PUT ‘EM IN THE MALLS!
Could Mammoth’s malls be the answer to the housing shortage?
By Giles

At Monday’s Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) Board Meeting, Ruth Trader, Assistant Planner for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, told the Board that the town is currently reviewing a building permit application to convert office space in the Mammoth Mall (home of Chart House) to residential apartments for long term leases.

At the same meeting, MLH Executive Director Jennifer Halferty announced that the town is currently reviewing a building permit application to convert office space in the Mammoth Mall (home of Chart House) to residential apartments for long term leases.

PTC

PEDAL TO THE... TUTU?

The Pamper Pedal Road Bike Ride, hosted by Eastside Velo on Saturday, June 3, was a family affair. From left to right, Judy Weber (Mammoth Lakes), Lauren Plum (Mammoth Lakes), Genevieve and Meade Plum (Bishop) rode from Mammoth Lakes to Bishop in tutus.

NO MORE NARCS
Mono County to discontinue narcotics task force
By Bodine

Parents ask me, ‘Can’t you arrest this guy who’s selling drugs to my kids?’ and I have to tell them, ‘No,'” Mono County District Attorney Tim Kendall told the Mono County Supervisors at their meeting on Wednesday, June 6. At the meeting, Kendall announced the disbanding of the Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team, or MONET.

The elimination of the program means no agency in Mono County will be investigating narcotics cases. According to Kendall, Mono County will be the only county in the state without a narcotics enforcement program.

MONET had been successful until the Town of Mammoth Lakes became embroiled in a lawsuit on a development deal and subsequently settled with the developer. The Town is still paying off a $30 million debt at the rate of approximately $2 million a year since 2012. In 2012, MLPD pulled out of MONET when the number of officers employed by the town dropped from 17 to 11 due to budget cuts.

The Probation Department left for “philosophical” reasons in 2013, according to Kendall, and the Sheriff’s see NARCOTICS, page 14

Parents revolt

JOURNEY’S BEGINNING
MHS Senior Journey Whitfeld is the winner of this year’s The Sheet/Roberto’s scholarship. She was awarded $2,000. She plans on attending UC San Diego and dreams of practicing immigration law. For more photos of graduating seniors, see pgs. 12-13.
SAME AS MEDI-CAL

I was sitting in Suite Z Wednesday afternoon, half-listening to the Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) Board of Directors meeting. It was somewhat difficult to follow, as MLT’s board agendas are never accompanied by any materials, so when you’re listening to an item, you literally have to make a public request for every document. It’s not like the documents are made public or otherwise displayed in any fashion. Anyway, the Board, nervous about having its reserves raided by the Town (MLT is now pulling in north of $8 million a year), suggested approval of a document that would earmark reserve funds to specific capital projects (special events venue, airport terminal, conference center, wayfinding signage).

Board Chair John Morris said it was critical that MLT earmark money. Board member Paul Rudder agreed. “We might as well put a sign out and say, ‘Come stick it to us,’ if we go to that meeting [Wednesday’s Council meeting had a scheduled discussion of reallocation of Measure A dollars] without a plan [as to what the reserves are meant for]. If we take no action, we leave ourselves wide open.”

Outgoing Mammoth Lakes Recreation Executive Director Rich Boccia (who is moving on to run the Mammoth Lakes Foundation) then made public comment, saying MLT could not take action to vote on suggested earmarks since it hadn’t properly agendized the item. The agenda, he said, listed it as a discussion item. It didn’t say possible action. Boccia said MLT needs to begin acting with more transparency. Talk about a fart in an elevator.

Rudder replied that it’s one thing to earmark money, and another to spend it. Therefore, the act of voting on a recommendation is okay. The other board members deferred to Rudder, an attorney by trade, and decided to vote on the earmark recommendations. Michael Ledesma, Brent Truax, Morris and Rudder voted yes. Sean Turner and Colin Fernie abstained. Fernie said he abstained so it would not affect his ability to vote on the item in his capacity as a Councilman.

The Inyo County Employees Association (ICEA) rejected the Board of Supervisors’ latest contract offer by a staggering 81-19% of the membership vote late last week. The County had offered its largest union a three-year deal with 1, 1 and then 2% wage increase over the contract span.

The employees’ last pay increase was in July, 2015. The union has been bargaining for a new contract since April, 2016 and has been working without a contract since October, 2016.

The press release issued by the union last Friday quotes Laura Boyer, an office tech in Social Services, as saying, “After paying into my retirement and health insurance each month, I bring home the same amount I did at a job where I qualified for Medi-Cal.”

McDonald says the full cost of a 1% bump for the ICEA in any particular year would cost the $187,000. Of that, the general fund would be responsible for 47% of that number, or approximately $88,000. Therefore, it appears Inyo County has decided to alienate approximately 230 employees over a total of $175,000.

Meanwhile, the ratio between lowest- and highest-paid employees in Inyo County has ballooned to 1:6. Twenty-five years ago, the ratio was 1:3.75.

“We’re going to keep asking them to do better,” said McDonald. “People have been afraid to speak up for many years, but people are less afraid now because they’re sick of it.”

Supervisor Matt Kingsley had this to say: “It’s not about whether or not they’re worth it. They’re worth it. It’s more about what the taxpayer can afford.”

When asked whether or not the damage to employee morale was worth the $175,000, Kingsley didn’t bite. “I’m not going to give you a quote on that.”

Correction: In an obituary for Jeffrey Wenger published in the June 3 edition of The Sheet, it was mistakenly stated that Jeffrey Wenger was born in 1964, that his horse Handy is a palomino, and that he was adopted as a small child. Wenger was born in 1954. Handy is an apaloosa, and Wenger was adopted at birth.

The ICEA, according to its representative Jane McDonald, wants a minimum of 2, 2 and 2.

For a subscription to The Sheet contact Lunch at his above e-mail address, or call the office. Issues are mailed out bi-weekly. Cost is $65/year.

Shannon and Jim Clark are celebrating their 60th anniversary on Thursday, June 15. Both have lived in Mammoth for the past 18 years—Shannon volunteers her time with the Hospital Auxiliary and Jim with the Rotary Club. They met at UIC Berkeley and married four years later, in 1957. Shannon says her secret to a long marriage is “compromise. And to kiss each other goodnight.” Jim says it’s “yes ma’am!” - Rea
Zachary Brummett of Bakersfield took local cops on a high-speed chase... and lost.

According to California Highway Patrol, at about 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, California Highway Patrol Officer Rabe tried to stop a Chrysler sedan driven by Brummett traveling at approximately 115 mph. Brummett was northbound on Highway 395 near Warm Springs Road and did not stop when Rabe tried to pull him over.

When Brummett reached Bishop, Rabe, who was in pursuit, slowed his vehicle for safety reasons. Another California Highway Patrol Officer, Officer Sweet, who was located at the north end of Bishop at the time, waiting for Brummett, clocked Brummett in at 81 mph in a 35 mph zone. Sweet tried unsuccessfully to stop the vehicle, and ended up joining Rabe in pursuit of Brummett.

California Highway Patrol Sergeant Lomenick joined the pursuit as Brummett raced up the north-bound lane of Highway 395 at about 115 miles per hour for 18 miles. Eventually, Brummett exited the highway and turned left, traveling west on a Forest Service Road. He quickly lost control of his vehicle, which went airborne.

California Highway Patrol Public Information Officer Dennis Cleland said it was unclear what got Brummett’s Chrysler flying. It was clear, however, that the disabled Chrysler did not deter Brummett. After landing, he promptly ditched it and took off on foot, heading west.

The CHP officers were joined shortly thereafter by personnel from Mono and Inyo county Sheriff’s Departments to assist in sweeping the area on foot, but Brummett was not to be found.

Officer Rabe suffered injuries during the foot pursuit. The exact nature of those injuries was not released by CHP, but Rabe was transported to Northern Inyo Hospital following the chase.

According to a CHP press release, on Monday morning, June 4, CHP received a call from two female hikers who reported seeing a distraught young, white male without shirt or shoes that “had a disheveled look.” The male matched the description of the search subject and driver, Brummett, and California Highway Patrol, along with Mono County Sheriff’s Deputies and a helicopter, responded to the location where the hikers reported last seeing Brummett.

Two personnel from Mono County Sheriff’s Department found Brummett about 3.5 miles from the bottom of the Lower Rock Creek Trail. He was then taken into custody. The press release stated that, due to Brummett’s dehydration and multiple wounds to his feet, he was airlifted to a waiting deputy and transported to Northern Inyo Hospital upon his arrest. California Highway Patrol then took custody of Brummett.

California Highway Patrol Officer Dennis Cleland said a toxicology study is being conducted, but considering it had been two days since the pursuit, it may not be possible to determine whether Brummett was under the influence at the time of the incident. Cleland added that there has been no evidence of illegal activity found in the vehicle, so far, but that the search continues.

Charges against Brummett have not yet been made available, but some charges will stem from outstanding warrants from Kern County. There was no information as to the nature of the warrants.
MORE FUN FUNDING THE MUF
Recreation Commission discussed strategies to meet minimum of $1.5 million in unmet funds

By Giles

A

t this week’s Mammoth Lakes Recreation Meeting, Commission-

ers and Town staff dis-

sed the remaining unmet funding needs associated with the Multi-Use Facili-

y (MUF).

The May 17 Town Council meet-

ing, council members voted to ap-

rove funding of the full project in the

amount of $9.5 million. Of that $9.5

million, $4.9 million was allocated

from bond proceeds secured by lever-

aging Measure R funds, $2.6 million

was allocated from Measure R reserve

funds, and $500,000 was allocated

from Measure U. As of December

2016, the estimated cost of construct-

ing the MUF was $10.6 million. After

receiving comments from the public,

a few components of the project have

been cut out, to bring the projected

cost down to $9.5 million.

The $9.5 million allocated by coun-
cil covers preliminary site-work and

construction of a 30,000 square foot

MUF with a functional ice rink that

can be converted to a RecZone in the

summer. It also covers construction of

a 5,000 square foot community center, a 2,400 square-foot ‘condi-
tioned community space’, a 2,200

square foot community gathering

space and entry area, as well as space

for staff offices, locker rooms, rest-

rooms, and concessions. The removal

and reinstallation of the existing play-
ground and structure is also covered.

The $9.5 million does not cover

“non-essential” items. Items not

included in the allocated $9.5 mil-

lion are landscaping, irrigation, the

outdoor hard space, site furnishings,
sport court material to convert the ice

rink to a RecZone, sports equipment,
or racks for equipment storage. Ad-

ditionally, there is no identified funding

source for a construction manage-

ment consultant. On the “wish list”

are an expanded Community Center

“support space” of 10,000 to 15,000

square feet and a fully reconfigured

playground that includes “inclusive features” for physically and mentally

handicapped adults and children.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Recreation

Manager Stuart Brown told Commis-

sioners that staff is in the process of

negotiating a two-year extension of

the current lease that allows the Town

to operate the existing ice rink and

RecZone facilities on Mammoth Uni-

fied School District (MUSD) property.

The extension would run through July

2019. Brown said he does not have

an estimate for how much the new

lease will cost the Town at this time,

but that MUSD would like to have an

analysis conducted of the site to de-

termine what it would take to restore

it to its original state at the end of the

lease’s duration.

It is unknown how much it would

cost the Town to make alterations to

the site that currently houses the ice

rink and RecZone, and whether doing so is not part of the $9.5 mil-

lion committed for the MUF by Town Council.

Mammoth Lakes Recreation is in

the process of hiring a new executive
director, who will ultimately lead the

fundraising efforts. Commissioner

Commissioner Christie Osborne

warned that it will take some time for

the new executive director to start bringing in funds for

the project, “I don’t think we should

expect the bulk of the funding for

this project to come in until the new

executive director can identify major

funding sources and build new rela-

tionships … we’ll have to be patient

with the fundraising process for the

first six to eight months,” said Os-

bourne.

Public Works Director Grady Dut-

ton said that the Town published a

request for bids for the preliminary

site work, an $800,000 project that

includes grading and utilities for the

building, this week. It is expected that

ground will be broken sometime after

Labor Day, this year. Dutton said that,

although an architect has not been

formally hired to complete the full
design, the footprint of the build-

ing is established by the conceptual
designs prepared by HMC Architects.

Town staff are preparing an amend-

ment to the existing contract with

HMC Architects for review by Town

Council at the June 21 meeting, to

award the final design of the build-

ing to HMC Architects. The Town has

already awarded HMC $475,000 for its
designs services.

Dutton said it was his understand-

ing that Town Council was committed
to funding the project in its entirety,

regardless of whether MLR and The

Recreation Commission are able to

raise the currently unmet funds. “It’s

my understanding that if it gets to be

next April, and the funds aren’t there,

they will fund it one way or another,”
did Dutton. In essence, if MLR and The

e Recreation Commission fail, the

MUF could cost the Town an extra

$1.5 million, or more.

Over the next year, the Recreation

Commission and Town staff will col-
laborate with MLR’s Board and staff
to identify fundraising strategies.

Reporting on discussion at an Ad Hoc

Committee meeting, Osborne said

it is anticipated that Town staff will

lead the grassroots fundraising effort,
drawing on the existing donor pro-

gram, local vendors, users, banners,

and t-shirt sponsorship programs.

Commissioner Sean Turner suggested

allowing the public to paint the fence

at the facility to begin in Spring 2017.
The facility is set to open in October 2018.
Parents, administrators worked to find a solution at a public meeting this week

Lois Klein, Superintendent of the Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD), held a budget workshop on Wednesday evening, June 7. Klein works closely with parents who are concerned about MUSD’s decision to not replace two teachers who are leaving Mammoth Elementary School (MES). Klein said the decision was made in order to do their part to reduce class sizes.

According to Klein, the 2017-18 budget will be presented to the MUSD School Board on June 15, and two versions of the budget—one which will replace one teacher, one which will replace neither—will be presented, according to Klein. Another result of the meeting was a call for parents to volunteer their time at MES in order to help them do their part to reduce class sizes.

Discussions sometimes turned contentious, but all those present agreed that smaller class sizes are preferable. The question became how to make them affordable was the focus of the meeting.

Parents who are worried about class sizes insisted that residents of the Town of Mammoth Lakes step up and fund MUSD schools in the form of an increased parcel tax. Klein and MUSD School Board member Shana Stapp, as well as several other participants, suggested that an increase in the parcel tax would not pass by the 2/3 vote required, and that a bond to be used for infrastructure improvements was the critical priority for the ballot in the next election in November of 2018.

Currently, Mammoth schools are funded by 1 percent of a 16 percent property tax within the District. There is also a $59 parcel tax which raises about $665,000 yearly for the District (see “A Rock and a Hard Place,” June 3).

That $59 parcel tax was renewed in the November 2016 election, and Klein said that “we went out for [the renewal of the parcel tax early because we wanted] to set things up so we weren’t doing a parcel tax and the next year doing a facilities bond, because there’s only so much appetite” for school funding. “You know people like tax cap initiatives, they are not the reality… and actually parents are the poorest voters of any group. You’re busy….”

Shana Stapp noted that the Board considered doubling the parcel tax in the last election, but surveys conducted by MUSD at the time indicated that it may not have passed if the tax was doubled. She also said that parcel tax and second homeowners are not always inclined to support taxes for schools. “If you’re 65 [or over], you can completely and waive yourself of that $59. And we have a lot of people with a lot of money that do that.”

Klein said that “By far [MUSD’s] biggest gripe is people,” citing the rising cost of health insurance, salaries, and retirement benefits. She said that any teacher who retires before the age of 65 (if they’ve put in over 13 years of service to MUSD) receives full health insurance until they hit 65, making MUSD’s “one of the most generous retirement packages in the state.”

Klein also insisted that the detrimental effects of increased elementary school class sizes could be tempered by an improvement in teaching strategies.

Shana Stapp said that parents volunteering in classrooms is “a free implementation of a change” that could happen immediately. “[There is a lot of grumbling but when it really comes to getting your butt in the classroom, it really doesn’t happen],” said Lori Schneider.

Fillipova said that it was “not sustainable” to rely on parents to supplement teachers at the elementary school. “It’s a cop out on resolving a systematic issue,” Fillipova said. Reiterating the call to increase the parcel tax, Fillipova said “the level of taxation in this community does not meet up to what we want it to be.”

“We’re a small resort town, it’s a beautiful paradise, but the school is not reflecting that paradise,” said one parent. Klein urged those with suggestions or concerns to email her at kklein@mammothusd.org or members of the school board.

The board will meet at 6 p.m. at the Mammoth High School multi-purpose room on Thursday, July 15, and presumably vote on the budget on July 22.
On Tuesday, Dr. Frank Davis, a professor at the Bren School at UC Santa Barbara, gave a lecture at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL). Davis presented his research on the effects of climate change on California’s woodland ecosystems.

The question that drives Davis’ research is whether the conditions found in microclimates (very small sub-climates within an ecosystem), which can be as narrow as the difference between a hilltop and a neighboring valley or gully, can be used to predict the success of a species across its entire range.

“Since 1950, the average global temperature has increased by about 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit,” said Davis at Tuesday’s lecture. “In California, it’s increased by 2.3 degrees Fahrenheit.” Davis said that California’s climate is historically “spiky,” meaning it is not uncommon for the state to experience large fluctuations in temperature and precipitation from year to year. “On average, in Napa, records kept by vineyards indicate that grapes now flower about a month earlier than they did in 1950,” said Davis. “Climate models indicate that temperatures will likely rise by between 3 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit by mid-century,” said Davis. “That means that it’s increased by about 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit.” Davis said that California’s climate is historically “spiky,” meaning it is not uncommon for the state to experience large fluctuations in temperature and precipitation from year to year. “On average, in Napa, records kept by vineyards indicate that grapes now flower about a month earlier than they did in 1950,” said Davis. “Climate models indicate that temperatures will likely rise by between 3 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit by mid-century,” said Davis. “That means that it’s increased by about 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit.”

Davis was particularly interested in Pinyon Pines and Blue and Black Oaks, whose ranges appeared to be shifting. “We know that these species can adjust and do—the question is, how quickly does climate change happen, and can plants keep up?” Davis said. “In 2011, there was not a lot of data available about the reproductive success of these trees. “Adult trees and shrubs are incredibly adaptive. They can put up with a lot, but seedlings? Not so much,” said Davis. “A tree trying to establish a seedling in these environments is like a blindfolded hunter trying to shoot a single buffalo on the plain.”

It was Davis’ hunch that subtle changes in microclimates as a result of drought and climate change in the macroclimate could have a profound impact on seedling establishment for certain oaks and pines in the foothills. Instead of looking exclusively at climate change across the entire Sierra foothills, where Pinyons and Blue and Black Oaks are typically found, Davis partnered with hydrologists, climate scientists, andographers to document microclimates across the range. They created 24 “mock gardens” on north- and south-facing slopes high in the forested woodlands of the western Sierra, and in the savannas. They measured air temperature within 15 feet of the ground, soil temperature at various depths, water content, air moisture, and seedling growth over several seasons at these plots. They also employed LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging), a form of remote-sensing technology, to map the distribution of the tree species as compared with their historic ranges.

“What we saw was that seedlings had windows of opportunity—good years and bad years to get a population started. When you map windows of opportunity based on climate factors and when Blue and Black Oaks were able to establish themselves, you see that in places where they are now found, it will be nearly impossible for them to establish themselves mid-century,” said Davis. Essentially, if the models for climate change in California created by climate scientists bear out, those windows of opportunity for seedling establishment will become more and more infrequent. A tree that, in its historic range, reproduces successfully every year today, may only be able to successfully reproduce every few years (or not at all, in that same location.

Davis said that this calls for more research into the composition of California’s forests and into forestry management practices. He said research is being conducted regarding the isolation of genes carried by individual members of a species that may make them more drought resistant, and whether or not those individuals could be used to rebuild forests.

“At the end of the day, it’s lethal temperatures that kill seedlings. Seedlings die when the stem gets so hot that the structure is disrupted and they can’t draw water up from their roots,” said Davis. “If we want to understand how a changing macroclimate is affecting species distribution in our mountains, we need to look at those changes at the level at which they are experienced by seedlings.”
BETTER IN BISHOP?

Air Traffic Study suggests commercial flights are feasible

By James

At the Inyo County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, June 6, supervisors heard a presentation on a recent Draft Phase 2 Traffic Study completed by Leigh-Fisher, an aviation and infrastructure consulting firm regarding commercial air traffic at the Bishop Airport. Inyo County Public Works Director Clint Quilter spoke about Inyo County’s continuing efforts through its airport working group to bring commercial passenger flights to Bishop by making improvements to the airport.

The airport study suggested passenger air flights to Bishop are realistic. Quilter summarized the highlights of the study, which included a letter of interest from Allegiant Air in which it proposed scheduling two passenger flights per week on 156-seat Airbus 319 turbofan airplanes arriving from Los Angeles and Phoenix. In its letter, Allegiant Air stated its “interest in the possibility of initiating commercial air service at Bishop Airport...” The letter mentioned that “community representatives suggested that the community and local businesses would be willing to financially back the flights in an effort to promote additional travelers to nearby ski resorts and visitor destinations in the Eastern Sierra region.”

Subsidies from Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (in winter) are used at the Mammoth Yosemite Airport in Mono County and are common in many small tourist destinations.

There were no specifics mentioned about which entities might support air subsidy in Bishop.

Quilter told the supervisors that, before Phase 3 begins, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will review the study, as will other agencies, such as the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Quilter also said he is going to get a second opinion from other consultants. The potential cost of improvements necessary to make the Bishop Airport able to receive commercial flights is estimated to be $25 million, with $20 million coming from the FAA, according to the Inyo County Bishop Airport Working Group.

The study predicted that commercial passenger numbers at the Bishop Airport could quadruple within four years, and continue to rise over the next 17 years.

That prediction is contingent upon the assumption that nothing “negative” happens over time, such as an economic downturn.

The next step is for the FAA to look at the study’s estimates and costs, and whether its requirements can be met at the Bishop Airport in order to facilitate commerical flights.

LOCAL BRIEFS

By Bodine

Tioga Pass Resort closed

Tioga Pass Resort will likely not open this summer. According to the business owners, there has been, “profound structural damage” the lodge building which renders it unusable. The cabins appear to be in good shape, but the electrical systems are in shambles and there is likely to be extensive flooding to the property. All reservations for this summer have been cancelled.

Who steals from vets?

Bishop Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8988 was broken into on Saturday, June 3. According to the post’s Facebook page, several doors were kicked in and a substantial amount of money was taken from a safe. The money was taken from Buddy Poppy donations which go toward veterans’ well-being and that of their survivors and their orphans.

Anyone with any information about the crime should call the Bishop Police at 760.873.5866. For more information or to make a donation to the VFW, give them a call at 760.873.5770.

New Oasis in Death Valley

The Furnace Creek Inn, built in 1927, will be undergoing a $50 million makeover this summer and will not look or sound the same when it opens in the fall. Xanterra Resorts, owner of the resort, will change the name to the Oasis at Death Valley.

Scum bags in Lone Pine

The Inyo County Sheriff’s Department is still looking for a suspect involved in a home invasion/robbery in Lone Pine in March. The victim was assaulted and his residence burglarized. The suspects are Oscar Alvarado, Emilio Orozco, Jeffery Barnes and Mario Torres. Alvarado and Orozco were arrested Friday, June 2, but Barnes and Torres were still outstanding.

Barnes was arrested Tuesday, June 6. According to a press release, a Sheriff’s Investigator was driving northbound on Highway 395 around 1 p.m. when he saw Barnes on a motorcycle near Fish Springs Road and attempted to stop him. Barnes fled southbound on Fish Springs Road. The investigator was joined by California Highway Patrol and Department of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement but it was a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power employee that identified Barnes and flagged down law enforcement. Barnes was taken into custody without incident and booked into Inyo County Jail. Torres is still on the loose and considered armed and dangerous. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office at 760.878.0383.

Michael Aguirre

Harmonica Stew

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FOR THE CLIMATE!
350 Mono, Mono Lake Committee to host second climate conference

By Ben Trefry

For the second year in a row, 350 Mono and the organizers of the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will be sponsoring a climate change seminar, open to the public, in the Lee Vining Visitor Center on Thursday, June 15. This event, which will feature local speakers talking about the impact of global warming on the Eastern Sierra, is part of an effort by 350 Mono (a local chapter of the 350.org climate action group) to educate people about climate issues and their effect on our area.

The aim of the seminar, according to Janet Carle, leader of 350 Mono, is to promote “education and awareness and help people learn more about the science of climate change and understand the possible consequences.” She hopes that featuring local speakers and showcasing the impressive climate research going on in the Sierras will make climate change more relatable and help people learn more about the science of climate change.

This year, the seminar will add a few new speakers – U.C. Davis scientist Steve Sadro, former Mono Lake Committee Executive Director Martha McQuilkin, student scientist Caelen McQuilkin, and Forest Service scientist Connie Millar. “With the Paris climate accord news this past week there are a lot of people who are thinking about climate issues. We’re hoping for a great turnout,” said Carle. The event received about 95 attendees last year, a strong turnout for a small-town seminar in its first year.

see CLIMATE CHANGE, page 23

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By Rea

Mammoth’s Town Council placed an item regarding allocation of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues to three “program areas” (housing, tourism and transit) at the tail end of its agenda on Wednesday, June 15. This resulted in the item being postponed until Council’s next meeting on Wednesday, June 21.

Several people sat through the meeting hoping to give public comment, which adjourned just before 11 p.m. on Wednesday. Town Council has a bylaw that meetings are to end before 10:30 p.m.

Both Mammoth Lakes Housing Executive Director Jennifer Halfery and MLH board member Kirk Stapp said they had “a lot to say” about the proposed changes, and a lot of questions, but neither spoke for long due to the time constraints. Council member Bill Sauser said that he felt the workshop was in order, and member Cleland Hoff said that “none of this even sounds like English anymore.”

The political commitments that currently govern funding for tourism, transit and housing were passed by voters in 2002. After the Town’s settlement to avoid bankruptcy in 2012 in the wake of the Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition lawsuit settlement, those commitments were reallocated.

Prior to Fiscal Year 2012-13 (after the airport settlement): 13 percent, or 13 points, of Transient Occupancy Tax is allocated to tourism (2.5 percent), transit (1 percent), housing (1 percent), community facilities (1.5 percent) and the Town general fund (7 percent).

Tourism also receives revenue from the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID). Post-settlement, the 1.5 points for community facilities was suspended, and the subcommittee does not recommend reinstating it. Annual funding for other programs was also reduced by $215,562 (tourism) and $148,678 (transit).

A base amount was established for Mammoth Lakes Housing ($329,190). The TBID (Tourism Business Improvement District) has since been enacted which generated almost $6 million last year for tourism.

“When understood, the actions at the time resulted in different methodologies being used for redistribution of specific areas. This appears today to have created an unintended inequity in funding,” states the Action Sheet compiled by the Subcommittee.

The proposed changes are the result of a Council subcommittee of Council members John Wentworth and Colin Ferris. They recommend that Council “realign” the Sub委员会 proposes a “recalibration” of TOT allocations “to reflect a shift in demand for services and programs, such as workforce housing.”

Recalibrated allocations would give tourism 2.35 percent, both transit and housing 85 percent and the Town 8.95 percent.

It would also grant base allocations for tourism ($2,259,619), housing ($530,190) and transit ($1,177,368). The reallocation would also create a “reserve level” for tourism ($564,904) and housing ($204,327). Any funds exceeding those reserve levels would be held in the general fund, by the Town, but earmarked for those specific programs.

At the Mammoth Lakes Tourism meeting earlier on Wednesday, Executive Director John Urdi handed out a worksheet with its funding recommendations, which suggested MLT retain 2.5 points of the budgeted revenue from 13 percent TOT collections. It also recommended that MLT retains 20 percent of any additional funds collected from TOT over and above budget. Remaining surplus, Urdi suggested, would go into a “dedicated and secured fund for use as financial support for visitation-based infrastructure that is mutually agreed upon by MLT Board and Town Council members. Funds cannot be allocated without both sides agreeing to the purpose.”

This was not heard at Council on Wednesday, due to the lateness of the hour and the request for a workshop. A workshop will be held on June 21 beginning at 4 p.m. prior to the Town Council meeting.

Norahs and Sadie Hisson do their part to help make the sign for last year’s Climate Change Seminar. This year’s seminar will be held on June 15 in the Lee Vining Visitors Center.

Committee Executive Director Geoff McQuilkin, student scientist Caelen McQuilkin, and Forest Service scientist Connie Millar. “With the Paris climate accord news this past week there are a lot of people who are thinking about climate issues. We’re hoping for a great turnout,” said Carle. The event received about 95 attendees last year, a strong turnout for a small-town seminar in its first year.
On Saturday, June 3, residents of Mammoth Lakes turned out for Town Cleanup Day. Clockwise from top left: Jenny Gerard with daughter Jennifer Gerard. Erica and Alan Walker of 335 Manzanita Road filled several bags with trash. Town Councilman John Wentworth was hard at work at Shady Rest Park. Archie Gerard pulled his weight, carrying his own trash bags, and Donna Sheckter found a driver’s license in the brush near Mammoth Hospital. Victor Garcia cleaned up a patch of columbines on Sierra Park Rd., saying, “It didn’t look like anyone else was going to do it.”
VAGABOND-VILLE AT SHADY REST PARK

Runners, dog-walkers report illegal camping activity within the Town limits

By Rea

“I don’t walk my dogs at Shady Rest any more,” said Michelle Mather this week, “not after one of them came back to me covered in human poop.”

Mather is one of many Mammoth residents who have noticed an uptick in the number of people camped—some of them illegally—in the Inyo National Forest just outside the Town of Mammoth Lakes. “I don’t run out there anymore either, because I don’t want my dog to eat poop,” said District Five Supervisor Stacy Corless.

“The runners, we see stuff nobody else sees,” said Corless. “We’re out there at 6:30-7 a.m.” before campers are up and move their cars.

“If we’re not going to do anything about it, could we at least pay to put some Port-o-Potties out there?” Corless asked.

Dispersed camping, or camping outside of an established campground, is allowed in the Inyo National Forest (INS) and on Bureau of Land Management property. It is not, however, allowed within two miles of Town limits, or within a mile of campgrounds. That means those posted up within eye-shot of the “no camping” signs on the dirt roads at Shady Rest are too close. There’s also a 14-day limit on staying in one spot.

Paul Clark, an Inyo National Forest employee at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, hands out maps of “Primitive (another term for “dispersed”) Camping, Mammoth Ranger District,” which runs from McGee Creek in the south to the Crestview and Lookout Mountain areas in the north.

“There’s a lot of reasons why dispersed camping is a really wonderful Forest Service experience,” said Deb Schweizer, Public Affairs Officer for the INS. “You can’t do this in National Parks. This is an experience that makes living next to a forest really special. One of the reasons people come to [national] forests is because they can have that experience.”

Schweizer’s sympathetic to the cause. “I remember first camping out (near Shady Rest) when I was 20 years old, and it was a wonderful way for a starving college kid to experience this area.”

However, Schweizer says, the amount of people not following the rules regarding dispersed camping, and the amount of people doing so, has been causing problems. “Clearly, we’re fully aware that people are violating stay limits,” says Schweizer. “We know there are people who come and stay for longer, and if we can document that, of course we do.”

There’s also a 28-day limit on staying in the Mammoth Ranger District, “so you can’t just serial camp your way through the Inyo National Forest, which people do,” says Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun.

“We need to be good stewards so that experience can keep going,” Schweizer said on Wednesday, June 7. Sheriff Braun also cautions people against camping within Town limits, saying people posted up in vans and RVs have been cited at the Volcom Brothers Skate Park, Park ‘n Ride, and less-traveled areas of town. “They love the library because there’s free WiFi,” says Braun.

The surge in off-grid campers “might reflect back on the housing crisis,” says Braun. “Now that it’s nice out, people don’t have to couch surf.”

But some people see it more as a philosophy than a necessity. Nicholas Schessl said that he and his girlfriend have “been living out of our car more by choice, rather than a situational lack of housing. But that being said, housing is pretty expensive here as far as a small town in the middle of nowhere goes.” Schessl had been renting a room in town until the weather warmed up enough for him to move into his Toyota 4Runner outfitted with a pop-up tent on the roof. He’s been camping in the Inyo National Forest longer than his 14-day limit, he says, but he’s been moving around.

Nick Schessl’s tricked out 1987 Toyota 4-Runner (with red velvet seats of course).
RODEO, OH RODEO, WHERE ART THOU?

Why, Bishop, California, of course!

By Bodine

Herds of polite, hard-working, rough and tumble high-schoolers from around the state are coming to the Bishop Tri-County Fairgrounds from June 9-16 for the California High School Rodeo Association Finals. About 300 students will be roping, barrel racing and pole bending for a chance to compete at the nationals in Wyoming this July. This will be the 13th consecutive finals held in Bishop.

Bishop High School Junior Alli Interbeiten will be competing in her third finals this year and says she has learned valuable life lessons from the competitions and made invaluable friendships.

Like most of the competitors, Interbeiten grew up around horses, she explained. Working with large animals is not something people can just walk into, she said. She started competing at horse shows in third grade but dropped out because the competition was so easy and she joined the Junior High School Rodeo in sixth grade.

She competed three times at the Junior High state finals and twice at the nationals. She’s a barrel racer, a pole bender, a team roper and a cutter.

There’s a comradery among the competitors, they are unique kids with similar backgrounds but with the same goals and aspirations, to do the best they can.

“ ‘We’re a different breed than other kids.’

“The friends I’ve made through the rodeo are more important than any other friends I’ve ever had,” she told The Sheet. “These are people I wouldn’t trade for the anything.”

One of those friends, Andy Poole of Clovis, “is one of the most talented people I’ve ever met.”

Another is Lexi Specchio who is scary smart, Interrieben said.

Interrieben said she goes into the competitions wanting to do her best but without aspirations of making it to the nationals. It’s one step at a time.

Interrieben is humble, not bragging or showcasing, and is one of the most important lessons she’s learned from competing in countless rodeos.

“Anything can happen from amazing to horrible and it makes you step back and think that could happen to me, and you’re humble it didn’t.”

She’s also gained a great appreciation for the group of supporters, family, friends and the entire community that have helped to get her where she is today. “It really opened my eyes. I have all these people in my life, my grandparents, my sister, supporting me. My mom and dad are the greatest people I know.”

There is also a great amount of responsibility that goes with the rodeo, too. A student must maintain good grades and standing with the school to compete and the students also must care for the animals.

She would like to continue rodeoing, but school comes first, “Schooling comes before anything.”

Because of the scorching Bishop heat in June, the events are in the evening or morning. The fun starts Tuesday, June 13, Patriotic Day, with a silent auction starting at 6 and the Opening Ceremony at 7 p.m. with a rodeo. Wednesday is Family Night with cutting competitions at 7 a.m., look for Alli, and rodeo at 7 followed by goat roping at 9. Thursday is Cancer Awareness Night, so dress in pink for a “special” rodeo at 5 p.m.

State Champions will be announced on Saturday.

There’ll be bull and bronc riding, barrel racing and more all for $7 a day pass, or a rodeo button for admission to all the events. For more information go to chsra.com.
MHS CLASS OF 2017
Photos by Lunch

The Sheet went over to the high school this week to track down graduating seniors and ask them what they plan to do next year. We managed to corral about 45 of them. A couple of them liked being photographed so much that they appear twice.

Top Left (L-R): Gloria Solorio, Cerro Coso (Nursing), Amy Garcia, Cerro Coso (Nursing), Johnny Morales (Undecided), Vicky Mayoral, L.A.C.C (Undecided), Maria Montes, Cerro Coso (Teaching), Rodrigo Lucero, Ventura College (Paramedic), Jose Martinez, Ventura, (Criminal Justice), Carlos Morales, U.C. Channel Islands (Physical Therapy).

From left to right: Anya Feeney, Santa Barbara City College (Latin Culture), Nicole Rule-Davis, Kansas State (Athletic Training), Caitlin Yang, Golden West Community College (Criminal Administration), Eriko Guzman, Humbolt State (Biology/Psychology), Miranda Betts, Cerro Coso (Kinesiology), Alex Lopez, Mesa College (Video Game Design), Magu Garcia, Cerro Coso (Undecided), Anna Gruber, San Diego State (Kinesiology).

From left to right: Oscar Sanchez, Cerro Coso (Political Science), Hannah Halferty, Emerson College (Journalism), Camden DeAngelis, Gap Year, Nicole Rule, University of California, Davis, Hayden Manneher, Montana State (Criminology).

Mary Bassler, MD
Board Certified Family Physician

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FREE ENERGY CODE TRAINING

2016 Title 24 Part 6 Essentials:
Residential Standards - Plans Examiners & Building Inspectors

June 20, 2017 • 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Mammoth Lakes Foundation

Course Description:
This hands-on course is designed to provide plans examiners, building inspectors, architects and contractors with the knowledge and skills needed to more quickly and effectively enforce the energy code for residential and low-rise multi-family residential projects.

COURSE IS FREE
NO PREREQUISITES REQUIRED

Register by email:
bold@highsierraenergy.org

Brought to you by:
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Eastern Sierra Energy Initiative
Top Left (L-R): Jacob Mahler, U.S.M.B.C. (Undecided), Elijah Grice, Gloria Oliver, Mira Costa College (Undecided), Trace Calvin, University of Vermont (Mechanical Engineering), Eddie Matthieson, Pepperdine (Chemistry), Peter Hensley, Embry Riddle (Mechanical Engineering).

Top Right: Front Row (L-R): Journey Whitfield, LLC San Diego (Law), Estafania Partida, Mesa College (Undecided), Fernanda Miranda, Cerro Coso (Child Development), Lizbeth Morales, Cerro Coso (Nursing), George Garcia, Ventura College (Auto Tech). Back Row (L-R): Cindy Pina, Cerro Coso (Business Administration/Marketing), Valerie Reyes, San Joaquin (Phlebotomy), Karey Roman, Cerro Coso (Photography/Astronomy), Crystal Castellanos, Cerro Coso (Undecided).

Above, from left to right: Katherine Braun, University of California Irvine (Bioscience/Nursing), Gisela Salivan, Cerro Coso (Undecided), McKenna Smith, Santa Barbara City College (Kinesiology), Rosaura Garcia, California State University Northridge (Business), Quinn Contaldi, Cerro Coso/University of Nevada Reno (Administration of Justice), Sydney Snellbaker, California Polytechnical Pomona (Biotechnology/Statistics).
MALL
continued from page 1

seeking to fill that vacant office space with residents. “We had a large vacancy on the second floor and knew there was a demand for housing in town,” said Greenlaw Partners Asset Manager Michael Meyer. “We already had the structure, the building was there, so it’s not a ground-up development project… It wouldn’t be feasible to do a ground-up apartment construction project (in Mammoth Lakes),” said Meyer. Meyer said that renovations will begin this summer and that his firm hopes to make the 13 new units (5 studios, 4 1-bedroom apartments, 3 2-bedroom apartments, and 1 3-bedroom apartment) available to tenants by January 2018.

Lehman said he thought that, if done properly, the Mammoth Mall project could be a good model for other large malls in town. “It promotes the town’s desire to have mixed use along our commercial corridors,” said Lehman.

According to Traxler, the rent for studio apartments at the Mammoth Mall is tentatively set at $800 per month. “These are being built with working families in mind,” said Traxler. Because Greenlaw Partners intends to rent the apartments long-term, they were not required to pay housing mitigation fees or covered parking. Additionally, because of the age of the building, they were not required to rebuild the apartments to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards, which add to the cost of developing a new building from the ground up.

Drew Hild, a partner in ownership of the Sierra Center Mall, said that although the second and third floors of his property will be occupied by Mono County for the next two years, he and his partner are already looking at what will replace that space when County employees leave. “We have actually seen a little retail burst. The Sierra Center Mall has had more new businesses open in it than any other property in town,” said Hild, citing new restaur-

nants Delicious Kitchen, The Food Cache, Mama’s Kitchen Table, and Black Doubt Brewing Company, all of which have opened in the last two years on the mall’s first floor. “This is good news for town,” said Hild, “young entrepreneurs willing to go at risk and start something completely new, that they really believe in, in town.”

Hild said he thinks these businesses are bringing a “cool, laid back Eastern Sierra vibe” and that visitors and locals alike are drawn to the authenticity they exude. Hild said he could see apartments penciling out at the Sierra Center Mall in the future. “You’ve got a cool place to grab a beer or eat, a high-end sports gear store, a co-working space downstairs, and a café. You can park your car underground and take a bus to the mountain… I don’t know what we’ll do ultimately, but it’s a trend worth watching closely,” said Hild.

Hild said that he’s aware of the popularity of other “co-working” spaces, like that installed by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area at the Sierra Center Mall this year. He called that decision by MMAA ahead of the curve. “There really aren’t any other spaces like that for people elsewhere in town. Think about that. These days, people want to be able to work and live in close proximity. It’s an established trend elsewhere.”

According to Traxler, the Mammoth Mall renovations are permitted outright in the Downtown zoning District under the town’s zoning code. The change of use and renovations will not require approval by Town Council or the Planning and Economic Development Commission. The building permit will likely be released to Greenlaw Partners within the month and renovations will ensue thereafter.

NARCOTICS
continued from page 1

reasons in 2013, according to Kendall, and the Sheriff’s Office pulled out in 2014 due to short staffing. Before the team was stripped down, it was handling up to 300 cases a year. In 2016, MONET consisted of one DA investigator who handled 139 cases, approximately 70 percent of which were in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Kendall added that the number of cases probably represents half of the narcotics activity in the county.

Methamphetamine, Oxycodone and heroin and cocaine are the top drugs of choice in the County and Town, Kendall said. Marijuana is currently legal for recreational consumption in California, but there are still restrictions on commercial marijuana grows and eradication efforts should continue, Kendall added.

When MONET was formed, its cases involved primarily narcotics charges (including possession and sales), and 5 to 10 percent of those cases included additional non-narcotic charges like theft or battery. Now, more than 44 percent of drug crimes include other charges, like burglary and assault, with a deadly weapon.

Kendall did not say that the shooting death of Omar Sanchez in October 2016 was drug-related, but the incident was used as an example of the elevation of violence and crime in the County and Town.

Drugs and crime go hand-in-hand, but there are serious societal effects, such as children being removed from their families. Drugs affect neighborhoods, inviting unsavory elements and violence. A drug problem could also affect the decisions of a company to start up in or relocate to Mono County, with rippling economic and growth implications, according to Kendall.

Kendall said drug investigation requires training and while MONET has been active, MLPD has been out of the loop on drug investigations. He said MLPD may have a difficult time being proactive in fighting narcotics through extensive investigative efforts, versus being reactive (pulling someone over and discovering drugs in the vehicle, for example).

MLPD Sergeant Eric Hugelman told The Sheet that it is important to have dedicated people on a task-force to grow relationships and deal with cases that may require months of work before an arrest or a case goes to court.

Kendall added that the Town needs to be a partner in this issue, and it hasn’t been.

MLPD Chief Al Davis told The Sheet he welcomes more officers, but the money just isn’t available. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is at a record high this year, but those revenues fluctuate, meaning there is no guarantee the Town could afford a career officer. He said the estimated cost of a full-time officer, including benefits and retirement, is about $180,000 a year. He added that he’s been working on grants to help pay for additional officers, but those grants require the officers to be permanent employees—they can not be let go when the grant money disappears.

The Sheriff’s Department has had three funded deputy position openings, but there have not been qualifications applied to fill those spots, according to County Administrative Officer Leslie Chapman. In May 2016, the Sheriff’s Department had to cut patrol hours from 18 to 12 a day due to a lack of staffing. Sheriff Ingrid Braun explained that it is difficult to recruit new deputies for many reasons, including the fact that neighboring agencies, like the MLPD and Bishop Police Department, pay more. The job is not very popular either, Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood told The Sheet in May 2016, and there are fewer deputy candidates nationwide.

Kendall’s presentation was informational only, and the supervisors took no action. Board Chair Supervisor Stacy Corless did ask that the item be added to the agenda of the next joint meeting of Supervisors and Town Council in July.

Kendall said this decision did not come easy and that he has been struggling with it for months. He said he’s lost sleep over the idea of ending the program.

“I am disappointed in myself for not being able to preserve the program, and I am concerned with what the future impact may be,” he wrote in a letter to the Supervisors.

Methamphetamine, Oxycodone, heroin, and cocaine are the top drugs of choice in the County and Town [of Mammoth Lakes].

-Mono County District Attorney Tim Kendall

The Mammoth Mall, where the Good Life Cafe is located, Greenlaw Partners plans to renovate the existing office space above the wing shop in this photo to create 13 new apartment units for workforce housing. Other developers and mall owners, along with Mammoth Lakes Housing are watching the project as a “testpiece.”
Bleu Handcrafted Foods is NOW HIRING! We are looking for someone to join our amazing front of house team who is passionate about food, great customer service and working with a team in a positive, lively environment. Full or part-time positions open. For details and to submit your resume, visit theleriedgroup.com or call 760-094-4588 or send to HR@bleuhandcraftedfoods.com.  

Stellar Brew is looking to employ an experienced kitchen person who is able to train in term season work in Mammoth Lakes. A full time position has opened up and we are looking to fill it immediately. On site training is available but you must have knowledge of food service and prep. Please e-mail your resume or any questions to julie@stellarbrew.com.
BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. 3-$ off draft beers, $2 off wine. Flatbread. See ad, p. 11.

Outlaw Saloon.
Monday All Night Happy Hour: 4- Midnight. Tues/Fri 4-6 pm. Tuesday 5-2 Tacos 4-10 pm. 6-9 pm Wing Wednesday 50% off all wings; new time! Thursday Burger & Beer special 4-9 pm. See ad, p. 13.

Roberto’s
4-6 p.m. every day.

Auditorium
House of Help 5-6 p.m. daily Whitcomb Restaurant Bar & Lounge Unwind with daily drink and food specials 4-6 p.m. Half price sushi Moe’s. See ad, p. 11.

Clocktower Cellar
Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily and all day Sunday. $5 dollar menu items, drink specials. Happy Hour @ Sushi Rei. 4-5 p.m. daily. Half off apps and $5 hand roll $5 small sake. Sundays are all-night happy hour. Late night happy hour Fri-Sat 9-11 p.m.

Happy Hour at 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.

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

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

Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour: Monday thru Friday 4-6; Saturday 4-5. Closed Sunday.

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. Sundays are all-night happy hour. Late night happy hour Fri-Sat 9-11 p.m.

Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour: Monday thru Friday 4-6; Saturday 4-5. Closed Sunday.

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. Mondays, Wing Night $4.50 p.m. See ad, p. 4.

Food Cafe Happy Hour 3:30-6:30 Sunday-Thursday. Street tacos $2.50, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine $10.50 pitcher. See ad, p. 4.

Friday, June 9/
The Jaded Haters play Liberty Bar. Funky rock n’ roll. 9 p.m. Free Show. See ad, p. 11.

Artist Reception and Open Mic at Black Sheep Coffee Roasters. Artist reception runs from 4-6 p.m. Open mic runs 6-8 p.m.


Monday, June 12/ Bowling n’ Beats: Enchanted Forest. Costume party starts at 9 p.m. at Mammoth Rock n’ Bowl. Beats by DJ Chronufictus. See ad, p. 6.

Wing Night at Morrison’s, 4-9 p.m. $9 for 8 wings. See ad, p. 4.

Wednesday, June 14/ Wild Wing Wednesdays @ John’s Pizza Works. See ad, p. 13.

Open Mic @ Mammoth Brewing Co. Starts 6 p.m. Weekly beer specials.

Thursday, June 15/ Bodie 601 plays The Melob. Free live music from 6-9 p.m. Local “bluegrass-ish” band.
Stay safe during spring runoff

The anticipated heavy spring runoff has officially begun in the Owens Valley. Creeks and streams have already been flowing at high capacities and the Owens River is running full and extremely fast. Due to debris and fast moving water, officials warn that river floating should be avoided, as residents and visitors seeking to cool off should enjoy calmer waterways such as Diaz Lake, Klondi Lake, and Mammoth Lakes.

Inyo County residents are reminded that proactive emergency preparedness includes monitoring weather through the National Weather Service and expect and prepare for localized flooding as temperatures rise. Do not attempt to drive through posted road closures—these are there for your safety. It only takes one foot of moving water to sweep your vehicle away.

Other preparedness tips include making a plan and building a kit that includes food and water for three days, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies. Your pets need kits as well. Ready.gov is a great preparedness resource and has suggestions for emergency plans as well as recommendations for items to include in an emergency supply kit.

ESTA may discontinue Old Mammoth Limited Route

Based upon very low ridership the past four months on the Old Mammoth Limited Route, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) is proposing to discontinue this route effective June 24, 2017. Public comment regarding this proposed service change will be accepted through June 9, 2017.

Comments can be submitted by U.S. mail to Eastern Sierra Transit, PO Box 1357, Bishop, CA 93515, via email to info@estransit.com, or delivered in person to ESTA’s office at 210 Commerce Drive, Mammoth Lakes.

Free Kids Summer Art Camp

Registration is open for the Mono Arts Council’s free kids summer camp. The first session starts July 10, and camps are available for kids as young as 5, as well as kids 12 and up.

Except for the week of July 10, when the event will run Monday through Friday, camps run Wednesday-Friday. This year’s camps include: Amazing Veez, in which participants create their own robots, and Comic Books, Photography, Robots and Mixed Media, in which participants design their own robots, and Comic Books, in which participants create their own comic book.

For details about scheduling or to register, visit monoausto.org or contact Kendra at kendra@monoausto.org or 760.914.3752.

Bishop Community Band Debuts Performance

On Monday, June 12, at 8 p.m. in the Band Gazebo at the front of Bishop City Park, the Bishop Community Band will perform their first concert of the season. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy Gershwin in the gloaming and a bit of Sousa as the sun sets.

Free Bishop Community Band concerts will run every Monday evening at the Bishop City Park through the summer. Free Hula Dance concert at 7:30 p.m., same night.

SCE Edison to host Town Hall Meeting: Rush Creek Dam System

Southern California Edison (SCE) will host a Town Hall meeting regarding lake levels in the Rush Creek Dam System for summer 2017. This year’s snowpack is the largest on record in the region, allowing SCE to learn more about what to expect this summer regarding lake levels in the Rush Creek Dam System. SCE experts will be available to answer questions from the public.

Meeting runs from 6-7:30 p.m. at the June Lake Community Center.

TOWN STUFF

Monday, June 12/
Bishop city council Meeting. 6-8 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Bishop City Hall.

June 13-16/

Tuesday, June 13/
Mono County Board of Supervisors Meeting 9 a.m. at the BOS Chambers, at the Mono County Courthouse in Bridgeport. Live broadcast from the CAO Conference Room.
Inyo County Board of Supervisors, 8:50 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors room at the Inyo Administrative Center, Independence. SNARI Lecture: Jovian Jets in a Giant Gyrating Jacuzzi. Doors at 6:30 p.m., talk starts at 7 p.m. Dr. Jon Aurnou, Professor of Planetary Physics at UCLA.

Wednesday, June 14/
Mammoth Planning and Economic Development Commission Meeting. 2-5 p.m. in Suite Z, at the Minaret Mall.
District Agricultural Association Meeting. 12 p.m. at the Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop.
Mono Basin RPAC Meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Lee Vining Community Center.
Friends of the Inyo Summer Open House. 6-8:30 p.m. at Inyo Council for the Arts. Meet the new executive director, hear update about issues affecting public lands locally, learn about summer projects and how to get involved. Beer, wine and appetizers.

UPCOMING

Thursday, June 15/
Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua. Kick off the event, hosted by Friends of the Inyo and the Mono Lake Committee, with a day of volunteer trail work in popular birding destinations in the Mono Basin. Meet at the Mono Lake Committee book store at 9 a.m. Bring: water, sturdy shoes. Tools provided. Info: info@friendsoftheinyo.org
Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Meeting. 8:30 a.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes.
Bishop Paiute Tribe Community Market 5 p.m. to dusk at the Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center, Bishop. See sidebar.

June 16-17/
Sierra Meadows Ranch Horse Camp. Ages 3 years and older. Inquire for info, call Leslie @ 760.382.5017. See ad p. 6.

June 16-18/

Saturday, June 17/
Twin Lakes Trail Days. Join Friends of the Inyo and Mono County for Twin Lakes Trail Days. Bring: water, closed toe shoes. Teas, grills, breakfast, lunch provided. Meeting time and place TBD. Info: info@friendsoftheinyo.org
Annual Father's Day Fishing Derby in Independence. Weigh in at Dehly Park in Independence between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Awards at 4 p.m. Info: 760.614.0044

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas


The Mummy (PG-13): Tom Cruise stars in this retelling of The Mummy story, in which an ancient mummified queen is re-awakened to wreak havoc on the modern world.

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

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ALBERT BERNARD PEGORARE

In all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, all persons claiming an interest in the property of the decedent, or any person interested in the estate of the decedent:
The petition for probate of theWill of Albert Bernard Pegorare(Amended) will be heard in the Superior Court ofInyo County, California, in and for the Judicial District of Mammoth Lakes, at the Courthouse, 437 Old Mammoth Road, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chambers, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. Pursuant to Government Code Section 6348, you may appear at the hearing to contest the validity of the Will or object to the decedent's right to be administered under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. The hearing will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017, at 9:00 am or as soon thereafter as is feasible. You may also appear at the hearing to contest any other issues you believe should be heard. Your appearance may be in person or by attorney. You may file your opposition with the court at least 10 days before the hearing.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 6348, you may appear at the hearing to contest the validity of the Will or object to the decedent's right to be administered under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. The hearing will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017, at 9:00 am or as soon thereafter as is feasible. You may also appear at the hearing to contest any other issues you believe should be heard. Your appearance may be in person or by attorney. You may file your opposition with the court at least 10 days before the hearing.

For additional information, please contact Rob Patterson, Administrative Services/Finance Director, at telephone at (760) 936-3616 or email at rpatterson@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

TS # 2017-0118

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ALBERT BERNARD PEGORARE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, IN AND FOR THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF MAMMOTH LAKES, AT THE COURTHOUSE, 437 OLD MAMMOTH ROAD, THE MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBE R S, MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546

A PETITION FOR PROBATE OF THE WILL OF ALBERT BERNARD PEGORARE, DECEASED, HAS BEEN FILED IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, IN AND FOR THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF MAMMOTH LAKES.

All persons having an interest in the proposed application of the Will or in any claims against the estate, or any person interested in the estate, may file with the court a Request for Special Notice on or before July 5, 2017, a copy of the Will, the Notice of Petition to Administer the Estate of Albert Bernard Pegorare (Amended), and a list of all known creditors of the estate. The Request for Special Notice shall also describe the nature of the interest or claim and state whether the person filing the request for notice is a creditor or not a creditor.

Notice of Petition to Administer the Estate of Albert Bernard Pegorare (Amended)

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, by a resolution adopted on March 21, 2017, at 6:00 pm or as soon thereafter as is feasible, declares its intention to conduct a Public Hearing concerning the levy of assessments in accordance with and pursuant to the Assessment Law; and,

WHEREAS, there has now been presented to this Town Council the “Report” as required by the Assessment Law; and,

WHEREAS, this Town Council has now carefully considered and found the Petition and the Petitioner’s Report to be both legally sufficient and factually supported for approval of the Petition;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Intention: The Council hereby declares its intention to levy and collect assessments within the Assessment District (the “Assessment District”) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018, for the purpose of meeting the annual operating costs, improvements and the preparation of an Annual Report.

2. Improvement: The improvement includes, but is not limited to, the repair, construction, and replacement of public rights-of-way, streets, minor streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, drains, street lighting, landscaping, irrigation and drainage systems, street furniture, and landscape maintenance and enhancement; as well as any other improvements, structures, equipment, or services provided as required under the Assessment Law.

3. Assessment District Boundaries: The boundaries of the Assessment District are shown by the assessment map filed with the office of the Town Manager.

TS # 2017-0123

Notice of Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 17-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016/2017 AND DECLARING ITS INTENTIONS TO LEVY AND COLLECT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES SPECIAL MAINTENANCE DISTRICT 93-1, ZONE 1 (“BLUFFS” MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 1), AS EMAILED:

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, by a resolution adopted on the terms of the Improvement Act of 1911, Division 7 of the California Streets and Highways Code, (commencing with Section 9300) (“the Assessment Law”) declared its intention to establish the Assessment District and the Assessment District No. 1, ZONE 1 (“Bluffs” Maintenance District No. 1) (“the Petitioner”);

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, by a resolution adopted on the terms of the Improvement Act of 1911, Division 7 of the California Streets and Highways Code, (commencing with Section 9300) (“the Assessment Law”) declared its intention to establish the Assessment District and the Assessment District No. 1, ZONE 1 (“Bluffs” Maintenance District No. 1) (“the Petitioner”);

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, by a resolution adopted on the terms of the Improvement Act of 1911, Division 7 of the California Streets and Highways Code, (commencing with Section 9300) (“the Assessment Law”) declared its intention to establish the Assessment District and the Assessment District No. 1, ZONE 1 (“Bluffs” Maintenance District No. 1) (“the Petitioner”);

WHEREAS, there has been now presented to this Town Council the “Report” as required by the Assessment Law; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.

2. The Petitioner has submitted to the Town Council its Petition and Petitioner’s Report; and,

3. The Petitioner has made its best efforts of the following:

(a) Plans and specifications describing the general nature of the work to be done and the improvements that are necessary in order to carry out the Petitioner’s proposals; and,

(b) An estimate of the cost of maintenance of the special assessment district; and,

(c) An estimate of the cost of improvement of the special assessment district; and,

(d) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(e) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(f) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(g) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(h) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(i) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(j) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

2. The Petitioner has submitted to the Town Council its Petition and Petitioner’s Report; and,

3. The Petitioner has made its best efforts of the following:

(a) Plans and specifications describing the general nature of the work to be done and the improvements that are necessary in order to carry out the Petitioner’s proposals; and,

(b) An estimate of the cost of maintenance of the special assessment district; and,

(c) An estimate of the cost of improvement of the special assessment district; and,

(d) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(e) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(f) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

3. The Petitioner has submitted to the Town Council its Petition and Petitioner’s Report; and,

4. The Petitioner has made its best efforts of the following:

(a) Plans and specifications describing the general nature of the work to be done and the improvements that are necessary in order to carry out the Petitioner’s proposals; and,

(b) An estimate of the cost of maintenance of the special assessment district; and,

(c) An estimate of the cost of improvement of the special assessment district; and,

(d) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(e) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,

(f) An estimate of the cost of the improvements for the fiscal year for which assessments are to be levied; and,
Notice Inviting Bids

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TS # 2017-0137

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017/18; AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL WATER RATE REPORT.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, pursuant to the terms of the Bond Act of 1921, Article XII D of the Constitution of the State and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act (Government Code Section 51570 and following) (collectively, hereinafter referred to as the “Assessment Law”); did, by previous resolution, establish the Benefit Assessment District designated as Old Mammoth Road Benefit Assessment District No. 2002-1 (hereinafter referred to as the “Maintenance District”), and ordered the preparation of an annual report for the levy for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018 within such Maintenance District; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has retained NBS for the purpose of assisting with the annual levy of the Maintenance District, and the preparation and filing of an annual report; and,

WHEREAS, there has now been presented to this Town Council the Fiscal Year 2017/18 Annual Report (the “Report”) as required by the Assessment Law; and,

WHEREAS, this Town Council has now carefully examined and reviewed the Report as presented, and is satisfied with each and all of the items and documents herein contained; and, the improvements to be maintained, as set forth in the Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The above recitals are all true and correct.
2. The Report, as presented, consists of the following: (a) Plans and specifications describing the general nature, location and extent of the improvements to be maintained and of the maintenance work; (b) An estimate of the cost of maintenance of the improvements for the Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2017/18; (c) A diagram of the Maintenance District, showing the area and properties proposed to be assessed; and, (d) An annual assessment for Fiscal Year 2017/18 of the estimated costs of the maintenance of those improvements to be maintained during such fiscal year, assessing the net amount upon all assessable lots and/or parcels within the Maintenance District in proportion to the special benefits received, together with a formula pursuant to which such annual assessment may be adjusted annually for inflation pursuant to the procedures prescribed by the Assessment Law for ad- ditional assessment ballot procedures.

3. The Clerk of the Town is hereby ordered to file the Office of the Clerk of the Town as a permanent record and to remain open to public inspection.

4. The Clerk of the Town is hereby ordered to file the Office of the Clerk of the Town as a permanent record and to remain open to public inspection.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of May, 2017.

SHELDON RICHARDSON, Mayor

PERSONALS
HUSKY SENIORS WILL BE MISSED

This year, The Mammoth High School Huskies Men's Soccer Program will graduate five seniors. Each played four years of varsity soccer during their time at Mammoth High School. During that time, they collectively led their team to win the Desert/Mountain Division. All five were named first team all-league, and were undefeated, 10-0, for the 2016-2017 season, in which they won the Desert/Mountain Division.

Garcia, Castillo, Martinez, Chase, and Hernandez will all be attending college after graduation. Their parents would like to commend them for their leadership, hard work, and perseverance. Your school and community are very proud of you!
HORROSCOPES

By Clouds McCloud

Gemini: They say that variety is the spice of life. Most self-aware Geminis will tell you that without spice, life would have no flavor. To celebrate the next year of your life be sure to get yourself a full assortment of drinks, just not in the form of the synthetic drug or the Spice Girls. Although you should spend some time thinking about and singing the following in the shower: “Yo, I’ll tell ya what I want, what I really, really want.”

Cancer: Just in case you forgot, there’s nothing in life you can’t have: success, abundance, a killer butt. But you usually have to do a few things like: have faith, have patience, put in solid effort, do lots of squats and lunges, etc. To help, try to stay positive and hydrated.

Leo: Leo are hard workers, unless they don’t think something will be successful. That’s when they like to show off another one of their impressive skills—napping. Since the chances of success in all areas of your life are getting worse, you should aim to get a good spring day, be sure to take some naps in between your celebration rounds.

Scorpio: The biggest challenge most Scorpios face in life is that you often feel alone, sometimes even in a crowd or amongst family. But there’s no reason to feel lonely this way, because other people feel close to you, even if you haven’t really let them in. So stop holding on to your mistrust and illusion, and maybe learn to listen to some modern pop music from Major Lazer: “Everybody gets high sometimes, you know. What else can we do when we’re feeling low?”

Virgo: When Virgos are happiest there’s a nice balance between being introverted and extroverted. It’s sort of the yin and yang of social and down time. Finding that balance as spring goes into full bloom won’t be easy, but stopping to smell the roses or lilacs or tulips will. So do it; bending over a little will be good for your back.

Libra: Libras can be very empathetic, but are ultimately straight shooters in their thoughts and actions. That’s what makes most Libras such solid partners in life and practical as a rock. It’s why most Libras would probably enjoy the work of Irish rocker, Hozier: “Would things be easier if there was a right way? Honey, there is no right way.”

Sagittarius: Legend has it that nothing turns a Sagittarian on like a great smile, cuddling is the way to their hearts and laughter the key to unlocking their impressive lovemaking skills. Legend also has it that unicorns exist and that President Trump can read. So we can’t believe every legend we hear, just make sure to believe you are one.

Capricorn: Capricorn’s have a natural tendency towards being introverts. This is fine once a good partner and some solid interest-based friendships are dialed in. Capricorns also tend to be ritualistic and dogmatic. But the really interesting part is when the patterns get shaken up because that allows the magic to seep in. Therefore, remember that they put bumpers on cars, boats and most hips for a reason.

Aquarius: Some people think of Aquarians whenever they hear the classic Foreigner line, “You’re as cold as ice. You’re willing to sacrifice our love.” Naturally, other people think they should change the radio station. Regardless of your musical preference, don’t overlook things like what other people think. You can all do is be the kindest, kindest you that you can be. To help, adopt James Bay’s lyric: “Everything that’s hot to the breeze. Why don’t you be you and I’ll be me.”

Pisces: One of the blessings of being a Pisces is that you can bring out the best in other people. Of course, this can come in handy when meeting your own selfish needs, which we can all understand. But it’s best when it’s used for the purest of reasons like when you really want that person to succeed, find self-confidence, or give you a smoking deal on a new Buick. Therefore, always use the Force wisely, otherwise it can be a real bee-atch.

Aries: While Aries can seem distant or detached at times, no sign loves as deeply or passionately. And this goes for everything in life, from people to places, pets to things, plants to underpants. So that’s why it’s helpful for those loved by an Aries to understand that they love us, even when they soil us a little or toss us behind the hamper.

Taurus: Taurus: Taurus, this is what we know is true: Truth almost always beats the consequences, Truth and Consequences, New Mexico really isn’t worth the drive, while Santa Fe is lovely this time of year. The truth is best employed when dealing with Taurus, since nobody knows what B.S. smells like better than bulls.

LEGEND ALSO HAS IT THAT UNICORNS EXIST AND THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP CAN READ. SO WE CAN’T BELIEVE EVERY LEGEND WE HEAR, JUST MAKE SURE TO BELIEVE YOU ARE ONE. CAPRICORN: CAPRICORN’S HAVE A NATURAL TENDENCY TOWARDS BEING INTROVERTS. THIS IS FINE ONCE A GOOD PARTNER AND SOME SOLID INTEREST-BASED FRIENDSHIPS ARE DIALED IN. CAPRICORNS ALSO TEND TO BE RITUALISTIC AND DOGMATIC. BUT THE REALLY INTERESTING PART IS WHEN THE PATTERNS GET SHAKEN UP BECAUSE THAT ALLOWS THE MAGIC TO SEEP IN. THEREFORE, REMEMBER THAT THEY PUT BUMPERS ON CARS, BOATS AND MOST HIPS FOR A REASON.

Best year yet!

Dear Editor:

This year’s Mammoth Lakes Film Festival was by far the best one yet! We saw a total of 2,300 butts in seats during the five-day event. We also brought in 50+ filmmakers from around the world, representing 35 of the 65 films that were screened. I want to first and foremost thank the entire town for making all our visiting filmmakers and patrons feel so warm and welcomed. They all kept saying how nice everyone was from the town. We could not have pulled this year off without all of your help. I also want to thank our illustrious Jury Members: Judging Narrative Features were Judy Copage, Devin DiGonno, and Jacques Thelemaque. Judging Documentary Features were: Allison Amon, Zack Gillany, and Kelly Leow. Judging Shorts were Bobby Putka and Sandra Seeleng. I would also like to thank our generous sponsors. Our Festival Sponsors were Honda, Panavision, and RED Digital Cinema. Our Gold Sponsors were Paul and Kathleen Rudser, VER, LIGHT IRON, Blue Moon, Mono County, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Town of Mammoth And Mammoth Recreation Measure U, and Sierra Nevada Resort. Our Silver Sponsors were Aadrain Geyer, Film Freeway, Tim and Pam Bartley, Lew and Juliana Jones, and Rob and Ruth MacFarlane. Our Bronze Sponsors were Stacey and Paul Von Berg, Sierra Wave Media, The Sheet, Mammoth Estates, Mono Arts Council, The Mammoth Times and the Inyo Register. Our Community Sponsors were Mammoth Lions Club, and John and Luan Mendel. And all our friend Sponsors: Amie Chamber, Patrick Lebrun, Kevin Lian, Connie Lian, Barzen Soroudi, and Mauro Trejo.

I would like to thank our team: Festival Manager Lesley Ann Hoxie; Festival Publicist, Matt Johnstone; Lara Kaylor and Mammoth Lakes Tourism; photographers Aleks Mendel, Joseph Marone, and Kendra Knight; social media director Drina Durazo; projectionists Brian Morata-ya and Sean Barnes; jury dinner staff Chef Fred Pierrel, Lew and Juliana Olnka Jones, Rashad Whitehead, Barbara Taylor, and the Restaurant at Convict Lake; Brent Truax, Rhonda Dugan, Jess Karell, and all the staff at Sierra Nevada Resort; Mary Walker; Julie Thompson; Alicia Ven- nos; Morgan Kellum; Venue Managers Emma Solarova and Trevor Van Winkle; Melissa Reeves and Sharon Clark; festival interns Outs Wu and Jeff Fronie; Festival Trailer filmmakers Emily Hoffman and Ariel Noltimier Strauss; and all of our tremendous and gracious usher and box office volunteers. We could not do this festival without you.

See you next year!

Shira Dubrowsker
Mammoth Lakes Film Festival Director

LETTERS

WARM FUZZIES

Photo by Simpkins

Sarah Chavez, Kim Erickson and Rick Gunn pose for a photo at Edison Theater in Mammoth, Gunn presented on Friday, June 2 regarding his global travels on his bicycle. He documents people making big changes in their small communities with his photography.
FULFILLMENT OF A PROMISE

By Lunch

The year: 1974. Mike Aguirre had just moved to L.A. from Phoenix. Why? He wanted to audition for the Gong Show (you can’t make this stuff up).

One night, he’s sitting in a classic lounge with his brother and cousin when this guy in a tuxedo comes out onstage, a boom box in one hand and a harmonica in the other. And he just kills it. “You know, I just saw that. And I wanted that,” recalls Aguirre.

Every time you think you know what there is to know about Mike Aguirre, he throws you another curveball.

Little known fact: Mike Aguirre was named The Sheet’s Man of the Year in 2004. Why? Because one day he asked me, “Hey, are you going to have a Man of the Year?” I replied, “I wasn’t planning on it.” “I’ll be your Man of the Year,” he offered. And so I said what the hell, and he was.

Last time we interviewed Aguirre, he was helping to save a bald eagle as a volunteer for Eastern Sierra Wildlife Care … or was he being run down by 20 deer in Swall Meadows … it’s hard to keep the stories straight.

The latest: Aguirre will be performing at the Edison Theater in Mammoth this Saturday night at 7 p.m. It’ll be a free musical show with Aguirre on the stage, a boom box in one hand and a harmonica in the other. And he just kills it. “You know, I just saw that. And I wanted that,” recalls Aguirre.

Aguirre, 64, said he’s played in blues bands since the 70s (his first band: Jesus Bongo and the Fabulous Millionaires) and was in a blues band in St. Paul, Minnesota before he moved out to Mammoth in 2002 to support the professional snowboarding careers of his daughter Molly and son Mason.

The harmonica took a backseat for awhile as “sometimes passions change,” acknowledged Aguirre. “It shifted to my kids.”

His interest was resurrected in recent years thanks to a rekindled relationship with his brother Kerry. Kerry had overcome drug addiction and the brothers made a pact: If Kerry would get back onstage with his harp, Mike would get back onstage with his harp.

Tragically, Kerry had a relapse in 2014 while he was enrolled at UNLV (trying to get his bachelor’s degree at age 63), overdosed and died.

Saturday night will represent Mike’s end of the bargain. Expect two half-hour sets, some storytelling, and a well-produced show by Tim Casey.

CLIMATE CHANGE
continued from page 8

After a record-breaking winter that abruptly put an end to five years of extreme drought, 350 Mono promises in its official press release that there will be discussion of this phenomenon and what it means for the Sierra. Dave Herbst, from SNARL, will be talking about how abrupt transitions between drought and floods affect alpine water sources, and Connie Miller will discuss how wildlife is adapting to climate change and the unpredictable weather patterns it brings.

The seminar will also focus on the remaining Sierra glaciers. Caelen and Ellery McQuilkin plan to discuss the Dana glacier’s decline since 1893, due to global warming and drought. Last year, geologist Greg Stock spoke about the worrying disappearance of Yosemite’s glaciers. Stock said the disappearance of these glaciers would mean a significant reduction in late-summer water supplies.

“The main idea of it, which is educating people and the motivation about climate impacts here, is still the same [as last year],” says McQuilkin of the schedule of speakers for the upcoming conference. Some highlights of the schedule are in the afternoon.

1:10 - 1:25: Dana Glacier: A case study in melting ice
A review of Lee Vining High student Caelen McQuilkin’s science project, observing changes in the Dana Glacier 1:40 – 2:05: Lessons Learned at Mono Lake:
Achieving Climate Progress through Effective Advocacy and Persistence
Martha Davis will discuss her experiences as Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee during the critical years leading up to the 1994 State Water Board decision, and as Executive Manager for Policy Development with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

2:05 - 2:30: Mono Lake in the Era of Climate Change by Geoff McQuilkin, Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee
2:45 - 3:15 Climate Refugia for Warming Temperatures: Case Studies
Dr. Connie Millar, US Forest Service Research Ecologist, will discuss climate refugia, safe havens for species stressed by a changing climate.

3:20 - 3:50 How do more intense and frequent droughts and floods due to climate warming affect aquatic life in High Sierra streams?
Dr. Dave Herbst, a research biologist from the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, will discuss his research on invertebrates in mountain streams and how climate variability is affecting them.

4:05 - 4:45: Climate Trends in the Sierra Nevada: Implications for alpine lakes by Dr. Steve Sadro of U.C. Davis.

“If people are more educated… they’re probably going to be more motivated to help slow down climate change and advocate for climate action, which is especially important,” says McQuilkin. Carle believes that increased activism is going to drive climate progress as people who’ve never protested before take to the streets. The March for Science in Bishop on Earth Day was an example of this– which saw impressive numbers of young people in addition to the traditional protesters.

“I’m really encouraged with young people getting involved and just a lot of interest and energy – especially in California – to do what we can to have a better future for everybody,” says Carle.
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