



Animal Control

Animal Control enjoys a crowning – A little levity is always needed and this week's we thank Angelle Nolan for sharing her fun with the dentist! She's smiling as she gets her crown and a Crown!

She promises to be benevolent during her reign!

CONTACT: Angelle Nolan, (760) 932-5582



Community Development

Long Valley RPAC – At a Special Meeting Tuesday, the RPAC concluded its review of transportation policies for the Regional Transportation Plan update. Thanks to Courtney Weiche for facilitating the review.

Mono City emergency road progressing – A big thanks to Steve Nelson and Larry Primosch of BLM for concluding and signing federal environmental documents for the project. Heather deBethizy will be circulating a companion CEQA document for 30-day public review to allow for BOS action. In the meantime, Jeff Walters and crew are pursuing rock removal and security gates installation for the emergency-only route.

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) – The Authority Advisory Committee of YARTS, including Jeff Simpson, Danna Stroud and Sandy Hogan, met to recommend approval of the annual budget and shuttle schedule to Yosemite (three daily runs). These recommendations will be considered Monday by the YARTS board, which includes supervisors Alpers and Hunt. Also considered were upcoming national park activities including Tioga Road clearing and summer rehab, redo of Tuolumne Grove parking lot, Tuolumne and Merced River plan decisions, and festivities for the 150-year anniversary of the Yosemite Grant.

Sage Grouse – The US Fish & Wildlife Service has reopened the public comment period on the potential listing of the sage grouse as a threatened species for 60 days ending June 7, 2014, and a six-month extension on the listing-decision deadline to April 28, 2015. Public hearings are scheduled April 29 in Minden and April 30 in Bishop at the Tri-County Fairgrounds at 6 p.m. This time extension could benefit County efforts for obtaining Congressional funding for Bi-State plan implementation and listing prevention.

Mono Basin RPAC – The RPAC met Wednesday to continue its review of the Conway Ranch conservation easement proposal with Supervisor Alpers. A Special Meeting scheduled April 25 will conclude the RPAC's review and provide a recommendation to the BOS.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

County Administrator's Office

CAO to stop roaming the Countryside – I have been fortunate enough to find a great place to live with my family in Crowley! I've enjoyed my time as "Looper" in June Lake but with the end of the school year, the Leddy twins aka "The Dudes" and my beautiful Bride will be coming up to Mono permanently!

Everyone is looking forward to being in one household again especially me! Once we get settled in Crowley, we will be hosting an all employee House warming where the Dudes, Kathy and I will throw a BBQ for our new County family and everyone will be invited.

Stay tuned as this will most likely be in August.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

April Mammoth Area Governments Meeting hosts CHP – Lt. Ron Cohan presented background on the local California Highway Patrol services here in Mono County. Lt. Cohan explained staffing, the recent changeover in the employee demographics in last ten years as well as the process for future decisions about new CHP Headquarters. Lt. Cohan will be attending the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 6th and presenting similar information the Board and the public.

CONAVCT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

South County Coffee with CAO has great turnout! – Thank you to the 23 employees who came by and participated in this month's South County Employee Round Table (Coffee with the CAO). It was a great discussion of budget, ongoing economic issues and provided some feedback on communication.



Shout out to Nancy Manahan for her suggestion to share this Board Update with our legislative offices. I spoke with those offices and we will be sending them the weekly update on County activities along with attachments.

Next month's South County Employee Round table (the event formerly known as Coffee with the CAO) will be on May 8th at the Sierra Center at 8:30am. Coffee and Carbo-licious donuts will be provided!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Election season offers opportunities for employees to hear from candidates – Thank you to Stephanie Padilla for the Assessor's Office for the following information tid-bit - The Mono County Central Republican Committee is hosting a candidates night in Bridgeport on April 22, 2014 at the Bridgeport Memorial Hall from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

If anyone else has heard of candidate forums, please let us know and we will share with all employees.

CONTACT: Stephanie Padilla, (714) 318-2310

Strategic Planning Steering Committee April 17th at Lee Vining Community Center continues to finalize plans for All-Employee event on May 1st – We are on final countdown for our all employee strategic planning session. On April 17th, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee which is open to all employees will be meeting to finalize the logistical details for May 1st's unprecedented all employee session. Please attend the 17th and prepare for the 1st!

Departments are being worked with to provide employees maximum opportunity to attend. For those employees unable to attend, we will be bringing the Planning process to them for special session to garner their feedback.

May 1st we will be having the first ever all employees Strategic Planning Session.

SAVE the DATE – MAY 1st!

If you can't make May 1st we will have a great volunteer Strategic Plan Ambassadors' meeting with folks who can't attend!

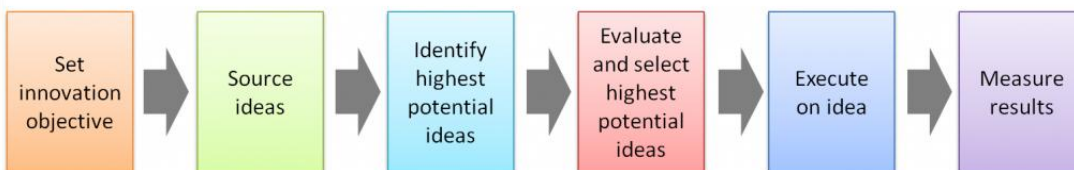
Again The next Steering Committee meeting will be on April 17th at 4:00pm to 6:30pm at the Lee Vining Community Center.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Strategic Planning Cycle



The Innovation Process Employee-Driven Innovation



Mono Innovation groups collecting ideas from across the organization – Working with departments, we will start to review these ideas, and ultimately bring to the Board the ideas that can help address ongoing

challenges.

North County Mono Innovation Group
 Wednesday, April 16th, 8:00 am to 9:00am
 Bridgeport Memorial Hall
 Bridgeport

South County Mono Innovation Group
 Thursday, April 17th, 8:30 am to 9:30 am
 CAO Conference Room at Sierra Center,
 Mammoth Lakes

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Economic Development

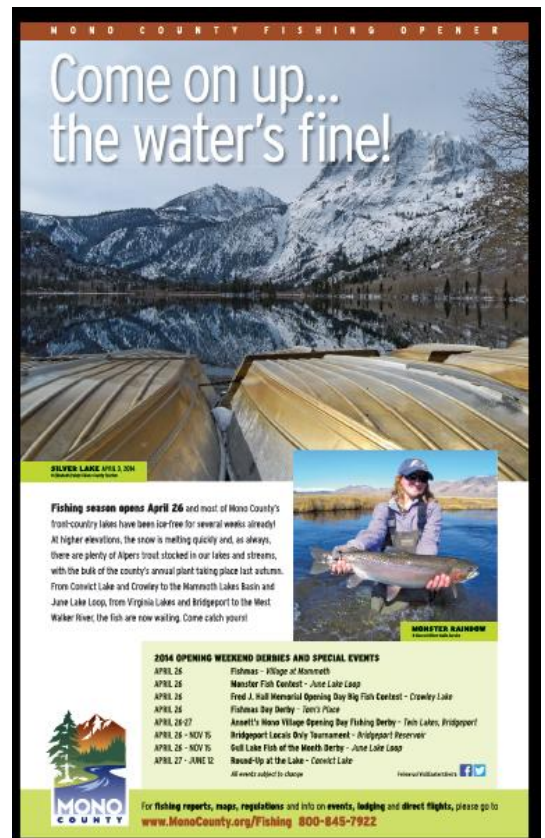
· **Film Commission:** A large-scale Ford commercial with a crew of 70 is being filmed on Wed. April 16 all day on Hwy. 120, US 395 and at Mono Lake. The Travel Channel was on Mammoth last week to film a spring skiing segment, complete with skiing models in bikinis! Warner Brothers is currently scouting for a wide alpine river backdrop for a new television pilot – staff has submitted photos of the Little Walker, West Walker, and the Upper and Lower Owens River. If the pilot goes to series, filming would take place year round.

The California Film Commission, and the California Film and Television Production Alliance continue to pursue legislation for an enhanced version of the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program; as a member of Film Liaisons in California (FLICS), the Mono County Tourism & Film Commission will be participating in this campaign to bolster California’s film industry.

· **Media:** Positive, recent press coverage for Mono County includes the following articles: Traveling Mom blog - <http://www.travelingmom.com/hot-springs-crab-cooker-mono-lake-basin-ca/> and a June Lake Brewery article in Visit California’s “What’s New” - <http://media.visitcalifornia.com/Story-Development/Whats-New/?id=92288>. Watch for editorial pick-up in California Fly Fisher magazine for Opener, as well as Western Outdoor News.

· **Advertising:** For Fishing Opener, we are running full-page ads in Western Outdoor News/California Sportsman featuring a recent photo of Silver Lake to show that front-country waters for Opener are thawed, and current water levels mean a great start to the season. **Please see ad attached** for high resolution copy!

· **Social Media:** A recent Facebook post on April 7th with a collage of lake photos taken on April 5th generated 697 Likes and 290 Shares resulting in a reach of over 34,000 people – another record-breaker! Interest in Fishing Opener, water levels, and early hiking is enthusiastic, and “Engagement” on our Facebook page (Likes, Shares, Comments) last week ranks higher than our local tourism partners who have many more thousands of “fans” than Mono County Tourism (although our total is now over 13,600. This means our audience through Social Media channels, such as Facebook, is very engaged and receptive to our posts and announcements. Our Fishing



Opener/Spring E-Newsletter will be sent to our Visitor Database on Monday.

- **Website:** Organic traffic is up 93% year over year for March, thanks to new content and pages on Hiking and Fishing uploaded by staff member Liz Erdelyi, and unique visits to the site increased 15% over March 2013. The most-visited pages in March were the Homepage, followed by Bodie, Fishing Regulations, Fishing Reports, Fishing, and Hot Springs.
- **Economic Development Strategic Plan:** Alicia Vennos met with Scott Burns and Courtenay Weiche to plan RPAC presentations of the Economic Development Strategic Plan summary to invite feedback and input from community members.
- **Other:** Staff members, Dan Lyster and Tony Dublino, met with representatives of Southern California Edison to reinforce open lines of communication regarding water flows out of Lundy Power House for the Mono Basin.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

Road Update

- **Tioga Pass:** Yosemite National Park will begin snow removal on Tioga Road on April 16th. (Weather pending) A projected opening date has not been set.
- **Bodie Road/SR 270:** Is currently scheduled to open on April 15th (Weather pending)
- **Monitor Pass:** Currently open
- **Sonora Pass:** Caltrans is projecting to open Hwy 108 before April 20th. (Weather pending)
- **June Lake Loop:** Currently Open
- **Lundy Lake Road, Virginia Lakes Road and Rock Creek Road:** Projected to be open before fishing opener on April 26th. (Weather Pending)
- **120 East:** Currently open

Tioga Pass – Summer Road Construction - Yosemite National Park has plans to reconstruct Tioga Road starting this summer from Crane Flat to White Wolf. The project has two schedules. Schedule “A” begins at the intersection of Big Oak Flat Road and Tioga Road, and proceeds east for 12.8 miles. Schedule “B” begins at the intersection of Big Oak Flat Road and Tioga Road and proceeds east for 15.0 miles. The project is scheduled to take place over two seasons with a tentative completion in October/November 2015. The details of the project can be found here:

<https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=6e5b009864a942d41d6fa2203e5c1f29&tab=core&cvview=1>

Here are the planned delays once construction commences. The Park Service stated their goal is to begin construction as soon as possible in May of 2014:

Day	Hours of Operation ¹	Maximum Delay ^{2,3}
Sunday (11:00 pm) thru Thursday (11:00 pm)	11:00 pm to 6:00 am	60 Minutes
	6:00 am to 7:30 am	15 Minutes
	7:30 am to 3:30 pm	30 Minutes
	3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	15 Minutes
	5:30 pm to 11:00 pm	30 Minutes
Thursday (11:00 pm) thru Friday (4:30 pm)	11:00 pm to 6:00 am	60 Minutes
	6:00 am to 7:30 am	15 Minutes
	7:30 am to 3:30 pm	30 Minutes
	3:30 pm to 4:30 pm	15 Minutes
Friday (4:30 pm) thru Sunday (11:00 pm)	4:30 pm to 11:00 pm	No Work Allowed

U.S Department of Agriculture Designates Drought Relief – Mono and Inyo Counties are eligible for State of Nevada Disaster Designation as California Contiguous Counties- On March 5th, 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture granted disaster designation for certain counties in the State of Nevada, also including Inyo and Mono Counties in the State of California. This provides nearly automatic approval for assistance in counties that meet the required drought intensity levels. Assistance may include emergency farm loans for actual losses as a direct result of the drought, up to \$500,000 for farmers and ranchers who conduct family-sized farming operations. U.S. Small Business Administration will be providing Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans to small, non-farm businesses, some private non-profit organizations and small agricultural cooperatives. The deadline for these loans will be November 5th, 2014.

Please visit the USDA website for additional information at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA. Or contact U.S. Small Business Administration at 1-800-659-2955, or visit SBA’s website at: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

Mono County Board Waives Permit Fees - Mono County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to waive permit fees for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects. Projects that qualify for these permit fees being waived are commercial and residential solar, ground space and water conditioning systems with a maximum project valuation of \$75,000 each. The program will help create private sector jobs around energy efficiency throughout Mono County for individuals and businesses alike.

For more information on the fees waiver programs, please contact Building Official Tom Perry at 760-932-5433 or tperry@mono.ca.gov

CONTACT: Jeff Simpson, (760) 924-4634

Public Health

National Public Health Week April 7-13 - How do I know my home does not have radon? When I send my children to school, how do I know they will not be exposed to measles, mumps, chickenpox..?

How do I know that my neighbor’s septic tank is not going to seep into my water supply? How do I know that my pregnancy will be a healthy one? How do I know I will not have to breath second hand smoke in at my favorite restaurant?

Public health policy and laws address all of these issues. In this day and age when making more laws is not so popular, public health education, partnerships, policy and enforcement is what we do as a Health Department and as a society to protect the health of our citizens.

Mono County Public Health Department celebrates National Public Health Week by reminding everyone how public health has changed our lives.



CONTACT: Lynda Salcido, (760) 924-1842

Public Works

Mono Public Works again successfully completes Inspection - Attached is the Certificate of Achievement for successfully completing the BIT inspection at the Benton Road Shop.

Congratulations to all involved! This makes a perfect record for our BIT inspections since May 13, 1993!

CONTACT: Jeff Walters, (760) 932-5459

Kudos from visitors to “Big Steve” Amundson at Public Works – Public Works received the attached email of

thank you to “Big Steve” for his recent help to a family of visitors to the County.

*“To whom it may concern;
On April 1st my family of 7 got stuck out on one of your county roads headed out to see the ghost town of "Bodie". GPS and MapQuest sent us out this way. This happened at about 4pm that day. After about 3 hours of digging my wife and I came to the conclusion that we were going to have to spend the night out in the middle of nowhere and hope for the best til' morning. Everyone made it through the night. A little cold and tired but we were all O.K. The next morning on April 2nd we decided that no one was going to come and help us so we gathered up all our children and began the hike to Bridgeport in the snow and mud. We were about nine miles out from Bridgeport and 4 miles into our hike when we heard the best sound ever! It was one of your county employees who just happened to be out grading the road that day. My wife and I burst into tears at the sight of another*

human being with the ability to hopefully help us out! He radioed in to see if he could help us out and the man on the other line said it was O.K. to do so! We were overjoyed! Any kind of help would have great in our eyes! Your employee "Steve" that is the only part of his name that I remember. I don't even remember if he gave me his last name. Anyway, "Steve" was and is an act of god in our eyes! He took me back and helped me pull out our van and trailer. I am writing to you to tell you of what such a value you have in an employee like "Steve". My family and I cannot begin to express the amount of gratitude that we have for both "Steve" and Mono county public works for saving all our lives. I hope that you are able to recognize "Steve" for the above and beyond conduct he showed to us all! If it is possible I would like this email forwarded to "Steve" or maybe an email address so I can contact him personally. Again thank you all for saving my family and myself in what seemed like a very hopeless situation!

*Forever in your debt,
Jeff, Kelly, Dalton, Katie, Logan, Kayla and Kenna Hubbard-- Bonney Lake, WA”*

Great work, “Big” Steve!

CONTACT: Jeff Walters, (760) 932-5459



Social Services

Senior Staff Extends a Line to Benton Senior - Kudos to Rick Williams, Senior Program staff for the Tri-Valley area. A senior in Hammil Valley who receives home delivered meals called the Walker office to say how instrumental Rick had been in getting a landline telephone hooked up for her.

This senior, who no longer drives, had a cell phone but the service was spotty and calls were often dropped, leaving her without access to critical services. She repeatedly expressed how grateful she was for all of Rick's assistance. Rick went above and beyond to assist this client, as he does with so many. Thank you, Rick, for the quality of care you provide our seniors!



CONTACT: Megan Foster, (530) 495-1262

Affordable Care Act - Did you have trouble applying for health insurance coverage through Covered California due to website issues? Consumers who were unable to create an online account or start their online application because of technical difficulties can contact an assister, including Covered California Service Center representatives and Mono County eligibility workers, to explain that they attempted to get through on March 31 and experienced difficulties. Those consumers will have until 11:59 p.m. April 15 to work with the assister to complete their application and choose a plan.

You may still qualify for Medi-Cal or have a qualifying life event that makes you eligible for coverage through a special-enrollment period. Small businesses can sign up for health insurance plans year-round. Call 760/924-1770 for more information.

CONTACT: Francie Avitia, 760/924-1770

A message from one of our Partners in Prevention: Wild Iris - *The following is from a presentation to the Mono County Board of Supervisors on April 8th by Susi Baines, Director of Programs for Wild Iris.*

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month - According to national statistics, one in four women and one in 33 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, Wild Iris served 22 victims of sexual assault in Mono County, providing services ranging from peer counseling, legal and medical advocacy to providing emergency food, clothing and shelter.

Also nationally, a report of child abuse is made every ten seconds, and more than four children die every day as a result of child abuse. In the calendar year 2013, Wild Iris assisted 6 children under the age of 18 for issues connected to child abuse in Mono County. Of those 6, half were victims of sexual assault. According to Unicef, in 2010, more money was spent to preserve native birds in the United States than was spent on preventing child abuse. Reason enough that more awareness about child abuse needs to be done.

Both Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Awareness Month have been annual traditions for many years and are nationwide campaigns. By holding events and conducting awareness campaigns for an entire month, we hope to convey the importance of these issues to the community, to foster action and to let the community know the services that are available to them

To commemorate both months, Wild Iris has planned several events to honor victims and survivors of sexual assault and child abuse. Once again, Wild Iris will host the Clothesline Project, a display that offers a voice to those affected by violence, and a powerful exhibit of personal testimonies. T-shirts hung on the clothesline are designed by survivors of violence, both children and adults alike, or by those close to them, and are a reminder to the community that sexual assault and child abuse happen right here. The Project also helps survivors in their healing process, giving them a way to tell their story and recognize that they are not alone.

The **Clothesline Project** will be displayed for the public to view on Saturday April 26th from 9am-3pm at Minaret Mall and on Wednesday April 30th (All Day) at Mammoth High School.



April 23 is **Denim Day**. This campaign was originally triggered by a 1998 ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her rapist remove the jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim, and, so, we too, ask that our community show solidarity, raise awareness and stand with survivors of sexual assault by wearing denim on April 23.

This month and throughout the year our Youth Violence Prevention Program visits all of our local schools, pre-school through college, to teach about healthy relationships, bullying, healthy boundaries and bystander intervention. We encourage parents to take advantage of our free parenting classes, and in April, we will begin to offer **supervised visitation monitoring** as a way to ensure the safety and security of children visiting with non-custodial parents.

Wild Iris encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Mono County a better place for children and families. By ensuring that our community members have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for themselves and their children. Together we can help promote our community's social and emotional well-being and prevent child abuse and sexual assault within families and communities.

CONTACT: Susi Baines, Wild Iris, (760) 934-2491

Sheriff's Office

Cops vs. Kids: Basketball Game Fundraiser – Lee Vining High School - It's that time again! With the cops coming off a recent win with the Coleville High School boys' basketball team, the Cops vs Kids game is back! Who will be victorious this time?

On Saturday, April 12th, 2014, at 5:00pm, join the Mono County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol as deputies and officers take on the Lee Vining High School boys' basketball team. That's right! It's another "cops versus kids" in a friendly competition to raise money for the Lee Vining High School Booster Club.

Bring the family, have some fun, cheer for your "team," and support your local school. Remember, the game starts at 5:00pm at Lee Vining High School. Come on out and support a great cause. We will see you on the court!

CONTACT: Jennifer M. Hansen, (760) 932-5279

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is celebrating our dispatchers in recognition of National Telecommunications Week - In 1991, Congress formally proclaimed the second week in April "National Telecommunications Week" to recognize the women and men who put countless hours behind the radio, phone and computer to ensure the highest level of public safety.

Our dispatchers are not only here to serve the communication needs of the Mono County Sheriff's Office, but also to provide service for the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mono County Paramedics, and all the fire protection districts throughout Mono County (including Antelope Valley, Bridgeport, Lee Vining, June Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Long Valley, Wheeler Crest/Paradise, Chalfant/White Mountain/Benton). Our dispatchers are not only there to answer the call and get proper resources to any situation, they are also our jailers. They are there to ensure the jail operates properly including the safety of all inmates. "Our dispatching staff is an integral part of the safety of Mono County, both for the citizens and the first responders. They are the unseen heroes who can help save a life via a phone call," said Sheriff Ralph Obenberger.

The dispatchers are the first ones to receive the call for all emergency and non-emergency situations. They are truly the first people to respond to a citizen's call for help. They are that calm, reassuring voice that help is on the way.

Where our dispatchers are recognized daily for their dedication, please join the Mono County Sheriff's Office in recognizing and truly thanking our dispatching staff! Here's to you!

CONTACT: Jennifer M. Hansen, (760) 932-5279

Sheriff's Office Updates!

1. We are currently working on a bone discovery case that is from the east side of the county. The bone(s) will be processed and shipped to the Dept. of Justice for further analysis.

2. We have our 2nd and final COPS vs. Schools basketball game this Saturday at the Lee Vining High School at 5:00pm. Come see the game, cheer on your favorites and help raise a few dollars for the school.
3. Jennifer Hansen is continuing expanding her knowledge relating to the position of Public Information Officer for the Sheriff's Office. If any other department has any questions or needs PIO wise, please call Jennifer as she is more than willing to assist in this realm.
4. We had a staff vs. inmate confrontation this week. No injuries were sustained by anyone and order was restored quickly.
5. This past week was National Telecommunications Week, honoring Dispatchers across the U.S. I would like to recognize the dispatchers we having working for our office as the best around. They are the unseen heroes who help people and or save a life on a routine basis "just doing their job".
6. The Mono County Search & Rescue Team had a fundraising event in the Village at Mammoth this past Tuesday. Displaying some their equipment and talking to people about their functions. They raised some funds over the course of the day in an effort to continue doing a fantastic job for the visitors and residents of Mono County. These individuals put in an extraordinary amount of personal time volunteering for a cause of just helping people.



CONTACT: Ralph Obenberger, (760) 932-7549