PIECE DREAM
LADWP promises to fix pipe in Big Pine that ruptured last year
By Giles

This week, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) promised to fix a 45-year-old pipe that provides water to The Big Pine Paiute Tribe. At the LADWP Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, Tribe members and supporters asked the Commission to take immediate action to restore the pipe, which provides irrigation to tribal lands and has been non-operational for about two years. Commissioners heard public comment from 32 people, 11 of whom drove from the Owens Valley to Los Angeles. The rest gave comment via conferencing from LADWP’s Bishop Office.

At the meeting, Harry Williams, a member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, accused LADWP employees of deliberately withholding water from the Big Pine tribe, saying, “This is an act of genocide, a violation of public trust. You sign these agreements and you don’t abide by them here in the Owens Valley, on land you own.”

Yolanda Cortez, a member of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, said to the board, “It’s such a small thing to you and it’s such a big thing for us. I have three kids. I can’t garden ... Please just fix the pipe.”

Ian Bell, Environmental Specialist for the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission (OVIWC) testified that the OVIWC has monitored water levels in Big Pine since 1999, and that the organization’s data shows that the water table on the Big Pine Paiute Reservation has dropped 20 feet since 1999.

Soaring at S.N.R.

The Backyard Rail Jam was held at Sierra Nevada Resort and sponsored by the Resort, Wave Rave, the Fun Shop and others on March 18. Pictured above: John Connolly. More photos p.13

TASTES LIKE VICTORY

Julie Thomas’ long journey to dressing princesses and police officers
By Lunch

Julie Thomas moved to the United States in 2006. She’s from Torreon, Coahuila, about 500 miles southwest of San Antonio, in the heart of Mexico. She came here to save her marriage. Her husband worked in the States but was largely absent. She was raising three children (now 26, 24 and 22) on her own and was both enterprising and resourceful. Julie owned her own business—she had a small commercial sewing operation and had contracts with the schools to make uniforms. She also operated a gordita cart, often with the help of her children.

When she arrived in Bishop, her first job was at the Motel 6 in Bishop. She then got a job at Subway making sandwiches. She didn’t know a lick of English.

How’s this for irony: She said the first time she went to Taco Bell, she had to point to the items on the menu because she couldn’t communicate what she wanted with the white gal at the counter.

Her marriage soon ended. For all intents and purposes, her stint in the U.S. would end as well. “The plan was to work for a year and move back to see DREAMY, page 2
Dreamy Dresses in Bishop is open Tuesday through Saturday starting twice a day. He'd come in for a breakfast sandwich and then return later in the day for another sandwich. He'd make small talk with the gal behind the counter, even though she didn't speak his language and he didn't speak hers.

Often, her co-workers Carla and Maggie, would translate what he was saying to Julie.

His name was Danny Thomas, and he works as a Corrections Officer at the Owens Valley Corrections Camp in Round Valley.

This went on for two years.

Julie, in the meantime, took some English classes, both through Bishop High School and Cerro Coso College.

One day, Danny came by to show Julie his new truck. And he asked her to come take a ride with him after work.

She got off at 11 (“She opened, she closed, she worked all the time then,” he recalls). He said he didn't care. 11 was fine.

They started rolling down Highway 6, making small talk. Danny was so wrapped up in the moment he wasn't paying too much attention to how fast he was going. Blue lights appeared in his rearview. He got pulled over by a California Highway patrol officer … for driving too slow.

The officer let him go.

Danny pulled over again later. He asked Julie if she wanted to make out. She said absolutely not. Danny just laughed and kept driving. “It made me respect her even more.”

*Just to tie up a loose end, Julie’s kids had come to live with her soon after she moved to the States. Her parents, however, still live in Torreon, which is much too far away for her."

But then, life is what happens when you're making other plans.

One day, they were driving along Main Street in Bishop when Danny saw a space for lease next to The Toggery. “You should start a business,” he said to his wife. Which confused her, as they had had some conversations about opening up a restaurant together. This wasn't restaurant space.

“Making dresses,” he said. Thus, “Dreamy Dresses” was born. Danny made alterations for BPD, as well as other law enforcement agencies in the area. He's the fixer of handed-down wedding dresses and ill-fitting tuxedos. Police Department just purchased new uniforms, so she is doing the alterations about opening up a restaurant together. This wasn't restaurant space.

Initially, Julie made dresses for young girls, but soon, she found herself fielding queries from their mothers, particularly about alterations. But she didn't have the space to do it.

Then the spot on the corner opened up with double the square footage and she moved next door.

Now, 50 to 60% of her business is in alterations. She gets many referrals from The Toggery, the Dry Cleaners and Ben Franklin. The Bishop Police Department just purchased new uniforms, so she is doing the alterations for BPD, as well as other law enforcement agencies in the area. She is the fixer of online purchases that don't fit quite right, as well as the fixer of handed-down wedding dresses and ill-fitting tuxedos.

Her bread-and-butter is still in the dresses for young princesses everywhere. When she displays a new dress in the window, it rarely stays there for more than a few days.

In Mexico, Danny says her daughters would go to sleep not knowing what they'd be wearing the next day because Julie would make them new dresses overnight. Bippity-boppity-boo.

She makes the store-bought Disney dresses look and feel ... cheap. Travelers passing through have begun to stop as well. She's had orders from states all over the west.

Dreamy Dresses in Bishop is open Tuesday through Saturday starting at 10 a.m.

As to the myriad of changes in her life over the past decade, Julie says, “I never thought I’d marry a white guy.”
FRIDAY, APRIL 7
6PM–11PM
FRIDAY, APRIL 7
1980S BLACK LIGHT ARCADE PARTY
IT’S A BLAST FROM THE PAST!
Join us for an evening of retro fun with arcade games and a black light dance party featuring live music by The Spazmatics.
Tickets are $100 each or $175 for two.
At the Mountainside Conference Center inside Main Lodge
FOR TICKETS CALL 760.934.0639 OR GO TO MAMMOTHFOUNDATION.ORG

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GREAT PRIZES
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• (2) nights stay at SIERRA NEVADA RESORT and SPA & DINNER FOR (2) AT JIMMY’S TAVERNA
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The multi-day Mammoth Invitational benefits educational and athletic programs for children in our community.

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Sierra Classic Theatre
Edison Theatre
100 College Pkwy
Mammoth Lakes, CA
March 29 thru April 1 @ 7pm
April 2 @ 4pm
*Tickets $20 Students & Seniors $18*
Purchases include parking at mammothcircusplay.org

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On Monday, March 20, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti declared a State of Emergency. According to a press release, the purpose of the declaration was to “protect the lands and communities near the Los Angeles Aqueduct from flooding.”

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Manager of Media Relations Amanda Parsons says the primary purpose of the declaration was to secure funds from the State and initiate contract negotiations for construction required to protect the dry Owens Lake dust mitigation infrastructure from damage caused by projected flooding. According to LADWP, Eastern Sierra snowpack is at 241% above normal, which the department predicts will send up to 1 million acre-feet of runoff into the Owens Valley come spring. That is nearly twice the volume of water Angelinos use in an average year. Garcetti promised to send as much of that water to Los Angeles as quickly as possible in order to save Owens Valley communities from potential flooding.

LADWP intends to send 500,000 acre-feet of that water to Los Angeles and spread roughly 200,000 acre-feet throughout the Owens Valley. Prior to the diversions, Owens Lake was the terminus of the Owens Valley water system. Any runoff not reabsorbed into the groundwater system or evaporated would run into the Owens Lake. This year, LADWP expects about 200,000 acre feet of water to do just that, which the agency says could cause as much as $500 million in damage to existing dust mitigation infrastructure.

LADWP has already invested over $1.1 billion in dust mitigation on the dry lake bed, which Phill Kiddoo of Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District says is targeted towards the lake’s historic edges. “Those are the places that tend to be the driest, as they are still the highest elevation portions of the area,” said Kiddoo this week. “The sudden influx of water would be good for air quality in the short term, but the long term impact on local air quality would depend on where the sediment carried by that water deposits [ended up].”

LADWP predicts that the additional 200,000 acre-feet of water will raise the current lake level by seven feet and add about 30 square miles to the existing saline brine pools. Existing dust mitigation infrastructure on the dry lake occupies about 50 square miles, and has reduced air pollution due to toxic airborne particles by 96% over the last 17 years. In a press statement, LADWP said it will not use this as an opportunity to refill part of the Owens Lake, citing its plan to continue water diversions in future years. The department said that, provided those diversions continue, this year’s additional water will evaporate in the next 12 to 18 months. Kiddoo noted that 200,000 acre feet is the “worst case scenario” for LADWP, and that most of the historic Owens Lake bed will still be left dry even in the most extreme runoff scenario. “The most sensitive parts of the lakebed for dust mitigation will still remain dry. LADWP is doing the right thing, taking early precautions in looking out for everybody’s best interests…” said Kiddoo, who noted that, as long as LADWP continues to divert water through the aqueduct in subsequent years, The Owens Lake will not refill to its historic levels, and the dust mitigation infrastructure will be both legally required and necessary.

This is the first time the City of Los Angeles has issued an emergency declaration for excess snowpack runoff. In 1939, 1969, and 1983, the only other years where runoff predictions were as high as this year’s, excess runoff would naturally flow into Owens Lake and evaporate over time.

Additionally, LADWP has begun draining reservoirs north of Owens Lake and allowing water to flow into the aqueduct. These efforts started on March 1, with the Long Valley Dam, and increased flows in the Owens River through the Owens River gorge.

Correction

In last week’s story entitled, “Water, Water Everywhere,” the story stated that Crowley Lake holds 90,000 Acre Feet (AF) of water. This is incorrect. Crowley Lake has about 120,000 AF of water in it now and LADWP is lowering that level to approx. 90,000 AF to make room for the high runoff expected this spring and summer. Crowley Lake at full capacity is 183,000 AF. Also, the capacity of the Los Angeles Aqueduct is 900 cubic feet per second (CFS) north of Haiwee Reservoir. LADWP anticipates that we will be receiving more than 1,000 CFS of runoff from creeks during the high runoff periods.
EVERY DAY MATTERS? BISHOP JCP TO CLOSE

Store is among 138 slated “low-volume” locations to close nationwide

By Lunch

In an abrupt departure from the company’s stated intention just a year ago to not close stores, JCPenney announced the closure of 138 stores nationwide last Friday. Among those stores was its Bishop location.

Store Manager Starla Shunkwiler said JCPenney has been doing business in Bishop for the past 86 years.

Store liquidation begins April 17. The store will close for good on June 18.

A story in the March 20 online edition of www.motleyfool.com stated that rural stores would bear the brunt of the closures.

“Last month, when JCPenney informed investors that it would close 13%-14% of its stores, the company estimated that these locations accounted for less than 5% of its sales and just 2% of its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization.”

In other words, JCPenney is mainly closing low-volume, barely profitable stores. Nearly all of these stores still produce positive cash flow, but in most cases their sales and cash flow performance is declining and they aren’t up to the brand standards that JCPenney wants to project.

Ironically, Shunkwiler said JCPenney’s Bishop location ranked 37th company-wide (out of approximately 1,000 stores) in terms of store profitability. Hardy sounds like “barely profitable.”

Further, in a 2016 story which appeared in Fortune Magazine, JCPenney CEO Marvin Ellison said, “We do not have a massive number of stores we need to close.” He indicated a fleet of around 1,000 stores was optimal.

The story also relayed the following anecdote: “In the first few months after the taking the helm in August (2015), Ellison traveled with his finance chief and head of real estate to visit Penney’s five lowest-volume stores in the country, in places like the Texas panhandle, Nevada and Northern California. The team found such stores carry their weight in terms of sales. According to Shunkwiler, 19 full-and/or part-time employees in Bishop will lose their jobs. Shunkwiler, born and raised in Bishop, has worked at the Bishop location for four years. Despite the store closure, she said, “I really like my job. It’s a great company.”

The longest-serving Bishop employee has been with the company more than 15 years., said Shunkwiler.

The move will vacate an approximately 20,000-square foot commercial space on Main Street just south of the Line Street intersection.

Nationwide, a news release posted on the company website indicated 5,000 positions would be affected nationwide.

Shunkwiler said, interestingly, that business has picked up this week as many people came in to shop to express solidarity with the staff and to send a message to corporate that it shouldn’t close the location.

I really like my job. It’s a great company.

- Starla Shunkwiler

The JCPenney Idea

Adopted 1913

To serve the public as nearly as we can to its complete satisfaction.

To expect for the service we render a fair remuneration, and not all the profit the traffic will bear.

To do all in our power to pack the customer’s dollar full of values, quality and satisfaction.

To continue to train ourselves and our associates so that the service we give will be more and more intelligently performed.

To improve constantly the human factor in our business.

To reward the men and women in our organization through participation in what the business produces.

To test our every policy, method and act in this wise: “Does it square with what is right and just?”
BIG CALTRANS PROJECTS ON HORIZON IN BISHOP
District 9 Director talks funding, expensive and disruptive projects, through 2022

By Giles

At the City of Bishop Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, Caltrans District 9 Director Brent Green gave a presentation on “How Caltrans District 9 Works to Support the City of Bishop.”

In January 2016, Caltrans announced its plans to move forward with construction on the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Project scheduled for Bishop in 2018. The project involves reconstructing drive-way access points, curb ramps, and sidewalks to meet Federal and State ADA requirements on Main Street and West Line Street. The project will run from the South City limit to Wye Road on State Highway 395 (Main Street), and from The Bishop Paiute Reservation to Main Street on State Route 168 (West Line Street).

The project will reconstruct 99 curb ramps, 126 driveways, and 8,900 linear feet of sidewalk. It includes improvements to 44 traffic light signal heads and push buttons to meet ADA requirements, as well as moving many signs, utility poles, and three fire hydrants. The project is expected to cost $3.27 million and will be funded in its entirety by Caltrans.

At a presentation to Bishop City Council in January 2016, Caltrans staff reported that the agency planned to do much of the construction at night to minimize impacts to foot and car traffic on Main Street. They promised to work with the City to minimize the noise impact to hotels and private residences.

According to Florene Trainor, Public Information Officer for Caltrans District 9, Caltrans is in the process of negotiating easement purchases with property owners along Main Street to complete the right of way necessary for construction to begin.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Green said that a design for the project is underway and should be complete later this spring. In January 2016, Caltrans staff reported to City Council that construction on the project was scheduled to begin in December 2017, and that it was expected to run through November 2018. As a result, pedestrian and car traffic on Main Street and West Line Street could be impacted for nearly a year, with at least one week-long full closure of West Line Street.

City of Bishop Director of Public Works David Grah told The Sheet that the project is a Caltrans project to be designed, implemented, and funded by the agency and not the City of Bishop. Grah also said that it would not have been up to the City of Bishop or City Council to approve the project, as it is outside the municipality’s jurisdiction, even though it will happen on Main Street and directly affect businesses operating in downtown Bishop.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Green called Caltrans’ funding system a failed one, in part because of recent moves by Caltrans’ funding system a failed one. Additionally, Caltrans has allocated $1.2 million for the North and South Vee Signals Project set for 2018 and 2019, and $1.1 million for the West Line Street Safety Project, which includes building a new turn lane and implementing multimodal transportation elements such as bike lanes in 2020. Finally, Green announced that Caltrans plans to implement the Meadow Farms ADA Project along Highway 395 north of Route 6, in 2022. That project could cost as much as $12.7 million.

Trainor said that any new construction project completed by Caltrans District 9 is required to comply with both state and federal ADA requirements. According to Trainor, heavily used facilities that are not ADA compliant are a liability for Caltrans. Trainor said that the Bishop ADA project and Meadow Farms ADA projects are funded primarily by the State and Federal government and that the funding Caltrans received for those projects were allocated specifically for upgrading infrastructure to comply with existing ADA regulations. “Those don’t move money funding away from other things, and those funds could only be used for those projects,” said Trainor this week.

At Tuesday’s meeting, several residents asked Green about making downtown more pedestrian friendly. One gentleman complained that he has had three near death experiences in crosswalks on Bishop’s Main Street this week alone. Another participant asked if there would ever be bike lanes on Main Street. “Unfortunately, I just don’t see that working on Main Street. It’s just too narrow,” said Green.
BISHOP FOCUSES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Town Hall presenters talk BTID, visitation, airport, transport

By James Town Hall presenters talk BTID, visitation, airport, transport

A town hall meeting for economic development held at Bishop’s Tri-County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, March 21, City Administrator Jim Tatum started by announcing the closure of the JCPenney Store (see story, p. 5). Approximately 100 city residents and business owners attended Tuesday’s meeting.

Tatum went over the issues from last year, which included how to get more traffic (i.e. tourists) to stop while traveling through town. A discussion on how to make Bishop a year-round destination was also discussed at last year’s meeting, as was downtown parking and the eyesore of vacant storefronts.

Tatum told the gathering that the City is in something of “a gray area” when it comes to promoting economic development.

There was a panel of presenters which included Tawni Thomson, Executive Director of the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce, Brent Green, Caltrans District 12 Acting Director, Clint Quilter, Director of Inyo County Public Works, John Helm, Executive Director of Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) and Elaine Kabala, Director of Eastern Sierra Transit Public Works, John Helm, Executive Director of Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) and Elaine Kabala, Associate Planner and Economic Development Coordinator for the City. Thomson told the crowd that the Bishop Tourism Improvement District (BTID), which was created November 10, 2014, to raise money from the Bishop hospitality (lodging) industry to be used for destination marketing efforts, has generated $775,000 since it went into effect on January 1, 2015.

Funds from the BTID have so far been used to promote Bishop as a year-round vacation destination, focus new marketing efforts from November through May, strategically target diverse audiences, increase travel and sport show representation and engage travel trade and media for familiarization trips. Monies are also slated to increase major media advertising, improve the www.bishopvisi
tor.com website, develop strategic social media and online advertising campaigns, and partner with event organizers to enhance events and increase attendance.

Thomson spoke of the need for a visitor impact study that would give the Chamber some idea of where visitors are coming from and why they came to Bishop, as well as what preferences they have for lodging, dining, and activities, along with a few other defining study questions to better meet their needs.

Thomson said the Chamber will be organizing field trips, funded by the County Community Project Sponsorship Program Grant, to familiarize frontline hospitality providers with regional attractions and how to provide best practices customer service training.

CalTrans District 9 Director Green gave the audience some traffic numbers for recreation in the Eastern Sierra, noting that the number one destination was Mammoth Lakes, followed closely by Bishop. He also talked about a new "pedestrian activation system" to be installed to address crosswalk safety concerns. In response to a question from the audience on reporting street repairs (potholes, etc.) on roadways maintained by his department, he encouraged the public to call the CalTrans Street Maintenance Department (760.872.0663) for road repairs or to report any road safety concerns.

Inyo County Public Works Director Clint Quilter gave an update on the work at Bishop Airport and said that a Passenger Evaluation Study should be completed in the next 30-45 days, which hopefully will support the effort to have commercial passenger flights offered at the airport in the future.

John Helm announced that ESTA and Elaine Kabala, Associate Planner and Economic Development Coordinator for the City, have announced a new parking plan update that will include a "grace period" extending parking from 2 to 3 hours parking to allow customers more leeway to shop, eat out, or go to the movies, and to provide some downtown parking spaces for RVs and motorhomes.

Tatum encouraged the public to stop in to share ideas and suggestions with City Hall.
A BOLD MOVE
Pam Bold will become the new director of the High Sierra Energy Foundation on May 1, replacing the retiring Rick Phelps, the original director who has served for nearly 12 years.

Bold has served as Phelps' assistant since July, 2015. The High Sierra Energy Foundation, a non-profit, was founded by several Mammoth residents in 2005 who had participated on the Town's Renewable Energy Task Force.

The Task Force concluded that an independent organization could best pursue the task of evaluating geothermal districts and promoting and developing energy efficient practices.

The organization implements Southern California Edison's "Eastern Sierra Energy Initiative" via partnerships with Mammoth, Bishop, Inyo and Mono Counties.

Bold's background is in technology. She has lived in Mammoth since 2006 with her husband of 25 years Jim (a Physician Assistant in Orthopedics at Mammoth Hospital). She has two sons, Carson, a sophomore at Westminster College in Utah, and Clayton, a sophomore at Mammoth High School.

Bold says her goal is greater community outreach to affect people individually and promote changes in people's daily lives—to promote behavioral ally and promote changes in people's community outreach to affect people individually.

Bold's background is in technology. She has lived in Mammoth since 2006 with her husband of 25 years Jim (a Physician Assistant in Orthopedics at Mammoth Hospital). She has two sons, Carson, a sophomore at Westminster College in Utah, and Clayton, a sophomore at Mammoth High School.

Bold says her goal is greater community outreach to affect people individually and promote changes in people's daily lives—to promote behavioral changes which can match the incredible technological change and advances in daily lives.

The Edison Theatre in Mammoth will host a farewell party for Vicky and Rick Phelps this Sunday, March 26 from 4-6 p.m.

Look for Rick's "farewell address" as HSEF Director in next month's edition of the Green Sheet.

HARD ROAD AHEAD
Mammoth, "Stakeholders," push to rehab Reds Meadow Road

Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), along with employees of the engineering firm CH2M, held two workshops on Monday, March 20 in conjunction with the Town of Mammoth Lakes to discuss the possible Reds Meadow Road rehabilitation project. The Town, after receiving direction from Mammoth Town Council, has decided to pursue a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant to fund rehabilitation of the badly-deteriorated 8.3 mile road.

Wendy Longley, Project Administrator for the FHWA, focused on four alternatives for rehabilitation of the road. Longley cited poor drainage, uncompacted fill slopes, and settlement over time as reasons for the road's current condition. Alternative 4 was "paved on native surface, so we don't have a real engineered structure there. With no adequate base...we're seeing a lot of pavemnt cross traffic degradation and rutting as well."

Longley stressed that there would be no change to management of the National Monument or the lands themselves. There would also be no increased parking in the oft-overcrowded valley floor, Longley said.

If the Town of Mammoth Lakes is successful in obtaining the FLAP grant, the project would take on the estimated cost of maintenance for the road in the future as a "highway deed," Engineering Manager Haishig Hayes said on Wednesday, March 22. It is also possible that a "cooperative agreement" could be reached, meaning "we [the Town] have the authority to do things, but the underlying land owner [the U.S. Forest Service] is still responsible" for upkeep.

The Federal Central Lands Highway Division (CFLHD), in conjunction with the FHWA, would be the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document that will need to be prepared for the project. Those entities would act as a federal funding partner for the project, and provide oversight and approval.

"We've worked quite extensively with the Inyo National Forest [on projects like] Convict Lake, Rock Creek and Whitney Portal roads. We've also worked with the Town in delivering the Mammoth Scenic Loop project," said Longley. "We have a lot of experience with delivering projects [in] rural, mountainous settings [and in] sensitive areas."

Engineers and design consultants from CH2M presented a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study, which is based on a report by the CH2M Lakes and Inyo National Forest website, said design consultant Brett Weiland.

"A PEL is like a pre-NEPA effort. It allows us to focus on purpose and need, doing a high-level environmental screening, looking for fatal flaws in alternatives," said Weiland. He described the PEL as "informal," but said that it "streamlines the NEPA/CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process."

Out of nine alternatives screened, CH2M emerged with two alternatives for the upper 2.5 miles of the road and three for the lower 5.8 miles, which were presented on Monday. Alternatives were presented alongside estimates supposedly good within 15%. Of the four alternatives, one suggested any alteration to the lower 5.8 mile segment of the road save simple "rehabilitation," or reconstruction of the existing road with the addition of a base substrate to ensure longevity (Alternative 4 suggests "select road realignments" at an additional cost of half a million dollars). Alternative 1, which would simply be a rehabilitation for the entire road length, would cost a total of $9 million ($2.7 million for the upper and $6.3 million for the lower parts of the road. Alternative 2, which would expand the upper portion of the road to accommodate two-lane portions in the sections of the road which are currently one lane wide, would cost approximately $9.2 million for the upper 2.5 mile section alone.

That would bring the project total to $15.5 million (the cost remaining the same for the lower 5.8 miles). Alternative 3 proposed widening the entire upper portion to a two-lane road, at a proposed cost of $16.7 million (total project cost: $23.5 million).

In order to pursue the project, the town will vie for a FLAP grant to cover it, but there are only $32.9 million dollars in the grant cycle, said Public Works Director Grady Dutton at a January 18 Town Council meeting, and there are other communities competing for those monies. Dutton said at that meeting "we think this is probably our one chance, and right now [Town] staff is recommending the full boat" because "this is not a project that can be built in phases." He said that the local match for the grant would be 11.47 percent, but if the Town was responsible for that match, it would come from other sources.

He also said that he recommended "direction for staff to work with stakeholders to obtain as much support as possible, financial or otherwise." Stakeholders the Town has mentioned in discussing the project include the Inyo National Forest, the National Park Service, the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA, which runs the shuttle into the valley), Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Mono County, and Madera County (Madera Meadow is technically in Madera County).

Longley said that "we will likely know [whether the FLAP grant is approved] by the end of summer" and that design would likely be done in 2018. The earliest construction would begin in 2021, Longley said, if funding is secured for the project.

Attendance was low (less than 10 at both meetings, the majority of whom were government staffers), but "even though we didn't have a lot of attendance, we wanted to make sure the public had a chance to talk about it," said Hayes on Wednesday.

The project will likely be discussed at Mammoth's Town Council meeting on Wednesday, April 18, said Hayes.
The Inyo County Employees Association (ICEA), Local 315 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), announced on March 22 that it is officially at an impasse with Inyo County. After bargaining for nearly 12 months and working without a contract for nearly six, the union requested mediation. That mediation took place Wednesday, but did not result in an agreement.

Employees have voiced serious concerns about the County’s ability to recruit and retain experienced staff. Both unions noted that many of the County’s numerous open employment positions remain unfilled even after being posted for months.

The County’s latest proposal fails to keep pace with the Consumer Price Index, which is 2.7% for February of 2017, and which increased approximately 4% more than County wages over the past two contract periods, say the unions.

The unions also claim that employee morale has deteriorated significantly over the past few years, due to reductions in staffing and a perceived lack of respect and support for front line employees.

Employees are also concerned about a growing disparity between the lowest paid and highest paid employees at the County. An analysis of wages over the past 23 years shows “a wage gap” that has the lowest paid classifications, which ICEA represents, increasing 46% and averaging 2% per year. In contrast, the highest paid administrative classifications (not part of ICEA) have increased 150% and averaged 6.5% per year.

For the next two years, the County is offering increases of only 1% per year for the lowest paid classifications in the County.

“Employees still hope that this contract will improve fairness, and thus morale, at the County,” explained Janelle Kent, ICEA President and a Substance Abuse Counselor in Health and Human Services. “However, fair compensation is an essential component to recruit and retain competent employees.”

“Employees see a plan for a very expensive new consolidated office building. But we have not seen a credible plan to staff that building, in light of the chronic vacancies that plague the County, and the minimal wage increases on the table,” reported Chris Wickham, the Union’s Chief Negotiator.

Now that mediation has been completed, employees will take their concerns directly to the Board of Supervisors.

From the management side:

“Inyo County values and respects all of its employees,” wrote Sue Dishion, Deputy Personnel Director for Inyo County. “The County is committed to reaching a fair and responsible agreement with the [AFSCME], as it has already reached with three other employee bargaining groups.”

FIRST MAMMOTH SNOW SCHOOL A SUCCESS

After two successive cancellations due to red-day school closures, Mammoth Elementary School, Winter Wildlands Alliance, Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, Friends of the Inyo, Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center, MMSA and others finally pulled off the first-ever Mammoth SnowSchool on Tuesday, March 21. In the midst of a blizzard, 53 Mammoth Elementary School fifth graders ventured out for a day of on-snow activities with local snow science, avalanche and winter ecology experts. SnowSchool partners are now in the process of scheduling a second day in early April to give the second half of the fifth grade a chance to participate. SnowSchool is the nation’s largest on-snow winter ecology education program. Developed by Winter Wildlands Alliance, SnowSchool combines hands-on science education based on Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards with snowshoe-powdered outdoor exploration. —David Page, Winter Wildlands Alliance.

Inset photo: A blindfolded student participates in “meet a tree,” where students observe natural phenomena through senses other than the visual (photo by Ben Wickham). Large photo: Sam Roberts (red jacket) observes MES students digging snow pits to learn about avalanche danger (photo by Ned Bair).
PIPE
continued from page 1
as much as 100 feet in certain places. “Trees, shrubs, plants can’t reach that water with their roots. They need irrigation to survive,” said Bell at Tuesday’s meeting.
About halfway through the public comment period, Commissioner Christina Noonan offered to personally fund the pipe’s repair in order to make it available for the April 1 start of the irrigation season. Noonan’s offer was graciously received, but subsequent speakers questioned whether a private citizen funding the repairs set precedent for LADWP not repairing the pipe in the future.

The damaged section of pipe is 1,300 feet long and delivers water from a pond that straddles reservation and LADWP land. The pipe was constructed in 1940 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Big Pine Paiute Tribe contends that LADWP is responsible for the pipe’s maintenance and care, as stated in the 1939 Land Exchange Agreement that created the reservation. The agreement required LADWP to provide water to the reservation, but did not clearly establish the tribe’s water rights. LADWP contends the language in that agreement is unclear. The Big Pine Paiute Tribe derives its drinking water from wells, not the broken pipe, but the Tribe says the spilled water has cost the community approximately $1.26 million in undelivered water. The Community Garden, as well as private gardens, have already been compromised by the lack of water available for irrigation.

According to Alan Bacock, Water Program Coordinator for the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, the Tribe first alerted LADWP to the pipe’s need for repair in 2012. In 2015, a major water stoppage occurred, and the group met with LADWP staff and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency to solve the problem. In early 2016, the Tribe secured funds and a permit from LADWP to clean the line, still arguing it was not their responsibility to do so. They found the pipe so choked with roots that removing the blockage threatened total collapse of the structure.

In a press release dated March 20, Big Pine Paiute Tribe Chairwoman Shannon Romero said, “LADWP has stalled on repairs and is now trying to manipulate the Tribe into unfair terms to diminish our water rights in order to receive repairs.” Bacock said those terms were part of documentation the Tribe was asked to sign as a condition of LADWP repairing the pipe. Neither party would share the documents in question, but Chairwoman Romero said that agreeing to LADWP’s terms amounted to the Tribe signing away future access to water. LADWP contends that the agency reasonably offered to fix the pipe, provided the Tribe agree to take on responsibility for its maintenance hereafter.

Jesse Archer, Chairman of the Big Pine Paiute Development Corporation, said, “LADWP’s refusal to fulfill their legal obligations is depriving us of our only means of self-sufficiency and impedes plans for economic development. This is an outright attack on our ability to become economically sovereign.”

On Wednesday, LADWP Manager of Media Relations Amanda Parsons announced that, following Tuesday’s meeting, LADWP General Manager David Wright directed staff to take immediate steps to fix the failing pipeline without Commissioner Noonan’s donation. “It is clear that we cannot wait to resolve broader issues surrounding future responsibilities quickly enough… We will expedite the repair or replacement of the failing portions of the irrigation pipe at our own cost, as we had originally offered. We will continue discussions with the tribe and the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the underlying ownership, maintenance responsibilities … at a future time.”

No date for the repairs has been set, and there is no promise they will begin before April 1.

Everett Bowman, of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, holds up his fist in protest at the LADWP Commissioners’ Meeting on Tuesday, March 21.
It's Tax Time, Baby!
The AARP Free Tax Aide Program will help you get yours done for free

By Rea

It's tax time again, and a group of volunteers want to help you do yours—for free.

Mono County's Free Tax Aide Program is run by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), but "we don't have any sort of age requirements," said Sue Stavlo, District Coordinator, who started Mammoth's program over seven years ago, after she mentored under Tommy Thompson with Bishop's program.

When she started the Mammoth program in 2007, about 75 people took advantage of the help of Stavlo and her fellow number crunchers. Last year, the twelve volunteers in Mammoth helped more than 500 low-to-middle income residents to file their taxes, the income bracket that the program is designed for. "But we really don't have an income cut-off either," said Cathy Foye, who mostly does client intake for the program. Foye greets newcomers, helps them get their paperwork organized, signs them in, and keeps track of who assists them with her taxes, along with Susie Fontana.

Interestingly enough, Sue Stavlo and her husband John, along with volunteers Jim Sanford and Jean Holden, all worked in aerospace before their "retirement," which means that it's possible you'll literally have a rocket scientist helping you with your taxes if you take advantage of the program.

Sanford told The Sheet that he was once the treasurer for defense and aerospace company Northrop Grumman, and that Holden once worked on the B-2 Stealth Bomber. "Jean is very methodical," says Sanford, "a very smart deputy for the program."

Along with volunteering each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, most of the volunteers take their work outside with them.

"We do a lot of marketing on the mountain," said Holden, who mentioned that first-time tax filers are a big component of who they help.

"When I go skiing in April, I always ask the lift operators, 'Have you done your taxes yet?'" They also complete at least 40 hours of continuing education each January to prepare themselves for the next tax season. This year, they had an added step—the IRS changed its entire software system.

The change was "a big challenge," said Stavlo. "We had to train all 25 volunteers on new software, it's been kind of a moving target." The new software also required the volunteers to input returning customers' data from scratch, increasing the time to file a return from about 20-30 minutes to about an hour.

Despite the longer prep time, the Ellie Randol Reading Room at the Mammoth Lakes Library, where the sessions are held, has a jovial, almost familial atmosphere.

One volunteer, Terri Alfaro, drove a Spanish-speaking client back to his home to grab his W-2s, since he had mistakenly brought last year's documents with him.

"The first year I came to them for help, they did 11 years [of un-filed back taxes] for me," said Gary MacDonald, who has been working with John Stavlo for about six years. "They saved me about six grand."

"I love it here," said Hye Yu, who has been doing her taxes with the aid of John Stavlo for about six years. "When I go skiing in April, I always ask the lift operators, 'Have you done your taxes yet?'"

"It's really wonderful to be able to be of so much service to people who need it," said Cathy Foye. "I came because I knew people needed help, but I stay because it's a really good feeling."

The Mono County AARP Tax Aide Program runs M-W-TH from 1-5 p.m. in the Ellie Randol Reading Room at Mammoth Lakes Library. Visit www.monomoilibraries.org/branches/mammoth-lakes/102-free-tax-help for info or schedule an appointment by calling 760.934.5674.

The Bishop program has appointments available Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, To schedule an appointment, call 760.258.5361.

Jim Sanford and Sue Stavlo help Hye Yu (left) finish this year's tax return.
Local master falconer Shawn Hayes will be guest speaker at 23rd annual event in Bishop

By Giles

The 2017 Banff Film Festival tour will kick off in the Eastern Sierra on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1. This is the 23rd year the festival has run in Bishop, and, as in years past, it features short films about outdoor recreation and the environment. Film topics include a winter traverse of Siberia, a runner’s tale of the Arizona Trail, three British Moms’ experiences navigating the Atlantic Ocean in a small boat, and a couple of guys who hiked the Pacific Crest Trail in order to pick up hiker trash along the way.

This year’s festival will also feature a special guest speaker, local falconer Shawn Hayes. Hayes stars in the film, “The Perfect Flight.” The film, produced by the San Francisco-based firm Speculative Films, features imagery of Hayes practicing falconry in the Eastern Sierra.

Hayes has lived in the Eastern Sierra since 1983, and is a master falconer. He first discovered falconry when he was 8 years old, living in Riverside, California, out of a fascination with the raptors that populated his urban landscape. “I was fortunate enough to live in an area where I was able to see raptors in city parks, mountainous areas outside the city, and river basins,” said Hayes in an interview.

Hayes said he has always been fascinated by birds and how they interact with the landscape. In the teaser for the “The Perfect Flight,” he calls falconry “a way of life.” Hayes said that falconry is not just a hobby or a sport, and becoming a master falconer requires years of training that often includes an apprenticeship. “When you feel you’re ready to take the next step into falconry, you take a written exam. From there you have to acquire permits… it’s all about building a relationship with your bird. It’s about spending time with the bird and building trust with that bird.”

Ultimately, falconry involves a falconer working with a trained raptor to hunt for quarry. It’s prevalent in most parts of the world, and Hayes has a particular interest in the falconry traditions practiced in other countries. He has traveled to China, the Middle East, Japan, Argentina, Russia, and South Africa to study those traditions. “For a lot of cultures, it’s simply about putting food on the table. It’s very easy to relate over that. You don’t really need to talk about falconry to learn about their culture,” said Hayes, who added that, when he travels for falconry, it presses him to pay closer attention to the attitudes, practices, and customs of other practitioners.

Hayes worked previously with the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group to assist with breeding and caring for Peregrine Falcons destined for release in the Eastern Sierra. He emphasized that, for him, falconry is about conservation and stewardship. He ultimately settled in the Eastern Sierra after moving here to ski because he was drawn to the landscape. “Once I explored and saw the landscape, realized what the Eastern Sierra had to offer, saw the open space to fly my birds, I decided to stay.”

Hayes will field questions about the art of falconry and “The Perfect Flight” during intermission on Saturday night of this year’s film festival. The event will be held at the Charles Brown Auditorium at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Tickets are $15 per night for adults, and $10 per night for kids 8th grade and younger. They can be purchased at the Booky Joint in Mammoth Lakes, at Eastside Sports in Bishop, or for Will Call only at Inyo Council for the Arts. All proceeds support the Inyo Council for the Arts.
On Saturday, March 18, local snowboarders and skiers rallied at Rafters for a rail jam competition and live music from local reggae and funk band Dreddie Poppins and The Professionals. Mammoth Multi-Media Company organized the event in collaboration with Sierra Nevada Resort and Spa, Wave Rave, The Fun Shop, A Frame Liquor and other local businesses contributed prizes and materials. Tribe Snowboards donated prizes as well. Before the adults got started, local Mammoth rockstars John Connolly, Jake Langston, and Anthony Leyvas competed in the kids competition. The 11-and-12-year-olds hit every feature set up for the adults to raucus applause from their grownup counterparts and parents.

Eleventh annual Mammoth Biathlon sees smiles despite the chill

Photos by Shannon Bagshaw

The Mammoth Biathlon, which supports the Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association, took place on Saturday, March 18 at the Tamarack XC Ski Center. The event was run entirely by local volunteers. Photos, clockwise from left: Participants line up, eager to begin their race. Summer Furness ended up taking a third place medal in the Girls U12 (maybe her rainbow sunglasses helped). Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra Athletes pose for the camera. Britt Cogan takes aim and fires.

Photos by Giles

Jake Langston (above) and Anthony Leyvas (right) send it during the kids rail jam competition, as Nick Marks and Dave Benami lay down the horn line for Dreddie Poppins.

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**Happy Hour/**
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m.

- $1 off all beers. $2 off wine. $4 well drinks.
- $2 off specialty drinks.
- $5 Flatbread.

**Roberto’s**
4-6 p.m. daily.

**Audubon**
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.

**Crocke Beer Cellar**
Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily and all day Sunday.

**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-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.

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

**Side Door**
Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m.

**Mammoth’s famous Scum Happy Hour**
Monday thru Friday 4-6; Saturdays 4-5. Closed Sunday.

**Glow**
Happy Hour, 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. every day. 9 glasses of wine.

**Morrison’s Happy Hour Daily**
4-6 p.m. $50 for two-person three course meal on Wednesdays.

**Food of the Cave**
Happy Hour 3:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. Street tacos $2.50, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine and house fries.

**March 24-25/**
WLDCT plays $5 Kitchen & Cocktails.

**March 24/**
Greek Session (funk, fusion, jam) play Rafters in Mammoth. 10 p.m. 21 and over.

**March 25/**
Sun Dried Vibes (reggae rock) play Rafters in Mammoth. 10 p.m. Free. 21 and over.

**Monday, March 27/**
Bowling n Beads with DJ Chronfucius at Mammoth Rock ‘n Bowl. Theme: Masquerade. $3 games with costume.

**Tuesday, March 30/**
Comedy Night at $5 Kitchen and Cocktails, with Chase Anthony, also feat. Sydney Castillo and James Davis. 8 p.m.

**March 31/ April 1/**
V7A - With Thomas Amato & Friends play $5 Kitchen & Cocktails. 9-11:30 p.m.

**March 31/**
Tony Glaser band ( funk rock) play Rafters. 10 p.m. 21 and over.

**TOWN STUFF**

**March 24-25/ Festivities in the Village at Mammoth. Roaming magician & juggler Pogo at 4-8 p.m. Silent Disco 5:30-8:30. Info: www.villageatmammoth.com. See ad, p. 3.**

**Mary Poppins with Playhouse 395 at Bishop Union High School Theater. Friday: 7 p.m. and Saturday: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m (Saturday is closing night).**

**Tix: www.brownpapertickets.com or call 1.800.838.3006. Also available at ICA, 137 S. Main St. in Bishop or Bishop Chamber of Commerce, 690 N. Main St.**

**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 USEF Welcome Center. Snowshoes provided.**

**Friday, March 24/ MSL Special Board Meeting:**
Mammoth Arts and Culture Center Presentation at 12:00 p.m. @ Mammoth Lakes Foundation Library, 100 College Parkway, Mammoth Lakes.

**Film screening of “The Cats of Mirikitani” @ the Imagination Lab in Bishop. 621 West Line St. (upstairs). Info: 760.872.2446. 7 p.m. Free. Deadline: Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium vacancy application. Submit request for appointment on or before 4 p.m. to Bishop City Council, 377 W. Line St. Bishop, CA 93514. Info: call 760.873.5863.**

**Saturday, March 25/ The Miracle Migration, Owens Lake. Join local bird expert Mike Prather to witness the annual migration of Owens Lake. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Space is limited. Call ICA for info and to RSVP: 760.873.8014.**

**Oakley mini pipe challenge at MMSA. Two-hour jam style shared session in the 11ft. Forest Trail mini pipe. 10:30 registration begins in the Oakley tent in Forest Trail. Jam session from 12-2 p.m. Visit www.mammothmountain.com for info. Oakley Week athlete autograph signing @ Mammoth Sports in the Village. 4-5 p.m.**

**Independent Project Press celebrates the souful creations from its 2015-2016 Letterpress & Block Printing Classes at Independent Project Press. Opening reception: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Location: 186A Willow St. in Bishop. Chamber Music Unbound presents the Felici Piano Trio and guests in “Spring Quartets.” 7:30 p.m. @ Cerro Coso College in Mammoth. Tickets ($22 Adult, $17 Senior, $7 Student) are available online (www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org), at the Booky Joint, the Inyo Council for the Arts, or at the door 45 minutes before performances. See ad, p. 2.**

**Sunday, March 26/ Chamber Music Unbound show (same as above) at Bishop’s Cerro Coso campus. Time: 4 p.m.**

**Sierra Club Outing, ski the Knolls to Shady Rest Park on Blue Diamond Route. Six miles. Contact Anthony: info: 760.934.9271 or annleithitler@gmail.com. Going away party for Vicky and Rick Phelps @ Edison Theatre in Mammoth. 4-6 p.m. See story, p. 8.**
The Inyo National Forest is seeking input for the proposed Shady Rest Fat Bike Grooming project.

There are currently no authorized bicycles that have a tire tread width of at least 3.7 inches and are propelled by human effort. The proposed action would add six miles of groomed trail and temporarily allow fat bikes on the trail system in Shady Rest Campground, which is currently groomed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes for cross-country skiers, walkers, and snowshoers.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is proposing an additional groomed trail (without Nordic tracks) that will follow the blue diamond trail west of Sawmill Cutoff and extend to the existing road network to the northwest of Shady Rest Campground.

This effort will add approximately six additional miles to Shady Rest for fat biking and non-motorized opportunities. Comments will be most useful by March 31, 2017. For questions or comments, please contact Molly Burns at mollyburns@fs.fed.us.

Rec Department open house

The Recreation Department would like to invite you to the 20th Annual Summer Recreation Open House on March 28, 2017 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Elementary School MPR. The event is free.

Attendees of the open house will also receive a coupon code valid for 5% off one transaction (no limit on number of programs in one transaction) for registering for Parks & Recreation Department summer programs! Please contact Lindsey at 760.877.3699 for more information, or to register your organization for the event. Registration for summer programs will open on April 3. Stay tuned for more details on registration.

Horseshoe Meadows Rd. unsafe

Substantial rain and snow from the atmospheric river events that took place in January and February of 2017 caused significant damage on Horseshoe Meadows Road. In one particular area, weather induced erosion has reduced the road to an unstable and unsafe single-lane.

The Inyo County Road Department has inspected the road damage that can currently be accessed and is in the process of determining the scope of the project. At this time repair work will involve stabilizing the roadbed, stabilizing the shoulder, and preventative measures that would reduce further erosion.

Currently Horseshoe Meadows Road is under normal winter closure; however, it is important that the public is aware that this road is unsafe. As the project progresses more information will be released, including the projected opening of the road.

TOWN STUFF

Sunday, March 26 (cont.)
Alabama Hills Film History Hike with ESFA. Approx. 2 hours. Meet: 10 a.m. at Visitor Center in Lone Pine, cnr. 395 and 136. Info: Dave Kirk, dmankirk@blm.gov or call Visitor Center at 760.876.6222.

Monday, March 27
Bishop City Council Meeting, 6 p.m. 377 W. Line St. Questions: 760.877.5863.

March 28-31
U.S. Canadian Para Alpine National Championships come to Mammoth. See sidebar, this page.

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

Tuesday, March 28/Third annual Summer Recreation Open House hosted by Mammoth Parks and Rec. 5-7 p.m. @ Mammoth Elementary School multi-purpose room. See sidebar, this page and ad, p. 6.

Mono County Economic Development, Tourism and Film Commission meets. Lee Vining Community Center, 10 a.m.

Mammoth Lakes Chamber Business After Hours @ the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. 5-7 p.m. @ Mammoth High School culinary students will cater.

Mammoth Trails special meeting in Ellie Randol Reading Room, ML Library. 4-7 p.m. See sidebar, this page.

Wednesday, March 29/Visit California—sponsored Global Ready China Seminar. Speaker: Dr. David C. Lim. $30, and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Sierra Events Center at 452 Old Mammoth Road in Mammoth Lakes.

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

Get Out (R): Horror flick about young interracial couple who visit the mysterious estate of the woman’s parents.


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

NEWS ITEM—CHERIOS TEMPORARILY HILLS MAGGOT FROM BOX TO SUPPORT BEES

Mammoth Trails special meeting

The local confederation of user groups that was formed by charter back in 2008 will be having a special meeting on Tuesday, March 28 from 5-7 p.m. in the Ellie Randol Reading Room at the Mammoth Lakes Library 400 Sierra Park Rd. Several topics will be reviewed and discussed by participants:

- Fat Biking in Shady Rest: The Inyo National Forest is seeking input for a Fat Bike Grooming Project.

- SHARP Thru-Hiking: The Mammoth Lakes Trail System is seeking Input on a variety of potential trailhead improvements to be included as part of the five day schedule is as follows: March 28 – USA Nationals Giant Slalom

March 29 – CAN Nationals Giant Slalom

March 30 – USA Nationals Slalom

March 31 – CAN Nationals Slalom

The Para Alpine National Championships are qualifying races for the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The Paralympic Games, held almost immediately following the Olympic Games, is an international multi-sport event featuring athletes with a range of disabilities including physical and vision. In Pyeongchang, more than 600 athletes are expected to compete in 80 medal events in six sports - alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, sitting volleyball, snowboarding, and wheelchair curling. For more information, visit www.disabledsportseasternsierra.org or www.teamsusa.org/US-Paralympics.

Archaeology projects at Manzanar

Join Manzanar National Historic Site staff to assist with historic preservation projects anytime from March 24-29. Spend a day outside learning, working and preserving. Projects include raking, digging, removing brush and vegetation, painting rocks, mixing and placing concrete. Space is limited, RSVP 760.878.2194, ext. 3312 or email katherine_busch@partner.nps.gov.
Help Wanted

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

- Janitor M $11.13
- Cashiers M $12.14
- PT Bookkeeper M $14.00
- Class B Driver M $19.00
- CDL Class A, CDL Class B & Machine Operator B $11
- Reservationsist M $12.15
- Housekeeper M $14.18
- Const. & Maint. Worker $20.22
- Cooker, Equip. Operator M $23.57
- Pool & Spa Maintenance M $13.15

Call 760.924.0523 or 760.873.8599 or send resume to www.SierraEmployment.com.

Part Time Admin/Design Assistant needed. Hours are Monday - Friday from 12-4PM. Please email resume to info@gomezs.com

Stellar Brew is looking to employ an experienced kitchen person who is seeking long term employment in Mammoth Lakes. A full time position has opened up and we are looking to fill it immediately. The site is available but you must have knowledge of food service and prep. Please e-mail stellarbrew@gomezs.com with your resume or any questions.

Housekeepers (11) Cooks Dishwashers Maintenance Worker

Please complete an application at 164 Old Mammoth Rd. or e-mail pl@thelandingtahoe.com or stop by the cafe for an application. 452 old mammoth rd ste 106.

Help Wanted

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is beginning recruitment for summer seasonal positions! Some of our open positions include:

- Tenure Parks Maintenance Worker
- Assistant Aquatic Site Coordinator - Line & Prep
- Summer Camp Leaders and Interns - Rec Zone staff

For more information, visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Housekeepers/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-phones, reservations, front desk check-in, general store cashiering, clerical including limited record keeping and filing.$16.35-$17.31 hourly + health, 401(k) and PTO.

HOUSEKEEPING QUALITY CONTROL SPECIALIST-Inspections, stocking, organizing, distribution of housekeeping and maintenance staff for bust resort. $16.34 - $16.27 hourly + health + 401(k) + PTO.

We are also looking for a housekeeper.

Send resume to lisa@convictlake.com or call 760.934.3800 ext. 32

The Restaurant at Convik Lake is currently looking to hire a Experienced Line Cook and a Dishwasher.

If interested please contact Head Chef Oscar Santos at 760-965-6477 or email oscars@conviklake.com.

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. This is a Full Time, Year Round position. We have immediate opening for a Spa Maintenance Position. This position also offer vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not necessary. Heavy lifting and a clean DMV is required. Please call 760-924-3091 or stop by the store located at 1401 Tavern Rd.

Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application.

Part Time Admin/Mini mart Cashier Z Pizza Mammoth is hiring full and part time. Apply online at www.zpizza.com, or by e-mail at zpizza@zpizza.com

Norco 76 is hiring Full Time mini-mart cashier Apply in person or call (760) 934-6377

Food Cafe "Full time position available ISO a cashier/timberline barista, food & beverage experience preferred but not required. $11.01-11.25/hr DOE. line cook needed. Full time available. Morning and afternoon shifts available, stop by the cafe for an application. 452 old mammoth rd ste 106.

Juniper Springs Lodge is looking to hire a Cafe Lake Reps for the remainder of the winter season. Please apply online at www.mammothresorts.com/jobs, or contact Craig Sterling at csterling@mammothresorts.com for more information.

Now Hiring FT & PT Shift Managers The Old New York Deli & Bakery Co. is looking for outgoing and energetic people to join our team. Qualified candidates will have prior restaurant experience, excellent customer service skills, the ability to understand and work with policies & procedures, and be available to work flexible hours & holidays. Salary DOE. Apply via e-mail (likely looking for a solid work history) or in person @ 760/215 9101

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Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brassee is having the following positions available:
Bowling Desk Employees, Sports Bar Attendants, Bartenders, Restaurant Hosts. Please contact Kevin O’Connell 760.934.3200

Help Wanted

Now Hiring FT & PT Shift Managers The Old New York Deli & Bakery Co. is looking for outgoing and energetic people to join our team. Qualified candidates will have prior restaurant experience, excellent customer service skills, the ability to understand and work with policies & procedures, and be available to work flexible hours & holidays. Salary DOE. Apply via email (lisa@oldnewyorkny.com) or in person @ 6201 Minaret #105.

Gomez’s Restaurant & Tequileria is looking for a friendly and cheerful people to serve our customers. We are an established restaurant in Mammoth Lakes with an excellent reputation.

Requirements:
A minimum of 6 months of food service experience required. No experience will be considered.

We offer a competitive salary, paid time off, and health insurance.

Please submit your application in person or email to dominov@zpizza.com

Retail sales full time and data entry positions available. Mammoth Mountain is hiring for the winter season. Please apply online at www.mammothgore.com, or in person at 1103 West Main St.

Now Hiring

Front desk staff for Housekeeper’s and Associates Housekeepers Competitive Pay plus bonuses
Send resume to Holidayhaussammammoth@gmail.com or call 760-934-2141

FOR RENT

Mammoth Lakes, California

Community Members Needed to Help shall be offered to Local Children and Their Families

Roommates needed in Mammoth. Your own bedroom, bath and entry 400 square feet of living space. No pets. Call mary @ 760-420-1100 or email mknapp98@gmail.com.

For Rent

3BDR, 2 BA Single family home. 2 car garage. Washer, dryer, gas heat, electric pellet stove. Great views. 5 Mono County, PO Box 130, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. For more information, visit www.jobs.dominos.com. Call 760.420.4005. $25.00 per hour. Apply in person or online at www.dominos.com


Cozy 1BD, 1 BA furnished apt. in Crowley Lake. Has washer/dryer. $850/month. Ask for Janet at 760.934.1242.


Mammoth Slopes Room 1/price per room. 3 weeks or more possible. Includes all items: Elec, Heat, Water, Heat, cable. Included for Spring/Summer Months $15. For more information, call 760-965-6715

For Sale


For Hire

install any required facilities, prepare any required records, and comply with all conditions of contract between the applicant and other public agency. Such application fee shall be retained or reembursed only in the event the permit or any license, agreement or contract between the applicant and other public agency is not issued by the District, or if after a hearing, the permit is denied or suspended. The fee shall be retained if the permit is issued and the permittee fails to submit the required FOG Discharge Permit application at least sixty (60) days prior to startup. Any FSE which fails to submit the required FOG Discharge Permit application at least sixty (60) days prior to startup shall pay an additional penalty of two hundred dollars ($200) per day for each day past the sixty (60) day deadline for submitting the application.

Payment of a permit fee shall constitute an agreement by the applicant that he or she will comply with all terms and conditions of the permit and all provisions of this Ordinance. The District shall have the right to deny or suspend any permit to any applicant who is in violation of any of the terms and conditions of the permit issued by the District. Any FSE or Property Owner who is in violation of any term or condition of any permit shall be subject to additional penalties as provided under Section 16.07.1 of this Ordinance.
Notice of Ordinance (cont.)

4. Operations and Maintenance Requirements

Section 16.08 Fees

1. Each FOG Discharge Permit requires an application fee of $100.00. This application fee is non-refundable and all required maintenance shall be specified in the FOG Discharge Permit.

2. Section 16.08 Fees does not apply to any new issues. Any new issues will not be acted on at this time. Any new issues will be addressed immediately.

3. The Town of Mammoth Lakes, as required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and the State of California, has been found to be in violation of the Water Code. The Town of Mammoth Lakes shall be assessed the costs required to provide the services for which the fees are imposed. These fees shall be required by the Water Code section 20202, and shall be required to be published in the general circulation published in the District within 30 days after adoption.

4. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on the date of adoption.

SECTION TWO

The establishment of Type II TRODs (not-owned occupier) within the unincorporated areas of the County, as authorized by Chapter 25 to address the identified concerns, will be required by the Board of Supervisors to be published in the general circulation published in the District within 30 days after adoption.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to California Water Code section 10725 and California Government Code section 6066, the Mono County Board of Supervisors ("Board") will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. PST at the Board of Supervisors Chambers in the County Courthouse on Highway 395 in Bridgeport, California, 93517. The purpose of this hearing is for the Board to consider whether, and determine whether the County will elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") for that portion of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin within Mono County which is not within the boundaries of the Inyo County Groundwater Management District ("TYGMD"). This includes areas within local agencies that are not within the boundaries of the TYGMD.

Advance comment from the public is welcome, and may be submitted to the Clerk of the Board at skendall@mono.ca.gov. Oral and written comments may also be presented during the hearing.

If the Board determines at the hearing that the County will become a GSA, the Board may adopt a resolution, should be familiar to theater-goers. The "band" or cast for this production, four actors (Chuck Scatoloni, Jarrett Jackson, Allison McDonnell Page and Mike Dostrow) have appeared in at least fifty local productions combined over the past decade. The play is being directed by Susan Dalian. Dalian said the play was brought forward by Scatoloni, and Sierra Classic Theatre held an informal reading of the play at Page's house in November. "I was in tears, I was laughing... and this was a reading. They hadn't even rehearsed it," Dalian recalled. "I know Shanley's work, and I was interested (in directing)."

The four readers that day are the same four who will appear in next week's production. The play synopsis forwarded by Page: Outside Mullingar is about Anthony and Rosemary, two introverted misfits straddling 40. Anthony has spent his entire life on a cattle farm in rural Ireland. Rosemary lives right next door, determined to have him, watching the years slip away. With Anthony's father threatening to disinherit him and a land feud simmering between their families, Rosemary has every reason to fear romantic catastrophe. But these yearning, eccentric souls fight their way towards solid ground and some kind of happiness. "It's a modern Irish play," said Dalian, "and it has modern elements. But it feels Irish." And at the very least, you'll be able to understand it, because, as Dalian says with a chuckle, "If we had cast it with native Irish, you wouldn't be able to understand a word." The set is minimalist, "cause you don't want to throw a bunch of time and energy at a set (for a five-day run) and this play kind of lends itself to minimalism," she added.

On opening night, as a nice touch, the local band Wild Mountain Thyme will play in the lobby before the performance and during intermission. In addition, the first ten audience members to arrive each night will be served a Guiness on the house. As for this summer's annual Shakespeare in the Woods production, Dalian confirmed that S.C.T. has chosen "As You Like It."
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