

Enterprise

The Voice of the Mountain

Communities Since 1966

Federal judge rules for census

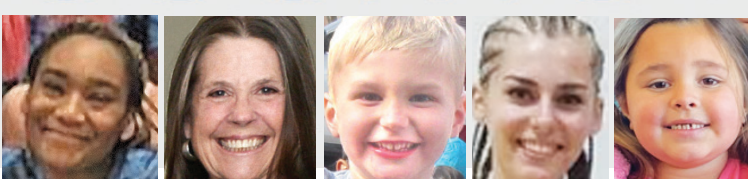
We have one more month to stake claim to funds that belong in the Mountain Communities

If 9,000 people live in the Mountain Communities and only 5,000 of them are counted, we would lose \$40 million and political clout that is rightfully ours.



KERN
COUNTS

2020



By Marcy Axness, TME

The Frazier Mountain Community is lagging far behind California in our census participation rate. As of Tuesday, only about 45 percent of our residents had responded to the census, compared to 69 percent response statewide.

For each person not counted in the census, our region loses about \$2,000 per year—which adds up to a loss of \$20,000 over the ten-year period before the next census. Like many rural regions, the Frazier Mountain Community was undercounted in the 2010 census, and as a result has faced critical funding losses for the past ten years.

Especially in this economically challenged covid era, civic leaders emphasize that we cannot afford to be undercounted in 2020.

“An undercount of 100 people in our county’s Southern Mountain Communities,” said Kern Community Foundation’s Louis Medina, “means two million dollars less in funding for roads, schools, wildfire prevention and other much-needed services, until the next census of 2030.”

Judge Rules for Census

We have just been given a reprieve—one more month to

complete the census. Late last Thursday night, U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh handed down a ruling requiring the Census Bureau to continue the 2020 Census through October 31, as originally scheduled. Judge Koh found that the Trump administration’s shortened census schedule is likely to produce inaccurate numbers about historically undercounted groups—such as those living in rural regions such as ours—and impeding the constitutional purpose of the census.

This means that the Census Bureau must continue taking in census responses through self-response (online, over the phone and by mail) and must continue their Non-Response Follow-Up operation—census workers (called enumerators) going to non-responding households.

Medina says community leaders are “most grateful” for Judge Koh’s ruling, which “will help ensure a more accurate count, especially of high-needs, hard-to-count communities.”

Medina added, “Judge Koh understands the ramifications of an undercount: a reduced allotment of federal funds and political representation for the next 10 years for undercounted



Local community members gathered at Frazier Park Library to learn about Census 2020 last March (pre-covid) included (l-r) Michelle Walker and B.J. Saidi of Mountain Communities Chamber of Commerce; Josh Foster from Supervisor Zack Scrivner’s office; Tammy Rowan of Mountain Communities Family Resource Center; and former Frazier Mountain Library Branch Supervisor Sue Templeton.

communities.”

Evening Knock at Your Door?

Social media buzzed Sunday night with residents of Pine Mountain Club alarmed by census workers knocking on their doors after dark. Some were frustrated because they had already completed their census and still others were shocked to be asked questions about their neighbors. Some were so annoyed that they joked about hoping the bang on their door was a bear rather than a census worker.

Census officials understand that it can be annoying to have census workers visit when you have already responded. Donald Bendz, media coordinator for

the U.S. Census Bureau, said that redundancy is part of the process: “That is just double- and triple-checking that we got it right,” Bendz explained. “To the public, it seems a little concerning,” he added, but he hopes that understanding the reasons for the visits may ease residents’ minds.

The most common reason for repeat census visits is to clarify addresses. Residents (like those in PMC) who get their mail at a post office box received census packets delivered to their homes. Those packets contain a 12-digit code, which must be used when responding to the census if the results are to be accurately /Continued on page 19

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**Bill Hopper
is laid to rest**
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**Sheriff's
Log**
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Federal judge rules for census

Deadline is now Oct. 31

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Census Bureau Director Stephen Dillingham explained in an online blog post that if you respond using your address instead of 12-digit census ID printed on your [home-delivered] census packet, your response may not be properly counted. The ID links your response to your address so that you are “counted in the right place,” wrote Dillingham.

“We’ve received millions of responses that used an address instead of a Census ID,” he wrote. “Some of these addresses don’t match one already on our list, so we’re following up with those to be sure we count them in the right location.”

The Census Bureau chief explained that if you’re in that situation, you may actually get two visits—one to verify the address you responded with and another to get a response from your address the way it appears on their list. The ultimate goal of the census is to count everyone, and do it accurately.

Proxy Census Sources

As for residents being asked about neighbors, Census Bureau media coordinator Donald Bendz explained that workers make six attempts over several weeks to contact residents of any given address. If they cannot, the next step of the census workers’ process is to contact a “proxy source”—such as a neighbor—to get as much basic information about the residents as possible.

Bendz says this is “so we can say we tried our hardest, and

we didn’t just knock and leave, knock and leave, knock and leave.”

Pine Mountain Club does pose a unique challenge on this point, since so many addresses are part-time vacation homes. **‘Please be patient’**

The Census Bureau director asks that you “please be patient with our census takers—their work is critical to the mission of the Census Bureau and to your community receiving its fair share of funding for critical services. We are making sure that we count everyone in the right place.”

Bendz understands that a knock on the door on a dark night in a rural area without streetlights can be alarming, but standard census visit hours are in fact 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Workers should have their easily visible census ID with their photo.

He says a true census worker can also be identified “by the questions they ask”—such as whether you rent or own, how old you are, who lives in the household. They will *not* ask for your political affiliation, social security number or banking information. He says if someone is asking you for those kinds of things, that is the time to call law enforcement or your local HOA patrol.

Lastly, you don’t need to be concerned about being counted twice. They are set up to remove duplicates. The most important thing: **Be counted!**

It is quick and easy. Online, go to My2020census.gov. See page 9 for phone-in information.

Vote Early, Vote Strong

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the initiative. Opponents include former California Governor Jerry Brown, the California Democratic Party, California Teacher’s Union, advocacy groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), League of Women Voters California, Public Defenders Association and several crime victims’ organizations.

The opposing argument included in the official voter’s guide includes the following:

“Prop 20 could slash mental health treatment and rehabilitation programs—proven strategies to reduce repeat

crime. That will make us all less safe. ...California is facing massive cuts to schools, health care and other critical services. Spending tens of millions more on prisons right now is a wasteful scam. ...We must always do more to address crime, but Prop. 20 will make things worse. Prop. 20 wastes tens of millions of your taxpayer dollars on prisons that would be better spent on schools, homelessness, mental health treatment and affordable housing.”

—Proposition descriptions from Ballotpedia.com, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization

Mountain Communities Ongoing Events

Email your event and event updates to Calendar@MountainEnterprise.com

Weekly Events

Ongoing

- Personal computer coaching for appt. 245.1267)
- E-Reader help. Frazier Park Library (Call for appt. 245.1267)

Every Monday

- Grandparents Raising Grandkids support group meeting at Frazier Park Community Center mtg room (3015 Mt. Pinos Way) FP
- Qi Gong class 10:30 a.m. Frazier Mountain Community Center, FP. Free. Instructor is Mary Miller (661.245.3456)
- Senior Exercise 10:30 a.m. Frazier Park Community Center Senior Rm, FP (661.245.1992)
- White Sage Love 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Pine Mountain Village (805.504.6172)
- Frazier Mountain Quilters at Frazier Mountain Community Center 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m., FP. All needle crafts welcome. (Laverne 661.248.0487)
- Bridge 12:30 p.m., PMC Clubhouse (Wednesdays also, same time)
- Al-Anon Meetings 6:30 p.m. Frazier Mountain Community Center (3015 Mt. Pinos Way), FP (661.245.2557)

Every Tuesday

- Family Story Time 10:30 a.m. Frazier Park Library (661.245.1267)
- Canasta, Frazier Mtn. Park Community Ctr Senior Room 10:30 a.m. Frazier Park Community Center 3613 Meeting 5:15 p.m. Family Resource Ctr mtg room (3015 Mt. Pinos Way) FP
- Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (men’s stag) Online meetings - Call Dave 661.406.5816 or text 661.748.9525
- Meeting Online meetings - Call Dave 661.406.5816 or text 661.748.9525
- Senior Center 6:30 p.m. Call Don and Bethel (661.245.1882)

Every Wednesday

- Buddhist Community Church Women’s Bible Study at the Activity Center 10 a.m. (661.242.1025), Frazier Park Village
- Al-Anon Meeting al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/
- Bridge Club, PMC (see Monday)
- Narcotics Anonymous Meeting www.Kcna.org/meetings.html

Second and Fourth Wednesday

- Senior Sack 10 a.m., Frazier Mtn. Park Community Center 661.245.3409, FP
- Senior Exercise 11 a.m. Frazier Mtn. Park Community Center
- Mexican Train Dominoes, Frazier Mountain Park Community Center Senior Rm 10:30 a.m. (661.245.1992)
- Anonymous meeting (men’s stag) Online meetings - Call Dave 661.406.5816

Every Friday

- Quilters Guild 8 a.m.–2 p.m. in Pool Pavilion at PMC Clubhouse
- Family Resource Center meeting room, (3015 Mt. Pinos Way, Ste. 102, FP)
- Park Run for Fun 8 a.m., from Frazier Mountain Park parking lot; leashed pets welcome

Classifieds due Monday, noon

Monthly Events

First Tuesday

- Frazier Park Elementary School PTSO 6:30 p.m. in the staff lounge
- Kern County Search & Rescue 6:30 p.m. Frazier Mountain Park Community Center, Frazier Park

First Wednesday

- Salvation Army Commodities Frazier Mtn. Park Community Center First come, first served. Food distributed no later than 11 a.m. Mask Required, (805.727.6808)
- Ukulele jam at Frazier Mountain Community Center 6 p.m.
- Congressman Kevin McCarthy’s Pine Mountain Village staff office 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at the PMC Pool Pavilion (2524 Beechwood Way). For an appt, call 661.327.3611.
- Assemblyman Vince Fong’s mobile staff office hours mirror Kevin McCarthy’s above: 10–11 a.m. in Frazier Park, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in PMC.

- Boys & Girls Club 6:30 p.m., Frazier Mountain Village office (661.663.4281)

- AARP 11:45 a.m. at Frazier Mountain Park Community Center

- Pine Mountain Village Merchants Assn. meetings will be on hold until further notice. You can call 661.242.2035 for any questions.

- LOW Mutual Water Co. meeting is at 6 p.m., 3534 Mt. Pinos Way, FP

First Saturday

- VFW Post 11 a.m. VFW Post Hall in Frazier Park

Second Monday

- Laughing Angel Art Club, 6 p.m. (Mar–Nov) at Artworks Community Gallery in PMC. Contact Deborah Angel for more information, deborahangel@att.net.
- FMHS Booster Club meets at 7 p.m. at Falcon’s Nest in FP
- Gorman Elementary School Board 3:30 p.m. at the school
- Lebec County Water District board

- Buddhist dharma at 520 Peace Center (2012 Pioneer Way, PMC); call for information, and to confirm it is on: 661.242.6956.

- Bingo 7–9:30 p.m. VFW Hall, 612 Canada Trail, FP 661.245.3273

First and Third Saturday

- Frazier Mountain Guild meets at PMC Clubhouse Pool Pavilion 1–4 p.m.
- Writers’ Workshop 1 p.m. Frazier Mountain Park Community Center
- Mexican Train Dominoes and Canasta at the Frazier Mountain Park Community Ctr. Senior Room 1 p.m.
- Pine Mountain Christian Community is currently closed due to Covid but will be open for questions periodically (661.242.1025)
- AA Online meetings - Call Dave

meets 6 p.m. (2037 Lebec Rd, Lebec

Second Wednesday

- Ridge Route Communities Museum Board Meeting 2 p.m. at the museum, FP

Second Thursday

- Mountain Communities Women in Business (MCWinBiz) meets, 11:30 a.m.; email judithcassiss.com for location.

- Health Care District meeting 6 p.m. Frazier Mountain Community Health Center, Lebec

- Frazier Park Public Utility District board meeting 6 p.m. Lebec

- School Board 6:30 p.m. Frazier Mountain High School campus in the Continuation H.S. Building

- Pine Mountain Town 8 p.m. (661.245.1992)

Second Saturday

- Scouts at Los Pinos, 10 a.m. (245.3250)
- Sierra Club, 6:30 p.m. PMC Clubhouse Pool Pavilion (Dark drive-in) (661.245.1992)

- Alzheimer’s caregivers peer support meeting 2 p.m., Frazier Park Library (3732 Park Drive, FP); for immediate help, call toll-free support hotline at 800.272.3900.

- Piñon Pines Water Board 6:30 p.m. Piñon Pines Community Center

- Third Wednesday

- Mountain Communities Water Issues Discussion 5 p.m. Frazier Mountain Community Center

- ArtFlix At Artworks 6:30 p.m. at Artworks Community Center, PMV 661.245.1992

- PMC Amateur Radio Club mtg., 6:45 p.m. Call for location 661.242.2211

- Pine Mountain Gardeners meet 4–5:30 p.m. at Frazier Mountain Community Center

- Third Saturday (Even months only)

- Ham Radio Testing is at 12 noon at the Frazier Park Library

- Fourth Tuesday

- Piñon Pines HOA, 6:30 p.m., firehouse in Piñon Pines.

- Last Monday of the month

- Krista Mutual Water Co. board meeting, 9 a.m. 3732 Park Drive, FP

- Last Thursday of the month

- Painting with Pam and Friends 6 p.m. at Artworks Community Gallery, PMV, \$30/person. Refreshments served. Call for reservations: 661.245.3444

- Frazier Park Public Utility District board meeting 6 p.m. at office.

Need to place a Classified ad?
Call 661-245-3794