



## Animal Control

**Did someone say puppies?** – Animal Control has some 11 week old Heeler mixes available for a loving family at the Whitmore Shelter. This cute puppy, shown here being vaccinated and clearly loving every second of it is available for a loving family.

CONTACT: Angelle Nolan, (760) 932-5582



## Clerk-Recorder-Registrar

**CLERK-RECORDER** - As part of the FY 2013-14 Budget, the Recorder's Division was authorized to purchase a new, more efficient digital reader for filmed documents. This purchase was made possible by a portion of the fees that are collected for recording documents and dedicated to the Modernization Fund.

This fund can only be used for purposes that will keep the department current with modern equipment and technology. The sample prints show how much better the image quality is, and in addition, the cost-per-print is cheaper. The public will now be better served with this new film reader/printer.

**ELECTIONS** - This past week, Linda Romero and Lynda Roberts were in Sacramento attending mandatory training pertaining to accessibility of polling places. Last year, the Elections Division applied for and received a \$30,000 grant to be used for surveying polling places and mitigating problems associated with accessibility.

In order to receive reimbursements from the grant, staff members were required to attend the accessibility training. Grant funds will also be used to pay for attendance so no general funds were used for this training. Surveying of polling places will be an on-going process in order to maintain a current record.

CONTACT: Lynda Roberts, (760) 932-5538

## Community Development

**Fire chiefs weigh in on setbacks** – Wednesday night, the Mono County Fire Chiefs Association considered a request by the Mono County Planning Commission regarding setback reductions, and recommended that proposals for side-yard setback reductions down to 5' be reviewed by the local fire protection district. The fire chiefs also received a report from Supervisor Stump and County staff on a new state law that severely restricts subdivisions outside fire protection districts, and reviewed a summary of fire district protocols for reviewing building permits compiled by Cedar Barager.

**Bridgeport Valley RPAC** – At its Thursday meeting, the RPAC received an update from Wendy Sugimura on the 2014 Housing Element, considered unmet transit needs, and reviewed potential Main Street projects for an upcoming grant application. Supervisor Fesko provided an update on BOS matters, Leslie

Chapman presented an overview of the midyear budget, and Mountain Warfare Training Center activities were reviewed by Doug Power.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

## **County Administrator's Office**

**Human Resources/Risk Management** - Bill Van Lente and Sarah Messerlian recently participated in professional meetings that will support continued control of risks and resulting insurance expenses.

Bill represented Mono County at the Trindel board of directors meeting and strategic planning retreat where decisions were made regarding future programs and member service priorities, growth in services and members, staffing patterns, and the future vision for our insurance fund.

Sarah participated in the Public Agency Risk Management Association (PARMA) annual meeting featuring numerous noted speakers and seminars on various risk management topics. Expenses for both meetings were covered by Trindel as part of their risk management and loss prevention strategy.

A new 360 manager evaluation survey is being piloted that will feature feedback and ratings for leaders and senior professionals from members of their staff, peers and superiors. This new process and form will focus on leadership and professional development, utilizing the feedback from multiple raters to help guide coaching from the evaluated individual's supervisor.

The new manager 360 is being piloted in the months ahead and will be further validated and refined as we learn from experience and expand application to the broader Mono County leadership team. As in the other organizations, we expect this new system to prove valuable in advancing skills and abilities, benefitting all employees and improving confidence in the evaluation process.

CONTACT: Bill Van Lente (760) 932-5413

**First two Mono Innovation Groups meets and ideas are starting to arrive** - On Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, employees came together (9 in Bridgeport and 12 in Mammoth and spent an hour discussing possible cost saving innovative ideas. In addition, several ideas have come in via

**[InnovationIdeas@mono.ca.gov](mailto:InnovationIdeas@mono.ca.gov)**

These ideas will be the beginning of thinking of new ways to provide services to the community as part of the FY 2014-2015 Budget development. The ideas will be collated and then we will start a process to measure for feasibility.

Thank you to all of the employees who spent their time and being creative. Stay tuned for the list and the next announcement of the meeting time for both of these groups. These meetings will continue and ideas culled. Every idea counts.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510



**Coffee with the CAO Returns Reminder!** - Starting March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and continuing on the **first Thursday** of every month at Memorial Hall from 8:00 am to 9:00 am and the **first Friday** of every month in Mammoth at the Board of Supervisors Chambers from 8:00 am to 9:00am an informal round table to sit and talk about any issues will be started back up.

These meetings are **voluntary** and will be open forums where anyone can stop by and discuss any pressing issues.

**Location shift for March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in Bridgeport: It will be at Animal Control due to use of Memorial Hall that morning!!**

I am also available to meet to discuss any issues facing our County, so if you cannot make the new monthly meeting or want to meet one on one, call, email, text or reach out by whatever means possible.

**Note: Telepathy tends not to work due to my thick skull!**

For those folks who can't make it due to duties, let me know and I will swing by your workplace. Increasing and improving our communication is an ongoing effort and I appreciate your willingness to participate.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Strategic Planning Steering Committee has increasing turn out** – On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 28 employees from across the County participated in the latest Strategic Planning Steering Committee from 4:00pm to 6:30 pm in Bridgeport at the Board of Supervisors. It was a great session where the Group narrowed down the choices on the Facilitator for the big launch event. We will be back at Lee Vining center on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm for the next meeting and with our new Facilitator should everything line up.

Please feel free to attend and encourage co-workers to attend if possible. Please keep spreading the word!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

## Economic Development

**West Walker River Opening Year-Round** - Thanks to the hard work of our Mono County Fisheries Commission members the West Walker River will be opening March 1<sup>st</sup> for Year-Round fishing! Year-round fishing regulations apply until the regular fishing season opens on April 26th. Year-round fishing regulations are catch-and-release on public lands with barbless artificial flies and lures only. Year round fishing destinations are highlighted in green ---→



**Society of American Travel Writers** - Staff is working with Mammoth Lakes Tourism to host the upcoming Society of American Travel Writers conference this June. SATW members include writers, photographers, editors, film lecturers, broadcast/video/film producers, bloggers, website contributors and owners, creators of mobile apps and public relations representatives. This gives Mono County a unique opportunity to highlight our destination to the hundreds of magazines, newspapers and websites that publish content to millions of viewers. Here are a few SATW media outlets that may be in attendance — National Geographic Traveler, Westways Magazine, LA Times travel section, Boston Globe travel section, San Francisco Chronicle travel section, Travel + Leisure, Afar magazine, several other AAA magazines, Chicago Tribune, Travelscope e-magazine, Dallas Morning Star, Islander magazine and many others. There are also two chapter members who produce TV travel shows (Rick Steves and Joe Rosendo. Joe's Travelscope has one several Emmy's).

**National Park Service Grant**- Staff is working with the National Park Service in Yosemite on a \$24,000 grant to educate RV visitors about traveling to the park and encouraging them to take YARTS public transportation.

**Tradeshows** - March is extremely busy for trade shows with Mono County exhibiting at two Fred Hall Fishing shows, (Long Beach March 5-9 and Del Mar March 27-30) the San Diego Travel show March 29-30 and the Reno Expo March 14-16. In addition, Alicia Vennos will be representing the High Sierra Visitors Council (HSVC) at the Visit California New York Media show (funded entirely by HSVC).

**Jeff Simpson**

CONTACT: Jeff Simpson, (760) 924-4634

## Public Health

In 2013, the Health Department investigated over 75 communicable disease cases. The diagnoses included: sexually transmitted infections, food borne diseases, seizure/loss of consciousness, hepatitis C, tuberculosis, Lyme disease, pertussis (whooping cough), and relapsing fever. In conjunction with the client's primary doctor or emergency department provider, the Health Department investigates each case as diagnosis dictates; and in certain diseases contacts to that case are also interviewed. If appropriate, Environmental Health will also be involved with food borne and vector borne investigations. Once the investigation is concluded, the Health Department completes entry of the incident into CalREDIE, the California on-line disease reporting portal. Annual statistics are calculated and analyzed. For more detailed information, please contact Hillary Bayliss: 760.924.14835.

CONTACT: Hillary Bayliss, (760) 924-1835.

**Paramedics help gather food donations for those in need!** - Julien LeCorps, Paramedic at Medic 2 in June, spearheaded the drive and made it a success. The issue was brought front and center at a Public Health staff meeting, when it was brought to everyone's attention of empty shelves at all county food banks. I've heard from several community members who were impressed with the amount of donations, proving it was



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



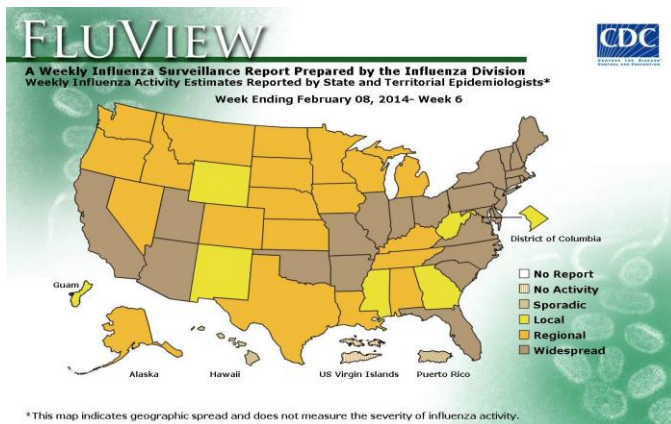
truly a community event. Public Health and EMS look forward to identifying other worthwhile projects to support during these tough economic times for the county and town.

CONTACT: Rob DeForrest, (760) 924-1831



**Flu Activity Declining, But Flu Season Not over Yet** - Our local surveillance data shows that flu activity in our area is decreasing for the second straight week. In the Eastern Sierra, we have had a total of 2 hospitalizations, and one death that is flu related.

The number of confirmed influenza related deaths in California has increased by 41 to a total of 243 confirmed deaths for the 2013-14 season. Four of the 243 are pediatric deaths. There are an additional 41 deaths under investigation, not yet confirmed. By this time last year, there was a total of 26 influenza fatalities and in all of the 2012-13 season, a total of 106 deaths were reported.

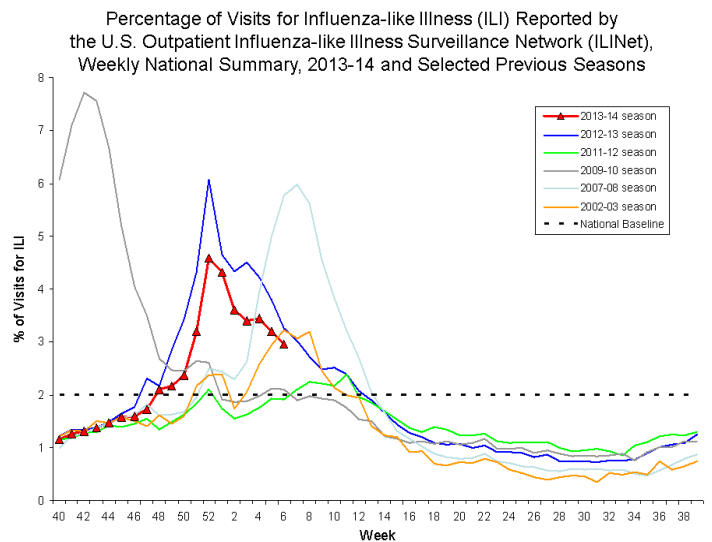


The great majority of reported influenza deaths have occurred in people with underlying medical conditions. Looking at the onset of illness, the number of deaths by week appears to be decreasing. Both outpatient visits and hospitalizations have decreased, and hospitalizations are within levels that would be expected at this point in the season.

activity is expected to remain high for at least the next several weeks. Unfortunately, this influenza season is still severe and the number of influenza related deaths continues to rise. A second wave is possible, and a slight increase in Type B influenza cases - covered by the vaccine - has been detected.

The downward trend in the number of influenza cases is a good sign; however,

Those at highest risk of complications - the elderly, pregnant women, infants, or those with other health conditions - who show flu symptoms should contact their healthcare provider immediately in order to get the most effective treatment. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue.



Vaccination is still the best way to prevent illness

and the spread of illness. It is critical that all pregnant and postpartum women get vaccinated to protect themselves against influenza to avoid serious complications to both mother and child. Data show that pregnant females are 5 times more likely to die from the influenza than the general population!

Influenza vaccine remains available from healthcare providers, pharmacies, and the health department.

CONTACT: Richard O. Johnson, M.D., (760) 914-0496, (760) 924-1828

## Social Services

**Inyo County helps Mono with Registered Dietician Services** - The Inyo County Health and Human Services Department is helping our Mono Senior Program with Registered Dietician Services. Since the departure of Marta Smith from the Mono County WIC Program, our Senior Services Program has been without a Registered Dietician (RD). Per program requirements, a RD is required to provide nutrition education and counseling to older adults being served through the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging (ESAAA) food programs. Inyo HHS has generously agreed to allow us to purchase RD services from the ESAAA program. Sherrie James, Inyo County RD, will travel quarterly to the Walker Senior Center, as well as provide monthly electronic reviews of menus to ensure compliance with nutritional standards.

Many thanks to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors who recently took action to formally approve this partnership.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763

**Welcome New Social Services Staff** - Please help welcome new Mono County employee **Karin Pleasant, MSW**, who joins the Social Services Department as a Social Worker. Karin was most recently employed at the Newport Academy in Orange County, where she worked with teenagers from two different residential facilities. Karin has a Master of Social Work from USC. Thank you, Karin, for choosing to work with the County of Mono!

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763



### **Adult Education Classes starting soon in**

**Mammoth Lakes** - The Mono County Office of Education offers a wealth of adult education opportunities. See the attached flyer for more information.

**Spanish Low to Intermediate Levels** - This is a low – intermediate level Spanish class that will help you develop basic communication skills. It includes a review of present tense and gerund usage and an introduction to the preterit,

imperfect and subjunctive tenses.

**GED Test Prep** - This class is to help prepare you to pass the new 2014 GED in all five subjects. This includes practice test. No Fee.

**Parenting the Love and Logic Way®**- Love and Logic® provides simple and practical techniques to help parents with kids of all ages. The only cost is \$8 for the workbook.

**English as a Second Language** - This class focuses on beginning to intermediate levels of English for those learning it as a second language. No fees.

CONTACT: Laura Timpano, Mono County Office of Education, [ltimpano@monocoe.org](mailto:ltimpano@monocoe.org), 760/934-0031

## **Sheriff's Office**

1. Sgt. Beard delivered a generator to Jason Foster and the Antelope Valley CERT Team on February 17th. This fulfills the request of Supervisor Fesko from the Board meeting of February 11<sup>th</sup>. This generator is in addition to previous Sheriff's office support for the CERT Team with handheld radios and helping to fund the purchase of a portable trailer which has yet to be delivered.

2. Jail staff attended a suicide prevention course brought into the office instead of sending people out of county to attend. This course is one of our many mandated training courses for staff. Bringing it in county ultimately saved critical funds. We are also planning on bringing in another course in April for more jail mandated training.

3. Sheriff Obenberger always has an open door policy and you never know which employee will show up and want to chat.

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

