



Clerk-Recorder's Office

RECORDER'S OFFICE - Pursuant to Government Code §27361.4(b), the Recorder's Office was once again open on a County holiday (Tuesday, December 31) for normal walk-in recording hours. Since we collect an **additional** \$1.00 for each document recorded, we are required to remain open on all business days. As of yearend, the office recorded 6,828 documents, thus contributing an additional \$6,828 to County revenues. Thanks to **Linda Romero, Sherrie Hale, and Debra VandeBrake** for joining Lynda Roberts in keeping the office open.

ELECTION OFFICE - The following announcement will be published in this weekend edition of Mammoth Times and The Sheet:

June ballot candidates can begin collecting signatures - Candidates interested in appearing on the June 3, 2014, Primary Election ballot can now pick up signature-in-lieu petitions. Collecting signatures in lieu is a way of offsetting some or all of the required filing fee. Local offices in the Primary Election include Assessor, District Attorney, Sheriff/Coroner, Superintendent of Schools, Supervisor of District 1, and Supervisor of District 5. Potential candidates for these offices can obtain forms at the Mono County Election Office, 74 School Street, Annex I, in Bridgeport; or make arrangements with Lynda Roberts, Registrar of Voters, to pick up forms in Mammoth Lakes. For more information, call the Elections Office at (760) 932-5537.

Potential candidates for Town Council, Town of Mammoth Lakes, should contact Town Clerk, Jamie Gray, at (760) 934-8989, ext. 267.

CONTACT: Lynda Roberts, (760) 932-5538

County Administrator's Office

Request to re-open Tioga Pass underway – Supervisor Tim Alpers has reached to The US Park Service as well as through our Senators' Offices to request the re-opening of Tioga Pass to help the County take advantage of mild winter weather. Stay tuned as we continue to see if this request can help us bolster visits.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (760)

Probation

A thank you for Chief Karin Humiston for providing this picture for this sunrise New Year's Eve Picture of Mono Vista!



Public Health

Flu activity high in 15 states, H1N1 dominates again - Time to hunker down!!

The new flu season is dramatically ramping up across the U.S. with growing reports of illness. The focus has been on the south, especially Texas, but California is beginning to show signs of catching up. While we have not reached the high levels being seen in some parts of the country, more cases are being reported compared to the same time last year. This is true for the Eastern Sierra as well as for the rest of the state. Neighboring Nevada already has high activity levels, and we will be sure to follow suit in the next few weeks. It appears that influenza activity is rising faster and may peak sooner than it did last year (mid-February).



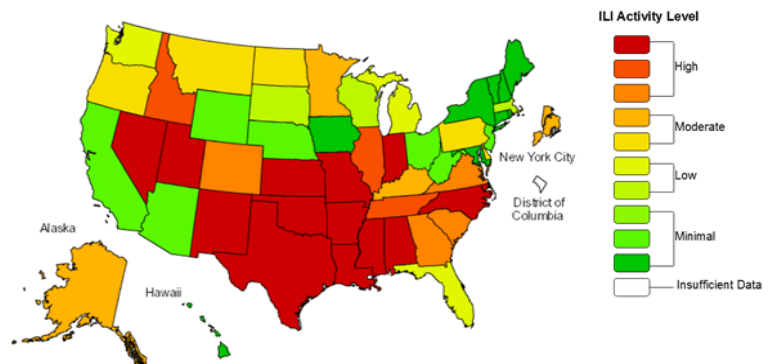
For the first time since the 2009 influenza pandemic, H1N1 is the dominant circulating flu strain early in the season. Fortunately, this strain is covered by this year's vaccine.

While most flu strains predominantly sicken the elderly and those with existing health problems, the H1N1 strain mostly sickens younger adults ages 18 to 49, and middle-aged adults 49 to 64. We have received reports of serious outcomes in young and middle-aged adults, including hospitalization, the need for intensive care, and death. Most persons hospitalized with influenza-related illness thus far have been under the age of 65. The death of a 61 year old was reported today in Sacramento. Thus far, Eastern Sierra hospitals have not reported any hospitalizations or deaths related to the flu.

Of note is the striking absence of other more typical early warning signals of influenza circulation such as school or long-term care facility (LTCF) outbreaks for which clustered activity is more readily recognized and reported. Given the greater antibody protection identified in school children and the elderly, it could be speculated that H1N1 strain being seen is spreading "under the radar" through adult contact networks without the usual school or LTCF outbreaks as expected. It will be interesting to see what happens when school reopens after the 2 week holiday break.

It must be kept in mind that no age group can be considered exempt from H1N1 risk. There is still the individual risk of serious outcomes if infected, regardless of age. Our intention is to reinforce protective measures for young and middle-aged adults as well as for the elderly and pre-school children who are traditionally thought of as being at high risk.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet
2013-14 Influenza Season Week 52 ending Dec 28, 2013



So far, there have been no significant changes in the H1N1 flu viruses to suggest they're spreading more easily or have become more virulent, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring for signs of any change in the virus.

We recommend that everyone older than 6 months get a flu shot each year. A flu shot is still the best way to avoid illness. It is not too late, and vaccine is available through your healthcare provider, pharmacy, or health department.

Flu vaccinations kept nearly 80,000 people out of the hospital last year and prevented 6.6 million cases of the flu. On average, 200,000 people are hospitalized with flu each season — ranging from 158,000 people hospitalized in 1990-1991 to 431,000 in 1997-1998. Flu vaccine also [may prevent other conditions](#), such as heart disease. For a compelling video, watch:

http://www.cdc.gov/cdctv/PersonalFluStories/index.html?s_cid=ctv_hndtog

The flu can quickly strike with symptoms that may include fever, headache, tiredness, cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and body aches. Gastrointestinal symptoms, such as vomiting and diarrhea, are not a major part of the picture. The “flu” is a respiratory illness, typically lasts two to seven days, and will usually put you to bed for at least a few days, if not a week. Unfortunately, you can spread your infection for 24 hours BEFORE you actually get sick.

Public Health recommends that if you become ill, take steps to halt the spread of germs:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your sleeve or elbow.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

And, most of all

- Stay safe
- Stay well
- Have a Happy New Year!

Social Services

Positive Parenting - Parenting, Co-Parenting, and Parent Support Groups: Create a nurturing environment in which your child can grow and prosper. Wild Iris offers **NO COST** parenting and co-parenting classes. Drop in for one or sign up for the whole series. Available in English and Spanish. All are welcome.



Looking for more? Parent Support Groups and In-Home Parenting Classes are also available, and at no cost. That's right.... *In-Home Parenting Classes!* Learn more: 760/934-2491 Wild Iris. *Partially funded by Mono County CAPIT grant funds.*

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763



North County Foster Parent Recruitment - The quest to build up available foster care homes in Mono County continues! Our next orientation meeting will occur in Walker so that residents of the north county may participate close to home.

Foster Parents are needed for long-term, as well as short-term care. Short-term care can consist of emergency overnight placement of a child, or just a few days, until alternative arrangements can be made. As the Foster Parent, you get to determine the level of support you are able to provide.

Learn more by attending the upcoming Foster Parent Orientation Meeting, **January 8, 2014 from 5:30 – 7:00pm at the Walker Community Center.**

CONTACT: Marlo Preis, 760/924-1793

Please help welcome new Mono County employee Kaylan Johnson, who joins the Social Services Department as an Eligibility Worker. Kaylan has worked with young children in both educational and recreational environments, and studied Graphic Arts at Appalachian State University. A Mono County resident for the past five years, we are excited to have her join our team!

Thank you, Kaylan, for choosing to work with the County of Mono!



CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763

Sheriff's Office

1. The Sheriff's Office had full staffing for patrol on New Year's Eve, along with assisting Mammoth Lakes Police Department for manpower needs (as we have done in the past). Several arrests were made in the County area and there were also arrests in the Town. One of the arrestees, from the Benton area, subsequently caused significant damage to a patrol unit due to his intoxication level and aggressiveness during the arrest and transport. No injuries were sustained by any deputies.
2. Over the course of the holiday vacation period between Dec 20th – Jan 1st, the Sheriff's Office booked (13) individuals, this does not include arrests made in the field which we cited out, nor does it include MLPD or CHP arrests during that same time frame.
3. During the calendar year 2013 the Sheriff's Office took a total of 1,200 reports, which is an increase of 52% from 2012.
4. Plans are still a go with starting the dispatch upgrade this coming Monday Jan 6th. Again this project is being funded by AB109 funds through the Mono County CCP.
5. We have two individuals continuing their background process with their psychological testing which is slated for next week. These individuals are filling (1) PSO and (1) Deputy position.

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