ICE TALK ON THE EASTSIDE

By Bodine

There are rumors spreading through social media and the analog grapevine of raids by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, whom several locals say have been rounding up undocumented workers for deportation. They are only rumors.

The Deputy Consul General of the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento, Jose Rodrigo, whose jurisdiction includes Mammoth, stated in an email to The Sheet on Wednesday, March 1, “We were able to confirm with ICE-ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operations) Sacramento that there was no presence of immigration officers in that area (in the last three weeks).”

David Preciado Juarez, Consul General for the Mexican Consulate in Fresno last week, holding a public meeting Tuesday, February 28. The purpose of the meeting was to help Mexican nationals with visas and passports, and to calm nerves.

Bishop Police Chief Ted Stec took questions from an audience of more than 50 people, saying he and Hardy were there to try and lower the anxiety level by answering some questions. He was asked, if someone gets pulled over for running a red light and found out to be undocumented, would officers turn the person over to ICE.

“No,” Stec said. “Detaining the person over to ICE. The rumors come as no surprise, since ICE has no obligation to notify local law enforcement or authorities before or after they conduct a raid. They are ghosts. Rodrigo told The Sheet, ‘You’ll be hearing a lot of these situations.’

The only thing close to ICE agents on the Eastside, says Crystal Schaefer of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, are Border Patrol agents in the area driving vehicles with Border Patrol insignia on the doors while they participate in cold weather training.

The Mexican Consulate from Fresno was in Bishop all week, holding a public meeting Tuesday, February 28. The purpose of the meeting was to help Mexican nationals with visas and passports, and to calm nerves.

Bishop Police Chief Ted Stec took questions from an audience of more than 50 people, saying he and Hardy were there to try and lower the anxiety level by answering some questions. He was asked, if someone gets pulled over for running a red light and found out to be undocumented, would officers turn the person over to ICE.

“No,” Stec said. “Detaining and arresting immigrants is not the job of local law enforcement, those are federal crimes.”
Let me tell you about a guy you’ve never heard of whose story may illustrated where Mammoth’s future is headed.

His name is David Orr. He’s 33—a self-described millennial. He grew up in Mountain View, Calif. and spent his 20s in the tech industry in Bay Area.

He spent between one and three hours each day commuting to work. He weighed 210 pounds. He left for work before his newborn daughter woke up, and got home after she’d gone to bed.

As he reflected with his wife, he realized that the happiest times he shared with his family were when they escaped the Bay for short trips to Lake Tahoe.

In December, 2013, Orr and family moved to South Lake Tahoe, and in February, 2014, opened the Tahoe Mountain Lab—not to be confused with Scott McGuire’s Mammoth-based Mountain Lab. The two businesses are unrelated.

The initial Tahoe Lab was located within a 2,400-square foot space. Its success led the Orrs and partner Jesse Walker to sink $1 million of their own money into the purchase and refurbishment of an 11,000-square foot building right off Highway 50.

The partners purchased the building from Swift Communications (the building used to house editorial and print operations for Swift’s Tahoe-based publications, including the Tahoe Daily Tribune). As part of the deal, the Tribune now leases back space.

Currently, the Tahoe Mountain Lab has 25 lease tenants, about 100 monthly members (the most basic membership is a five-pack—use the space for any five days of a month for $100), and approximately 50 day users (folks who might be visiting Tahoe who drop in because they need a place to work for the day, or even for a few hours).

Lessees and members have access to a conference room with capacity for 80, three other smaller “break out” rooms, a large bathroom with shower for those biking to work or just getting off the hill, a kitchen, lounge and more.

Along the way, Orr has solved a few conundrums. One such issue emerged in trying to find a local with the know-how to install an access control system. Finding none, Orr and a buddy taught themselves how to do it.

Another challenge involved rehabbing what had been a concrete block of a building by cutting out windows, putting in insulation, taking advantage of passive solar and reducing the building’s carbon footprint.

Orr’s task, as he sees it, is to build community, as well as support his own emerging generation of “digital nomads.” He’s done so by building a space that he would use if he were still in tech.

He now lives what he termed almost a “medieval” lifestyle, seeing as he rarely leaves the few square miles which house his home, work, lake and mountain. Sound familiar?

Another thing which might sound familiar: His lament about...
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The now-svelte David Orr, co-founder of the Tahoe Mountain Lab.
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With a national debt of nearly $20 trillion, continuing with open borders will eventually destroy many public institutions such as education and social services.

We have illegal immigration because business interests want them, not because of some moral piety. When employers hire illegal workers, labor costs are lower, business profits are higher and there was little risk of prosecution until now. Allowing millions of U.S. businesses to pay under-market wages to illegal immigrant workers depresses wages for all workers in the U.S. A situation where law breakers are rewarded while law abiders are punished—a perversion of justice.

Immigration and free trade are significant reasons for the large income disparity in America. Basic market forces of supply and demand: You increase the supply of labor and the cost of that labor drops. This is a critical concept that open border advocates deny and instead focus on emotional (feelings) arguments rather than rational arguments. You may be willing to accept a significant pay cut so an immigrant can enter and work in our country illegally but I do not.

Open borders is exploitative and immoral, a modern day version of economic slavery. In this post-1965 era of mass immigration, no racial or ethnic group has been harmed more from this unfair competition than low skilled black Americans. The true racists are the open border zealots racializing a legal issue by using identity politics, not the citizens who support rational immigration policies that benefit all Americans.

Gary Guenther
Mammoth Lakes

Lying relentlessly

Ted:

I appreciated your savvy response to Trump characterizing the media as the enemy of the American people. Unfortunately Trump is right on this one. They lie relentlessly. Two easy reads to understand the current information climate are Bernay’s book Propaganda, and Orwell’s 1984. It is remarkable that in the age of Wikileaks etc., anyone believes anything in the mainstream media. As CIA Director William Casey said, “We’ll know our disinformation program is complete when everything the American public believes is false.”

And just google Mika Brezinski right now. You can see why Trump said what he said, and more and more people refuse to believe the MSM...who’s (sic) approval numbers are lower than Congress. You can watch the clip on YouTube if you haven’t seen it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjbZEYrRgPE

The scale and sophistication of the propaganda is new, but propaganda is not new. Unfortunately Trump is right on this cause of some moral piety. When everything the American public believes is false, businesses to pay under-market wages until now. Allowing millions of U.S. are lower, business profits are higher cause of some moral piety. When em-

Skimping on doing a proper job is already evident in the Town’s Draft Environmental Impact Report. The California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife submitted six pages of environmental concerns. The Town’s Draft EIR ignored all six pages. Anyone concerned should review the vast amount of citizens’ comments and concerns to the environmental deficiencies to the plan when released. I’ve seen some, although the Town refuses to release them publicly at this time.

The Town should be able to develop its assets, but not in another poorly planned, unfunded project. Show us that the Town has secured the funds to build AND operate the hockey rink in a financially and environmentally sound manner. Then ask for our support.

Peter Hodges
June Lake

La Vista Blanc (2nd homeowner)

Missing in action

Dear Editor:

By now you may have seen the posters around town: MISSING Congress-man Paul Cook. Or perhaps you’ve seen the milk cartons with missing stickers on the national news. And much to the surprise of the creator of this campaign, Jason D. Graham (coordinator of our Congressional District 8 Indivisible groups), the story has even gone international: a few days ago, BBC ran the story!

A little background: colloquially known as a “recess”, the purpose of the “district work week” is for our DC representatives, including ours, to have time to return to their constituents at home. If you watch the news, you are probably well aware that many Republican representatives, including ours, have not scheduled town halls. Last week, Cook spokesman Fresquez released the following statement: “Unfortunately, the main local agitators demanding a town hall seek not a dialogue but a platform to espouse an extreme political agenda that was resoundingly rejected in California’s 8th Congressional District, both in Rep. Cook’s reelection and in the presidential vote. He will not allow fringe groups of any type to dictate the political discourse.”

No Congressman Cook, I am not “fringe.” I am a small business owner. My husband is a retired Law Enforcement Officer. I stand with the majority of Americans and Californians who believe Climate Change is real and human caused; are against overturning Roe v. Wade; are against diminishing the role of the EPA; are against selling off federal public lands to the states; have a low opinion of President Trump’s performance; believe he should reveal his tax returns; and believe our government should conduct an investigation into his campaign’s ties to Russia.

I am a constituent who would love the opportunity to discuss with my elected representative a number of issues too long to list in a LTE. Here is one of many questions for you: Why do you pit the environment against the economy? I live in a gateway-to-Yosemite town. Yosemite, the lifeblood of my town, had 5.2 million visitors in 2016—a 900,000 visitor increase over 2015. Also, twice as many people now work in solar than in the coal industry. So, besides being better for the earth (do you disagree? I wish I could ask you!), sustainable energy is a boost to the economy. I live in a house completely powered by the sun, and I hired a local business to install our panels.

Margaret Verba
Mono City

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Never. These should be kept in your permanent records.

All shredded documents Recycled. These recommendations on record retention are general guidelines. They are NOT advice for any specific circumstances.
**Cougars and Grandmas (But No Cougar Grandmas)**

**By Sheet Staff**

**Cougars make fatal mistake**

According to Lieutenant Bill Dailey of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), law enforcement division, at about 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24 a man who had been hunting near the north shore of Mono Lake for coyotes had a moun-
tain lion encounter. The hunter was wearing camouflage clothing lying on his stomach on top of a small Knoll blowing on a distressed rabbit call when he heard a noise behind him. As the hunter looked over his shoulder he saw a mountain lion leaning toward him. The hunter threw up his arms in order to protect his head. The lion landed on the hunter's head, sprung free and ran towards the north. The hunter fired two shots, striking the lion. He then returned to his ve-

icle and notified CDFW Officers.

The hunter sustained a minor injury to the back, left side of his head that did not break skin.

The hunter sought medical treat-

ment from Mammoth Hospital and initiated the rabies shot series. The lion will be necropsied and tested for zoological diseases including rabies. An analysis of the tracks found at the scene of the incident left a very clear picture of the event and how it unfold-
ed. It appeared the lion was respond-
ing to the distressed rabbit call and the encounter resulted in the hunter possibly being mistaken for prey by the lion.

The Department will not be filing any charges against the hunter.

**High water in Owens Gorge**

On Monday, February 27, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) issued a press release warning the public that flows that will be increased throughout the Owens River Gorge and along the Upper Owens River. Long Valley Reservoir (Crowley Lake) is filling up fast, and LADWP has been forced to make room to avoid it spilling over Long Valley Dam. This will result in unusually high flows throughout the Gorge and within the Owens River, south of Pleasant Valley Reservoir and into Tinnemah Reser-

voir.

LADWP has warned that the heavy flows will run from March through Fall 2017 and that they could impact access to climbing areas in the Owens River Gorge.

City of Bishop Chamber of Com-

merce CEO Tawni Thompson told The Sheet that LADWP revoked her organization's permit to host the 50th Annual Lake Jones Trout Derby, which was previously scheduled for Saturday, March 11 at Pleasant Valley Reservoir. Thompson said that she told the Owens River could experience flows as high as 700 cfs, as opposed to its usual 40 cfs. "Not only will that make for bad fishing, it's not safe," said Thompson this week, adding that The Chamber harbors no ill will for LADWP's deci-
sion.

According to Thompson, the derby usually draws about 1,000 partici-
pants, 80 percent of whom travel to the Eastern Sierra for the event. "We estimate that the total financial ben-eft to the town of Bishop is between $300,000 and $350,000 for the whole weekend. She said the Chamber of Commerce is in the process of refund-

ing the 400 people who pre-registered for this year's event.

Originally, the derby was schedu-
led to occur at Millpond Park, but Millpond is not open for trout fishing yet. The Chamber spent $10,000 stock-
ing the Owens River two weeks ago. "We prob-
bly spent about $4,000 - $5,000 in out of area ad-

vertising alone," said Thompson. However, "If you talk to anybody, we haven't seen water like this in a long time...we're deal-
ing with timing and runoff we haven't seen before...you can't put a price tag on someone's safety."

**Grandma scams**

On Monday, February 27, Bishop Police Department issued a press release warning residents about a check scam that appears to target the elderly and sick.

Bishop resident Debra Nisbeth was one of the first residents to report the scam to Bishop PD. Nisbeth said her mother received a letter from a company purportedly called Publisher's Clearing House. "The letter even said government approved," said Nisbeth this week.

Enclosed was a real check from Wolf and Electronics, Inc. for $10,000, a claim number, and a phone num-

ber with instructions to speak with a guy named Michael King. "I called the number and gave them the claim number. They said to do go down to the bank, but not to tell anyone that this is happen-
ing to you."

Before bringing her mother to the bank, Nisbeth decided to do some sleuthing on her own. When she looked up Wolf and Electronics, Inc., she discovered it was a pizza oven manufacturing company based out of Waltham, Kansas. "I called and asked to speak to the manager, and he told me he gets between 3 and 5 calls a day from people being scammed," said Nisbeth.

Jessica Scida, Public Information Officer for Bishop PD, said that the check is rigged so that the scammers gain access to information about the victim's bank account. She said her department has received a stack of fake checks over the last week. They have also heard reports of local se-
niors getting phone calls warning that their grandchildren are in jail or were in a near-fatal accident and that they need them to transfer money in order to save them.

"They're common everywhere, but we have had two cases already this year (2017) in which elderly people fell for these scams and agreed to transfer thou-
sand dollars... It breaks my heart, because they're targeting people who would do anything for their grandkids, and who really need that money." However, Scida said local seniors and their families are get-
ing smart. She said one elderly lady re-
ported a phone scam this week in which a scammer called her, claiming to be her grandson, requesting bail money. "She told him, 'I know for a fact that you are not my grandson, because he never calls me.' Suspected scams should be reported to Bishop Police Department.

**Park it over there!**

On Wednesday, March 1, The City of Bishop Planning and Public Works Department hosted a community workshop to gather input about a pro-
posed new parking plan for downtown Bishop. Planner Elaine Kabala said the Sheet that City staff have received complaints from business owners about visitors struggling to find parking around Main Street.

The plan involves new signage to direct visitors to parking areas off of Main Street. It also involves convert-
ing existing two hour parking spots to three hour parking spots, and restor-
ing an existing lot on Sierra Street.

Police Chief Ted Stec said that his department has not been enforcing two hour parking limits in downtown Bishop for the last year or so because business owners said their customers could not use businesses and park legally.

This proposed plan would change parking regulations around Main Street and impose a 30-day grace peri-

od in which Bishop Police Department staff would issue warnings explaining the new policy. The plan will go before Planning Commission and need ap-

proval by City Council before it can be executed.

**Hot cars at Keough**

According to the California Highway Patrol, at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 76-year-old Betty Cameron of Bishop was driving her Toyota eastbound on Keoughs Hot Springs Road. She was approaching US-395 at the same time 56-year-old Big Pine resident Carlos Hernandez was driving a Chevy Cruze south-
bound on 395 in the right lane at 65 mph, approaching Keougs Hot Springs Road.

As Hernandez approached the inter-

section, Cameron came to a stop, but failed to see the other car. She pulled out to make a left turn and drove directly into the path of the Chevy Cruze. The front end of the Chevy broadsided the left front of the Toyota. The collision caused the Toyota to veer in a southeast direction, meanwhile, the Chevy spun around and came to rest in the middle of the intersection. Cameron had to be extricated by Bishop Fire Dept. The Cruze caught fire and it was extinguished by Bishop Fire Dept. Cameron, while still coher-
ent and able to speak at the scene,
ICE continued from page 1

There was an alleged incident, according to one attendee, in Mammoth “years ago,” where Mammoth Lakes Police officers assisted ICE in pulling undocumented residents from their jobs and homes. The attendee asked Stec if he could be trusted not to help ICE with raids in Bishop. Stec said the department only assists ICE in dire situations.

Stec said he was 99 percent certain that the rumors circulating about police assisting with raids are false.

If one person is arrested at a home, for example, law enforcement is only worried about solving the crime, not the legal status of the other inhabitants, he explained.

Inyo County District Attorney Tom Hardy explained, “...if a person who is not in the country lawfully is convicted of a crime and sentenced to jail, the jail and the Department would notify immigration officials at the completion of jail time, and then it would be up to immigration to decide what action they want to take.” If ICE decided not to take action, the undocumented individual would be released just like any other citizen.

Hardy said, most of the time, his office doesn’t even know the immigration status of a person.

Carma Roper, Public Information Officer for the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department said that enforcing immigration law is a federal responsibility. The Inyo SO [Sheriff’s Office] does not enforce federal laws. If requested to assist by any law enforcement agency: federal, state, or local—we will assist in a support role.”

“We will only assist in criminal investigations. It is not our role to enforce immigration law.” Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun said in an email. “We are not turning law-abiding people over to ICE.”

Asking ICE was going on only because the rumors of indiscriminate raids, checkpoints and sweeps throughout Northern California are false, dangerous and irresponsible,” James Schwab, Public Affairs Officer for ICE in San Francisco, said in an email to The Sheet on February 16.

However, on February 11, the Los Angeles Times reported that ICE confirmed in a rare public statement that raids in Southern California had detained more than 150 undocumented individuals, all of whom had committed crimes. These raids were no different from the raids ICE carried out prior to the Trump Administration.

Schwab explained that ICE deportation officers are collecting criminal information of undocumented immigrants around the country, and keeping America safe with arrests made every day. “Our operations are targeted and lead-driven, prioritizing individuals who pose a risk to our communities (street gang members, child sex offenders, and deportable foreign nationals with significant drug trafficking convictions.)”

Despite ICE’s assurance that the agency is only going after the bad guys, Mexican Consul General Juarez told the crowd, “We feel threatened, because we have been threatened.”

He proceeded to give the audience advice about what to do if ICE comes knocking on the front door, or if detained, and what rights everyone in America has. The consulate has a dedicated 24/7 hotline available to answer any questions from undocumented workers.

Juarez said the consulate is the agency to call if a child were to be separated from their parents because they get deported and the kids are stuck in the States. The Protection Department, established just to handle these separation issues, sees that the parent’s wishes for the child are honored.

Marilyn Mann of Inyo County Health and Human Services said a child of deported parents would be treated like other children without parents and would be connected to relatives.

Juarez gave common sense advice too, like never hit or bribe a cop, don’t resist, stay calm, and, above all, Juarez said, don’t talk about your immigration status. Juarez went on to say that there are locals and international partners sympathetic to the plight of the Mexican people with Trump at the helm of the White House.

“I want everyone in our community to trust local law enforcement and feel comfortable approaching us,” Braun said.

David Juarez, Consul General for the Mexican Consulate, addresses a crowd in Bishop on Tuesday, February 27. Juarez discussed raid rumors and how to prepare for a visit from ICE.

O n Wednesday, March 1, Mammoth’s Town Council approved the creation of a council committee of members Mayor Pro-Tem John Wentworth and Colin Fernie to review allocation of the Transient Occupancy Tax funding to several Town partners. Though Councilmember Bill Sausser repeatedly insisted that he would prefer holding workshops to approving the agenda item before him, he nevertheless joined the unanimous vote to create the two-person committee, whose work will not be subject to the Brown Act. The committee is also not required to hold public meetings, said Town Manager Dan Holler.

The work of the committee will be short term by design, said Holler, and would not be a de facto taking body. Any changes the committee suggests to funding for Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH), Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) and Mammoth-Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA), must be approved by Town Council. Of course, two-fifths of Town Council comprise the committee and they need only a five more vote to implement changes.

Holler said on Wednesday that many of the current allocations were decided after the Town’s 2012 strategic plan, but the lack of oversight had contributed to the fumbled development at the Mammoth-Yosemite Airport.

“Of the element of how we allocate (TOT funds) was opened at that point,” said Holler.

Holler explained to The Sheet on Thursday that the Town currently allocates 2.5 percent of the 13 percent Transient Occupancy Tax to the tourism nonprofit (MLT). “Of the 10.5 percent that is left, one percent goes to ESTA.”

Housing, Holler said on Wednesday, is completely separate from “Transient Occupancy Tax to the public and say, ‘We need to support a [thing]’ and there’s these surpluses of Measure A dollars, the public is going to say ‘Why do we need a TBD’?”

Furthermore, said Wentworth, and Councilmember Colin Fernie, “We’re not hearing in the public meetings they hosted in the fall of 2016 that the public has a concern about over-marketing this area and not investing back into public landscape and the larger landscape that makes this place unique. This is what Measure A is all about.” Wentworth said he wanted to begin a conversation about “what’s being done with [the money] and how we’re addressing all these issues.”

The purpose of the committee, Wentworth said, is to “just bring back facts and ideas and items for discussion and possible recommendations for going forward. That’s what we intend to do.”
With Mammoth enjoying a winter worth crowing about, the Mammoth Lakes Trails System is seeing locals and visitors alike flock to the free nordic skiing at Shady...
H is passion was infectious and he never did anything halfway, but beneath his gruff exterior was a heart of gold. Carl Lind passed away on Sunday, February 12 at his home in Bishop, he was 74.

Carl was co-owner of the Bishop Veterinary Hospital, one of the founding fathers of Mule Days, a Bishop High School Trustee for decades and a mentor to countless students and green veterinarians.

His friends and colleagues called Carl “complex” and many of the same people said they didn’t see eye-to-eye with him but they were after the same results.

Verbal sparring partner, Dr. Eric Richman served on the Bishop High School Board of Trustees with Carl for 10 years. Carl served for more than 35 years.

Richman recalled how he and Carl were arguing some issue at a board meeting when someone whispered into Carl’s ear, “Eric’s wrong.” Carl replied, “Shut up, his heart’s in the right place.”

When the Bishop Union and Bishop High School districts merged into one district and goals were being estab-lished, Carl argued one of those goals should be “student connectedness.” Things like sports, music and art that should be “student connectedness.”

“Nobody I know has ever cared more for the district or the kids,” Richman said adamantly.

Carl could always be found on fall Friday at his regular seat at the Bishop Bronco football games, long after his own children were grown.

“I knew Carl for years and had the pleasure of working on the BUSD school board with him since unicification in 2010. Carl was one of those bigger than life people and it took me a while to really know him, but I came to realize that he had a heart of gold,” School Board Trustee Kathy Zacc told The Sheet in an email. “He cared so much about the students of BUSD, especially those who were struggling due to language barriers or difficult family situations. With his passing, we have lost one of our strongest advocates for public education. I miss him very much.”

Some of Carl’s colleagues were children when they met Carl, and later worked beside him. Bishop Union School District Superintendent Barry Simpson met Carl when he was young and knew him most of his life. “I was also privileged to have served as Superintendent of the Bishop Uni-fied School District, where Dr. Lind served as a Trustee for more than 35 years. Dr. Lind cared deeply about our school district and our students and worked hard to make sure our student received the very best educa-tion we could offer. He was a mentor to me, and a great friend. I will miss him very much.”

Dr. Tom Talbot was Carl’s business partner and they worked together for 40 years up until Carl’s retirement four years ago. Talbot’s older brother graduated high school with Carl and went to UC Davis together. Talbot said Carl didn’t plan on fully retir-ing, but a few days after he decided he was going to take it easy, he was diagnosed with ALS.

There would be no easy. Whatever Carl did, he did so with exuberance, Talbot said. Talbot told the story of Carl and his fascination with motorcycles. He went full-bore on the bikes, like everything he did in his life. Then Carl crashed one day and he broke his collarbone. The mo-toercycles went into storage and Carl moved on to the next endeavor.

MC Hubbard knew Carl from her years on the Mule Days Board and, like most of the community, he was her vet.

One of Hubbard’s beloved Corgis had to put down and she called Carl. Carl owned the dog’s grandfather, Carl’s grand-dog she called it. It was a Saturday and he told her to come to the clinic. Carl asked her into the room and they both cried over the Corgi.

“He had a gruff exterior, but inside that man was a heart of gold,” Hub-bard said.

Greg and Trina Jennison shared a story about their pollo loco, Henny Penny, one of Carl’s patients. Henny Penny grew up with humans and thought she was one; drinking from the dog dish, roosting on the back of the chair and laying eggs throughout the house. The Jennisons’ took Henny Penny to Carl when her crops became impacted and he decided to oper-ate, something he’d never done to a chicken before.

The chicken had a little anesthesia mask, and just before the incision, Carl looked up and said, “I can’t be-

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CARL LIND, 1942-2017

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MLR
continued from page 1

development program to address those funding gaps, and that requires a skill set that Boccia himself says he doesn’t have.

Boccia is assisting members of MLR’s Board in crafting a job description for the new Executive Director. There is no job description or application at this point, but Johnson said that he would expect a prospective Executive Director to come into the job with a plan for how to make MLR revenue neutral and for how to sustain that in the future. MLR is also seeking an Executive Director with national connections in recreation, to be able to advocate for appropriate use of public lands.

MLR and its staff is currently funded by Measures R and U. Measure R and U money cannot be used for fund-raising, and that includes staff hours. “Currently, Rich cannot spend paid time on fund development,” said Johnson this week. Johnson hopes to have Town Council re-evaluate those rules, to allow a new Executive Director to focus on creating a strong donor base, building financial partners, and capital campaigns for projects. He said that MLR hopes to be able to give the new Executive Director a clear timeline for how he or she can expect to secure funding for the first three years of their tenure when they hire them. “The funding and the deliverable just don’t align well right now.”

As part of the transition, MLR recently hired Emily Woods to be the Program Administrator, replacing the former Executive Assistant position. Woods will take on more of the administrative work previously done by the Executive Director. She comes to MLR from San Francisco, where she worked for Tech Shop as a Senior Member Ambassador and Education Coordinator for their Makerspaces, which produced software program Square. In addition to administrative skills, Woods brings an extensive network and experience in fund development.

Johnson said that her role will evolve with that of the new Executive Director, but that, speculatively, the board envisions a relationship in which Woods is responsible for administrating funds and programs, maintaining contact with fund recipients and stakeholders, while the Executive Director is out securing funds for development projects.

Rich Boccia.

Where the roads end, we begin...

Mono County Sheriff’s Office
Search and Rescue

If you like the mountains and want to help people, Come Join Our Team!

Annual Recruiting Night
Learn more about us

Wed. March 15th, 2017
7:00 p.m.
SAR Building
ML Water District
Hwy 203 & Meridian

www.monosar.org
info: 760.709.6251

“Ultimately, Rich is a fantastic public servant and has done some amazing work for Mammoth and I would love to see him continue to live and make a difference in our community,” said Johnson of Boccia.

Rich Boccia.
Come see Mammoth’s latest, the innovative “Techreation” co-work space inside the Sierra Center Mall. We’ll host a “soft opening” on Saturday, March 11 beginning at 6 p.m. and hear from a Tesla team member at 7 p.m.
Come visit the mall for our Tesla event March 5-12. See the “mobile showroom” and test drive a Tesla X SUV with towing capacity of up to 5,000 lbs! Learn how easy a Tesla is to charge, how safe and fun it is to drive and how electric vehicles can fit seamlessly into your lifestyle.

Just swing on by or book an appointment online at www.tesla.com/event/tesla-explores-mammoth-lakes
ERIN “WILLI” WILLINGHAM, 1971-2017

A packed memorial service in June Lake pays tribute to beloved local

They gathered in June Lake on Monday to celebrate one of their own. They spilled out into the hallways and doorways and kitchen and stairs of the June Lake Community Center. And there isn’t a fire marshal on Earth who would’ve dared tell any of them to leave.

Not that they would have listened anyway. Erin “Willi” Willingham, a son of June Lake, a 20-year veteran of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Road Department, a loving father, a loving son, a man of integrity who generally let his actions speak for him, died with his boots on February 17, on the job. He was 45.

The cause of death, according to his father Ken, appears to have been a brain hemorrhage.

Willi was born in Hollywood, Calif. on October 15, 1971 to Carol and Ken Willingham.

The very next year, the family moved to June Lake “to establish our alternative lifestyle,” said Ken with a twinkle. As Ken said, “we’ve scratched and fought to stay here [ever since].” And as he taught his son, “You work for your buck.”

It’s an ethos that Willi has clearly passed onto his son Chase, who said he admired how his father fulfilled his commitments, to the last day, when he reported to work even though he was feeling terrible.

“If I’m in management someday, I’m gonna be working with my guys [as opposed to sitting behind a desk]. It’s a brotherhood,” said Chase.

Chase is the middle child of Willi’s three. Carlie, the eldest, is currently going to nursing school in Roseville. His youngest, Sydney, is 16 and lives with her mother Kimberly in Lee Vining. Willi and Kimberly were married for 20 years before divorcing about three years ago.

But out of the sadness and disappointment of a marriage ending there was also a silver lining. As Ken said, it allowed him to reconnect with his son and spend more time with him, as Willi moved back into his parents house.

One thing about Willi—he was a stickler for details. Before he took the job with the town of Mammoth, he was a finish painter. He was also, said his father, a very good cook. Willi didn’t rush things. When he took a cut of meat off the grill, he wouldn’t just slap it on plate and serve it, no matter how hungry or impatient his father was. “It’s not ready yet. It has to rest,” Ken said, recalling one of Willi’s signature lines.

It was this patience which also made him a good boss and a good Dad.

“I could call him in the middle of the night and have something all over the floor in pieces, and he’d come right over and help me put it back together,” recalls Chase.

Willi had met someone new recently, and unbeknownst to even his closest pals, he had been considering a move out of the area to explore this new relationship with Christy Hernandez of Vista. How did they meet? Christy, widowed a few years before, decided to join an online dating service on a dare from a friend.

She only responded to one profile. What drew her to him? There was nothing false or exaggerated in Willi’s online profile. He was the only thing he knew how to be—honest. “He was a real gentleman,” she said.

The couple would drive four hours each way . . . for dates . . . in Palmdale! (now that’s love).

As Ken said, “We were grateful for her outpouring of love for my son.”

In addition to being survived by his parents and children, Willi is also survived by younger sister Chelsea, brother-in-law Jason and their four children Madison, Hailie, Jack and Charlie Rose. He is also survived by many aunts and uncles, one of whom traveled from Toronto to be at Monday’s event, which was graciously catered by the June Lake Women’s Club.

There weren’t a lot of big talkers and/or fancy speeches made at the community center, at least the traditional kind. But if you just looked in people’s eyes, the eyes said everything.
FEDS TRY TO SHAFT MINERS

Will try to take 270,000 acres out of play in Inyo County

By Bodine

Lands best suited for renewable energy generation and transmission lines are desert lands in the West where there's plenty of wind, sun and open space. These lands are currently being designated specifically for energy generation and distribution projects through the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) including the designation of 752,000-acres in Inyo County as California Desert National Conservation Lands.

The DRECP is a joint project between the Bureau of Land Management, the California Energy Commission, the US Department of the Interior, and other agencies that met with Inyo County staff and Supervisors multiple times since 2015.

Matt Kingsley, Inyo County Supervisor, 5th District that covers the entire southern half of the 10,000-square foot county, said the county wasn't necessarily happy with another restriction on its land. However, the county was assured by the State Director of the BLM, Jim Kenna, that the lands would essentially stay the same.

On January 10, however, the county was told about a new directive, Appendix Z of the DRECP, and the Department of the Interior will "withdraw" 270,110-acres of the 752,000 for "segregation" of that land from mining laws for a two-year scoping period to see if a 20-year withdraw is needed. In Layman's terms, there will be no new mining permitted for two years on those 270,110-acres and if an environmental study deems the land needs more time without mining a 20-year ban could be put in place.

Kingsley explained this will be the first of three phases, meaning the remaining 480,000+ acres could be up next.

As Inyo Supervisor Jeff Griffiths said during a DRECP presentation to the Board in January, "We seem to be the mitigation area for the rest of the desert."

At the same meeting, Kingsley noted there had been 800 mineral claims in the few months preceding the Jan. 10 directive, demonstrating continued interest in mining.

In response to the directive, Kingsley said there has been plenty of opportunity for DRECP representatives to tell the county this was happening. Kingsley is unsure what mining has to do with renewable energy and neither did Sarah Webster, public information officer at the California Office of the BLM in an email to The Sheet.

Mining is what shaped and built Inyo County. As an example, Kingsley uses the Cerro Gordo Mine east of Lone Pine that produced more than six-tens of gold every day for five years. Mining is not the booming industry it once was in America, but the demand for precious metals has not waned. It's not for jewelry, but used in electronic equipment.

The BBC reported in 2016 that one million cell phones need about 16 tons of copper, 700 pounds of silver and 70 pounds of gold to operate. According to Statista.com, cell phones sales are booming worldwide, from 100 million in 2007 to 1.5 billion in 2016 and the average cell phone is replaced every 11-months.

There's a conspiracy theory that environmental groups may be behind the mining bans, Kingsley said. But, the environmental groups may be behind the mitigation. Kingsley said it's still unsure how big the plots would be, or what the mitigation will entail.

The county doesn't if roads would be counted against the 1-percent or the tally taken after the roads. Kingsley said roads alone could account for 1-percent.

The two-year suspension would not affect existing mines, but, Kingsley explained, existing mines can go dry and exploratory mines need to be dug to keep an operation going. Claims for those exploratory mines would be unavailable.

A 90-day scoping and public comment period ends March 27. Comments can be sent to BLM California Director, 2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-1623, Sacramento, CA 95825 or electronically to drecp_cdncl_withdrawal@blm.gov.
We stock a large selection of supplies for all your climbing, hiking, and outdoor adventures. Rentals are available including tents, packs, sleeping bags, bouldering pads and climbing shoes. Open 7 days a week including holidays.

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- **Staffing Coordinator** SDOE

Snow Shovelers M $20-$25

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

Help Wanted

**Mammoth Lakes**

- **The Town of Mammoth Lakes is looking for a Temporary Snow Removal Operator. Full-time hours for the winter season. Class B required. Visit www.townofmammothlakes.com for more information.**
- **Crowley Lake Fish Camp is hiring for the upcoming Spring and Summer Season! We have just posted retail/clerk positions available in our shop and also need someone to work outdoors on our boat docks. Excellent customer service skills are a must, and fishing experience is a huge plus. You must be available to start in April, and must be able to work weekends and Holidays. If you are interested in joining our team, please email a resume to crowleylakesfishcamp@gmail.com or find an application on our website.**
- **My Mammoth Shuttle is a commercial shuttle company and is seeking a responsible individual. Driver/Chauffeur is expected to make between $15-$25/ hour depending on shift/ hours. Duties are varied and are dependent on the needs of the team. If you are interested in joining our team please call Adam @ 760-920-5884.**

**Help Wanted**

**The Sheet**

17 Saturday, March 4, 2017 www.thesheetnews.com

NO CLASSIFIEDS

**Help Wanted**

**Snow Shovelers-M $20-$25**

Mammoth Lakes Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rockerie has the following positions available. Food and Beverage Floor Supervisors, Server, Bartender, Bar/ Grille Hostess, Contact Kevin O’Connell 760-923-2321, or pick up an application at the Mammoth Lakes Branch Office of the Mono County-Accepting applications for a forklift operator starting immediately. $12-14/hour. Send resume via email to info@gomez.com, or stop in and speak with Rene or Chris. Mammoth Brewing Company is immediately hiring for warehouse/delivery drivers and beer packagers. Must have good driving record and be able to get a Class B license within 60 days of employment. Pay starts at $15 for packagers and $16 for drivers, job incl. benefits. Apply at www.mammothbrewing.com.

**SUPERIOR COURT of California forMono County-Accepting applications for a temporary family court worker.**

- **Deputy Clerk in the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse; Monthly, $2,687 to $4,280 DOE with excellent benefits. For job description and application go to the Court website at www.court.ca.gov/jobs.**
- **Also contact the Superior Court at (760) 923-2321, or pick up an application at the Mammoth Lakes Branch Office.**

**TEMPORARY FARMWORKERS – 3/4 contract hrs and the hourly rate noted below guaranteed (piece rates may apply). Additional monetary benefits may apply. Tools/supplies and other necessary work housing provided. Travel costs reimbursed at 50% of contract and upon completion of contract (earlier if appropriate), 20 days experience and a reference required. To apply, contact the State Workforce Agency (SWA) here in the Mammoth Lakes area or local SWA-JOP 1201789, 1 Farm Job, Right.**

**For Rent**

- **2 BDR/L. RA $33 10 Bax. ap. for rent, $1,800/mo.**
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**For Sale**

**For Sale – well-established local catering company. More information: 562.331.2589.**

BRIEFS continued from page 7

**continued major internal injuries and was eventually transported by airplane to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, NV.**

**Skidding into the hospital**

According to the California Highway Patrol, an 18-year-old was traveling too fast on an icy Highway 395 when his car spun into oncoming traffic and sent him to the hospital. Edward Walters, 18, of Bishop, was traveling northbound on US-395 south of Lower Rock Creek in a 1999 Honda CRV. At 4:15 p.m. at a speed of 50 to 55 mph, the driver collided with a tree and lost control of the vehicle, subsequently spinning across the lanes and into the path of oncoming traffic.

Walters was pronounced dead on arrival and his body was removed by the Coroner's Office.

**SAR rescue on Mt. Williamson**

The Inyo County Sheriff’s Office received a call Wednesday morning about an injured skier/hiker, who was the victim of a fall. According to the Sheriff’s office, a group of six set out on a hike to Mt. Williamson at 7:30 a.m. to hike Mt. Williamson, south of Independence and ski down. At about 6:30 a.m. one of the party, a 37-year old man from Gardnerville, NV, slipped and fell approximately 200 feet. He sustained an injury to his right knee. Due to the steep terrain, a CHP H-80 helicopter out of Apple Valley was called to assist. The victim was hoisted roughly 100 feet, and transported to Southern Inyo Hospital for treatment.

**Bencomo pleads not guilty**

Inyo County District Attorney Tom Hardy told The Sheet in an email that Raymond Bencomo III has changed his plea from “not guilty” to “not guilty by reason of insanity.” A status conference has been set for March 9 with a trial date of April 10.

**Bencomo was arrested on the Bishop Paiute Reservation on August 26, 2016 and charged with several felonies including possession of stolen property and felon possession of a firearm and ammunition andinating an officer.**

Hardy explained the plea is “very rare” in both the county and the state. If Bencomo sticks with it, he will first be tried on the felonies, and any he’s found guilty of will be proceeded with a trial on the reason regarding his sanity. It will be up to Bencomo to prove “by a preponderance of evidence” that he didn’t know or understand what he was doing at the time of the offenses.

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BARS & MUSIC
Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. off draft beers, $2 off wine, 4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread, Margarita, $1 Pina Colada. Open 4-7 p.m. daily and all night on Mondays.
Roberto's 4-6 p.m. every day.
Austria Hof. 4-6 p.m. Sun.-Thurs. Fri.-Sat. 4-5 p.m.
White Bar Restaurant & 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 bolognese, salad and glass of wine, 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-9 Sat-11 p.m.
Happy Hour @ The Bistro at Snow Creek 4:30-6:30 p.m. daily. Mammoth Tavern Happy Hour Tuesday-Sunday 3:30-5:30 p.m. Closed Mondays.
Smokeway weekend Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. in the bar only.
Side Door Happy Hour 3-6 p.m. Mammoth's famous Slocums Happy Hour Mammoth's famous Slocums Happy Hour: Happy Hour Sun thru Fri 4-6; Saturdays 4-5.
Giovanni's Happy Hour, daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.
Lakanuki Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m., $4.50 margaritas, Mai Tais. Happy Hour drink specials 10 p.m.-close.
Black Velvet Coffee's Happy Hour, from 4-6 p.m. everyday. $7 glasses of wine.
Morrison's Happy Hour Daily 4-6 p.m. $50 for two Wednesday's three course meal. See ad, p. 3.
March 3-4/ Joe Gray Jr. at the Baby Grand playing smooth jazz at Tamarack. 3:30-9:30
Johnny Tarr plays 53 Kitchen & Cocktails. 9-11:30 p.m.
Moe Green at Pantages liners lounge. 10 p.m. 21 and over.
Tuesday, March 7/ Taco Tuesdays at the Outlaw Saloon, $2 each taco (beef, chicken or fish) with toppings.
Trivia Tuesday @ Mammoth Brewing Co. 7 p.m.
Two for Tuesday @ Black Velvet Coffee. Two glasses of wine or beer for the price of one. Wine bar open from 4-9 p.m.
Wednesday, March 8/ Half off wings @ John's Pizza Works. See ad, p. 2.
Friday, March 10/ Pine Street Ramblers, a bluegrass, country and old-time string band, play Rafter's lounge. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. See haw!
Saturday, March 11/ Afrodisious (Afro Disco Funk) plays Rafter's lounge. 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
March 10-12/ V/T/A (Vincenzo Thomas Amato & Friends) play 53 Kitchen & Cocktails. 9-11:30 p.m.

TOWN STUFF
March 2-4/ Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association leads organized snowshoe tours. Trips depart from the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. RSVP at 760-924.5501 or meet at the USFS Welcome Center. Snowshoes provided.
Friday, March 3/ Antelope Valley Birding, beginners welcome. Meets @ 9 a.m. 107537 Hwy 395 in Coleville.
Crowley Lake Peapod playgroup, 10-11 a.m. Crowley Lake Community Center, 438 S. Landing Rd.
Saturday, March 4/ June Lake Winter Festival: Triathlon and snowmobile poker rally. Snow sculpture contest. 7 a.m.-6 p.m. in June Lake. See ad, p. 9.
Bishop Rotary: International Feast! Eat! Drink! Dance! Tri-County Fairgrounds, 1234 Fair St. Bishop. Time: 5:30 p.m. $40. 
Alabama Hills Film History Hike. Meets 10 a.m. Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center. Lone Pine. Info: Dave Kirk, dmkirk@blm.gov or call visitor center, 760.876.6222.
Film Showing: Jack Reacher Never Go Back. Movie starts @ 6 p.m. Location: Museum of Western Film History in Lone Pine. Free, tho donations to film program welcome.
Motocross race in the Main arena at Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds. $22 pasta dinner at Tamarack. Gates open 7 a.m. Adult admission $10. Kids under 12 are $5. Call Anna Passholder Early Ups at Mammoth Mountain. Selected lifts open at 7:30 and a complimentary breakfast is available while supplies last at McCoy Station.
Woolly's Saturday Parade in the Village at Mammoth. Music, face painting and fun begins at 3:45 p.m. Open air market for the Women's Climbing Fest in Bishop. Tri-County Fairgrounds, 12-5 p.m. See story, p. 21.
Sunday, March 5/ Ski/snowshoe to South Lake with the Sierra Club. Approx. 10 miles round trip. Meet 10 a.m. at dirt lot, corner of 395 and Pleasant Valley Dam Rd. Contact Lisa: 720.238.2581. ljhuckley@gmail.com
Volcanic Tablelands clean-up with Friends of the Inyo, Access Fund and the Women's Climbing Fest. Meet @ Mountain Rambler in Bishop at 8 for breakfast, and head out to volunteer at 8:30. Info: www.friendsofinyo.org. See story, p. 21.
Monday, March 6/ Mammoth Lakes Housing Board meets 6 p.m. @ MLH, 587 Old Mammoth Rd. #3. Mammoth Historical Society Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. at Lee Vining Community Center. Info: 760.687.6644. See sidebar, next page.
TOWN STUFF

March 7-10/ MakerSpace at the Mammoth Lakes Library. Tuesdays: 2-6 p.m. for elementary aged children; Wednesdays 2-6 p.m. for middle school; Thursdays 1-6 p.m. all ages; Fridays 10 a.m.-noon for adults.

Tuesday, March 7/ Mammoth Recreation Commission meets at 9 a.m. in Suite Z.
Mammoth Lakes Recreation meets 5 p.m. in Suite Z.

Wednesday, March 8/ Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission meeting canceled. Moved to March 14 @ 9 a.m.

Mono Basin RPC meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lee Vining Community Center.
Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fair Board meets, Location: Fairgrounds Main Office. Time: 9 a.m. Info: 760.873.7388.
Grand opening of Mono County Office of Education’s Adult Education Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Mammoth Lakes Library, RSVP or just stop by. Info: 760.934.0031. See ad, p. 21.

Thursday, March 9/ Instructional basketball at the Mammoth Middle School Multipurpose room, 5:15-6 p.m. Free, designed for children of all ages.

Becoming an Emotion Coach with First 5, Praise, discipline and temper tantrums, Registration required: Call First 5 @ 760.924.7626.

March 10-11/ Full Moon Tours @ Tamarack. Naturalist-guided snowshoe tour. $35 per person includes equipment. Departs Ski Center at 7 p.m. for a 1.5 hour excursion. Reservations: 1.800. MAMMOTH.

UPCOMING

March 11-12/ JLA Banked Slalom @ Mammoth Mountain, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. Info: www.mammothmountain.com.

Saturday, March 11/ Eastern Sierra Audubon COSA walk. Meet at 8:30 a.m. All levels of experience are welcome. Meet @ BLM/Forest Service building on West Line St. in Bishop. Contact Hillary Behr for info. hillary.behr@bighornusaite.org or 760.920.5267. Blake Jones Trout Derby cancelled. See story in briefs, p. 7.

Sunday, March 12/ Ski/snowshoe Mammoth Pass with the Sierra Club. Approx. 6 miles round trip. Meet 9 a.m. Mammoth Union Bank. Info: 760.924.2140 or jungberman@icloud.com.

Monday, March 13/ Informational meeting with the Mammoth Lakes Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). 6-7 p.m. at Mammoth Lakes Police Department. Info/RSVP, email: cert@mammothmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Tuesday, March 14/ Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission meeting rescheduled to 5 p.m. today, Suite Z.

Wednesday, March 15/ Mono County Search and Rescue annual recruiting night @ the SAR building, Mammoth Lakes Water District, Highway 203 off Meridian. Info: 760.709.6251 or www.monoras.org.

Kindergarten Round-Up with First 5 at Mammoth Elementary School. Meet the teachers, complete K Registration, & get a free Winter Backpack. Round Up @ 6 p.m., Dental Checks @ 6:30 p.m. More info, call M5 760.934.7545.

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

A Dog’s Purpose (PG): A dog ponders the meaning of his life through several reincarnations and lifetimes with different families.
Logan (R): Hugh Jackman’s Wolverine, of X-Men fame, cares for an ailing Professor X in a hideout on the Mexican border.

For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com. Custom- er appreciation nights on Tuesdays. All seats, all shows $6
Public Hearing Notice

The Valley Groundwater Management District
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to California Water Code section 10723(b) and California Government Code section 4657, the Valley Groundwater Management District (“District”) will hold a public hearing beginning at 5:30 p.m. on March 14, 2017, at the District’s offices, located at 201 Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526. The purpose of this hearing is for the District to consider and determine whether it will be necessary to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Management Plan (“GSMAP”) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Special Groundwater code sections 10723(b) and 10724), for that portion of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Basin lying within the District’s statutory boundaries.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the hearing to the Tule River Group Water District, PO Box 1235, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; or via email to tvgm2012@mail.com. Written comments may also be presented at the hearing.

If the District determines at the hearing that it will be necessary to adopt a GSMAP for the District, the District Board will hold a public hearing beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2017, at the District’s offices, located at 201 Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526, to consider and determine whether it will be necessary to adopt an implementation plan for the purposes of implementing the District’s GSMAP. The purpose of this hearing is for the District to consider and determine whether it will be necessary to adopt an implementation plan for the purposes of implementing the District’s GSMAP. Written comments may be submitted prior to the hearing to the Tule River Group Water District, PO Box 1235, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; or via email to tvgm2012@mail.com. Written comments may also be presented at the hearing.

For additional information regarding this hearing, please contact Marion Dunn at 760-933-2369 or by email at tvgm2012@mail.com.
SECOND ANNUAL WOMEN’S CLIMBING FEST HITS BISHOP
By Giles

This weekend, social media platform Flash Foxy, founded and operated by Shelma Jun of Brooklyn, NY, will host the second annual Women’s Climbing Festival in Bishop. With the Tri-County Fairgrounds as home base, festival participants will venture out into the Volcanic Tablelands and Buttermilks for workshops and clinics about climbing.

According to local festival organizer Tammy Watson, the number of participants in this year’s three-day festival is nearly double that of last year’s event. “We have about 285 participants,” said Watson, who is a founding member of the Flash Foxy Girl Crew of climbers and boulderers.

Registration for the festival was open to all women and people who identify as women. Tickets sold out in less than an hour after online registration opened on December 1, 2016.

Watson said that this year’s participant pool consists primarily of climbers who are traveling to Bishop for the festival. They are a mix of experienced outdoor climbers and those more accustomed to recreating in urban gyms. According to Watson, 75 percent of the festival’s budget was spent locally on gear, food, facility space, speakers and instructors. The Women’s Climbing Festival partnered with 14 Bishop businesses, including Sierra Mountain Guides, Black Sheep Coffee, Mountain Rambler Brewery, The Independent Project Press, and Alex Printing. Watson said that many local women are participating as festival volunteers. “Our goal is to try to promote women in climbing, but its also to work closely with the local community,” said Watson this week.

This year’s festival includes two events that are open to the general public. There will be an open air market at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop on Saturday, March 4, from 12 to 5 p.m. Vendors and representatives from local guide services, stewardship groups, and gear companies will have booths as well as items for sale. “It’s an opportunity for the public to come and check us out, see if this is something they’d like to be part of next year,” said Watson of the event.

On Sunday, March 5, Friends of the Inyo and the Access Fund will be hosting a cleanup event in partnership with festival organizers and participants that is also open to the general public. Participants will meet for a free breakfast at Mountain Rambler Brewery at 8 a.m. and depart for the Volcanic Tablelands at 8:30 a.m. for a morning of cleaning up trash. "Shelma is super aware about the fact that the festival is bringing a lot of people to the area," said Ben Wickham of Friends of the Inyo, who helped coordinate the event. Wickham said Jun approached groups about arranging a cleanup last year, and that it was a great opportunity to promote good etiquette among people who may be new to the outdoors. "The event has a lot of urban and new climbers... often times, there is no real interaction between tourists and the locals who live here. I think this will promote a sense of community, and it’s a great opportunity to give back after having a fun weekend."

“We believe that women in climbing need an outlet to get out on our own, to push each other,” said Watson. "It’s just different when you see someone with a similar body to yours do something. You think, I can relate."

If you were planning to climb in the Happy, Sads or Buttermilks this weekend, plan to do so with about 300 lady crushers in addition to the usual weekend crowd. "The permit does not close public land where activity is taking place... but other users should use common sense and be respectful of festival activity,” said Larry Primosch, the Bishop Bureau of Land Management. Clinics are not open to the general public, so if you’d like to boulder, plan to arrive at your problems early, as outdoor climbing clinics will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.
Everyone who moves to Mammoth thinks their kid is going to ski, but kids are kids, and they’re going to do what they want,” said local parent and hockey enthusiast Jeff Posey on Tuesday, February 28. Posey has been driving his 12-year-old son Will to Lake Tahoe several days a week since August, he told The Sheet, because his son needs “ice time” to be competitive in the sport he’s chosen to play, and the Mammoth Ice Rink isn’t reliable enough to get that time.

The Mammoth Ice Rink celebrated the end of skating season with free skating all night on Friday, February 24. According to the online schedule, the rink was closed for a significant period of the day at least 38 times this season (which opened on November 25, 2016) due to either weather or prolonged maintenance. The Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Department was not able to confirm this number or provide one of its own, due to staff being out of town at a conference, said Parks and Recreation Director Stuart Brown in an email to The Sheet on Tuesday, February 28. Brown could also not provide The Sheet with the number of skaters the rink hosted this year, or how much the rink made (lost) in income, as of press time. He told The Sheet that his department plans to present a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation to the Recreation Commission in April.

While Mammoth Lakes residents have now been assured that the proposed Multi-Use Facility (MUF) will not in fact see a ribbon-cutting by the formerly proposed date of October 31, 2017 (and have seen the price tag for the facility grow to almost $11 million), some parents whose kids love to play hockey have made the choice to drive their children to Lake Tahoe and southern California instead.

“It’s a five hour drive [round trip to Lake Tahoe] for an hour and fifteen minutes of practice,” said Posey on Tuesday, “which is why we need a rink here [in Mammoth].” Posey was an original proponent of the “put a roof on it” movement, where local hockey enthusiasts urged the Town of Mammoth Lakes to build a roof on the existing ice rink, located on Mammoth Unified School District property adjacent to the Mammoth Lakes Library. Posey even organized a fundraising campaign, which he dubbed “Raise the Roof!” in February of 2015.

However, Posey now hopes that the proposed MUF will be built in time for his son to possibly get a couple of years of high school hockey under his belt here at home.

Cronus Dillard, who coaches the Bishop Junior Varsity Hockey Team (and last year coached a Developmental Team which included local eighth graders), said it’s too late for his twin children (a boy and a girl, both hockey players and current Juniors at Bishop High School) to get the benefit of the proposed MUF, but that his youngest son, who will be a junior next year, might be able to play in Mammoth.

“So at best, he’ll get one year out of it,” said Dillard of the proposed rink. “But hey, if it helps somebody else, that’s great.” Dillard drives his kids to Van Nuys to practice and compete in tournaments. He “drank the Kool-Aid” once
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he moved from coaching Bishop's inline hockey league (where players don inline skates and compete on a roller rink) to the frozen stuff. Once kids got on the ice, he said, they were hooked. He even invested in synthetic ice, a type of polymer, to the tune of $12,000, that he installed in his garage. He said of course that he'd rather have given that money to the Town of Mammoth Lakes for ice time.

"It's a skill sport," Dillard says. "It just takes time on the ice, and that's a big differentiation. You could have a tremendous athlete and put him on the ice for the first time, and he could be falling down." Dillard says that the local team does incredibly well considering their limitations, but "the higher levels [with access to consistent local ice] are getting 4 hours of ice time a week, and if we're lucky, we're getting 20 hours a season."

"We are definitely traveling a long way, and it shows that our kids just aren't as skilled because they don't have practice time," said Cindy Cimino, whose son Nate plays Band-Tam Hockey in Lake Tahoe and whose other two children play in the Anaheim Ducks league.

"I think we're the only [family] crazy enough to be doing (the travel to both Tahoe and southern California)," Cimino told The Sheet that she is "super excited [the MUF is] happening but I'm bummed that it won't happen before my kids get out of high school."

"I just don't know that we can afford to be doing that [travelling] next year. The Tahoe commitment is huge. To travel alone is super expensive, not to mention the cost to play and use the facilities," she said.

"We're all in," said Posey, who had to get off the phone at 2 p.m. on Tuesday to begin his drive to Tahoe for that evening's practice. "It's a big commitment. I've easily spent $10,000 on hockey this year."

There are a few other families who have been able to get their kids to a reliable hockey rink, but not many. When The Sheet asked Dillard if he thought more local kids would be interested in the sport if they had the resources to play, he cited the immense popularity of the Bishop in-line league as an affirmative answer.

He said that league has been going for almost 25 years, and "it's ridiculously successful for a town of our size. We have over 300 kids, from four years old to seniors in high school, and a few adults too. When I go down south and talk to people at the inline rinks in Irvine and Corona, they can't believe we have that many people ... they're dealing with a population base more than 100 times bigger, and they have the same amount of (players in their leagues)."

Dillard said the traveling is definitely a stressor, but his kids love it so much that he makes the sacrifice to keep them on the ice.

"We were driving back one day from practice in Van Nuys, and I asked my son, 'What do you want to do for your birthday? which was the next Sunday, a day we usually have hockey practice. And he said, 'We're not going to hockey?' I just didn't think that you would want to spend 9 hours in the car for a one-hour hockey practice on your birthday, but they love it that much,'" Posey said he is afraid that the 'Town will not renew the lease at the School District for the 2017-18 season, and that if the MUF is not completed, there will be no skating at all.

"I don't think [the rink is] going to be built next year," he said bluntly.

When asked his opinion on the progress of the Mammoth MUF, Dillard responded, "that's like saying what's my opinion on the progress of a glacier?"

He said that adding a roof to the current facility would extend Mammoth's season by at least another month on either side. Staff from the Parks and Recreation Department were not available to confirm or deny this claim.

"Between having a longer season and fewer cancellations because of the weather, [a roof] would dramatically increase the amount of time we get overall and make a big difference in our outcome when we play down south," Dillard said.

Despite all the hurdles they face, Dillard said, the Eastside kids persevere. "Against these almost insurmountable odds [the players] go down and are competitive down south. I call us the Jamaican bobsled team of ice hockey," he said, a reference to the team that inspired the hit film "Cool Runnings."

"We're in the middle of the desert. The closest rink to us is 40 miles away, and if that's not open, it's four hours."

Though the time and financial commitment is huge, Posey said, "I do what I do because my kid loves it." A community meeting on the proposed Multi-Use Facility will take place at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center on Monday, March 6, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
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