



Many were dissatisfied with this winter, as they had high hopes that the El Nino would produce the 1+ feet of snow here. But the El Nino pattern doesn't always cause big winters.

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Science

Is the Drought Really Over?

By Ellery McQuilkin

California has suffered a severe four-year drought. This winter we all started out with high hopes for the predicted Godzilla El Nino, however, the large, or even average, amount of snow never really came. I interviewed Geoff McQuilkin, the executive director of the Mono Lake Committee, to find out more about it. He said, "The snowpack in the Mono Basin is about 80% of average this year." This is a lot better than last year, but it's still not enough to make up for the past years of drought. For example, Mono Lake is expected to stay at about the same level this year when we were all hoping it would rise a few feet.

I also asked Geoff how much the lake has dropped over the last four years. He answered, "Due to the drought, Mono Lake fell over five vertical feet [over four years]." One of the major effects of Mono Lake dropping is the land bridge that is coming close to connecting Negit Island to the shore. If the land bridge continues to grow, coyotes will be able to reach the Mono Lake California Gull nesting site, the second largest in the world, and prey on or drive away the gulls. "This winter was OK, but it didn't end the drought," said Geoff, "but now we know the Mono Basin will be affected a lot by whether next winter is a wet one—or not."

Academics

Common Core Overview

By Ben Trefry

For a couple of years, our school and thousands of others all around the nation have been doing Common Core curriculum, tests, and activities. But what exactly is Common Core? It's a totally new system of teaching and learning that 42 states across the country have adopted. Some educators and politicians are ecstatic about it, while others think it's absolutely terrible. We went to the Common Core website to

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Life&Health

Mono Flu Season Continues

Flu season isn't over, in fact, it is still going strong.

By Ben Trefry

This year, the flu season has been very strange, with milder effects, a late peak, and a longer length. Doctors are seeing large numbers of flu patients now, despite the fact that flu season should be nearly over. In fact, the number of flu patients is currently 2-4 times what it should be for this time this year.

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Opinion

El Nino Fails, but Next Year...

By Ben Trefry

"Can your roof/snow blower/car/etc. withstand Godzilla?" The ads were everywhere, advertising winter products and repairs in preparation for the 'Godzilla' El Nino, a warming of ocean water off the Pacific coast that often causes above-average winters in the western United States. In fact, many of the huge winters that most locals remember were caused by El Ninos.

However, the expectations of a huge winter have not been met at all. For most of the Sierras, this winter was slightly below average at best. Other places were quite a bit below average, such as the lower Mono Basin. In Lee Vining, there was never more than 7 inches of snow on the ground at one time, excluding drifts and snowbanks, so the locals never had much need for their new 'El Nino Power' snow blowers. (I'd credit this to rain shadow, where a storm fails to move over the mountains and prevents the lower elevations from getting anything good.) Still, though, this year was far better than last year. While we

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Features

Three perspectives on the drought, the weather, and the El Nino.

(Pages 1 and 2)

Who do students want to be president? Our reporters found out. **(Page 6)**

Exclusive Interview with Howard Sheckter

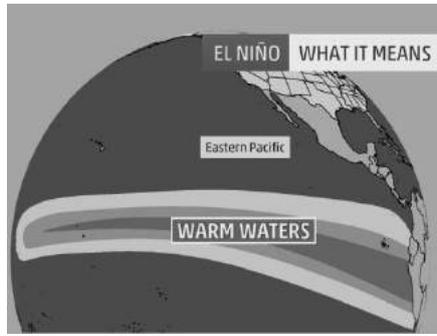
For this issue of The Tiger Tribune, we've featured three perspectives on the drought, the El Nino, and this year's small winter. For one of these, we interviewed local weather forecaster Howard Sheckter, who announces the weather daily on KMMT. Visit his weather website at mammothweather.com.

Reporting by Ben Trefry and Claire DesBaillets.

BT: Have you given up on the El Nino, or is there still hope? Why?
Howard: El Nino and precipitation in CA don't necessarily... El Nino is no guarantee of a wet winter in California, this was one of the strongest El Ninos ever [and look what we got]. That fact still remains, it's weakening now, but the forecast of El Nino was right on, even though we didn't have a big winter in California.

CD: What evidence was there suggesting a strong El Nino this year?

Howard: Around this time last year, there was a very strong oceanic Kelvin Wave that began in the Indian ocean and moved along the equator, to the tropical Eastern Pacific. The Kelvin wave is an air-sea coupled wave that down wells warmth from western Pacific and moves it east to the eastern Pacific as deep as 200 to 300 meters. Strong westerly wind bursts often times accompany these waves. In the rear of the Kelvin wave, water is rising in an upwelling phase which brings cooling to the surface... Once the Kelvin wave moves across the Pacific, it charges the Nino Basin with subsurface temp anomalies of +5C to +6C during very strong events. Thus the main area of equatorial convection (Thunderstorms) is displaced east from the Maritime Continent to the Tropical Eastern Pacific. Profound



changes in the normal weather patterns can occur.

BT: There is a theory of a mega-drought in the western US after 2050. Do you agree with this theory?

Howard: I haven't studied the theory, and historically, there have been various periods of drought across the west, and unfortunately these droughts are hard to forecast. There are periods of drought which are associated with the sunspot cycle, which can be better predicted. The [sunspot cycle] is an 11-22 year cycle.

CD: Is there anything we can do to prevent it?

Howard: No... Natural Climate Change is cyclical and inevitable.

BT: When did you become a weatherman?

Howard: I was interested in weather when I was ten years old, it's been something that's grown with me for my whole life. When the internet came along, a new world opened up with new tools that just really took me to the next level. Along the way I befriended many in the weather service that put a lot of pieces of the puzzle together.

CD: Do you own weather equipment or do you collect data from other resources to find out the weather?

Howard: I do both, actually. I have my own data-collecting at home that's automated by a computer, but when I want to quote other areas for their climate... a lot of that information is available from the national climatic data center...

The History of LVES

By Ben Trefry

While most students rarely think about what Lee Vining Elementary School used to be, it's fun to look back and remember what our school was like up until just a few years ago. The kindergarten building is still an example of how old the school was before it got renovated (although it has been almost completely redone as well); almost a thousand students and 10+ teachers have probably used it.

According to LVES's official School History website, the original school was founded in the early 1920s by Anna Mattly and others. The land is not completely government-owned; if the school were shut down, the Mattly family would own the land the school is on. The original school building was built in the 1920s, but the one that was recently renovated was built in 1940. None of the original school buildings are still standing, but if they were, they would be almost 100 years old!

As the school gets more and more modern, there are still mementos and traditions that have persisted for almost a hundred years, like the plaque on the wall that proclaims who has sponsored the school and the tradition of messing up classrooms on St. Patrick's Day. Long Live LVES!

Your Ad Here

If you have a product or service you want to promote, just contact Ben Trefry at ben.t2@outlook.com. Ads are free for students, and an ad this size for a business or organization is \$10. This money will go to paying for formatting tools next year. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

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Winter, From Page 1

had a mediocre winter this year, last year was terrible, though it did have one big storm that gave the lower Mono Basin about 14 inches.

The lesson we've learned from this is: Never count on weather patterns. While the media hyped it to the max, many experts stressed that while the El Nino pattern has been associated with huge winters, it does not guarantee them. Many big winters have happened with no El Nino pattern, while some El Nino years (like this year) have returned poor winters.

Permanently giving up hope on winter is not advised, especially with some of the things that are falling into place for next winter. For starters, the sunspot cycle is going down, which may cause wetter than average winters in California. Also, this year proves that we can have at least an okay winter, even with whatever's causing the drought presiding over California. That means that next year has the potential, in my opinion, to bring more snowfall than the last 2-3 years combined.

Left: The pathetic, dwindling snowpack on the north side of Copper Mountain, near Mono City. The south side of the mountain is 99% dry.

Flu, From Page 1

The good news is that the flu vaccine that many residents got this year is a good match, one of the best in years. It's one of the reasons that the cases we are getting are milder and shorter, but still far worse than a cold.

While the flu cases are finally subsiding in our area, it is still important to protect yourself from the flu. Whether you did or didn't get the flu shot, you should still wash your hands and stay away from anyone who is sick.

Source: Mammoth Times

Exclusive Interview with Roland Knapp, Frog Researcher

For years, frogs have been battling a fungal disease, stocked fish that eat the frogs, and human expansion. We got the scoop on the efforts to save them by interviewing frog researcher and activist Roland Knapp. **Reporting by Ben Trefry.**

BT: So, what got you interested in protecting frogs?

Roland: I knew that they were at one time a very common species in the Sierra, and I really wanted to see what I could do to bring this once-common species back to the mountains... all the predators that feed on frogs, of course, are affected when the frog goes away, all the species the frog feeds on that relationship will change when the frog goes away. So by restoring the frogs, you've potentially restored a bunch of processes associated with the frog.

BT: Do you think the frog crisis right now could have been prevented?

Roland: To some degree. there's two primary dangers to the frogs, introduced fish and introduced disease. If we'd known ahead of time, and that's often hard to know, that fish would prey on the frogs, and wipe them out in any place where fish are stocked... we could have stocked those fish more carefully... That would have helped a huge amount. The introduced disease issue is more challenging. The disease was spread all around the world through the pet trade... we were moving pet frogs all around the world... I think that if we'd known that frogs were carrying a lethal disease, we could have prevented it.

BT: What kind of things do you do to save the frogs?

Roland: It depends whether it's summer or winter. In the sum-

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Birthdays in November:

Ivan Garay - Saldana 2/25,
Beverly Altamirano 2/10,
Jessica Calderon 2/12, Melissa Velez 3/10, Charles Trefry 3/29, Brayden Duro 3/27, Pablo Plascencia 3/17, Heidi Vargas 3/31, Miguel Venegas 3/29, Fernando Garcia 3/13, Laurel Satterfield 3/22, Nathan Satterfield 3/22, Caroline Garcia 3/25, Samantha Lopez 3/14

And the winners are...

- Laurel!
- Heidi!
- Brayden!
- Beverly!
- Fernando!
- Pablo!
- Melissa!
- Caroline!

If you're one of the winners, come to Ms. Garcia's classroom on Thursday at lunch recess (11:45-12:10) and pick your prize!



About this Issue

This issue was created with Scribus desktop publishing software.

Contributors:

Ben Trefry= Layout&Articles
Claire DesBaillets= Articles
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Kira Wanner= Poem
Laurel Satterfield= Articles
As always, we are looking for contributions. If you have any interest in The Tiger Tribune, please come to Ms. Garcia's class on Thursday at lunch recess (11:45-12:10). If you like to write, or cover important events, this is your chance to join a newspaper! Don't hold back because you think you're bad at writing; we edit every contribution to sound professional.

Frogs, from Page 3

mer, I'm in the mountains visiting/studying frog populations and [collecting data about them]..., from Yosemite to MT whitney. In winter, I spend most of my work time analyzing that data, writing papers based on that data, and designing conservation measures based on that data.

BT: What happens to the frogs in the winter?

Roland: In the wintertime, frogs sit at the bottom of the lake..., or stream, under the ice for nine months..., they do very little. They do all their feeding, mating, and everything else during that brief window of summer.

BT: Do you think there's real danger of the frogs going extinct?

Roland: In some parts of the range, there is. In other parts of the range, they are doing quite well, including our backyard of Yosemite National Park. They are recovering from the fish effects and disease effects. In that area, the threat of extinction is going down... In other areas, there is a very real chance of extinction. So, if you look at the entire range of the frogs, they probably will not go extinct... everywhere. But, you really want to maintain, to the maximum extent possible, the frog across its entire range. And that's where we're facing challenges.

Below is a picture of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, one of the species that Roland helps protect.



photo by Vance Vredenburg

Fun Frog Fact: Since frogs grow new layers of bone on top of old ones, you can tell how old a frog is by cutting into its bone and counting the rings, just like a tree!

Howard, From Page 2

BT: Are you optimistic or pessimistic when predicting the weather?

Howard: The vast majority of the time, optimistic. Depends on the time of year. Summers and winters are the easiest to forecast. The most difficult times, tend to be in the Fall and Spring.

CD: What are your forecasting credentials?

Howard: I'm a hobbyist. I have an earth science degree, but do not have a 4 year degree in Meteorology.

CD: Do you think there will be another relatively big storm in the next few months?

Howard: It is quite possible as El Nino Winters and springs tend to drag on longer.. However it may not be the type of storm you might think it would be. The storms in April are slower moving and tend to be more focused upon smaller areas. They can sit in one place for a while. We're coming into that season now. IE (Cut off or Closed Low Season)

CD: Many people didn't think this was an El Nino winter. What do you have to say to them?

Howard: They didn't think this was an El Nino winter because we didn't have a lot of precipitation in the southern 1/3 of the State. Not every El Nino is the same. It was an unusual El Nino because it was...wetter the further north you went. This was the 3rd or 4th strongest El Nino on record as measured in the NINO 3.4 area. We know now that although the strength of El Nino may increase the odds of a wet Southern CA, it is no guarantee. So scientists are theorizing that the warmest water may have been too far west. That in turn focused the mother low (Main Adjustment wave) closer to the date line instead of north of Hawaii. . A lot of the warmest water along the equator was a lot farther west this event. This was a very strong El Nino, but the effects were very unusual.

Curriculum, From Page 2

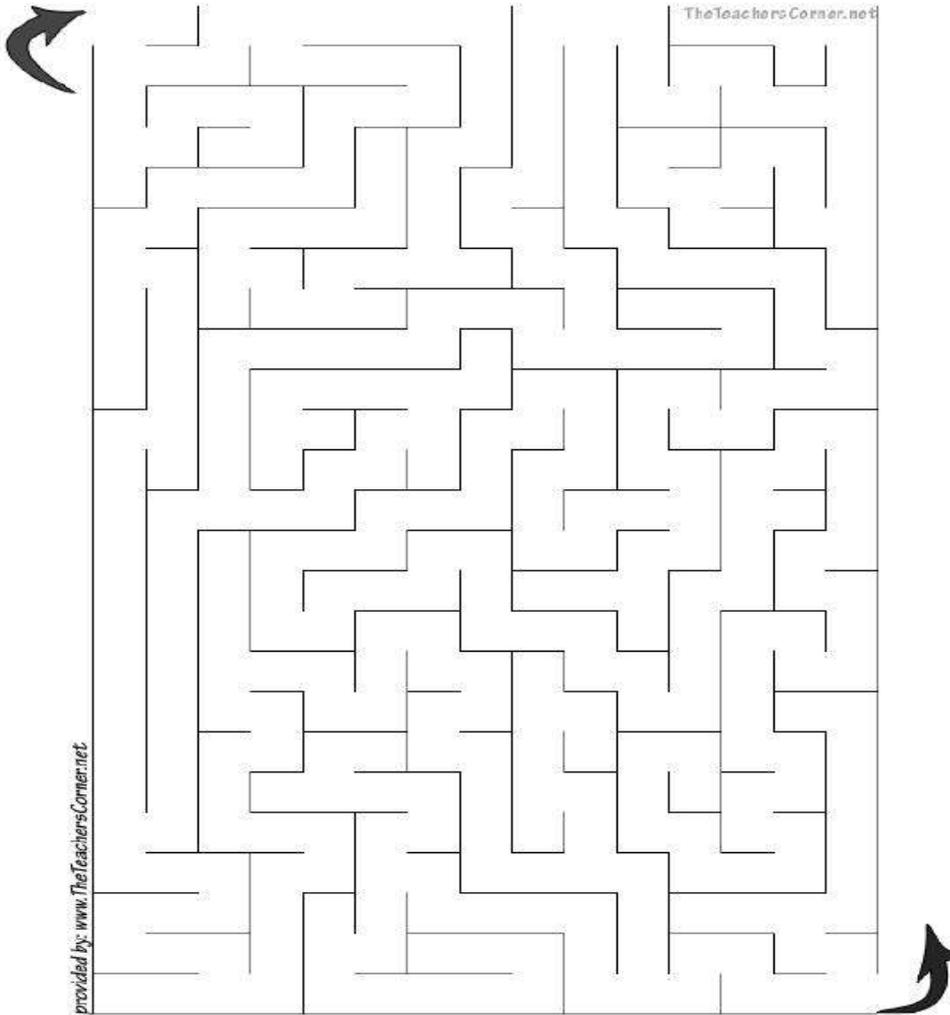
learn about it, as well as interviewing Mono County Office of Education Superintendent, Dr. Stacey Adler.

According to the Common Core website, the new curriculum is designed to fit students' needs and ensure they are prepared for college. "I think the Common Core is great!" said Dr. Adler. "It encourages higher-level thinking, creativity, and problem solving. In my opinion the Common Core standards go much further toward preparing our students to be successful in the 21st century workforce." Surprisingly, states and territories are not forced into Common Core. Every state is given the choice to adopt Common Core or not.

However, Common Core is facing plenty of criticism from politicians such as Donald Trump. "[Common Core] is an absolute disaster," he has said, and promised that, if elected, he'd get rid of it. But, most likely, that's not going to happen. Common Core is a state program, and while it does get some federal funding, the federal government has little or no control over it. That's why states have the choice whether or not to implement it. "It is a state decision whether or not their students will use the Common Core," Superintendent Adler clarifies. She also says that she has never heard any educators criticizing Common Core, so it's mostly the politicians who don't like it. That is probably because professional educators know what's good for their students, while politicians are not highly trained in the field.

Adopting a new curriculum is difficult, says Dr. Adler. On top of the costs of buying all the new materials, "teachers need time. Change can provide challenges... the greatest challenge is just getting used to and gaining a full understanding of the standards." -Source: www.corestandards.com

The Puzzles



Puzzles from worksheets.theteacherscorner.net

The Riddles

1: How many substitutions can you make for the words 'The Tiger Tribune'?

Example:

Substitutions for Hello would be h3110, and for Snow they would be \$n0w.

2: My life can be measured in hours, I serve by being devoured. Thin, I am quick, Fat, I am slow, Wind is my foe. What am I?

3: What two things can you never eat for breakfast?

4: Ben walked into a hardware store and asked the price of some items. The salesman said: One costs \$1, Eight costs \$1, Seventeen costs \$2, One hundred four costs \$3, and One thousand seventy two costs \$4. What was Ben buying?

5	8						2	7
4	7			8			3	
			4	7	1		8	
	5					6		9
	3		8		9		5	
6	2		1		7	3		
9				4	8	2	6	
	6		5				7	4
3		7		1				

My View: Who do you want to be president?

Esha: I want Jordyn to be president because I think she would know how to rule things.

Eva Segura: I would want Caelen to be president because she has been president of the ASB and is a good leader.

Pablo: I would want Dante, because he is nice.

Alecsa: I want Julie because she cleans.

Diego: Solomon, because he is kind.

With reporting by Ellery McQuilkin and Laurel Satterfield.

Last Month's Answers to the Riddles

1: Fire.

2: Dozens. If you remove the s, you get dozen, which means twelve.

3: None of the websites we use as riddle sources could agree on the answer to this one!

4: You could drop it at floor 1 first (because you start at floor 1). Then you would go to the floors: 14, 27, 39, 50, 60, 69, 77, 84, 90, 95, 99, and 100. Whatever floor your first coconut breaks at, go to the floor above the last floor the coconut survived and drop the second coconut from this floor. Then go up by one floor until the second coconut breaks and that is the lowest floor it will break at.

*To all who Love Reading
Many books have stolen my
heart
But the author is the thief.*

*Writing gives me joy,
Music gives me joy,
Reading gives me joy.
Joy gives you peace
Do what you please.
Be at peace as you read.*

*I want an adventure! Everyone
in
my book has an adventure!
This is how I feel when I
read,
This is how I always feel,
Then my friend said,
Your life is an adventure!
Your adventure is only just
beginning.
Find your adventure.
-By Kira Wanner*

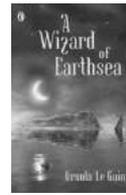
**How well do you know
your best friend?**

Ask yourself these questions,
then ask your best friend to
check if you're right!

- 1: What color are your best friend's eyes?
- 2: What are the names of their parents?
- 3: How old is your best friend?
- 4: How tall are they?
- 5: What is their favorite thing to do?
- 6: What is their last name?
- 7: Is your best friend double-jointed anywhere?
- 8: What is their mother's maiden name (her last name before she got married and changed it)?
- 9: What street is their house on?
- 10: What is their phone number?

You don't need to know everything about your best friend, but it is helpful to know things like their phone number and address in case of an emergency.

Book Review: A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula Le Guin



AR Level: 6.7
AR Points: 9.0

A Wizard of Earthsea is a very old book by a famous author, and it is also very unique. The author tries to avoid the traditional 'good vs evil' theme, and instead pits the main character Sparrowhawk against natural forces and not-so-bad bad guys.

Rather than funny-sounding spells, the wizards of Earthsea work their magic by saying the true names of objects and beings, and are often reluctant to use their magic most of the time. In this book, which is the first book in the Earthsea cycle, a young man called Sparrowhawk (his true name is Ged) learns that he has the potential to become a great wizard. He travels all around the world using his power to help others, but also often misuses his power.

Though it is long and sometimes not very exciting, this book is quite entertaining to read. It's also worth quite a few AR points. I recommend A Wizard of Earthsea to anyone who enjoys a good fantasy tale, and can get through some boring parts.

-By Ben Trefry



-Ben Trefry

Next issue, The Tiger Tribune will be filled predominantly with contributions from Ms. Garcia's 7th and 8th grade class, who are writing news articles for an explanatory writing project.

Happy Friday...NOT!
By Aria-Chan



YAY! Its finally Friday! I am so excited for the weekend! I'm going to draw! and watch anime, and...



And think about how none of this is possible because I have gymnastics.