



## Clerk's Office

**Mono County Elections Officials send out Residency Confirmations** – The Clerk's office has just mailed out 5,875 Residency Confirmation Postcards - one to every active registered voter in Mono County - with instructions to make necessary corrections and to mail the 'no postage necessary' card back to our office. This is required by California Election Code §2220(a) in order to update or confirm voter residency before a primary election. This is very crucial in Mono County as people may change their resident address but not necessarily their mailing address.

**NOTE: Your resident address determines your voting precinct. Your voting precinct determines your ballot type. Hence, you vote for the appropriate candidate/race.**

With the help of our entire office staff- Shannon Kendall, Sherrie Hale, Debra VandeBrake, Lynda Roberts, and the additional help from Meg Hawkins, we were able to meet the deadline mandated by the Election Code for distribution. *"Way to go team!!"*

- Upcoming candidate filing dates:

February 20	Petition-In-Lieu of Filing Fee Deadline
February 10 – March 7	Candidate Filing Period
March 8 – March 12	Extension Period to file if the incumbent has not filed

CONTACT: Linda Romero, (760) 932-5534

## Community Development Department

**Frogs & Toads** – Associate Analyst Wendy Sugimura prepared comments for Thursday's USFWS hearing in Sacramento on endangered species frogs and toads. A report from BOS Chairman Larry Johnston indicated attendees were allotted two minutes, and only 30-some of the 75 attendees got to speak.

There was lots of applause and even some jeering along the way when the moderator tried to cut people off. So both County and Town are on the record as opposing federal listing of the species due to potential adverse impacts to Mono County. A huge thank you goes to Supervisor Johnston for braving the winter storm to represent Mono County at the hearing.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

## County Administrator's Office

**Inyo-Mono County Services Officer tenders Resignation** – Saul Sanabria who was serving as the Inyo-Mono County Services Officer notified both Counties that he will be resigning effective February 26<sup>th</sup>. Inyo County will be lead on the hiring process and has requested Mono County participation in the hiring panel which we will provide.

We wish Saul our highest regards and support and thank him for his service to our regions, states and nations veterans.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Mono County State of the County event being discussed** – On January 28<sup>th</sup> as part of the Film/Tourism Commission Subcommittee on Economic Development, the idea to host an annual State of the County event was discussed. The event would be designed to bring together business, community and government (the Town, special districts and schools) to discuss the future of Mono County's economy as well as highlight public services to the community in the prior year.

The County Administrator's Office and Economic development staff will work on additional details to bring to the Board the idea of the event. Counties across the state utilize this format to bring in outside economics professionals to provide the community with data to forecast the upcoming challenges to the community.

Given the unheard of drought, the need to bolster our economy in the headwinds of a flagging national economy and slacking real estate market, this type of event can provide crucial information to support the community is charting a stronger economic future.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**SNOW!!** – An actual storm has arrived and it is a relief. It should remind everyone, drive safe, walk slow and thank our Public Works crews for helping keep roads, walkways and facilities snow and ice safe!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

## **Economic Development**

**Get Online Now** - Getting online may seem like a huge challenge, but it doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, Google's Get Your Business Online program makes it quick, easy, and free. It takes about an hour -- that's less time than it takes to see a movie or do a load of laundry.

Here's all you need to do:

1. **Go to the Get Your Business Online website** and create an account with Google, and their partner Intuit -- that just means choosing a username and password. [Click here to get started.](#)
2. **Choose a design**—Intuit's done the hard part by creating the designs. You just need to pick the one you like best.
3. **Upload a photo or two** -- don't worry, you can change the photo later.
4. **Write a brief description of what your business does, your hours, and how your customers can contact you.**



**5. Choose a domain name for your business** -- something simple like joescoffee.com works best.

You can always make improvements by signing back in to your account later. What's important is getting your site up and running so customers can find you.

**Questions?** Visit <http://www.gybo.com/california/faqs-google-about>. You can also contact Intuit Customer Service at 1-877-797-5774 and press 1 when prompted to learn how to get support for your free website.

**Access to Capital Conference** - In November, Alicia and I attended an SBDC event that helped educate local business owners on how to better access capital for their business. The full day conference informed business owners on a number of topics ranging from SBA lending to peer to peer and internet direct lending for small businesses. Kelly Bearden, Director of the SBDC will be presenting a recap on the topics discussed during the conference. This is the best opportunity to hear about the important information that was provided by over 30 presenters.

**Wednesday Jan 29, 2014**

**12:05-1:00 pm**

**To register for the Webinar**

**Click:**

[GOTOWEBINAR.COM](http://GOTOWEBINAR.COM)

**Enter Webinar Code:**

109-407-603

**Trade Show Season** - The 2014 Trade Show season is underway and we need YOUR help for our upcoming shows which include the **Travel & Adventure Show** in Long Beach and San Diego, the **Fred Hall Fishing Shows** in Long Beach & San Diego, and the **Reno Outdoor Expo/Home Show**.

**PLEASE DONATE A PRIZE FOR THE GIVEAWAY CONTEST** at the Mono County booth so that we can collect names and email addresses of potential visitors when they sign up to win! **Here are a few great reasons to donate a prize:**

- Your offer will be on the ENTER TO WIN poster above the Draw Box
- We will display and distribute your brochures or business cards at our booth which means exposure to thousands of potential customers
- Prize winners tend to buy additional products/services, stay longer or pay to "upgrade"
- Prize winners have a great time and tell their friends and families about you
- Prize winners are likely to become loyal, return customers

Please contact me at 760-924-4634 or by email at [jsimpson@mono.ca.gov](mailto:jsimpson@mono.ca.gov) to have your donation included in the prize packages for the Mono County booth! *THANK YOU all for helping us to maximize the potential of the Trade Shows!*

Our office is here to help. Please call me if you have any questions.

CONTACT: Jeff Simpson, (760) 924-4634

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

## Information Technology

**Digital 395** - Progress continues with Digital 395 service turn-up for Mono County and the Town. Both Bridgeport and Mammoth locations are online and fully functional, and the 'point-to-point' connection between the two sites is configured and working properly. We are getting approximately 90mbps downstream speed and 40mbps upstream with very good transfer rates between the sites. The Town's Digital 395 circuit was also turned on last week at the Main Offices and has been configured. The next location priorities are the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Walker Wellness/Career Services Center, and Bridgeport Clinic facilities, followed by other remote sites where we have County staff. The goal is to eliminate the monthly cost of our Verizon based Internet and Wide Area Network as soon as possible – hopefully by the end of February.

**Chalfant Cell Site** - Conversations continue with AT&T regarding the cell site in Chalfant. Supervisor Stump met with AT&T representatives last week and it sounds as though they will be submitting a proposal to LDTAC in mid-February to construct a tower on a piece of LADWP land located on the west side of Highway 6 at Chalfant Road.

CONTACT: **Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1819**

## Public Health

**Public Health Hosts State Health visit** - On Thursday, January 23rd, the Health Department hosted a site visit from the Emergency Preparedness office of the California Department of Public Health. We were asked to provide documentation and descriptions of about a dozen deliverables that we have completed over the last few years.

Pat McGee, Deb Diaz, Lynda Salcido, and Dr. Johnson participated in the presentation, and our impression is that Mono County Public Health has done an excellent job in accomplishing the objectives set out for us! Several of our products were presented as "best practices", and will likely be used at the statewide conference of all public health emergency preparedness coordinators in Sacramento in June.



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

Major welcomed revisions in our grant applications are anticipated in the coming years, initiated by new staff at the state, and we had the opportunity to comment and compliment their efforts. Future budget projections are always a top priority, and preliminary numbers anticipate level funding for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant (PHEP), Pandemic Influenza grant (PF), and a projected 29% decrease in the Hospital Preparedness Program grant (HPP). The impact on us as a small county was discussed, with ample opportunity for us to comment on various scenarios as to how funding allocations may take shape in the coming months.

We are pleased with the process which allows and encourages our input into the process before final decisions are made. Dr. Johnson is also a member of several advisory committees and workgroups at the state which will weigh in on recommendations to the state, especially including the impact on small counties.

CONTACT: Lynda Salcido, (760) 924-1842

**Mono County Health Department partners with Salvation Army to provide food for those in need -**  
The Salvation Army's Mammoth Lakes Food Bank needs our help! Folks are out of work... a slow season and no snow has many workers without work and pay!

Staple Goods Are the Most Needed, Such as:

Pasta, Rice, Tomato Sauces and Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, Peanut Butter, Jam and perhaps Spam!

Please bring these items to the



Also, there are only a few who help restock. Monday and Wednesday: 2-4pm Rodger Barker....  
Your volunteer time there would be appreciated and can be scheduled by Calling Rodger Barker first to get on the list to serve (760) 935-4873.

CONTACT: Lynda Salcido, (760) 932-1842

Kudos to Lou and Marlys – Public Health employee Lou Molina and Marlys Harper received some great feedback from a local constituent:

***“Dear Mr. Molina and Marlys:***

***I want to thank both of you for your assistance in this matter. It is always such a pleasure to conduct business with Mono County especially after having to work with Los Angeles County for so many years where service does not seem to be a priority.***

***Both of you are great examples that others should follow.***

***Barry Wade”***

Shout out for their great work and for the recognition from the public.

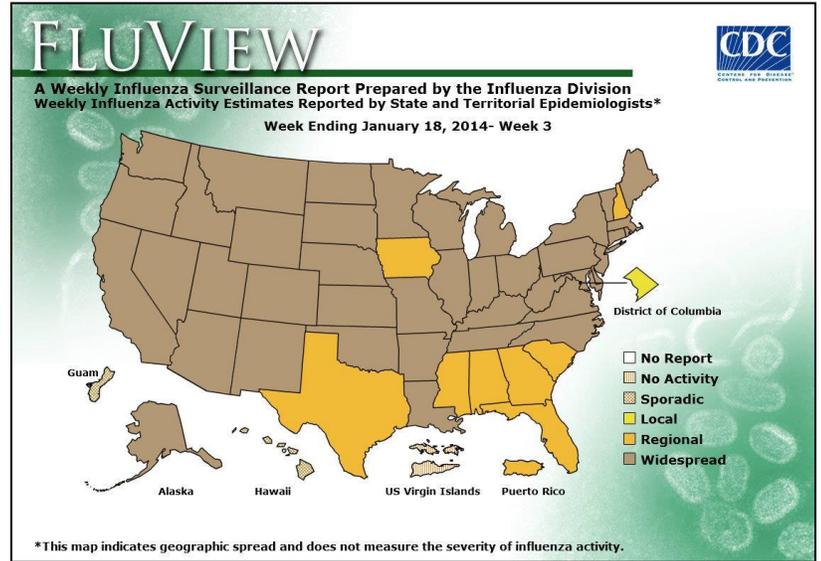
CONTACT: Lynda Salcido, (760) 932-1842

**Influenza Update -** Influenza activity continues to be widespread in most states including California, with levels above epidemic thresholds in most categories. Hospitals in the Eastern Sierra have not had any

further hospitalizations. Outpatient visits at Sierra Park Clinics were decreased as of the week ending Saturday Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, but still above baseline levels.

Influenza activity is expected to continue for the next several months, although the actual peak is not known at this time.

- Type A H1N1 “2009 swine flu” is still the most common type, with young and middle aged persons being most seriously affected.
- California is now reporting 95 deaths in persons under 65 years of age.



It is not too late to get vaccinated. If you are sick – stay home from school or work! Call your healthcare provider if you are concerned, or at high risk for complications.

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

## Social Services

**Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA) Looking to Fill Advisory Council Vacancies** - ESAAA is currently recruiting to fill Advisory Council Member vacancies on the ESAAA Advisory Council. The council is actively seeking participation from Mono County residents. The Advisory Committee provides advice and consultation on issues affecting the provision of services provided locally to older individuals. Meetings are held quarterly, three of which are held in locations throughout Inyo County and one in Mono County. If you are interested in becoming a member, please complete the attached *Letter of Interest* form, and fax to Gina Ellis at Fax: (760) 873-6505.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763 or Gina Ellis, Inyo HHS (760) 873-3305

**Career Connections Event a Success!** - Social Services staff represented the County of Mono at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Connections Event at Cerro Coso Community College - Bishop Campus.



Approximately 180 people from Mono and Inyo Counties attended, along with 34 employers, including Mammoth Brewing, US Forest Service, County of Mono, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, CalTrans, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, IMACA, Wild Iris, and Suddenlink Communications, to name a few. Employers

provided participants with information on the types of jobs they offered, and the skills and education required. (If you want a job with Mammoth Brewing, study brewery operations management and become a Brew master)! Several retired college grads shared with participants how they made use of their college degree in finding employment, and how they were able to remain successfully employed in the Eastern Sierra over the long haul.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763 or  
Kathy Anderson, Owens Valley Career Development Center (760) 873-3305

**Affordable Care Act Update** - Mono County Eligibility Workers are working hard to connect Mono County residents with health insurance through expanded Medi-Cal and Covered California. The January caseload for pending and approved applications sits at around 300 as of yesterday. Intensive behind-the-scenes work continues on connecting the existing statewide automated computer systems with the new, Covered California system. Most of the big data arteries are connected, however there's still some precision work to be done to attach all of the many small, but crucially important, data capillaries. County staff participates in *daily* conference calls with the State Department of Health Care Services and Covered California to ensure this happens.

Remember that there are many paths to enroll in Covered California health insurance plans and in expanded Medi-Cal, including in-person enrollment with our County Eligibility Workers, self-enrollment online, and through trained Certified Insurance Agents. Visit our webpage at [www.monocounty.ca.gov/social-services](http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/social-services) to learn more or call us at 760/924-1770. You may also visit the "Find Local Help" page at [CoveredCA.com](http://CoveredCA.com).

According to a recent press release from Covered California, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) announced this week that 500,108 Californians enrolled for health insurance and selected plans through the end of 2013 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, while 584,000 applicants were determined likely eligible for Medi-Cal coverage. DHCS also transitioned 630,000 individuals into the Medi-Cal program from the state's Low Income Health Program. Of those enrolled so far, 424,936 are eligible for subsidies.

Enrollees in Covered California health insurance plans who paid their first month's premium received health care retroactive to Jan. 1, but the enrollment period continues through March 31, so residents are urged to sign up for coverage in 2014. According to Covered California, about 85 percent of consumers who signed up for a plan received some sort of financial assistance.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, (760) 924-1763

## **Sheriff's Office**

### **Sheriff's Office Update:**

1. The Sheriff's Office swore in a new Public Safety Officer, Carlos Hernandez, this past Monday. He will be a nice addition to the staff.
2. This past Sunday night we had suspect run from our Deputy upon the initiation of a traffic stop. Other deputies responded and the suspect was ultimately taken into custody, using one of our

FLIR devices (which pick up heat signatures). The suspect was wanted for several crimes in the Bishop area.

3. K-9 Officer Tara was called out to assist on a traffic stop, and alerted to several areas of the vehicle. Tara ultimately located over \$21,000.00 that was associated with narcotic trafficking. The suspect signed over the currency to our office, which was seized and will be placed into our asset forfeiture account. Tara also just completed her first year with our office and Jennifer Hansen sent out a press release (see below) which made 'photo of the day' by Reno Channel 4 News.
4. Several of our deputies assisted a Utah motorist on Tuesday who was stranded on the back side of Mono Lake. Her vehicle was extricated and she was able to continue enjoying Mono County and her journey.
5. Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Sheriff's Office assisted Mono County Probation with probation checks in the north county area.
6. The Orbacom upgrade project is proceeding without any major issues. It is taking longer than anticipated but all the vendors and IT Staff are working well together to get this project completed.

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



**K9 MONET Team member a key to success** - The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET) is an inter-agency task force with agents representing the Mono County Sheriff's Office and the Mono County District Attorney's Office. MONET's goal is to eliminate and/or reduce controlled substance trafficking in Mono County by means of investigations that ultimately lead to the identification, apprehension, prosecution, and conviction of controlled substance dealers and offenders. During the past year, MONET has had success in working to combat the narcotics problems faced throughout Mono County. This success has largely been in part due to one particular member of the MONET team: "Tara" the 5-year old Belgian Malinois.

"Tara", the narcotic detection K-9, is trained to detect the odor of narcotics, specifically marijuana, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, methamphetamine and their derivatives. She is trained to alert to the presence of narcotic odor. Her alert consists of a noticeable change in behavior with a final response of barking, biting, or scratching at the location of the odor. Her alerts vary depending on the location of the odor. She is trained on odor strength varying from residual narcotic odors to the odor of pounds of narcotics.

Having narcotics detection K-9, provides MONET and local law enforcement with an extra tool to help aid in the battle against the narcotics problems faced throughout Mono County. “Tara” has been instrumental in helping locate well-hidden narcotics, in both vehicles and buildings (such as homes), that her human counterpart would miss by just conducting a physical search. In Mono County, especially along the Hwy 395 corridor, more and more drug dealers and traffickers are bringing narcotics into and through our local communities. “Tara” helps find hidden narcotics in cars and other places that most people wouldn’t even think would be a hiding place for narcotics. With her keen detection skills, she can assist local law enforcement in conducting interditory traffic stops on narcotics dealers and traffickers and hopefully recover the narcotics before they even enter our communities.

Over the past year, “Tara” has conducted forty nine (49) successful vehicle searches; twelve (12) successful building search warrant recoveries; and twelve (12) successful school “sniff” searches. She has successfully recovered over 133 ounces of narcotics off the streets and out of the communities of Mono County.

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), and the Mono County Sheriff’s Office, is fortunate to have “Tara” as a member of our team. As she celebrates her one-year anniversary, we look forward to her continued participation, dedication, and success in narcotics detection and recovery.

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