



Animal Control

Animal Control Director goes boldly where no one has gone before. Angelle Nolan had the opportunity to grab a “chat with Shat.” Much to the jealous chagrin of CAO Leddy, Angelle Nolan met William Shatner recently in Reno. Unfortunately, he is not for adoption or CAO Leddy would be first in line.

Angelle is also luckily not wearing red....we know what happens to those who accompany the Captain with that color!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510



Board of Supervisors

Vice Chair Tim Fesko graduates from statewide Supervisors Institute – Mono County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair, Tim Fesko, received his Diploma at the Annual California State Association of Counties Conference.

Vice Chair Fesko, seen here with CSAC President Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia is only the second Board member to graduate the Institute which specializes on in depth courses on County and state Government. Chairman Larry K. Johnston has previously completed the course.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510



Behavioral Health

Mono Behavioral Health completes Recovery Collaborative with high marks - The Behavioral Health Department just completed the Advancing Recovery Collaborative (ARC) through a program with the California Institute of Behavioral Health with high marks. This Collaborative was attended by twelve other entities from California and set us on a journey to begin re-vamping our systems in response to Health Care Reform regulations. Mono County Behavioral Health used the intensive work projects through the ARC project to begin a new era of psychiatric services and promote even better care for our consumers and community. Ellen Thompson, Shirley Martin, Bertha Jimenez, Debra Stewart, Danielle George and Robin Roberts made up the team for this project and the rest of the MCBH staff took on the extra work with enthusiasm. It's just another way Mono County is on the cutting edge!

CONTACT: Robin K. Roberts, (760) 924-1740

Community Development

Antelope Valley RPAC – At Thursday’s meeting RPAC member discussed a proposed communications upgrade project at Mountain Warfare Training Center with Doug Power of the MWTC and Jeff Ulrich of USFS and requested an extension of the environmental comment period. Supervisor Fesko provided an update on BOS activities and commended the RPAC and Vianey White for their continued efforts on the Mountain Gate project. OHV use, including potential combined use on County roadways, was also discussed, and Gerry Le Francois provided an update on the Main Street design process.

Thermal biomass grant – This week Wendy Sugimura received notification from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy that the Bridgeport road shop thermal biomass application was funded in the amount of \$215,000. Big thanks to Wendy and other key members of Mono’s Energy Task Force, including Tony Dublino, Joe Blanchard, Megan Mahaffey, and Jason Davenport, for assembling a successful application.

Transient Rental Overlay District (TROD) – On Dec. 2 the Mono Supervisors approved two TROD applications at June Lake presented by Courtney Weiche, with enforcement clarification by Nick Criss. TRODs allow overnight rental of single-family homes in residential neighborhoods.

Housing – At Tuesday’s meeting the BOS reviewed housing statistics with Brent Calloway and initiated continued suspension of housing mitigation requirements. The Board also considered a request for proposals presented by Megan Mahaffey to administer a first-time homebuyer loan program. The program is funded through a recently acquired federal grant of \$700,000.

Certifiable – Congratulations to Code Enforcement Officer Nick Criss on his most-recent certification. The California Association of Code Enforcement Officers has conveyed the highest-available rating to Nick as a certified code enforcement officer. A shout-out to Mono County’s best (and only) compliance officer!

CONTACT: CD Ritter, 760.924.1804

County Administrator's Office***ALL EMPLOYEES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND******THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON***

*Please join us to celebrate the holiday, achievements over the last year and
Years of Service Awards*

We will be having a "Best Hot Chocolate" challenge.

*Each Department please bring your best Hot Chocolate or Holiday drink,
employees will vote on the best drink for a prize.*

Please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share.

Pictures with Santa will be at 3:00p.m.

All Employees will come together this year at the

Lee Vining Community Center

Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

National Association of Counties successfully helps support counties receive owed funds - PILT Funding in the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act – From the NACo Press announcement some good news from Congress -- Although there are many moving parts as the 113th Congress winds down, we wanted to provide you with an update on the latest Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) activity on Capitol Hill.

Late in the evening of December 2, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees announced that they had reached a compromise agreement on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2015 (FY15). Historically, Congress has passed an annual National Defense Authorization Act to set U.S. defense policy and military spending levels for the year ahead. In addition to defense policy, the ***FY15 NDAA includes \$70 million in appropriations for the PILT program*** and a package of natural resources related legislation addressing issues such as energy and mineral production, land use issues, and land conveyances. (More information on the NDAA provided by the House Armed Services Committee is available [here](#). A summary of the federal lands provisions provided by the House Natural Resources Committee is available [here](#).)

NACo has been in touch with staff for House and Senate Leadership and with the committees with jurisdiction over PILT funding. They have told us that the \$70 million is the result of savings created by

the NDAA's federal lands package. The decision was made to redirect the savings to support the PILT program. The \$70 million within NDAA should be understood as a down-payment and as intended to provide some budgetary relief for the committees of jurisdiction as Congress continues to work to fund PILT, with appropriate offsets. The \$70 million will help ensure PILT is fully paid for. It has been stressed that the PILT funds made available in NDAA are not intended to be a final funding level for FY15 and that PILT will be further addressed in future legislation.

CONTACT: Chris Marklund, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at cmarklund@naco.org or (202) 942-4207.

Eastern Sierra Community Bank and the SOS – Supporting Our Soldiers - We Support ALL Branches of the Military! Would like to show their support of our local Marine Corps and Families!



We will be putting together three (3) different gift baskets

- MAN
- WOMAN
- CHILD

If you would like to participate all you have to do is pick up some kind of gift (No need to wrap it)

****Think relaxing * Think food * Think games*Think movies*Think books****

Get it to the Bridgeport Branch by **Thursday, December 11, 2014** - We will put the baskets together - THE MORE THE MERRIER!!

COOKIES FOR SINGLE MARINES AND ALL PERSONNEL – Another reminder -- when baking your Christmas goodies, bake a couple dozen more and drop off at:

**Eastern Sierra Community Bank
Bridgeport Branch
Monday, December 15th** - Before 11:00 AM

CONTACT: Janelle at Eastern Sierra Bank, (760) 932-7926



North County November Employee Round Table – Thank you to the 13 employees who came to the North County Employee Roundtable. There was further discussion of the efforts to provide commute alternatives. For those, that had expressed an interest, **there is a second survey underway**. However, if anyone is interested who didn't say so in the first survey, however, if you have changed your mind here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014CommuteSurvey2>

We also had an update on the new Financial System which Leslie Chapman and the Finance office presented to the Board on December 2nd. Once implemented sometime in 2015, we will finally be able to get out of the paper time sheet payroll business. This is a great advancement for the county to stop

duplicate entries and hand writing of payroll sheets. The roll out will take some time and the target for implementation is September of 2015.

We discussed efforts to partner with Mono County Office of Education. We are awaiting final figures from Finance on some cost issues but it looks very possible to move forward with a consolidation which will save several departments money and ultimately get the old Hospital shut down.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

The Strategic Plan moving forward! – On December 4th at 4:00pm, the Ambassadors and Steering Committee Crew met and shared the feedback from the latest wave of department meetings.



We are keeping the focus on taking your ideas and getting them into the Draft. Once we have been through in hearing from all of you we go to the Board and then to the community for additional input. It is moving along and the information and participation is critical.

Here are some additional Department or program meeting where we are still getting great feedback:

<u>Dept./Program</u>	<u>Ambassadors</u>
1) <i>Facilities</i>	<i>Erin/Jason</i>
2) <i>Clerk's Office/Assessor's Office</i>	<i>Megan/Kirk</i>
3) <i>District Attorney</i>	<i>Stacie K.</i>

Next Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting will be Thursday December 18th at 4:00pm at the Lee Vining Community Center.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Economic Development

- Great news for First Quarter TOT – a record-breaking \$10.9 million in room revenue over last year’s record Q1 of \$10.6 million!
- The Fisheries Commission held a productive meeting on Dec. 3 at the June Lake Community Center; next meeting is January 7, 2015 at June Lake and a representative from Desert Springs will be in attendance to present an update on fish stocking.



- Next Tourism & Film Commission meeting will be January 27, 10am in Mammoth Lakes. Grant applications for the Community Event Marketing Fund program will be reviewed at this meeting.
- Check out our new Mono County highlights promotional video - 75 Seconds of Mono County -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPHroGz5wmc&feature=youtu.be>. Please share!

- Tioga Pass Road was ranked #1 out of the 14 most scenic drives of America on Outdoor Obsession - <http://outdoorsobsession.com/14-most-scenic-drives-of-america/#prettyPhoto>
- Bodie is featured on the travel page of the UK Daily Mail with over 15 beautiful images – http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-2851633/Incredible-photos-erie-abandoned-gold-rush-town-California.html
- Also, in the UK Daily Mail today, this photo of Conway Summit “near Yosemite National Park” made the UK Daily Mail’s online Travel section today in their article on the winter wonderland beauty of America’s National Parks: [A real winter wonderland! Frozen beauty of America's National Parks captured in stunning photos as temperatures plummet!](#) The caption reads: “The Conway Summit Mountain Pass in California is located next to Yosemite National Park.”
- The television show “American Pickers” is looking for local antiques and collections in the Eastern Sierra. For an opportunity to be on the show, locals with interesting items should email a description of their collection and photos to americanpickers@cineflix.com or call and leave a message at (855) OLD-RUST.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

Information Technology

Holiday season brings SPAM, Scams, and Online security threats - With the holiday season upon us, it is important that everyone be reminded of the importance of the precautions necessary to protect your online privacy and avoid scams and other cyber security threats.

During this time of year, a lot of us shop online, receive confirmation messages, as well as general emails soliciting us to purchase things. Regardless of whether you are expecting a message from a company or are looking at one that is a general solicitation, it is important to follow some *Basic Rules of Online Engagement*:

1. If you receive any unwanted/SPAM email to your County address, please forward the message directly to spam@mono.ca.gov and immediately delete the message. Do not forward it to IT or support.
2. We will all be receiving a lot of unsolicited email with links to special offers, tracking numbers for packages and shipments, and all kinds of other great things. As tempting as it is to just click on that convenient link in the email – **DON'T CLICK ON ANY LINKS IN AN EMAIL MESSAGE**. The Best Practice is to copy the tracking number for a shipment and paste it into the company’s own search tool, or open up a new web browser and navigate directly to the website who is providing the offer.



- For those of us who will be shopping online, be thoughtful about who you are purchasing from. Only buy from reputable companies, and never enter your credit card or other personal information unless the webpage URL that you are connected to begins with <https://>
For more secure online shopping tips, visit <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST07-001>

Between now and January 15th, expect a lot of spam to be coming through our filters and into County boxes. We do our best to minimize the exposure to spam, but can only do so much. Again, if you receive a message that you should not have, please forward it directly to spam@mono.ca.gov. Conversely, if you have not received an email and that you are expecting, it is possible that it was caught by our filter. To check on this, send an email to spamreport@mono.ca.gov in order to retrieve your blocked spam emails. In the subject line of the message include a number that corresponds to the number of days back in time you would like to get the report for (5 will give you the last five days).

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

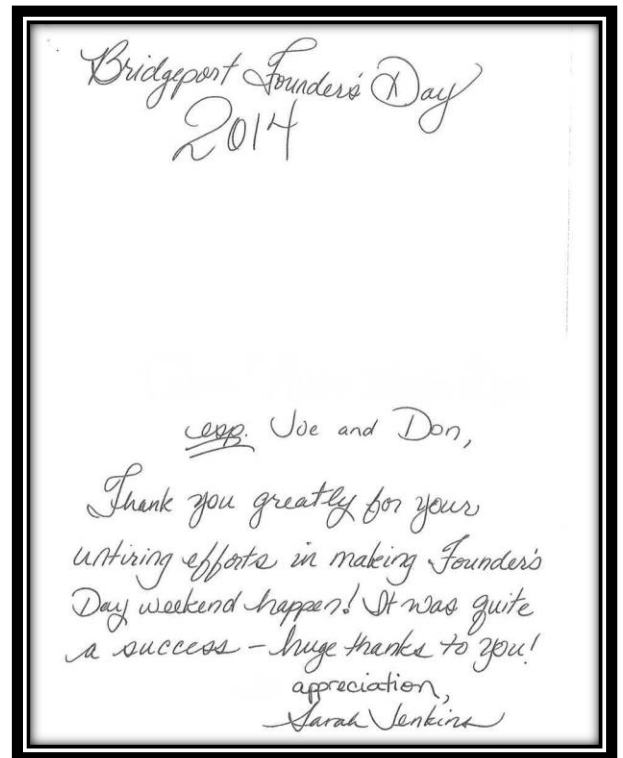
Public Works

Founders Days organizers thank Mono County Public Works Staff –Sarah Jenkins sent a great letter of appreciation thanking Joe Blanchard and the Public Works Facilities Staff for their support in making Founder’s Day in Bridgeport another great event.

CONTACT: Joe Blanchard, (760) 932-5443

Sheriff’s Office

- Staff participated in the SDRR collaborative relating to a survey that will be put out in January having to do with the student population.
- We conducted the quarterly Unified Command meeting this week. It was well attended, but we would still encourage more Mono County departments to participate. If you think your department along with the county would benefit from interaction with various county, town and state agencies and others having to do with possible emergency operations please feel free to attend. The meetings are held at Mammoth Fire Station #1. If you have any questions or would like to put on the unified command email list please contact Jennifer Hansen at (760) 932-5279 or jhansen@monosheriff.org
- Jail inmate counts are at a relatively low level (24 as of Friday).
- K-9 Tara was called out this past week for a traffic stop and ultimately located multiple bindles of methamphetamine which were being transported to the Town of Mammoth Lakes (per the suspect's statements).



CONTACT: Sheriff Ralph Obenberger, (760) 932-5279

Social Services

Open Enrollment is Open! Open enrollment for 2015 health insurance plans through Covered California begins Nov. 15, 2014, and ends Feb. 15, 2015. More than 1.3 million Californians chose health insurance through Covered California during its historic first open-enrollment period, for coverage in 2014. Millions of others learned that they qualified for free or low-cost health coverage through Medi-Cal. Covered California will later announce adult and family dental options available through Covered California, along with health insurance options for small businesses.



Consumers can now use the 2015 Shop and Compare Tool on the Covered California website, at www.CoveredCA.com/shopandcompare/#calculator, to look at plans and products in our area and to get a preliminary estimate of costs and premium assistance. Medi-Cal enrollment for those with qualifying incomes is available year-round. To see if you qualify for Medi-Cal, or for questions in about health insurance coverage in general, call our office at 760-924-1770. We're happy to help!

CONTACT: Francie Avitia, Program Manager, (760) 924-1789

Health Reform Resources - Answers to ACA Questions: The Kaiser Family Foundation released an updated collection of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) providing detailed answers for consumers, and the navigators and brokers who assist them. The searchable collection includes nearly 300 up-to-date responses, answering new questions about plan renewal, cancellations, and continuing financial assistance.

The FAQs also offer guidance for understanding 2014 federal income taxes in the context of the health law, addressing potential penalties for not obtaining coverage, exemptions to the individual mandate, and other subjects. Answers have been updated to key questions about how the law applies to the marketplace and Medicaid eligibility, and offers guidance for immigrants, people with variable incomes and others in special situations.



CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, (760) 924-1763

REMINDER – Tomorrow!! -Staff from Reno Veterans Administration coming to Bishop - December 6th, 2014, 9:30 to 12:00 pm, Bishop City Hall. Information will be provided on medical and mental health services in Reno, NV, and in our local town! Registration for My Health-e-Vet & E-benefits.



Please RSVP to icvso@inyocounty.us or call 760-873-7850.

Veterans and their families; this is a one-time event. Please be there!

CONTACT: Yvette Mason, 760/873-7850

Social Services Outreach to Tri-Valley on subsidized employment hosts successful event - The Benton outreach went well. Ellen and Sal were very helpful in connecting me with the community members that were there (20-30 people), and I was able to introduce myself and talk about our services to at least 75% of them. Most people were not interested in receiving WIA services themselves, although there were a couple of younger people (in their 20's) that were finishing their GED that said that they were glad to find out about the program.

CONTACT: Jay Sloane, (760) 924-1788

INYO MONO ADVOCATES FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC. - Announces a **REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS** for **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** To Represent the **Private Sectors** -- The Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action, Inc. (IMACA) Board of Directors is soliciting nominations from interested Mono County residents to represent the following area on the IMACA Board of Directors.

PRIVATE REPRESENTATIVE Needed – 1 (Inyo County) --To represent the Private Sector qualified nominees will be considered that represent the interests of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, private social services, or other community interests. The nominee must work or live in the designated county.

For more information, or a candidate interest packet, please contact Ashley Diaz at (760) 873-8557 or hr@imaca.net or stop by the IMACA office, 224 S. Main St., Bishop CA 93514.

INYO MONO ADVOCATES FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC. Announces a **REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS** for **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** To Represent the **Low Income Sectors** - The Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action, Inc. (IMACA) Board of Directors is soliciting nominations from interested Mono County residents to represent the following area on the IMACA Board of Directors.

LOW INCOME REPRESENTATIVE Needed – 1 (Mono County) - To represent the Low Income Sector, qualified nominees need not be low-income themselves, but shall have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the causes of poverty and needs of low-income individuals within the county. The nominee must work or live in the designated county.

For more information, or a candidate interest packet, please contact Ashley Diaz at (760) 873-8778 or hr@imaca.net or stop by the IMACA office, 224 S. Main St., Bishop CA 93514