



THE TIGER TRIBUNE



Student news from LVHS and the surrounding area.

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What's going on with the LV rockfall project?

By Ben Trefry, Tiger Tribune editor

Every day for the past several months, commuters and students have had to wait through traffic delays at the site of the Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project. This project was going great, until the Marina Fire destabilized the slope above it and forced Caltrans to start another huge project. Now the crews have started a whole new project to fix that damage, and are well behind schedule on the original project which was to be completed this summer. What's going on?

According to Caltrans public information officer Florene Trainor, the LV Rockfall Safety project and the Marina Fire stabilization project are two different projects, which are both being worked on simultaneously. The rockfall safety project was all set to begin early this summer, but the Marina Fire hit and forced Caltrans to begin another costly project.

"Before it was safe to resume work on the rockfall project, Caltrans began a \$2.2 million emergency construction project to repair guardrail and install a fence at the road-level to provide temporary rockfall and debris flow protection," says Trainor. This fence is expected to remain in place for 3-5 years, "depending on an assessment of slope stability of the burned areas above." Of course, work on this project can only be done during the summer, but even in the winter, we'll likely be hit with

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Lee Vining Takes the Win against Big Pine!

By Sophia McKee, Tiger Tribune reporter

The crowd was on the edge



of their seats. The score was 14 to 7, Lee Vining ahead. This could be the win the Lady Tigers had needed. Everyone held their breath, watching as Big Pine went up to serve. The Lee Vining girls were down and ready, waiting to receive the ball. A silence fell over the crowd as they waited in anticipation. The ball went up, and then, with a loud thwack, straight into the net. The Lady Tigers had done it! They had won their first home league game!

The night of October 4th hadn't started off well for the Lady Tigers. It was the first home league game of the season, and the girls were obviously not playing to the best of their abilities. Big Pine had just taken the first win of the game, winning 25 to 14. The ladies would

have to shape up if they truly wanted to take the victory on this game. Team Captain Julie Vargas could see her teammates getting down, and knowing that this depressing mood would do nothing to help the girls, she pumped them up, telling them that they were still in it and they could still win! That's

when the game took a shift for the better.

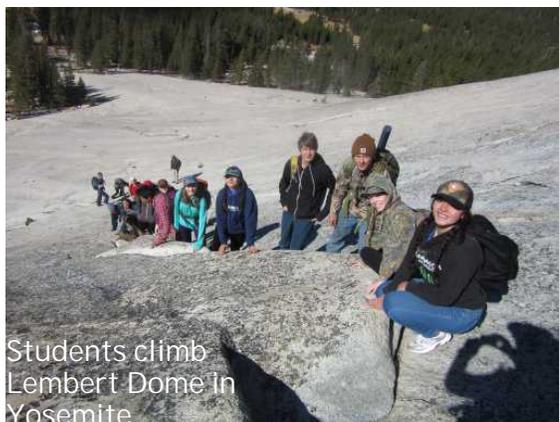
Going into the second game, the Lee Vining girls had a different spirit about them. They dug up everything Big Pine served them, all their spikes were impossibly hard, and their serves went over every time. There was a perfect chemistry on the court. Not only were the girls beginning to improve, but Big

Pine was getting irritated. Instead of setting up the usual bump, set, spike, Big Pine began to hit the ball back over the net on the first or second hit. This created chaos on Big Pine's side of the court. The Lady Tigers ended up winning 25 to 19 after the other team hit the ball into the net. This winning streak for the girls continued into game three as well, with a score of 25 to 17.

With the end in sight, the Lady Tigers felt confident that they would be able to take the win in the fourth game. As the game commenced, Lee Vining started out with a lead, up ahead by a few points. But, as the game continued, Big Pine began to catch up. After one of our own spiked the ball into

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Reflection: Lee Vining High School Yosemite Trip



Students climb Lembert Dome in Yosemite

By Caelen McQuilkin, Tiger Tribune reporter

As our SUVs pulled up into the parking lot of what was about to become our temporary home for the next few days, rain began to fall. It began softly at first, innocently, but then increased to the kind of rain that gets you wet and very, very cold.

We began to set up the campground, carrying a seemingly never-ending amount of gear

from the SUVs, putting up tents and arranging coolers and stoves. Our first few hours at camp, honestly, weren't the greatest, they were mostly just cold. But maybe that's part of what helped us learn that when you're camping, you have to endure the tough experiences to be able to enjoy the beautiful experiences.

A valuable lesson I learned on the trip is that the best thing to do in any situation is make the best of it.

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What is Mono County? A place of rich and varied history.

By Tim Alpers, Guest Writer and Mono County Supervisor

Long ago, Native Americans were the only humans to inhabit and observe the beautiful land that would become our county. It wasn't until the early 1840s, when explorers Joseph Walker, Jedediah Smith and Gen. John C. Fremont set foot in the eastern Sierra, that outsiders began to learn of our unique and wonderful land in the Eastern Sierra.

"Gold Fever" struck the Sierra Nevada mountains in 1849 and people from all over the world flooded into California to seek their fortune. Statehood followed rapidly in 1850. County government, a political part of State government, was established soon after with the Legislature initially establishing 18 counties statewide. As California's economy boomed in the 1850s with mining, timber and agriculture growing rapidly, additional counties were established. Mono County, named after Mono Lake, was formed on April 21, 1861, by the splitting off of parts of Fresno, Mariposa and Calaveras Counties. The original county seat was in Aurora, a mining town northeast of Mono Lake. When it was discovered that Aurora was actually in the state of Nevada, it was moved briefly to Bodie. In 1881, the official Mono County seat was moved to Bridgeport where a handsome and historic Courthouse had been built. The city of Bishop, California, was originally a part of Mono County. Due to the long distances and rough travel to Bridgeport, that portion of southern

Mono County was sold to the newly established Inyo County in 1866 for the sum of \$12,000.

Mono County has a colorful past steeped in the early history of the American West. With the discovery of gold and silver in the Bodie Hills, the early mining town of Bodie grew to a population of over 20,000 and had the reputation as one of the roughest mining towns in the West. One can only imagine the needs of the county back in the early days. There were no decent roads between Mammoth, Bishop, Benton Station and other southern Mono communities connecting to Bridgeport with food and housing in short supply. Horse and buggy, freight wagon, or just on horseback were the means of travel in those days. Train service existed in eastern Mono County moving through the Bishop and Laws area up to Benton Station then on into western Nevada. A small, narrow gauge operated briefly from the Mono Mills area to Bodie to deliver building materials, firewood and supplies. Mono County had a reputation for lawlessness back in the early mining days, and, although illegal, slot machines were set up all over Mono County. Supposedly, Federal agents were called in to arrest individuals and businesses operating slot machines. Some June Lake residents got wind of the raid and dumped all of their slot machines into the lake!

Mono County encompasses over 3,000 square miles of land of which 94% is owned by various

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Rockfall, from Page 1

more, albeit lesser, traffic delays.

Because of the fence, snow cannot be effectively pushed to the side of the road. Thus, the road will have to be closed in order for a moderate to large snowfall to be removed. Trainor assures us that the delays will be brief and may not even occur, but the logistics are somewhat unclear. At this point, a big winter could easily throw a wrench in the works.

If everything goes as planned, the project(s) will be completed in late November, Trainor says, but of course nothing is concrete at this point; an accident or new development could occur and push the deadline even later.

And, when crews are still working that late in the season, the harsh weather will also cause significant problems. When temperatures are cold, equipment doesn't start, things freeze, and many other problems occur. While it's possible to work in December if absolutely necessary, it's definitely not ideal.

One thing's for sure: As more and more netting becomes strung up over the burnt and charred ground, the Marina Fire area is starting to resemble Topaz.

About this Issue

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About The Tiger Tribune

The Tiger Tribune is student-published school publication that is (hopefully) published monthly. It aims to help keep students and the community informed.

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Dry Summer Devastates Eastern Sierra

NOAA Forecasting and wet October offer a glimmer of hope.

By Ben Trefry, Tiger Tribune editor

In our Summer 2016 issue, we featured an article about how the Farmer's Almanac, a publication that predicts precipitation, weather, and luck for various parts of the United States, was predicting a drier-than-average summer for California. Unfortunately for us, they were correct. There were no significant rainfalls (over 1/4 inch in one day) from July to September, leading to a spectacular fire season. With such a dry summer, many began to wonder if it would ever rain again.

But finally, on October 15th, a glorious 1/2 inch of rain fell, followed by more on the days and weeks following which added up to 2 and 1/4 inches total. The dry spell was broken! With the ground saturated with water and more storms on the way, locals could finally stop worrying overtime about the ever-present fire danger.

However, our whole economy hinges on winter, so that is what everybody is holding their breath for, and there's plenty to speculate about. The upcoming winter has been called a "crapshoot" by many forecasters. Will it be dry and disappointing like the last five years? Average? Or wet?

This year is tricky because it has an equal likelihood of falling into any of these categories; the La Nina pattern that is likely to take hold this winter is very hard to forecast. 6 out of 8 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) simulations show an average or better winter, but the simulations are not always accurate and have a large margin of error. "There's a 55% chance of La Nina this winter, and a 100% chance of 'I don't know,'" said NOAA weather forecaster Chris Smallcomb.

Indeed, a look at the weather records for past La Nina years will show that they do not always result in drier-than-average winters. In fact, since the La Nina forecasted for this winter will be weak, the winter could literally go either way, from super-wet to historically dry.

It's all the luck of the draw, and whether the atmospheric rivers that bring us much of our winter precipitation hit or miss. A mass of warm air that has prevented this for the past year or so is starting to break up, so things are looking good on that front at least! However, fall is one of the hardest seasons to forecast and make inferences from, so the data is in no way conclusive.

Overall, despite the forecast of La Nina, we do have a good chance of having a decent winter this year. Cross your fingers!

Yosemite, from Page 1

Julie Vargas, a senior, said, "camping in the cold is not as bad as it seems as long as you have good equipment." At the beginning of the trip, I felt unsure about how it would go because of the weather conditions, but by the end of our campout, I found myself wishing I could relive the three fun days, despite the rain and cold.

On the second day of the trip, we sat at 9,449 feet above sea level, on top of Lembert Dome. The forceful wind made us all shiver, but we huddled together in the shelter of some glacial erratic boulders, gazing out at the stunning view. Majestic, glacier-carved granite peaks rose out of a refreshingly green sea of pine trees, kissing the clear blue sky above. Even though Lembert Dome certainly isn't the tallest peak in Yosemite, we all felt as if we were on top of the world.

Our school's camping trip was a place-based education trip, and so we had lessons, but instead of staying in the classrooms we got to learn in Tuolumne Meadows. Just a few examples of what we learned include reading a passage by John Muir, writing our own nature reflections, learning about the way glaciers carved Yosemite, measuring the health of Lee Vining Creek by finding and observing its aquatic insects, calculating the sun's movement throughout the day, and visiting and learning about the history of a defunct mining

town.

Mr. Sindel, the math teacher described the benefits of place based education, "I learned that when students have a common goal, they can be pretty motivated to accomplish that goal," he said.

In addition to all the learning, we also had a lot of fun and bonded as an entire school. At night, we played games like Jailbreak, Hide and Seek Tag, and Capture the Flag. In our free time, we played concentration and explored around the campground.

"Even though it was cold and everyone was tired from the day, we all still were able to have fun and play these games... and at the same time, it was a school bonding experience," said Sophia McKee, a sophomore.

Before bed, we sat around the campfire and told ghost stories, and once we got in our tents, we stayed up talking, warm in our cozy sleeping bags.

Overall, our camping trip in Yosemite was not only a fun and educational experience, but also brought our school closer together. "My favorite part of the camping trip was that I got to get to know everyone better," said Sayra Galindo, a junior. When I asked Ben Trefry, a freshman, what he gained from the camping trip, he said "I gained a better understanding of the people at LVHS and I feel like we're a closer community now."

County, from Page 2

governmental agencies. These public lands are available for variety of uses including recreation, agriculture and limited industrial. Over the decades, the County has continued to grow and improve services to its residents and visitors which has been no easy task. Even into the 1960s, the County had no ambulance service. Sheriff deputies used civilian station wagons to transport sick or injured people to Bridgeport or Bishop medical facilities. Building inspectors traveled from Sacramento as late as the 1970s to process building permits as the service was not provided by the County. Today, a modern Mono County provides services on par with the other 57 counties in California. The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the County consisting of 5 elected members each representing one of 5 districts. Board members, in partnership with County staff and constituents, work to ensure delivery of services and programs essential to the continued stability and prosperity of the region. Nationwide, county government provides 75% of the services rendered to the population.

Challenges in County government continue today. Difficult issues such as balancing the environment with development, funding long term operation and maintenance of parks and facilities, compliance with State and Federal mandates, providing for individual community needs, and maintaining working relationships with other governmental jurisdictions and agencies are just a few of what County government deals with on a daily basis. The key to the future of sustainable local County government lies in its flexibility and its ability to maintain a highly productive employee team. Mono County must remain nimble enough to adjust to new technology, social trends and environmental challenges to continue to be the "Champion" of the people.

Volleyball, from page 1

the net, the crowd watched as the scored tied at 20-20. It was anyone's game now. If Lee Vining won, the game would be over, giving our girls their first league victory of the season. But, if Big Pine won, the match would go into the 5th round and a battle for the victory. It was Big Pine's serve, and they ended up winning the next five points in a row, beating the Lady Tigers. The game was going to be sent into one final round.

The girls' adrenaline was rushing, hearts beating in and out of their chests. It was all or nothing from that point on. Walking out onto the court, the Lady Tigers were determined to defeat Big Pine once and for all. Each team played extremely well, fighting for each and every point. But, in the end, it was the Lady Tigers who came out on top, with a score of 15 to 10. The Lee Vining fans and girls alike left the game that night with high spirits at the intense and well-deserved win.

Election 2016. The story on our strange election

By Ben Trefry, Tiger Tribune editor



The U.S. presidential election happens every four years, but this is an especially strange one. In fact, we may be in for the strangest election in a long time.

What's wrong with it?

To start with, the candidates are unconventional to say the least. Trump is a billionaire who has said countless remarks that could be interpreted as racist or sexist, and has put forth plans for unheard-of policy changes. In a recently released video that was taken eleven years ago, Donald Trump seems to condone sexual assault and suggests that he has done

it and can get away with it because "he's a star." In fact, much of what he said in the video is too inappropriate to put in a school publication.

Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton is the first woman to be nominated for President by a major party, but many people feel she is not personable enough and doesn't listen to them, not to mention having been involved in many scandals and allegations of misconduct.

What are their positions?

Trump is billing himself as the 'law and order' candidate. He wants to give police more power, and believes that doing so will reduce crime. He supports the stop & frisk technique used by the New York police department, supporting his controversial position on that matter with the fact that some violent crime became less frequent when the practice was implemented. He is against in-

vesting lots of money and time in green energy, and wants to rebuild "Obamacare". However, on certain issues, he is moderate or even liberal. He supports LGBT rights (though not same-sex marriage), and in issues of defense and international matters, he is ranked by insidegov.com as moderately liberal.

Clinton, meanwhile, is strongly liberal on most issues. She essentially wants to continue the policies and changes put forth during Obama's presidency, and has similar ideas to him. She is supportive of prioritizing green energy, and wants to move forward with Obamacare. She does not believe that stronger policing will always reduce crime, and wants to balance civil rights with safety when it comes to law enforcement. Gun rights are another hot topic this year,

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and she is highly in favor of gun restrictions.

Who supports (and hates) them?

In this election, many die-hard Republicans are suddenly backing Clinton, afraid of what Trump might do. "I have been a loyal member of [the Republican] party, even serving a brief period as a city committee member in my town. Despite all this, there is no way I would ever vote for

Donald Trump," says an anonymous Marine Corps officer in Virginia. Even major Republican governors and officials are saying that they will never support Trump. Chris Shays is a moderate Republican U.S. representative from Connecticut, and he says, "I think many Republicans know Donald Trump could cause great damage to our country and the world at large, and still plan to vote for him. But not me."

It is true that Trump has said so many offensive things that most people don't even care anymore when he says yet another. But Clinton also has her own problems. Having been a politician for a long time, she is loaded up with baggage like her private email server and her handling of the Benghazi terror threats. Combined, they are deterring quite a few voters, and it is certainly not reassuring that Clinton was investigated by government agencies, including the FBI, for her handling of these and others. According to the Washington Post, 62% of registered voters feel that Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server for confidential emails "is an important indicator of her character and ability to serve as president." Even to many Democrats, it is worrying how much Clinton has allegedly been abusing her power. "Hillary's past is way too tainted," says an anonymous LVHS survey respondent who prefers Donald Trump.

It's likely that Clinton, being an old-fashioned technophobe like many of our parents, didn't realize that the emails should have been protected more strongly or stored in a different location. Of course, since both the candidates are, well, old, it's wish-

ful thinking to assume that either of them is comfortable with technology.

What does LVHS (and the country) think?

At LVHS, Mr. Godoy conducted a poll to find out who students prefer. The results were surprising: Almost half of students picked none of the candidates. "Cus..no," said an anonymous respondent, explaining why he or she picked 'none'. While Gary Johnson had as many votes as Hillary Clinton, Jill Stein got not a single vote. Besides her, Trump was the least popular candidate by a landslide.

As for the country at large, Clinton is said to have about a 75% chance of winning the election.

This is a higher percentage than usual for either candidate, and it's probably because Donald Trump gained all his supporters over a year ago, and seems too extreme to grow his supporter base as much as Clinton has been able to, especially in the swing states like Arizona, Iowa, and Nevada.

What are the factors in this election?

That is, assuming the third party candidates don't twist the outcome in unpredictable directions. Gary Johnson, the Libertarian candidate, is running on the platform of getting Democrats and Republicans to work together. In 2012, Johnson became one of the most successful third-party candidates ever, getting about 1% of the vote. He will be taking voters from both Clinton and Trump. Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate, is more likely to take votes from Clinton than Trump, but is much less popular in general. So, while Stein doesn't seem very likely to change the outcome, Johnson, having been popular in the past, may be able to swing it for the Republicans who hate Trump but

can't bring themselves to vote for a Democrat, or people who just want the parties to work together, choose to "throw away their vote" and vote for him. The polls are constantly changing, but I'd say that if Johnson gets 5% of the vote, which is still within the realm of plausibility, he can become a major player in the outcome of the election.

Yet another of the infinite factors in this is voter turnout. While voter turnout for the primaries (28.5% of eligible voters, according to the Pew Research Center) was higher than usual, many people are choosing to just not vote in the general election. The Bernie Sanders supporters are one group that may have a few non-voters in it, and obviously some Republicans will choose not to support their nominee. Clinton is promoting voter registration and encouraging people to vote (for her, of course), but Trump has mainly been relying on his super PAC to get voters registered to vote for him.

We could go on all day about this, but until November 8, this is all

"Because if I was in charge, you'd be in jail."

-Donald Trump to Hilary Clinton in the second debate, on her handing of classified emails.



"It's...dangerous to be engaging in the type of demagogic language that Trump has engaged in."

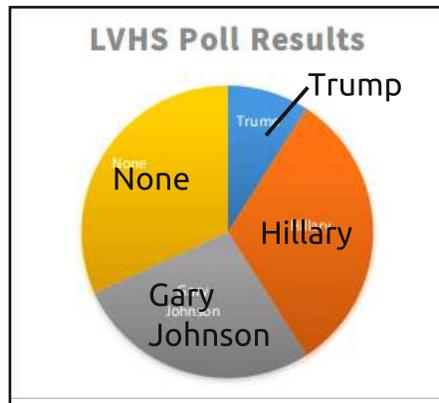
-Hillary Clinton to Trump in the second debate



speculation by experts and analysts. As always, we'll just have to wait and see what happens.

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Opinions expressed in this article are accidental, and the author does not intend to present any opinion. If you have any corrections or comments, contact the author at benjamin.trefry@lvschools.org



The Freshman Kidnapping

By Claire DesBaillets, Tiger Tribune reporter

I was sitting at home, watching Netflix, perfectly fine with doing just that. My brother had supposedly gone bowling that night. I did find it a little weird that my mom didn't argue with him more before he left, but I let it go. I was in the middle of one of my favorite shows, when my mom looked at me strangely. I took out my earbud, and heard loud music and pounding footsteps coming up our porch.

high school. They told us to sit on the grass, so I did, and I heard Stephanie next to me. We had just grabbed onto each other's hands when I heard a hissing noise.

Suddenly I felt drops of water. Screaming, I jumped up and ran until I didn't feel water anymore. I took off my mask and I saw that we were at the trailer park. We got back in the cars, and drove to the high school. I looked in the cars for what my mom had packed me but I only found pajama pants and no shoes. I went inside figuring

cut away from her, Stephanie started to fall, but she was still hanging on by a thread. After several more cuts, I too started to slide down, and I was the first to fall. Not long after, Stephanie fell and then Ben. Ben's team was the winner!

After all of the taping was done, we all played volleyball together and had some pizza. Mr. Wanner called us all over to play some initiative games, like a version of Simon Says and a jump rope game, and then a teamwork game where we had to pull each



Then suddenly, a disguised figure burst in, and I couldn't see anything anymore. I felt myself being lifted up, and then I was outside, and I knew automatically the traditional LVHS freshman kidnap had started.

I was forced into a car, then we drove a ways and then stopped,

The freshmen taped to the wall

that I wouldn't really need them. When I got inside, My brother announced that we were going to get taped to the wall. I was so excited. Stephanie, Ben and I were the three freshmen to get taped onto the walls. We got up on chairs

other up onto a tire. We were able to finish all the games successfully.

The biggest event of the night was glow-in-the-dark capture the flag. We went out at about midnight and had glowsticks on. We played for probably 45 minutes before disaster struck!

The sprinklers had turned on automatically, and there was no way to turn them off. With the game cut short, we all ran away, but a few brave souls ran back in to recover the abandoned glowsticks.

After that the night was pretty uneventful, with some YouTube videos playing in one room, some video-gaming going on in another, and a card game going on in the gym. Finally, at 2:30 am, we had to go to sleep. We went back into the rooms, and just talked until we all were asleep. In the morning we had pancakes and sausage for breakfast, and then we went home. This was by far the most fun I have had this year, but I'm sure more fun will soon be on it's way! Thank you to everyone who put this amazing night together so that we could have so much fun.



I felt someone get in next to me. I knew it was Ben, then

Whole-school volleyball after the kidnapping

Augustus got in on the other side of me. After driving for about 5 minutes, we stopped, and someone told me to get out of the car. I got out and felt sand, then I heard the car pulling away. I knew that they left us on a dirt road.

Soon, the car was back, and we were once again forced in. It took us to what I thought was the

against the wall. And then the duct tape was brought out.

My team, Julie, Karlie, and Charles, taped me up on the wall and when everyone was done, they pulled the chairs from out beneath our feet. I thought I would fall right away, but I didn't. Then my brother had the idea to start cutting one piece of tape at a time. I got really scared but I was OK with it. After about ten pieces of tape had been