CONCERT BAND PLAYS HOOKY

By Bedine

Encouraged by their music teacher, Michael Hammers, Mammoth Middle School Concert Band students cut rehearsal a few minutes early to celebrate the storm on Wednesday, January 3.

THE TAJ MA-JAIL?

By Giles

Money has recently become available to either update the existing Mono County jail, located in Bridgeport, or construct a new one. The question for Mono County Supervisors on Tuesday, January 3 was whether to apply for a $25 million in funding for a shiny new facility (with a $2 million matching fund by the County) that would include a medical clinic for the community, or build an annex next to the existing building for an estimated $2 million (with a contribution from the County of $200,000-$500,000). The estimated cost of a new jail 10 years ago was more than $50 million.

Senate Bill 844 (SB 844), revenue bond funding for jail improvements, provides up to $25 million to small counties for facility improvements and to meet the medical and mental health needs of inmates. Supervisors were divided on the investment given the laundry list of other projects like road repair, the proposed new County offices in Mammoth, and a possible $1 million lawsuit with Ormat Technologies, the local geothermal power company.

The Supervisors voted 2-3 against a new jail and voted in favor of the annex 3-2. New District 4 Supervisor John Peters, whose district includes Bridgeport, and District 1 Supervisor Larry Johnston were the minority votes.

The annex would be built on land currently owned by Frontier Communications, and the option is contingent on the sale of that property. If Frontier doesn’t want to sell, County staff will pursue the new jail, the option the Supervisors just rejected.

SB 844 money will come in the form of reimbursements, only available once construction starts. The grant doesn’t cover money spent before construction begins. A medical clinic would be located inside the new jail with security precautions to ensure that inmates and the general public would not see the doctor on the same days. The Bridgeport Clinic, operated by Mammoth Hospital on contract through the county, has had reduced hours and only been open sporadically since June. Hospital CEO Gary Myers told the Supervisors in June that there is a lack of medical professionals to operate the clinic and it had to cut back hours. Peters said the clinic would benefit the entire North County.

REMEMBERING MR. BRIDGEPORT

Albert Pegorare, 1947-2016

By Giles

Albert Pegorare, owner of Albert’s Meat Market and Deli in Bridgeport, died on Thursday, December 29. Jim Reid, owner of Ken’s Sporting Goods, told The Sheet that Pegorare was known as “Mr. Bridgeport.”

Pegorare was 69 years old and had lived in the Eastern Sierra for 35 years. He served as a Bridgeport Fire Commissioner for twenty years and was an active member of the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce. Bridgeport locals lauded Pegorare for his generosity. With 50 years of experience working in the meat industry, Pegorare was known for being the best butcher in the region. He served heaping sandwiches filled with high-quality meat for an honest price and a healthy dose of what his long time employee Mike Mooney called “gruffness and no mercy.”

According to Mooney, all joking aside, the man was honest and kind almost to a fault. Over the course of their twenty-year friendship, Mooney regularly saw Pegorare give discounts and free sandwiches to passersby who were in financial trouble. “Albert was one of the most generous people you’d ever meet,” said Mooney this week. “If anyone came through town and had no money, we’d feed ‘em. He’d give people gas money. People in town, if he knew they were short, he’d give them discounts, feed them, no questions asked.”

Bridgeport Fire Chief Mike Booher called Pegorare’s untiring activism and support of Bridgeport irreplaceable. “He was...known to buy anything from any Bridgeport kid. It’s a fault. Over the course of two decades. ”

The Sheet that Pegorare was known as “Mr. Bridgeport.”

Albert Pegorare grills his famous beef at one of the countless community gatherings he supported in Bridgeport.
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7-8:30AM | JAN 14 & FEB 13

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UNDER THE INFLUENCE

I know many of you are anticipating a rant about school being held on Wednesday despite the horrendous weather conditions, but Mammoth Superintendent Lois Klein delivered such a heartfelt mea culpa in the wake of it that I was robbed of my enthusiasm.

I really shouldn't attend Mammoth Lakes Tourism meetings. It’s like being plunked down into the middle of a Philip K. Dick novel. The latest: “Digital influencers”

So this is how it works. In order to “earn” free PR, Mammoth Lakes Tourism will pay for lodging, and sometimes flights and meals for those with significant digital influence (30,000-50,000 followers seems to be the sweet spot).

It is then hoped that these “influencers” post “authentic” tweets and photos and selfless and such about their awesome experiences in Mammoth.

The age of Aquarius has given way to the age of the human billboard.

Another term MLT’s Whitney Lennon threw out there when describing this phenomenon was MLT’s interest in “mining” people. I suppose that would make their popularity akin to a precious metal. Are Millennials really this gullible?

Mammoth Lakes Film Festival’s Shira Dubrovner said interest is really starting to take off in the Memorial Day weekend event, now entering its 3rd year. Last year, the festival drew 300 submissions from filmmakers. This year, they are on track to potentially quadruple that number.

Moviemaker Magazine, said Dubrovner, has categorized Mammoth’s festival as “one of the top 50 worthy the entry fee.”

The Sam Walker/Dennis Hartman deal to sell Sam’s Woodsite to Dirk Winter (Cambria) is on its 3rd extension and is in the “11th hour” according to Walker.

Former Mammoth Councilmember lo Bacon wrote a letter this week in support of the deal.

One of the key components which justifies the purchase price is the idea that Mr. Winter would be able to sell the density from the property to another developer, as he plans to continue to operate it as an events venue.

As Bacon wrote, Council needs to “firmly state that increased density requested by any developer is a privilege and not a right.”

If density is given away, as has happened as recently as last spring, there is no incentive for developers to purchase density and it has no value.

Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Director Craig Schmidt has landed a new job in Tahoe. He leaves at the end of the month. MLT will advertise for a new director shortly. Pretty good gig. Six grand a month plus some bennies, like a membership to Snowcreek Athletic Club … and MLT has announced that there will be some air discounts for locals available starting Monday. But through your favorite digital influencer, you probably already knew that.

From Rea’s truck:

Just when I thought I was starting to become a little bit of a local, Mother Nature came along and bitch slapped me right in the driveway. I moved to Mammoth in the fall of 2011, and got geared up with a four wheel drive 1987 Toyota 4Runner. That poor car never met her full potential until today (Thursday), when I Baja-rallied out of my driveway in the Slopes trying to make it to work on time to put together a newspaper. I’d met a few storms that slowed me down a bit, but it’s never seen anything like what’s happening out there right now.

My friend, Ryan Alonzo, is in Mammoth only a little bit of the time. He’s a photographer and half-lives in his converted Sprinter van—we rarely see him in the summer while he traipses through the Sierra, taking landscape photographs for the Yosemite Conservancy, Climbing Magazine and his coffee table books (we have the whole collection). In the winter he’s usually traveling. We spent a week with him last January in Indonesia. He’s a helluva haggler (his best line: “That’s the most expensive price I’ve seen yet!”). But this winter, he decided he wanted to stick around town, learn to backcountry ski and utilize his Cali4nia pass. “I’m excited!” he said of the coming storm. When I walked outside on Wednesday morning, he was knee-deep in snow, trying to get his van started. The glow plugs were malfunctioning. “I’m still excited!” he said with a grin.

Keeping the driveway “buffed out” is my husband’s pet project—I try to oblige him by zig-zagging cars around as our plow guy deftly blows the snow out of our drive. Yesterday it was a thing of beauty—he showed up right as we had dug our vehicles out and, using our empty neighbor’s driveway, we got the whole thing cleared up in a matter of minutes. I texted a photo to my husband. “We crushed it!” It really set my day off right.

This morning was a little bit different. There was no plow in sight at 7 a.m., and when I walked outside Ryan was on top of his Sprinter van, having climbed up via ladder, brushing it off with a push broom. “I’m still excited!” he shouted.

I knew I had to get to work soon because I had a feeling my Fearless Leader’s daughter’s school might get cancelled (it was), and we have to get our paper sent to our printer by 3 p.m., otherwise the office gets a little tense.

But…my neighbors were in distress. Since their snow removal service plow hadn’t shown up (did I mention we pay about $1,000 a year for this service?), they had attempted to back out of their driveway in a low-clearance SUV and gotten stuck. I was all ready to squeal out for this service?), they had attempted to back out of their driveway in a low-clearance SUV and gotten stuck. I was all ready to squeal out of the driveway, snow flying, when I noticed. We don’t have a lot of full-time neighbors in the area, but our little block of houses are all permanent residents. And most of them were gathered around the little SUV, trying to get them out.

I threw my computer bag in my truck, grabbed a snow shovel, and lay on the ground in my awesome purple Patagonia onesie (a gift from a friend upon my move to Mammoth) and shoveled snow out from the undercarriage of the SUV. Ryan, myself, and a couple of full-time neighbors in the area, but our little block of houses are all permanent residents. And most of them were gathered around the little SUV, trying to get them out.

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Dear Editor:

Rea’s article last week (in the Dec. 24 issue) about the Town Council meet- ing discussing the Ice Rink was very well written and very factual. How the move of the Ice Rink was sold (baited) as a $400K-$600K project, and now reality has switched to becoming a $11M project (with demolition costs, as you wrote), is really unfair and a deceptive representation to the town’s people that bought into this new vision early on.

Despite this massive cost escalation, the Town Council continues to move forward on this. Where is the money going to come from? And remember that this was all started to avoid the Town from paying $300/month in喇叭 costs to the County and not even able to plow a section of the County street where the Ice Rink currently sits. Think that the payback ROI analysis would look like at $11M dollars? At $1M payback the ROI is 28 years. At $11M, it’s greater than 300 years!

“Can’t we just put a roof on it?” Isn’t that what we heard from the Ice Hockey supporters in this town, at earlier Town Council meetings?

I haven’t heard anybody on the Town Council ask “Are there better ways to spend $11M in Mammoth Lakes?” After all, it’s coming out of everyone’s pockets.

Better ways to spend $11M?

Dear Editor:

I want to discuss the mammoth way of “making” the Red Line service. The decision to terminate bus service, you could well make sense. You are better than that. Have another go at it. Show your leadership by providing solutions.

Tom Coat
San Diego

Editor’s observation: We’ll say it once more time. The Town needs to right-size its spending allocation to the time because of road conditions in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Grey area

Dear Editor:

On January 3, I got off the Red Line shuttle at the Snowcreek Athletic Club at about 5:30 p.m. and began a trek back to the White Horse Inn in Old Mammoth. Six other Red Line riders from that one bus joined me on walks to their homes in Old Mammoth.

Because a blizzard that would dump up to 4 feet of snow on Mammoth Moun- tain was raging that night and because Gray Line bus service had been unfortunately terminated a few weeks earlier, we were forced to walk across a snowy Snowcreek parking lot, climb over onto the middle of a blizzard snow- and-ice covered sidewalks, and, when the sidewalks ceased to exist, walk up a badly lit, snow-covered road with no street lighting at all. There was no doubt had limited visibility because of the storm. It was no fun. Instead, it was a very sad reflection on a town that purports to be a forward-thinking community serving tourists and residents.

The decision to simply terminate Gray Line service just prior to Mam- moth’s busy holiday season was ill-conceived and extremely short-sighted for many reasons. Walking through Old Mammoth on a dark street in the middle of a blizzard, I realized that this decision not only denies basic transportation services to about a fifth of Mammoth’s popula- tion, but is a serious safety issue. It is a only matter of time before someone who is walking instead of taking a bus, slips and injures themselves, or worse, a child or woman is assaulted on the dimly-lit street. Because you have cre- ated this danger by your decision to terminate bus service, you could well find yourself facing a liability lawsuit when an incident happens.

But beyond the serious safety is- sues involved, there are a number of other significant issues. For starters, you are forcing 60 people to use their cars. That not only hurts parking in Mam- moth and adds to global warming, but is also another safety issue. On Janu- ary 3, for instance, Mammoth Police were stretched thin during a period of driving conditions so bad that a bus took out a pedestrian cross walk sign $500. Too many cars were on roads that were too unsafe. Your decision contributed to even more cars being on the roads.

True leadership means finding solu- tions, not simply stopping basic public services. Instead of just ending service, why didn’t you look at common sense solutions? Why didn’t you consider running a van from Snowcreek through Old Mammoth every half hour or so. Why didn’t you consider having every other Red Line bus simultaneously issue up a few stops into Old Mammoth? Why did you just terminate service for residents and visitors? That doesn’t make sense. You are better than that.

Hear another go at it. 50,000 of our leadership by providing solutions.

Tom Coat
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Grey area

Dear Editor:

Since our Councilmembers’ words and actions indicate their top prior- ity is “investors” and tourists, let me frame this issue in a way that might appeal to them—You can’t extract money from investors and tourists if locals can’t get to work to service them. Angry residents may give for angry guests.

It is a vicious cycle. So to the extent our government is the cause about extracting more money from visiting tourists and investors, they need to first take care of the basics of town government—the most basic of which, when you live in 6,000 feet in the Sierra, is to plow the roads in a timely manner.

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Dear Editor:

Our town’s residential snow removal is a joke. For the past five years, locals have accepted dangerously diminished public services due to the airport lawsuit, our high employee wages, and the diffi- cult cuts our Town Council was forced to make. Now we are told our govern- ment is seeing “record” revenues and yet basic services remain at third world levels. Our elected officials just voted to spend $10 million to move the town’s ice rink from one location to another and are doling out millions of dollars in subsidies for our “airport to nowhere,” and yet, our residential roads go unplowed. (And, of course, the police force remains dangerously understaffed).

For the most part, big storms in Mammoth are predictable, much less the crowds at Vons. The failure of the town to provide sufficient plow drivers and equipment for the Public Works Department to clear residential neighborhoods in a timely manner is inexcusable. This storm had been predicted for over a week, and yet many residential streets in the Maj- estic Pines and other neighborhoods remained snow-covered and plowed until after 10 a.m. Employees couldn’t get to work, parents couldn’t get their kids to school, and God forbid if there had been an emergency there was no way in or out of many streets. This is unacceptable. Not only does it open the town up to tremendous liability, it forces people to live in a place where officials could care less about them.

Steven Ball
Del Mar

Better ways to spend $11M?

San Diego

Dear Editor:

On Monday night, at a secret mid- night meeting, Republicans held a Congressional Rules session. They created a rule to gut the independent Office of Congressional Ethics. Why? To gobble more freely at the trough? To protect their champion who will violate the emoluments clause of the constitution, the moment he is sworn in? Nevertheless the rule failed because it was covered in the news, many outraged citizens complained loudly, and finally, Trump, sensing the hostile mood, tweeted his disapproval.

Among the rules adopted on Tues- day was a ‘Decorum’ rule, a successful attempt to muzzle Congressmen and Democrats and limit free speech. Last year, House Speaker Paul Ryan was embarrassed when frustrated Demo- crats turned a ‘sit-in’ into the well of the House to protest Ryan’s refusal to allow a vote that would deny gun owner- ship to anyone on the “no fly” terror- ist watch list. Ryan attempted to put a stop to the sit-in by cutting off the CSPAN cameras. The resourceful Dems then streamed their sit-in with cell phones. To put a stop to such future indecorous behavior the 115th Con- gressional House rule punishes anyone taking a picture in the House with first, $500, then a $2,500 fine for turning it into another opportunity to turn it into, for example, improving the solvency of the combined trust funds. You may recognize a well-used strategy of disable it, blame it, then “reform it.”

House Social Security Subcommittee Chairman, Sam Johnson (R-TX), has already introduced a bill that would raise the Social Security retirement age from 67 to 70. The House Rules Committee recently approved new GOP rules prohibit such reallocations unless it’s accompanied by “benefit cuts or tax increases that improve the solvency of the combined trust funds.” This provi- sion would cause a 20% benefit cut for millions of disabled Americans unless there are broader Social Security ben- efit cuts or tax increases improving the solvency of the combined trust funds.

The newly adopted House and Senate riders passed through the heat or disapproval of an angry populace, we have no hope. Don’t care in the future when it does have to compete?

The second item concerns Disability Insurance riders. The House Rules (Subsection 3 and Subsection (b) of Section 2). As the Baby Boomers age, demands on Disability Insurance are increasing. Twelve times in the past a modest reduction in benefits is passed. Why didn’t you consider having every other Red Line bus simultaneously issue up a few stops into Old Mammoth? Why did you just terminate service for residents and visitors? That doesn’t make sense. You are better than that.

Hear another go at it. Show your leadership by providing solutions.

True leadership means finding solu-
Residents come out in snow storm to plead for ESTA's Gray Line

By Rea

"This is a very snowy night out there, and this is one of the biggest crowds" to gather in Suite Z, Mayor Shields Richardson said. "It's not a consuming-music and people drinking [Pabst Blue Ribbon] ... We're talking $15 a tasting, $15 a cocktail. It's not a consuming-type environment." Hammer told The Sheet on Tuesday that it's a little too early to go into specifics, but that he and his partners aim to have the space open by June with gins, vodkas, rums and un-aged "white whiskies." Of course, "the spirit industry is one of the highest regulated industries in the U.S." and Shelter is still awaiting approval of its Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) permits.

Their hand-made copper still, made by artisan brewing systems company CARL in Germany, arrives next month. Hammer said. It will measure 15 feet high and patrons will "be able to see everything, basically, nothing is hidden. You'll be able to see the still, almost touch the still, talk with whoever is making the spirits," said Hammer.

"Is so cool, there's so much amazing science and art that's going on. The reason we're doing it is because of what we're passionate about—making these killer alcohols and these small batch things. You can see it and taste it, and you can come in the next day and buy that rum [you watched being distilled]. You can say, 'I saw that being made.' It's such a cool experience."}

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TWO'S COMPANY, THREE'S A CROWD: CHROMOSOMES, THAT IS

CDFW may resume stocking of non-sterile Rainbow Trout in Mono and Owens Lake Basins

By Giles

According to Jim Erdman, Environmental Scientist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), non-sterile, or diploid, Rainbow Trout may be stocked in the Mono and Owens Lake Basins as early as Spring 2018. Stocking diploid Rainbow Trout in lakes and streams throughout California was common practice for CDFW until 2010, when The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit against the agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Center sued on the basis that CDFW had not conducted sufficient research to determine whether or not the practice of stocking rainbow trout was negatively affecting species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, which are native to northern Mono County, are a listed species under the Endangered Species Act. They are unique to The Mono Basin and as a result, CDFW started conducting Pre-Stocking Evaluations. Every five years, starting in 2010, CDFW is required to evaluate its stocked waters before stocking allotments are set. The goal is to determine whether or not stocking diploid Rainbow, Brown, or Brook Trout will have an adverse impact on one or more regionally specific “Decision Species.” CDFW has identified eight Decision Species that historically occur in parts of Mono and Inyo Counties and could potentially be impacted by stocked fish: Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Paiute Cutthroat Trout, Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog, Mountain Yellow Legged Frog, Owens Speckled Dace, Owens Tui Chub, and Southwest Willow Fly-catcher. Erdman told The Sheet that the evaluation results in a recommendation about whether or not to stock a body of water.

Inyo and Mono County are considered part of the Inland Deserts Region, and Erdman is responsible for overseeing and filing Pre-Stocking Evaluations of the region’s 110 stocked waters. If Erdman discovers that one of the Decision Species is present in a lake or stream and that the body of water is in the species’ native range, a formal evaluation of the impact of stocking fish on that body of water ensues. He is then expected to make a recommendation and report for every one of the 110 stocked waters to his supervisors.

“When I set an allotment, it’s based on factors like the size of the water, the productivity of the water... it doesn’t mean that every year, that lake will get exactly the same number of fish,” said Erdman. He said budget, historic stocking allotments, angler use, and the health of hatchery fish are all factors in how many fish get stocked where annually, that lake will get exactly the same number of fish,” said Erdman. Erdman is in the process of filling the second round of evaluations since CDFW began stocking triploid Rainbows in 2011. He said that, preliminarily, he is recommending to his superiors that diploid Trout be stocked in the Mono and Owens Basins, with triploid Rainbow Trout stocked in the Walker Basin. Erdman said it’s far too early to give a figure for how many pounds of CDFW plans to stock, but that it will be a lot of fish.

Hot Creek Hatchery will raise the diploid Rainbows that will be stocked in The Owens River and Crowley Lake. Fish Springs Hatchery in Inyo County will raise the diploid Rainbows for the Mono and Owens Basins.

Erdman said that although he loves to fish, he struggles to reconcile the economic and recreational opportunity stocked fish bring to the Eastern Sierra with his professional and personal desire to protect threatened native species. Commissioner Morton praised Erdman’s decision, saying, “Jim Erdman is a friend to our local fisheries. He is one of the best people we have, and he and CDFW deserve credit for this.”
A series of earthquakes on Wednesday, December 28 centered around Hawthorne, Nevada were felt across the Eastern Sierra, resulting in the closure of the ghost town of Bodie and possibly the rerouting of naturally flowing hot water at Travertine Hot Springs in Bridgeport.

The shaking began with two 5.7 quakes early Wednesday morning, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The Central Valley and western communities of the Sierra also felt the quakes, the USGS reported.

Erinn Wells, who owns the Walker River Lodge, Silver Maple Inn and The Cain House, wrote an email to The Sheet about the damage. She said that water has stopped flowing into the iconic “travertine” pools just a short walk from the parking lot, on Bureau of Land Management property. Those pools are featured on the cover of “Touring Hot Springs California and Nevada,” published by Falcon Guides.

Wells said that several of the iconic pools, fed by rivulets of hot water running down a natural travertine seam, have frozen over from the lack of hot water. She also said that a new hot water spout has formed in the parking lot near a manmade concrete tub.

“Locals are bummed, because the two pools are the most popular with visitors/tourists,” wrote Wells. She said that there is “a small bit of water coming down the seam into the pools, so maybe it will open up again?”

“Hopefully it does,” said Lynda Pemberton, who answered the Bridgeport Visitor Center’s phone. “It brings a lot of people here.”

Jeff Simpson, Economic Development Manager for Mono County Tourism, told The Sheet that the tourism department hadn’t posted anything to let visitors know about the change. “There’s still water going to [several] other tubs, so I don’t think it’s important enough for us to post at this point. I also don’t know if the earthquake did affect it or if it’s just temporary,” said Simpson.

David Risley, geologist for the USFS in Bridgeport, told The Sheet on Wednesday “It definitely could be the earthquake [that caused the change]. One of the epicenters was not that many miles away—there were over 200 quakes during a period of time and one epicenter was only 7 miles away [from Bridgeport].”

However, said Risley, “it’s even common without [an earthquake] to have a plumbing system change…[the hot spouts are] constantly shifting, and if you look you can see where the old ones are dying off and the new ones are developing. Even in the seasonal flow, there’s pretty significant variations.”

However, Risley said, “because of the timing, (the earthquakes) definitely have a high significance of causing a shift in the plumbing system.” He said on Thursday that the flow in the “Hot Tub Pool” (featured on the cover of the Falcon Guide) had gone from about 15 gallons per minute to about four.

The town of Bodie also closed following the temblors. “There’s some damage to a roof, broken glass windows, some interior damage and some brickwork. Mostly it’s bricks,” Matthew Green, chief ranger for the Sierra District of California State Parks, told the San Jose Mercury News. He said the park would remain closed until the damage could be assessed.

Wells said that she believed that some Bridgeport locals may work on building a new pool to receive the new flow of water if the flow into the original pools does not resume.
HOUSING CRISIS? WHAT HOUSING CRISIS?
MLH debates need for new housing study, best use of MMSA funds

By Giles

A ccusations flew at Tuesday’s Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) board meeting, when board member and Mayor Pro Tem John Wentworth told the board he felt “blindsided” by fellow board members. Wentworth was frustrated by the board’s hesitation to support a new housing study. Wentworth said he was led to believe his fellow board members supported a study and that he had discussed the matter with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area CEO Rusty Gregory last month.

At a November 16 Town Council Meeting, Gregory said “Housing may be the biggest obstacle for Mammoth Mountain and the community,” and said MMSA would invest $250,000 into affordable housing in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. According to Wentworth, MLH needs to consult MMSA if it wants to keep that funding. He said Gregory told him he supported using the funds for an updated Housing Needs Assessment in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Mono County and the TOML has already identified for construction affordable housing that Town Council was entering into negotiations over the Shady Rest Parcel since. According to Stapp, Town Manager Dan Holler has been unable to schedule that meeting since Stapp first requested it on October 29, 2016. Stapp said it was ridiculous that Town Council was entering into closed session negotiations over the Shady Rest Parcel without briefings by Mammoth Lakes Housing. Stapp and Board Members Bill Taylor and Larry Johnston said Town Council should pay for the study and MLH should save the funds to invest in new housing opportunities.

Wentworth maintained that anecdotal evidence of a housing crisis was not sufficient to convince private donors, such as MMSA, to allocate funds for affordable housing. Wentworth referenced recent exchanges between the Town and tech firm Host Compliance, which the town is considering hiring to assist with enforcing Transient Occupancy Tax Revenue and enforcing illegal nightly rentals. He recommended that a portion of the funds promised by Gregory be used to “piggyback” onto that project, if it is approved by Town Council, so that Mammoth Lakes Housing can use the “robot” offered by Host Compliance to collect data about existing housing stock. There is currently no contract between Host Compliance and The Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The MLH board directed Halferty to develop a financial plan and scope for a needs assessment that the board could then present to Town Council in February. Halferty said the 2011 Housing Needs Assessment was conducted before online booking firms like Airbnb had become popular in Mammoth Lakes. “Between then and where we are today, a lot has changed,” said Halferty. “Right now we have this anecdotal evidence that our housing situation has gotten worse. We hear it from business owners, real estate agents, etc. That’s enough for some people, and not enough for others.” Halferty expressed her hope that hard data would convince Town Council to invest financially in solving the affordable housing shortage.

LOCAL BRIEFS
Jail death under investigation

According to the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office, at about 5 a.m. on Saturday, December 24, Inyo County Jail Staff attempted to wake up a 46-year-old female who was in a cell by herself, and found she was deceased.

The Sheriff’s Office and the Inyo County District Attorney’s Office stated that no foul play is suspected. The Orange County Coroner conducting the toxicology and autopsy reports has stated that preliminarily, there does not appear to be any signs of physical trauma.

The female has been identified as Theresa Hooper of Bishop. The Inyo County District Attorney’s Office is handling the in-custody death investigation.

The Inyo County District Attorney’s office confirmed that the Sheriff’s Department “has, per standard protocol, requested our office to assume investigation of the death. The initial inquiry does not indicate any foul play. The investigation is in its initial stages, and more information will be released when appropriate.”

Hooper had been serving a sentence for misdemeanor offenses at the time of her death. An autopsy was conducted on December 30, 2016. The cause of death has not been established, pending the completion of toxicological tests. Results from these tests may
Cannabis consultant David McPherson hired by Inyo County Supes

By James

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors heard a presentation at its Tuesday, January 3 meeting by David McPherson, the “cannabis consultant” hired by the County to guide it through the local government requirements associated with the voter approval of Proposition 64: The Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA). The proposition (now law), made it legal immediately upon passage to use cannabis recreationally in California, and it also addressed the already legal use of medical marijuana.

If you want to learn the “ABCs of CPR” (Cannabis Product Regulation), there are few consultant firms better than the one that McPherson works for—Hinderliter, de Llamas and Associates (HdL). The Southern California consulting firm, established in 1983, specializes in revenue enhancement strategies for local governments to maximize revenues by providing a variety of audits, analytical services and software products to cities, counties and special districts. Currently HdL is serving 300 cities, 44 counties, and 79 districts in six states, and has worked with over 50 local agencies providing outreach and education for developing marijuana policies.

When the HdL consultant services contract was approved last month by County Supervisors at a cost of $75,000, it raised more than a few eyebrows and concerns, but according to Inyo County Administrative Officer Kevin Carunchio, County staff is already “over-worked” and simply do not have the needed expertise to properly advise and guide the County through the complicated process of regulating and taxing cannabis.

Carunchio placed a phone call to McPherson at HdL the morning after voters approved Proposition 64, saying that “it was the smart thing to do.”

Carunchio explained that he had been very impressed McPherson, who has been a guest speaker at numerous government forums. McPherson is considered one of the state’s most recognized and respected experts on cannabis horticulture, processing and dispensary operations. That experience showed in the presentation that he gave at the County Supervisors workshop on Tuesday afternoon.

McPherson gave the county supervisors a very thorough and detailed explanation of where the cannabis industry is currently, provided a history of the industry and the legal issues, and provided a roadmap for the County to follow in putting together an action plan. It is expected that the process of taxing and regulating the cannabis business take up to a year and that it will be completed by the end of 2017. The Supervisors assured the public that there will be many more public workshops and meetings on the issue seeking input in the coming months before any final decisions are made.

Strategic decisions must be made by the County on both personal and commercial cultivation (i.e. land use issues), as well as on distribution and transportation. Regulations on dispensary sales, testing, environmental protection, storage and home delivery will also need to be decided. It is a very complex and complicated process that requires close cooperation between County staff, stakeholders, and the County’s consultant.

With the passage of measures on marijuana taxation, commercialization and cultivation the ballot on Nov. 8, in anticipation of Prop 64’s approval by voters, Inyo County is a “already a leg up” on moving forward quickly on the problems and challenges its passage will place on the County, said Carunchio.

McPherson told the Supervisors that the state has “set the regulatory bar pretty low” and that they have the option to make changes at the local level, although they do not have the authority to ban the use of marijuana for recreational or medical use. That is now legal for adults 21 years of age and older. However, they can make decisions on where cannabis can be grown and on where it is permissible to smoke in public. It is expected that existing vaping, tobacco and alcohol regulations will be applied to the use of marijuana.

At the end of the presentation, the supervisors were advised by McPherson to “take baby steps to full implementation” and to make sure that their focus is on “developing good regulatory and taxing policies, and not on economic benefits that may result in unintended consequences.” It is no secret that there is considerable anticipation by many local and state government officials that they can “cash in” on the legalization of marijuana. And while there is certainly the potential for significant tax revenue to help cash-strapped states and local governments, McPherson urged the County to “take your time and get it right.”


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PEGORARE continued from page 1

didn’t matter what they were sell- ing, he was supporting them. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen as many girl scout cookies as delivery day at Al’s,” said Booser in a statement.

Betty Eaton, owner of Hillgrove Market in Hacienda Heights, said she hired Albert for his first job. She and her husband were family friends of his parents, Jenny and Johnny Pegorare. “He started working in our store when he was very young, and he became our butcher,” said Eaton.

“That was when he became family,” Eaton’s grandson, Tom Mullinax, is a Bridgeport resident and considered by many to be Albert’s closest family in the area. Mullinax knew Albert his whole life and said, “He was always there for me...he was a very special person.” Mullinax said Albert loved to hunt and fish and loved the mountains.

Pegorare was a passionate supporter of gun rights and worked for twenty years to establish and support the Bridgeport Gun Club. He helped to organize events such as the annual Gun Rights Dinner, which brought the Bridgeport Gun Club together in the 1990s.

Pegorare started working in the meat business when he was fifteen. According to Mooney, he started out as a “cleanup boy” at Hillgrove Market. Throughout his childhood he made annual trips to Doc and Al’s campground to hunt and fish with his parents. Eventually, he decided to move to Bridgeport permanently.

Prior to starting his own business, Pegorare worked as the butcher at the Bridgeport General Store. Pegorare owned and operated Albert’s Meat Market and Deli for about twenty years.

Pegorare was not married and has no children. He is survived by his cousins, among them Mary Carol Goodman. According to his friends and fellow business owners, he gave relentlessly to the community of Bridgeport without ever asking for anything in return. Friends of Mono Village called Pegorare a "propo- nent of all that is good." Reid said he was unsure what Bridgeport would do without him. “He did the most incredible things for our community, without ever caring about compensa- tion or who got credit. He's going to be missed. He was a cornerstone in our community,” according to Pettit.

There will be a memorial service held for Albert Pegorare on January 28. The event is open to the public. Those who wish to attend are asked to bring a potluck item to share with their memories and stories of Albert. In lieu of flowers, dona- tions to the Bridgeport Gun Club can be made in Albert’s name at Eastern Sierra Community Bank.

JAIL continued from page 1

County population.

Myers stated in an email to The Sheet on Wednesday, January 4, that Mammoth Hospital is not talking to the County about “contracting to run a medical facility for the County in the proposed jail facility.”

If a new jail is to be constructed, it would be located at the defunct Twin Lakes Hospital property. The old hos- pital would be removed to make room for the new jail. Garrett Higerd, County Engineer, said he was unsure whether the SB 844 money would cover the costs of demolition.

Eric Fadness and Lorenzo Lopez of the architectural firm of Nacht and Lewis conducted a needs assessment of the facility and presented the de- tails of both options.

Any project funded by SB 844 must be built in compliance with current building code and with strict SB 844 requirements like fire suppression sprinklers. Lopez said the current jail would have to be brought up to code for the annex addition. Bringing the jail up to code will be expensive, Lopez said, because of the three decades’ worth of building codes that have been added since the jail was constructed in the 1980s.

Supervisor Fred Stump argued that any option without understanding the needs of the rest of the County. Janet Dutcher, Finance Director, said she hasn’t yet crunched the num- bers to see if the projects are within the budget.

The flip side is that without medi- cal services, and without meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, a lawsuit is just waiting to happen, said Johnston on Tuesday. Mono County Sheriff-Coroner Ingrid Braun has raised the spectre of a law- suit in the past.

Dutcher said the opportunity that SB 844 presents is worth pursuing. Requests for funding are due Feb- ruary 28.
Help Wanted

Sierra Employment Services, Inc is hiring for the following positions:

- Cashiers - $11.55
- Bookkeepers - $15/hr
- Spa Maintenance-M $20/hr
- Sandwich Maker-M $11-$12/hr

Call 760.924.0523 or 760.873.8599
See our full job list online at www.SierraEmployment.com

Accountant or full charge bookkeeper needed for growing practice. Competitive pay, medical insurance, 401(k), profit sharing, flex time. Send resume via email to buttersho@google.com or Fax resume to 760.934.5369.

Work With The Best. Footloose Sports, 760-934-4993, is hiring for the upcoming season. We are seeking a staff who works hard as they play. We’re looking for responsible individuals, passionate about winter sports, and motivated to provide the best in customer service. We have full and part-time positions open in sales, rental, and ski repair departments. We are offering great pay, DOE, and flexible hours, in a fun environment. There is a 14-day hire-in period and a 3-day training period. Call us at 760.934.2400. Go to our website at www.footloosesports.com or e-mail your resume to footloose@footloosesports.com to schedule an interview.

Part Time Year Round Maintenance Laborer Needed For Condominium Complex. You may complete an application at 2289 Sierra Nevada Road or email your resume to recognized@alpinehomeswest.com. Call 760.934.4993 for more information.

Full time hospitality position. Seeking responsible, outgoing hospitality reservation agent for local management company. Excellent tips/customer service skills required. Previous reservation experience preferred. Flexible 32-40 hours per week starting immediately. $12-14/hr DOE. Please email resume to cindy@SierraSierraOnline.com

Part Time 

**NO-CLASSIFIEDS/BRIEFS**

**BRIEFS**

continued from page 8

Bribe was required for each application. The Bribe is illegal and will result in fines and legal action if caught. Five years in jail and a fine of $50,000 for each offense.

Room for five more shots

Inyo County has been granted five additional liquor licenses. The licenses are like Golden Tickets, they’re nearly impossible to come by, but they can be a huge asset to any business and keep tourists in town longer. John Carr, public information officer for the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control who told The Sheet the licenses had been approved by the state legislature, and sponsored by Assemblyman Devon Mathis, 26th District, which includes Inyo County.

The number of licenses available for sale in a county is based on the population—the tourism base isn’t calculated in. Inyo County Supervisor Mathis explained to the board on Monday, January 2 that Inyo County is modeling its argument after similar counties, like San Luis Obispo, with fewer licenses. Both Carr and Inyo County Supervisors stated in a letter to Mathis that more licenses could increase business by allowing establishments to have more license holders.

“Mathis recognized the need to level the playing field for Inyo,” King said.

There’s only one establishment selling full liquor license in Lone Pine, the Seasons Restaurant. The last place to have a license there was Jake’s Saloon. The owner of Jake’s sold his license due to illness, to the Paiute Palace Casino, in anticipation of the worst. He recovered, only to be left without a license but still serves cold beer and wine. The veterans of World War II, including John Carr and Inyo County Supervisors approved by the state legislature, and sponsored by Assemblyman Devon Mathis, 26th District, which includes Inyo County. The veterans of World War II, including John Carr and Inyo County Supervisors have created should incorporate the ties of the Hearing Board. Experience is required. A Class B license is required. Visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov for more information.

For Rent


Three Light and Bright, beautifully furnished 2 BDR/1.5 BA Single family home. 2 car garage, Washer, Dryer, gas, electric refrigerator. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall and the Mt. Whitney Golf Club each have a special license that allows service to members, but not to the general public. The other places in Lone Pine, like the lodge, have a regular license and sell cold beer and wine. There is one license-holder in Big Pine, Rossie’s Place. There are 11 full-service license holders in Bishop and 4 in Death Valley. There are more than 30 in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, in Mono County. There are requisites for applying for a license, such as having a business in escrow or already established, and the premises must be surveyed by the ABC. After a probationary period and investigation by the ABC, a license is issued. Carr explained that a person or entity should only apply for a license if they meet the criteria.

If there are more than five applicants for the available licenses, winners will be chosen by random drawing. A liquor license allows a person to sell hard alcohol, but it doesn’t allow for operations. An applicant would have to go through local permitting processes to run a business.

Carr said the application and review process is in September.
**BARS & MUSIC**

**Happy Hour**/The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. $1 off draft beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread.

**Outlaw Saloon**, 4-7 p.m. daily and all night on Mondays.

**Robert's** 4-6 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.

**Austria Hof**, 4-7 p.m. Sun.-Thurs. Fri.-Sat. 4-6 p.m. Whitebar Restaurant Bar & Lounge Unwind with daily drink and food specials 4-6 p.m. Half price sushi Mondays.

**Clocktower Cellar** Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily and all day Sunday. $3 dollar menu items, drink specials. Petra's Bistro Happy Hour, $22 pasta bowl, salad and glass of wine. 3:30-6 p.m. Specials on cocktails, wine, beer and menu items. Happy Hour @ Sushi Rei. 5-6 p.m. daily. Half off apps and $5 hand roll + small sake. Sundays are all-night happy hour.

**Happy Hour @ The Bistro at Snowcreek,** 4:30-6:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Mammoth Tavern Happy Hour Tuesday-Sunday 3:30-5 p.m. Closed Mondays.

**Smokeyard weekend Happy Hour** 4-6 p.m. in the bar only.

**Side Door** Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m. Fridays: Half off Moscow and Kentucky Mules. Saturday and Sunday: Bottomless mimosas 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Mammoth's famous Slocums Happy Hour** 4-6 p.m.

**Giovanni's Happy Hour,** daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer get you free wings.

**Lakanuki Happy Hour** daily 4:30-10:30 p.m. $4 margaritas, Mai Tais and daily discounts. Sun. Club Nights with DJ Night Audit. Happy Hour drink specials 10 p.m. - close.

**Blue Velvet Coffee's Happy Hour,** from 4-6 p.m. every day, $8 glasses of wine.

**January 6-7/ The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill.** Free Live Music feat. The Judged Haters. Local New Year's Eve. Bring a name tag or pay stub from a local business & get Happy Hour all Night. See ad, p. 11

**Funk Shui Planet** plays 5:30-7:30 p.m., $7 glasses of Black Velvet Coffee's Happy Hour, from 4:30-10:30 p.m. $22 pasta bowl, salad and glass of wine. 3:30-6 p.m. Specials on cocktails, wine, beer and menu items. Happy Hour @ Sushi Rei. 5-6 p.m. daily. Half off apps and $5 hand roll +small sake. Sundays are all-night happy hour.

**January 7/8- South Tufa walks** happen on weekends at 1 p.m. and last about an hour. Meet @ South Tufa off of Hwy 120 east. Info: Mono Lake Committee @ 760.847.8595.

**Saturday, January 7/ Deadline to submit comments** online about the multi-modal bicycle, pedestrian, transit and parking action plan, and “downtown.” Visit www.connectmammothblakes.com

**Sage to Summit and Inyo County Search and Rescue Winter Race** Series 5k. 9 a.m. Millpond Park in Bishop. Fundraiser for Inyo SAR. Registration: $10, begins at 8 a.m. morning of race.

**MHS Varsity Girls Soccer** against Bishop @ BOHS, 1-2:30.

**Call 411 passholder early-ups @ MMSA. Passholders start skiing 7:30 a.m. Complimentary breakfast @ McCoy Station.**

**Wooly's Saturday Parade in the Village Events Plaza.** Starts 3:45 p.m. and includes: Music, face painting, complimentary hot cocoa.

**Sunday, January 8/ Sierra Club outing—cross country ski/snowshoe to Horseshoe Lake if the weather clears. Meet @ Union Bank 9 a.m. Carpool to the Lakes Basin parking area. Contact Brigitte for more details 760.924.2140 or jungberman@mac.com. Check out the ROLG meetup page: www.meetup.com/rolg-sierrclub-outings-meetup. Unbound Series Slopestyle #2, Rev Tour qualifier. 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. @ MMSA. Info: Ben Wisner 760.934.2571 x 3144 or bwisner@mammothresorts.com.

**Monday, January 9/ Bishop City Council meeting** at 6 p.m. Bishop City Hall, 377 W. Line St. Questions: 760.873.5863.

**January 10-12/ MakerSpace at Mammoth Lakes Library from 2-5 p.m.**

**Monday, January 10/ PiYo fitness classes at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center with Steph, 6:30-7:30 p.m. $7 drop-in rate. Info: 562.708.4273.**

**Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance** monthly support group meets @ Northern Inyo Healthcare District’s Birch St. Annex, 2957 Birch St. in Bishop. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Open to all cancer patients and their support person. Info: 760.872.3811. See sidebar, next page.

**Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission meets @ Village Event Plaza, Suite Z. Mammoth Friends of the Library meeting @ Mammoth Lakes Library. 1 p.m.**

**Mono County Board of Supervisors** meets in Suite Z @ 9 a.m.

**Friday, January 6/ Electric Tubing @ Woolly's Tube Park. 6-6 p.m. DJ, Food & drink specials to keep you warm by the firepit, glow party favors, fun. Call 1.800. MAMMOTH for info.**

**January 7/8- South Tufa walks** happen on weekends at 1 p.m. and last about an hour. Meet @ South Tufa off of Hwy 120 east. Info: Mono Lake Committee @ 760.847.8595.

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Co-Ed indoor soccer

Adult Co-Ed Indoor Soccer is returning for another season in January! This season we will offer an "A League" for teams that participated in the program last season on Sunday nights, plus a new "REC League" for any new teams wishing to join in on the fun on Monday nights. The REC League is open to any individuals interested in playing indoor soccer (no previous experience required) who may not be able to put together a team. The first few nights of the REC League will be all about meeting new people, forming teams, and starting up the new league! "A" League will begin on January 8, and the REC League will begin on January 21. The Parks and Recreation Department is now also hiring sports officials for the upcoming winter Adult Indoor Soccer Leagues. Interested applicants should apply online or call Cassie at 760.965.3604 for more information. Tryouts and posting can be viewed online at www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/jobs.aspx.

Paleontology weekends

The DVNHA (Death Valley Natural History Assn.) is hosting two Death Valley Paleontology Weekends: February 4-5 & February 18-19. Cost: $75 per person, per weekend. The hikes will be led by paleontologist Torrey Nyborg, Ph.D. from La Sierra University's Earth science program. He is a field expert having completed extensive research in Death Valley and we are very lucky to have him volunteer and help interpret Death Valley's Natural History by sharing his knowledge. Paying attendees will meet at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center 7:45 a.m. Saturdays. Sunday meeting time is 10 a.m.

Call DVNHA at 1-800.478.8564. X10 for reservations. Reservations are limited to only 15 participants per weekend and there are only a couple of spots left.

Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance

The Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance has a monthly Support Group that meets the first Tuesday of the month from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Northern Inyo Healthcare District's Birch Street Annex, 2957 Birch St, Bishop. The group is open to all cancer patients and their support person. The Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance Resource Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Since its inception, this organization has helped many by providing resources, financial aid, and has given moral support for those fighting cancer. Anyone interested in volunteering or have questions about how Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance can help, please call 760.872.3911.

Screenwriting class

Screenwriter and published author, John Nordlinger, graduate of USC's 2013 MFA class, will reveal his tips on story-telling and screenwriting during January 11-12/ Full Moon tours @ Tamarack XC Ski Center, Take a naturalist-guided tour on cross country skis or snowshoes. Tours are $55 per person and include equipment, guide for the evening, trail access, and a fireside hot beverage inside Tamarack Lodge. Tours depart the Ski Center at 7 p.m. Tours require previous experience. Space limited. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED, CALL 800.MAMMOTH.

Wednesday, January 11/ Mammoth's Planning and Economic Development Commission meets, 2:00 p.m. in Suite Z.

Beacons & Beer with Sierra Mountain Guides and Mountain Rambler Brewery: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sage to Summit, 312 Main St. in Bishop. All proceeds benefit Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center.

Story Time @ Mammoth Lakes library. 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) meets in the Lee Vining Community Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Mammoth's Planning and Economic Development Commission meets in Suite Z, 2 p.m.

Turbo Kick fitness classes at Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m. $7 drop-in rate. Info: Steph @ 562.708.4273.

January 14-15/ Squeeze My Can: A Painful Tale of one woman's journey in the Church of Scientology. At the Edison Theatre, 100 College Parkwy. Saturday 7 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m. Info: 760.934.6992 and www.mammothlakesreperoty.com. See story, p. 15.

January 14-15/ Electric Tubing at Woolly's Tube

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (PG-13): Jyn Erso leads the charge to steal the plans to the planet-destroying Death Star. Sweet star fighter sequences. Sing (PG): Starring the voices of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon and Seth MacFarlane, this animated flick about a cast of singing critters comes from the creators of Despicable Me.

For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com

an eight-week course which begins January 5. The class will show and discuss current movies, and students will work on loglines, synopses, and their first ten pages of their script. Each class will teach the students how to give valuable feedback.

Classes will be held from 6-9 p.m. at The Imagination Lab, 621 West Line, Suite 204 upstairs. If you have questions or would like to secure your place in class, contact Eva at bkimmel@hotmail.com. There is a registration fee.

MUF Public comment period begins

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is circulating for public review a Draft EIR for proposed Mammoth Creek Park West New Community Multi-Use Facilities Project. A 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR ends on February 13, 2017. Town staff will respond to all comments received on the Draft EIR.

Copies of the Draft EIR are available at the following locations: Town of Mammoth Lakes, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R; Town of Mammoth Lakes website: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov; Mono County Library, 400 Sierra Park Road. All comments and responses to this notice should be submitted in writing to: Sandra Moberly, Community and Economic Development Manager, PO Box 1609, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546, 760.965.3633, or via email at smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

In addition to the opportunity to provide written comments in response to this Notice of Availability, the Town will conduct a public meeting to hear comments on February 13, 2017. The meeting will be held at The Imagination Lab, 621 West Line, Suite 204 upstairs. If you have questions or would like to secure your place in class, contact Eva at bkimmel@hotmail.com. There is a registration fee.

Peapod playgroups

Mono County First 5 is a free opportunity for families to socialize and encourage development through play. Group schedule: Mammoth English Peapod: Thursdays 10-11 a.m. at Mammoth Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail. Lee Vining Peapod: Tuesdays 11 a.m.-12 p.m. @ Lee Vining Community Center, 2665 Main Ave. Bridgeport Peapod: Tuesdays 3:15-4:15 p.m. Bridgeport Memorial Hall, 73 North School St. Walker Peapod: Wednesdays 4-5 p.m. @ Walker Wellness Center, 107655 Hwy 395. Chalfant & Mammoth Spanish Peapod: Call if interested. 760.924.7626. See ad, p. 15.
Fictitious Business Name Statement
The fictitious business name is no longer in use.
Fictitious Business Name Statement
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HOW ABOUT THEM CANS?

Cathy Schenkelberg brings her story of surviving Scientology to Mammoth for two nights only

The Edison Theatre will host a special engagement for “Squeeze My Cans: Surviving Scientology” for two nights only on January 14-15.

While Clouds McCloud might choose to attend based on the title, the reason I’m going, after speaking with writer Cathy Schenkelberg this week, is that she’s forthright and witty and ... not a wuss.

She’s not a victim and she doesn’t want you feeling sorry for her. She just has a tale to tell. And that tale, she says, is something that most people will be able to identify with: Bad relationships are universal.

And a hint. The cans she’s referencing are not those cans, but actual ... cans. We’ll get to that.

But let’s back up for a moment to give you a little background about Schenkelberg.

She’s one of ten children (Catholic), the daughter of a firefighter and a homemaker, raised in Omaha, Nebraska. She had a self-described “great upbringing.”

But then, a brother died in a car crash at 19. And she was dissatisfied with the church’s response. The “everything happens for a reason, he was with the church” clichés just didn’t ring true. Her father’s advice was, “Do what you love.”

And so she did. She had a heart for the fine arts. There was no more money to get her through college in Chicago. She got a job at Applebee’s, the Olive Garden, other chain restaurants. She worked her way through a BFA at Northwestern University.

That brought in $89,000 right out of the gate.

“Enlightenment” within the church comes at a price. You pay to attain that. Schenkelberg says she had spent a staggering $983,000. From the Sun-Times: “In the show, Schenkelberg demonstrates how Scientology strips away everything in a person’s life not connected to the church.”

And she did. She had reached the upper levels of Scientology’s courses but she says when she experienced a downward swing in her career and the money dried up she was shunned by the church.

“that I was in a group that was truly evil,” she says.

“I’m not upset about the money but I am upset about all the lost time. That makes me the saddest.”

“That’s the underlying thing about it,” she told the Sun this week. “The slow burn. You don’t know how in it you are until you have time to reflect.”

Schenkelberg describes Scientology as a “cult.” She says the group became a religion for tax purposes. And it is a major property holder, notably in Southern California. As a “church owns seven historic Hollywood properties worth about $300 million, part of a Hollywood real estate empire of 26 properties, according to real estate experts.”

Schenkelberg became an increasingly attractive member of the group as her acting career, particularly in voice-over work, took off. “Kohl’s, Sears, Applebee’s … you’ve heard me before,” she says. Her first voice-over line: “If it doesn’t come from you, shouldn’t it come from Gerber?”

That brought in $89,000 right out of the gate.

“Enlightenment” within the church comes at a price. You pay to attain higher levels. So the church crashed in on Cathy’s professional success.

Schenkelberg said she had reached level 7 out of 8 when she finally became privy to one of the big church records “electrodermal activity.”

“There was no more money to get from me and that’s when I really saw that I was in a group that was truly evil,” she says.

“I’m not upset about the money but I am upset about all the lost time. That makes me the saddest.”

There were body “thetans” (or aliens) circling all around her, around everyone.

But to circle back to the cans ... a large reason the church maintains so much fealty is that it subjects members to de facto lie detector tests six every months, where one literally squeezes cans that are hooked up to a low-level electrical current to a machine (called an E-meter) which records “electrodermal activity.”

Schenkelberg found that if one achieved a certain level in Scientology, it was best to place oneself in a position to hear anything bad about Scientology, because then you’d be pressed to report it and Schenkelberg wasn’t a very good liar. “I failed it all the time,” she says.

Essentially, hear no evil, report no evil, get left alone.

As to how Schenkelberg survived and got out, we’ll leave that for the show. As well as her audition to be Tom Cruise’s girlfriend.

“Squeeze My Cans” runs Saturday 7 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Edison Theatre in Mammoth. Call 760.934.6592 or visit www.mammothlakesrepertorytheatre.com for tix $20/$18. “For mature audiences.”

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