**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The little brewery that could is about to do even more

By Rea

Sarah and Justin Walsh, owners of June Lake Brewing, have gotten pretty good at defying the odds—they’ve built a successful brewery out of a warehouse on a back street in a tiny ski town (in the middle of a drought) while doing things their way (heavy metal music and sassy beer tenders), June Lake Brewing is the little LLC that could, and they’re gearing up to become a huge player in June Lake with the purchase of the five parcels surrounding and including their warehouse—parcels which include both the June Lake General Store and Trout Town Joe.

When the Walshes first leased their building from Eric Drell, who held the parcels in the Drell Family Trust, “he said I’m never dying, and I’m never selling,” Justin Walsh told The Sheet on Sunday, June 25. Then, in April of 2016, Drell called up Walsh. “He said, ‘I’m dying, and my... kids are going to sell [the property] out from under you.’”

So the Walshes leaned in. They put their plans to add new tanks to JLB on hold. “We had to take all the funds that we had set aside for expansion and liquidate them to make a deposit on a loan to purchase the properties, because our future was in jeopardy...[the current warehouse is] honestly the only building in the entire June Lake valley that could facilitate what we’re doing now and the expansion we planned for the future... so it kind of pushed us into a corner,” said Walsh.

The Walshes did the entire buildout of the JLB warehouse (water, sewer, insulation, you name it) themselves, with some dedicated help. “It was a tremendous investment in facilities for an unproven business with a five-year lease,” said Walsh. But it worked. JLB ended up being wildly successful and for commercials shot in the Eastern Sierra. He starred as a cowboy in a few Marlboro commercials, and John Wayne once tried to buy his favorite horse—he naturally declined the offer.

Marye and Lou Roeser tell tales of life in the high country

By Giles

When Marye Roeser first came to work summers as a guide at High Sierra Camp, the only road to the Lakes Basin was Old Mammoth Road. “It wasn’t paved, in fact, none of the roads in Mammoth were paved,” Mary told The Sheet. “It was little more than the wagon road it started out as.”

She relayed this over iced tea at the ranch she and her husband own in Coleville, up by Mount Patterson in the Antelope Valley.

Marye and her husband Lou owned and operated the Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit for thirty-eight years, from 1960 to 1998. They created Sierra Meadows Equestrian and Cross-Country Ski Center, from which they led sleigh rides and ski tours for twenty-five winters. Marye taught at Antelope Elementary and Coleville High Schools for twenty years, and Lou did location scouting and provided horses for the western film industry and for commercials shot in the Eastern Sierra. He starred as a cowboy in a few Marlboro commercials, and John Wayne once tried to buy his favorite horse—he naturally declined the offer.

Marye and Lou met while Marye was working as a Manager and guiding day-trips by horseback out of High Sierra Camp in 1952. Lou, an Arizona cowboy, found Eastern California while traveling to Oregon. He worked his first summer at High Sierra Camp as a packer in 1952. He and Marye were married six months after they met, in March of 1953. At a time when many of their peers were settling in suburbs south of the Sierra, Marye and Lou decided to make packing their lifestyle. Marye wrangled and cooked, and Lou packed for several local pack stations before deciding to purchase Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit in 1960. All the while, Marye painted the...
THE FUNNEL OF LOVE

Mammoth Lakes Tourism recently sent out its first TBID e-newsletter. With the TBID (Tourism Business Improvement District) coming up for renewal next year, I guess they think it’s time to start rolling out the propaganda.

Many well-paying jobs are at stake.
I don’t see what they’re worried about. Mammoth Resorts alone controls 40% of the TBID vote. Other big hitters like Sierra Nevada Resort and Snowcreek Resort have representatives on the Board, implying they’ll be ‘yes’ renewal votes.

The TBID will be renewed.
For those who might not know what TBID represents on their bill, 2% of every lift ticket, 1.5% of retail and restaurant purchases and 1% of lodging goes towards a marketing fund for Mammoth Lakes.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism then turns around and contracts with advertising agency MerinCarson to do the bulk of its creative, brand strategy, ad placement, etc. MLT’s 2017–2018 proposed budget anticipates spending $3.3 million with the well-regarded, Sacramento-based agency which also counts Visit California as a client.

MLT’s other major expense is its own staff. It spends about $1 million annually on wages and benefits. Its Executive Director is the highest-paid public employee within the Town (let’s not kid ourselves, MLT is a governmental organization), making a $200,000 annual base salary. Chump change compared to your typical Hospital District CEO, but a nice check nonetheless.

*According to transparentcalifornia.com, former NIH CEO John Halten pulled in $380,000 in base salary during his final year (2013).*

Between TBID collection and MLT’s designated share of TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) revenue, Mammoth’s marketing organization brings in north of $8 million annually.

What appears below is what appeared in the first newsletter, which we as taxpayers actually paid someone to write, forwarded to me by several people, I imagine, just to incite me. I quote it just because you might otherwise think I’m making it up:

“Think of the success of the local community as a funnel. Visitors come to town and business owners pass along taxes and assessments such as TOT and the TBID, which help fund Mammoth Lakes Tourism’s marketing efforts so it can attract more visitors.

Visitors arrive more steadily throughout the year (especially in years like this one where Mother Nature gives us a hand), and all of you have successful seasons, can pay and retain employees, complete improvements and have a more steady income and lifestyle.

At the bottom of the funnel are the TOT dollars that are collected due to larger quantities of visitors. The more TOT dollars collected, the more money ends up in the Town’s coffers (i.e. the General Fund). These dollars can then be used to maintain the town, and support and build up the infrastructure that we are so badly in need of.

Take money out of the top of the funnel, and you’ll likely end up with less money coming out the bottom.”

And then, the last paragraph:

“… MLT’s effectiveness, thanks in part to the TBID, is why the Town has extra dollars available for infrastructure again this year. If you want to continue to see infrastructure improvements for our local community, you have to continue to give the funnel process a chance.”

So … imagine if MLT had been around in the ‘80s. We wouldn’t have trickle-down economics. We would have funnel economies.

So the visitors come to town and we toss them into a funnel that poops out taxes?
Less visitors = less poop.

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**Observation:** If you take away the input at the top of a funnel, you will have less at the bottom. This isn’t something that’s “likely.” This is a fact. I’m confused about what they do with the poop. And how the poop relates to the visitors at the top of the funnel.

In paragraph one, they imply that the poop is recycled into marketing efforts which draw visitors to our funnel.

But then, in paragraph 3, they say the poop is used to fertilize infrastructure improvements and maintenance of town facilities. How does this relate to the funnel?

I can only imagine the MLT staff meeting where this was discussed.

Staffer: See, we’ve got this pyramid. And we’re at the top of the pyramid and thanks to our efforts the money just flies out the bottom, like the flames and smoke at the bottom of a rocket ship … spewing over a wide expanse of territory, covering everyone in carcinogens at the bottom.

Fearless Leader: No no no. If you call it a pyramid that asshole at the newspaper will try to brand it as a pyramid scheme.

Staffer: How about we call it a reverse funnel? That’s like a pyramid, but called something else. You put $1 into the top of the reverse funnel and thanks to the power of marketing. $25$ sprays out the bottom.

Staffer 2: Like projectile vomit.

Staffer 3: Or like a bullhorn, amplifying the noise.

Fearless Leader: The term “reverse” has too much of a negative connotation. We don’t want to go in reverse. We want to march forward!

Staffer: In that case, let’s reverse the reverse. Subtract a negative and you get a positive. We’ll just call it a funnel system!

Staffer 2: Good idea. This will really appeal to the millennials.

I did the calculation with regard to cost per square foot of shade structure and overall size of professional ice hockey rink and I’m convinced that Justin Walsh could cover an entire rink with shade structure for about $7,000.

Throwing in some labor, let’s call it $30,000.

Granted, you’d have to unload it during heavy snowstorms, but on a positive note, you could probably get Stu Need to hire some artists and give it a tiki/bamboo motif with a few palm trees painted on.
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AT MAMMOTH

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

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

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

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VILLAGE AT MAMMOTH  @VILLAGE_MAMMOTH  @VILLAGE_AT_MAMMOTH
This spring, a group that is in no way affiliated with the critically acclaimed Mammoth Lakes Film Festival announced it will be hosting the first annual “Mammoth Film Festival.” The announcement has generated some confusion around town. The inaugural event for the Mammoth Film Festival has been set for February 2018.

The physical address for the festival office listed on the website is 6201 Minaret Road, but there’s no post office box number. Its emblem features a gondola. According to its website, mammothfilmfestival.org, its partners include Mammoth Rock and Bowl, the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Mountain.

A representative from Mammoth Rock and Bowl told The Sheet they were unsure whether the business had endorsed the festival.

“The group approached Mammoth Lakes Tourism this winter,” said Lara Kaylor, Director of Communication for Mammoth Lakes Tourism. Representatives from the Mammoth Film Festival asked to be put on the agency’s online calendar of events. Kaylor replied that Mammoth Lakes Tourism would be happy to put the Mammoth Film Festival in its annual event calendar once the event becomes a bona fide festival, complete with a published lineup.

Stuart Brown, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, told The Sheet the there is no formal agreement between the town and the festival. He said the town encourages commerce and festivals and that there does not seem to be a conflict of interest with the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, as the new Mammoth Film Festival is set to be held in February. The Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is held annually on Memorial Day Weekend.

Shira Dubrovner, founder of the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, said it doesn't take much to realize the similarities between the festivals and that it's clearly a conflict. She said it's a double-edged sword. She's wants to get the word out that the Mammoth Film Festival is not the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, but is wary because she knows that any press is good press for the Mammoth Film Festival.

“THERE IS ALSO THE REPUTATION OF THE MAMMOTH LAKES FILM FESTIVAL TO CONSIDER,” Dubrovner said. If filmmakers submit their work to the new festival and realize it's not the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, it makes both festivals look bad, like no one in the town knows what they're doing or who's in charge.

The organizers of the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival are President and Founder Tanner Beard, and co-founders Theo Dumont, Tomik Mansoori, and Daniel Sol. They reportedly approached Dubrovner with their plan in January. She said she encourages anyone with an idea that will bring more commerce to town, but not with a name that is so similar to an existing event. She said the similarity between “Mammoth Film Festival” and “Mammoth Lakes Film Festival” will confuse filmmakers. Dubrovner said she relayed these concerns to the organizers, but that they were indifferent to her concerns and are proceeding with the festival anyway.

Dubrovner said that when she first had the idea to start a film festival in Mammoth Lakes, there was already a movement to start one. The organizers wanted to call the event the Mammoth Film Festival. That movement had no affiliation with the festival being organized by Beard and company. She said she held off on starting another film festival at the time, because she didn't want to conflict with the proposed Mammoth Film Festival. The event did not succeed and, “after the dust settled,” Dubrovner started the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival.

The Mammoth Film Festival website domain (not to be confused with the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival domain) expired last year, Dubrovner said, and was picked up by the new group. She added that the Twitter hashtag, #mammothfilmfestival, will also be owned by the new group.

Dubrovner said Dumont and his colleagues are looking to ride the coattails of the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival which, in its first year, was named as one of the Top 50 Film Festivals by the prestigious Movie Maker magazine. The festival has remained on the list for the last 2 years.

Dubrovner said she's pursuing litigation against the new festival.

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By Bedine
Abbot rescued
Inyo County Search and Rescue successfully rescued a climber from the southeast flanks of 13,771-foot Mt. Abbot in Little Lakes Valley on Monday, June 26.
According to a press release from the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department, a 24-year old male was climbing a technical chute on the south-east side of the peak when he fell and sustained serious injuries. Despite the injuries, the climber was able to signal for help through his satellite device.
An Inyo SAR volunteer was lowered on a 100-foot cable from a California Highway Patrol helicopter to the patient’s location on the side of the cliff. After the injured climber was rigged to the harness, he was hoisted to the CHP helicopter. The helicopter’s rotors were 20 feet away from the cliff face during the operation, requiring extreme skill on the part of the CHP helicopter flight crew.

Tioga Road open

The Tioga Road in Yosemite National Park (Highway 120 through the park) opened for the season on Thursday, June 29. There will be limited visitor services available from the Tioga Pass Entrance Station to Crane Flat for the next several weeks. The “pass” was open to non-motorized traffic on June 19, but only a few miles past the entrance station.

Local Briefs

For updated 24-hour road and weather conditions for Yosemite National Park, please call 209.372.0200 and press 1, then 1 again.

Red’s Meadow Road ... not

According to the Inyo National Forest, there is no scheduled opening date for the Red’s Meadow Road to Devil’s Postpile and Red’s Meadow Campground and Pack Station. Bobby Tanner, owner of Red’s Meadow Pack Station and Resort said in an interview with The Sheet in May that if the road doesn’t open by July 4, his business will take a major financial hit. This will be the first time the road will not be open by Independence Day.

Missing man on Mt. Whitney trail

The Inyo County Sheriff’s Department issued a press release listing Marv Cope, in his 60s, as missing. Cope was last seen at 1:40 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28, coming down from Mt. Whitney trail near Discovery Pinnacle area. Cope was a member of a group of three, and it is unknown why he separated from his group.
He is wearing black pants, a blue windbreaker, and tan hat, and carrying a tan backpack. If anyone has any information that may assist in locating Cope, call Sheriff’s Dispatch at 760.878.0383.

MUSD Board okays budget

2017/18 FY budget will not replace two departing MES teachers

The Board of Directors of the Mammoth Unified School District voted to approve the District’s recommended 2017/18 Fiscal Year budget on Thursday, June 22, which does not recommend replacing two departing elementary school teachers (Jeanne Oakeshott and Stacey Posey). Seven members of a group calling itself “Parents on a Mission,” who have advocated for the District to keep class sizes as small as possible (See “A Rock and a Hard Place,” June 3, and “MES Class Size Compendium Continues, June 10”) were present at Thursday’s Board meeting and voiced their objections to the budget.
Parents from the group have insisted that the current $59 parcel tax which funds the schools should be increased, but District officials are consistent that the priority needs to be much-needed improvements to the Mammoth High School and Elementary School infrastructure. A bond measure to fund the improvements will likely appear on the November 2018 ballot. HMC Architects presented a vision of the new Facilities Master Plan at Thursday’s Board meeting. “The biggest thing on our mind is that our facilities are in dire need,” MUSD Superintendent of Schools Lois Klein told The Sheet in early June.
“When do we stop for a second and think of how will we handle this upcoming tsunami of our budget, [which is] not capable of keeping up with an instructional cost?” said parent Natalya Filippova. “That worries me hugely.”
Even with the budget not replacing the two MES teachers, the current three-year MUSD budget outlook puts reserves at 2.68 percent in 2019/20, and the State of California mandates that District reserves remain above 3 percent. There was discussion of what actions the State might take if that was allowed to happen, which included mention of a State takeover of District operations.
“Sometimes [State officials] come in, look at everything, they’ll make their recommendations and just start cutting,” said Financial Officer Brooke Bien. “Sometimes [they] can clean out staff. Sometimes they will work with existing staff and guide them. It’s an area you don’t want to go to.”
Bien said that “we would hope we would get assistance from the [Mono County Office of Education first, and be able to solve these problems.”
Superintendent Lois Klein’s contract of employment was also extended until June 30 of next year, and the Board voted to add a “step” to her salary schedule. Klein’s salary schedule capped out at six “steps” prior to the Board’s action on Thursday. That maxed out Klein’s salary at $172,877. With the extension, Klein’s salary will be $181,629 for the 2017/18 FY.
“It is not a raise, it is a step,” said Board member Yvon Guzman Rangel.
Board member Jack Farrell, citing the fact that other school employees (members of a union) have a multi-tiered step schedule, said Klein’s added step was for “fairness in compensation.”
“We need to think about our next Superintendent,” Farrell said. “Lois is not going to be with us forever.”
The Board will vote on whether or not to accept the proposed Facilities Master Plan at its meeting in August.

Let Freedom Boom

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A ROUGH WINTER FOR BIGHORN SHEEP
Local backcountry skier stumbles upon “graveyard” from avalanche

By Rea

Josh Mann, a Mammoth resident and avid backcountry skier, was ski touring in Esha Canyon on June 14 when, his legs burning from a long descent, he coasted to a stop and saw the skeleton of an endangered Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep.

“It wasn’t looking at it, or going towards it, I just stopped and I was like, ‘What is this?’”

Mann snapped a photo of the Bighorn’s skull, fully intact, with a radio collar still attached to its neck. Once he got home, he called the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to let them know what he had found. He said he found a second carcass that was “ripped to shreds,” and that officials who later called him to thank him for reporting his find said they found three more carcasses in the canyon.

Tom Stephenson, Recovery Program Leader for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep with CDFW, told The Sheet on Thursday that the sheep found by Mann had most likely been killed in an avalanche.

Efforts to reintroduce the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep, whose population was nearly wiped out due to diseases introduced from domestic sheep, have ramped up in recent years, with a herd being reintroduced into the Cathedral Range in Yosemite in 2015. The subspecies of Bighorn Sheep was listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1999, but recovery efforts began as early as 1979, said Stephenson.

Stephenson said that, prior to this winter, there were about 600 sheep in the the native and currently occupied range, which spans from Olancha Peak in the south to Dunderberg Peak in the north and as far west as the Great Western Divide. Now the estimate is about 500 due to high mortality, though CDFW’s summer surveys have not yet been conducted.

Mann said it was a rare find, and that he pinpointed the area on Google Earth for the USFS. He also said it got a little spooky once he found the first carcass.

“As we were skiing back down the canyon I was a little more aware. It was like skiing through a graveyard. At the bottom of the canyon was all the avalanche debris, and you’d be skiing down there’s a broken tree and a rib. Then you’d ski further and there’s some more broken trees and a hoof.”

When asked if he was at all tempted to have a Bighorn Sheep skull on his wall, Mann said he knew the right thing to do was to call the proper authorities. “I want to see a Bighorn Sheep in the flesh. Maybe get a picture of one and have that kind of a memory, I don’t need one hanging on my wall.”
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INVISIBLE IN INYO
Employees tell Supervisors they can’t get a break
By James

At the beginning of Tuesday’s Inyo County board of Supervisors meeting in Independence, the Inyo County Employees Association (ICEA), Local 315 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, gave public comment, hoping to convince the county to return to the bargaining table and end the impasse in negotiations that began in March 2016. Union members’ appeals appeared to largely fall on deaf ears. Supervisors sat impassively as union members pleaded with them to intervene in the matter. County Administrative Officer (CAO) Kevin Carunchio couldn’t be bothered to listen, stepping in and out of the Board room during public comment, and appearing to fixate upon whatever busy work he could find.

The only county district supervisor to speak at all was Second District (Bishop) Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, who responded to a request by a union member for all the supervisors to get out and get to know their county employees. Griffiths said he visits the Board office regularly.

County Supervisors have very little involvement in the union negotiations other than voting on the final agreement. The negotiations for the County are being handled by a team of administrators, led by Carunchio.

The County is offering the employees a 1-percent cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) raise for the next two years with 2-percent raise in the third year. ICEA is holding out for a 2-percent annual increase over the next three years. Union members expressed that they feel underappreciated (“invisible” was the word they used) and overworked thanks to many unfilled staffing positions within county departments. So many employee positions are vacant, they say, that county employees are wearing “many hats” to get necessary work done. They also contend that recruitment and retention are real issues that are making it increasingly difficult to attract good, experienced job applicants.

Denise Muniz, a 20-year employee who is a cook at the Lone Pine Senior Center, angrily told the supervisors that, “You guys are holding out for 1-percent and I can’t even get a day off because we’re so short-handed.” She was quite visibly upset and almost in tears.

Courtney Smith, the County Transportation Planner, proposed that a compromise be considered to “move forward.” His idea was to give employees a 2-percent COLA for fiscal year 2016-17, retroactive to April, to be followed by a 1-percent COLA for fiscal year 2017-18, and then a 2-percent COLA in fiscal year 2018-19, with an increase in pay for longevity from 2 to 3 percent as an incentive to stick around.

The compromise was not considered. The stalemate continues.
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JUNE LAKE TRAILS MOVE DOWN CANYON

Public workshops to be held this summer regarding use and design of the Down Canyon Trail

By Giles

According to Jill Stark, founding member of the June Lake Trails Committee, there are more trails in the works for the community of June Lake.

Back in 2010, the June Lake Trails Committee, a sub-committee of the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), partnered with Mono County, Friends of the Inyo, and the US Forest Service to complete the Gull Lake Trail. That trail is a roughly two-mile loop comprised mostly of dirt path with a small stretch of pavement through the Gull Lake Campground. It runs from the June Lake Community Center, around Gull Lake, past the Gull Lake Marina, and back to the community center.

Stark told The Sheet this week that the June Lake Trails Committee has plans to build a “connector trail” from the Gull Lake Campground to June Mountain Ski Area, and ultimately to Silver Lake Resort. “We’re about to start a public workshop series to gather public input about the trail,” said Stark. The first meeting will be at the July 5 June Lake CAC meeting. Subsequent workshops will follow throughout the summer.

Stark said that she sees a need in the Eastern Sierra for trails that are accessible for people of all ages, whether under twelve or over seventy. “When I joined the Committee [June Lake Trails], I was already 70 years old. I wanted more trails that young families and grandparents could be on together in June Lake… I could do Reverese Peak, go to the snow ponds, hike to Yost Lake and Parker Lake, but those trails were getting harder and harder.”

Stark ultimately envisions a trail system that extends from Gull Lake to Grant Lake. The project has financial and staff support from Mono County. In 2016-2017, the June Lake Trails Committee received $8,500 in funding in grants from Mono County.

Additionally, local nonprofit Friends of the Inyo oversees a special donation fund for the June Lake Trails system, to which supporters can make tax deductible donations. Stark estimated that there are approximately $6,000 in that fund which can be used for the construction and maintenance of the new trail.

Stark says, the construction of new trails, when guided by community consensus, will boost the local economy. “June Lake is a wonderful place. It’s quieter than Mammoth over here. It’s a great place to recreate and to visit with the whole family, whether really little kids or grandparents,” said Stark. The proposed trail system would provide pedestrians with foot access between June’s Business districts, connecting Silver Lake Resort with the Village and everything in between.

Stark said that when the Gull Lake Trail was originally planned, it was designed as a hiking trail. “Over the years, we’ve seen lots of little kids on trikes using it too, which is too cute. This time around, we’re hoping to discuss whether the trail system should be designed to be multi-use,” said Stark. She said that handicap-accessible fishing sites have also been discussed.

Much of the maintenance of the existing trail is done by the June Lake Trails Committee and Friends of the Inyo. On Saturday, June 24, Friends of the Inyo and the June Lake Trails Committee hosted the eighth annual June Lake Volunteer Trails Day. According to Jora Fogg, Preservation Manager for Friends of the Inyo, forty volunteers turned out to clean up June Lake’s trails.

The Down Canyon Trail would connect and formalize a path through existing user-created paths along the South side of Highway 158, from Gull Lake to Double Eagle Resort, and possibly to Silver Lake Resort. The trail will be built exclusively on US Forest Service land. The June Lake Trails Committee will be seeking input from dog walkers, equestrians, runners, hikers, and mountain hikers regarding trailheads and routes for the Down Canyon Trail on Saturday, July 15 at the June Lake Community Center, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Only non-motorized passive activities are being considered for the Down Canyon Trail.

A follow up meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22, at 6 p.m. at the same location. At that meeting, the Committee will work with participants to select a preferred trail alignment. For more information, contact Gerry LeFrancois of Mono County Planning and Economic Development, at gle-francois@mono.ca.gov.
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WHAT WILL THE SURVEY SAY?

June Lake gets feisty as it hashes out short-term rental processes and procedures

By Bodine

On Wednesday, June 29, June Lake residents and the Mono County Planning Department met to reach consensus regarding the status and regulation of short-term rentals in The Clark Tract at June Lake. The group has been meeting regularly since May, Mono County Planning Division staff, including Assistant Planner Paul McFarland, Planning Director Scott Burns, and Community Development Analyst Wendy Sugimura have been facilitating and mediating the methodical and at times contentious process. In most neighborhoods, residents can’t reach consensus about whether they want transient rentals at all—pitting neighbors against neighbors.

Public meetings and workshops have been held this spring regarding every tract and street in June Lake. At these meetings, community members and staff delve into the nitty gritty definitions of terms. At least a portion of every meeting was spent fighting over ideas that were ironed out at a previous meeting, brought up for discussion again by people that didn’t attend previous meetings.

As with any process that involves the general public, there was plenty of confusion and misunderstanding to go around. This was illustrated before Wednesday’s meeting started when resident Patrick Hoefer walked into the conference room at the June Lake Community Center and got in the face of Ian Fettes and yelled, “Don’t you ever try and run over my wife again! This is the second time. They let you go the first time.” Burns broke up the mess but not before Hoefer told Fettes, “You’re mentally unstable.” Some people who attended Wednesday's meeting expressed their expectation that the decision on rentals would come to an official vote. Sugimura told the audience that if that’s what the residents want to do that they can, but that the findings from all of the meetings held so far will go before the June Lake Community Action Committee (CAC), which will make a recommendation to the Planning Department. The Planning Department will make the final recommendation to the Board of Supervisors who will make the final decision.

No matter how many times Sugimura tried explaining the process, some meeting attendees were sure there ought to be a public vote and that there would be a public vote. Carmen Smith, a second home-owner, asked at which upcoming meeting she could expect to get to vote, so she could come to that one.

Allowing everyone to have a say was important to many residents in attendance. Not every home owner has participated in the process so far. There were about 25 people in attendance at Wednesday's meeting, and there are 120 homes in the Clark Tract.

Sam Mahoney asked, “How are the people who don’t participate included? Is non-attendance an opinion?” Sugimura explained the county can’t force people to participate. Audience members asked if there could be a survey mailed to homeowners. Sugimura said given how the meetings have been progressing so far, it would take too long to get everyone to agree on the language of a survey.

People really want that survey, Al Heinrich asked if homes being rented on a nightly basis would ever be subject to inspection by the County. Sugimura replied that they wouldn’t. “There’s only so much the county can do to regulate human behavior,” Sugimura said. Roxanne Fodera said she was appalled there was no inspection. Several topics were discussed, including wear and tear on roads and their maintenance. But that topic quickly changed to when can a questionnaire be mailed out.

Heinrich asked why Sugimura wouldn’t issue a survey and why the matter won’t go on the ballot. Heinrich said the decisions that will dictate short-term rental procedures can’t be based on the opinions of the few homeowners in attendance at the meetings.

Richard Deets said a survey would be a good start to see if people even want short-term rentals. Clark Tract resident Carol McCann said she has been hearing the same arguments and complaints about short-term rentals for 42 years. She said a survey with the simple question of “do you want nightly rentals or not?” would fix the problem and save people the time they’ve spent in meetings. People asked if the survey could be attached to property tax notices.

Fettes started talking about insurance and liability, and Hoefer and his wife walked out of the meeting.

Patri Heinrich and others were under the impression that there would be a single-person veto, meaning that if there was objection by just one neighbor to a proposed transient rental, a permit would not be issued.

Sugimura said that this is not exactly the case. Heinrich said she was appalled that the county supervisor who told her that at that time didn’t know exactly what the language was.

County staff told meeting attendees that they planned to start working on crafting a survey for distribution to the community to determine what questions the County should list on a short-term rental survey. The first survey will be issued this summer, if it is approved and everyone can agree on what the survey questions should be to determine what questions should be listed on the actual survey. Perhaps another survey could help with that.

Meetings will continue through the summer and fall with a decision expected by supervisors in September.
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On Saturday, June 25, kids and parents flocked to Hot Creek Hatchery in Long Valley for the annual kids fishing festival, Troutfest. Local volunteers, Hot Creek Hatchery staff, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife employees taught kids to cast, tie knots, and clean fish. There was also a dissection table, where kids learned about the unique physiology of Rainbow Trout, and a booth where they could study aquatic insects under a microscope. The real action was at the hatchery spillways where most fish were caught. Clockwise from the top left: Sawyer Salva of Mammoth Lakes shows The Sheet his first fish, held by his sister Sierra Salva. Sophia Wormington of San Diego, Rowan Monte of Mammoth Lakes reports her fish is “slimy,” and Rowan Monte of Mammoth Lakes poses after reeling in a Rainbow Trout. Ellie Monte shows off her first fish.
Clockwise from the top left: Dani Haines and son Jace Clarke of Bishop with Jace’s first fish. Dominic, Sophia, and Liberty Taylor of Nevada. Sean and Elizabeth Rowe with dad Stephen from Hemet. William Gratz from Bishop got a helping hand from a volunteer with his cast. Volunteers Jennifer Bridegan (left) and Kieran Rae (right) served up samples of freshly grilled trout to visitors, with recommendations for recipes and cooking methods. Cook Lynk kept the food coming all morning.

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MLR APPOINTS NEW ED
By Rea

Former Mammoth resident Matt McClain takes over in August

Matt McClain, the new Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR), is coming home. McClain, who was appointed at the MLR Board meeting on Tuesday, June 27, was previously the Director of Sales at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area from 1994-2001, and met his wife in Mammoth to boot.

“It’s a little bit of a homecoming,” said McClain Tuesday after MLR approved his appointment. He’s currently based San Clemente, but he and his wife, Heather Johnston, own a condo in Crowley Lake that they’ll be moving back into, he said on Tuesday after being officially appointed.

He came to Mammoth “just for one season” before heading back to graduate school (McClain attended undergrad at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo). Most Mammoth residents are familiar with at least part of that story. McClain ended up in the outdoor industry, moving on to become Director of Sales at Tel-luride Ski Resort, then Director of Marketing and Communications for the Surfrider Foundation, then Vice President of Development and Operations for Protect Our Winters, rounding out his experience in the nonprofit industry as McClain has most recently served as the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Catalina Island Conservancy, which he’ll be leaving to take the MLR position.

Heather is currently the Executive Director of the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce, and she’ll be leaving her position as well to head north. He and his wife don’t have kids (“we have cats”), and are excited to join the community of Mammoth once again.

“We’re definitely both thrilled” about the move, McClain said on Tuesday. “I think quality of life is something that we’ve kind of always put on the front burner. We try to make decision based on things we feel passionate about, and it hasn’t led us astray so far, so we are going to keep the ball rolling.”

One of the “deliverables” expected of MLR’s new Director will be fund-raising—the goal is to see the non-profit bring in $2 million in the next three years, said Board president Tom Johnson at Tuesday’s meeting. McClain, who rose above three other final candidates to get the position, said that he built corporate partnerships during his time there. He said he was able to grow that line of income to just under a million dollars a year, “which is pretty significant in that it took a revenue line that was nonexistent before and build that to one of our top producing lines [of income].”

He talked of “weatherproofing,” MLR’s funding sources. He says “in the nonprofit world there’s a lot of organizations that perhaps due to size or structure only derive revenue from one source…but if there’s any volatility or fluctuation in the mar-

Matt McClain will join Mammoth Lakes Recreation as the new Executive Director. Keyplace, it’s going to impact [the organization] greatly. By diversifying revenue streams, you can better weather stormy peri-

He’s got some ideas for diversifying, in the broader sense.

“I think one of the areas I’d love to explore is that Mammoth Lakes, like a lot of resort communities, has a large Hispanic population, and I think they bring a lot of vibrance and color but a lot of times they get excluded or disenfranchised from opportunities in the community. In Mammoth, they’ve had a lot of suc-

cess in some areas, in some of the rec leagues, and Ski P.E. as well, I’d love to be able to figure out if we’re building these assets. Let’s make sure everyone in town is benefitting and participating.”

He also floated the idea of work-

ing with those in the arts and culture sector to encourage a storytelling series (à la The Moth podcast).

“What if we had some sort of spe-

cial engagement where Latino community members come in, sharing stories both in English and Span-

ish, that would be such a rich event ... not just to empower that portion of the community within Mammoth, but [it would] go a long way towards breaking down walls and doing some cultural sharing.”

McClain hopes to be in town and moving into his new position by August, but look for him at the next Mammoth Lakes Trail Days event on July 8-9 (hopefully, he says, he’ll be able to make it up to do some meet-

ing and greeting).

In the interim, before McClain moves up, “what I’m hoping to do is to start working as soon as possible,” said Board president Tom Johnson, and Rich Boccia, current Executive Director, and start crafting a transition plan—say, “Here’s what we want to accomplish, and hit that ground running so we’re not incurring too much down time if any.”

Welcome home, Matt.

OH YEAH? HOW MUCH?
By Rea

The Board of Directors of Mam-

moth Lakes Recreation (MLR), minus Shields Richardson and Drea Perry, voted to appoint a new Executive Director, Matt McClain, at its meeting on Tuesday, June 27. McClain’s proposed compensation of $130,000 per year (as well as benefits), is “higher than we were certainly compensating our last Executive Director” Rich Boccia, said Board President Tom Johnson. “It’s higher than the number we ended the process with. But it became very clear, very early during the search, that any can-

”

[It’s] Higher than we were certainly compensating our last Executive Director.

-Tom Johnson, MLR Board President

The goal, said Johnson, is to have MLR bring in $2 million in fundraising ef-

forts outside of Measures R and U funding in the next three years.

“One of our main focuses was making sure we got a candidate who could measure up to that goal. None of the candidates we talked to even batted an eye at that number, and had been involved in fundraising efforts much larger than that. We are very excited to bring Matt (McClain) on.”

McClain was selected as a result of headhunting by an Executive Search Consultant company called The Forest Group. The Forest Group charged MLR $21,000 for its services. John-

son told The Sheet in an email on Thursday that MLR got “tremendous value out of the Forest Group, and the due diligence that it afforded us (both in terms of the broad scope of the search and the vetting/refer-

cencing of our final candidates) was really important to the integrity of the search process.”

Johnson said at the Board meeting that the process took about a month and produced four finalist candi-

dates, of which McClain was the best. Two of those candidates were flown to Mammoth (another visited but did not have to fly) and “entertained” for two days, said Johnson. The cost of flying was about $1,200, said Emily Woods, Program Admin-

istrator for MLR.

“Each candidate also met the full Board in closed session and gave a presentation on fundraising,” said Johnson, adding that McClain had “the whole tool kit when it comes to sales & marketing.”

Board mem-

der David Page called hiring McClain a “great leap forward for us.”

As to his salary, Board member Teri Stehlik said “Yeah, it’s a big number but I would say if we were hiring an Executive Direc-

tor at a lesser number that did not have the expe-

rience he had, we’d have to be hiring another person. We’re filling a lot of areas with fundraising and a director (in one).”

“I know the number is kind of big but I’m not shocked by it based on what’s out there,” said Heather Schaubmeyer. “I think he’s going to bring the energy that we need to the next level.”

“When we look at the compensa-

tion sets we were dealing with out-

side our town and this region, this is very much a median kind of pack-

age,” said Johnson. The package was “commensurate with the goal we’ve set ourselves, and we feel we have the candidate who is up to the task of raising that money, and scaling the organization over the next three years to meet those goals.”

The Board voted 5-0 to approve McClain’s contract with MLR as well a “mutually developed list of organi-

zational deliverables” with the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

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John Nordlinger has wide shoulders and the thick hands of a life-long climber. His calves are cut and sinewed from countless miles on trails. One room in his home in Bishop is filled with climbing and backpacking gear.

But, Nordlinger, 53, can’t lift his arms for a handshake and while he can walk, he doesn’t trust his balance. He has been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease following an ice climbing accident in December 2015. He’s convinced the accident led to the ALS.

Gehrig, in his infamous July 4, 1939 speech to the crowd at Yankee Stadium, said he’d suffered a “bad break.” For anyone suffering from ALS, bad break would appear to be an under-statement.

Nordlinger needs financial help with medical bills and caregiving, or at least to die with dignity. A retired Sergeant in the US Army National Guard, his claim for disability with the Veteran Affairs Administration was denied on June 26 because he didn’t contract the disease while he served.

He’s applied to In-Home Supportive Services that provides caregivers, paid by the state, but there’s a 45-day wait.

John’s father had ALS in the 1980s; as his primary caregiver John became intimate with the disease. On June 2, he applied for Social Security Disability, but the paperwork takes 4-6 months to get an answer.

MediCal and Covered California are moving at a glacial pace. Barbara and David from Covered California have called Nordlinger to see how he’s feeling and if there’s anything they can do for him while waiting for approval for some assistance. He said he’ll probably be dead by the time the paperwork is approved by any of the four agencies.

“The delays are prolonging my pain and suffering,” Nordlinger said.

He intends to take his own life. Physician assisted suicide was made legal by California voters in 2015, but Big Pharma is not making it easy for Nordlinger. Maybe they’re afraid of losing a customer. According to an article from March 2015 by United Press International, the drug used for assisted suicide, Seconal has increased in price from $200 in 2009 to $1,500 in 2015. Valeant Pharmaceuticals doubled the price when California passed the law. It now costs $3,000.

Nordlinger’s primary physician, Dr. Tom Boo described that as he knows it, more than 80-percent of insurance in California including MediCal will cover the costs of Seconal, but MediCal is pointing at Covered California to pay for the unique needs and vice-versa. Boo added that acquiring the medication can be difficult with only a few to no doses available at any one time.

Nordlinger spent his savings to pursue his dream of becoming a filmmaker, studying at the University of Southern California after years as a Lead Program Manager for Microsoft and Technical Director for the Oracle Corporation. He said he wanted to spend time in Eastside hiking, climbing and writing. He has no pension.

He was ice climbing in December 2015, belaying his partner, in Lee Vining Canyon when a mailbox-sized chunk of ice hit him, and almost instantly, his right arm was paralyzed. While hiking the John Muir Trail in September 2016, he said he had a hard time stuffing his backpack. At the end of the trip, he went down Mount Whitney’s Mountaineer’s Route and realized how unstable and off balance he was. When his speech started to slur, he knew it wasn’t good. He was diagnosed with ALS in May 2017.

Boo explained there is no literature or scientific study to prove the causation between nerve damage and ALS, but there is an undeniable coincidence between the time of the accident and the diagnosis.

The disease is progressing quickly with Nordlinger. When interviewed on Friday, June 25, he said the symptoms of loss of motor control worsen every day. He slurs his speech and needs his devoted assistant Molly Peterson to interpret for him.

Boo explained that ALS progresses at different rates but eventually everyone with the disease loses motor nerve function and they can’t walk, talk, swallow or even breath. Respiratory failure is the most common cause of death. Nordlinger grew up on the border of Massachusetts and New Hampshire and earned degrees in philosophy, and computer science.

Nordlinger moved to Bishop in September 2015 and joined Inyo County Search and Rescue, now he just wants to live his last days comfortably.

He said he’s not in pain in the conventional sense, but there’s an “under-current of pain” and he’s so weak. He went hiking at the beginning of June and took a header that was recently mended by Dr. Michael Dillon. The pain of having someone dig around in his head was not as bad as the ALS, says Nordlinger.

“It’s a suffering I can’t describe.”

But, it’s not all nerve damage and bureaucratic bullshit for John. He said he’s rarely alone and hasn’t gone a day without eating since he became debilitated. Local friends and St. Vincent de Paul Society have helped with daily living.

Peterson said, “There are a lot of silver linings, John’s sense of humor is one of them, the local community support is another.” The eggplant parmesan at Perry’s Italian Restaurant in Bishop is fueling Nordlinger through the tougher times.

A recent GoFundMe campaign raised $25,000 in just four days. Nordlinger’s mischievous smile grew from ear to ear and he said the GoFundMe money will go toward continuing care and substances like cannabis, oxycodone and cocaine if conditions warrant, although he adds, “I’d have an easier time finding a snow leopard in Bishop.”

To help Nordlinger with expenses or to throw a big party go to, g0fundme.com/johnnordlinger.
OBITUARIES

MICHAEL LEVINE
1939-2017

By Lunch

M ichael Levine, the curmudgeon of Swall Meadows with the heart of gold, passed away recently. He was 77 years old. Levine was an avid outdoorsman and longtime, locally-based employee of the United States Forest Service. According to Rick Fears, who graduated from the same high school as Levine (Hicksville High School, Hicksville, New York), he and Michael bonded over their mutual love of ham radio and became lifelong friends.

In fact, their original call signs were just one letter different. Michael’s was K2INE while Rick’s was K2IE. Later, Michael would apply this passion in his work for the Forest Service, creating an innovative backcountry radio system. According to District 2 Supervisor Fred Stump, who ad- journed the Supervisors’ June 6 meeting in honor of Levine, it is a system “that the Inyo is still using today with some additions.”

Michael, who was born in Brooklyn, never lost the accent despite his many years removed from New York. Long-time friend Darrell Menning observed, “He was a bit of a curmudgeon … He probably wouldn’t be impressed with us coming here.”

Michael’s accent and his humorous comments about the town in which he lived paid off. “He would always grumble about The Village at Mammoth and how you had to pay for parking even though he never actually went there.”

-Valaya Gaudet

Of the photo included in this obit- uary, Valaya said that when she showed Michael the photo, “I told him he looked presidential. He said he hated it.”

Brian Gaudet recalled that some- times, when neighbors would in- evitably cross paths, a conversational circle would get created, and Michael would grow impatient if Gaudet and friend Wally Woolfenden (a geologist by trade) got into involved scientific discussions.

Gaudet said Levine carried an air horn with him on his walks and if he got too impatient with Brian and Wally, he’d start blowing the horn. He was a char- acter.

As Donald Day wrote, “I too would like to ex- press my sadness at the passing of a very special man. I am glad I usually stopped to talk to him when I saw him on his ski pole-aided walks around the neighbor- hood. I enjoyed his presence at the Fire Department BBQs and appreciated his participation and contribution to the Fire Safe Council.”

Menning is organizing a memorial service for Levine, tentatively sched- uled for Saturday, September 9. We’ll have more information on that as the date gets closer.

Michael is survived by a sister, Fran, who lives in Florida.

“... though he never actually went there.”

Michael Levine.

Robert “Ron” Funk
1926-2017

By Bodine

T he former co-owner and pub- lisher of the Inyo Register and Mono Herald, Robert D. “Ron” Funk passed away at his home in Santa Barbara on May 12. He was 91.

Ron came from a family of news- papermen and reporters. Born in Glen- dale, 1926, his grandfather Samuel McCulre owned the Glendale News-Press, and his father, Jacob “Jake” Funk was that paper’s general manager. In 1932, McCulre sold the News-Press and bought the Santa Monica Outlook.

In 1944, Ron was drafted into the US Navy. In 1946, Ron volunteered for duty aboard the USS Mt. McKinley, the flagship for Operation Crossroads, the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll.

In 1950, Ron earned a degree in jour- nalism from Stanford University and went to work for the United Press news agency on the same day the Korean War broke out, June 25. He worked the Los Angeles and Hawaii bureaus. Ron met Ann Willrich in 1952, and the two married a year later. The couple had four children: Jonathan (Jake), Christine, Mason (Mac), and Carl. Ron’s father asked him to come work at The Outlook as assistant managing editor. Over the next 24 years, Ron eventually became editor in chief, and the paper and staff won 42 awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association, including Best Editorial (all dailies) in 1973 under his leadership. Ron’s older brother, Deane was general manager and publisher of the newspaper. Ron served as chairman of the California Editors Conference in 1961, chairman of the California Freedom of Information Committee in 1976, and chairman of the Southern California United Press Editors Conference in 1977.

In the late 1970s, Ron began suffer- ing from severe asthma attacks and doctors recommended he move away from the coast and head for drier ground. Ron and the family settled in Genoa, NV and managed The Prospec- tor, a paper owned by Outlook. The Outlook sold in 1983 and he and his brother bought Chalfant Press in Bish- op, which published the Inyo Register, The Mono Herald and The Bridgeport Chronicle Union. The two sold Chalf- ant Press in 2002.

Ron is survived by his sister Elinor Urdstadt, his four children, his son-in- law Jay, daughter-in-law Janine, and seven grandchildren. Ann passed away in February 2015. Donations in Ron’s memory can be made to the Santa Cruz Island Foundation (scifounda- tion.org).
Q: Some Mammoth real estate agents are telling me that the big winter and the Ski Area sale are driving up local real estate prices. But I feel like the conditions are similar to 2006. And we know what happened after that. Where is the market in your eyes?

A: While the conditions may be similar there are some stark differences. There is no doubt that the big winter and the potential merger of ski resorts that include Mammoth have created some buzz in the market. The similarities to 2006 are uncanny — big winters mixed with ownership change and all the hope that this was going to be some real upward movement. Mammoth does have a history of boom and bust. It was part of the California gold rush in the 1800s. And the migratory native Americans who came here in the summer probably had their plentiful and not-so-plentiful years too. And as long as I have lived here the powers-that-be have been trying to “smooth out” the local economy. Seasonality is simply the nature of the place.

So let’s look at what makes 2017 different. I may sound like a broken record but the one critical thing to understand about today’s Mammoth real estate values is that they have only rebounded to ~70% of the mid-2000s. Some more and some less. The Mono County Assessor recognizes the spring of 2006 as the peak of local real estate values. There might have been some really peak sales beyond that, but this was generally the peak in the aggregate. The Starwood ownership brought great expectations. But it didn’t last.

Unlike most of California, especially most of the coastal communities, values in Mammoth and Mono County for the past 18-24 months have remained stagnant at about 60-70% of the 2006 values. But in the last six months there has been some real upward movement. I can make educated guesses as to why. The 2012-2015 drought years did not help us out. The condos offered for short term rentals got crushed on revenue during that period. Even the summers weren’t that much fun with very little water in our creeks and lakes and all of the vegetation turning brown and burning.

The “Mammoth Malaise” didn’t help much either. Ownership of the Ski Area by private equity interests did nothing for the ski experience or the community. Few entities can thrive under that type of management. The Economic Crisis of the late 2000s and the drought simply made things worse. The current potential to move away from the private equity style of management is enough to significantly move real estate values in the whole Eastern Sierra.

Another difference is inventory. Inventory has a couple of faces in the local real estate market. In the handful of years prior to and including 2006 there were hundreds of new units brought to the market, including the condo hotel properties, numerous Intrawest condo projects, as well as the completion of Snowcreek 5 and Snowcreek 6 (The Lodges) a lot of new single family construction. The market absorbed a significant amount of inventory in a relatively short period of time at increasingly higher prices. But in the same number of years prior to today there have been almost no new properties built; a negligible percentage compared to 2006. There have been dozens of custom homes built by individual owners. These don’t typically carry much risk in the market; these are affluent owners and most are built without financing. There are also the homes in the “Grey” subdivisions. But as most properties have been selling well below replacement value, development has stood still. So very little new inventory has become available. Inventory is the supply side of the real estate market. Buyers buying is the demand side. Realtors love it when there is good supply of both; it means lots of transactions. The available inventory (supply) in some of those years in the early 2000s was incredibly low. Some people were even flipping the pre-purchased Intrawest units. But sale volumes were high despite the low inventory. Statistics show that this was true in most of the nation during that period.

The local market collapsed in the summer of 2005. It was somewhat exhausted. But the October announcement of Starwood Capital purchasing the Ski Area launched it another 10-20% in the following 18 months. And there was plenty of inventory for the buyers to choose from.

So here we are in 2017 and the inventory is low. Significantly lower than a year ago. And sales volumes are up. And there is buyer demand. The rising values are also enticing some current owners to become sellers. Many new listings are owners who purchased in the mid-2000s when values were peaked. They are apparently seeing it as good time to sell. Their accountant may “make it work” for them.

But so far the demand is outstripping the supply. The normal “inventory build” in the market that peaks at Labor Day is not happening. This fall will be interesting. Many of the new listings are getting sold, and rather quickly. As values rise there will be more owners becoming interested in selling. This isn’t like 2006, it is more like 2000-01. It is an interesting equilibrium, certainly one worth watching. (As a note; the 2000-01 timeframe saw the stock market crash. Real estate values in Mammoth almost doubled.)

And who knows what will happen when the new KSL/Aspen company is finally formed and the pre-IPO hyperbole begins. And what if some truly meaningful development is proposed or proceeds here in Mammoth? (Remember “The Place To Be Is About To Be”?).
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- Game room, powder room, his & hers office, laundry room
- Ski-in / ski-out mudroom
- Four-car garage and parking for eight vehicles
- 4,700 sq ft

Tammy Hooper
760-937-7300
Tammy@RockStarRealEstate.com
www.RockStarRealEstate.com
I'M AT A PAYPHONE TRYING TO CALL HOME ...

By Lunch

I'm at a pay phone trying to call home
All of my change I spent on you
Where are the plans we made for two
Where are the times gone, baby
it's all wrong

The pop group Maroon 5 has given payphones a bad name.

This week, The Sheet will give you a story about payphones with a happier ending.

Karen Mitchell was a college student at Cal State Northridge, heading out to a party with some friends when she saw a cute guy using the payphone outside the 7-11.

Mitchell, who acknowledged she was voted “biggest flirt” in her high school class, leaned out the window and offered the guy a stick of gum and invited him to the party.

He couldn’t make the party, but he did get a phone number, a date the next night, and a future wife.

The couple was married two years later, ironically, on July 11.

Gary and Karen Mitchell now have three grown children, and a second grandchild is on the way.

They have been second homeowners in Mammoth for a decade now. As Karen explains, the family used to visit her parents (who owned a home in Truckee) for ski vacations every Christmas and Easter in Lake Tahoe, but once the kids reached a certain age, the family wanted a place of its own, as well as the ability to invite friends.

“We were vacationing in Mammoth and snowed in at the Village one year,” she says. “It was snowing so much we decided not to ski one day and take a look at real estate … It was kind of a fluke.”

When they saw the Gray Fox unit across from the Westin Monache, they bought it.

Karen says she skied Mammoth in her youth, particularly when she was a member of her college ski club. She taught her husband to ski, but maybe taught is too strong a word.

By his recollection, she took him to the top of the mountain and then ordered him to follow her down.

As Karen says, her favorite part of coming to Mammoth is parking the car and leaving it in the garage for the entire weekend. “You can walk to the gondola [for skiing], walk to the Village … and the kids had the flexibility and independence to do their own thing so we didn’t have to drive them around.”

A favorite dining spot for large family gatherings: Gomez’s.

A favorite time of year to visit: The week before Christmas. They always made a point of coming up for Night of Lights.

Karen, a CPA, had just taken a retirement buyout in 2006 when Wellpoint was acquired by Anthem, so she skied 40 days a year for the first three years the family owned the place.

In recent years, as the family has become more dispersed and busy, they’ve started renting the unit out. The Christmas holiday rental pays for the property taxes. “It’s a desirable unit. It rents easily,” said Karen.

The kids don’t want their parents to sell the place. Then again, none of them really has the time to use it much anymore.

Their eldest daughter, Jenna, 27, is expecting her second child. She also has a busy career and lives seven hours away in San Diego.

Nicole, 21, is heading to Thomas Jefferson Law School this fall so she will clearly be unavailable for the next three years.

Son Will, 24, might be the most eligible to use the place, as he will graduate from Chico State in December, but as Karen says, she and her husband are closing in on retirement (Gary owns his own law practice but hopes to retire in two years) and are looking to simplify their lives a bit.

More information and photos of the property can be found on the facing page.
BIG LOVE.

ONLY TWO NEW HOMES REMAIN FOR SALE. Gray Bear is Mammoth's newest residential fairway home neighborhood at Sierra Star. Timeless and sturdy California Craftsman architecture. Highly coveted nightly rental income option. Ideally located within walking distance to The Village at Mammoth shops, restaurants and gondola.

From the $1,300,000s. GrayBearMammoth.com

Tammy Hooper

760-937-7300
Tammy@RockStarRealEstate.com
www.RockStarRealEstate.com
Another significant difference is that buyers in the condo hotel segment have had to be cash buyers since 2010-11. Fannie Mae essentially redefined conventional financing in most of the condo hotel segment. They deemed vacation nightly rental properties to be too risky. A significant volume of the properties foreclosed on in the past REO cycle were condo hotel units. They were not producing sufficient revenue to make the payments. They were also purchased for some pretty high prices—as much as twice what buyers are paying today.

But that segment of the market has changed dramatically since then. Today the condo hotel units are producing solid streams of income. They certainly had not “matured” to this point in 2006. If they had, the Mammoth defaults would have been minimized. But most of today’s condo hotel owners have no loans. Many “found” the condo hotel properties while searching for “returns” in the recent low interest rate environment. That segment of the Mammoth real estate market is far more stable. But that segment of the market has changed dramatically since then. Today the condo hotel units are producing solid streams of income. They certainly had not “matured” to this point in 2006. If they had, the Mammoth defaults would have been minimized. But most of today’s condo hotel owners have no loans. Many “found” the condo hotel properties while searching for “returns” in the recent low interest rate environment. That segment of the Mammoth real estate market is far more stable.

The increasing popularity of Mammoth in the summer is changing many dynamics also. Summer and summer is changing more. Not yet. Selling prices don’t warrant development. The estate market is far more stable. But that segment of the market has changed dramatically since then. Today the condo hotel units are producing solid streams of income.

“Own a piece of your favorite Mountain” and own and on. There may even be a program that rewards certain privileges for certain levels of stock ownership. Own 20,000 shares and you get free tie-down service for your jet at Mammoth Airport. Years ago having a season pass was worth real bragging rights. Now pass holders will have the option to say they are part owner too. That should generate a new level of enthusiasm. And as we learned in the last cycle, “selling real estate is the transfer of enthusiasm.”

If we look at Mammoth’s boom and bust history we know there is significant upside potential in today’s Mammoth real estate market. Where it really goes is dependent upon many factors including the national and global economies, snow, and what the Ski Area’s new ownership really does. And, if there is unfavorable geologic activity. Starwood clearly set us up for disappointment. Hopefully the new Ski Area enterprise doesn’t.

The old real estate guys that worked in my company in the 1990s and 2000s always said you knew the peak of the market had been reached when the local Realtors are buying properties from other local Realtors. That happened in the mid-2000s. And I don’t see it happening now. I’ll let you know when it starts happening. Happy Fourth of July!!

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of REMAX of Mammoth. For other timely real estate information you can go to www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com. You can also sign-up for his bi-weekly real estate newsletter. For legal, accounting, or construction advice, please seek out the appropriate professional.

3 BEDROOM / 3 BATH / 2-CAR GARAGE. Fine quality custom townhome with views and privacy. Beautiful gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, hickory cabinets, stainless steel appliances and hardwood floor. Handsome stone gas log fireplace graces the living room. Private spa on deck. Approximately 1,700 square feet of living space.

A California mountain home in a private enclave adjacent to the Village at Mammoth gondola, shops and restaurants.

GRAYFOX #6 $1,050,000

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www.RockStarRealEstate.com
DOING THE DIRTY WORK
Town of Mammoth Lakes scrambles to get plants installed before July 4 holiday

By Rea

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is trying to spruce up Main Street and Old Mammoth Road for the upcoming holiday weekend, but a big winter, a glut of projects and limited staff has made for a short time frame to get the job done, said Public Works Director Grady Dutton.

Bob Hutchison, owner of Oaktree Home Furnishings, told The Sheet this week that he never suggested tulips as a way to add color on Old Mammoth Road (See “Botany of Desire, June 24). He said tulips would be “long gone” by the time the major tourist season hits, as they are some of the first plants to bloom in the spring. Further, he said, bulbs are only planted in the fall, not in the height of summer. “My father was a master gardener and I’ve grown up with plants all my life, and that’s why I took great offense when somebody said we recommended planting tulips,” said Hutchison on Monday, June 26. The Sheet quoted Dutton last week as saying Oaktree had suggested tulips as a way to add color to Town parkways. Dutton told Hutchison he was “misquoted.”

Dutton was not misquoted.

Town Council authorized spending up to $50,000 on landscaping improvements for Main Street (Highway 203) at its meeting on June 17. Additional monies for beautification efforts on Old Mammoth Road will be paid from a Business Assessment District (which funds, among other things, landscape maintenance in the District).

Hutchison said that Engineering Assistant Sierra Shultz had approached him on Tuesday, June 20 to ask about ordering plants for business owners along Old Mammoth Road and Main Street. The next day (Wednesday), a letter was sent out to business owners on Old Mammoth Road. That letter indicated that Assistant Civil Engineer Jamie Robertson had taken over the project and that business owners could have plants purchased for them if they agreed to plant and water them, and asked for orders by the next day (Thursday) at 2 p.m.

The plan was to have orders in to Oaktree by Friday, June 23 and plants delivered to businesses on Tuesday, June 27. Six businesses initially took advantage of the offer, with three additional businesses signing up on June 23, Hutchison told The Sheet. “The flyer that was distributed never got my approval as to the contents.”

“I explained to [Schultz] that I am not sure I would have the plants for this size of project with less than 10 days left, as all my plants come from Idaho and I go get them and bring them back. The growers in Southern California don’t grow for high altitude plants.”

Hutchison took off this week to Idaho to complete the Town’s order—he brought back Stella del Oro (a day lily), several species of Salvia (sage with purple blooms), and Nepeta (otherwise known as Catmint, another purple flower) on Thursday, June 29. “It was like Mary Poppins’ handbag” as the plants came out of Hutchison’s fully-packed moving truck, said one Oaktree employee, laughing.

Nobody disputes that going local is best. “It’s just a shame that the Town, in my opinion, did not plan better for this,” said Hutchison on Monday. “Everybody knew we had a record snow pack and water year … people could have started planning [early] and figured, ‘What kind of plants do we recommend?’ Everybody’s trying to scramble and cover their butt at the last minute.’

Hutchison reiterated the “Ps” of success: “Proper Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance.”

Local resident Dan McConnell had a few “Ps” of his own to suggest to The Sheet: “Poor Plant Planning.”

Dutton told The Sheet the reason the Town was going to Hutchison was to “keep it local” instead of going outside of Mammoth for plants.

But Hutchison, whose nursery is relatively small, said “Everything happened so quickly … You can’t just snap your fingers and have plants here in town. My plants all come from Idaho, and I go get them and bring them back. The growers in Southern California don’t grow for high altitude plants.”

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Dutton told The Sheet that in the weeks leading up to the holiday weekend, the Town had prioritized getting the Lakes Basin open in conjunction with the Forest Service. The Town’s engineering staff is also working on a new Police Station, a $3 million Main Street sidewalk installation, a downtown revitalization project, the Walk, Bike, Ride effort, development projects like the proposed Grocery outlet and just completed the Environmental Impact Report and preliminary design on the proposed Ski Area Ski Lift Facility in Mammoth Creek Park West, said Dutton. “We have a lot of things on the list,” said Dutton. “We have three people on our shop staff. People in maintenance and myself all dealing with it. We’re doing the best we can.”

Lindsay Swinger, who owns Sierra Nevada Landscape, thinks planting the parkways and medians is the wrong way to go. “I told all my clients on Main Street, there’s no irrigation. What’s the point of planting without irrigation? I said, ‘Lay bark, it’s better than dirt.’”

Swinger said she’s been advocating for the Town to enter into a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to mulch the slash piles produced by tree thinning. “We should have put that $50,000 towards our [proposed] Community Center and Town should be collaborating with the Forest Service and all the slash piles around the Knolls would supply chipped bark for all the medians. Why can’t we do that?”

USFS Public Information Officer Deb Schweizer said that if someone wanted to take the Forest Service’s piles, “chip them at their expense, and use the mulch for any legal purpose, it would be just fine.”

“Plants are not going to survive at 8,000 feet,” said Swinger. “I’ve been a damn hobo native they are, they’re never going to make it in those medians.”

Swinger said she offered her services as a botany consultant to Sierra Schultz, but was never contacted to provide advice to the Town. Schultz did not return a request for comment about that, and Dutton did not confirm nor deny this statement.

“Screw planting plants,” said Swinger. “It’s been 91 [degrees] the last three weeks. Bark! Encourage all the property owners to make sure they’re doing the best they can,” said Dutton. “We have three people in maintenance and myself all dealing with it. We’re doing the best we can.”

Dutton said that he did not currently have details on the amount of money being spent to beautify Main Street, and that the Town was also trying to resurrect a portion of the irrigation system on that stretch of road (sprinklers were operating Thursday).

“Everyone has its opinion of whether it’s worth it or not,” said Dutton. “I’m just here to do what I’m asked to do.”
BIG LOVE.

Tammy Hooper and Mammoth Realty Group are the Eastern Sierra’s expert guides to mountain real estate, since 1998.

❤ Seller high-exposure marketing
❤ Real estate staging
❤ Buyer first-time home purchase programs

DIAMOND RUN #1  $439,900
Newer townhome-style condominium on Town Trolley route. Convenient downtown location.
1 BR / 1.75 BA / 1-CAR GAR / APPROX 1,030 SQ. FT.

20 PINE KNOLL PLACE  $799,000
Mountain Chalet near Eagle Lodge...only a ski cut traverse to the lift from the backyard. Views and location.
3 BR / 2.75 BA / 1-CAR GAR / APPROX 2,200 SQ. FT.

396 JUNIPER DRIVE, HILTON CREEK  $899,000
Rustic residential estate with 8 cabins on 3.35 acres. Crowley Lake and Sierra Nevada views, nestled creek side with year around water. Once in a lifetime opportunity.
SEVEN 1 BR CABINS / ONE 3 BR RESIDENCE / 2-CAR GAR STORAGE SHED / 3.5 ACRES

420 PINECREST AVENUE  $635,000
Upgraded classic mid-century Mammoth cabin centrally located. Sunny southwest facing view on quiet street. Ready for first-time home buyer or second home owner.
3 BR / 2.5 BA / BONUS STORAGE / APPROX 1,570 SQ. FT.

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Big Love... ski, golf, bike and fish from your Mammoth home base camp!

Best location to everything Mammoth, on the trolley route. Sunny, spacious three-bedroom + loft townhome-style home with mountain views. Upgrades include granite, natural stone, hardwood floors, stainless appliances, private Jacuzzi, nest remote FAU system, gas log fireplace, extra storage, laundry and much more. Excellent rental potential. Low HOA.

Mammoth Gateway Village / 3771 Main Street #7
3 BEDROOM + LOFT / 2.5 BATHS / 2-CAR GARAGE / Approx. 1,995 sq. ft.
OFFERED AT $695,000

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GARRI LAMBERT LISTER
760-937-7300
Tammy@RockStarRealEstate.com
www.RockStarRealEstate.com
Help Wanted

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

- Housekeepers M $13.50 - 14.50
- Apprentice Carpenters M/B $18-28
- Journeymen Carpenters M/B $28-34

Call 760-924-0523 or 760-873-8599. Send resumes to www.SierraEmployment.com

Bleu Handcrafted Foods is Now HIR-ING! We are looking for someone to join our amazing food family! Our passion is for food, great customer service and working with a team in a pos-itive work environment. Full or part-time positions are available. Please call 760-709-6808 to speak with Theresa or e-mail us at theresabrocia@yahoo.com. Available. Inquire by calling 760-709-6689.

Mammoth Lakes. A full time position has arisen for an experienced kitchen person who is passionate about food, great customer service and working with a team in a positive work environment. Full or part-time positions are available. Please call 760-709-6808 to speak with Theresa or e-mail us at theresabrocia@yahoo.com. Available. Inquire by calling 760-709-6689.

Tonik NOW HIRING Front Desk Associates and Housekeepers. Competitive pay plus benefits. Please email marmothonline@gmail.com or call 760-934-2415.

Carpenter Residential Framing Residential framing project. Some Experi-ence and personal tools necessary. Please contact Brian at 760-920-3648 during business hours.

Now Hiring Delivery Driver/Casher & Pizza Mammoth is hiring full and part time. Apply online at www.zipizza.com, or by email - mamothonline@gmail.com.

Footloose Sports seeks FT, year-round office assistant. Upbeat, multi-tasker with good communica-tion skills. Email resumes to footloosesports.com. We are looking for fun, friendly people who enjoy fashion. Stop by, say hi, and pick up an application.

Eastern Sierra Transit Authority is seeking DRIVERS for the Mammoth Lakes and June Lake areas. Must be able to drive long dis-tances and have clean driving record. Training for a Commercial License, Passenger Endor-sements and Airbrake Certificate is avail-able.

Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasserie has the following posi-tions available:
- Restaurant: Breakfast Server, Connell 934.4200 ext.223, or Ann Ward ext. 221

Mammoth Mountain is seeking for Part-Time Admin Assistant for the spring/summer season. Must have retail, people and organizational skills. Please call 760-704-2474 or bring your resume to Second Street Leather in the Village at Mammoth.

East Side Bake Shop is hiring counter associates for the spring/summer season. Located in McGee, please call 760-914-2056. Restaurant experienced preferred. June Lake inn Restaurant Hiring PT. (3 to 4 nights) Bartender, exp. & FT. evening Dinner Hostess/Bartender. Nov. 23-Oct. Call Candy (760) 848-7774 or (760) 914-1603 SHARED HOUSING AVAILABLE

Full Time Position

Seeking responsible, outgoing hospitality/ travel the world! Experienced in Quick-book, retail, people and customer service. Must have previous experience preferred. Full-time, year-round position with excellent pay and health benefits. Please pick-up an application at the shop to submit with your resume, or email your resume to: Andrea at mammothfirststreetleather.com.

Sierra Nevada Resort & SPA

Housekeepers ($11)

Catering

Dishwashers

Maintenance Worker

Please complete an application at 164 Old Mammoth Rd. or online at www.mammothresort.com.

Hotel seeking front desk agent/night auditor position is available. Must be able to speak English and have excellent communication skills. Positions are available immediately. Apply in person at Bronze Bear Outpost in Lee Vining or call 760-647-8455 or 760-647-8490. Some housing available.

Looking for an energetic, enthusias-tic person to work for a local non-profit organization. Must have retail, people and organizational skills. Please call 760-920-2474 or bring your resume to Second Chance Thrift Shop at 126 Old Mammoth Road and ask for the manager.

Mammoth Mountain is seeking for Maintenance with office duties needed for a reservation company in town. Vehicular weight must. Please send resume to info@mountrainbackrentals.com.

Mammoth Brewing Company is immedi-ately hiring for warehouse/delivery driv-ers and beer packers. Must have good driving record and be able to get a Class B license within 60 days of employment. Pay starts at $15 for packers and $16 for drivers. Applying online at mammothbrewing.com.

East Side Bake Shop is hiring counter associates for the spring/summer season. Located in McGee, please call 760-914-2056. Restaurant experienced preferred. June Lake inn Restaurant Hiring PT. (3 to 4 nights) Bartender, exp. & FT. evening Dinner Hostess/Bartender. Nov. 23-Oct. Call Candy (760) 848-7774 or (760) 914-1603 SHARED HOUSING AVAILABLE

To create opportunities for our people and strive to bring out the best in each other, MUFG, the parent company of MUFG Union Bank, has launched a new Employee Value Proposition (EVP) that articulates our vision for the future of our business. To us, the EVP is a method to keep our employees engaged, focused and empowered as we build a great business. We are committed to creating a positive and inclusive environment for our people, so they can go above and beyond to deliver superior value for our clients and our business. Equal Opportunity Employ-er/M/F/D/Vet/Disability/Veteran Contact Carolyn Bressler (619)-230-3111 or visit Website.

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Bookkeeping Services Available. Let me keep your books up-to-date and in order while you focus on your business or travel! Experienced in Quick-books, Microsoft Office, Dropbox, Google Docs. Great references available. 805-540- 0902


Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As: Happy Sherpa Skin Care Products

Adrian Moujan

P.O. Box 344

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. The town of Mammoth Lakes has filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on May 30, 2017. This registration number is 2017-0140(6/17, 6/24, 7/1, 7/8)

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As: Fern Creek Lodge in June Lake LLC

Jon Coats

6428, P.O. Box 735

June Lake, CA. 93529

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Co. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on April 7, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on June 20, 2017. File Number 17-12.

2017-0131(6/7, 6/14, 7/1, 7/15, 7/22)

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As: Gallery 158

Tom Okkefe

7453 S. 102nd East (Suite A)

P.O. Box 332

June Lake, CA. 93529

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 1, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on May 12, 2017. File Number 17-100.

2017-0139(6/7, 6/14, 7/1, 7/15, 7/22)

For Rent

Clean, quiet unfurnished studio apartment in Mammoth Slopes, $685 per month. 1 person rate, lease, non-smoking unit, utilities, first, last & security. Call 760-934-9451.

In Mammoth, 3BRD, BBA home with south facing Sherwood views. Spacious, bright, updated, W/D woodstove, forced air, no pets, $2,500/mo. Call/text 760-920-1680.

Room for Rent in Nice Home Mammoth Lakes. Rooms for rent in semi-private bathroom. Walk to Village & Shuttle Utilities Included W/D Internet Mostly Non-Smokers $900 per month 760-965-6715

3 BDR home in Old Mammoth. Very clean, quiet, 4 full beds, pellet stove, forced air, 2.5 ba, great views and terrific sun, deck, quiet, private. $2,500/mo. One-year lease. Contact Paul at 760.914.1716.

Mammoth Lakes 315 sq. ft. $650 Office space, great 2nd floor location w/ view, kitchenette, closet, common bathroom, parking, new carpet/paint. Approx 315 sq. ft. $650/mo. 760-934-8372

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As: 2745 Hwy 158

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is looking to employ

Furniture, Bogner ski clothes, ski's, linen, and housewares. Giant Multiple Family Garage Sale Garage sale June 30-July 2nd 8:30 am

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As: Gone Fishin' in Lee Vining or call 760-647-6465 or 760-647-6404. Some housing available.

Western Sierra Transit Authority, 164 Old Mammoth Rd, is seeking for Front Desk Operator/night auditor position is available. Must be able to speak English and have excellent communication skills. Positions are available immediately. Apply in person at Bronze Bear Outpost in Lee Vining or call 760-647-8455 or 760-647-8490. Some housing available.

Looking for an energetic, enthusiastic person to work for a local non-profit organization. Must have retail, people and organizational skills. Please call 760-920-2474 or bring your resume to Second Street Leather in the Village at Mammoth.

East Side Bake Shop is hiring counter associates for the spring/summer season. Located in McGee, please call 760-914-2056. Restaurant experienced preferred. June Lake inn Restaurant Hiring PT. (3 to 4 nights) Bartender, exp. & FT. evening Dinner Hostess/Bartender. Nov. 23-Oct. Call Candy (760) 848-7774 or (760) 914-1603 SHARED HOUSING AVAILABLE

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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Day, 3-6 p.m.
4-7 p.m. off draft beers. $2 off wine. $4 well drinks. $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread. See ad. pg. 39.

Outlaw Saloon.
Monday All Night Happy Hour: 4- Midnight; Tues./Fri 4-6 p.m.
5-7 p.m. Wing Wednesday 50% off all wings; new time!
Thursday 2 Tacos 4-10 p.m.; 6-7 p.m. Happy Hour 40% off.
See ad. pg. 5.

Roberto’s 4-6 p.m. every day.

Authentic 5-6 p.m. daily.

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

Clocktower Cellar
Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily and all day Sunday.
$5 dollar menu items, drink specials.

Petra 5:30-6:30 $22 Bolognese special ($2.50 off wine) $3 off specialty cocktails and food discounts.

Happy Hour @ Sushi Rei.
4-5 p.m. daily.
Half off apps and $5 hand roll specialty.
Sun. dawn-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.

Smoked weekly 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; Saturdays 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.

Black Velvet Coffee’s Happy Hour, from 4-6 p.m. every day.

Morrisson’s Happy Hour Daily 4-6 p.m.

Food Cache Cafe Happy Hour 3:30-6:30 Sunday-Thursday. Street tacos $2.00, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine and house fries.

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

Live music with DJ Onesie @ $5 Kitchen and Cocktails. Starts 9 p.m. (Sat. also).

Joe Gray Jr. tickles the ivories @ Tamarack Lodge (Sat. also). You want to butter up your significant other with a romantic vibe? This is your spot!

Dj’s Rodney O, Science and Zeuz spin at the Village at Mammoth (Sat. also).

Saturday, July 1/
Chris Murphy of the Silver Mountain String Band plays East Side Bake Shop in Mc Gee. Starts 6 p.m.

Complicating Animals play Black Velvet Coffee. 6-8 p.m.

Martin Gerschwitz at the Gallery at Two Lakes. 4-7 p.m. Tickets: $10 at door.

Sunday, July 2/
Chris Murphy of the Silver Mountain String Band plays East Side Bake Shop in Mc Gee. 12-3 p.m. Lunch Show.

Good Medicine plays The Mobil Mart in Lee Vining. Free live music from 4-7 p.m. See ad, p. 14.
Upcoming

TOWN STUFF

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. Greased pole climbing is a highlight.

Sunday, July 2 | Village at Mammoth Summer Movie Series. 8:30 p.m. Lego Batman Movie. BYO chair, blanket. It can get chilly.

Monday, July 3 | Mono Basin Historical Society meeting at the Lee Vining Community Center. Potluck: 6 p.m. and program: 7 p.m. featuring slide presentation by Shelly Davis King on “The Native American Face of Bodie.”

Mammoth Valley Radio Observatory Tour. 1 p.m. Contact Dr. Mark Hodges at 760.938.2075 ext. 109.

Tuesday, July 4 | Mammoth Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, begins 7 a.m. Location: Mammoth Mall parking lot next to the old Charthouse on Old Mammoth Road. $10 adults, $6 kids. See ad, p. 11.

Footloose Freedom Mile begins 10:10 a.m. on Old Mammoth Road near Snowcreek golf course. Sign up at Footloose/look for entry form published in this week’s paper. See ad, page 47.

Independence Day Parade begins 11 a.m. on Main Street in Mammoth. See ad, page 4.

Bishop Fireworks Show. 4-10 p.m. Info: 760.873.5863


Minaret Mall parking lot, Mammoth Lakes. See ad, page 44.

UPCOMING

Bridgeport Fourth of July: Pancake breakfast, run, parade, watermelon eating contest, rubber duck race, greased pole climbing, live music.

Pops in the Park with Friends of the Inyo. Try your hands at a crosscut saw at Mammoth Creek Park at about 1:30 p.m.

Grand Opening of new, bigger, awesome space for Second Chance Thrift Store in the Old Ace building next to Vons. 1 p.m.

Wednesday, July 5 | Farmer’s Market in Mammoth Lakes at the Mammoth Luxury Outlet Mall parking lot. 4-7 p.m.


Black Bear hike at Valentine Reserve. Hike and learn about black bears in the Eastern Sierra at Valentine Reserve. 9:30 a.m. Pre-register: carole.lesiter@usc.edu.

July 7-9 | June Lake Summer Theater: Camps: Greased pole climbing is a highlight.

Saturday, July 8 | Intro to birding at Valentine Reserve. Meet in the parking lot and learn to identify birds. 9:30 a.m. Pr-registration required, email carole.lesiter@usc.edu.

Sunday, July 9 | June Lake Triathlon. See sidebar col. Mono County Democratic Committee Meeting in the Ellie Bondol room at the Mammoth Lakes Library. 10:15 a.m. Info: willma88bryce@gmail.com

THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

Despicable Me 3 (PG): Gru meets his long-lost more successful brother Dru who wants to team up with him for one last criminal heist.

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.

Celebrate the Connector!

On Saturday July 1 the Mammoth Lakes Trail System will gather for trail work and to celebrate the grand opening of the Mammoth Rock Trail Connector. It is the first new trail in the Sherwins from the Sherwins Area

Owens River precautions

Due to the high runoff conditions prevailing in the Eastern Sierra, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is currently releasing over 200 cubic feet per second of water into the Lower Owens River from the Los Angeles Aqueduct Intake. These high flows have created conditions that result in fish mortality in the river south of the Aqueduct Intake.

“County staff has been monitoring conditions on the river, and we are observing low oxygen levels due to high flows,” said Water Director Dr. Bob Harrington. “The public is advised to take these precautions when near the Lower Owens River: Avoid the River if strong hydrogen sulfide odors are noticeable.

High flows in the River will contribute to off-channel standing water—ideal mosquitoes breeding habitat—and the public is advised to use insect repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and avoid the river in the early-morning and at dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

Do not swim or float in the Owens River. Even though the Lower Owens River appears slow and calm, there are debris blockages such as downed trees and roots hidden below the surface that can entrap anyone in the river. Choose flat water instead such as Diaz Lake, Klondike Lake or Millpond. Be on the lookout for truck and heavy equipment traffic on the river. Choose flat water instead such as Diaz Lake, Klondike Lake or Millpond. Be on the lookout for truck and heavy equipment traffic on the river. Avoid low-lying routes where road beds may be saturated and soft or dangerously eroded.

June Lake Triathlon

On Saturday, July 8, the June Lake Triathlon will run from the June Lake Swim Beach. Parking will be available at June Mountain Ski area trail work and to celebrate the grand opening of the June Lake Swim Beach, where all races start. The schedule of races is as follows:

7 a.m.: Half Ironman and Aqua-Velo (long course) Races start
8 a.m.: Men’s Olympic Triathlon star 8:05 a.m.: Women’s Olympic Triathlon start
9:30 a.m.: Men’s Sprint Triathlon start 9:05 a.m.: Women’s Sprint Triathlon starts.
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Lunch and festivities 11 a.m.: Sprint Triathlon Awards 11:30 a.m.: Aquabike Race Awards Noon: Kids Race start and Olympic Triathlon Awards
1 p.m.: Kids and Long Course awards For registration information, visit highsierratri.org/race-registration/.

For details about scheduling or to register, visit monarts.org/kids/ camps/ or contact Kendra at kendra@ monarts.org or 760.914.3752.

Free Kids Summer Art Camp

Registration is open for the Mono Arts Council’s free kids summer camp. The first session starts July 1 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 camps run Monday-Friday, camps are scheduled Monday-Wednesday-Friday. This year’s camps include: Amazing Vox, a performance camp, Mosaics, Photography, Robots and Mixed Media, and 4 Copic Books, in which 4 artists create their own comic book. For details about scheduling or to register, visit monarts.org/kids/ camps/ or contact Kendra at kendra@ monarts.org or 760.914.3752.

Badwater Ultra Turns 40

From July 10-12, AdventureCORPS will host the legendary STYR Labs Badwater 135, Ultra-runners from 19 countries will race 135 miles by foot from Badwater, Nevada to Whitney Portal, California. The 135-mile route starts below sea level and rises as high as 5,686 feet. The course traverses three mountain ranges for a total of 14,600 feet of cumulative vertical ascent and 6,100 feet of cumulative descent.

The race will begin in three waves, starting at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 10. This year there are a record number of participants, with 31 women and 69 men.
Notice Inviting Bids

Notice Inviting Bids

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will receive sealed bids for the work shown on the plans entitled:

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

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NEED A LIFT?
New wine bar, tapas joint, coffeeshop to open on Main Street

By Lunch/Giles

W hen your best friend moves out of town for a decade, and then decides to return, you’ve got to figure out a way to make sure they don’t leave again.

Maribeth Kramer’s solution: Start a business together.

Kramer and Elisha Mistretta, with a little construction help from their husbands Jeff Kramer and Ty Seay, are in the midst of renovating the old Grenade snowboard shop on Main Street into a coffeeshop to be called “The Lift” which is expected to open this fall.

As Kramer said this week, she and Elisha had always talked about opening a coffeeshop, and with Trout Town Joe transforming itself into a Mexican restaurant, there’s now a need in June Lake. Maribeth envisions fresh food, a Stellar Brew vibe, and a lot of grab ‘n go stuff in the mornings to get skiers and fishermen on their way.

Then, after a midday siesta, she envisions a 3-7 p.m. “tapas style” apres-ski with beer and wine.

“We don’t want just a coffee shop but a town hub … and we do have the option of indoor and outdoor dining.”

Maribeth has lived in June Lake for approximately 15 years. She fell in love with the area when she came out here for a pro snowboarding event.

Husband Jeff was likewise on the circuit. That’s how they met. And then fell in love when they found themselves neighbors in the Peterson Tract.

What’s interesting is the pull of geography. Jeff has lived in the upstairs apartment above the old Grenade shop three different times in the past 15 years; Maribeth twice. This time, though, they’ve got two kids on the premises: Natalie and Eveanna.

Currently, Jeff (when he’s not working for his wife) works in maintenance at the Heidelberg Inn. Maribeth has managed the June Lake Villager for the past decade.

When the Lift was first approved by the Mono County Planning and Economic Development Commission back in February, there was some dissent in the business community about whether a new hub on the block would detract from other businesses in town. The old “only so many pieces of the pie” sentiment was raised by a few objectors during the planning process.

Sarah and Justin Walsh, owners of June Lake Brewing, said emphatically that more business is better for everyone. “Our tourism increases as more attractions come to town, so everyone gets more pie. If you look at TOT [transient occupancy tax] numbers for the past five years, specifically in June Lake, you’ll see we’re experiencing significant increases in yearly visitation,” said Justin. The numbers don’t lie. In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, District 3, which is primarily comprised of June Lake, brought in $1.3 million in TOT revenue. In 2015-2016, District 3 brought in over $1.7 million in TOT revenue.

Rena McCullough, Chef and Owner at Ohanas, a Hawaiian soul food-themed food truck in June Lake, said it’s great to see buildings that were previously empty be filled with new businesses. She said a vibrant Main Street corridor is good for every business in town because that vibrancy is palpable and compelling to visitors. “There’s this old theory in North [Mono] County that there are only so many pieces of the pie,” said McCullough in March. “It’s great to see people who’ve worked hard in the community, invested, get a chance to start their own business… we should all be able to do that. Every one of us. It’s time to step back, and let these people dream.”
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JULY 1ST - 9TH

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Open Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 10am-4pm
Closed July 4th
Located at the south end of Lee Vining, the LV Cafe has been in limbo for years due to lack of funds. Locals have described it as “shady,” and it has the nickname of “The Talking Taco” because of its status—it was supposed to be a taco stand, but that never materialized. Truth is, it’s just yet another small business shut down by lack of capital.

The building’s owner, Winston Hebert of Mammoth Lakes, acquired the lot in 2003 for $155,000 and originally planned a small sports store. That idea morphed into a drive-thru, and in 2010, Hebert obtained the permits from Mono County for such an establishment. In fact, the LV Cafe is incorporated as a company, but has not yet done any business.

A big challenge early in the process was that there was no water connected to the site, meaning that a costly hookup was required. “That took me a couple years to get the water reconnected with Lee Vining, and I had to get an easement from Southern California Edison, and unfortunately that burned up a couple of valuable years during the boom days when I still had money,” says Hebert.

The original plan for financing the cafe was to sell another property that Hebert owned in the area, but the housing crash took away that option. “I’m still struggling to make a comeback from the recession,” he says.

Hebert says he still has “high hopes” for the LV Cafe after 14 years of struggles and welcomes investors, a trait that Rena McCullough, owner of Ohanas 395, says is essential for running a business in Mono County. “If you want to open a business in Mono County, you need to be persistent and stubborn and patient,” she says. McCullough also says that existing businesses will provide immense resistance to any new competition, but Hebert believes that his only problem is lack of capital. “Nobody’s jumped into the deep end with me yet,” he told The Sheet. “Lee Vining is tough because it is such a seasonal town. It lives and dies by Tioga Pass,” says McCullough. Hebert’s idea of a drive-thru would fill a market niche in Lee Vining—all the town’s current restaurants require getting out of the car and waiting in line, and most are sit-down establishments. The problem with a drive-thru is that, when the passes are closed, locals are the only ones who sustain many businesses. Depending on demand, the drive-thru could end up only being able to open after the passes are cleared. In big snow years, that means a very short season. Consider the Mono Inn, which is not open all year but must pay rent all year long—a challenge that many seasonal businesses in the Eastern Sierra face.

Hebert faces a similar challenge, paying for the property and tax on a business that never opened. In 2016, a notice of impending power to sell the property was put out by Mono County because of back taxes owed. However, Hebert easily redeemed the property because the amount in question was approximately $55—meaning that the LV Cafe was not significantly behind on its taxes and is in a suspended state that it could easily come out of without too much red tape. The property is assessed to pay over a thousand dollars a year, making it costly to stay in limbo forever.

Having put so much money into it and having acquired all the necessary permits, Hebert does not plan to put it on the market just yet. It is a classic case of “so close, yet so far away,” but if a serious investor would just come around, Hebert believes that the LV Cafe could still open someday.

If interested in investing in the LV Cafe, contact Winston Hebert at 760.937.0268.
Mendels open distillery in Mammoth Lakes

By Lunch

In October, 2015, California passed the Craft Distilleries Act. The new law allows direct sales to consumers.

According to a February, 2016 article in the San Francisco Chronicle: “Prior to the law, purchasing a bottle at a distillery in California was not possible unless there was an on-site liquor store owned and operated by a separate entity. Even though a liquor store sat a few feet away from the distillery’s warehouse, it was legally required to place orders through a third-party distributor that would need to deliver from stock held in its off-site warehouse.

“Our industry in this state has been stagnating for so long because the consumers who were interested enough in our products to actually come visit our facilities could not actually make any purchases,” says Dave Classick Jr., head distiller at Essential Spirits in Mountain View.

Now, AB 1295 allows for the sale of up to 2.25 liters of distilled spirits per person, per day, in conjunction with instructional tastings held on licensed premises.

The law change has encouraged two local operators to get into the craft distilling business.

The Mendel family, owner of Devils Creek Distillery, is the first operator to obtain its licenses and will have its first “clear” spirits available for purchase this fall.

A second distillery, Shelter Distilling, plans to locate in the Village at Mammoth but has no set opening date.

Devils Creek, which operates out of Mammoth’s Business Park, took its name from the fictional town (a thinly veiled Mammoth) in Luan Mendel’s 2010 novel “Yard Sale.”

Her husband John recently retired after 42 years in the automotive industry. According to Auto News, he finished his career as Executive Vice-President of American Honda Motor Company’s auto divisions, a position he had held since 2005.

Mendel’s son Clayton and daughter-in-law Aleksandra both live in Mammoth. They met on Christmas Day, 2010, on Chair 10. Both had been skiing with their families. Both families had gone in, leaving them solo for the final few runs. Aleks was wearing a pink tutu that day (a fine conversation starter, though she didn’t go into why she was dressed in a tutu).

Clayton’s day job is that of a Network Engineer for Mammoth Hospital’s Information Technology Dept. He is also owner of Eastern Sierra Armory, specializing in biathlon-related goods and services. He actually designs and manufactures custom biathlon rifles.

He has a degree in mechanical engineering. His wife Aleksandra was a former publisher of the Mammoth Times and currently serves as the Marketing Director for the Mammoth Lakes Foundation.

Clayton’s brother Trevor, an astrophysicist, lives in Munich with his wife Emily but is soon moving closer to home: Australia.

The first generation: John and Luan Mendel.

It was Trevor who piqued his father’s interest in distilling spirits with a simple gift a few years ago: a book called “How To Make Whiskey. A Step-by-Step Guide.”

Dad, who traveled constantly for work, was so intrigued that he began taking side trips to visit distilleries during his business trips. This pleased the rest of the family, as John’s impending retirement had caused some concern. “He’s not the retiring type,” said Clayton with that knowing smile of a patient son. “He wasn’t the type to spend his entire retirement golfing … he’s someone who needs a goal. The rest of the family was trying to come up with a retirement strategy.”

“We toyed with [opening] a barbecue joint,” chimed in Aleks.

All six Mendels will be involved in the business, and in fact, father and sons were in Louisville, Kentucky a couple of weeks ago for a crash course at “Moonshine University,” which boasts on its website, “If there were an Ivy League for spirits, this would be it.”

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What they’ve embarked upon is a complex business with a lot of moving parts, a lot of up-front costs, a lot of trouble-shooting, and a fair amount of risk.

One can see that the Mendels seem to enjoy the challenges.

One of the chicken-and-egg dilemmas to acquiring a license is having a permanent address for operation. So even though the Mendels just got their Type-74 license, they’ve been paying rent on two spaces in Mammoth’s Business Park since late 2015.

And given the nature of distilling whiskey, you have 2, 6, 10 years separating the time of production to time of sale. That’s a lot of waiting (and carrying cost).

As Clayton acknowledges, “Building inventory … is a process, and it’s very slow-moving at the outset. Really, this is a generational business.” As John added, “There’s no substitute for time in the barrel.”

Look for the first Devils Creek Distillery products this fall. For more information, visit www.devilscreekdistillery.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.
GROWING GOODNESS IN BISHOP

Young and old, smiles abound at the Bishop Community Garden

By Giles

Behind the Bishop City Park, between Sterling Heights Independent and Assisted Living and the Senior Center, is the Bishop Community Garden. The garden has two parts: a series of plots organized around a gazebo that house themed-plant exhibits used for educational programs, and a fenced grouping of privately maintained gardens. The project is collectively managed by the City of Bishop, Inyo-Mono Master Gardeners, and the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR).

According to Master Gardener Rosie Howard, the whole project dates the Master Gardener program and was born out of a desire to bring local gardeners together, spearheaded by a couple of Bishop High School teachers. Kerry Lozito, who was teaching biology at Bishop High School, began hosting a series of garden events at her house at Bishop High School, began hosting a series of garden events at her house in the summer of 2009.

As the events grew in popularity, Howard and Lozito asked the UCANR County Director and Farm Advisor what it would take to start a Master Gardeners Program in Inyo and Mono Counties. UCANR agreed to sponsor a course, and brought instructors from all over the state to teach the first course, which ran from Fall 2009 to Spring 2010. Howard said the course was well-run, but that the instructors were accustomed to gardening in California’s many other climates. Because there was no existing network of master gardeners in the region, it was challenging to find instructors who knew how to garden in the Eastern Sierra’s unique climate. “They taught us about lawn care, varmints, plant diseases, irrigation,” said Howard. “The one thing they didn’t know was how to garden in the Eastern Sierra. There was a group of us ladies who were sitting in the back of the classroom saying, ‘I don’t know about that...’”

About a dozen Master Gardeners graduated in that first class in 2010. In order to maintain their certification, they had to complete fifty hours of community service in gardening education outreach. Howard and another Master Gardener, Mary McGurk, began working with the City of Bishop to find a potential site for a community garden. “We went to countless meetings,” recalled Howard. “We really wanted one acre of land behind the City Park... we went through three potential locations before settling on that site, with the understanding that we might someday have to move the garden,” she said.

Today, the thirty-eight ten by fifteen foot plots that comprise the community garden are fenced in with a gazebo out front. When the Master Gardeners and UCANR first received permission to develop the site, it was covered in invasive grasses. According to Howard, it took an army of volunteers weeks to remove the grasses. “It was a community effort to get it going, and countless people donated time and labor,” said Howard.

Local Eagle Scout Brian Grevenkamp and his father, Alan Grevenkamp, volunteered to set up the irrigation system. Brian fundraised and solicited donations from local businesses and connected each garden plot with a pipe that runs to Main Street, where it meets the municipal water supply. “It was amazing,” said Howard. “Word would get out that we needed a loader or to excavate something, and people would show up out there with their equipment the next morning, volunteer their time and expertise.”

Gaye Mueller is a long-time volunteer at the Bishop Community Garden. In addition to tending her own garden plot (Mueller is a great lover of flowers) for the last seven summers, Mueller has collaborated with Master Gardener Margaret Phelps to tend four additional plots on behalf of Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA). The squash, tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers harvested from those gardens go directly to IMACA’s food pantry. Mueller and Phelps paid the annual $35 fee to claim the plots and purchased all the plants and supplies for the project. “Maggie has been known to pick 150 pounds of tomatoes at a time,” said Mueller. Mueller has also initiated a program where other plot tenders can volunteer their extra produce for IMACA’s food pantry.

Mueller said she’s seen a recent influx of young people to the Bishop Community Garden over the last few years. This year, there is a thirteen-year-old who is growing vegetables to accommodate the turkey he’s raising for his family for Thanksgiving dinner. Several couples in their twenties and thirties have adopted plots for the 2016-2017 growing season. Additionally, the Wild Roots Preschool has four...
plots that it is using as an outdoor classroom for their students.

Now that the Community Garden is in its seventh summer, there are eleven plots in the demonstration area, outside the fenced garden, that are cultivated for education and outreach. Each plot is sponsored by a different local organization and maintained by the master gardeners. They include edible landscapes, a high-density food gardening demonstration, several experimental gardens, a polinators garden, an Owens Valley Native Plant garden, and an “Inferno Strip” designed to imitate the bare patch next to a hot driveway where it’s impossible to grow anything to grow. The Master Gardeners host talks and demonstrations at that site throughout the summer. Another notable demonstration garden is the Gladiola and Dahlia Garden, which is known by members of the Community as Jacque’ s Plot. Jacque Osborn was a former track coach at Bishop High School who joined the garden when he was in his eighties. One summer he planted over 500 gladiola bulbs, which he maintained until his death about a year ago. His former students still come to care for the plot now that he no longer can.

“These days, I see little kids playing, I see people from Sterling Heights walk by on their way to the Senior Center and stop to linger in the garden,” said Mueller. This year, several plot tenants have swapped heirloom seeds, exchanging cloves of their favorite garlic with gardening tips and anecdotes about the soil chemistry in their respective corners of the garden. Due to concerns about pipes freezing and bursting, volunteer maintenance guru Jerry Gabriel was forced to turn the water on in late April. Mueller and other plot stewards hand-watered the beds of neighbors who couldn’t make it to garden to tend their prematurely planted seedlings. “We’re all in this community together,” said Mueller, who, this spring watered the author’s seeds for a good week. “It’s too easy to do, and there’s a nice volunteer cilantro next to your bed,” she said at the time. “It takes a community, right?”

For $35 a year and dedication to keeping the aisle around your plot free of weeds, you too can get a 10 by 15 foot plot in the Bishop Community Garden. The soil is fertile and the plots are each equipped with access to water. A single plot easily feeds two or more people for the summer. For my part, I’m still eating last year’s pickles, even as I get ready to make more. They fill up fast, so visit www.ucanr.edu to register this upcoming winter for next season.

SECOND CHANCE x2
New crib for the thrift store
Press Release

Second Chance Thrift Shop is moving to a new, permanent home. A beloved local source for used sporting goods, clothing, furniture, and home goods, Second Chance Thrift Shop will open its doors in The Plaza at 501 Old Mammoth Road on July 1st.

Since 2009, Second Chance Thrift Shop has supported Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra’s year-round adaptive sports and therapeutic recreation programs while giving new life to gently used goods in the community. “The Second Chance staff is so thrilled and excited about our new location,” says Second Chance Thrift Shop Manager Cai Lepre. “We’re like little kids at Christmas time.”

The new location provides more space and a prominent storefront near Vons and other Old Mammoth Road restaurants and shops. DSES Executive Director Kathy Copeland says “This is a dream come true. We are so excited to have our own forever home. Huge gratitude to all of Mammoth for your love and support.”

Beginning July 1, Second Chance Thrift Shop will be open seven days a week from 10:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted during business hours only. The community is invited to help celebrate the grand opening of the new location with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 4th at 1:00 pm.

Some backbreaking labor went into outfitting the thrift store’s new digs.
Mammoth’s 50th anniversary of Motocross hosted over 4,000 riders in 10 days, said Race Director Mike Colbert, after organizers scrambled to get water pumped out of the track as a result of the record snowpack.

“This year was a huge challenge,” Colbert wrote on the Mammoth Motocross Facebook page, saying that nearly 2 million gallons of water were removed from the track off of Sherwin Creek Road before the event, which ran from June 17-25. He said participants came from as far as Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

“The day everyone left the water broke through the banks of the stream and began filling the track on Monday [June 26],” wrote Colbert. “We are so blessed to have this place and the timing couldn’t have been better.”

- Rea

Race organizers pull off world-renowned event despite challenges from heavy snow year

Above: Melissa Frommer really dresses the part. Photos, left column (top): Yamaha rider T. Arden approaching turn 20; (bottom) Pit Bike champions were The Fasthouse Crew.

Above photos, clockwise from top: Racers start their engines; Lana Rea, Fionna Ose and Casey McMahon sitting pretty; Honda rider K. Thomas coming in after the finish line; more racers.

Above: Melissa Frommer really dresses the part. Photos, left column (top): Yamaha rider T. Arden approaching turn 20; (bottom) Pit Bike champions were The Fasthouse Crew.

Above: The lifeblood of Motocross, the dedicated start-line crew.

Cleetus Pabst the III, Exiled From North Carolina For Hop Noodling

June Lake Brewing

Super Awesome Beer

The Best Cold Weather Apparel

Pool & Spa Sales - Services

Maintenance - Supplies

Mammoth Spa Creations

LIC. # 849466

Susan & Tom Barnes

760.924.3091

Showroom located at 128 Tavern

www.mammothspacecreations.com
Betsy Truax, Jack Copeland, and Sandy Hogan were all awarded the “Spirit of Mammoth” awards last week by then-Mayor Shields Richardson.

The Sheet asked people on the street: Can you define the Spirit of Mammoth? Who personifies it?

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“The Spirit of Mammoth is outdoor adventure, personified by John Muir.”
- Steve Richman, Oakland

“The Spirit of Mammoth is a spirit of volunteerism. It makes me think of Renee Durlester.”
- Courtney Polovina, Mammoth Lakes

“The Spirit of Mammoth is people being there for each other, personified by Kathy Copeland, this year’s Parade Grand Marshal.”
- Nancy Davidson, Mammoth Lakes

“The Spirit of Mammoth is people rallying together during difficult periods. The person I think of when I think of Mammoth Spirit is Gary Taylor.”
- Harley Goodwin, Mammoth Lakes

“If anything ever happens, you always have a friend. The personification of the Spirit of Mammoth is Greg Jennison.”
- Sue Boask, Mammoth Lakes

“Whatever former spirit was personified by Dave McCoy. The current spirit of Mammoth is more personified by roof shoveling contractors charging $100 per hour per man this past winter. It’s one thing to use dynamic pricing on your wealthy ski clientele. It’s another thing to use it on your neighbors.”
- Ray, Mammoth business owner

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COWBOYS
continued from page 1

Sierra backcountry, and even led water-coloring pack expeditions for UCLA. When their four kids were little, Lou took up photography, in part so Marye could continue to paint the places she loved from the front country.

The Roesers tell tales of a very different Mammoth Lakes, in which there was no electricity, no Main Street, no ski resort. They recall the old ice house next to the post office in Old Mammoth, where the handful of restaurants in town would pick up ice chipped from Twin Lakes the previous winter to pack with straw and food for the summer. Lou recalled a single hand-cranked telephone at the Mammoth Tavern, one of the only means of direct communication with the outside world. Marye remembers the first laundromat and electric irons, and even a man named Hans Georg, who pulled a Forest Service Permit to build a ski area on the back side of Mammoth Mountain while Dave McCoy was still operating at McGee Peak.

“He thought he had the right one, but he sure pulled the wrong permit,” said Marye of the gasoline-powered operation that provided skiers with direct, rope-tow access to Dave’s Wave and the Hole in the Wall, which Marye referred to as “The Bottomless Pit.”

The following are a few of their wilder stories from their lives lived largely in the backcountry. They relayed this to me from their dining room table, and as we walked around their pasture.

The Time John Wayne Tried to buy Lou’s Horse

When Marye and Lou bought the Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit in 1960, Lou started a side business, called Old West Film Outfitters. He used his knowledge of the backcountry and photography skills to scout locations for commercial films. Later that year, he agreed to supply the horses for John Wayne’s film, “North to Alaska.” Lou developed a niche business staging and supplying horses and wagons for western films and commercials shot in the Eastern Sierra throughout the 1960s and 70s. Although he never smoked, he starred in a few Marlboro Cowboy commercials.

“Our challenge was always to keep all the people and their horses safe,” said Roeser. “Much of what we did then wouldn’t be allowed today.” His task was made easier or harder depending on the star of the movie. On two occasions, movie stars took interest in the Roese’s impressively trained and cared for horses. John Wayne reported Lou on the set of “North to Alaska” and asked if he could ride his horse, Buellah. “She was a registered quarter horse, and I thought he was just too big for her,” reflected Lou. Wayne reportedly said, “Well, how much would you take for her?” to which Lou replied, “She is not for sale.”

In 1965, the Roese’s supplied horses, and a chuckwagon for “Nebraska Smith.” Marye lent her horse Chongo as a stunt horse in that film. Steve McQueen, who starred as Nebraska Smith, wanted to buy Chongo. Lou told McQueen that the horse belonged to his wife and that he certainly wasn’t interested in shipping him off to a stable in Southern California. “Besides, Steve McQueen rode a horse like a motorcycle,” said Lou, who said McQueen used to ride his motorcycle at full speed down the trail that is now Hot Creek Road. “Wayne, though, he was a good rider,” said Lou. He conceded that he thought Robert Preston was a pretty nice guy.

The Legend of the Nine and a Half Pound Golden Trout

In 1952, Lou had just graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Business. He had worked on a few cattle ranches in Montana, and was making his way to Oregon to continue that work when he found Mammoth Lakes. Struck by the remote nature of the region and the culture of mule packing, he took a summer job with the Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit. That was the summer he met his future wife, Marye, while she was guiding trips for High Sierra Camp.

Lou was on one of his first pack trips ever, to Virginia Lake. He accompanied a party looking to go trout fishing. They proceeded to catch a nine-pound, fourteen-ounce Golden Trout in the high lakes. Lou was in disbelief, and estimated the fish, which he was tasked with keeping pristine for the pack out, was one and a half feet long. This fish remains the largest Golden Trout ever recorded anywhere. He reported, a bit regretfully, that a friend told him it’s mounted somewhere on a wall in San Francisco.

Riding with Ronald Reagan

In the winter of 1969, snow remained on Duck Pass well past the 4th of July. Back then, most of the region’s trails were built and maintained by packers. This was pre-OSHA, and as Lou put it, “It was a real cowboy operation to get those trails ready for the summer.” In fact, the packers used to haul dynamite to crews poised to deliver dynamite to crews poised to “loosen the snow up a bit” so that they could shovel their way out to Duck Pass.

Marye and Lou’s artwork is for sale at the Walker Western Art Gallery and at Sierra Designs in Mammoth Lakes.

For more stories about what it was like to be a cowgirl and a wrangler in the 1950s and Marye’s valiant voyages to deliver dynamite to crews poised to clear Duck Pass of Snow after the winter of 1969, check out The Sheet’s audio story at www.thesheetnews.com. Teaser: the dynamite was picked up in his jeans pocket, and pulled out a crumpled telegram he had received that morning from President Nixon, announcing that he had pulled funds for the Federal Highway. Both Marye and Lou were very impressed with his manners.

Old Fashioned Snow Removal

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FROM BOYS’ CLUB TO NATURE RESERVE

BY GILES

On Wednesday, June 28, The Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve hosted its first public talk and tour of the summer. The topic was the human history of Valentine Reserve and of Mammoth Lakes. Except for these talks and kids summer camps, the property is typically closed to the public. According to Director of Outdoor Education Carole Lester, the talks were initiated to dispel the secrecy associated with the property.

The Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve encompasses 156 acres of largely unlogged and ungrazed “pristine sub-alpine forest.” The property extends from Old Mammoth Road, about halfway up Panorama Dome, and out across Sherwin Meadow to Lake Mary Road. The University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) acquired the property from the Valentine family in 1973. According to Lester, the family could have sold it for millions.

The property is comprised of woodlands and meadows interspersed with a few trails and several log cabins that date back to 1921. Presenter Noelle Deinken told talk participants that, until the 1920s, the Paiute people used to manage Mammoth’s forests using prescribed burns to encourage the growth of certain plants for food and other resources. Lester said the forest used to dispel the secrecy associated with the property.

The property was originally owned by an Owens Valley rancher named Thomas Williams. Williams purchased the 156 acres that now comprise Valentine Reserve from the Federal Government in 1897. According to Deinken, at that time, the settlement at Mammoth was comprised of one hotel, a garage, a post office, and a bakery, with a few caretakers who lingered through the winter to take care of properties. The town in the winter to take care of properties. The town, however, was relatively small, with accommodations for about 200 people being trapped in their homes after large winters and requiring rescue by good Samaritans.

By 1937, it was a three-day journey between Los Angeles and Mammoth. Home owners often traveled on horseback from Los Angeles. Mining was the primary activity until the 1940s, it was faster to hike from Mammoth to Fresno than to travel by car, train, coach and ultimately horseback from Los Angeles. Miners used to resupply in Fresno Flats, now Oakhurst, often traveling on foot to cross the Sierra Crest. Even after Highway 395 was constructed in 1957, it was a three-day journey between Los Angeles and Mammoth Lakes.

The Valentine family ultimately bought out the other co-owners of the property. When Ed Valentine died in 1968, his wife Carol donated the property to UCSB on the condition that the unique flora and fauna present at Valentine Camp be protected for research. In 1973, UCSB established the property as a Reserve, one of seventeen it manages in California. Valentine Camp is not open to the general public, except for tours and special events.

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Please come join us for the

Gimme Shelter Carnival
Mammoth Lakes, CA

JULY 7TH-9TH, 2017

Minaret Village Shopping Center
437 Old Mammoth Rd • Mammoth Lakes, CA

4th Annual Event for Wild Iris
benefiting their Transitional Housing Program
Games • Rides • Food

CARNIVAL HOURS
WEEKDAY HOURS 4pm - 10pm
WEEKEND HOURS 12pm - 10pm

PRE-SALE TICKETS
• Stellar Brew
• Another T-shirt Shop
• Mammoth Gold Mercantile
• Cherish Gonzalez on buy, sell, trade Bishop/Mammoth on facebook
• Free Admission

Entertainment & Family Fun by Wold Amusements, Inc
Motivational speaker Jeff Titus of the Audi CODE institute spoke about re-inventing yourself at Edison Theater on Tuesday.

When he left the Navy, he pursued a career as a photographer. His brother, David Titus, bought him the second edition of Adobe Photoshop. Titus started a business restoring old photographs. That led him to experiment with coding, computer generated imagery, and to learn the coding language HTML. He soon got a job doing website design and "rode the tech bubble to the top. I was ready to quit with my millions," said Titus. "But I had nothing."

This time, he moved to Mammoth Lakes, where he met his wife and scored a job in marketing at the Mountain. He eventually left that position and worked for a series of web and tech design companies in San Francisco before being approached by Scott Keogh, the CEO of Audi. Keogh wanted what he called "the R8 of websites," to streamline every component of the company's online presence. Titus developed a pitch for a whole new department at Audi dedicated to managing the project, and convinced Keogh to hire him as Director of that program. Keogh did, and Titus started the Audi CODE (Continuous Optimization and Digital Engineering) office. Based in San Francisco, the CODE team is a group of coders and scientists who work closely to anticipate new market-upending trends in technology and practice applying them, with the goal of smoothly integrating them into Audi's business model.

"I can safely say that I've landed my dream job," said Titus at Tuesday's talk. He now works at the cutting edge of quantum computing technology, successfully increased Audi's production of digital technology by 40 percent while cutting existing operating costs by 50 percent within the first year the CODE office was in existence.

Titus attributes his success to self-confidence, which he says he gains from being honest and transparent in his interactions with people and being willing to try new things. "I work hard at imagination," said Titus. "I provide the audience with the following seven principles for success. Be transparent. The most productive time to share an idea is not when it's complete, but when you're unsure about it. Others will help solve problems you can't. Automated and delegate where possible. If you're tired of doing something over and over again, move on. Build quality into everything you do. Measure twice, cut once, but don't be afraid to take risks. Value data and facts over opinions. Always embrace your mistakes as new opportunities for understanding. Break down your ego and be less brittle. Always try to have the right tool for the right job. Address the painful and complex tasks in front of you first. Innovate or die. Always embrace change and keep exploring so you can adapt with the times. Titus' big takeaway message was that the key to success is to collaborate, be honest, and constantly learn and gain new skills. He now does this by designing new acoustic instruments. He has designed two so far, a harp sympitar and a baritone harp sympitar, the latter of which has eighteen strings. The harp sympitar is a fusion of several different acoustic instruments, including hammer dulcimer, guitar, and harp. Titus is an accomplished classical guitarist and recorded an album called Wood Dragon using the harp sympitar in 2007. "I'm one of those people that just goes with it," said Titus. "Amazing things happen when you just be yourself and go with the momentum."
By Clouds McCloud

Cancer: Clouds is happy to report that this is a very promising and auspicious year for you. So don’t be surprised by a new love, a new home or a new career path. Clouds is thinking something along the lines of being a Birthday Suit Tailor or perhaps Vice President of Employee Joy. To help, please Google “Mandy Harvey and America’s Got Talent.” You’re welcome.

Leo: A lot of people are really struggling in life right now, but not most Leos. You’ve made it past your hurdles. That’s why it’s important for you cats to find your inspired voices again. So roar when you need to, and be sure to welcome your real friends and partners to sit by your throne for a while, so you can help get them purring again.

Virgo: Since it looks like you’re in the midst of an early summer thunderstorm of great opportunities, Clouds would like to remind you that life is really nothing more than a state of mind—if you don’t mind, it won’t matter. Please also be advised that the best place to be during a thunderstorm is cuddling with someone you find to be grounded, or at least fun to cuddle with.

Libra: To help you ring in the summer, please be as accepting as possible. To help, try accepting these truths: No one should ever mix Hater Aide and vodka. The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra you put into it. You are the crispy noodle in the Asian salad of life.

Capricorn: This week the Stars shall begin shining their good luck on anything in life you put your energy into. Therefore, please make sure to use your energy wisely and on things you really want or need in life like love, enlightenment or mortgage payments. And not on things you don’t really need like passionless sex, a Bedazzler or Sean Spicer’s workout video.

Aquarius: To help you make this a summer to remember, be sure to eat lots of avocados, blueberries, celery and ginkgo biloba since they’re all good for your brain. Reading is also good for your noodle, so why not dive into something from a fellow Aquarian like Zane Grey, Ayn Rand or Judy Blume, who advised, “It’s all about determination, I think, as much as anything. There are a lot of people with talent, but it’s that determination.”

Pisces: Okay, you can’t fool folks like Clouds for too long. We all know you have super powers. In case you forgot, Pisces are magically delicious love-makers, pretty solid bakers, and exceptional Quakers since you can see God in almost everyone. Of course, there’s always a couple a-holes the devil gets a hold of at work or on your partner’s side of the family. Locally-brewed holy water helps deal with them.

Aries: If you feel like Aloe Blacc’s hit, “I Need a Dollar,” is your theme song along the lines of, “I know this much, I’m pretty darn good at making bad decisions.”

Taurus: Your summer assignment is twofold. First, you must laugh more often. And, B, remember the words from Macklemore’s hit song, “Thrift Shop.” “One man’s trash, that’s another man’s come-up. Thank your granddad for donating that plaid button-up … Your Grammy, your aunty, your momma, your mommy, I’ll take those thinnest zebra jams.”

Gemini: To help you say “so long” to spring in fashion, please be kind to yourself and remember to stop and smell the lilacs and the irises. It will also help to take a new light-hearted motto, maybe something along the lines of, “I know this much, I’m pretty damn good at making bad decisions.”

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person Is Doing Business As:
Solutions
Jessica Mascarenas
86 Juniper Drive
Crowley Lake, CA 93546
P.O. Box 7026
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on June 5, 2017
File Number 17-118
TS #2017-0150
(7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22)
popular. The couple just couldn’t let
the picturesque village. They brought
spirit and identity of June Lake.

“That’s what we planned. We want to
Sierra, not just June Lake,” said Walsh.

“We came in with a business plan to
be a brick-and-mortar restaurant and
Brewing’s headquarters, and, eventual-
ly, they’ll encompass a General Store, June Lake
they do best—rock it. The plan, Walsh
it dictate your decisions,” said Justin

a business plan is a road map that
set out to buy five parcels in June Lake,
County.

executed a deed of trust and
note in
prises, Inc. (a California Corporation)

owners of the LLC), signed a
volunteer efforts, and community-
valley), and there are new festivals,
requests its employees to live in June Lake
valley, and there are new festivals,
and community-
bigging events popping up.

“There’s an economic boom happen-
ing in June Lake, and this place kicked
off,” said Tom O’Keefe one afternoon
at J.L. O’Keefe is opening up a photo
gallery (Gallery 13) this summer.

Other new businesses include The
Lift (see story, p. 34) and Insane Audio
(“June Lake Startup is Insane,” May 26,
2017). Trout Town Joe also got a change of
ownership this winter, and, accord-
ing to Mono County Finance Director
Janet Dutcher, June Lake’s contribution
to Transient Occupancy Tax revenue has
dropped from four to one.

Walsh says June Lake will always
need a General Store, though he and
his wife have no interest in running
the day-to-day operations of such a
business. They would like the current
operators to operate in the new loca-
tion when built.

When nobody believed in the
Walshes’ dream, Justin said, Drell of-
fered them a chance to gain a foot-
hold. Well, kind of. “He believed in us
to begin with, but didn’t believe that
we would actually succeed, because
nobody’s succeeded in this town in 25
years. But, he said, Drell offered them
a 5-year lease instead of requiring a
25-year lease. And part of that lease
was first right of refusal, allowing the
Walshes to have the first opportunity
to buy the property. ‘He went out of
his way to make all this happen for the
business,’ says Justin.

Since JLB had to put all their money
onto the sale, “we still have the
same amount of [brew] tanks we opened
with,” says Walsh. “I mean, right now we’re really conservative in
the amount of draft accounts we have
in Mono County. And we refuse to do
distribution outside of Mono. We can’t
spare the legs.” But if there’s anything we’ve learned from
these guys, it’s that they seem to
be able to pull off whatever they put
their minds to—they’ve done all this
while raising a daughter, Atlas, which
is a feat in and of itself.

“Life is dynamic,” said Justin Walsh
over a Silver Lake Saison and some
corn fritters from Ohana’s. “Life is
moving forward. The best entrepre-
neurs adapt.”

12th Annual Footloose Freedom Mile Race Entry Form
Mammoth Lakes, California July 4, 2017 *Start is at 10:30AM
PICUP-RACE BIB & SHIRTS @ MAMMOTH CREEK PARK RACE MORNING (8-10AM)
Proceeds go to the Mammoth Track *** Age Group Awards
Start: Corner of Minaret and Old Mammoth Rd. * Finish: Footloose Sports - race HQ (Limited to 750 Entries)

Name ____________________________________________________________

Sex Male __ Female __ Age (on Race Day) _____ __ Birthday __________
Address __________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State __ Zip _______________________

Phone ____________________________ Email __________________________________________

Select from the following:

Race Entry Fee and T-shirt (on or before 7/3/17)………………………………..$25.00
Race Day Entry and T-shirt (race day registration 7/4/17 closes at 10:00AM)……..$30.00
Donation to the Mammoth Track…………………………………………………..$________

T-shirt Size (circle one):    Kids S         Kids M          Adult S          Adult M            Adult L          Adult XL

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $ _______

(Please make checks payable to “Mammoth Track Club”)

REGISTER IN PERSON at FOOTLOOSE SPORTS on the corner of Main Street and Old Mammoth Rd.
Or mail this form to:
Mammoth Track Club
Attention: Footloose Freedom Mile
P.O. Box 5068
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
For more information and race rules go to: www.mammothtrackclub.com

PLEASE SIGN WAIVER:  In consideration of this entry acceptance, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive, release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against, and covenant not to sue, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, County of Mono, State of California, Mammoth Track Club, all sponsors, all vendors, and/or any other individual or company associated with the above for any and all injuries or damages I may suffer as a result of any injury occurring in, observing or participating any way in the 12th Annual Footloose Freedom Mile, including travel to the event. I/my child hereby agree to hold harmless the Releasers and each of them from any loss, liability, damage or cost they may incur arising out of or related to the event whether caused by negligence of the Releasers or otherwise. I hereby assume full responsibility for any risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage arising out of or relating to the event whether caused by the negligence of the Releasers or otherwise. I hereby agree that this Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement extends to all acts of negligence by the Releasers, including negligent rescue operations, and this is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the laws of the State of California and that if any portion of thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall nonetheless continue in full force and effect. I certify that all the information provided in this form is true and complete. I have read the entry information provided for the event and this release and waiver of liability and certify my/my child’s compliance by my signature below. If THE ATHLETE IS UNDER AGE 16: This is to certify that my son/daughter has my permission to compete in the Footloose Freedom Mile, is in good physical condition, and that race officials have my permission to authorize emergency treatment if necessary.

Signature ____________________________ Date ____________

(If under 18, parent or legal guardian must sign)
A NEW HOME FOR FAMILY FUN

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

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

NEW RELEASE OF LUXURY MOUNTAIN RETREATS NOW SELLING!

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

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

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