



Board of Supervisors Update

December 2016



Economic Development/Alicia Vennos
12/2016 Snow on June Mtn.

A Special Note from Supervisor Fesko

Hello Mono County Staff. Wow it's hard to believe that 4 years have passed by so quickly. It seems like just yesterday we were facing the largest fiscal crisis this County has ever seen. Now here we are 4 years later and after sacrifices by our Board and our staff, we are now looking at the first signs of a recovery. While the 2% COLA and step increases do not make up for the past 7-8 years of flat line, it is great to now see the light at the end of the tunnel and know it's not a train! It has truly been my honor and privilege to have worked with so many of you directly or indirectly. During these tough times, while we know that morale has been at a low point, the quality of service given to myself, my constituents and to the public by dedicated county employees remained at a superior level and that speaks volumes to the character of each of you. On behalf of myself, my constituents and so many of the public I have heard from over the past 4 years, THANK YOU to each and every one of you for an excellent job. Please keep up the great work and I hope to see each of you around from time to time. Respectfully, Supervisor Tim Fesko



Tim Fesko

Mono County Supervisor, District 4

530-208-6259

Department News:

Animal Control:

On November 29, the Whitmore animal shelter hosted some children from Edna Beaman Elementary school in Benton. The children read stories to the shelter dogs and learned some things about animal behavior and care.

Juvenile Probation will be assisting the Mono Animal Control Adoption event. Youth will be helping staff during the event. The adoption event will occur on December 14th.

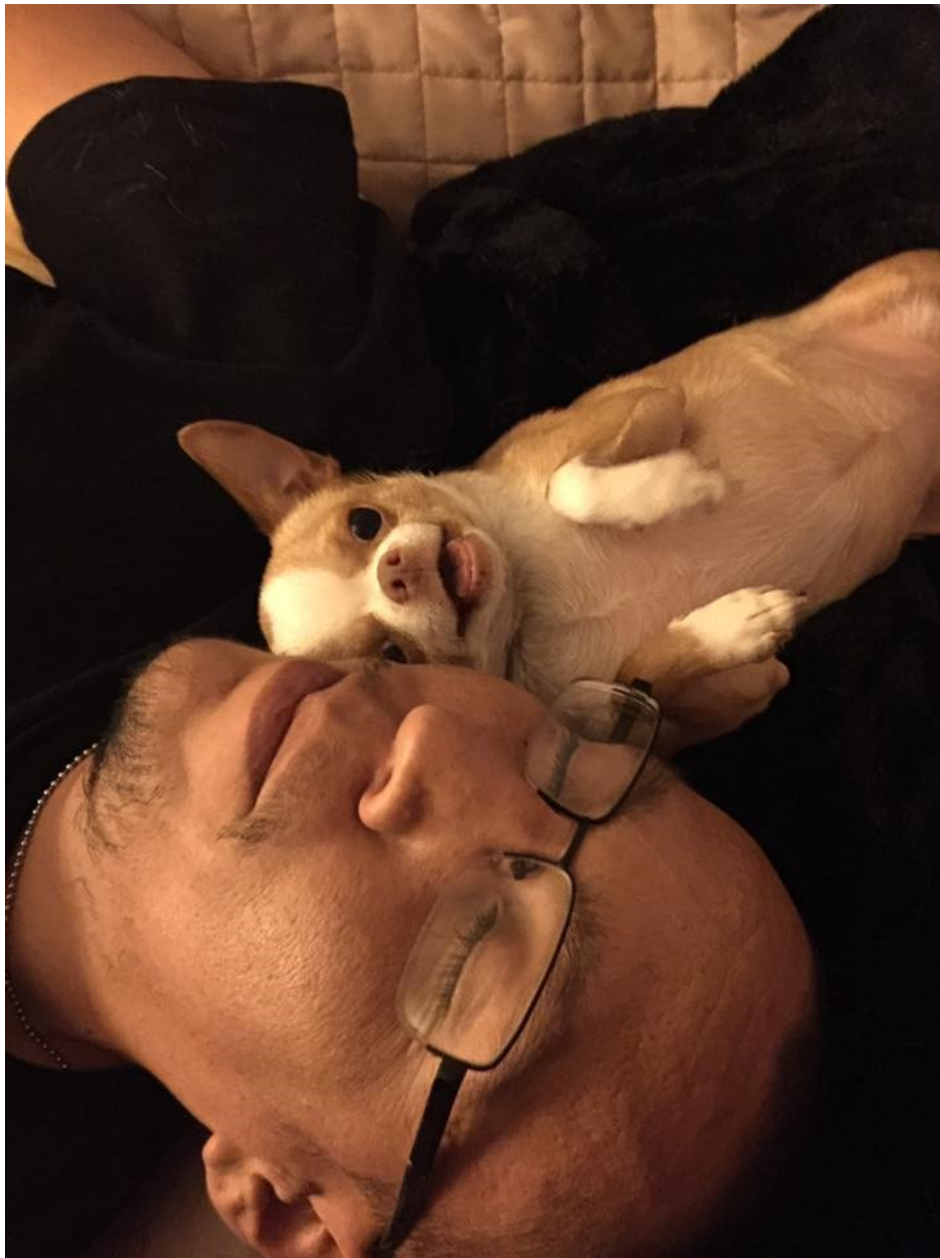


Animal Control:

The dog's name is Camilla. At the beginning of August this dog was turned in to us and we discovered she had a broken leg. We immediately raced her to the vet. At this point we found out poor Camilla's leg had been broken for at least 3 weeks. The veterinarian operated for 3 hours on little Camilla and wasn't sure if the leg could be saved. Poor Camilla had to be kept completely still and we couldn't guarantee that in a shelter atmosphere. In the mean while I was contacted by a young couple here in Bridgeport who were looking for a Chihuahua. I told them Camilla's story and they were willing to take her on. Because of their loving after care Camilla healed and the leg was saved. This is Camilla with her daddy and you can see she is completely happy and content with her new home. These are the best Animal Control stories.

Angelle Nolan,

Animal Control Coordinator



CAO:

The county has some great employees who have retired (or moved on) this month, please thank and congratulate the following people for their amazing dedication and service to the county. Best wishes to you all!

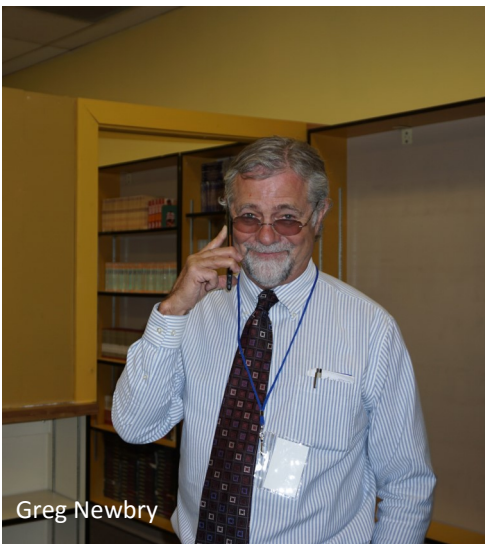
Supervisor Tim Alpers

Supervisor Tim Fesko

Lieutenant Mike Booher

Sergeant Robert Ladd

IT Extraordinaire Greg Newbry



Greg Newbry



Supervisor Fesko



Supervisor Alpers

CAO:

Did you know that Mono County has a Free Employee Assistance Program that provides for confidential professional counseling to help employees and their family members resolve issues that affect their personal lives and/or work performance? This is a great benefit for employees experiencing difficult times, and an employee is eligible for three free sessions within any six month period. For more information, please contact Jay Sloane in the Administrative Office or go online:

<http://www.trindel.org/programs/employee-assistance/>



EAP
help. when you need it.

CAO:

A giant Thank You to Megg Hawkins for organizing the county-wide holiday party! Megg planned this great event, decorated, and made sure that we had fun games to play. We hope to see even more employees next year! Thanks to everyone who brought food and helped setup and clean. It was great to share a meal together, and we know that events like these help us work more effectively and productively as a Mono County team.







Economic Development:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Just released the latest Small Business Testimonial video featuring a young couple who recently opened the Sweetwater Coffee Shop in Walker – check out their story here: <https://www.facebook.com/VisitEasternSierra/videos/1527912723887358/>

FILM COMMISSION:

The BBC television show [Top Gear](#) just finished filming an episode here this week – they wanted snowy conditions, and Mammoth Mountain delivered in spades! Scouting inquiries have increased due to a lack of snow in Tahoe.

COMMUNITY GRANTS:

On November 29th at its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in Mammoth Lakes, the Mono County Economic Development, Tourism & Film Commission allocated \$22,000 in **Community Event Marketing Fund** dollars to various local community non-profits to help them promote specific tourism-related events to markets outside the Eastern Sierra.

\$5500 Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce: Three events - Kite Festival, Birding & Hiking the Valley, Eastern Sierra ATV/UTV Jamboree – Walker/Coleville/Topaz

\$1500 Bridgeport Fish Enhancement: Bridgeport Trout Tournament – Bridgeport

\$4000 Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce: Bodie Bowl Mountain Biking event – Bridgeport/Bodie State Historic Park

\$1250 Mono Council for the Arts: June Lake Jam Fest – June Lake

\$3000 June Lake Loop Performing Arts Association: June Lake Theatre Festival – June Lake

\$1250 June Lake Chamber of Commerce: June Lake Winter Festival – June Lake

\$1375 Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association: Eastern Sierra History Conference – Mammoth Lakes

\$1375 Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation: Mammoth Gran Fondo – Mammoth Lakes

\$1375 Eastern Sierra Symphony: Spring Woodwinds Concert – Mammoth Lakes

\$1375 Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center: Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center Winter Kick-off – Mammoth Lakes

The **Historical Societies Grant Fund** was also allocated to the following non-profits:

\$870 Mono County Historical Society, Bridgeport

\$1000 Historic Benton Hot Springs Non-Profit, Benton

\$2000 Southern Mono Historical Society, Mammoth Lakes

\$1800 Mono Basin Historical Society, Lee Vining

The **Mono County Community Arts & Culture Grant** applications have been distributed to local non-profits to assist with projects and programs that directly support performing, visual and fine arts. **Deadline to apply is January 25, 2017.** Application is attached.

2017 VISITOR GUIDE and CALENDAR: Arriving the first week of January! Happy New Year to everyone – and sincere thanks to our fantastic advertisers for supporting the Visitor Guide and allowing it to be 100% produced and printed using advertising revenue.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

A video Jeff posted of Lundy Lake prior to the storm on Wednesday was picked up immediately by KTLA and aired on television. In addition to that excellent coverage, the FB post received over 332,000 views. Great work, Jeff!

Economic Development:

PRINT AD - Winter Fishing, now on!



Don't let a little snow stop you!

- **YEAR-ROUND FISHING*** continues along some sections of the West Walker, East Walker and Owens rivers and Hot Creek (see map). Hire a local professional fishing guide for best results!
- **TOPAZ LODGE FISHING DERBY** starts New Year's Day and continues through mid-April, 2017 at Topaz Lake. Awesome cash prizes!

*Year-round fishing regulations apply from November 16, 2016 through April 28, 2017 in specified waters. Catch-and-release only with artificial lures with barbless hooks; zero daily bag and possession limit. For more info, please call 800-845-7922 or visit www.DFG.ca.Gov/regulations/FreshFish



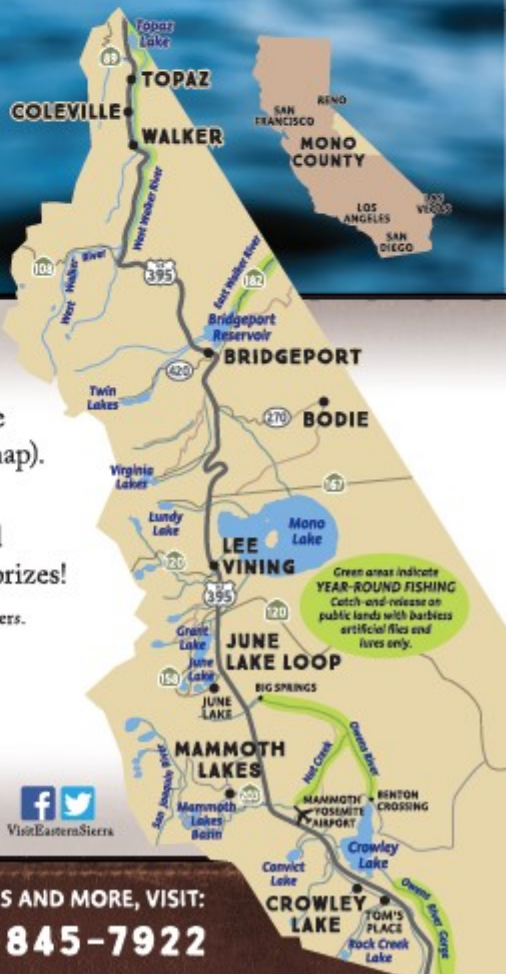
This winter, fly direct to Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH) from Los Angeles, Burbank, San Diego and San Francisco. Go to MonoCounty.org/airport



VisitEasternSierra

FOR LODGING, FISHING GUIDES, EVENTS, FREE VISITOR GUIDES AND MORE, VISIT:

MONOCOUNTY.ORG 800-845-7922



Finance:

PAYROLL IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Over the past several months, the team extracted data from the existing payroll system (GEMS). The data was cleaned up, converted and uploaded into the new system (INNOPRISE). Several weeks were spent comparing the configuration in the new system with that in the old one. This phase of implementation took longer than expected and compressed our implementation calendar. The team devoted many hours during this phase because we know this is an investment in a new payroll system that will save time, automate complex payroll calculations, eliminate time-consuming manual timesheets while increasing efficiency and accuracy, and also making everyone happy! With that objective in mind, the team dedicated a lot of their time during this phase to “getting it right” all the while they knew time was running out for a January 1 “go-live” date.

Before the new software can go live, parallel testing of payroll transactions must take place. Our project manager and software developer have advised us to successfully complete three parallel payroll cycles before “going live!” After the Thanksgiving holiday, the team began testing the first parallel payroll cycle. As the team ran the first parallel test cycle, problems were found. For each problem (something not working quite as expected), it takes time to identify the cause of the problem, fix it and then run the parallel test again only to find another problem and repeat the process. Wash, Rinse, Repeat. That’s the process. As I write this, the team continues working towards successful completion of the first parallel test cycle. Hopefully the second and third testing cycles will go quickly once the difficulties of the first test cycle are behind us.

This is why, the team made the difficult decision last week to delay implementation beyond the original anticipated “go-live” date of January 1, 2017. The most important aspect of the new payroll system is that it must produce for each and every employee an accurate paycheck on time. Until we are 100% certain the system is ready to do this, the start date and the move to bi-weekly payroll processing will be delayed. Until the new system is brought on-line, the County will continue with the monthly payroll processing that has been in place. The existing monthly timesheet will be used and is due to Finance generally by the 20th of each month. The paycheck that was anticipated to be processed for December 30 will return to the originally scheduled pay date of January 1. If you need assistance converting your monthly timesheet workbook to 2017, please give us a call.

We will keep you updated on our process towards the new payroll system and when we know with some certainty about a new go-live date we will of course make an announcement. Thank you for your understanding and patience. And, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Janet Dutcher, CPA, CGFM

Mono County Director of Finance

IT:

IT holds tower climbing certification class

Earlier this month, IT's very own Kirk Hartstrom taught a one day certification class to several IT and Public Works staff. This certification is an OSHA requirement for anyone working on towers or similar infrastructure – which is often necessary for us to perform work on our radio system. A big thanks to Kirk, and to everyone who participated in the course.



Public Health:

It's Not Too Late, But Why Are You Waiting?

It's that time of year again. During the holidays, families travel, and give the gift that keeps on giving -the flu!

Although levels are still low, we are beginning to see increases in flu activity. Positive tests have been reported in Sierra Park Clinics at Mammoth Hospital, in Reno, and in So Cal. Nationally, things are quiet, although it looks like you might not want to go to Georgia or Puerto Rico (dark green indicates minimal activity, and red is high activity on the following map)!

Here are the facts:

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

People of every age, including people in good health, are at risk of flu.

Influenza can cause illness and sometimes severe disease in persons of any age.

Flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands or tens of thousands of deaths each year in the United States.

Although a majority of hospitalizations and deaths occur in people 65 years and older, even healthy young children and younger adults can have severe disease or even die from influenza. California just reported its first influenza-related death of the season in a person <65 years of age.

About 100 deaths from influenza among children are reported each year to CDC.

Flu Vaccination

An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against this potentially serious disease.

Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctor visits, pneumonia, need for antibiotics, missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations.

Flu vaccination also may make your illness milder if you do get sick.

Getting vaccinated yourself also protects people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions.

Despite the unpredictable nature of the flu, you should know:

You need the 2016-2017 flu vaccine for optimal protection against the flu this season because:

Flu viruses are constantly changing, and this season's vaccines have been updated to protect against the viruses that surveillance data indicate will be most common this flu season, and

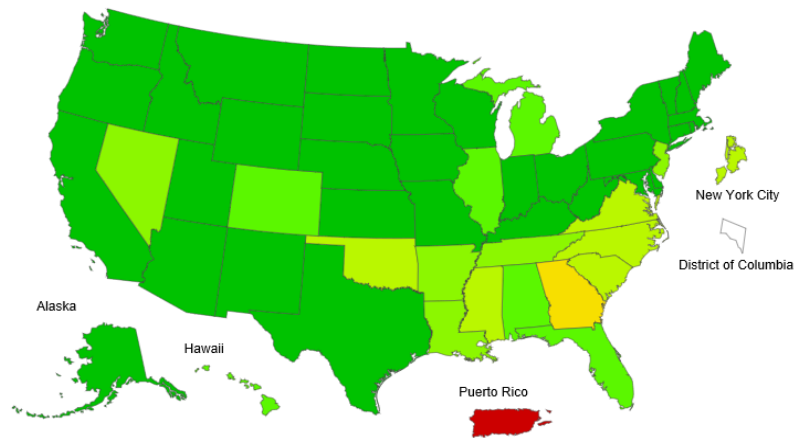
A person's immune protection from vaccine declines over time so annual flu vaccination is needed for the best protection against the flu.

It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against influenza virus infection.

While seasonal flu outbreaks can happen as early as October, flu activity is usually highest between December and February, though activity can last as late as May. As long as flu activity is ongoing, it's not too late to get vaccinated, even in January or later.

Public Health:

With flu activity increasing and family and friends planning gatherings for the holidays, **NOW** is a great time to get a flu vaccine if you haven't been vaccinated yet this season. A flu vaccine can protect you and your loved ones from the flu. Vaccine is available at your pharmacy, healthcare provider, or the Health Department for everyone older than 6 months of age.



Mono County WIC Program

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a nutrition education program that serves low income families including: pregnant woman, children 0-5 year's old and postpartum women while providing healthy food options for those families in need. The Mono County WIC Program has been in operation, serving over 250 families and giving healthy food and nutrition education since 2010. Our amazing WIC staff has been with the Mono County WIC program since its inception and are certified in nutrition education and breastfeeding support. If you know of any low income families with young children that could use assistance, contact us at the WIC program, we love seeing new families. Help us make Mono County families healthy families!

Contact: WIC (760)924-4610



Social Services:

Congratulations!

Wendy Guzman-Rangel, Pedro Figueroa, and Yvon Guzman-Rangel successfully completed the *Community Interpreter International* training program.

Our Social Services bilingual staff are commonly asked to interpret (for verbal conversations) and translate (written documents) between Spanish-speaking clients and county staff. It is typically assumed that because they can speak two languages they can automatically interpret between two languages. In reality, interpreting and translation are professional skills for which being bilingual is only the first step.

The *Community Interpreter® International* training program is a 40-hour training that instructs bilingual staff on how to provide interpreting services appropriately, professionally, ethically and correctly. It is the first and only national 40-hour certificate program in community interpreting. It promotes national ethics and standards of practice in the field. It can prepare interpreters to take national medical interpreter certification (the de facto certification for education and social services community interpreters as well).

The course covered interpreter ethics and conduct, basic skills (from pre-session to post-session), positioning and terminology, modes of interpreting, steps for sight translation, strategies for intervention, cultural mediation, and other vital skills and topics. In addition, this program provides an overview of the interpreting profession and discusses interpreter certification.



Staff Development Day a Success

An enthusiastic two thumbs up for the Social Services staff that planned and implemented every aspect of our annual Staff Development Day in November!

The training this year was titled, *Unity through Effective Communication*, and was held at the Lee Vining Community Center. The day-long event gave Social Services employees an opportunity to invest in their personal and professional growth and wellbeing. Luau Party was the décor theme.



Social Services:



Our trainer was UC Davis instructor Steve Friedland, a consultant and trainer specializing in performance improvement solutions and customized staff development programs.

Key trainer topics included:

- Dimensions of “great places to work”
- Core components of credibility
- Diversity: Key Elements of Communication Style
- Behaviors that build trust or are “trust breakers”
- Peak performance principles and stress management practices

From the topic, speaker and location, to the decorations, food and on-site direction, the following staff made all the decisions, (and all the difference!): Alyssa, Yvon, Pedro, Wendy, Mitch, Sandra, and Cathy.



CPR and First Aid Training: 19 people in Mammoth Lakes and 12 in Walker!

American Red Cross (ARC) came to Mono County on December 5th and 6th to train residents on CPR and First Aid. Once again, there was good turn out and we were able to train a total of 31 people. This class is very affordable at only \$5 and takes only four hours to complete. ARC plans to do continue to offer trainings in our county. Watch for an emergency preparedness to come to the county in March 2017.

Social Services:



Workforce Services (Employment & Training) Room Open for Business!

Social Services staff, Steven Sakoguchi and Glenda Williamson, are proud to announce the opening of the Resource Room in Mammoth Lakes! Three computer stations and numerous resources stand ready for use. Staff are eager to assist and offer a variety of a career related services, including:

- Resume Writing
- Cover Letter Workshops
- Community College Registration
- Career Counseling
- Basic Computer Skills (PC)
- Outlook, Excel and Microsoft Word
- Job search and references



The Resource Room is open to the public from 3pm-5pm, Monday through Friday. Simply stop by the Social Services Reception and let our friendly staff know you'd like to use the room. For those seeking more hands-on assistance, and one-on-one counseling, we offer appointments with our Integrated Caseworkers. For an appointment with one of our caseworkers for individualized career services please contact us at (760) 924-1770. For those who arrive in person, we are located at 452 Old Mammoth Road Suite 305, Mammoth Lakes on the third floor of the Sierra Center Mall.

Social Services:

Mono County Social Services continues to need Foster Parents and we hosted a Foster Parent Social / Informational meeting on:
Thursday, December 8, 2016 5:30pm- 7:00pm at the Sierra Center Mall 3rd Floor BOS Conference Room.

Many prospective foster parents are interested in becoming a parent, but can't commit to providing long term care or adoption. That's okay! Mono County needs foster parents of all types; those who can care for a child short-term, on an emergency only basis, as well as those who can provide long-term care. Children come into foster care when their birth families are unable to care for them for a variety of reasons. We provide support & training for you to be a successful foster parent.

Contact Marlo Preis at 760-924-1793 or mpreis@mono.ca.gov



Every child
DESERVES
a family.

[The Barbed Wire -](#)

<http://rcrcnet.org/barbed-wire-december-16-2016>



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Thank you for reading, and have a fun and safe holiday season!

