-13, in spite of impacts on local business from the Yosemite Rim Fire. This is the second highest Q1 TOT generated since 2007-08.



**Film Commission:** A major Honda Pilot commercial wrapped up a 2-day shoot yesterday in June Lake; Ford will also be filming at various locations in the county next week. This evening at the BLM staff holiday function, Alicia Vennos, along with Inyo County's Film Commissioner, Chris Langley, will present BLM's Donna McMullen with the film industry's "California On Location Award (COLA)" for Federal Public Employee of the Year. Donna was unfortunately not able to receive her award in person at the COLA ceremony in Los Angeles which took place in early November.

**PR/Media:** Check out the excellent coverage on Mono Lake and Lee Vining we received in the travel supplement of one of Mexico's key daily newspapers, *El Universal*:

[http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/graficos/graficosanimados13/EU\\_Lago\\_Mono/caracteristicas.html](http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/graficos/graficosanimados13/EU_Lago_Mono/caracteristicas.html).

According to Visit California's Mexico sales representative, the equivalent media value of this special article is \$62,271 USD.

**2014 Mono County Calendar:** The annual Mono County Scenic Events calendar is at the printer. See attached PDF for a sneak peak at this year's cover -- a beautiful fall image of Mt. Morrison and Convict Creek, courtesy of our own IT guru and photographer, Greg Newbry! Not shown here, the back cover image was taken by another Mono County staff person, Arleen Mills -- many thanks to our talented staff members! All things being equal, the calendar should arrive just before Christmas; please contact Jeff Simpson or Alicia Vennos for a copy for your office.

**Tourism Website:** The Mono County Tourism website at [www.monocounty.org](http://www.monocounty.org) has seen a jump in yearly visits by 14.37% from 150,981 to 172,676 visits. That translates to over 380,891 page views! The most visited pages include Bodie, Fishing Reports, Fall Colors, Fishing Regulations and Yosemite.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 932-1743

## Public Health

**The "Flu" Has Arrived** - This week, public health received the first report of the season of a local who has a laboratory confirmed influenza infection. The individual has not traveled out of the area, and has not been hospitalized.

Seasonal flu activity is continuing to increase in parts of the US, and is expected to continue to rise in the coming weeks. Hardest hit areas include the South Central and Southeast regions of the country, especially Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, and Louisiana. California is experiencing the expected low levels thus far.

Nationwide, there have been 3 influenza-associated pediatric deaths so far. Last year, there were 169 pediatric deaths in children younger than 18 years of age. Almost half of children who are hospitalized or die from complications of influenza have no identified underlying medical conditions! These deaths are a somber reminder of the danger that flu poses to even healthy children.

This week (Dec 8-14) happens to be National Influenza Vaccination Week. Getting an annual flu vaccine remains the single most effective way for you to prevent the flu and its potentially serious complications. Flu vaccine can reduce flu illnesses, doctor's visits, missed work or school due to the flu,



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths for yourself, your family, and your community. Thus far, the vaccine is a perfect match for the strains of influenza that are circulating.

We want to highlight several points:

- Flu vaccine is recommended for everyone older than 6 months of age – that includes you!
- Getting the vaccine is especially important for children younger than 5 years of age and children of any age with an underlying medical condition like asthma, a neurological or neurodevelopmental disorder or immune suppression. In addition, vaccine is especially important for people who come in contact with high risk children.
- Pregnant women should all get the flu vaccine (in any trimester), as they are more likely to become seriously ill with the flu, and have a greater chance for serious problems for their unborn baby, including premature labor and delivery.
- Since babies under 6 months of age cannot get a vaccine, pregnant mothers, and all caregiver's and close contacts (Dad's, siblings, grandparents, and babysitters) should be vaccinated to protect the baby.
- An egg free vaccine is available this year for those persons with severe egg allergies. If you have not gotten your flu vaccine yet this season, now is the time! It will take about 2 weeks for protection to develop. Vaccine is offered locally at doctor's offices, clinics, pharmacies, and the health department. Do yourself, your family, and your community a favor – get a flu vaccine before the holidays!

CONTACT: Richard O. Johnson, M.D., MPH, (760) 914-0496

## **Public Works**

**Facilities highlights Energy Efficiency efforts** -- Mono County energy efficiency upgrades completed reflect Public Works ongoing efforts to meet Board and Community goals of reducing costs and energy use organization.

The range of efforts spanning back to 2009 include a number of projects, including:

- ✓ Installed new high efficiency Annex I boiler system 2009.
- ✓ Installed Honeywell Excel 5000 control system for heating and cooling at Annex II in 2012.
- ✓ Annex I window replacement in 2011. Argon filled dual pane high efficiency. Exit lights also converted to LED.
- ✓ Annex II Window replacement in 2012 Argon filled dual pane high efficiency.
- ✓ Annex II 2012 Installed commercial fan system for atrium that mixes air for more efficiency in heating and cooling. Installed a passive ventilator system to remove hot air from Atrium in the summer.
- ✓ Annex II 2013 Installed new high efficiency boiler system and in-line hot water system.
- ✓ 2012 Annex II installed new thermostats, new zone controls, ducting, and a Honeywell Excel 5000 control system for heating and cooling control.

- ✓ 2009 Benton Crossing landfill installed a Solar system on the Facility which handles a significant portion of their power needs.
- ✓ 2010 Crowley lake Community Center installed a new boiler and inline hot water system.
- ✓ 2012 Benton Community Center installed a 90 % efficiency HVAC system.
- ✓ Walker Wellness Center installed a 90% efficiency HVAC system and new ducting and insulation.
- ✓ 2013 reconfigured the boiler system at the old hospital to limit the use of the second boiler to back up status.
- ✓ 2013 installed Photo Voltaic as well as solar hot water systems on the CLCC and LVCC.

CONTACT: Joe Blanchard, (760) 932-5443

## Social Services

**North County Foster Parent Recruitment** - The quest to build up available foster care homes in Mono County continues! Our next orientation meeting will occur in Walker so that residents of the north county may participate close to home.

Remember..... Foster Parents are needed for long-term, as well as short-term care. Short-term care can consist of emergency overnight placement of a child, or just a few days, until alternative arrangements can be made. As the Foster Parent, you get to determine the level of support you are able to provide.

Learn more by attending the upcoming Foster Parent Orientation Meeting, January 8, 2014 from 5:30 – 7:00pm at the Walker Community Center.

CONTACT: Marlo Preis, 760/924-1793



Renee Christ, Social Worker III

### Welcome New Social Services Staff

Please help welcome new Mono County employees, Renee Christ, Armando Alvarez, and Yvon Guzman-Rangel, and Heather Edwall.

Renee joins the Child/Adult Protective Services team as a Social Worker III. Renee has a degree in English and Psychology from CSU Sacramento. She most recently served as a Community Service Program Coordinator for Calaveras County Probation Department, and an Intensive

Services Specialist with Redwood Coast Regional Center.

Armando and Yvon join the Social Services Eligibility Worker team.

Armando received a degree in Anthropology and Latin American Studies from the University of California, Riverside. Prior to moving to Mammoth, Armando served



Armando Alvarez and Yvon Guzman-Rangel, Eligibility Workers

as an Outreach/Office Coordinator for Latin American Perspectives/Laguna Wilderness Press.

Yvon graduated with a degree from University of California, Riverside where her field of study was Women's Studies/Chicano Studies/Spanish. Most recently, she served as a Student Field Researcher in Mexico, through a University of California Education Abroad Program.



Heather Edwall, Social  
Worker I/II

Heather comes to us with a Master of Social Work degree from CSU, Northridge, as well as degree in Business Administration from Colorado State University. Heather interned at Sylmar Health and Rehabilitation Center in Sylmar, California. She has also worked locally for Wild Iris and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

Heather joins the Child/Adult Protective Services team as a Social Worker I/II.

**Thank you, Renee, Armando, Yvon, and Heather for choosing to work with the County of Mono!**

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763

**CMIPS II Implementation a Success** - After months and months of preparation, County employees Megan Foster, Greg Newbry and Cathy Young have made the months of preparing for Go Live incredibly smooth. The Case Management, Information and Payrolling System (CMIPS) tracks case information and processes payments for the California Department of Social Services In-Home Supportive Services Program, enabling nearly 400,000 qualified aged, blind, and disabled individuals in California to remain in their own homes and avoid institutionalization.

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Case Management, Information and Payrolling System, Legacy CMIPS, is being replaced with CMIPS II, that provides modern web-based case management functionality and sophisticated processing of payroll. It replaces old data transfers with over 50 interfaces for much more timely verifications and interactions. While Mono County has only a small percentage of the statewide IHSS program enrollment, our county still had to make the transition to the new system.

The State contractor, Diane Gidley, tasked with working with our county to implement a major portion of the transition, had this to say about working with Mono County staff:

- “Mono's data converted beautifully as a result of Megan Foster's diligence over the last few months. The data was about as squeaky clean as it could have been.”
- “A very important reason Mono County was ready for CMIPSII was the incredible response of your IT Dept. Believe me, it was incredible. Greg Newbry always made our requests a high priority and kept the implementation on track. Greg's willingness to help has been the exception when compared to my experience in eight other counties. I never questioned the projects' requests and demands would be met graciously.”



- “Cathy Young’s attention to detail and ability to recognize the interrelatedness of the various aspects of implementing CMIPSI helped ensure things were not overlooked, and that everyone who needed to be made aware of upcoming changes was informed and given the opportunity to be involved. Because of that, we got the job done.”

Yet one more reason to be proud of our Mono County employees. Thank you!

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763

## **Sheriff’s Office**

**Mammoth Lakes Fire Department Officer passes** - It is with great sadness that Mammoth Lakes Fire Department reports the passing of long time friend and colleague William (Billy) Anderson, retired Division Chief with MLFD. Chief Anderson was diagnosed with brain cancer a few months ago that was determined to be caused by his years of fighting fires.

Billy started with the fire department in 1974, following his brother Tommy who joined in 1973. Billy served the department and community for 38 years and retired as a full-time Division Chief April 30, 2012. He was a very aggressive firefighter and enjoyed the fire service which was affectionately known as his second family.

Billy moved to Mammoth in the mid-70s and worked for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for almost 30 years advancing to the position of Health and Safety Director. In 2005 he was hired full time by the fire department. He served the department as a Division Chief and oversaw the department’s training and safety programs. During this time Chief Anderson was responsible for training all of the department’s new firefighters.

Billy has always been a pillar in the community and enjoyed all of the recreational opportunities the area affords. Billy was the friendliest guy in town and could get along with anyone. He was at his finest when welcoming the Wounded Warriors to Town. His eight years of army service, including a tour in Vietnam, made him a natural for talking with the Wounded Warriors and their families.

Bill was a very devoted husband and father, he loved his family above all else. Mammoth Fire will miss Chief Anderson, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Valerie, children Scotty and Shelby, both Tommy, and sister Mary.

Services will be held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church (58 Ranch Road), December 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. with a reception to follow at Mammoth Lakes Fire Station #1. Parking at the church and fire station is extremely limited, so please visit the Mammoth Fire Department Web site for information on parking and shuttle busses; [www.mlfd.ca.gov](http://www.mlfd.ca.gov).

The Mammoth Lakes Firefighters’ Association has established a “Billy Anderson Fund.” Anyone interested in donating to the fund can send a check to P.O. Box 5, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

CONTACT: Chief Brent Harper, (760) 934-2300

**Sheriff Weekly items:**

1. We had a swear-in for Deputy Mark Wilson who comes to us from the San Bernardino Sheriff's Office with several years of law enforcement experience. Mark is married with a child on the way, and is currently residing in the Walker/Coleville area.
2. Sheriff's personnel will be participating in the 'Shop with a Cop' this Saturday morning along with several other law enforcement agencies. The Mono County Deputy Sheriffs Association has donated funds enough to sponsor several needy children for the holidays.
3. We had a squad meeting this week for members of the Sheriff's Office to discuss a wide range of topics along with conducting a range qualification.
4. Our office conducted an interagency training with the CHP.
5. Deputy John Estridge and PSO Nicole Hallum were given praise by Supervisor Stump at BOS for assisting a local Benton resident.
6. The Sheriff attended a California State Sheriffs Association board meeting and discussed various legislative and legal updates. Along with having in depth discussions with a number of other law enforcement stakeholders such as: FBI, ICE, BSCC, CSAC, CalOES, CPCA, US Marshall's, CHP, CPOA, CCIC and others.

CONTACT: Sheriff Ralph "OB" Obenberger, (760) 932-7549