STICKING TO THE UNION

Frustration mounts as County and Union negotiations drag on

Labor negotiations between Inyo County and its employees can be summed up in one word: frustrating.

From department heads to laborers to county supervisors, every person interviewed for this story said the negotiations have gone on too long, since March 2016, and there doesn’t appear to be an end in sight.

Janelle Kent, lead negotiator for the Inyo County Employees Association (ICEA), Local 315 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and Addiction Counselor for Inyo County Health and Human Services summed up the situation, “The people making decisions are having a hard time making decisions.”

The Union is asking for a 2 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), which is below the 2017 COLA of 2.75 percent, according to a press release from ICEA. Chris Wickham, former lead negotiator for the ICEA and Inyo County Mosquito Abatement Manager, said the Union originally asked for 4 percent COLA but has lowered its offer in the hopes of reaching a compromise. The County has offered 1 percent.

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At Town Council’s meeting on June 7, Matthew Lehman said that “We really just want to see a lot of these areas brought up to a standard we expect.”

“We’re looking at this as a short-term solution, a thing to beautify and brighten these areas,” said Dutton. “It’s not what we would consider a long-term solution.”

He said that the Town has tried to engage business owners in the process of beautifying Main Street, but “we didn’t get a lot of feedback.” Walker said that she had received letters from Lehman mentioning that action might be taken on landscape projects, but that she hadn’t been invited to participate in any discussions about the direction those projects might take.

When asked why the Town would spend $50,000 on plants like tulips that might not be drought-tolerant and native landscaping, “I prefer native [plants], but there’s a lot of other things that Oaktree says will survive that will provide color. Tulips are an example, they’re very hearty, and they come back year after year.”

Andrea Walker, owner of Stellar Brew on the north side of Main Street, disagreed about the hardiness of tulips. “Tulips will totally be trampled [during the Fourth of July parade],” she said. “It’s a waste of money...there needs to be a plan to rip up all the soil, re-soil, and plant native seeds that will live through a future drought.”

One reason that a massive reassessment of the plant life on Main Street isn’t taking place, said Dutton, is the fact that the proposed Lower Main Street Sidewalk Project “could be under construction next summer...We don’t want to install a lot of stuff in the current botanical selection on Mammoth’s Main Street is made up mostly of volunteers, that will then be torn out.”

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THE BOTANY OF DESIRE

Toml throws down to get some “color” on parkways

Mammoth’s Town Council authorized up to $50,000 from the Town’s General Fund to be spent on efforts to improve the landscaping on Main Street at its meeting on June 7, most of which will go towards temporary beautification efforts.

The immediate goal, said Public Works Director Grady Dutton on Wednesday, June 21, is to add color to Main Street and Old Mammoth Road before the Fourth of July holiday.

Dutton said that the $50,000 slated for Main Street improvements will probably not be spent on drought-tolerant and native landscaping. “I prefer native [plants], but there’s a lot of other things that Oaktree says will survive that will provide color. Tulips are an example, they’re very hearty, and they come back year after year.”

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Outgoing Mayor Shields Richardson presented the inaugural “Spirit of Mammoth” awards at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council meeting Wednesday night.

Richardson, in a move that showcased his renowned decisiveness, chose three award winners. He then told his fellow Councilmembers that in the future, when they became Mayor, they would only be allowed to choose one.

Richardson’s picks for this year were Jack Copeland, Sandy Hogan and Betsy Truax.

The Truax pick would seem apropos as she has long been a champion of the new Multi-Use Facility (MUF) destined to be built at Mammoth Creek Park.

I say destined because the expected challenge from neighboring home-owners’ associations to the project’s Environmental Impact Report (EIR) never materialized.

Public Works Director Grady Dutton told The Sheet on Wednesday, June 21 that “The statutory deadline, according to CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] law was June 19 at 5 p.m., 30 days after notice of determination was filed with the State.”

He said that Town staff had gone down to the Mono County Courthouse to double check that no lawsuits had been filed.

“We’re actually going to open bids for some of the site work … in a few days, and we expect to award that in July and start site work right after Labor Day,” said Dutton on Wednesday. “Expect to see activity out there, it’s going to be fun … we’re going to start forming our nicest, passive recreational park in order to put up an ice rink and associated parking. In the Spirit of Mammoth, we will spend north of $10 million on an amenity which could have been finished (roof on existing rink) for $1 million.

Meaning, in the Spirit of Mammoth, we are now committed to destroy- ing our nicest, passive recreational park in order to put up an ice rink and associated parking. In the Spirit of Mammoth, we will spend north of $10 million on an amenity which could have been finished (roof on existing rink) for $1 million.

I suppose, in a way, that’s what Mayor Richardson may have been hop- ing to convey in his picks. That sometimes, you have to reward activism with something tangible—particularly when activism seems to be on the wane. I just wish the price wasn’t so high …

To make a sports analogy, I just wish we weren’t so hell-bent on swing- ing for the fences every time. A monster homer with no one on base only scores one run—you don’t get extra runs for style, or distance, or audacity. And certainly all the folks who currently use and love Mammoth Creek Park won’t be there to bear witness. They couldn’t care less … And certainly all the folks who currently use and love Mammoth Creek Park won’t be there to bear witness. They couldn’t care less …

Given the strong visitation/TOT revenue experienced during the past year, this change will have no material impact on tourism funding, and provide about $275,000 more for housing and $70,000 for transit.

After handing out awards and taking photos, Richardson was replaced as Mayor by John Wentworth. The new Mayor Pro-Tem is Cleland Hoff.

Council also voted on its reallocation of Measure A dollars to satisfy previous political commitments made to tourism, housing and transit. Previous political commitments called for 2.5 points of Transient Oc- cupancy Tax (TOT) revenue be dedicated to tourism, with one point each to housing and transit.

After the airport litigation settlement in 2012, funding for these com- mitments was diverted in varying amounts to help pay for the settlement.

Council decided on a reallocation of 2.35 points for tourism, and 0.85 points for housing and transit.

Not in the Spirit of Mammoth: A red-tagged trailer was demolished a few weeks ago on Manzanita Street, across from Councilman Bill Sauser’s house. Sauser undoubtedly bemoaned the loss of an affordable housing opportunity.
FOURTH OF JULY FUN AT
The Village
AT MAMMOTH
PRESENTED BY
ALT 92.5
Sierra’s New Alternative

ALL FREE!

FIVE DAYS OF FAMILY FUN IN THE VILLAGE
ROAMING STILT AND CIRQUE PERFORMERS ★ STILT WORKSHOP
DJS AND BANDS ★ DUCKY RACES ★ CHIHUAHUA RACES ★ FIREWORKS

FRIDAY, JUNE 30
DJ Zeuz, DJ Rodney O,
and DJ Science

SATURDAY, JULY 1
DJ Zeuz, DJ Rodney O,
and DJ Science

SUNDAY, JULY 2
8:30PM: Movie in The Plaza:
The Lego Batman Movie (PG)

MONDAY, JULY 3
12:45PM: Ducky Races
3:00PM: Chihuahua Races
4:00PM: DJ Zeuz
7:30PM: Concert: THE BIG SOMETHING
9:00PM: Fireworks

TUESDAY, JULY 4
1:00-5:00PM: After the Town Parade, come by
The All American Picnic with BBQ, music, and the
bands BATTLEFIELD and THE JADED HATERS

FOR EVENTS, SALES, SPECIALS, AND MORE, VISIT: VILLAGEATMAMMOTH.COM

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LOCAL NEWS

NO ONE TO WATCH THE STORE

The Bishop Certified Farmers Market will not operate this summer as former volunteer Sue Chudy retires

By Bedine

The Bishop Certified Farmers Market will not operate this summer, for the first time in 23 years. There aren’t enough volunteers to keep it open.

Volunteer Sue Chudy has been managing the market and handling the administrative work necessary to make it run for years. Chudy said she can’t do the work by herself anymore; there just aren’t enough hours in the day. No one else is stepping up to help, so the market had to close, Chudy told The Sheet on Monday, June 19.

During her tenure as manager, Chudy was responsible for acquiring the necessary permits, collecting table fees, submitting quarterly financial statements to the state, doing publicity, as well as providing signage and Inyo County. The manager also has to be at the market all day on Saturday. The volunteer job is a big commitment, Chudy said.

The market is “certified” through Inyo County. In Inyo County, if a grower wants to sell their wares at a certified market, the County Agriculture Commissioner has to visit their garden to make sure that what the grower says they plan to sell is consistent with what they are growing in their garden, Chudy explained. It sounds obvious, she said, but a seller could easily buy produce at bulk for rock bottom prices in Southern California and re-sell it at the Farmers Market and undercut the other sellers. The certified market is also limited to produce growers. Last year, only four or five growers participated in the Bishop Farmers Market, down from 10 or more in the past. Chudy said that many growers pulled out because participating in the market was too much work for the financial reward of selling their produce there. Chudy said that still other local growers are now opting to sell their produce directly to restaurants, Manor Market, or to Sierra Bounty Produce Collective instead of at the Market.

Organic and non-genetically modified foods have gained so much recent popularity that major grocery stores like Vons, Smart and Final and Walmart are offering the produce. It’s not local, but it is organic, says Chudy. With all of the other entities willing to buy local produce in town, it’s reasonable to suspect that competition may have played a role in making the Farmers Market less attractive to local growers than it once was. Participating in the Market is a giant bushel of work for growers, too. They have to harvest and clean the product and prepare it for market. Tents and displays have to be set up and taken down, and all with the possibility that nothing sells.

Additionally, The Bishop Farmers Market has traditionally been held in the afternoon, when summertime temperatures often approach 106 degrees in Bishop. “Good luck keeping [produce] fresh,” Chudy said.

For those looking for fresh local produce and open-air markets on the East Side, several other markets will be operating this summer. The Nawanaki-Ti Market in Big Pine is now operating on Fridays, 5:30 p.m. to dusk, the Owens Valley Growers Co-op is open in Independence every Friday 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Skip’s Outdoor Market in Mammoth runs Wednesdays 4-7 p.m.

According to Chudy, this doesn’t mean Bishop’s Market is gone for good, just that it won’t run this summer. All it needs is some fresh volunteers. For more information look for the Bishop Farmers Market on Facebook.

PRODUCE AT THE BISHOP FARMERS MARKET

One Ticket, Two Big Days of Music!

Blues Traveler
Lonestar

Eastern Sierra Music Festival
July 21-22, 2017 • Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop

with Smithfield
Steve Moakler

A Benefit for our Chosen Charity
The National Wounded Warrior Center
Mammoth Lakes • Built by Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra

with additional performances by

REBEL HEART • TONY SURACI’S HIGHWAYMAN SHOW
HARRY ANDREAS BAND • LOCALMOTIVE • WHAT IF? • MATTY D
BAD MOTHER NATURE • 2ND HAND SMOKE (choke or fly) • GOOD LIVIN’
with special appearances by Millena Dawn & Tracey Harrell

AFTER HOURS PARTY • ONSITE RV CAMPING • VENDORS & MORE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ESMUSICFEST.ORG

MAMMOTH LAKES

ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY PARADE
JULY 4TH 11AM-1PM

STARTS ON OLD MAMMOTH & CHATEAU ROAD
ENDS ON MAIN STREET & MANZANITA ROAD

Bring your camp chairs to enjoy the spectacular parade of floats through downtown Mammoth Lakes

Attendance is free & ALL are invited!
UNION continued from page 1
that he never expected to be retired before the negotiations were settled. ICEA has picketed on the streets of Bishop and Independence, held Town Hall meetings and is now carrying a petition that asks the public to urge County supervisors to reconsider the County’s offer and go back to the negotiatory table to settle the contract.
County Supervisor Matt Kingsley told The Sheet it’s a balancing act between doing what’s best for the County and retaining employees throughout the County running. He said he was voted into office to serve the taxpayers while leaving the budget in as good a shape as possible for the next administration. The supervisors are not getting their hands dirty directly, but receive updates from the County’s negotiators: the Deputy Personnel Director, Sue Dishion and County Counsel, Marshall Rudolph. Kent said the negotiators have no power, because it’s Inyo County Administrative Officer Kevin Carunchio and the supervisors that have the last word.
According to a financial analyst for the ICEA, Gary Stors, who reviewed the county’s 2016 Audited Financial Report, there is plenty of money in the fund the requested 2 percent COLA. He explained that the County’s unrestricted portion of the general fund accounts for $325 million, to which he added in 2016, far above the Government Finance Association benchmark for financial health of 16.7 percent.
According to a press release from ICEA, the full cost of the County of giving a 1 percent COLA to its employees is approximately $187,000. Inyo County also wants to build a new office building. As of June 14, the projected cost of that project, according to Carunchio, is $14 million.
Wickham suggested an alternative: that the County occupy one of the existing empty spaces in town and adorn it with a giant plaque with the names of Carunchio and the supervisors. He said he sees the building as nothing more than a legacy project for the administration.
Wickham said that since he has left, two entire departments have become one. There are more than 30 vacant positions in the County, and existing employees are doing more for less. For example, the Mosquito Abatement Manager position will now include Weed Abatement, with little to no increase in salary. Dave Miller, Weights and Measures Inspector for Inyo County Agriculture Department, said he’s never seen so many department heads leave at once in his 11 years with Inyo County.
There are six library employees in the County and six branches. One librarian who wished to remain anonymous said if she gets sick, the library closes.
Pat Snyder has been a Legal Secretary for Inyo County for 13 years and spent 20 total with the County. She said there are positions in her department that have been vacant for years. She said she’s unsure who’s working there because there have been so many changes of late.
There were once five full-time employees at the probation office in Independence. Now there’s just Snyder. Two of the employees were relocated to Bishop. The only thing that’s stayed the same, she said, is her.
Snyder said so many employees are doing the work of other positions that have been vacant, that they get used to the extra workload and forget how it used to be.
Meanwhile, her department’s workload has grown. Assembly Bill 109, Public Safety Realignment, hatched by Governor Jerry Brown to try and solve the over-population problem in state prisons, has many non-violent offenders serving sentences in county jails. These same criminals must be supervised by county probation officers, creating a massive workload. No one from the administration nor her supervisors have ever asked Snyder if she needs help. She added that there is a 3-month backlog of filing.
One County employee, who wanted to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation by administration, said she wasn’t sure why the negotiations have been going on so long or why positions are not filled. “Is it to put us all in our place?”
The treatment of current employees is not very good for recruitment or retention, either. Snyder said some County employees have left to work for more sympathetic employers.
They (the County) opened the negotiations by offering us a half-percent raise. That’s just insulting. Why bother?” Snyder said.
Kent said it can be hard to recruit people to work in Inyo County for many reasons; the area is remote and it takes a unique person to want to live here, there are no colleges to further education or brush up on a technique or earn a certificate as required for a position, and the pay could always be better. Offering a 1 percent COLA, “is not a lot of incentive,” said Kent.
One department head, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of having their department’s budget cut, said they have never seen a County Supervisor in their office twice, in nearly five years. Supervisor Don Tootheroh, prefaced his statement by saying he thought the County employees are doing a phenomenal job given so many vacancies, but admitted he has not visited many departments. “What is the compelling vision? Where are we going?” Miller asked.
Kent said the County has not been forthcoming about its finances and that employees have never been told about the County expenses or why it won’t offer more pay.
In 2013, 133 employees received adjustments in salaries by way of equity adjustment pay raises, so employees performing the same tasks were receiving the same pay. Some positions received as much as a 30 percent increase. Carunchio told The Sierra Wave at that time that when employees are asked to do more with less, they have to be paid fairly.

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES TO HOST 2017 FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR AT CROWLEY LAKE

The Town of Mammoth Lakes in partnership with Crowley Lake Fish Camp is extremely proud to host the annual Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular at Crowley Lake on Tuesday, July 4, 2017. Admission to the Fourth of July Fireworks Show is once again only $25.00 per car, RV, or truck (excludes camping), and $5.00 per individual bike (walking/riding). Please enjoy our national holiday in a safe and responsible manner.

WHITMORE POOL NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING!
The Whitmore Pool is open 7-days a week with public swimming offered Monday-Sunday from 12:30-3:30pm, 10:00am-4:00pm on Saturday and 12:00-4:00pm on Sunday. Join us for midweek lap swim, swim lessons, and don’t miss our Stroke Improvement Class with Coach Sam every Thursday at 5:30pm. Please call the Whitmore Pool (760) 965-3692 for additional information.

TOWN CONDUCTING ROAD MAINTENANCE ON MAIN STREET
A westbound lane of Main Street (SR203) will be closed to traffic and pedestrians from Minaret Road to Mountain Boulevard. Motorists should expect delays along Main Street with limited access to Viewpoint Road. Pedestrian access will be maintained through detours for the duration of the construction period (Nov. 2017).

Meetings / Events: July 5: Town Council Meeting, CANCELLED
July 12: Planning and Economic Development Suite 2, 2:00 PM
Town e-News: Town e-News is your direct source for Town news, events, meetings and announcements. Subscribe online under “NOTIFY ME” at www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES CALIFORNIA TOWN BULLETIN

THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, REGARDLESS if “safe and sane” or not. In addition, perimeter fireworks are prohibited in the non-incorporated areas of Mono County, on the Inyo National Forest (INF), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

Bar Opens at 4:00 / Dining Room at 5:00
Happy Hour
Mon-Fri 4-6:00 & Sat 4-5:00

We seat on a Walk-in Basis / No Reservations

Class with Coach Sam every Thursday at 5:30pm. Please call the Whitmore Pool (760) 965-3692 for additional information.
No go Rodeo?

Dear Editor:

Last week in Bishop, the California High School Rodeo Association (CHSRA) event was held at the Tri-County Fairground. I believe this is a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) sanctioned event. As a long time avid local photographer, and having recently purchased a new Nikon that would finally give me fast action capabilities, I headed to this event to hone my knowledge of trying to capture fast action in focus and understand my camera’s capabilities and numerous menu choices to achieve this end. The young contestants were phenomenal in their capabilities. The combination of great talent of these young folks, large animals, and lightning fast action, can make for great photos if you can capture it. While many images are shot only a few get selected as keepers.

This event was held at a public taxpayer-funded facility with admission fees charged. I eagerly awaited some great photography potential. It did not disappoint. I took a position in front of the bleachers section, not obstructing the view of the participating cowboys and shoots were not bothered. Some paranoia seems to exist within this organization so I hope that some sort of legal accommodations can be put in place so everyone is on the same page and locals know what to expect. This is not a private event, it is public, and photographers have rights too. I attended Mule Days events and didn’t experience any of this animus towards serious hobby photographers.

Gary Clark
Swall Meadows

THE SHEET | Saturday, June 24, 2017
LOCAL BRIEFS

The bridge on North Round Valley Road... is no more.

Water... over the bridge?

Following flooding in Tuesday, a bridge on North Round Valley Road north of Pine Creek Road will be out of commission indefinitely. Run-off from the historic winter snows tore it apart on Tuesday, June 20. Inyo County Public Works Director Clint Quilter explained that the bridge was damaged after water upstream jumped the banks of Pine Creek. When the overflow of water ran back toward the creek, it came in behind the abutment where the bridge meets the road. Quilter said that the road failed where it meets the bridge, at the abutment, which is essentially a concrete box. The road collapsed up to the edge of the box, resulting in a straight cut that cleaved the bridge in two. Quilter said the bridge is probably a total loss. He and his staff are in the process of assessing damage and determining how much it will cost to repair the bridge.

Quilter said that the County there is still access to Round Valley via a detour that only takes an extra five minutes. Travelers can bypass the Pine Creek Road exit on Highway 395 and instead drive north on Old Sherwin Road to Birchim Road to reach Round Valley.

MUF is in the clear

Earlier this week, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department requested the community’s assistance in locating Hal Eastman, a transient resident of Mammoth Lakes. Eastman’s family had reported him missing, and he was last seen in February 2017. He was known to reside in natural shelters in the forest year-round. He had resided around Mammoth Lakes for the last 19 years. He frequented local businesses and hitchhiked and used shuttles for transportation. According to Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Eastman was located on Tuesday, June 20 in San Bernardino County.

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SUPES SEEK TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AT CONWAY
By Giles

At the Tuesday, June 20 Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting, Mono County Environmental Services Manager, Asst. CAO Tony Dublino, told Supervisors that FIM Corporation, the former lessee at Conway and Mattly Ranches, has decided not to graze their sheep at the properties this summer.

The lease was set to expire in November 2017, but FIM Corporation terminated the agreement early after Supervisors voted on March 7 not to issue a request for proposals for cattle or sheep grazing leases on the property. The County demanded that FIM Corporation provide indemnification and funding for California Environmental Quality Act assessments regarding the impact of grazing at the site if the agency wished to pursue a transfer of ownership of the land. “It is extremely difficult to extinguish an easement,” said Ogden.

Dublino said that a sale of the property is possible, but would require approval by numerous agencies, including the three agencies whose grants funded the County’s acquisition of the property in 1998 and 1999: Caltrans, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and California State Parks.

Dublino presented two management strategies to the BOS. Essentially, the Board can either opt to sell or transfer ownership of Conway Ranch to another public or private agency, or it can make a financial commitment from the General Fund to maintain the property into perpetuity itself. “If we choose option two, we need to identify a desired outcome for the property, and fund the management and implementation of those things. None of this will happen on a shoestring budget,” said Dublino, who said he thought County staff had the skills to manage the property if the requisite funding were available. “The question is, would we be able to manage it in such a way that it would actually create a value-added for residents and visitors? Could it do better than another agency that essentially does this kind of work already?”

According to Dublino, if the County wanted to pursue a short term grazing and irrigation agreement with another tenant for the summer of 2017, it would have to undergo an Environmental Impact Review process, which would be costly and time consuming. Additionally, Supervisors previously voiced their opinion that any prospective grazing lessee should assume the financial risk of irrigation from the Center for Biological Diversity that threatened a lawsuit over the site if the agency wished to pursue a transfer of ownership. Bellomo was doubtful that a larger public agency could manage the property in such a way as to improve its condition. “We need to look at the motivations of agencies interested in a transfer of property… are they consistent with the interests of the County and its residents?” The Supervisors expressed a lack of clarity regarding the water rights for the property.

Supervisor Stump said he’d like to see staff pursue a transfer of ownership of Conway and Mattly ranches, “be it selling, and I’d sell it for a dollar, or transfer to another agency,” in favor of allocating resources elsewhere in the County. He said he’d seen the County try to implement aquaculture, interpretive resources, and grazing at the site and seen the enterprise fail every time. Supervisor John Peters expressed his support for aquaculture at the site, and Supervisor Bob Gard-ner said he’d like to see the County, “build Conway Ranch into a long term strategy to preserve and promote our outdoor recreation economy.” Gard-ner said he was supportive of any agency facilitating that which demonstrated that it could do so and uphold the Conservation Easement. The Board directed County staff to identify willing buyers of Conway Ranch and return to the Board with available options by October 2017.

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Located at the McGee Creek Lodge, Crowley Lake
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Thurs/Fri/Mon: 6:30am-2:00pm
Saturday: 6:30am-9:00pm
Sunday: 6:30am-3:00pm
Closed Tuesday/Wednesday
LIVE MUSIC – starts at 6pm
6/24 – String Theory
7/1 – Chris Murphy of Silver Mountain String Band
7/2 from 12-3pm – Special Sunday Lunch Show with Chris Murphy
7/8 – Bob & Bella
7/15 – Double Coyote
7/22 – Milo Cagle

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HOT DAMS
Get with the choppers if you want to live!

By Giles
On Tuesday, June 19, Southern California Edison (SCE) hosted a Town Hall style meeting at the June Lake Community Center. The topic was recent helicopter activity in the vicinity of the agency’s dams at Rush Meadows, or Waugh Lake, Gem Lake, and Agnew Lake. “Our goal tonight is to give you the opportunity to learn about the Rush Creek Dam System, and what the heck all those helicopters are doing,” said District 3 Supervisor Bob Gardner, by way of introduction. “There are no dumb questions tonight.”

Several residents expressed their concern and frustration regarding helicopter traffic to and from the dams and town. As Rea reported in her May 27 article, “Dam! That’s a Lot of Water!” those helicopters were flying industrial-sized water pumps that can accommodate as much as 100 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) to Agnew Lake. SCE’s Government Affairs Representative, Rudy Gonzales, told participants in Tuesday’s meeting that the last of the pumps was flown in last week. The machines have been installed on a floating barge in Agnew Lake, and secured behind the lip of the dam. They are each equipped to pump water from Agnew via pipes, through the existing spillway infrastructure, as needed to keep the lake level below the federally mandated elevation.

Within the last ten years, two earthquake faults were identified in June Lake: the Silver Lake Fault, which essentially runs along Highway 158, and the Hartley Spring Fault, which runs roughly parallel, about 5 miles east of the Silver Lake Fault. According to Gonzales, the proximity of these faults reduces the volume of water legally allowed to be held in each of the reservoirs, to ensure that they maintain their structure in the event of a catastrophic earthquake. For example, Gem Lake was originally designed to hold 17,000 acre feet of water, but is currently being held at about 30 percent capacity. “The goal is to pass this water through and balance it as it comes through the system, to keep the levels down,” said Gonzales.

As part of the project, SCE has hired Dave Gutierrez of GEI Consulting to help manage risk associated with the Rush Creek Dam System. Gutierrez served formerly as the Program Manager for the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams. “We all live with risk,” said Gutierrez. “There is always risk living downstream of a dam.”

Mon County Sheriff Ingrid Braun assured audience members that the last recorded earthquake of substance along either fault was 12,000 years ago. “It’s nothing like the Bay Area or L.A.” said Gutierrez. “They have earthquakes all of the time, and much bigger earthquakes than we would ever have here.” Gonzales added, “As a responsible corporate citizen, we need to be prepared for the worst.”

Sheriff Braun said her department was made aware of the potential for the dams to overfill their legal threshold about eight weeks ago. “At first, we went a little Chicken Little,” said Braun. “It felt like the sky was falling, but the communication has been spectacular … we are working on a plan to notify the community in the event that the worst case scenario occurs,” said Braun, who reiterated that it was extremely unlikely that an evacuation would occur this summer. Braun said her staff is in communication with SCE staff daily regarding the levels of the dams and how effectively they are able to disperse the water throughout the system.

Braun said that SCE is also paying for Mono County’s subscription to Internet Public Alerting System (IPAS), a program that provides residents with up to date information about everything from Amber Alerts to wildfires.

See DAMS, page 9
straight to their cell phones. SCE has committed to funding that subscription for the next four years. Braun also told attendees that the State Office of Emergency Services has been notified of the project and that resources have been secured in the unlikely event that an evacuation is deemed necessary this summer.

Nicolas von Gersdorff, Chief Dam Safety Engineer and Manager of Dam and Public Safety for SCE told the audience that the snowpack at the dam sites was 200 percent of average, and is the most recorded in the 9 to 100 years since the dams were built. Von Gersdorff estimated that there is about 75,000 acre feet of water still in the basin, and that approximately 50 percent of the snowpack has already entered Rush Creek as runoff. “This week, we recorded about 500 cubic feet of water per second moving through Rush Creek. In 2011, the last big snow year, there was over 900 cubic feet per second at peak flow,” said von Gersdorff. “Our forecasts indicate that peak runoff will occur in the next 48 hours. It could get worse before it gets better… we don’t anticipate Gem Lake spilling, but Waugh is about 16 feet shy of spilling currently. It may end up spilling, but if we had done nothing, the reservoirs would have filled up spilling, but if we had done noth-

DAMS
continued from page 8

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When asked if SCE had maps of the dam sites this summer. Those closures have not yet been determined, but will likely include the Agnew Trail through the industrial site, as well as a piece of the Rush Creek Trail from above Gem Lake to Waugh Lake. “We hope to be announcing what the restriction would be in the next few days,” said Regelbrugge. “It will likely be all summer, if this scale of activity continues. There’s just no way to get through there without going through an industrial site. Most folks aren’t prepared to follow OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] requirements when they set out for a hike.”

PHOTO: SCE

Finally, Gonzales told residents that Edison did not have an estimated cost for the project, but that it would be the sole funder. “We are doing what we need to do for public safety and will deal with the costs after,” said Gonzales, promising that the burden of cost would not be born by local residents. “If anything, you would see a minimal increase to your monthly bill, but this would be borne by all of Edison’s nearly $5 million customers over many years.”

PHOTO: GILES

Pipes release excess water from Agnew Lake at Agnew Dam above the June Lake Loop on Monday, June 19. SCE is employing a variety of means to ensure that flows remain consistent and that the reservoirs remain at a safe level, an audience that the snowpack at the basin, and that approximately 50 percent of the snowpack has already entered Rush Creek as runoff. “This week, we recorded about 500 cubic feet of water per second moving through Rush Creek. In 2011, the last big snow year, there was over 900 cubic feet per second at peak flow,” said von Gersdorff. “Our forecasts indicate that peak runoff will occur in the next 48 hours. It could get worse before it gets better… we don’t anticipate Gem Lake spilling, but Waugh is about 16 feet shy of spilling currently. It may end up spilling, but if we had done nothing, the reservoirs would have filled up spilling, but if we had done noth-
THE COURTHOUSE IS PROBABLY NOT IN SESSION
Budget cuts have affected Superior Court business hours

By Ben Trefy

Since 2012, when Governor Jerry Brown cut funding for courts across the state in an attempt to balance the budget, local courthouses have been struggling to pay for staff and resources, resulting in a loss of public service.

Funding for Mono County is approximately $300,000 less annually than it was in 2010 (the budget is currently $1.6 million).

The Bridgeport branch’s service counter is only open from 9:30-noon and 1-4 p.m. on non-holiday Tuesdays; it’s closed the rest of the week.

In Mammoth, the counter is open every day of the week, but only in the afternoons.

There are also many random non-holidays on which it is closed due to furloughs created by budget cuts.

The staff no longer has the manpower to answer the phone, and email is the only way to contact the court.

Several Google users have posted negative reviews of the Mammoth courthouse, with one saying, “Don’t get tangled up with this feable (sic) excuse of a County Court.”

“I know folks aren’t getting the help they need like they used to. I’ve got to give people here in Mono County credit, because they’ve adapted to the way we give help,” says Hector Gonzalez, Court Executive Officer for Mono County. “Folks from out of town are the ones I think are hurt the most.” Gonzalez says that employees will often give special help to people whose hours are not flexible.

A few weeks ago, the Sheet observed two men attempt to pay a ticket at the County Counsel’s office in Bridgeport. Though County Counsel Stacey Simon was impressed with their integrity, she could not accept the payment and told them to go to the court service counter on the following Tuesday. It’s unknown whether the men were ever able to pay the ticket.

Employees of the court have been hurt as well due to the budget cuts. Gonzalez says that, when it became apparent that the court faced massive budget cuts, many employees left to avoid being laid off in the future. Because of this, the court did not have to lay anyone off but is now understaffed.

“We had some people who decided it was time to leave the court because they saw the handwriting on the wall in terms of not getting full funding for years to come,” he told the Sheet.

Recently, employees got their first cost-of-living pay increase in 7 years—a 2 percent raise.

Potential help on the horizon

In Governor Brown’s new budget proposal, Mono County’s Superior Court is slated to get more than $100,000 in additional funding. Gonzalez believes that the court may be able to add another employee if all goes as planned. Adding this employee would mean that the court would likely be able to reinstate phone support, and maybe even keep the counter in Mammoth open all day.

The Court’s budget situation is complicated by the fact that it can only keep a 1 percent reserve in its general fund, about $16,000. Even relatively small expenses, such as an employee retiring and claiming his or her benefits, are not easy to fund because they deviate from the court’s normal expense profile.

According to the Court’s budget snapshot, it will soon have to replace its outdated computers and case management system, a major expense that the small reserve does not allow for. Neither is the court allowed to have a rainy-day fund for unanticipated expenses. It would likely require a budget change proposal for expenses such as these and budget change proposals can take a long time—up to two years—to approve.

According to the California Courts News, the new Mammoth Lakes court building that was finished in 2011, at a cost of $19.7 million dollars, was funded out of a specially designated fund separate from the court’s general fund, which is the only way to fund large projects that are not covered by the reserve.
Volunteers help load sandbags at Silver Lake Resort this week.

The owners of the Silver Lake Resort got a taste of their own hospitality this week, when about a hundred locals, employees, customers and campers pitched in to help load sandbags onto the banks of Alger Creek after days of hot weather caused this winter’s record snowpack to melt and overflow Sierra waterways.

“We didn’t even put out phone calls out [asking for help],” said Alisa Jones, a member of the family that runs SLR. “It was my husband Andrew, me and our daughter Samantha that we were just starting out on Sunday night. It was just going to be the three of us. So we just started to make sandbags, and people saw us and came out to help.”

Jones said that The June Lake Fire Department and Lee Vining Fire Department also pitched in, although Lee Vining Creek was also flooding this week, said Jones.

[Monday] night we were in dire need of more sandbags, and a lot of them had gone down to Lee Vining Creek, because that road was washing away,” said Jones. Lee Vining Creek Campground was evacuated due to the high water, she said.

Alger Creek is not part of the Rush Creek Hydroelectric System. “It’s just pure runoff, it’s not controlled by anything,” said Jones on Tuesday.

“So, what was happening was the part of the creek that diverts to the [trout] pond was coming so fast that essentially, if we didn’t control that, it would flood our Creek House, Cabin 3, Cabin 5, and the store.”

Although the rising water levels have caused some stress for local business owners, Silver Lake has turned into a paddleboarder’s paradise, with areas that are usually marsh becoming completely submerged.

Several roads across Mono and Inyo counties are currently closed due to flooding, including Lower Rock Creek Road. A portion of North Round Valley Road, north of Pine Creek Road, has collapsed completely due to water running underneath a bridge, according to the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office.

This first heat wave of the summer in the west saw temperatures in Death Valley predicted at 121-126 during June 20-21, according to the National Weather Service. Temperatures are expected to decrease into the weekend, but the massive snowpack will continue to descend in the form of runoff for months to come.
**PLANE DOWN IN LONE PINE**

By Giles

On June 9, the Slim Princess locomotive took to the road, and the sight of a full-size steam locomotive rolling down U.S. 395 drew quite a crowd.

The fully refurbished narrow-gauge locomotive was loaded on a semi-truck trailer on June 9 and hauled from its longtime perch in Dehly Park in Independence to its new home in the recently constructed Larry Peckham Engine House at the Eastern California Museum. Residents of Independence and surrounding areas flocked to watch the all-volunteer crew from the Carson and Colorado Railway lay down the temporary track that was used to roll the 22-ton locomotive onto a tractor trailer. Once secured, the rig rolled down U.S. 395 and then up Onion Valley Road to the Eastern California Museum.

In a way, the very public move of Engine #18 represented history repeating itself. In 1955, Southern Pacific donated the engine to Inyo County. A group of volunteers built the short run of track in Dehly Park. The locomotive arrived on the back of a truck. As an appreciative crowd watched, the engine was placed on the track. It remained a well-known landmark and anchor of Dehly Park for the next 62 years.

Before it was retired to the park, the Slim Princess had quite a work history. Built in 1911, she came to the Owens Valley in 1928 and was operated by Southern Pacific, which had taken over the Carson and Colorado route from Keeler to Nevada. In later years, the route was shortened from Keeler to Laws. The steam locomotive was replaced by a diesel electric engine in 1955. The move to the museum grounds represents one of the final steps in the successful effort to restore the engine to fully operating condition. The non-profit Carson and Colorado Railway (CCR) is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit group dedicated to the restoration, and eventual operation of Southern Pacific narrow gauge locomotive #18, as a living reminder of the proud history of Independence and Southern Inyo County. For more information, and the group’s latest newsletter, check www.carsoncolorado.com.

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**Mono Arts Council**

**Mammoth Celebrates the Arts for the 4th of July**

40th Anniversary!

**Festival Hours: Saturday, July 1 - 10am-6pm, Sunday, July 2 - 10am-6pm, Monday, July 3 - 10am-6pm, Tuesday, July 4 - 9am-5pm**

Join Mono Arts Council and over 70 talented artists for a fun filled holiday weekend in the Footloose Sports parking lot on Main Street!

Sip a cold beer or cocktail while enjoying a variety of cuisines in our International Food Court Area.

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**The Slim Princess hits the road.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

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**The place where your day begins.**

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**ONE SLIM PRINCESS**

By Jon Klusmire

An intact RQ-4 Global Hawk unmanned aircraft, the make that crashed near Horseshoe Meadows on Wednesday, June 21.

On Wednesday, June 21, shortly after 1 p.m., a retired Inyo County Sheriff’s Deputy reported hearing a “stuttering plane engine and then lots of debris flying through the air, followed by smoke,” while on a bike ride through the Alabama Hills just east of Mount Whitney. Several locals driving up Highway 395 on Wednesday afternoon and evening reported seeing smoke billowing from a snow-covered peak, about 9,000 feet up the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, just east of Mount Whitney. According to a press release from the Inyo National Forest, that smoke was from the Diaz fire, which is still burning.

CBS Sacramento reported on Thursday, that an unmanned aircraft crashed at 1:45 p.m. east of Mount Whitney on Wednesday, and that no injuries occurred as a result of the crash. According to the same article, the plane was an RQ-4 Global Hawk drone on a non-operational flight from Edwards Air Force Base to its home station at Beale Air Force Base. The drone was being piloted by a crew of three people based (on the ground) in Palmdale.

CBS reported that RQ-4 Global Hawks are used for high-altitude surveillance missions around the world, and that the aircraft cost approximately $220 million a pop. Investigators at Beale Air Force Base are looking into the cause of the crash.

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**The Slim Princess**

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**One SLIM PRINCESS**

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**LOCAL NEWS**

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**THE SHEET | Saturday, June 24, 2017**

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not see another summer, Dutton said that is the reason the issue was brought to Town Council, which voted to move forward with the beautification efforts on June 7. “Your comment (about the way the money is being spent) is valid, and has been expressed to Town Council,” said Dutton on Wednesday. He also said “we do have some concern” about plants getting trampled by people lining the newly-planted streets during the Fourth of July Parade, but there is “no great alternative.”

Main Street is under Caltrans District 9 jurisdiction, and therefore any work that affects Caltrans’ right of way has to be approved, said Florene Trainor, Public Information Officer for District 9. “We’re not going to plant trees, huge bushes, things that are expensive or that will be immediately be torn out with the Main Street Project or damaged by snow management,” said Dutton on Wednesday. Tree planting on Main Street would be an example of something that would be in Caltrans’ right of way.

Old Mammoth Road’s beautification efforts are different, as they are partly funded by a special Business Assessment District (BAD), into which the owners of businesses on that street pay yearly. According to an Engineer’s Report by the Town of Mammoth Lakes, $154,000 has been budgeted for landscape improvements for the Old Mammoth Road BAD for Fiscal Year 2017/18.

Dutton said that Town staff will be paid overtime to install landscaping beginning on Tuesday of next week. “We do not have resources to do this without working overtime to assist installation,” he said, noting that the push to get the Lakes Basin open took up a great deal of staff time. The late winter further delayed progress on getting irrigation up and running, thus prompting the call for individual owners to step forward and water themselves. The plan is to reboot the system next summer.

Assistant Civil Engineer Jamie Trainor said that the Sierra Nevada Resort immediately accepted the offer, and that the Town would order plants on Friday, June 22, so he did not currently have a cost estimate for the materials. Maryann Hutchison, one of the owners of Oaktree, declined to say what kind of plants Oaktree recommended planting, or how many people were participating in the program so far.

Dutton said that he anticipated the cost of materials for the Old Mammoth Road project to be $30-40 thousand, and that “I doubt the money is being spent on plants, on June 21).” The letter states that the Town “will pay for the landscaping supplies if the business owner agrees to plant and water them regularly this season. Any business who wants to go the extra mile and plant in the Old Mammoth Road right of way areas is encouraged to do so with Town approval!”

Dutton said at Council Wednesday that the Town hadn’t operated its irrigation system in three years due to the drought, and that staff had anticipated issues with the system. The late winter further delayed progress on getting irrigation up and running, thus prompting the call for individual owners to step forward and water themselves. The plan is to reboot the system next summer.

Assistant Civil Engineer Jamie Trainor told The Sheet on Thursday, June 22 that six businesses had signed up to participate as of 1 p.m. on Thursday. She did not say which businesses had agreed to participate. Dutton could confirm that the Sierra Nevada Resort immediately accepted the offer, and that the Town would order plants on Friday, June 22, so he did not currently have a cost estimate for the materials.

Maryann Hutchison, one of the owners of Oaktree, declined to say what kind of plants Oaktree recommended planting, or how many people were participating in the program so far. Dutton said that he anticipated the cost of materials for the Old Mammoth Road project to be $30-40 thousand, and that “I doubt we’ll charge all of our staff time (for installations on properties in which the owners don’t step up to plant themselves) back to the Assessment District.”

The main reason that Town’s landscaping has suffered so much is that Governor Jerry Brown’s Executive Order B-37-16, issued in May of last year, banned the irrigation of ornamental turf on public street medians. The Sheet explored the reasons for Mammoth’s installation of turf last year (Le Marquis de Sod, August 26, 2016). Although the “drought emergency is over,” said Brown in April of this year, “conservation must remain a way of life,” and though many of the drought restrictions imposed during the crisis, which began in 2011-12, have been lifted, that order banning irrigation of turf remains in effect.

Dutton says he does not support turf as an option for future landscaping projects. “My personal opinion on turf is, we’re in California, we’re always going to be in a drought. It’s a desert climate.” Delivery of plants is expected on Tuesday, June 27, said Dutton, and “we expect to be working Tuesday-Wednesday to brighten things up before the Fourth of July.”
**BARS & MUSIC**

**Happy Hour/ The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill.** Pursuit of Happiness, 3-6 p.m. off draft beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread. See ad, p. 11.

**Outside Saloon.** Monday All Night Happy Hour: 4-Midnight. Tues/Fri 4-8pm

**Tuesday** $2 Tacos 4-10pm; 6-9pm Wednesdays 50% off all wings; new time!

**Thursday** Beer & Beer special 4-9pm; See ad, p. 13.

**Roberto’s** 4-6 p.m. every day.

**Austria Hof.** 5-8 p.m. daily.

**Whitebear Restaurant Bar & Lounge.** Unwind with daily drink and food specials 4-6 p.m. Half price sushi Mondays.

**Clocktower Cellar** Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. 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 “sushi bento.” 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.

**Sidewalk Happy Hour** daily 3-6 p.m.

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

**Giovanni’s Happy Hour:** daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer for 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.

**Morrin’s Happy Hour Daily** 4-6 p.m. Mondays, Wing Night 4pm-9pm See ad, p. 9

**Food Cache Happy Hour 3:30-6:30 p.m.** Sunday-Thurday. Street tacos $2.50, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine and house fries.

**June 23-24/ Rose’s Cantina plays 53 Kitchen & Cocktails.** Begins 9 p.m.

**Village @ Mammoth Summer Jam.** DJ Rodney O and various bands. $50 bottomless rum tasing.

**Friday, June 23/ Good Livin’ at the East Side Bake Shop.** Starts around 6:30. See ad, p. 7.

**Black Sheep Open Mic 6-8 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 24/ Andrew Webb Blues Band @ Liberty Bar.** 9 p.m. Free. See ad, p. 11.

**Sunday, June 25/ Bodie 601 plays The Mobil.** Free live music 9-9 p.m. See ad, p. 8.

**Monday, June 26/ Wing Night at Morrison’s, 4-9 p.m.** $9 for 8 wings. See ad, p. 9.

**Tuesday, June 27/ Trivia Tuesdays at Mammoth Brewing Company with Billy IV Callhoun, host extraordinare.** 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 28/ Wild Wing Wednesdays @ John’s Pizza Works.** See ad, p. 9.

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

**July 24-25/ ICA’s first Community Art Days of the summer in Big Pine (Saturday) and Lone Pine (Sunday).** Free and open to the public. Still seeking artist vendors and volunteers for all four events. Info: http://tinyurl.com/community-art-days—summer-2017 or 760.873.8014.

**Saturday, June 24/ Bishop Summer Kickoff.** Crafts, music, and games at City Park. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Mammoth Motocross Village Bash and Afterparty.** Food and beverage tents, live music, pit bike races, and afterparty at 53 Kitchen & Cocktails. See mammothmountain.com for info. June Lake Trails Day. Do trail work with Friends of the Inyo and the June Lake Trails Committee. At Sierra Inn and a $5 voucher to June Lake Brewing Co. Close-toed shoes required, tools and gloves provided. Meet @ June Lake Community Center at 8 a.m. Info: 760.873.8500.

**BHS Football Fundraiser Golf Tournament.** 4-player scramble at the Bishop Country Club. Call 760.873.8628 for info and to register.

**Kayak/Canoe Benton Crossing/ Crowley Lake has been cancelled due to high water and obstacles in the river.**

**Eastern Sierra Music Festival Mini Fest Concert.** 5-9 p.m. at Bishop City Park. Live music. Info: Kevin Switzer, 760.920.7780.

**Trout Festival at Hot Creek Hatchery.** Touch, feed, and catch fish from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hot Creek Hatchery. All activities are free and kid friendly. Info: troutfest@wildlife.ca.gov.

**Summer Celebration at June Lake Pines with Sheldon and Cannane.** Potluck and BYO for the whole family. Info: troutfestival@enhancement.com.

**Music ‘n Moonshine at the Historic Hayden Cabin.** No-host whiskey bar, BYO picnic, beverage chair blanket. $10 per person. Info: 760.934.9618.

**Mammoth Mountain Bike Park & Adventure Center opening day.** Kick off summer with activities from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Main Lodge’s Adventure Center. Info: mammothmountain.com.

**Downtown Bishop Summer Solstice Party.** Shops and businesses open until 9 p.m... Free live entertainment downtown, free raffle. Hosted by Bishop Chamber of Commerce. Deadline for the City of Bishop Water and Sewer Commission application. See sidebar, next page.

**Friday, June 23/ Bird Walk at Mono Lake with naturalists.** 8 a.m. @ County Park, Lee Vining. Sundays also. Info: monolake.org.

**Mammoth Mountain Bike Park & Adventure Center opening day.** Kick off summer with activities from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Main Lodge’s Adventure Center. Info: mammothmountain.com.
**TOWN STUFF**

**Sunday, June 25/ Hike to Twin Lakes (Bridgeport)**
Waterfall with the Sierra Club. Meet @ 8:15 a.m. at the Bridgeport Ranger Station, or at 8:45 a.m. at the Mono Village Parking Area, 2 miles round trip. No dogs. Email Debbie for info @ duirie@schat.com.

**Monday, June 26/ Bishop City Council Meeting, Bishop City Hall, 377 W. Line St. 6 p.m.**

**Tuesday, June 27/ History tour at Valentine Reserve. 9-11:30 a.m. Email cleester@ucsb.edu for reservations. Thursday also.**

**Thursday, June 29/ Deepwater Horizon plays for The Village at Mammoth Summer Movie Series. 8:30 p.m. showtime. BYO chair, blanket.**

**Friday, June 30/ “Under the Temple of Folly” at the Historic Hayden Cabin. Begins 6 p.m. $15. Info: mammothmuseum.org.**

**July 1-2/ John Muir: Watch, Pray, and Fight at the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. Two shows only. Saturday, 7 p.m. and Sunday, 4 p.m.**

**July 1-4/ Fourth of July celebrations in The Village at Mammoth, featuring the famous Chihuahua races. See ad, p. 3. Mono Arts Council celebrates 40th Anniversary of arts festival in Footloose parking lot. All weekend. Old Fashioned Fourth of July in Bridgeport. Geared up climbing is a highlight.**

**UPCOMING**

**Bridgeport. Geared up climbing is a highlight.**

**Saturday, July 1/ Sunset Freedom Bash @ Mammoth Mountain, 5:30-9:30 p.m. See ad, p. 8. Trail Days with the Mammoth Lakes Trail System. Great volunteer opportunity. Dress for trail work, tools provided. Info: mltpa.org. See ad, p. 9. Free fishing day in Mono County. Fish to your heart’s delight—no need for a license today.**

**Concert at Mono Inn in the Lake Room. Mono Lake Music and Ecology week long Camp presents the final concert at 4 p.m. Slide show. Free. Book Sale at the June Lake Library. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Sunday, July 2/ Lego Balmain plays for The Village at Mammoth Summer Movie Series. 8:30 p.m. showtime. BYO chair, blanket.**

**Monday, July 3/ Mono Basin Historical Society meeting at the Lee Vining Community Center, Potluck: 6 p.m. and program: 7 p.m. See sidebar, this page.**

**Tuesday, July 4/ Mammoth Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, begins 7 a.m. $10 adults, $6 kids. Footloose Freedom Mile begins 10:30 a.m. on Old Mammoth Road near Snowcreek golf course. Independence Day Parade begins 11 a.m. on Main Street in Mammoth. Horsehoe Tournament & BBQ at Silver Lake Resort, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Red, White & June at Gull Lake Park. Flea market, live music, carnival games. 12-3 p.m. Bridgeport Fourth of July: Pancake breakfast, run, parade, watermelon eating contest, rubber duck race, geared up climbing, live music.**

**AT THE MOVIES**

**Minaret Cinemas**

**Cars 3 (G):** Lightning McQueen sets out to prove to a new generation of racers that he’s still the best race car in the world.

**Transformers: The Last Knight (PG-13):** With Optimus Prime gone, an unlikely alliance of rebels try to preserve the future.

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

**Mammoth Hospital Healthy Living Workshop**

A free six-week self-management series developed by experts at Stanford University to help you better manage health conditions and live a happier, healthier life. Pre-registration is required. Call us at 760.924.4018 to reserve your spot.

**Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Session 1: June 22, Session 2: June 29, Session 3: July 6, Session 4: July 13, Session 5: July 20, Session 6: July 27. Mammoth Hospital Conference Room A & B, 85 Sierra Park Rd.**

**Caltrans construction on U.S. 395**

Caltrans will be resurfacing U.S. 395 from Eastside Lane in Walker to the Nevada State Line in Mono County. Work began on June 12 and is expected to be completed in October 2017. Traffic will be one way from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays throughout the summer. Expect 20 minute traffic delays. Add this to your Fourth of July plans. Caltrans will be resurfacing U.S. 395 in Bridgeport starting June 19. Expect traffic delays on US 395 between SR 270 and Jack Sawyer Road up to 20 minutes until late July. Caltrans will be resurfacing SR 158 from the south junction with US 395 to the SCE Hydroplant in June Lake from June 19 to June 23. Expect traffic delays of up to 20 minutes in the Village of June Lake from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays through June 30.

**Register Fourth of July floats**

The Fourth of July Parade is quickly approaching. Applications for floats in the parade will be accepted until June 26, but submit your application ASAP to secure your spot. The Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce are limited to 52 floats this year. Email info@ mammothlakeschamber.org with questions, if your business is hosting an event for the holiday this year, email the Chamber with details so we can include it in our Fourth of July weekend “things to do” list. All are invited to watch the photos for Old Mammoth Road and Main Street from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4.

**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 camps run Monday through Friday, camps run Wednesday-Friday. This year’s camps include: Amazing Vox, Dance, Nature Camp, Mosaics, Photography, Robots and Mixed Media, and Comic Books, in which participants create their own comic book. For details about scheduling or to register, visit monoarts.org/kids-camps/ or contact Kendra at kendra@ monoarts.org or 760.914.3752.

**Bishop Water and Sewer Commission vacancy**

There is an unscheduled vacancy on the City of Bishop Water and Sewer Commission. Anyone interested in applying to serve on the commission for the duration of the term, which runs through November 8, 2018, should contact City Hall at 760.873.5863. Application and descriptions of duties are available online at cityofbishop.com. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 23.
**Notice Inviting Bids**

**Notice Inviting Bids**

**Notice Inviting Bids**

**Notice Inviting Bids**

**Notice of Petition**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF MONO**

**Docket No. 171024**

**PETITION TO DECLARE MINOR FREE FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL**

Petitioner alleges:

1. Petitioner is an adult person who desires to adopt **CODY LEE THACKER**, a minor under the age of 18 years, who is subject of this petition. Petitioner is the husband of the minor and who has custody of the minor.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors and subcontractors that wish to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, or contacting the requirements of the California Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120.

The Director of Industrial Relations has determined the general prevailing rate of per diem wages to be paid pursuant to the Public Contract Code Sections 20166 and 20167. Submission of a bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or cashier’s check payable to the order of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, or by a bid bond or any contract entered into without proof of registration with the Department of Industrial Relations to perform public work. If awarded a contract, the Bidder and its subcontractors, of any tier, shall maintain active registration with the Department of Industrial Relations for the duration of the Project.

In the Town of Mammoth Lakes for The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California. Dated: 6/16/2017

The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**
THREE YEARS OF JUNE LAKE BREWING

Local beer lovers gather for the Red Yeti Challenge in the morning and an afternoon of live music, beer

Photos by Simpkins and Giles

On Wednesday, June 21, June Lake Brewing and friends took full advantage of the summer solstice for the Third Annual June Lake Brewing Anniversary Party and Red Yeti Challenge. Starting at 6 a.m., participants in the Red Yeti Challenge embarked on a 13-mile run or bike around June Lake, with mandatory activity and beer-drinking stops along the way. Dan Flowers finished first overall, hiking the course in 2 hours and 8 minutes. Jess Horn finished first in the foot division, in 2 hours and 48 minutes.

Brewery doors opened at 11 a.m. Local reggae band Dreddie Poppins and the Professionals played, as did Featherstone and Monarch. JLB released its limited edition PilzGnar, an Imperial Pilsner that came in at 9 percent alcohol. Owner Justin Walsh kindly offered The Sheet a preview—as advertised, it is seductively smooth. Trout Town Joe’s and Ohana’s 395 served up delicious specials, notably escargot spring rolls. JLB provided free buses to and from Mammoth Lakes.

Right: Sergio Gonzalez took second place in the 2017 Red Yeti Challenge foot race. Here, he demonstrates to timekeepers that he has finished a warm can of Budweiser, thereby completing the 13-mile race. JLB employee Johnny Kimball told The Sheet the cans were allowed to sit at 180 degrees for four days leading up to the event to get them “good and skunked. We brewers know a thing or two about screwing up beer.”

Katie Smith of June Lake Brewing was the keeper of the Gull Lake “Death Pony,” a mysterious, beer-loving sea monster who turned out to celebrate JLB’s third anniversary party. Contestants in the Red Yeti Challenge had to vanquish the lake monster before moving on to the finish line.

Above: Richie Shearer came in second for the bike race and second overall. Right: Jess Horn finished in first place in the foot race. Below: Official timekeepers Cristiane and Pete Hamlin with Pele the bird at the finish line.
TRAFFIC & TRANSIT ADVISORY

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) would like to notify motorists and guests of the scheduled traffic control measures and route changes on Saturday, June 24, 2017 for the Monster Energy Mammoth Motocross Village Bash produced by MMSA. Below is an outline of the scheduled traffic and transit impacts taking place as a result of this event.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

Lower Canyon Boulevard will be closed between Lake Mary Rd. and Hillside Dr. from 11AM–12PM.

TRANSIT ADVISORY

Mammoth Bike Park Shuttle
New Route: Down Minaret Road, turn around near Sierra Star Golf Course, stop across from the New York Deli in The Village.

Lakes Basin Trolley
New Route: Lake Mary Road to “The Voodoo Chute,” turn on Lakeview toward Canyon Blvd., crossing on Hillside to reach Forest Trail and then stopping on Minaret in front of The Village below the Main Plaza.

Town Trolley
New Route: Main St to Minaret Rd., wrap around The Village on Forest Trail and Hillside, then up to Canyon Lodge and down Lakeview.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

June Lake locals Lienne Anderson-Smith-Carter, Trisha Massengale, and Lydia Maren pile onto the Death Pony for a beer after an epic water battle with the creature during the Red Yeti Event.

Above: Cody Stanley and Karrah Spitznagel with baby Amelia.

Above: Lynn and Don Morton of Sierra Crest Real Estate enjoy an afternoon beer.

Above: Marcus Deack the shark serves $3 JLB beers with a bite. Right: Ohana’s owner Rena McCullough served up heaping “Hawaiian Caterpillars” to guests, featuring spam sushi topped with wasabi, spicy mayo, siracha and tobiko.

Above: June Lake Brewing Co-Owner and founder Justin Walsh boogies down to Featherstone and Monarch at Wednesday’s party.

Above: (left to right) Francisco and Yesenia Gonzalez, Luis and Cassidy Curiel of Trout Town Joe’s serve up grilled treats for hungry beer-drinkers at the JLB Anniversary Party.
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