



Behavioral Health

Benton Outreach efforts growing in success - In May 2013, Mono County Behavioral Health held an event for the Benton Community to ask “what do you love about living in Benton? What are the strengths of the Benton Community? What would make your community stronger?” The answers were thoughtful and plentiful. This conversation led us to our program, “Dinner and a Movie.”

At the end of each month, Mono County Behavioral Health staff brings dinner to the Benton community, joins in conversation and builds connections with residents. In November, for the Harvest meal, there were 32 attendees. They included older adults, parents, and children who came to dinner, played games, and enjoyed the evening. This is an effort which is connecting people to services and the invitation for anyone to attend is extended.

CONTACT: Robin Roberts, (760) 924-1729

Clerk's Office

Public Notice misstatement - If you have glanced through the Public Notices in the last two issues of the Mammoth Times, you may have noticed some misprinted information in notices titled **Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name Statement**. For some reason the Times has misprinted CD Ritter's title.

CD assists the Clerk's Office with a variety of tasks so she is a Deputy County Clerk. However, the Times published CD Ritter, Mono County Clerk, which has caused confusion with some members of the public. The Clerk's Office has notified the Times about this error, and they have assured us they will correct the problem.

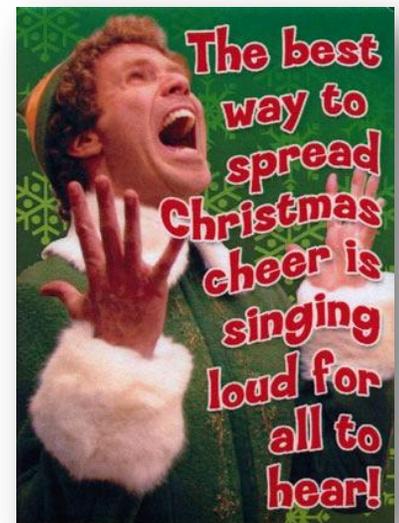
CONTACT: Lynda Roberts, (760) 932-5538

County Administrator's Office

35 year caroling tradition continues - The Bridgeport Christian Fellowship is organizing their annual Christmas caroling at the Bridgeport Courthouse, a tradition for over 35 years. Everyone in the community is invited to join them on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 pm on the inside stairs of the courthouse to sing Christmas carols. Bring your best voice and yuletide spirit and share our appreciation to the group for helping spread the Christmas cheer.

CONTACT: Sarah Messerlian, (760) 932-5405

Courthouse ready for Santa – A huge “Thank You” to the Facilities Department who braved the cold weather in Bridgeport this week to dress the Courthouse up for the holiday season. Thanks go to the group who included John Hauter, Joey Swager, Claude Fiddler, Ed Nolan, Tony Iniguez and Don Nunn, led by Joe “Bring the Snow” Blanchard for their hard work. The decorations look great!



CONTACT: Sarah Messerlian, (760) 932-5405

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

Quarterly Unified Command Meeting Update – I attended my first Unified Command meeting where agencies from across the region meet and discuss issues of coordination. This month's meeting was focused on the Emergency Operations training exercise of November 21st and how to improve it.

Public Information Officers Quarterly Meeting revving back up – Jennifer Hanson of the Mono County Sheriff's Office has re-energized the regional PIO meeting. This group is designed to strengthen communication across public and private agencies and be especially focused as part of the County Emergency Operations Center management. A debrief of the November 21st event focusing on improving communication was on the docket.

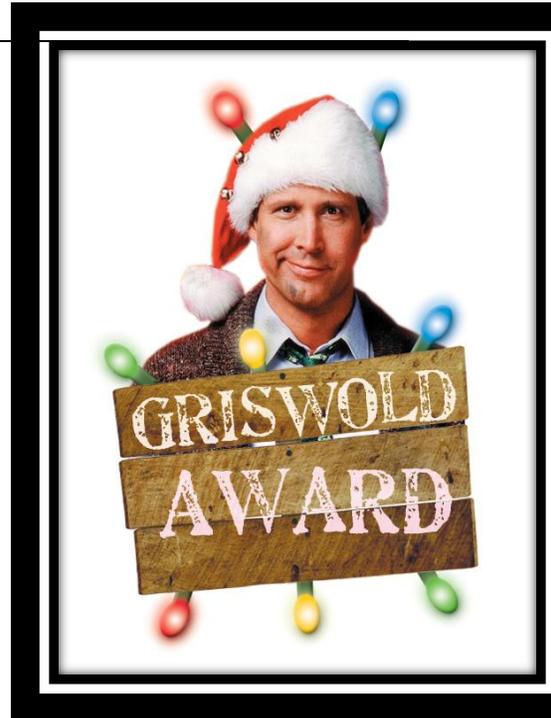
My appreciation to Jennifer for her efforts to strengthen and expand the group!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Community Development

Will Grouse Steal Christmas? – At Tuesday's BOS meeting, the US Fish & Wildlife Service conducted a workshop on listing sage grouse as a threatened species. The Board was united and eloquent in requesting a 90-day extension of the comment period. A number of public speakers also made strong arguments supporting this request. If not granted, the County will be working over Christmas to submit comments by the Dec. 27 deadline.

Thanks to Courtney Weiche and Associate Analysts Wendy Sugimura and Brent Calloway for their work on the sage grouse issue.



Long Valley RPAC – With the assistance of Associate Planner Courtney Weiche, the RPAC met Wednesday to conclude its review of the community survey and continue drafting associated policies for the Long Valley Area Plan update. Supervisor Fred Stump provided a report on County matters. The RPAC welcomed new member Ali Feinberg and complimented facilities staff for the new solar panels on the Crowley Lake Community Center.

Antelope Valley RPAC – The RPAC met Thursday night and concluded fine-tuning the draft Antelope Valley Area Plan with the assistance of Principal Planner Gerry Le Francois. Supervisor Tim Fesko also provided an update on County matters, and USFS/Humboldt-Toiyabe’s new district ranger, Jeff Ulrich, was introduced.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1800

Information Technology

Mono County has finally received service from Digital 395! - After several months of anticipation, Digital 395 circuits were provisioned for the County’s Mammoth and Bridgeport sites (including the Sheriff’s Department/Dispatch) this week. Bridgeport was successfully connected on Thursday, and Mammoth will be brought online Friday, with the goal for next week being to connect both of the two sites together.

A ‘live test’ of the circuit will be performed for the next several weeks, running existing Verizon service in the background for backup and redundancy purposes. By early next year the County will move away from the old Verizon service and be fully reliant on Digital 395.

Over the next several weeks, California Broadband Cooperative (the operator of Digital 395) will continue to build circuits for the remaining outlying County sites (community centers, road shops, etc.). The goal is to begin bringing these sites online after the first of the year and have most of the transition work complete before the end of winter. This is an exciting development for the County, as not only will we finally receive the Internet speeds that we need and have improved connectivity between Bridgeport and Mammoth, but will have all of our sites connected and do so at a significant cost savings.

Meanwhile, construction efforts continue along the route. Progress has been made finalizing the route and land-owner agreements for the segment going out to the Benton tribe. This has required coordination between Praxis, the Bramlette Family, and the Eastern Sierra Land Trust and has been a complex matter to resolve. They hope to begin construction before Christmas, but will not complete work out in that area until after the first of the year.

In Round Valley, eight out of the ten miles of plowing required to reach Round Valley School have been completed by Westech. Praxis is pulling resources off this project to focus on a couple of other items, but will be returning after January 1 to complete this segment early next year.

CONTACT: Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1819



Public Works

Crowley Lake Community Center and Lee Vining Community Center Solar Installations Complete – The Facilities staff was able to complete the installations of Photovoltaic as well as solar hot water systems at these two facilities prior to the winter weather arriving. These systems will provide significant energy savings of both electricity and propane for these two facilities. These solar projects were generously funded by a Clean Air Projects Program grant.

Kudos to Ed Nolan, electrical, and Jason Davenport, plumbing and heating, whose expertise allowed the County to do these complex projects in-house.

Contact: Joe Blanchard, (760) 932-5443

Cross Training in Facilities Division Underway – During the FY 2013-2014 Budget Hearings, the Board asked about efforts to ensure proper cross training in the Facilities Division. The following update reflects ongoing efforts to have cross training to effectively address the issue.



The Mono County Public Works Facilities division was affected in the last five years with a small segment of the staff monopolizing all of the knowledge. In awareness of this issue, the Facilities management team implemented a series of group training sessions and exercises aimed at diversifying the skill sets of the Facilities division. Listed below are the training sessions as well as the staff that went through the training.

- Airport rounds Bridgeport & Lee Vining; inspecting runway, lighting, AWOS weather system, inspecting facilities, perimeter fencing and wind socks. Jesse hale, Claude Fiddler, Don Nunn, Ed Nolan, Jason Davenport, and John Hauter.
- Opening rounds Bridgeport; open and inspect all buildings, elevators, HVAC systems, bathrooms, kitchen's, alarm systems, raise and lower flags. Don Nunn, Jesse Hale, Ed Nolan, Tony Iniquez, John Hauter, Claude Fiddler.
- Jail low voltage system training; Don Nunn, Ed Nolan, Claude Fiddler, and Jesse Hale
- Irrigation systems startup and shut down; Jesse Hale, Ed Nolan, Tony Iniquez, Steve Worabel, and Steve Reeves.
- Boiler Manufacturer training Jason Davenport, Jesse Hale, and Tony Iniquez.
- State Certified Playground Safety Inspectors; Joe Blanchard & Steve Reeves. Staff trained to do playground inspections; Joe Swagger, Steve Worabel.

- Staff Contractors Licenses; Joe Blanchard Electrical and General, Claude Fiddler General and Concrete, John Hauter General, Don Nunn Electrical, Ed Nolan Electrical, and Jason Davenport Plumbing.

Shared trades: Tradesmen working out of their core competencies to gain knowledge of different trades which adds to the Facilities divisions' effectiveness and diversity.

- Tony Iniquez HVAC/Gas appliances working with Ed Nolan Electrician.
- Jason Davenport plumbing, heating, and boilers working with Tony Iniquez.
- Claude Fiddler, concrete contractor, working with, Ed Nolan, Jason Davenport, Tony Iniquez, and John Hauter.
- John Hauter, carpenter, and Jason Davenport, plumbing.

In recognition of the problem of having only one or two people able to perform core maintenance functions the aforementioned trainings were implemented and are ongoing in an effort to improve our service to the constituents of Mono County.

Contact: Joe Blanchard, (760) 932-5443

Sheriff's Office

Winter Preparedness Advised -- It's that time of year again! Yes, winter is slowly creeping upon us. As we all hope for that massive snow storm to strike and an epic winter season, the question remains, are you prepared for the season?



The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens and visitors alike to always be prepared for winter conditions, whether you are simply out and about in town on foot or driving across the many roadways of Mono County. Always have an emergency bag in your vehicle with extra food, water, warm clothing and shoes, and emergency supplies just in case you are stuck in your vehicle for an unknown amount of time as you try to reach your intended destination due to hazardous weather and road conditions. Remember, if you get stuck in your vehicle, stay in your vehicle until help arrives or you can safely continue on your journey. Remember to take some extra time while traveling, slow down, and obey all chain control requirements. Even those that are seasoned drivers on the Mono County roadways, please slow down and take your time when driving on the snowy conditions. This ensures your safety and those traveling around you.

Be aware of your surroundings while traveling the roadways and various communities of Mono County. Watch for snow removal equipment. This could be a large snowplow clearing the roadway or an individual shoveling a driveway or sidewalk. Both their safety and your own are important and will

benefit from your awareness. Also, be aware of the various locations around Mono County that have parking restrictions during the winter months. Vehicles parked in the restricted areas will hinder necessary snow removal and be subject to citations and/or having the vehicle towed. These restrictions are in place and enforced for your safety and to allow proper snow removal for safer driving conditions for all.

Mono County utilizes what is known as the CodeRed Emergency Alert System when a critical incident or emergency situations takes place within the county. This system is a database of resident and citizen information for use only in critical and emergency situations to send critical communications from evacuation notices, to hazardous weather alerts, to missing children alerts. Your contact information remains private and is only used to contact you for community emergency communications. To register for the CodeRed emergency alerts, log on to www.monosheriff.org – Resources – CodeRed. There is also a mobile app available for all Android and Apple phones.

For more information on winter preparedness and safety, please visit the Mono County Sheriff's Office Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Mono-County-Sheriffs-Department/597961140216123) and listen to a panel radio interview, compliments of KMMT radio, on winter and emergency preparedness. The panel consists of members from the Mono County Sheriff's Department, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, CERT, and California Highway Patrol. Let the experts give you the necessary tips you may be looking for to stay prepared this winter, and during other emergencies that could happen in our area!

Please remember to think safety first this winter and here's hoping for a great winter season!

CONTACT: Jennifer Hansen, (760) 932-5279

Sheriff Weekly items:

1. The Sheriff's Office had the first of several meetings relating to the 'Every 15 Minute Program' that will be put on this spring in the Mammoth area.
2. Lieutenant West had a meeting with a Lee Vining High School student that is interested in Coroner duties, which hopefully help stimulate her interest even further.
3. Several search warrants were conducted within the county: narcotics, weapons and currency were seized. One suspect was taken into custody and one suspect is still outstanding.
4. The Sheriff's Office met and discussed with Mammoth Lakes Police Dept. regarding assisting the Town on New Year's Eve (as has been done in the past) for law enforcement protection. The Sheriff's Office will supply several officers, as will other local agencies. Mammoth Lakes Police department will not be asking for any assistance with their Night of Lights celebration this month which is slated for Saturday, December 21st.
5. Staff conducted the quarterly Unified Command meeting with allied agencies.
6. Patrol assisted a Benton resident that was stranded overnight, who was extremely grateful.

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