**SLIP SLIDING AWAY**

Roofs are collapsing around town, the latest incident displaced five families

By Rea and Giles

An apartment complex housing five families and two businesses saw its roof collapse on Wednesday, February 8 at around 2:00 p.m. The Sheet arrived on scene shortly after Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, Mono County Sheriff’s deputies and paramedics extricated residents still trapped in the building, located at 2065 Sierra Nevada Rd.

Mammoth Lakes Fire Department Captain Natalie Morrow, the Incident Commander, told The Sheet that “There were occupants inside the building when [MLFD] arrived on scene. Captain [Robert] Williams got occupants out of units two and five.”

When The Sheet arrived, smoke could be seen billowing from wood stove chimneys torn asunder by the roof slide. “There were some safety concerns for us getting in and out of the building,” said Morrow. “Our main concern was getting people out safely. Then we made sure to extinguish the wood burning stoves.”

The complex is directly behind Roberto’s restaurant, and Mammoth Lakes Police Department officers were asking patrons and employees of Roberto’s to move their cars due to the danger of the western side of the building sliding as well.

Ed Schuyler, owner of the apartment complex, said it was about ten minutes from the time he noticed a crack in the roof until the entire thing slid. “We looked at [the south] side, and it had a crack about 2-4 inches wide. Then we walked over to [the north] side, and it had a crack about 4-6 inches wide. Then it just went.”

Manuel Villalobos was inside his unit taking a nap when the roof detached. “I do snow removal at Snowcreek.

**ROAD CLOSED, MAN**

This truck overturned on Highway 395 on Thursday at about 10:30 a.m. Subsequently, the California Highway Patrol closed the road. But the news doesn’t stop for wind—as of press time, publisher Jack Lunch was making his way through Nevada to pick up The Sheet. He spotted two more trucks overturned in Lee Vining. “Big thumbs up to the multiple big rigs who disregarded the [high wind advisory] and are now resting comfortably on their sides,” wrote the Mono County Sheriff’s Office on its Facebook page.

**NO VOTE?**

County offices may not require public approval

By Giles

At the November 16 joint meeting of the Mono County Board of Supervisors and Mammoth Lakes Town Council, the two entities agreed to pursue planning for a new joint government office center in Mammoth Lakes. According to Mono County Administrative Officer Leslie Chapman, The Mono County Board of Supervisors may have the authority to approve the massive bond necessary to finance the project without putting it to a public vote.

The Supervisors will debate building new vs. signing a lease extension at the Sierra Center Mall, at the February 21 board meeting.

This week, Chapman told The Sheet her staff has calculated a revised estimate for the total cost of constructing a new, 43,000 square foot County office facility, based on construction cost of $580/square foot. She said her staff is in the process of consulting financial advisors regarding the cost of financing the project, which County staff estimates will cost $24.9 million. She envisioned a facility built jointly by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County, with each entity responsible for financing and building its own wing.

Collaborative Design Studios (CDS), the firm Mono County paid roughly $26,000 to conduct a feasibility study for a new government center last year, estimated that renewing the existing lease at the Sierra Center Mall would cost the County $26 million over twenty years. Chapman said that it is reasonable for the Board of Supervisors to vote on whether or not to proceed with a new building, as the funds required to do so would be less than what the County currently expends in rent to occupy The Sierra Center Mall. “We know we [Mono County] can service a debt on a new building in the short run,” said Chapman this week. “It would be just a little more [per month] than

**ROOF COLLAPSE**

The roof slid—quite literally—at this apartment complex on Tavern Road in Mammoth on Wednesday, February 8. Here, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department Captain Natalie Morrow stages a crew to secure the property, as wood-burning stoves still smolder under a detached ceiling.

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**Pinko commies**

/p. 12-13/

**Shoeless Joe**

/p. 2/

**Bailed out**

/p. 8/

**Clinically dead**

/p. 7/

**Red eye**

/p. 5/
RINK OF DREAMS

Wednesday’s Planning and Economic Development Commission meeting in Mammoth presented another opportunity for public comment regarding the proposed multi-use facility/ice rink for Mammoth Creek Park.

Again, no one showed up to speak on behalf of the project. I’m not saying that there aren’t people who support the project. I just think that deep down they don’t bother to attend these meetings because the proposed project is so expensive, so unrealistic, so beyond what the rink proponents actually wanted or even asked for (all they asked for was a roof for the existing rink. That’s it. They just wanted to ensure the opportunity for the rink to be consistently open) that you have to figure they’re frankly embarrassed by this proposal.

Five people spoke against. I was one of them.

At the meeting, Public Works Director Grady Dutton attested that the current rink operates at about a $250,000 annual deficit.

What will the annual operating deficit be when you factor in an $11 million construction project? Financing that alone would probably cost you $400,000/year minimum.

Then you’d have to restore the existing rink site to its original condition per the agreement with the school district. I’ll bet that would cost another $500,000. Then you’ve got to heat and otherwise maintain a 43,000-square foot facility (30,000-square foot roof required for the rink as well as the 13,000-square foot community center). You’ve got to staff it, program it … and there’s going to be tons of pressure to do that because a white elephant requires a lot of calories and a lot of peanuts.

After all, you’re not just paying $42,000/year rent for the property as you are now. You’re paying ten times that for your elephant, before you even get into your operational losses. But, say the powers that be, at least we’ll own our elephant!

Is it better to own an elephant or rent a squirrel?

So this is the line they’re gonna feed you in response. “If you build it, he will come.” That’s right. We’ve never actually had a roof on our rink. Get a handle on what kind of demand there is for the product it we can actually provide it on a consistent basis. Nevertheless, we will bet $11 million on a premise fed to us by a writer named W.P. Kin-

sella who wrote that line in a novel that was turned into a movie.

Only thing is, that’s not what Kinsella wrote. It’s one of the most misquoted lines in history.

The actual line is, “If you build it, he will come,” the ‘he’ in question being “Shoeless” Joe Jackson. I think the line has been consistently butchered as ‘they’ to reference the fictional baseball players (risen from the dead) and the fictional fans who visited the fictional farm of lead character Ray Kinsella to come watch them.

Over time, this butchered line has become synonymous with pro-development gospel, to the point where I hear it said all the time at various public meetings and not only do people not laugh out loud, but some actually nod their heads in agreement, as if it’s conventional wisdom beyond dispute. Right. We build it. People show up. Isn’t that what the peddlers want to build shiny new offices for themselves.

identified in the EIR as the “preferred” site based on environmental Mitigated Declarations? In my entire career, I’ve never seen an EIR which has actually said “stop,” then all an EIR represents is a welfare employment program for consultants and government staffers.

MMSA’s Tom Hodges advised on Wednesday that the Town should’ve considered the Shady Rest Tract as one of the site alternatives for the MUF. The Sheet hopes to present a sketch of the Shady Rest Proposal next week.

Community Development Director Sandra Moberly said the “Civic Center” site (next to the courthouse & new police facility) had been identified in the EIR as the “preferred” site based on environmental impacts. The town doesn’t want to place the MUF there because that’s where the taxaters want to build shiny new offices for themselves.

I write that as I count five people currently occupying The Sheet’s 225-square foot office, which is coincidentally the size of Town Manager Dan Holler’s proposed new office.

Speaking of consultants, Darin Dinsmore (the new “Downtown” consultant whose hiring precipitated Mickey Brown’s resignation from Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission) gave the PEDC an “update” on his progress Tuesday.

He claimed that he was meeting with all the downtown property owners who voiced opposition to the proposed downtown project.

I doubt the owners will be convinced, because the downtown area will never have a demand for the proposed downtown project. I mean, have you met a white elephant?

It’s so much more convenient than actually studying an issue and applying reason and/or logic. Heaven forbid if math is involved.

Do what you said you were going to do in the first place. Put a roof on the existing rink. Get a handle on what kind of demand there is for it. Then and only then can you contemplate plowing under your cornfields because you might have some data to back your projections.

You say you don’t want to spend $1 million on a roof for a non-permanent structure. That’s a waste of money. Myself, I don’t want to spend $11 million on a nicely turned phrase.

A few random observations ...

Why do Environmental Impact Reports always advocate Negative Mitigated Declarations? In my entire career, I’ve never seen an EIR come back which says, “Wow, there’s too much impact. Don’t do this.”

So if there’s never been an EIR which has actually said “stop,” then all an EIR represents is a welfare employment program for consultants and government staffers.

See DREAMS, page 19
LETTERS

Alternative facts

Dear Editor:

About 15 months ago three Town Council members, Wentworth, Fernie and Bacon made a 180 degree turn, tossing aside prior Councils’ decisions for a Mammoth Ice Rink. They reneged on a long term lease/partnership with MUSD. They threw away the $2 million investment made in good faith. We, the people, pleaded for a promised roof/shape structure on the rink. Our pleas fell on deaf ears. Wentworth, Fernie and Bacon decided to build a “state of the art,” expensive “Hollywood MUF,” etc., completely ignoring the community.

This MUF project has been and still is rife with misleading information, “alternative facts,” and worst of all, threatened litigation. How, with so many of us opposed, has the MUF gotten this far? We are utterly perplexed that you have continued with so many of us opposed, has the MUF? What do we not understand. Will some company sial and unpopular endeavor. Help continue to pursue such a controver-

Why? We’re confused about why you used Mammoth Creek West park. Plus destroying our lovely and well-known Mammoth Ice Rink with such a hodgepodge. You’re perplexed that you have continued MUF gotten this far? We are utterly with so many of us opposed, has the MUF project has been and still is rife with misleading information, “alternative facts,” and worst of all, threatened litigation. How, with so many of us opposed, has the MUF gotten this far? We are utterly perplexed that you have continued with so many of us opposed, has the MUF?

Sharon R. Clark
Mammoth Lakes

Trust me on this

Dear Editor,

There were some errors in your recent story, “11s Cracks Down on Land Trust Donations (January 21)” The issue relates to a small number of questionable tax shelters nationwide using conservation for potentially abusive federal income tax deductions. The Land Trust Alliance issued an Advisory to its member land trusts last August outlining the situation and recommending a number of steps that land trusts can take to ensure that they are not taken advantage of by these bad actors seeking potentially illegal tax deductions. Contrary to your article, land trusts are not required to accept any donation where the land trust feels uncomfortable with the valuation or any other aspect of the transaction. Land trusts typically rely on certified appraisers and their own experience to establish appropriate values for any land or easement donation. Tax shelters are not new and most land trusts are vigilant in avoiding them and any potentially fraudulent transactions. The vast majority of land and conservation easement donations involve perfectly legal and ethical tax deductions for the permanent protection of important wildlife habitats, agricultural lands, and scenic vistas that benefit the public for generations to come. Private landowners and the land trust community have permanently protected over 56 million acres in the United States for the benefit of the public. The federal government should be applauded for stopping the greedy tax cheats who are endangering a very successful and popular land conservation movement. 

Karen Ferrell-Ingram
Swall Meadows

Karen Ferrell-Ingram was the former Executive Director of the Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Can you hear me now?

Councilman Sauser:

How dare you discount—or even worse, ignore—my comments and concerns and those expressed by multiple near neighbors regarding the proposed Multi-Use Facilities at Mammoth Creek Park West (“Give It a Rest,” The Sheet, February 4, 2017). As The Sheet’s Editor Jack Lunch noted in his column, “When did living in an affected neighborhood = nega-

I am a resident of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and a taxpayer, and my opinion matters. As the owner of a property that is immediately adjacent to the proposed site—in fact, my bedroom window and back deck look out onto Mammoth Creek Park—my voice deserves not just to be heard, but to be listened to. I and all of the homeowners at Mammoth Creek Condominiums, La Vista Blanc and Chateau Blanc will be most affected by this ill-planned, $10 million boondoggle.

The taxes we pay would help fund the construction of this large, commercial-type complex so near to our homes and to one of our greatest natural resources, Mammoth Creek. These same tax dollars helped fund the “one-time” bonuses you and the other councilmembers were so eager to give yourselves. The Town Council pushing this project through despite our opposition is tantamount to taxation without representation. If you’re not up on American history, that was the spark that ignited the Revolution-

ary War. If you want a war, sir, you’ve got one. We will not go quietly. Elected officials are obligated to serve in the best interest of all the people—not just the ones who agree with them. To do that, you must

see LETTERS, page 4
December 5 which put her on admin-
istration. So Vikki’s email was a broadcast
about the leave or investiga-
tion. Vikki Bauer addressed an email to Rich Ciauri in
her office and the building immedi-
ately. Recently, Joe Ortiz, the board’s
law counsel, wrote to me that Cherri
Bromberger represented herself as
acting in a personnel committee ca-
pacity. There was no such committee
formed as of December 5.

Members of the board who weren’t
complicit in this should sever them-
selves from what has been done. The
actions taken by Ms. Bromberger are
outrageous. I urge the board to
censure both Vikki Bauer and Cherri
Bromberger for what they have done
to put the district in jeopardy. This
is going to cost the district and the
ratepayers thousands of dollars in
legal fees, not to mention the fact that
we are paying for a bogus investiga-
tion and a General Manager who is
not working. The board should be
ashamed of acting so carelessly and
not asking the right questions.

Alice Suszynski
June Lake

Playing Jeopardy! in June

Dear Editor,

On December 27, Vikki Bauer ad-
dressed an email to Rich Ciauri in
which several people were cc’d. In it
she explains that the General Man-
ger of the June Lake Public Utilities
District (JLPUD) is on administrative
leave pending an investigation of the
acts of December 5. She also states
that this was all discussed in public
meetings. The disclosure of such
sensitive personnel information in an
email blast is bad enough but when
I canvassed the people who, like me,
attend all meetings, no one had heard
a word about the leave or investiga-
tion had taken place. This was unilater-
ally decided by board member Cheri
Bromberger, who signed the letter.

Cheri also took it upon herself to
demand that the manager vacate
her office and the building immedi-
ately. Recently, Joe Ortiz, the board’s
legal counsel, wrote to me that Cherri
Bromberger represented herself as
acting in a personnel committee ca-
pacity. There was no such committee
formed as of December 5.

Members of the board who weren’t
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tion and a General Manager who is
not working. The board should be
ashamed of acting so carelessly and
not asking the right questions.

Alice Suszynski
June Lake

Orange you happy about MUF?

Dear Editor:

We came to the Town of Mammoth
Lakes because of the pristine beauty
and open spaces. We particularly
chose La Vista Blanc for its proximity
to the open space of Mammoth Creek
Park West.

Being born and raised in South
Orange County, we have seen our fair
share of over development. We have
seen towns/cities claim to develop
in the name of attracting visitors,
while in doing so ruin the very reason
we visit. We came to Mammoth
Lakes for the natural beauty and to
escape the over development. Don’t
ruin the reason people visit here.

In our combined 82 years in Or-
ange, we have never seen the level of
inconsideration to residences as is
being shown by the TOML with the
proposed multi-use facility project
for Mammoth Creek Park. We have
been shocked by the blatant disregard
for the Quality of Life of surrounding
residences. Usually clubhouses, com-
munity centers and event centers,
where amplified music is expected
are planned far away from residences.
If there happen to be any of these
centers near a residence, then ampli-
ﬁed music is either prohibited, or a
strict 10 p.m. “Music Off” policy is
enforced. Ampliﬁed music outdoors
near residences would not even be
considered.

We understand the need of the
TOML for an Ice Hockey Rink/MUF/
Community Center. The plans look
absolutely wonderful … if they were
located somewhere else. Squeezing it
onto a plot of land that is 50% sur-
rrounded by residences is not a good
idea. Use the land in a way that is not
so much in conﬂict of interest to so
many parties. There are a variety of
uses—BMX bike track, dog park,
community garden, pickle ball courts,
badminton/volleyball courts, an area
for Farmer’s Markets, etc.—that are
all great ideas for this space which
would provide recreation for the
community, give that Town Square or
Main Street feeling, without caus-
ing undue disturbance to neighbors.
Maybe even a smaller (lower roofed)
Rec Zone/community center, for
daytime use only, at the NE end of the
plot (so as not to disturb public
private views) that is used for daytime
classes, activities and art exhibits
would probably be acceptable to
neighbors. Of course, I cannot speak
for everyone.

Please show kindness and consider-
ation to your fellow TOML residents.
Please do not be hypocritical when
you say your goals are to “maintain…
open space…for contemplation” and
“foster a healthy community for resi-
defants,” while you blatantly disregard
the Quality of Life of the “residents”
who surround 50% of this project.

Thank you for reading this and
imagining that it was happening out-
side your balcony.

Aaron and Jessica Ross
Mammoth Lakes
A REAL RED EYE AT MAMMOTH-YOSEMITE AIRPORT
Traffic pileup on Airport Road leaves approximately thirty stranded

By Rea

Approximately thirty people were stranded at the Mammoth-Yosemite Airport on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5 until almost 1 a.m. due to a traffic pileup on the Airport Road, Public Works Director Grady Dutton told The Sheet in an email this week.

Passengers on a United flight bound for San Francisco were forced to spend hours in the terminal building and sprung structure at the airport after a car spun out at approximately 8:05 p.m. on the Airport Road, which is maintained by Mono County, blocking traffic to and from the airport, Dutton said.

“I don’t want to put any blame on anybody,” said Airport Manager Brian Picken on Wednesday. “We’re trying to be fair. [The County roads crew] have a lot on their plate, but the Airport Road had been [reduced] to a lane and a half, it was already a little bit narrow,” at the time of the incident.

A United flight bound for San Francisco had been cancelled at 7 p.m. after being delayed by Air Traffic Control in San Francisco, said Picken. After the initial car spun out, “we understand up to five cars were involved in minor collisions with an additional 15-plus cars unable to move past the disabled cars,” wrote Dutton.

“The storm appeared to peak before 8:30 p.m. Approximately 30 people at the terminal were unable to leave. At that time multiple individuals notified the [California] Highway Patrol which responded to the scene. When the road closed there were approximately 30 airline customers and 8 to 10 other people who worked at the airport including the United Station Manager and the Alaska Station Manager. Those unable to leave had access to the terminal building and the Sprung Structure both of which had power, heat, water, and restroom facilities.”

“It was just a mess out there apparently,” said Picken. “I know they weren’t able to extricate everybody … they didn’t get out of there until after midnight. I don’t know why it took so long.”

Tom, a driver with Mammoth Taxi, told The Sheet on Tuesday that he had made several trips to the airport that evening, prior to the pileup on Airport Road.

There were several individuals stuck in cars on Airport Road during the 4.5 hours that the road was closed, according to both Picken and Dutton. “At no time was there a life threatening situation, even for the individuals stuck in their cars,” wrote Dutton.

Dutton also said that “at some point a Town plow truck was dispatched to the area. Unfortunately it suffered some damage and was not able to assist. It is our understanding [unconfirmed] MMSA may have dispatched some equipment to assist.”

MMSA Chief Operating Officer Mark Brownlie and Vice President of Mountain Operations Clifford Mann did not immediately return calls for comment from The Sheet.

“I imagine it was a traumatic scary thing for people who aren’t used to it,” said Brian Picken. “I think everybody was out by 1 a.m. at the latest… When I got back to the airport at 5 a.m. everything was clear, [there was] no sign that there had been anything [wrong].”

Jeff Griffiths, Second District Inyo County Supervisor, told The Sheet on Tuesday that he is part of a working group to improve air service in both Inyo and Mono Counties. If the Bishop Airport becomes “Part 139 compliant,” meaning it can accept commercial flights, it could potentially be used as a backup in situations like the one that occurred Sunday.

“What I can say is that Inyo County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes have been in discussions for a few years now on how we can partner to best utilize both facilities,” Griffiths told The Sheet on Tuesday. “In an ideal world the Bishop airport would be 139 compliant so it could be a foul weather diversion at minimum … the goal for Inyo County is to have reliable air service, and it doesn’t matter to us whether it’s in Bishop or Mammoth, but recognizing the limitations of the Mammoth airport it seems like it would make sense to use the Bishop airport as well.”

The working group will meet on March 6. The Sheet will report the time and place when it is confirmed.

“I’m just glad that everybody was safe and nobody was really in too dangerous of a situation,” said Brian Picken of Sunday’s incident.
NEWS BRIEFS

Park City man crushed by ice

On Friday, February 3, John Henry of Midway, Utah, was struck by block of falling ice and snow that shed from the second story of a building in Park City, Utah. Henry, who owned Panorama Window Cleaning, was cleaning windows for work at the time of the accident. The Associated Press reported that Henry was working alone and may have been pinned under the slab for an hour before he was discovered.

The slab that crushed him was between 300 and 700 pounds, and Park City District Battalion Chief Ray Huntzinger told the Park City Record that four fire fighters could not move the block of ice. First responders were forced to use a sledgehammer to break the ice and free him. Henry was transported via helicopter to University Hospital in Salt Lake City where he underwent emergency surgery for critical head trauma. He died early Saturday morning. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl, and two children.

Rocky roads and high water in Mono County

Lower Rock Creek Road was closed, then it was opened, then it closed again. At about 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, boulders on the road closed Lower Rock Creek Road between Swall Meadows and the intersection with Highway 395. The car-sized boulders were too big for Mono County to move with its own equipment. At 12:48 p.m. on Wednesday, the stretch of road was reopened with the assistance of Caltrans. About an hour later, at 1:40 p.m., it was closed again, this time between Swall Meadows and Paradise. Mono County Supervisor Fred Stump stated in an email to constituents that water is undermining and eroding the roadway. Swall residents will need to access Lower Rock Creek Road at the upper end near Tom's Place, and Paradise residents traveling from the north will need to stay on 395 to Gorge Road to get home.

Several large passenger car-sized boulders have also fallen on U.S. 50, forcing the Nevada Department of Transportation to temporarly close that highway in the Cave Rock area of Lake Tahoe on Wednesday. Rows of concrete barrier rails were installed on the closed eastbound side of 50 to help capture any additional boulders before sliding into traffic.

There was no word when either roadway would be opened.

Sandbags are available at Tom’s Place (behind the asphalt piles), the Long Valley Fire Department (behind the station), the Town of Mammoth Lakes Yard (299 Commerce Dr.), Benton Road Shop, Challant Fire Department, Lee Vining Road Shop, June Lake Community Center, Bridgeport Road Shop, and the Walker Road Shop.

“We are having fun yet?” Stump said in closing his message.

VOTE

continued from page 1

what we pay now for rent at the Sierra Center Mall,” said Chapman, referring to the $82,233 per month Mono County currently pays in rent to occupy that space.

By Lunch’s calculations, the total cost to build, finance, and maintain a new building is closer to $50 million over 20 years, almost twice the amount Mono County staff are presenting as the cost of the project to the Board of Supervisors, the body Chapman says is empowered to finance it. At the same February 21 meeting, the Board will hear a proposal for a new lease from the partners at Sierra Center Mall.

As Lunch reported, the $27 million project cost estimate offered by CDS did not include the cost of financing construction of a new building, which Lunch calculated to be about $12 million for a loan at 4 percent interest. When the consultants presented a comparison of the cost of construction with the cost of leasing the Sierra Center Mall for another twenty years, they failed to account for the cost of maintaining a new 43,000 square foot building, which Sierra Center Mall partner Drew Hild estimated would amount to $8 million.

Mono County Solid Waste Superintendent Tony Dublino said there is nothing to legally obligate the Board to wait for further public comment before making a decision about how to proceed, but promised that County staff intended to gather public input in the future.

Chapman said this week that she has communicated regularly with Mono Lakes Town Mgr. Dan Holler about the project over the last year. In reference to a new facility at the McFlex (the parcel between the courthouse and the hospital parcel), Holler told The Sheet he had not seen a detailed financial analysis of the feasibility of new building or a proposal from the Sierra Center Mall but that, “On the operational side, a new, well-planned [and] designed facility for joint operations makes a lot of sense … to effectively serve the community well into the future.”

The CDS South County Offices Final Report from September 2016 included a detailed design, by department of office space of a 22,066 square foot wing dedicated to the TOML. Next to each amenity, the report read, “space requirements approved,” as opposed to “space requirements pending final approval.” That would suggest that someone from the TOML had already approved a list of required space and square footage for individual offices in the new facility, which currently includes a 225-square foot office for the Town Manager.

At the September 17 Board of Supervisors Meeting, Chapman said (contrary to Holler’s statement) the Town planned to move forward with a new Government Center regardless of whether or not the Board of Supervisors allocated additional County funds and staff time for a new building. She also suggested that the County “pay some upfront costs to offset the Town’s costs.” At the same meeting, Sierra Center Partner Drew Hild said it was his understanding that the TOML did not qualify for the necessary loans to finance a new building without Mono County’s partnership (given the Town’s junk credit rating, courtesy of the airport litigation settlement).

Chapman said that Mono County staff is operating under the assumption that a new South County Facility would cost $24.9 million before see VOTE, page 11

LOCAL NEWS

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THE SHEET | Saturday, February 11, 2017

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see VOTE, page 11

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see VOTE, page 11

see VOTE, page 11
The Bridgeport Clinic closed on February 1. Patronage had declined, and, according to the contracted health facility providing services, the Southern Mono Healthcare District (Mammoth Hospital), it has been impossible to find qualified providers and staff. Some Bridgeport citizens believe the clinic is closing due to mismanagement.

The lack of immediate medical services has alarmed residents during this winter’s storms that have closed Highway 395 at both ends of the County Seat on multiple occasions.

Mono County Administrator Leslie Chapman explained at the Mono County Supervisor’s meeting on Tuesday, February 7, that patient numbers dropped dramatically after long-time physician assistant Bill Todd left for unknown reasons.

Todd was replaced by whomever could cover the schedule, leaving patients unsure who they were going to see at their next appointment. The hours became unreliable, Supervisor John Peters said.

Pam Newhard told the Supervisors that when Todd left, so did she. “We never knew who was going to be there.”

“I was never sick on the right day,” Steve Noble, owner of the Ruby Inn, said at the meeting.

As of Wednesday, February 8, more than 277 people had signed an online petition, “Bridgeport Needs Our Clinic” addressed to the Supervisors, expressing the importance of a local clinic. Both locals and visitors alike signed the petition.

Noble told The Sheet in an interview Tuesday that he believes there are several reasons the clinic closed: Bridgeport has been slow to come out of the recession, and people haven’t been able to afford to see a doctor as often.

Peters said the clinic’s decline has been gradual. “More residents attended the clinic when hours and staff were consistent. But for the last few years, there has been a turnover in personnel and a cut in hours and people stopped going. Fewer patients mean less revenue which means fewer hours of operation,” he said in an email to The Sheet.

In a letter to County Supervisors in January, Mammoth Hospital CEO Gary Myers said recruitment efforts for qualified professionals to operate the clinic have been unsuccessful. The clinic saw between 6 and 12 patients a day, according to Myers, but would need to serve 20 to 25 daily to cover operating costs. The clinic was only taking in half the income needed for it to operate, even with subsidies from Mono County.

The closing of the clinic coincides with the end of the contract with Mammoth Hospital, and the county is looking for another provider.

Chapman said the county has been in talks with Toiyabe Indian Health Project, which currently runs a clinic in the Walker/Coleville area. But Toiyabe has all hands busy with a new facility in Bishop that’s nearing completion and does not have the resources available to consider a proposal at this time.

The Bridgeport Clinic is not a moneymaking operation, Chapman explained, and Toiyabe, which receives federal funding, would be a good fit. The county is also in talks with Todd, who has expressed interest in returning.

The clinic needs a dedicated funding model, said Supervisor Peters. The model would not only give the clinic some stability and financial security, but the plan could be shared with would-be local healthcare professionals interested in Mono County.

Peters said if Mono County is encouraging visitors to engage in high-risk sports, then the county should provide healthcare. Misty Sullivan, co-owner of Twin Lakes Resort, told Supervisors guests need to know there’s a place to go in case of an emergency.

Gary Nelson of Bridgeport read a letter from his wife Deborah Lurie. She said there are paramedics in Bridgeport, but if they have to go on another call they might be delayed indefinitely in answering a call back in Bridgeport. As Nelson read the letter, there were whiteout conditions on Conway Summit.

With the Supervisor’s approval, staff will continue to pursue solutions to the clinic dilemma.
the night], Villalobos told The Sheet immediately after the incident. “My son was on the porch outside of our unit, and he saw a big gap in the ceiling, so he ran inside and woke me up. I told my other kid to grab his shoes and go. My one son was hit by a piece of plywood as we ran down the stairs.

“We don’t have renters insurance. I guess we’ll just have to eat some of the cost. I can’t even move my truck from the parking lot because my car keys are still in the apartment… I feel terrible for the lady who runs the store [Espazio II] downstairs. She was in tears.” Schuyler told The Sheet that there are five units in the complex, which was built in 1971. “That’s a lot of winters on an old roof,” Schuyler said, noting that he had the roof shoveled two weeks prior to the collapse.

Structural engineer Kathy Cage, principal at Cage Technical Services, said she believes the roof was “conventionally framed,” meaning that a kind of “structural triangle” is created. “If it gets overloaded or if the connections go bad, typically the rafter ties, which are the horizontal part of the triangle, will give way. That’s what it looks like happened, it could be overloaded, it could be the connections, all of that combined with age” could have created the perfect storm for the roof to collapse.

Fire Marshal Thom Heller told The Sheet that a complex at 40 Mountain Boulevard had also been “red tagged” and evacuated on Saturday, February 4. “Due to significant snow and ice pushed in [an] exterior wall… which was compromised.” All eight units in that building were evacuated, Heller said. “The building in its entirety probably won’t be able to be reoccupied until the structural work is done.”

Michael DeVecchio, a tenant of that building, said that he had a few pets, including a lizard, that survived the collapse. “Red Cross got involved and gave us $400 to find places to stay somewhere for a few nights but I’m already out… it was great, but it just doesn’t get you very far in this town.”

As The Sheet reported last week, snow shovelers are in high demand, and building owners are trying to keep up with rain-drenched roof loads turning snow packs into heavier ice. “I call and call, asking for information, when we’ll be let back in [to the property],” DeVecchio told The Sheet. Blazeard Property Management manages the building. “They keep saying ‘We have so many other properties where the same things keep happening,’ and they can’t keep up… they keep saying ‘We don’t feel safe sending people up on the roof because of weather,’” DeVecchio said his upstairs neighbor complained about the unit’s roof cracking four weeks prior to the collapse.

Renters are in a particularly precarious position—some have noticed the telltale signs of roofs being overloaded (doors which are difficult to open, cracks, sagging beams) but, legally, the onus is on the property owner to keep the structure safe. “I think that when most people sign a lease, I don’t think anybody assumes you’re responsible for shoveling the roof,” said Mammoth Lakes Housing Executive Director Jennifer Halferty. “Ultimately as a property owner, you’re going to do what you need to keep your buildings safe.”

Some tenants have taken to shoveling their own roofs, but Fire Marshall Heller warned against residents putting themselves in dangerous situations. “People shouldn’t go out shoveling the roof on a four story building if they don’t know how to remove snow from a four story building,” Heller told The Sheet. However, “in my opinion, whoever is in immediate danger should probably take things into their own hands.” Heller did not immediately return a call to The Sheet about the roof collapse on Sierra Nevada Rd.

Working around snow and ice can have fatal consequences, even for professionals. On Friday, February 3 a man in Park City, Utah was crushed by a 300 pound block of ice as he was washing windows (see brief, p. 6). Professional snow removal services are typically insured and their employees are trained in safety procedures, but a tenant gearing up in a climbing harness to remove snow from his or her roof presents a liability to property owners. The Sheet’s Giles offered to shovel her own roof, but was dissuaded by her landlord due to the liability issue. “I think that if someone went to court… a judge would interpret snow removal as it is discussed in a lease to mean driveways and walkways, not roofs,” said Halferty. “Do you really want the liability as a landlord?”

Schuyler, for his part, is trying to ease the sting of his tenants’ situation. “The insurance company hasn’t been too cordial,” he told The Sheet on Thursday as he walked around his property, surveying the damage. “So I just said screw it. I want to take care of my people…The hispanic community works pretty well together, and it’s a beautiful thing, so some of them went to friends’ homes and I rented three rooms over at the Shiloh Inn, but the town’s booked.” He said he was planning on contacting Mammoth Mountain Ski Area to see if any employee housing was available for his displaced tenants. “The roof has moved some more and it’s going to cave in through this next storm,” said Schuyler on Thursday.

I told my ... kid to grab his shoes and go. My one son was hit by a piece of plywood as we ran down the stairs.

-MANUEL VILLALOBOS
Above: Miguel Triana arrived home to a hug from Ed Schuyler, the owner of 2065 Sierra Nevada Rd. Below: The family-operated Espazio II will be out of commission for the foreseeable future.

Photos, clockwise from top left:
- Firefighters prioritized extinguishing wood burning stoves after a roof slid in Mammoth. A balcony was demolished as a roof detached on Wednesday, February 8. Residents were evacuated, including several small children.
- MLFD firefighters discuss a game plan.
MONO COUNTY JOINS REST OF STATE; DECLARES DISASTER
Plea for help from State after Mono County and Mammoth “crippled” by storms

By Giles

On January 31, Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun acted in her capacity as Director of Emergency Services to issue a Disaster Proclamation for Mono County. The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) followed suit, ratifying its own proclamation on February 1, and the Board of Supervisors voted to ratify the Disaster Declaration at Tuesday’s meeting.

On Tuesday, Sheriff Braun told the Board that Mono County has withstood the storm pretty well. “However, the Mammoth Lakes Fire District and Town of Mammoth Lakes were crippled by the storms, as those of us who live in Mammoth Lakes realize.” Braun went on to explain that the proclamations make Mono County and the TOML eligible for state funding to support public works and property damage to small businesses and individuals. The TOML took its declaration a step further and filed a request with the State Office of Emergency Services for additional resources.

Anecdotally, most private businesses, especially those in lodging and the service sector have remained open through the storm. Employees and customers alike walked or drove to the establishments, despite warnings from The Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County Sheriffs Department, Caltrans, and Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District. Many businesses remained open even on days where the TOML issued public notices asking non-emergency vehicles to stay off the roads.

On Monday, February 6, Mayor Shields Richardson made a public announcement on the TOML website that read, “I would ask everyone who doesn’t absolutely need to be driving to please stay where you are and allow our snow removal crews (Town, private, Caltrans, and MMSA) to do their jobs unhindered.” In a resort town, a Sysco truck is an emergency vehicle.

In the winter time, a well-advertised big storm can cause the population of Mammoth Lakes to increase from roughly 9,000 people to nearly 40,000. The nature of the economy is such that, when public resources are most taxed, business is booming, and there may be four times as many part-time residents and visitors in town as full-time residents.

“The private sector absolutely has a responsibility to comply with the direction of public agencies during an emergency,” said Braun this week. California Government Code 8634 grants the Director of Emergency Services the power to enforce regulations such as a curfew “where necessary to preserve the public order and safety [after being written down and widely publicized].”

Sheriff Braun said her office hasn’t had to enforce such regulations, but that people have a moral obligation to willingly comply with warnings from public officials. “Roads are closed and warnings are issued because we don’t want people risking their lives and the lives of those they impact. The person who disregards a road closure or avalanche warning places him/herself, first responders, and road crews in harm’s way.”

This week, as a result of the Disaster Proclamation by the TOML, a California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew of 15 were dispatched to Mammoth Lakes to fill sandbags, shovel roofs on public buildings, dig out fire hydrants, and work with AmeriGas and Eastern Sierra Propane to clear snow from 40 prioritized propane tanks. Between Monday and Wednesday, 16 Caltrans loaders and dump trucks hauled 500 truckloads of snow out of town from berms on Main Street. Kristin Noles of Caltrans told The Sheet the trucks would continue their work through the week, with the goal of clearing travel lanes and shoulders.
the cost of financing the project. “We looked at the estimates and performed due diligence on parking, utilities, site prep, soft costs, and permitting among others,” said Chapman, who also said the County decided to assume the cost of construction in Mammoth Lakes would be $580 per square foot as opposed to the $527 per square foot proposed by CDS.

At a November 16 joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and TOML Town Council, Sierra Center Partner Paul Rudder said he would be submitting a proposal for a remodeled product to meet Town and County needs at half the proposed cost of a new building. Chapman said the County received his proposal this week and that the Board of Supervisors will review it at the February 21 meeting, alongside County staff’s report about the cost of a new building.

A source told The Sheet that the County could likely purchase the Sierra Center Mall for approximately $15 million, and that the owners were willing to negotiate a lease agreement that would allow the County’s ownership of the building, which already has the requisite square footage (more than 60,000 square feet) and parking to meet the County’s stated needs from a new facility. If Mono County purchased the Sierra Center Mall, it could lease office space in the same facility to the Town of Mammoth Lakes and still have 43,000 square feet it needs for its staff.

Regardless of whether The Board of Supervisors votes on February 21 to pursue a $50 million project, or to continue negotiations for an arrangement with the Sierra Center Mall, it is unlikely the public will get to vote on the matter.

“We [Mono County staff] wouldn’t enter into a partnership on behalf of the County that doesn’t have an extremely high likelihood of being successful,” said Chapman. “It would be something that the Board of Supervisors could reasonably vote and decide on.”

Chapman promised that County staff would engage the public in conversations to gather their input on the project, but reiterated that there would likely be no public vote. “Generally, the people express their will through the election of public officials. Once you elect an official, hopefully they will act on the will of the public.”

Typically, the County doesn’t have the power to issue a public bond, let alone one for $50 million, without putting the issue to a public vote. Chapman said there are many types of bonds, and many ways the County can fund projects. “We’d probably do something like a capital lease where you pay it off in payments, as long as the payments are within the County’s budget, it can be approved without a public vote.”

Chapman confirmed that Mono County has a “separate corporation” known as an Economic Development Corporation (EDC), that has a special tax status with the Internal Revenue Service. “We could do some capital leasing activity through it,” said Chapman this week. “It’s dormant now and hasn’t been used in a long time…it’s the type of entity that could issue bonds to buy a building, or lease a building and then lease it back to the county.”

Supervisor Larry Johnston said he vaguely recalled an EDC, but thought it was associated with the North County Chamber of Commerce and didn’t remember it ever being used. Bill Taylor said he recalled such an entity from his time working for Mono County, but was not directly involved and believed it was currently inactive. Former Supervisor Tim Alpers said he remembered an EDC that was active in Mono County in the early 1990s, but thought it didn’t have any independent financing power.

According to a publication titled “Economic Development Corporations: Charity Through the Back Door” published by the Internal Revenue Service, most EDCs are eligible for tax exempt status as charities. That status allows them to issue loans at a lower interest rate, potentially to local governments seeking to acquire property.

Chapman assured The Sheet that, were there an active EDC in Mono County, it could not issue a capital lease without approval from the Board of Supervisors.

The County could use a capital lease to fund a new South County Government Center at the McFlex parcel without putting the issue to a public vote.
RED THREAT IN THE OWENS VALLEY

“Mutant” conscientious objectors built a home in the Eastern Sierra

By Bodine

“Pinko commies” who refused to go to war in Vietnam once roamed the Eastside. Townsfolk were afraid of the drugs and left-leaning ideology that came with the red threat, and were told that a mutated gene had turned otherwise red-blooded American boys into communists. A large congregation of them were being sent to camp and live in the Owens Valley. The “communists” were actually draft-aged boys in the late 1960s and early ’70s who were conscientious objectors (COs). Boys, aged 18, 19 and 20 from around the country who refused to fight and kill based on religious reasons, were sent to California to work at California Ecology Corps camps, once the Civilian Conservation Corps. They were essentially minimum security prisons where inmates were firefghters, and a precursor to the California Conservation Corps. California Governor Ronald Reagan transformed the Owens Valley Conservation Camp outside Bishop, along with six other camps in the state, into camps for COs.

Some of those COs fell in love with the area and made it home after the war, despite the initial antipathy by locals.

A half-page editorial in the Inyo Register, circa 1971, opined that these American boys were inflicted with communist ideals—a mutant gene. Former Inyo Ecology resident Fiddlin’ Pete Watercott said the letter warned that the gene also made the boys artistic, because communism and creativity go hand-in-hand. It also predicted that some COs would marry Bishop daughters, passing the gene on to their grandchildren.

The inmates called their softball team “The Mutos.” The editorial also prophesized that the boys would turn the Owens Valley into the “cesspool of the country” CO and local contractor Chet Baker told The Sheet.

COs were contracted out to the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. They made between $0.25 to $0.60 an hour when the minimum wage was $1.80 an hour.

Some of those COs fell in love with the area and made it home after the war, despite the initial antipathy by locals.

The federal government wanted the COs to have an experience like military service. COs had to look for a job, but it had to be at least 100 miles from their home. Employers didn’t have to hire the COs, and the COs were assigned jobs if they couldn’t find one. With not many jobs available, Watercott and others took Reagan’s invitation to come to California and work at the camps. According to encyclopeida.com more than 170,000 had registered as a CO between 1965 and 1970.

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Then, with Nixon, came a law that any employer with a certain number of employees had to pay minimum wage and was retroactive. Watercott said he bought a handmade Martin guitar with his money. He still has that axe.

The locals reaction to the inmates ranged from acceptance to hatred. See OBJECTORS, page 13
Watercott would venture down to the closest watering hole, the Hard Rock Inn, now known as Mill Creek Station, and earned his welcome playing his fiddle. He made lifelong friends at the Inn, even some ex-military types that he would later go on vacations with.

Baker credited Watercott with opening the eyes of some locals that they boys weren’t the sleepers cells for the communist party, but just boys.

“They called us, the locals hated us,” Elliott said. They were sure these “commies” were going to rape the women and children and be passing out the Communist Manifesto on the streets. He said there was resistance, “But they were able to see that we were just run of the mill 19, 20 and 21-year-old knuckleheads that weren’t out to hurt anyone.”

Some locals, mostly girls, warmed up to the boys. Local Mary Hemler, now 20 and 21-year-old knuckleheads that weren’t out to hurt anyone. She would visit the boys, know- ing what kind of alienation they must be experiencing. The boys called her “mom,” because she would bring them dinner and dessert.

Spellbinder Books became a haven for the boys. It had a wood stove, hot tea and an open, safe place to talk. The supervisors at the camp were the former wardens of the minimum-security prisons and some of them liked to keep the COs under their thumbs. One such supervisor was Don Robbins, an ex-Marine with a giant moustache who said once he’d never work with the COs. Robbins picked up Watercott in his truck one day, near the end of Watercott’s tour.

The two drove around as Robbins confessed how he respected the boys. He was impressed the COs stood up for what they believed in and did it legally. Some families disowned their COs. The two remained great friends.

There was no shortage of characters at camp. Watercott recalled a cook, Hazel Race, who was built like a chimney, and “no one would ever confuse him with the Virgin Mary.”

One day one of the boys wore shorts to dinner with nothing underneath. Hazel “saw something” in, and/or out of the shorts (“Woolly bully,” Watercott said) and banned shorts from the mess hall. The next day, everyone wore shorts along with a dress shirt and tie. The food was typical institutional fare; Jusky, Baker said. The boys were making fun of the food one day, and Hazel had had enough, “Shut up you guys! I could put sugar on shit and you’d still eat it.”

“Hazel, you forgot the sugar,” somebody shouted back. Hazel didn’t talk for two days after that. Hazel’s replacement disliked the boys before he ever met them. All he knew was that there were hippy vegetarians at camp, and he proceeded to sprinkle bacon bits in everything, from salad to cake.

The camp’s storage manager and storekeeper, nicknamed Milo Minderbinder after the character in Joseph Heller’s novel Catch 22, knew he had a sweet gig and would do nothing to jeopardize his position. So, he dressed out every day, pants and stiff collars, but to protect his privacy and dignity he wore a bag over his face with holes cut out, Chet Baker was the camp barber, collecting pony-tails he cut off hippy COs and hanging them on the wall.

Robert Elliott showed in October 1972. He said the fire training got him in the best shape of his life. His supervisor, Robert “Cap” Capplinger, was a short wiry guy who smoked three packs a day.

“These really good, patient men were able to whip these pinko commie bastards into great firefighting crews,” Elliott said. The experience afforded the boys an opportunity to meet, live and work alongside people of different cultures, religions, and backgrounds from around the country that they probably not have socialized with otherwise. And it was more than getting to know someone in class—the boys lived, ate and worked alongside each other. The Buddhist, the hippie and straight-laced Texan all stood on common ground. The camps were not as rigorous as the military but the camaraderie was similar. They made life-long friends they wouldn’t trade for anything.

All three men later made the Owens Valley their home. Watercott had his own restaurant and has been on the Northern Inyo Hospital Board for decades. Elliott is the Information Technology guru for Bishop Elementary School and Baker runs his own successful painting business.

“The place I really resented, I grew to love,” Baker said.
BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. $1 off craft beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks, $5 Flatbread. Quench salon, 4-7 p.m. daily and all night on Mondays.

Roberto’s 4-6 p.m. every day. Avenue B, 5-7 p.m. Sun.-Thurs. Fri.-Sat. 4-5 p.m.

Whitebark 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, $5 dollar menu items, drink specials.

Petra’s Bistro Happy Hour, $22 pasta bottles, salad and glassess of info, 5:00-6 p.m. Specials on cocktails, wine, beer and menu items.

Happy Hour @ Sushi Rei, 4-5 p.m. daily. Half off apps and $5 hand roll +small sake. Sundays are all-night happy hour. Late night happy hour Fri-Sat 9-11 p.m.

Happy Hour @ The Bistro at Snowcreek, 4:30-6:30 p.m. daily. Mammoth Tavern Happy Hour Tuesday-Sunday 3:30-5:30 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. Side Door Wine Tasting; Sundays 3-7 p.m. at MAC, 437 Old Mammoth Road.

Community mediation by donation at Mountain Sol yoga. Fridays: 6-6:45 and Sundays also, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Walk-ins and all levels are welcome. Info: www.mountainsoloyoga.com or email ROMLmediation@gmail.com.

Crowley Lake Peapod playgroup, 10-11 a.m. Crowley Lake Community Center, 458 S. Landing Rd.

Full Moon Tours @ Tamarack. Take a naturalist-guided snowshoe tour to experience a winter wonderland lit by moonlight. Tours are $55 per person and include equipment, guide and hot beverage at Tamarack. Reservations: 1.800.MAMMOTH.

Friday, February 10/
Gallery reception: All you need is love with the Mono Arts Council. Featuring works by Lori Michelon, Kendra Knight, Linda Gow, and Sunday’s also, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

COSA Bird Walk in Bishop. Walk-ins and all levels are welcome. Info: www.mountainsoloyoga.com or email ROLmeditation@gmail.com. Walk-ins and all levels are welcome. Info: www.mountainsoloyoga.com or email ROLmeditation@gmail.com.

Samoan Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. daily. Joe Gray Jr. at the Baby Grand playing February 10-11.

Friday Night in Mammoth. Info: www.mountainsoloyoga.com or email ROLmeditation@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 11/
The Foundation for Excellence at BUHS is hosting a “Salsa and Sombrero Fiesta” at the Tri-County Fairgrounds featuring music by Incendio. Starts 5:30 p.m. Tix: $40 or $75 for 2. Dining, Dancing, Margaritas, Pinata Raffle. Info: 760.337.6005.

COSA Bird Walk in Bishop. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the BLM/USFS building on West Line. All levels welcome. Info: hillarybehr@yahoo.com.

Coffee with Supervisor Bob Gardner @ Trout Town Joe in June Lake from 9-10:30 a.m. This is a chance for citizens meet Bob to discuss any topic of interest. Look for add’l, upcoming events in Lee Vining and Mammoth as well.

MotoCross practice @ the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Gates open 8 a.m. $20 practice fee. Spectators free. Camping reservations/info: 760.873.3588.

Owens River cleanup with California Waterfowl Association. Pleasant Valley Campground, 8 a.m. Lunch for volunteers. Info: Chris 818.208.3271. Woolsey’s Saturday Parade in the Village at Mammoth. Music, fun and face painting begins @ 3:45.

TOWN STUFF

February 10-12/ Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery by Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. Fridays and Saturdays, 7 p.m. Sunday, 4 p.m. Edison Theatre, 100 College Parkway. Tix: $22 at door or $20/18 online. Available at www.mammothlakesrepertorytheatre.com.

February 10-12/ Chamber Music Unbound presents The Felcão Piano Trio in a concert entitled “Love is in the Air.” Tickets are available online (www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org), at the Bookly joint, the Inyo Council for the Arts, or at the door on concert nights. Saturday show: 7:30 p.m. at Cerro Coso College in Mammoth. Sunday show: 4 p.m. at Cerro Coso College in Bishop.

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 @ 760.647.6595.

February, Friday, February 10/ Gallery reception: All you need is love with the Mono Arts Council. Featuring works by Lori Michelon, Kendra Knight, Linda Gow, and Sunday’s also, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Walk-ins and all levels are welcome. Info: www.mountainsoloyoga.com or email ROLmeditation@gmail.com. Walk-ins and all levels are welcome. Info: www.mountainsoloyoga.com or email ROLmeditation@gmail.com.
MLR funds application

Mammoth Lakes Recreation will be opening the application process for Measure R and Measure U funds for fiscal year 2017-18 on February 1, and closing on February 28. These funds will be allocated for programs and projects starting on July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2018. The application can be found at www.mammothlakesrecreation.org/ allocation/.

Exhibit at Mammoth Lakes Library

The newest exhibit to be on display at the Mammoth Lakes Library is the Eastern Sierra Photographers Group. This exhibit will run from February 11 until April 29, 2017. All pieces are for sale and at least 30 percent of the sale prices benefits the Friends of the Library. Visit www.monocountylibraries.org/branches/mammoth-lakes or call 760.934.4777 for info.

MUF comment period

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is circulating for public review a Draft EIR for the proposed Mammoth Creek Park West New Community Multi-Use Facilities Project. A 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR ends on February 15, 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, Community and Economic Development Department, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R; Town of Mammoth Lakes website: www.mammoth-lakes.ca.gov; Mono County Library, 400 Sierra Park Road. All comments and responses to this notice should be submitted via email 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.

The Town will conduct a public meeting during the regularly scheduled Planning and Economic Development Commission Meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in Suite Z. Additional information about the project can be viewed online at www.planmcp.com.

AARP Tax Aide Program

The Mono County Tax Aide program started back up on Feb. 1. Program.

Last year, committed volunteers helped 509 folks prepare their returns – both Federal and State (and in some cases, multiple states). All of the preparers are trained and certified and many have been doing this for over 30 years.

Times: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1-5 p.m.

Appointments: 760.934.3674, but drop-ins also welcome.

TOWN STUFF

Sunday, February 12/ Sierra Club Outing: Snowshoe/ski Blue Diamond Route from Scenic Loop to Visiator’s Center. 5.5 miles, moderate difficulty. Meet at 10 a.m. Mammoth Union Bank. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Melissa 760.937.0499 or melissas@verizon.net or check the ROLG Meetup page at www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup.

Monday, February 13/ In-person registration for Mono County Little League. Receive $10 off for registering before today, Info: Antonette Ciccarelli 760.934.7450 or antoncclee@yahoo.com or Michelle McMillian 760.929.3266/mcmillian646@gmail.com.

Bishop City Council Meeting, 6 p.m. at City Hall, 577 W. Line St. Questions: 760.873.5363.

Mammoth Lakes Recreation meets 5 p.m. in Suite Z.

February 14-16/ $6 labtime Special at Mammoth Ice Rink. Skate away your lunch hour. 12-3:30 p.m. $2 School Skate Special from 1:30-3 p.m.

February 14-17/ MakerSpace at the Mammoth Lakes Library. Tuesdays 2-6 p.m. for elementary aged children; Wednesdays 2-6 p.m. for middle school students; Thursdays 1-5 p.m. for all ages; Fridays 10 a.m.-12 p.m. for adults.

Tuesday, February 14/ Toddler Time @ Mammoth Lakes Community Center, with Angela and Victoria. 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Village Championships 2017 @ Fascination race arena. To sign up: drop by the race department office at MMSA before the race. Free. Lee Vining and Bridgeport Peapod

UPCOMING

Playgroups. Lee Vining: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Lee Vining Community Center, 236 Matlty Ave. Bridgerport: 12-1:15 p.m. Bridgerport Memorial Hall, 73 N. School St.


Wednesday, February 15/ Story Time @ Mammoth Lakes Library, 10:30 a.m.

TurboKick classes at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center with Steph, 6:30-7:30 p.m. $7 drop-in rate. Info: 562.708.4273.

Walker Peapod Playgroup, 4-5 p.m. Walker Wellness Center, 107/655 Hwy 38.

First time homebuyer education class with Mammoth Lakes Housing, 12:30 p.m. at MLH office, 587 Old Mammoth Rd. Suite #4.

Mammoth Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m. in Suite Z.

Thursday, February 16/ First 5 Mammoth English Peapod Playgroup, 10-11 a.m. @ Mammoth Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail Rd.

February 16-20/ Winter Art Festival: President’s Day weekend. A variety of artists: Cathy Enright, Mukha knitwear, Vern Clevenger photography, Mountain Made tie dye, and more. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road.

Sunday, February 19/ Sierra Club Outing: Snowshoe in the Knolls. Meet 10 a.m. Union Bank in Mammoth. Contact Mary K at 760.934.8555 or mkp@npgcable.com.

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

The Lego Batman Movie (PG): We can only imagine the plot. Lunch was very excited to hear this film was about to debut.

Fifty Shades Darker (R): Second installment in the popular romance triology.

For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com.

3rd Annual Owens Lake Bird Fest

Friends of the Inyo invites you to witness the splendor of the thousands of bird species that pass through the region during the Third Annual Owens Lake Bird Festival, April 28-30.

Owens Lake was designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society in 2014, offering world-class wildlife viewing in the southern Owens Valley.

For thousands of years, migratory birds paused at Owens Lake along their annual migration between the northern and southern hemispheres. However, in the early 1900s water and irrigation projects ending the Inyo members starts February 1. Publication registration starts February 15. Registration includes Friday evening reception, continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and inspiring, in-depth tours with expert guides who intimately understand the area. Field trips cater to beginner and expert birders, will explore on and off Owens Lake, and include natural and cultural history outings. New outings added this year include a Keeler history tour, a bird and botany exploration of the Alabama Hills and an Owens River exploration. A Saturday evening reception at Statham Hall includes dinner and keynote speakers Tom and Jo Holm. In County’s largest pre- eminent birders. More outings around the lake occur Sunday.

On a typical April day, more than 100,000 shorebirds can be counted and it’s possible to see up to twenty different shorebird species.

Tickets – $60; Students – $30; Children under 12 – free with an adult.

Early Registration for Friends of the Inyo members starts February 1. Publication registration starts February 15. Registration includes Friday evening reception, continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and inspiring, in-depth tours with expert guides who intimately understand the area. Field trips cater to beginner and expert birders, will explore on and off Owens Lake, and include natural and cultural history outings. New outings added this year include a Keeler history tour, a bird and botany exploration of the Alabama Hills and an Owens River exploration. A Saturday evening reception at Statham Hall includes dinner and keynote speakers Tom and Jo Holm. In County’s largest pre- eminent birders. More outings around the lake occur Sunday.

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Help Wanted

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

Class B Driver $DOE
Office Mammot, 012 - 015
Housekeeper $ 21/$25

Call 760.924.0523 or 760.873.8679
See our full job list online at www.SierraEmployment.com

Accountant or full charge bookkeeper needed who is a competitive, productive, detail-oriented, team player, qualified to provide the best in customer service. This is a full time position. We are offering great pay DOE, discounts and flexible hours, in a progressive work environment. Call us at 760.934.5386.

Work With The Best. Footloose Sports, mammothski.com is hiring for a variety of positions including a Full Time Part Time Baker for Mammoth Rock & Bowl. Mammoth Rock & Bowl has the following positions available. Food and Beverage Manager, Supervisor, Server, Bartender, Bras- serie Hostess. Contact Kevin O’Connell for more information or e-mail pl@thelandingtahoe.com

Part Time Year Round Maintenance La- z-z-pippers. We are looking for energetic and enthusiastic people to join our team. Qualified candidates will have prior restaurant experience, excellent customer service skills, the ability to understand policies & procedures, and be available to work flexible hours and holidays. 8:30AM-5:30PM. Pay starts at $15 for part time or $16 for full time benefits. Apply at www.mammothbrewingco.com.

Help Wanted


Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for additional members for its team. These are Full Time, Year Round positions. We have immediate and future openings for a Spa Maintenance position and an Office/Sales Associate position. These positions also offer paid annual, holiday, and personal days off. Please call 760-924-3691 or stop by the store located at 1401 Tahoe Rd. Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application.

Mammoth Shuttle is a commercially- ly permitted limousine (premium SUV) business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 01, 2017. This business is conducted by an Individual or more. Driver/Chauffeurs can expect to make between $15-$20 / hour with gratuities. This is an ideal opportunity for someone who already has a part time or full time job and is looking to pick up a few more hours. Must be open to work some weekend shifts and holidays.

For More information call 760-709-6459 and to send resume email to info@mymammothshuttle.com.

Sierra Nevada Resort

Housekeepers ($11)
Cooks
Dishwashers
Maintenance Worker

Please complete an application at 164 Old Mammoth Rd.
or e-mail mymammothshuttle.com.

Full Time and Part Time Baker for
Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Bras- serie has the following positions available. Food and Beverage Manager, Supervisor, Server, Bartender, Bras- serie Hostess. Contact Kevin O’Connell for more information or e-mail pl@thelandingtahoe.com

Yogurt & Wine Bar Team Members

Good Earth Yogurt is looking to hire new team members! If you have an outgo- ing personality and love working with people in a fun upbeat family envi- ronment, this may be the job for you. We are filling full and part time positions. We will require flexible hours with the ability to work evenings and weekends on a regular basis. Basic wine and beer serving experience a plus! If you think you are the right person, please send a resume to splayer@goodearthyougurt.com.

Pizza Chef/Delivery Driver/Cashier

Z Pizza Mammoth is hiring full and part time.

Apply online at www.zpizza.com, or by email - mammothliveslice@gmail.com.

Vons is now Accepting On line applica- tion form individuals or groups with experience and benefits. If you enjoy working with the public then come join us.

Noro 76 is hiring full time mini-mart cashier Apply in person or call (760) 934-6377.

Food Cafe line cook needed, full or part-time available, morning and afternoon positions available. Apply online for an application. 452 old mammoth rd ste 106

For Hire


Fond of Distibution USA

The Following Person

Micheal Scott McGuire MBR
325 Old Mammoth Road,P.O. Box 4089
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a limited li- ability company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 01, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 31, 2017. File Number 2017-0029 (2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25)

Fond of Distribution USA

Micheal Scott McGuire MBR
325 Old Mammoth Road,P.O. Box 4089
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

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Notice of Hearing Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

GREAT BASIN UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Board of Directors of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the District’s annual budgets and proposed California Health and Safety Code Section 42316 fee schedule for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed budgets.

Notices of Public Hearing

The District has prepared a summary of its proposed total annual budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, including the fee rates to be imposed by the District to fund its programs. It should be noted that a preliminary draft of the proposed budget is funded through an order authorized by California Health and Safety Code Section 42316, which requires the City of Los Angeles to pay fees to the District based on an estimate of the actual special requirement of the District and its activities associated with the development of mitigation measures and related air quality analyses associated with the air quality impacts of the City of Los Angeles’ waste diversion, conveyance and storage activities.

A copy of the budget summaries will be available for inspection at the official office of the Town Clerk at a nominal charge.

Nominal charge.

and may be read at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, 17.52.270.

NIA, APPROVING ZONING CODE AMENDMENT

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, State of California, hereinafter referred to as “The Town,” do ordain as follows:

Notice is hereby given that on February 1, 2017 the Town Council introduced an Ordinance entitled:

Notice of Ordinance

Notice is hereby given that on February 1, 2017 the Town Council introduced an Ordinance entitled:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 10:00 am in the Supervisor’s Conference Room, Mono County Courthouse, Bridgeport, CA, to consider GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 16-02: Part A)

1. Change Land Use Designation (LUD) of former Mountain Gate property from Rural Residential (RR) S 5 to 10 to Open Space (OS) (affected APNs 002-140-033, 002-490-002, 007, 009 & 011 are owned by Mono County); 2. Change LUD for Walker Behavioral Health property from Mixed Use one-acre minimum to Public Facility (PF) (APN is 002-361-012 and is owned by Mono County); 3. Change LUD for Public Works property at West Walker River/North River Lake from Estate Residential (ER) to Public Facility (PF) (APN is 002-310-050); 4. Change LUD of Walker tennis courts from Estate Residential to Public Facility (APNs are 002-362-008 & 009); 5. Change LUD on various FEMA properties along North River and Meadow Lake to Estate Residential (ER) to Open Space (OS) (APNs are 002-250-005, 006, 007, 002-300-002, 002-310-001, 009, 038, 037, 035, and 002-343-005; 6. Change LUD on APN 002-450-014 Antelope Valley Fire Station from Agricultural (AG10) to Public Facilities (PF) 7. Add a parcel to Land Use E124. 8. HAP new approach for Antelope Valley Plan as follows: The HAP endorses the use of FEMA/COUNTY properties on N. River Road and Meadow Lane as open space, without development for public improvements and facilities until 2041; 8. Change setback in Mixed Use district for residential uses from 0 feet to 10 feet; 9. Specify that a General Plan Amendment initiated by a private landowner must go before the Board of Supervisors for approval if the GPA is a major policy change with potential significant impacts countywide; and 10. Amend Chapter 16, Accessory Dwelling Units, to comply with AB2200 and SB1069. Part B) Revise General Plan Land Use Element Chapter 25 concerning transient rentals. Highlights of recommended changes include: establish process to permit short-term rentals in residential areas if specific proposals are compact, applicable and are extended north of the El Portal area. 11. Consider the possibility of landlord proposals for the purpose of reviewing the District’s annual budgets and proposed California Health and Safety Code Section 42316 fee schedule for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of Ordinance

Notice is hereby given that on February 1, 2017 the Town Council introduced an Ordinance entitled:

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Bronze Bear Outpost

Pinizzotto’s Sierra Hospitality Group

51321 HWY 395, P.O. Box 330
Lee Vining, CA 93541

This business is constituted by a Corporation

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 01, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 5, 2017. File Number 17-005-004

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Old New York Deli & Bakery Co

Sierra Del Rey, Inc.

6201 Minaret Road, Suite 105 M.L.
P.O. Box 1543
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is constituted by a Corporation

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on November 30, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on March 7, 2017. File Number 17-002-009

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Snowcreek Vacation Rentals

The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name listed below:

How much do you get paid?

REVIEW OF 2017-2018 DISTRICT AND SB 270 BUDGET AND ORDER

The Board of Directors of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the District’s annual budgets and proposed California Health and Safety Code Section 42316 fee schedule for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed budgets.

The District has prepared a summary of its proposed total annual budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, including the fee rates to be imposed by the District to fund its programs. It should be noted that a preliminary draft of the proposed budget is funded through an order authorized by California Health and Safety Code Section 42316, which requires the City of Los Angeles to pay fees to the District based on an estimate of the actual special requirement of the District and its activities associated with the development of mitigation measures and related air quality analyses associated with the air quality impacts of the City of Los Angeles’ waste diversion, conveyance and storage activities.

A copy of the budget summaries will be available for inspection at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, 17.52.270.

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Notice of Ordinance

Notice is hereby given that on February 1, 2017 the Town Council introduced an Ordinance entitled:
Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Snowcreek Resort
Snowcreek Management Co. LLC
P.O. Box 100 PMB 605
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 18, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 20, 2017. File Number 17-007, 2017-0025 (2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4)

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Snowcreek Property Management
Snowcreek Management Co. LLC
P.O. Box 100 PMB 605
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 18, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 20, 2017. File Number 17-006, 2017-0023 (2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4)

Public Notice

Announcement of Public Hearing
Aspen Fales Shoulder Widening Project

WHEN and WHERE
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017
Place: 4-7 pm.
Caltrans Bridgeport Maintenance Station
1/2 mile S. of Bridgeport on Jack Sawyer Road
Bridgeport, CA 93517

WHAT’S BEING PLANNED?
CALTRANS (California Department of Transportation) is proposing to widen highway shoulders from the existing two to three feet to eight feet along 3.2 miles of U.S. 395 in Mono County, north of the community of Bridgeport, near Sonora Junction, from post 2424, to 2444, in order to improve safety.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?
Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our findings are contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment with Section 4(f) De Minimis Evaluation. This notice is to tell you of the completion of the above named document and its availability for you to read. A hearing will be held to give you the opportunity to discuss the project with Caltrans staff before a final alternative is selected.

WHERE YOU COME IN
Have the potential impacts been addressed? Do you have information that should be included? Your comments will be part of the public record. The public comment period has been extended, so if you wish to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment, please submit your written comments by February 14, 2017 to Caltrans Environmental, Attention Angela Calloway, 500 South Main Street, Bisho, Ca. 93514.

WHAT’S AVAILABLE?
You can look at or obtain a copy of the Draft Environmental Document at the Caltrans District 9 Office at 500 South Main Street, Bishop, Ca. 93514; the Lee Vining Public Library, 31710 Hwy # 395, Lee Vining, CA 93544; the Lee Vining Post Office, 121 Lee Vining, Lee Vining, CA 93544; the Bridgeport Public Library, 94 North School Street, Bridgeport, Ca. 93517; the Bridgeport Post Office, 29 Kingsley St, Bridgeport, CA 93517. You can also visit the project’s webpage at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/d9/projects/aspenfales/

CONTACT
For more information concerning this project, please contact Brian McElwain, Project Manager, at (760) 872-4361, or brian.mcelwain@dot.ca.gov; or, Angela Calloway, Environmental Office Chief, at (760) 872-2424, angie.calloway@dot.ca.gov. Individuals who require special accommodation are requested to contact the District 9 Public Affairs Office at (760)872-0603. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929 or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922.
owners this week. Which came as news to Wave Rave's Steve Klassen. But then, the first round of consultants (Hart Howerton) didn't talk to him, either.

It seems to be a trend, then, that consultants who are supposed to represent the will of the community are actually afraid to talk to the community.

As Klassen said to me last fall, "I'd never heard of Hart Howerton. They never talked to me. It seemed unprofessional to publish a plan with my building vanished and a hotel in its place ... I always wanted a hotel. Maybe it'll be the Wave Rave hotel."

No one ever bothers to figure out that there's passion in places. Isn't my passion to run my business more important than how the town might be laid out? Leave it the f%$# alone. Main Street has worked for me for 27 years. Small changes are fine and necessary, but ...

In response to the Dinsmore non-meeting, Klassen simply texted, "Just don't take my parking away. People have to walk in rain and snowstorms with their rentals and own boards to my front door."

The 2nd Annual Poetry Out Loud competition in Mono County was held Sunday, February 5 in Bridgeport. Students from throughout the county read poems of their choice from a list approved by Poetry Out Loud to win a spot at the State competition, and hopefully the Nationals. Sophia McKee (left), who recited The Darker Sooner by Catherine Wing and Self-Portrait by Chase Twichell, will go on to State competitions. Brayan Garcia (right) recited The Ocean by Nathaniel Hawthorne and Blind Curse by Simon Ortiz, and he was named the alternate winner should McKee not be able to attend.

Poetry Out Loud is a national recitation competition, not a writing contest. Competitors are judged on presentation, voice, and understanding of the poem.

If you want to keep your parking, just don't take it away. People have to walk in rain and snowstorms with their rentals and own boards to my front door."
A NEW HOME FOR FAMILY FUN

NEW RELEASE OF LUXURY TOWNHOMES NOW SELLING!

New Luxury Townhomes with Alpine Golf Course and Athletic Club Minutes from Mammoth Mountain.

3-4 BEDROOMS UP TO 2,742 SQ. FT. • FROM THE UPPER $700,000’s • SALES 877-766-9275 • LIVECREEKHOUSE.COM

All information subject to change. The Snowcreek Property Company, CalBRE #01812140.