WE TRI HARDER

Dave Arnold, 28, was the second skier in as many weeks to be injured skiing in the tempting backcountry bowl on Tioga Pass, just outside the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park. Arnold was skiing by himself when he took what looked from the vantage point of the three Mammoth residents—Josh Wray, Mark Williams, and Branko Kral—to be a catastrophic fall.

“We didn’t even know he was there until we got almost to the top and saw him for the first time,” said Wray this week. The trio were about 60 yards from the summit lip of Ellery Bowl when they spotted Arnold from a distance. “If we were on the summit we would not have seen him, and probably [would have] gone right around him,” said Wray.

Arnold told The Sheet on Wednesday that he intended to ski a route down Mount Dana but decided against the descent he’d originally planned on and ended up scrambling across a boulder field towards the summit of Ellery Bowl instead. He was exhausted, he was alone, and he’d been terrified of the route he’d taken. He even recorded a GoPro video for his parents, telling them in the event that he didn’t make it off the mountain, that he’d died doing something he loved. “It was the scariest thing I’ve ever done,” said Arnold of the traverse toward Ellery Bowl across the loose rocks. Likely scarier was the fall that nearly killed him, but lucky for him, Arnold doesn’t remember that part.

Wray said he’d pulled out his camera to record Arnold’s ski descent of Ellery Bowl, and that he and his companions were cheering Arnold on. Suddenly, Wray said, the lone skier (whom they had never met before) caught an edge, “and his skis popped off, his poles were gone, and he was trying to self arrest.”

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING
Close calls and injuries for backcountry skiers are reminders of danger

THANK YOU SIR, MAY I HAVE ANOTHER?
Mono Board thirsty for shot of SoCo

At the Tuesday, July 11 Mono County Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting, Supervisors voted unanimously (4-0) to direct County staff to finalize and issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) for a contract to design and build a 33,000 square-foot South County Office Facility at the McFlex Parcel. The Supervisors also directed staff to hire an architect to prepare a request for proposals if the board decides to move forward with the project at a later date, a service that is expected to cost the County between $50,000 and $70,000.

The project, which is budgeted at about $21.9 million, will be one wing of an envisioned 53,000 square-foot office complex that the County hopes will someday house the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML). At this point, the two entities are proceeding separately. “We have the fire under us more so than the town,” said Mono County Assistant County Administrative Official (CAO) Tony Dublino at Tuesday’s meeting, by way

Bigfoot’s Blues

When vandals struck the Mammoth Fun Shop, owner Camille Miller saw an opportunity for... more fun! See the story, p. 21.

Drop the mic
Little boxes
Attractive nuisance
Hugs!
Show must go on

/p. 2/
/p. 3/
/p. 7/
/p. 14/
/p. 15/
THE (MLT) APPRENTICE

I hadn’t had a chance to let Larry McKee know why I didn’t announce the 4th of July parade from my usual post in front of Century 21 and across from Nik ‘n Willies this year. So here goes:

Dear Larry, Looks like I was blackballed. They didn’t ask me to do it. I think they = the Chamber of Commerce or Mammoth Lakes Tourism. They were probably fearful I might joke or two at their expense, and marketing is all about controlling the message. Or so I’m told. I’d say see you next year, but that hardly seems likely.

I would’ve come down to say hello from the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast but was so busy with fellow Lions cleaning up after the breakfast that I missed the whole parade as it was. Anyway, I’m still alive, just in case you’re wondering. Hope you had a nice party. —Sincerely, Ted

Lennon took my place. She has a lot of experience handling the microphone, so I’m sure it was all very professional.

Since Whitney spent July 4th expertly doing my former job, it seems only fair that I spend this afternoon in the cheap seats contemplating at least an aspect of her job: air service marketing.

Commercial air service into Mammoth peaked in 2013 with 30,858 enplanements. By 2016, that number had dropped to 22,253, a 28% drop. The numbers YTD for 2017 are off another 13%. June 2017, at 834 enplanements. By 2016, that number had fallen to 22,253, a 28% drop. The top Google search result of “Yosemite National Park: Which airport might work best?” turns up a TripAdvisor article which touts Fresno as the top choice, followed by Merced, Reno, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Doesn’t mention Mammoth, even though Mammoth-Yosemite Airport is equidistant from Yosemite Valley as Fresno-Yosemite Airport (estimated 2.5 hours by car).

Each of the airports the article mentions is also followed by a suggested travel itinerary. Another TripAdvisor forum titled “Best Airport for Yosemite” similarly does not mention Mammoth. I kept looking at various sites. I kept coming up empty. I only found one site that mentioned Mammoth as an airport possibility—a National Park Service page www.nps.gov/yose/planyourtrip/airports.htm. There, we are listed as the eighth possibility. Seems like we need to do a better job of getting the word out that we exist, and that it’s ten times more enjoyable to approach Yosemite Valley from the east versus the west. Heck, we might even convince them the Valley is overrated and it’s more fun (and sane) to stick around here.

Newsflash: Suddenlink is closing its Mammoth office as of August 25. So much for customer service. The Bishop office will remain open.

Finally, Dieter Fiebiger took me up to Twin Lakes yesterday to show me the condition of the Lions Club fishing dock. "Ego quoque addaebat ut vere credere quod intelligenta vestra tempore adiuvata insultingi tibi sicut dixit." -William F. Buckley Jr.

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seats, of which we fill a little over half. We offer essentially no product. A second factor: no one knows there is air service to Mammoth Lakes.

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Finally, Dieter Fiebiger took me up to Twin Lakes yesterday to show me the condition of the Lions Club fishing dock.

Yes, Mother Nature wrought some damage this past winter, but that’s not what has Dieter upset. What’s upsetting is that the dock has been vandalized three times in the past month. Just last week, Dieter, 83, noticed that a person or persons had dislodged one of the pontoons. He found it several hundred feet away and had to borrow a rowboat from Tamarack Lodge Manager Mike Peckenpaugh to rescue the pontoon from the weeds. Vandals also tossed the dock railings into the lake.

Dieter initially built the dock by himself in honor of his late son Kenny. Over the years, Lions Club has pitched in to improve and enlarge the dock. That’s the job tougher than it is. Leave the dock alone. Have some respect.
LESS TALKIE, MORE WALKIE
Mammoth PEDC, business owners, consultants and Town staff talk transit, pedestrians, “vibrant” visions

By Rea

Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission met for several hours on Wednesday, July 12, to discuss mobility in Mammoth—the Walk, Bike, Ride program was discussed in Suite Z, followed by a presentation by consultant Darin Dinsmore and Town of Mammoth Lakes Engineering Manager Haislip Hayes at John’s Pizza Works. A walking tour of Main Street had been scheduled, but discussions with Dinsmore and Hayes ended up occupying the time allotted. The walking tour will be rescheduled.

In the Suite Z component of the PEDC meeting, Commissioners reviewed a second draft of the Walk, Bike, Ride “action plan” compiled by Alta Planning + Design.

Principals of Alta Planning provided a fee estimate in October of 2016 which totaled $94,000 for services the firm provided. This included a series of workshops held this winter, and two in-person studies conducted in December 2016 and April 2017, according to Community and Economic Development Manager Sandra Moberly. Moberly told The Sheet on Thursday, July 13 that the contract amount will cover any final changes to the “Walk, Bike, Ride” document.

Commissioners, reviewing the second draft of the plan, expressed some frustration that the “2.0” version didn’t provide more concrete details or suggestions.

“This doesn’t seem to be any more advanced than Draft 1.0,” said Commissioner Amy Callanan. “We’ve been kicking this can around for a while now. I was under the impression that part of the work that the consultant was going to be doing was to look at parcels and provide an action plan instead of just some general concepts… what comes next?”

Moberly and Hayes were looking for direction from the Commission, they said, on what the priorities were for the Town.

“I’d like to see money [spent] on getting six acres of land instead of six more three ring binders,” said Commissioner Greg Eckert. “We can make plans until the cows come home… if we’ve got the land, that’s the one thing we’re not going to be able to get in the future.”

Sandy Hogan, who gave public comment, said that the second draft of the action plan struck her as more of a concept than a plan.

She also suggested that the Town “establish monetary contributions” through a recommendation to Council on housing and parking, if any developer asked for additional density, height, or other trade offs “in order to fund transit and parking improvements.

John Helm, Director of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA), urged Committee members not to get “too wrapped up” in “really big high level wild concept ideas” contained within the study. However, he said, “there are some things, actionable things, that could take place.”

Eckert suggested a “three-tiered option” for direction on the plan. The first priority and most-discussed item at Wednesday’s meeting was “mobility hubs,” which would be centers with parking, various transit options, and possibly retail or accommodation from which travel would flow. Proposed locations are The Village, the Airport, and two other locations on Main Street and Old Mammoth Road. An Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) was also listed as a priority, as well as snow management, and way finding and signage.

The meeting in Suite Z adjourned to John’s Pizza Works, where about a dozen Main Street business owners gathered to hear Dinsmore’s ideas for a pedestrian-friendly, lively Main Street.

The grand vision for Main Street, said Dinsmore, is a “vibrant district” with shared parking, rear alley access to businesses, and “primary and active frontages” and “consolidated solid waste” instead of a dumpster at every building.

Local business owner Paul Rudder said that he and other business owners on Main Street aren’t necessarily interested in the next 30 years, which is how long Dinsmore said it could take...
Recalibration

Dear Editor:

Watching the 4th of July parade, it was hard not to be overwhelmed by the size of the crowd. I kept thinking; Mammoth has changed since the days when the Town Council rode on the back of a flatbed truck and was greeted with the occasional water balloon.

With the purchase of the Mountain by KSL-Aspen, change could accelerate: new development, rising home prices, bigger crowds, and perhaps a year-around economy. There will be challenges. The parade ended with the usual wail of sirens. Walking up from Old Mammoth to Main Street to The Village, it’s hard not to notice the “Help Wanted” signs taped to windows: Vons, Rite Aid, Base Camp, Old New York Deli—First Street Leather is looking for an assistant manager.

There are 43 “Help Wanted” listings in The Sheet.

On my way back from The Village, I stopped to say hello to a couple of volunteer firefighters polishing an engine. The thought crossed my mind: what happens if rising housing prices and lack of rentals force Mammoth’s 43 volunteer firefighters to move down valley to Crowley or Bishop? What would be the response time for an emergency call out?

In recent months, the Town of Mammoth has been updating its workforce housing needs assessment. On June 29, the Housing Working Group met to provide further comments and feedback on a draft document, which identifies two “key” indicators highlighting Mammoth’s housing problem:

- 480 jobs added since 2011, most in the past two years;
- 22 homes available to locals added since 2011, all rentals.

“The additional housing inventory is about one-tenth of what was needed,” it stated.

Section 7 of the draft “Short-Term Rental Impact on Workforce Housing,” notes, “Complete data on the change in use of units over time is not available,” which is to say, the full impact of Airbnb, VRBO, and other home-sharing platforms is still unknown.

In July, Outside Magazine published “Did Airbnb Kill the Mountain Town?” The focus of the article was the rise of short-term rentals, or STRs, in the community of Crested Butte, CO, which could be understood to reflect what’s happening in Ketchum, ID, Jackson, WY, and Mammoth Lakes.

Dara MacDonald, Town Manager of Crested Butte, described the workforce housing shortage as a “divisive issue for the community.” There are those who rely on earnings from short-term rentals and there are others who are not interested in having a de facto hotel setting up shop next door.

Walking down Old Mammoth Road, I reached Meridian and reflexively looked down the street towards Mammoth High School. I taught high school English before retiring. The high school is falling apart. The hallways and cafeteria leak when it rains. Students dodge miniature waterfalls getting to class during thunderstorms.

I recently stopped in to see Brooke Bien, the School District’s Business Manager. She shared the dire financial needs that the District is facing. The Sheet described a recent School Board meeting where a parent group, “Parents on a Mission,” advocated for keeping class sizes as small as possible. The School Board approved its 2017/18 budget, which did not replace two retiring elementary school teachers. They’re not replacing teachers but want voters to approve a $65 million school improvement bond. They need both—teachers and a bond.

Lunch’s editorial on July 1, titled “The Funnel of Love,” mocked Mammoth Lakes Tourism’s (MLT) TBID solicitation/renewal letter. The TBID letter opens with, “Think of the success of the local community as a funnel. Visitors come to town and business owners pass along taxes and assessments... At the bottom of the funnel are ...(tax) dollars that can be used to maintain the town...” The TBID letter implies that marketing is at the top of a funnel, which is partly true. Visitors have to know about Mammoth before they come to visit. Once visitors arrive, however, there are expectations that need to be met: public safety, snow removal, roads without potholes, and a workforce that meets the visitors’ expectations.

While MLT touts the fact that more money than ever is coming out of the bottom of the funnel, it just doesn’t seem like the output matches up with the community’s needs, at least when it comes to workforce housing and transit. Or schools.
Historically, to compete with other resorts, the community of Mammoth Lakes has passed four "general" tax measures (1986, '96, '02, '06) for marketing, workforce housing, transit, and infrastructure. Unlike "special" tax measures, which restrict how tax dollars are spent, "general" fund tax dollars are deposited in the Town's coffers and are at the discretion of the Town Council, irrespective of the "political commitments" previous Town Councils made, without which the measures would not have passed. To help ensure these general fund dollars would be allocated to the "political commitments" previous Councils made, without which the measures would not have passed, Town Councils made, (without which the measures would not have passed). To help ensure these general fund dollars would be allocated to the "political commitments," Town Councils over the years have created "political commitments" (boards made up of community members), and for transit, a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), which includes Mammoth, Bishop, Inyo, and Mono counties.

The community's NGOs and the IPA mostly achieved their purposes—additional workforce housing, focused marketing, public transit—and then came the 2009 recession, the MLLA litigation settlement, and four years of drought. Town Councils scrambled to balance their budgets, "political commitments" were set aside, general fund dollars were used to meet budget shortfalls.

Background: Since 2012, Town Councils have set aside previous "political commitments" in order to maintain service levels, meet MLLA settlement payments, and balance the Town's budgets. In 2016/17, a very good year, the Town projected its Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues at $1,650,000. Approximately $17,500,000 was collected, generating excess revenues of $5,850,000. In April 2016, the current Town Council created a subcommittee to review past Councils" political commitments" and the TOT funding of those commitments.

On June 21, 2017, the current Council adopted eight recommendations as to how they would "re-calibrate" the "political commitments" to marketing, housing, and transit. The slippery slope with "re-calibrating" is that it doesn't prevent future Town Councils from "re-calibrating." Inevitably, "re-calibration" raises the issue of putting an initiative on a ballot to lock in funding. So here is a re-calibration proposal that the community might want to consider.

Put an initiative on the ballot that would lock in a (a 2/3 vote with carve outs): 1 point of the Town's 13% TOT for MLH (workforce housing), 1 point to transit, and 1.5 points for MLT (marketing), which reduces MLT's current 2.5 points to 1.5 points.

Why the reduction in MLT's 2.5 points? First, they have an $8 million dollar budget of which the TBD makes up almost $6 million (The TBD is a source of funding that is not available to housing and transit). Secondly, the School District just cut two elementary teachers from its staff. Providing .5, a half point of the 13% TOT, should keep Mammoth schools great. After all, if one of the "high tech" digital families to Mammoth, there might be an expectation of a quality school district with small class sizes. The final .5 point should be retained by the Town to help fund the MLLA litigation payments.

If approved by the voters, the funding distribution, based on 2016/17 TOT actual revenues, would look something like this: M1T (tourism) 1.5 points = $2,019,229 (just make sure it snows). MLH (housing) 1 point = $1,346,153 (housing up to 200% of AMI). Transit 1 point = $1,346,153 (transit, broadly defined).

News of Inyo County filing for eminent domain vs. LADWP heartened local attorney Allen Berrey, who wrote the following email in January of this year.

Hello Chairman Tilmelians et al,

When I worked in the County Counsel's office I wrote a memo to

- **BOWLING N' BEAT**: DJ Chronfucious. $4 Games, $2 Shoes. Starts at 9PM.
- **2 For Tuesdays**: Buy 1 game and get the 2nd FREE. Pizza Special: $6 Small Cheese and Pepperoni Pizzas.
- **Wild Wednesdays**: Cosmic Bowling: 9pm to close. Kids Bowl Free*: 2 game maximum with paying Adult, Noon to 5:00. * Kids 12 and under, 3 Kids per paying Adult. Kids Bowl Free*: 2 game maximum with paying Adult, Noon to 5:00. Kids Bowl Free*: 2 game maximum with paying Adult, Noon to 5:00.

See more regarding this topic in "Inyo County takes on LADWP over eminent domain" under Briefs on page 8.

Allen Berrey
BENCOMA DELAYS

By Bodine

The second jury trial of Raymond Bencoma III was postponed on June 28 due to a lack of jurors. The Inyo County District Attorney’s Office is now requesting a change of venue due to the Inyo County District Attorney Tom Hardy. On July 7, Inyo County Superior Court Judge Brian Lamb denied the request and rescheduled the trial to August 28 to be set in Independence.

As reported in The Sheet on September 3, 2016 in the story, “Shots Fired on the Reservation,” Bencoma was arrested August 26, 2016 on the Bishop Paiute Reservation following an altercation with Inyo County Sheriff’s Deputies. According to the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office, in the course of searching for a prowler on the Bishop Paiute Reservation on the morning of Friday, August 26, deputies came across a man who appeared consistent with domestic violence trauma. Deputies discovered that the alleged suspect was Bencoma.

Deputies walked down a dark drive-way toward the residence with body cameras turned off, as is procedure, according to the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office. County Undersheriff Jeff Hallowell told The Sheet in September 2016 that the body cameras have bright red lights that glow when turned on, and were kept off for the safety of the deputies. As a deputy approached an outbuilding, a motion sensor light came on and he saw movement out of the corner of his eye. Bencoma appeared from behind the outbuilding and allegedly pointed a semi-automatic handgun at the deputies. A deputy fired seven rounds, striking Bencoma at least twice. Hardy added there was no time for deputies to turn the cameras on between the time the motion light came on and the shooting. Following the incident, on August 26, Hardy released a statement that said, based on preliminary evidence, the deputies were legally justified to shoot.

Bencoma was charged with being in possession of a firearm, possession of stolen property and assaulting a peace officer.

The jury from the trial that began on April 24 found Bencoma guilty of possession of a firearm and innocent on possession of stolen property. Jurors were tied on the assault charges, Hardy said. Whether or not Bencoma knowingly pointed a firearm at deputies is what the jury in April couldn’t decide, Hardy explained. The case on the assault charges was set to go to trial in June, but there weren’t enough potential jurors. Pam Foster of the Inyo County Superior Court said the court has no comment on the proceedings, but provided statistics on juror turnout. The total jurors scheduled for duty in Independence between January 1, 2013 and July 3, 2017 was 40,711, with 28.3 percent turnout, or 11,350 who actually showed up. The total summoned on June 26 for the Bencoma trial was 230, with a 35 percent turnout, or 154 people.

MOBBED IN BISHOP

By Bodine

Bishop Police officers responded to a call for shots fired stemming from an altercation on the 300 block of West Line Street on Friday, July 10 at approximately 7:45 p.m. The gunshot ordeal was ultimately overshadowed by the creation of a crowd that had to implement to deal with unruly bystanders in addition to the suspects and gunshots. Two citizens not involved with the altercation were arrested for obstruction.

When they responded to the incident, Bishop Police officers along with Inyo County Sheriff deputies, set a perimeter around the area of 700 block of East Line Street near the intersection with Moffett Street, to the intersection of East Line Street and Hanby Street, according to information provided by the Bishop Police Department. According to the Bishop Police Department, the situation stemmed from a “heated discussion” between two men, with one man allegedly displaying and discharging a firearm. There were no injuries. The two men cooperated with police and were detained without incident. Both were later released.

The firearms could not be found despite an extensive search of the area, according to a press release from the Bishop Police Department. Bystander James Truhls recorded a 40-second video of the scene after the arrest, which he posted on Facebook. The video shows the scene unfolding as follows:

A small crowd of citizens begins to gather around the scene of the crime. The crowd inches closer, with many people pulling their phones out to try to capture the scene on video.

“This, of course, is of great concern to me,” said Bishop Police Chief Ted Stec of the incident. “When citizens place themselves and their children in harm’s way, there was no question that this was a call that should have caused folks to back up and stay safe. Satisfaction of one’s curiosity shouldn’t outweigh personal or public safety.”

In the video, the crowd grows bigger after a woman is heard screaming, and the suspects are taken into custody.

Chief Stec told The Sheet that the woman, the mother of one of the men involved in the altercation, was one of two citizens from the crowd who ran to the scene to confront officers. The woman ignored orders to stay back and was arrested. Stec added she was forced to the ground but was not injured.

The mother and another adult were arrested for obstruction, cited, and later released from the Bishop Police Department. According to the Bishop Police, the two individuals later apologized for their actions.

Having to deal with the crowd took away from the officers’ duties of assisting with the investigation and “compromised the integrity of the crime scene” according to the press release from the Bishop Police Department.

In the press release also stated that there were some citizens that did not get too close to the scene, but appeared to show up with the goal of “agitating” law enforcement.

Sce said those agitators wanted to enter the crime scene using justifications like, “It is my constitutional right,” and “I can do a better job than the police,” and “It’s my right to stand next to the officer and tape what they do,” and, “I want to make sure the police don’t hurt anyone,” and, “I know some of the press.”

Sce explained that some members of the public said at the scene that the police have no right to block access to keep people safe.

Another group noticed Sce’s wife in his vehicle. Citizens in the crowd asserted it was illegal to have a citizen ride in cop car. Sce said this is incorrect.

“What that group trying to rile up the crowd with fake information or intimidate the rider?” asked Chief Stec.

Another citizen complained that the cop cars were illegally outfitted, which is also incorrect, Stec said. “So, why would a citizen, knowing a shooting had just occurred, assert irrelevant and incorrect information into that setting?”

The incident is still under investigation, anyone with information about the altercation is encouraged to contact the Bishop Police Department at 760.873.5866.
BISHOP VOTES NO ON POT DISPENSARIES
City Council members say they want to keep Bishop “family-friendly”
By Beth Remington

A t its Monday, July 10 meeting, the Bishop City Council decided not to allow any recreational marijuana dispensaries or testing facilities within the city limits. There was a vote on Monday’s agenda to allow for three dispensaries as well as testing facilities that are used to test the potency of marijuana. It would allow personal use, are legal by state law and will remain legal in the City of Bishop, as will outdoor grows, as long as the crop is within 600 feet from public schools and parks and is not visible by the public.

At the Monday, July 10 meeting, Mayor Joe Pecsi and councilmembers Pat Gardener and Laura Smith heeded the concerns of their constituents and voted against an ordinance that would allow weed stores, along with the potential tax revenue they could generate for the City.

Councilmember Karen Schwartz voted in favor of allowing the dispensaries and testing facilities, asking why, if there is so much opposition to the stores, none of those people were at the meeting.

There were a half-dozen flip-flops from those who opposed cannabis users and dispensary supporters in attendance. Max- well Silver, Bishop resident, used himself as an example of a marijuana user that has broken the stoner stereotypes and has become successful. He is a world-class high-liner and a former tea shop owner. He explained that many people are contrarian now.

Stephen Mahoney of Bishop said he’d like to see the empty store fronts in Bishop filled up. Howard Wu of Bishop echoed that sentiment, saying the existing empty stores need to be filled.

Silver touted the benefits of tax revenue that could be generated from marijuana sales, using Colorado as an example of the potential revenue marijuana tax could provide.

Steamboat Springs has a population of 12,260, according to the Census Bureau, comparable to the City of Bishop and surrounding areas. According to the Steamboat Springs Pilot, marijuana sales in March 2017 exceeded $1 million for three dispensaries.

The presence of marijuana plants has proven to have an attractive nuisance for children...

The ordinance was language in the ordinance warning of the potential for an electrical fire from an indoor grow when the growers could be using solar power. She said she was concerned that a phrase in the ordinance “the presence of marijuana plants has proven to be an attractive nuisance for children, creating an unreasonable hazard” could be used to justify other ordinances, perhaps unreasonably, in the future.

She asked, given that language, if all parents will be excluded from growing in the City of Bishop, on the basis that doing so would create an “attractive nuisance” for children. She was not given a response.

The ordinance to ban commercial marijuana dispensaries and testing facilities within the City limits passed 3-2, with Councilmembers Jim Ellis and Schwartz casting the dissenting votes.

The city has passed its ordinance, but state marijuana laws and mandates are changing daily and it remains to be seen what the final outcome will be for legal weed. Elaine Kabala, Associated Planner for the City of Bishop, told The Sheet no matter what the state ultimately decides to do, it will probably not affect any of the city’s work up to this point.

We partnered with [MUSD] because we create a larger contract of higher value...
**LOCAL NEWS**

**LOCAL BRIEFS**

By Sheet Staff

Kern County SAR robbed at gunpoint

At approximately 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 8 two Kern County Search and Rescue volunteers were robbed at gunpoint. According to a press release from the Pacific Crest Trail Association. A hiker was also robbed.

The incident occurred near Kelso Valley Road, south of Lake Isabella and the Inyo County line. Kern County Sheriff's Department has since closed that section of the Pacific Crest Trail and is investigating the area, according to the press release.

Sgt. Steven Williams from the Kern County Search and Rescue Unit told the Bakersfield Californian on Sunday, July 10 that the SAR volunteers were heading toward a hiker in need of medical attention, when two Hispanic males robbed the volunteers at gunpoint, taking their radios. The suspects told the SAR members to leave the area immediately. The SAR members returned to their command post and Kern County Fire Department rescued the original hiker in need of assistance along with three additional hikers from the area.

The trail will remain closed until the section of trail where the hold-up transpired has been secured.

Bear battles Benz

A Mammoth bear broke into and then got stuck in a Mercedes Benz on the Fourth of July. The caged animal proceeded to rip up the fine and fancy upholstery and the steering wheel. At the end of its tenure in the luxury vehicle, the bear took a dump on the seat before it found a way out of the car. The car owner, David Herndon of Southern California, relayed all of this to ABC7 News Los Angeles.

And in this heat, it is pretty ripe,” Herndon said of the bear’s hot mess. Herndon told ABC the car started smoking after the bear got inside the car and was unable for comment as of press time.

Mammoth rocks

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), there have been 135 tremors in the Mammoth Lakes area since June 10, with 72 of the earthquakes having occurred since July 5. The quakes ranged in magnitude from 0.1 to 3.9 on Sunday, July 9.

There have been no reports of damage.

Susan Hough, of the USGS told the San Diego Tribune that the recent activity could be tied to magma movement in the Long Valley Caldera. Long Valley last saw volcanic eruptions just 1,000 years ago, in the event that created the Inyo Craters.

Earthquake swarms are common in the actively volcanic region, where hot springs, geothermal activity and carbon dioxide abound. According to USGS, that same carbon dioxide has been deemed the cause of tree death on the northside of Horseshoe Lake. It has been known to seep out of the soil from underneath Mammoth Mountain, which is also a volcano. In September 2014, the USGS recorded more than 600 quakes in a 36-hour period in the Mammoth area.

**Inyo County takes on LADWP over Eminent Domain**

On Thursday, July 13, The Los Angeles Times reported that Inyo County officials recently launched eminent domain proceedings against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in an effort to acquire property in the Owens Valley seized by Los Angeles in the early 1900s.

The LA Times reported that this is the first time the County has taken such measures against the City of Los Angeles.

Numerous legal battles have ensued over the years between the two entities, but the subject of debate has usually been damage caused by LADWP’s ground and surface water exports from the region.

The proceedings come a year after LADWP slapped Inyo County with more than a fourfold rent increase if it wished to continue to lease the land on which the County operates the Bishop-Sunland Landfill. The County was forced to agree to the lease as proposed by LADWP, or else face Call Recycle’s non-compliance fines of up to $10,000 per day.

In January, Lunch reported that LA Aqueduct Manager James Yannotta said of the 461% rent hike, “The new lease rate for Inyo County’s Bishop Sunland Landfill has been established to reflect appropriate costs for leasing and activity of this type of facility in 2017. From 1990 to today, the lease rate has been essentially unchanged. In 26 years, the lease rate went up one time ($140 per year).” The LA Times reported that this latest rent increase would cost Inyo county upwards of $20,000 per year in addition to the rent it already pays.

The Los Angeles Times also reported that Inyo County Administrator Kevin Carunchio notified LADWP of the County’s decision to consider filing a condemnation against the landfill site and two others in Lone Pine and Independence. Carunchio was unavailable for comment as of press time.

The Los Angeles Times also reported that County officials said an Inyo County appraisal concluded the fair market value of the 200 acres of total land which the County plans to condemn is $522,000. On Monday, July 10, LADWP declined Inyo County’s offer of sale, saying it would complete its own appraisals first.

Inyo County Supervisor Rick Pucci was quoted in the L.A. Times as saying, “We’re using a hammer the DWP has never seen before in the Owens Valley.” Marty Adams, Chief Operating Officer at LADWP was quoted in the same article as saying, “This is brand new. It could be a slippery slope, and where it would lead us I don’t know.”

The County wants the water rights on certain properties, which could have a cascading effect. We’re very concerned about that.

In a statement issued Thursday afternoon, LADWP said that, “Since 1993, Inyo county has received over 2,500 violations from the State of California for its poor landfill operations.” LADWP went on to state that the agency maintains that the “current management of the Bishop-Sunland Landfill, which is unequipped and does not meet current regulatory standards, can negatively impact the watershed.” LADWP said Thursday afternoon that the new lease terms were designed to protect the land and watershed from hazards posed by Inyo County’s operation of the Bishop-Sunland landfill.

LADWP is accusing Inyo County of attempting to acquire the agency’s water rights, which it says is, “not necessary as part of the landfill condemnation proceedings.” LADWP says Inyo County “needs to build a modern landfill that meets all current standards outside of the Owens River watershed.” LADWP says it is ready to work with Inyo county to achieve that goal, but did not provide details regarding how it would do so.

Inyo County officials were unavailable for comment as of press time.

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**THE SHEET | Saturday, July 15, 2017**

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**www.thesheetnews.com**
**INYO SUPES GET TOUGH ON PARKING**

*Inyo County parking ordinance amendments likely to be adopted*

**By James A.**

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 11 in Independence, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors voted to move forward with amending the County-wide parking ordinance by adding new parking restrictions, most notably in the business district of Lone Pine.

The proposed changes include banning parking on a County right-of-way within 100 feet of its intersection with Highway 395 for more than four consecutive hours between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., as well as new height restrictions on certain types of vehicles.

The Board’s actions are largely the result of a parking issue brought to the Board several weeks ago by 5th District Supervisor Matt Kingsley. Kingsley expressed concern that a small business operating out of a 30-foot aluminum Vagabond trailer was taking advantage of the County’s long-standing 10-day parking allowance. The business, owned by Charlie Brown and Mary Scudder, was therefore essentially allowed to operate rent-free on the County right-of-way in downtown Lone Pine (see “Pop Up: The Question,” June 17).

To complicate the issue further, the mobile business was in competition with an existing business across the street, Elevation, which sells similar merchandise. County Counsel Marshall Rudolph told the Supervisors that the only thing the mobile business (known as Mt. Whitney Gear, and also known as Two Foot Adventures) had to do to get around the 10-day parking restriction was “drive around the block at the end of each ten days and re-park in the same location or move to a slightly different spot.”

The new proposed County ordinance (Section 10.36.100) will limit parking to four hours between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on certain roads or streets in the business section of Lone Pine off Highway 395, within 100 feet of U.S. Highway 395 (Main Street).

This ordinance will be applicable to all vehicles and will prohibit parking of vehicles seven feet or taller during those same hours on those same streets. The roads or streets currently identified in the proposed amendments are West Post Street, East Post Street, Whitney Portal Road, and West and East Willow Street.

The new ordinance also prohibits the same vehicle from parking again on the same 100-foot portion of the road or street until after 6 p.m. on the same day.

Rudolph also suggested the addition of the wording “…and other streets or roads as may be designated by time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors” to simplify any changes that might be needed in the future.

Yet another change to the County parking ordinance is the addition of a parking ban between 2 a.m. and 6 p.m. on commercial vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more on the following streets in Lone Pine:

- West Park Street from the intersection of Edwards to the intersection of South Washington Street.
- South Washington Street from the intersection of West Park Street to the intersection of West Citrus Street, as well as such other streets or roads as may be designated from time to time by the Board of Supervisors.

The Board will vote on the new proposed parking ordinance amendments at its next regular meeting on July 18 at 8 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence.

Other issues surrounding regulation of mobile businesses suggested by County Counsel will include clarifying definitions of the terms “vendor” and “peddler,” a discussion of the administrative process by which the County will deal with them (applications, permits, fees, etc.), and a discussion of the role of enforcement.
O
n Tuesday, July 11, Inyo County Water Department Director Dr. Bob Harrington presented a draft Joint Powers Agreement for the formation of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority to the Mono County Board of Supervisors.

Inyo County drafted the agreement, which seeks to create one unified Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Owens River Basin.

The SGMA mandates that all high and medium priority basins (those deemed by the California Department of Water Resources to have current groundwater management practices that are not sustainable) be governed by a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022.

The drought earlier this decade led the State to pass legislation to govern groundwater extraction.

The State of California has granted certain agencies, including but not limited to Counties and incorporated municipalities, and existing groundwater management districts, the right to form their own regulatory bodies, called Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. Once formed, GSAs will be tasked with developing GSPs to govern groundwater extraction.

The Inyo County Water Department has proposed a Joint Powers Agreement as a means of pooling local resources to minimize the cost of implementing the SGMA for all participating members while working towards the goal of creating a GSP that will govern the entire basin by 2022.

At Tuesday’s Mono County Board of Supervisors Meeting, Harrington emphasized that the Joint Powers Agreement is a temporary one, intended to set the terms for a relationship between potential Groundwater Sustainability Agencies so they can work together to develop a single regional Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Inyo County has set an August 1 deadline for potential GSAs to join the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority. After that date, if an entity wishes to join the Authority, it will have to submit an application for review by the existing members.

The Inyo County Water Department identified thirteen entities in the Owens Valley that, as individuals, are eligible to apply to be separate GSAs under the SGMA. Of these thirteen groups, only two govern water districts that are within Mono County. These are the Tri-Valley Water Management District and the Wheeler Crest Community Service District.

The Joint Powers Agreement grants each member of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority four board votes upon entering the agreement. Inyo County will then determine a budget for developing the regional GSP. The members of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority will split the cost of that budget evenly. If members are unable to pay their full share, they will sacrifice votes. Other members can purchase those votes by covering the unmet budget needs.

Additionally, Inyo County identified twelve “potentially eligible interested parties” and “authorities,” groups that it feels should be included in planning but that are not eligible under the SGMA to become their own GSAs. This list includes Federal agencies and Tribes. Tribes and Federal agencies are not subject to the SGMA, but must agree to enforce any regulations set forth in a GSP developed by the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority upon joining the Owens Valley Groundwater Management.

At a meeting of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District on Wednesday evening, Director Carol Ann Mitchell asked Harrington, “If we become a minority vote under the JPA, how can our taxpayers protest a fee that they don’t want to pay? My concern is that there are many people here in Chalfant and Benton that don’t have a lot of income, and that may prove to be a hardship for them.” Mitchell said that the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District currently manages its own groundwater monitoring on a volunteer basis, and expressed, along with other board members, concern that residents of her district would end up paying more to get less.

Harrington assured Mitchell that...
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“CHANGE IN PHILOSOPHY” LED TO MONET DISBAND
What happens when you replace information gathering with “Aggression Replacement Training”

By Bodine

As previously reported in The Sheet (“No More Narcs,” June 9) the Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET) has been disbanded after 27 years and there is no longer an agency in the county that is handling narcotics investigations. Narcotics arrests can still take place, for example, if a Mammoth Lakes Police Officer (MLPD) or Mono County Sheriff’s Deputy finds or detects drugs. However, MONET investigations could take days or months of talking with informants or casing a residence where suspected drug dealing was occurring.

Mono County District Attorney Tim Kendall made the announcement at a Mono County Supervisor’s meeting on June 6. The reason for the disbandment, Kendall explained, is a lack of personnel. MLPD has been short-staffed since a land development debacle in 2012 left the Town of Mammoth Lakes paying $2 million a year in a settlement. After the development deal, the number of MLPD officers dropped from 17 to 11.

The Sheriff’s Department is also in need of deputies and has open positions that are funded, but just need qualified applicants to fill those slots. Sheriff Ingrid Braun told The Sheet in an email on June 9 that a new labor contract negotiated by deputies could lure more candidates. Deputy Jason Pelchowski was sworn in June 21 along with Public Safety Officers Tiffany Spinelli and Jessica Tovar. Braun said that, with a couple more deputies, the Sheriff’s Department could be part of the team.

With the lack of officers, the task of narcotics enforcement fell solely on the DAS office, and it can no longer sustain those efforts, said Kendall.

At the Supervisors meeting, Kendall said it was his belief that the Mono County Probation Department had pulled itself from the team for “philosophical reasons.”

The Sheet talked with current Chief Probation Officer Karin Humiston and former Chief Probation Officer Beverlee Bryant, and it is unclear exactly why or how Probation left the team, but they said there have been changes in the State’s philosophy of probation’s duties and responsibilities, and the County has followed suit.

Probation had assigned a dedicated officer to the team until 2012-13, Kendall told The Sheet. That officer was in the field with the team and was also assigned to supervise drug offenders. That officer was a liaison between those on probation, the incarcerated, and the rest of the team, Kendall said. While it is not an intended consequence, inmates and those on probation can be a wealth of information concerning other drug activity in the area.

“People in that arena, know what’s going on in that arena,” he said.

There are still probation officers in the field, but responsibilities for the officers have grown.

The role of probation has changed considerably after Senate Bill 678 (California Community Corrections Performance Incentive Act), aimed at reducing the state’s inmate overpopulation and closing the revolving door or recidivism rates, passed in 2009, Humiston explained. Prior to that, Kendall explained, Probation’s role was to dictate what degree of supervision was applicable to an individual. For example, a probationer may have direct supervision, meaning they could have their homes searched, to indirect supervision, with a probationer having to call to check in.

With SB 678, the state implemented evidence-based practices (EBP) such as cognitive behavior therapy to more accurately assess risks needed to develop a case plan for each offender to reduce recidivism, Humiston explained.

“It was the first step in the state’s change in addressing the rising population in prisons by providing more effective services in the community to stop the revolving door,” she said.

In 2009, Probation implemented EBP that consists of Moral Recognition Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Aggression Replacement Training, and other cognitive behavioral approaches. Humiston explained it is a multidimensional approach to community safety by preventing crime through changing criminal thinking.

“And it’s working,” Humiston said.

“Very few probationers revoke and go to prison.”

She added the cost of supervising a probationer is a fraction of the cost of incarceration. According to the Legislative Analyst Officer, the cost of housing one prisoner in California is $70,812 per year. According to the Public Policy Institute, the cost of probation per offender is between $4,438 and $10,182. In 2011, Assembly Bill 109, known as “Realignment” was enacted. The bill gave Probation the added responsibility of supervising low-risk offenders such as those sentenced for non-violent, non-sex offender and non-serious crimes in the community. Humiston said California continues to pass laws to release low-risk offenders to the community to be supervised by probation.

Humiston said there is an added workload, but the number of probationers has remained steady at four new probationers a month, with 50 to 60 total in the county. There is a drop in drug cases but it is still a significant problem, she said.

Kendall said he finds the lack of a narcotics enforcement disconcerting. Until the Mammoth Lakes Police can contribute, the team will likely never be resurrected. The Town has not offered any assistance since 2011.

Kendall will give a presentation on the narcotics task force to a joint County Supervisor/Town Council meeting on July 18 at 1 p.m. in Suite Z.
On Sunday, July 9, locals and visitors alike turned out to support the Southern Mono Historical Society for dinner and jazz by Mammoth Creek. The Yve Evans Trio and Joe Gray Jr. Ensemble opened the night with special performances. Tom Rigney and Flambeau returned to perform their Cajun blues and jazz groove while attendees dined and danced.

Photos, clockwise from top left: Jim and Shannon Clark of Mammoth Lakes enjoy a dance, along with Janet and Dave Carle of Lee Vining. Southern Mono County Historical Society Board members Marianne O’Connor and Dave Harvey enjoy the sunshine. The Joe Gray Band featuring Mike “Hurricane” Hoover, and, last but not least, renowned fiddler Tom Rigney.

Dancers and diners turn out to support the Southern Mono County Historical Society and the Hayden Cabin Museum.

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WATERING SCHEDULE

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<th>Hand Watering Allowed</th>
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WATER
continued from page 10
if smaller entities like Tri-Valley are unable to foot the bill to keep the four votes they are allotted upon entering into the Joint Powers Agreement, their fellow Board members will be allowed to purchase the votes that would otherwise be theirs. The Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District Board decided not to take a vote on whether to enter the Joint Powers Agreement, but will review the topic again at its Wednesday, July 19 meeting.

At Tuesday’s Mono County Supervisors meeting, Glen Inouye, a member of the Wheeler Crest Community Service District, asked Mono County Supervisors to consider drafting a memorandum of understanding that would govern interactions between the regions’ eligible GSAs in lieu of the Joint Powers Agreement. “We already have the monitoring procedures and facilities in place to do pretty much what this plan has in mind, but if you throw us in with Inyo County, we are now really in the middle of all the issues associated with the rest of the basin,” said Inouye. “Make no mistake. You will be throwing us under the bus.”

Supervisor Fred Stump said, “There is a necessity to have GSAs cover the entire region, or else we risk state takeover … Right now Mono County is the only entity eligible under the SGMA to cover those areas on the map outside the Tri-Valley boundary and outside of your Community Service District boundary … If the County decided to sign the Joint Powers Agreement, those areas would be covered, and right now, if we decide to do that, Wheeler Crest, your district, will be covered. I’m hearing that you don’t want us to do that.”

Inyo County Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo said, “We believe that economies of scale are really the benefit side of this cost-benefit analysis… we think this arrangement is highly favorable for the small Community Service Districts because they can join, regardless of their resources.”

“It’s not pay for play for nothing,” said Harrington.

County Counsel Stacey Simon reported that her office drafted a Memorandum of Understanding that would treat Mono and Inyo Counties as separate but equal entities, with the potential for joint grant applications. Simon said that MOU was drafted after Inyo County did not incorporate recommended edits to the Joint Powers Agreement that would have granted Mono County and individual sub-districts more voting power. Harrison noted that, unlike Mono County, all 5 of Inyo County’s voting Districts fall within the boundary of the Owens Valley, so they should have more voting power.

“As Mark Twain said,” recited Supervisor Stump, “Whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting.”

The Joint Powers Agreement goes into effect on August 1, provided that at least two members enter into it. The Mono County Board of Supervisors will vote on the matter at their Tuesday, July 18 board meeting.

BUSINESS

THE COLDEST HUG
Hugs Ice Cream opens in The Village at Mammoth
By Ben Trefry

Ice cream lovers, don’t despair! Before most people even knew that the Ben & Jerry’s in the Village had closed, a new ice cream shop opened up to take its place. Hugs Ice Cream, which opened June 29 (just in time for the 4th of July’s tourist rush) and is owned by Michael Ledesma, the owner of both Gomez’s and the Base Camp restaurants and member of the Mammoth Lakes Tourism board, serves high-quality ice cream, sorbet, and sherbert, as well as cookies and pastries—not unlike Ben & Jerry’s itself.

The reasons for the closure of Ben & Jerry’s are unclear, but Hugs Ice Cream seems to be a drop-in replacement for it. Initial impressions are that the ice cream is good quality. The Sheet stopped by for two scoops, which runs about $5. The employee serving the ice cream shaved a little off the top and back into the freezer. They are very precise in their servings.

Hugs Ice Cream, as its name implies, aims to provide a welcoming atmosphere, with quotes about hugs plastered on the walls. The Sheet was unable to reach Ledesma for comment on his new business venture.

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The Show Goes On...With A Change of Venue

Unbound Chamber Music Festival to take place at MHS, features exciting newcomers

By Lunch

Then it comes to the Unbound Chamber Music Festival, the show will go on this year, though in a venue you may not expect.

Construction at Mammoth’s Cerro Coso campus has shifted the 2017 festival to the Mammoth High School Auditorium.

But as Brian Schuldt and Rebecca Hang of the Felici Trio explain, they’ll bring in acoustic shells and experiment with the sound. As the musicians rehearse, they’ll adapt. They’re pros, after all.

Four new artists will perform at the Festival this year, highlighted by special guest Celino Romero.

Romero is the youngest member of the renowned Romero Quartet, whose original members included his grandfather, father and uncle (Pepe). Schuldt said Pepe Romero is perhaps the most famous Spanish classical guitarist.

The family emigrated from Spain to the United States in 1957. Romero will be the soloist at the July 22 show featuring a Vivaldi guitar concerto.

Schuldt and Hang said it took about three or four years of recruiting (via mutual friend and violist Nokuthula Ngwenyama, or Thula for short) to get Mr. Romero to finally say yes.

Another newcomer to Mammoth will be violinist Martin Chalifour, whom Schuldt and Hang met last year at the Nevada Chamber Music Festival in Reno.

Chalifour is the principal concert-master for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He is featured in the closing concert on July 29.

Violinist David Porter, another newcomer, played in a student string quartet with Rebecca while both were studying at Indiana University.

In fact, Indiana University is a fairly common theme which runs through the Festival lineup. Not only did Schuldt and Hang study there, but 10 of the 17 featured musicians at this year’s Festival studied at Indiana at some point.

Porter’s bio gives a very vivid description of his upbringing in Northfield, Minnesota (home of Carleton College). “David spent the first dozen or so years of his life in a mostly intact Victorian house that was infested with musical instruments, newspapers, paper bags, pets, New Yorkers, books and mice. His family included a flutist, a cellist, an oboist, two violinists and a pianist.”

A fourth newcomer, pianist Vedrana Subotic, is an associate professor-lecturer of piano at the University of Utah and is president and director of the INTERMEZZO Chamber Music Series which takes place in Salt Lake City.

Once again, the Chamber Unbound Festival, via its Sierra Academy of Music, will host forty students ages 16-24 concurrent to the Festival.

Nine of those students will come from Shanghai, China, courtesy of Violist Hu Zhong, a teaching assistant at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Six students, along with cellists Cara Elise Colon, Emilio Colon, Thomas Loewenheim and Brian Schuldt will team up as a “Ten Cellist” ensemble on Thursday, July 27.

Festival tickets are available at www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org or at the door. Individual tickets are $35. A standard pass for eight concerts is $215.

Looking for more stories about the Eastern Sierra?

Check out The Sheet’s new podcast/audio series, Stories from the Sage: Tales from California’s Eastern Edge at www.thesheetnews.com
TALKIE
continued from page 3
to fully realize that vision. "I don’t plan on extending my building out to the street," said Rudder. "Tourists desperately want to walk around…what can we do now to make Main Street a walking street? Because that will transform our fortunes.”

Dinsmore said he did have lots of ideas for almost immediate improvements. He cited ideas like the Incremental Development Alliance, a "bootcamp for small business owners on how to become developers." He talked of "pink zoning," or ways to work with the Town’s current development codes to encourage innovative development.

“We’re not going to build a walkable three-story mixed use downtown in 10 years," said Dinsmore, but he did offer ideas for attacking the current housing crisis in Mammoth by setting up an easy program for landowners to install “snow-ready” housing, such as those recently built in Aspen by Sprout Tiny Homes, and install them at low cost and without painful permitting processes.

He said the units Aspen recently built came in at "under $165,000 (per unit) with televisions, blinds, all delivered." Dinsmore is a Tiny Home advocate who is building projects in Arizona.

Ideally, he said, a prototype project would be set up so that property owners could see results in person, and so there was a precedent for zoning amendments should they be necessary. "I don’t think this kind of thinking has been done in town before," said Mayor John Wentworth.

Rudder expressed skepticism, saying “pioneers [in Mammoth] often end up with a chest full of arrows.”

"Pioneers also end up with a ski resort that just sold [to Aspen-KSL],” responded Wentworth, referring to Dave McCoy.

Hayes told the assemblage that plans are underway to do work on Main Street (a sidewalk project is already happening between the Norco service station and the intersection of Minaret and Main), thanks in part to $2.6 mil-

lion in a State funding windfall.

Hayes suggested keeping the frontage roads on Main Street as two-way streets, possibly allowing for future pedestrian events or even, someday, a street closed to traffic if the Shady Rest Parcel is developed.

For now, he said, “the bottom line is we have the money and the timeline is next summer” for adding sidewalks to lower Main Street in addition to the sidewalk being constructed on upper Main Street.

Though the State money may not cover the entire project, Tom Cage, who owns Kittredge Sports on Main Street, said “I hope the Town focuses on what is best for most right now.”

Hayes emphasized that Town staff is receptive to the needs of the Town’s citizens and are looking for direction from residents and business owners. “Prioritize,” said Hayes. "Tell us what you want done, and then we can react.”

“It’s not Town’s job to come up with the vision,” said Rudder. “It’s their job to implement it.” Rudder said that Dinsmore’s presentation and ideas were “the first demonstration of something I’ve seen that could work to our benefit.”

“That’s the most excited I’ve seen [Rudder] in 20 years,” said Cage.

Darin Dinsmore presents ideas for a “vibrant” Downtown Mammoth Lakes.

"We’re not going to build a walkable three-story mixed use downtown in 10 years," said Dinsmore, but he did offer ideas for attacking the current housing crisis in Mammoth by setting up an easy program for landowners to install “snow-ready” housing, such as those recently built in Aspen by Sprout Tiny Homes, and install them at low cost and without painful permitting processes.
Help Wanted

**SIERRA EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

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

- **Job:** Apprentice Carpenters 2B/B $18-826
- **Job:** Highway Maintenance Worker $26-826

**Part Time Preschool Aide**

Mammoth Lakes Lutheran Preschool is seeking qualified, caring early childhood professionals with basic computer programs a must. Please email resume to julie@designbdg.com.

**Maintenance Worker**

Cooks, if interested please contact Kurt Snyder kurtsnyder@convictlake.com or stop by the Restaurant.

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The restaurant at Convict Lake is looking to hire a full-time dishwasher. If interested please email kurtsnyder@convictlake.com or call 760-934-3800

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For Sale:

Dorm Rooms In 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. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on June 02, 2017.

**For Sale**

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

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

The following Person is Doing Business As:

- **Fictitious Business Name Statement**
  - **Doing Business As:**
  - Happy Sherpa Skin Care Products
  - **Type:** Fictitious Business Name Statement

**For Sale**

Cooks, if interested please contact Kurt Snyder kurtsnyder@convictlake.com or stop by the Restaurant.

**For Sale**

July Lake 315 sq. ft. $650

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

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

The following Person is Doing Business As:

- **Fictitious Business Name Statement**
  - **Doing Business As:**
  - Fern Creek Lodge in June Lake

**For Sale**

Cooks, if interested please contact Kurt Snyder kurtsnyder@convictlake.com or stop by the Restaurant.

**For Sale**

July Lake 315 sq. ft. $650

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

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BARS & MUSIC
Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill.
Pursuit of Happiness Bar, 3-6 p.m.
$2 off draft beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread. See ad, page 15.
Ocean Bar: Monday: All Night Happy Hour; 4-Midnight, Tues-Fri 4-6 p.m.
Tuesday: $2 Tacos 4-10 p.m., 8-Midnight, Wednesday 50% off all wings. Thursday: Burger & Beer special 4-9 p.m. See ad, p. 16.
Rocollo’s: 4 p.m. every day.
Austria Hof: 5-8 p.m. daily. See ad, p. 9.
Whitebark 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. Petras 5:30-6:30 $22 Bolognese/drink special, $3 off specialty cocktails and food discounts. See ad, p. 4.
Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour
Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour; Mon. thru Fri 4-6; Saturday 4-5; Closed Sun.
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.
Smokyard weekend Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. in the bar only.
Side Door Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m.
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.
Morrison’s Happy Hour Daily 4-6 p.m.
Food Cache Happy Hour 3:30-6:30 Sunday-Thursday. Street tacos $2.50, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine and house fries.
Friday, July 14/
Gene Evaro Jr. at Rafters. Soul, folk, pop. 9 p.m. Free.
Ryan Hiller plays 53 Kitchen & Cocktails in Mammoth. Saturday too.
Saturday, July 15/
Bodie 601 Band plays the Gallery at Twin Lakes. 5 p.m. Free.
Double Coyote plays Eastside Bake Shop. 6 p.m. See ad, p. 6.
Sunday, July 16/
The Sundogs play the beer garden at Mammoth Brewing Co. 4-7 p.m. Free.
Good Livin’ plays The Mobil Mart in Mammoth Brewing Co. 4-7 p.m. Free.
Monday, July 17/
Bowing n’ Beasts: Boogie Nights at Mammoth Rock n’ Bowl. 9 p.m. See ad, p. 3.
Wednesday, July 19/
Jaded Haters play Liberty Bar. Free live music. 9 p.m. See ad, p. 15.
Post-Farmers’ Market jazz at Liberty Bar.
Eddie Evans plays happy hour, 4-7 p.m. See ad, p. 15.
Open Mic @ Mammoth Brewing Co. Starts 6 p.m. Weekly beer special.
Thursday, July 20/
Trashrun plays The Mobil in Lee Vining. Free. Rock & Soul 6-9 p.m. See ad, p. 12.
TOWN STUFF
July 14-15/
Mammoth Food and Wine Experience. See ad page 11, sidebar next page.
Friday, July 14/
Sierra Club hike in Bodie Hills: Rattlesnake Gulch. 4 mile hike through ghost town Monovile hosted by Sierra Club and Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership. Meet at Union Bank, Mammoth at 8:45 a.m. Info: Mauricio 760.932.7128.
Wildflower Walk in Mammoth Lakes
Hike to Heart Lake and learn to identify wildflowers. Meet at trailhead at 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, July 15/
Born of Fire, Sculpted by Ice: Mammoth’s Unique Geology, 2-mile interpretive hike with Friends of the Inyo. Meet at Inyo Crater Trailhead, 10 a.m.
The Queen Cities play the Bridgeport Ranch, 9-11 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. Non-host bar. Tix: $5. Info: www.bridgeportranch.com.
Panum Crater Tour with the Mono Lake Committee. Meet at trailhead. 3 miles east on CA-120 from junction with US-399, 10-11 a.m. For reservations call 760.934.6250.
ESIA Mammoth Consolidated Mine Tour. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet at trailhead @ Coldwater Campground. Free Saturday morning yoga in The Village at Mammoth at Yoga Lab, 8-9 a.m.
ESIA Campfire Program in June Lake. 7-8 p.m. Oh Ridge Campground. Naturalist program around the campfire.
Lone Pine Courtyard Concert.
Free Live music by Sandy and the High Country from 8-11 p.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Courtyard, Lone Pine.
Echoes of Resilience at Manzanar.
Tour of Block 14 at 9:30 a.m. and screening of “Stand Up for Justice: the Ralph Lazo Story” at 12:30 p.m. Info: gomez2030@gmail.com.
June Lake Chipper Day. 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pitch that firewood. Free.
Sierra Club Hike to Starkweather Trail.
Wildflower Walk, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Passes required. Meet at the June Lake Junction with Highway 158. Chipper and Fire Crew will be at the Pumice Valley Landfill off Highway 93.
Sunday, July 16/
Village at Mammoth Summer Movie Series. 8:30 p.m. Finding Dory. BYO chair, blanket. can get chilly.
Free Guided Bird Walk at Mono Lake with the Mono Lake Committee. 8-10 a.m. Meet at the County Park, 5 miles north of Lee Vining.
Sierra Club Hike to Starkweather Trail
Wildflower Walk, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Slopes, 3-mile hike from Minaret Summit. Meet at Minaret Vista Kiosk. Info: Jean 760.648.7199.
Mammoth’s Unique Geology.
4 mile hike to Starkweather Trailhead @ Coldwater Campground. Free.
**No opening date for Reds Meadow Road**

Forest engineers are assessing storm damage to the Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile Road and there is no estimated opening date for the road at this time. Crees have only recently been able to get into the Reds Meadow Valley after plowing over snow and ice to reach emergency commanders.

The Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile Road remain closed to vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and work is in progress to make necessary repairs.

**Input sought for Mammoth Base Land Exchange**

The Inyo, Stanislaus and Plumas National Forests are seeking input for the proposed Mammoth Base Land Exchange - A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for public review. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for download from the Inyo National Forest website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/project=30428. A comment form is included on the website, which allows the public to submit comments on the Draft EIS electronically.

Comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted for 45 days from publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register or until August 20, 2017 (the anticipated date of publication of the NOA is July 7, 2017). Comments may be submitted to Ed Armenta, Forest Supervisor, c/o Janelle Walker, Winter Sports Specialist, Inyo National Forest, PO Box 148, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, or by email to: janellew@fs.fed.us (please include “Mammoth Base Land Exchange” in the subject line). Comments may also be submitted by hand-delivery to 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514, during normal business hours (Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

The Inyo National Forest will hold a public meeting on July 31, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber, Suite Z, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA (above the Vons) to provide an overview of the project and to answer questions from the public. For questions or comments, please contact Janelle Walker at janellew@fs.fed.us.

**Free food for kids**

Free breakfast and free lunch will be served for all children eighteen and under this summer in Bishop at the Bishop Indian Education Center and Bishop High School.

There are no required forms to be filled out, and no questions will be asked to those being served.

Breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Monday- Friday. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Bishop Indian Education Center, 390 North Barlow Lane, from June 12 to August 11.
Notice of Vacancy

Notice is hereby given that the Mono County Board of Supervisors is accepting applications for a vacancy representing District 2 on the Mono County Economic Development, Tourism and Film Commission (MCTFC). The term of the unexpired position will begin immediately upon appointment and will continue for four years. The position will be filled by a Mono County resident of District 2.

Any qualified individual is invited to submit a letter of interest and resume to Darrell Menning, Assistant County Clerk, Mono County Administration Building, P.O. Box 1012, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

The position of Economic Development, Tourism and Film Commission member is not a county government appointed position, but rather a voluntary position. Applicants must be a business owner or a resident of Mono County who desires to promote the generation of jobs and revenues to the County via the economic development initiatives to the Board of Supervisors.

Deadline to submit application is Friday, July 14, 2017.

Dutcher said that the County currently pays close to $1.3 million annually for lease payments to the Sierra Center Mall and that solutions will be discussed at the Tuesday, July 18 Special Joint Town/County Meeting.

Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre’s October production of

The Crucible

Looking for 11 men ages 30-70, 4 women ages 30-70, and 5 young women to play ages 10-18.

Monday, July 17, 2017
@4pm

Edison Theatre
100 College Parkway

For more information, visit www.mammothlakesrepertorytheatre.org or call 760-934-6592

SOCI continued from page 1

of explaining why County staff thought it prudent to move forward without the Town.

Dublino told Supervisors that the County does not actually own the entire portion of the McFlex Parcel on which it plans to build the new facility, proposing a 33,000 square foot South County office building. Right now, the facility is set to straddle the two properties that together comprise the McFlex Parcel, with 15,000 square feet on County land and 15,000 square feet on Town land. The County’s portion is currently a parking lot that serves the neighboring courthouse, as governed by a twenty-year legal agreement that Dublino says the County must uphold. Dublino said the two entities have met several times to discuss the dilemma and that solutions will be discussed at the Tuesday, July 18 Special Joint Town/County Meeting.

Mammoth County CAO Blake Chapman told Supervisors, “The $20 million range is doable ... the $25 million range is not affordable ... the key here is really making sure that we right-size the project.” The County’s latest cost estimate is $29.9 million. I want to see us downsize to $20 million. That keeps us at a level close to what we are paying annually in rent right now.” Finance Director Janet Dutcher said that the County currently pays close to $1.3 million annually to lease its existing office space in Mammoth Lakes, and that both the lease and the lease at the Minaret Mall have built in escalators that cause them to increase every year. Dutcher said that the cost of debt service is a “relatively set cost,” that would come in at about $1.5 million annually. Dublino told the Board that County staff recommended a Design-Build approach to construction, in which a single firm is hired to handle both the design and construction of a facility. Dublino said this method is “economically faster than hiring a separate architect and builder, but requires a particularly extensive request for proposals.” Additionally, the Supervisors heard a presentation from investment banking firm Brandis Tallman, LLC, regarding its options for financing the proposed $20.9 million project. Mono County is a Debt Limit Entity, meaning it does not have the power to enter into a financial agreement that obligates it beyond the current fiscal year without a two-thirds vote of its electorate. In his presentation on Tuesday, Brandis Tallman Principal Jeff Land recommended the “Lease Financing,” as an “exemption” to this rule. According to Land, once the project is in the process is for Mono County to obtain a bond issuer credit rating (a bond rating as a borrower) is AA3. According to Dutcher, a good borrower’s rating doesn’t necessarily ensure a good lender’s rating, but that’s the step to assume the County won’t be competitive. That rating will determine the cost of Bond insurance, and will determine, along with the bond market, the time of lending. How much Mono County is able to charge for its bonds and still be competitive. Additionally, this information must be disclosed along with other data about the risk associated with the investment to potential bond purchasers.

Once the County has obtained a lender’s credit rating, and deemed that the market is favorable for bond sales, the County will make a formal Public Offering, where it will issue its debt as a series of bonds, to be purchased by an Underwriter, which will most likely be an investment banking firm such as Brandis Tallman, LLC. The underwriter will then resell the bonds to investors. The County will then repay those investors in the form of a lease on the new building to the Economic Development Corporation from the General Fund. Those payments then go to a “trustee,” aka the underwriter, (Brandis Tallman, LLC) that is responsible for making bi-annual payments to bond holders.

According to Land, Lease Financing would allow Mono County to leverage its current lease payments to the Sierra Center Mall as an “asset of equal or greater value to the financing amount required to secure the certificates of participation payments,” a move that would make the County’s bonds look like very stable investments on its Certificate of Participation Payments, the piece of paper that enumerates the risks associated with purchasing bonds issued by Mono County to pro- prospective investors. Legally, although the County pays rent tot the Economic Development Corporation, it will always own the new facility at the McFlex Parcel.

Land reported that, for a project fund of $24.9 million with a 35-year financing scheme that assumes a 4.05% interest rate, the County would incur a total debt service of $1.5 million, with average annual debt service payments of $1.5 million. Bond issuance would cost about $921,000.

Land also reported that, for a project fund of $20.5 million with a 35-year financing scheme, which is closer to the County’s budget, the County would incur a total of $42.3 million in total debt service costs, with average annual debt service payments of $1.2 million, assuming an interest rate of 4.08%.

The preferred move-in date for the new office facility is October 2019, leaving about a year of time for which the County would be paying its rent to the Sierra Center Mall and to the new office building.

Dutcher said the goal is to make sure that today’s taxpayers do not foot a greater tax burden than those around to enjoy the facility. “Paying up front isn’t equitable,” said Dutcher. “When we have a long-lived asset and several generations of taxpayers paying taxes, there will always be an offset that pays the taxes with the offset.”
BIGFOOT GETS BEAT UP ON MAIN
Locals rally to rehab the Mammoth Fun Shop’s latest, most reliable employee

By Rea

Mammoth has a way of rallying around locals who have fallen on unfortunate circumstances—even if those locals happen to be made out of fiberglass.

When Mammoth Fun Shop owner Camille Miller arrived at her business on the morning of July 7, she noticed that the 6-foot-tall Bigfoot statue that’s been greeting customers for the last month or so was “listing.”

Turns out, Bigfoot had been pummeled the night before, by a couple of men out on the town. And Miller had it all on video. Three men were walking southbound on the frontage road next to her shop, said Miller, just before midnight on Thursday, July 6. One of the trio “went up to Bigfoot and shoved him a little, assessing whether or not he’d come off his feet…His companion decided he would give it a stronger go. So the second guy did kind of a football rush twice, and succeeded in ripping his feet out of the ground, while friend number one filmed it on his phone. Friend number three stayed out of it.”

Bigfoot, Miller said, has steel plates in his feet that connect to a concrete foundation which is covered up by dirt in front of the Fun Shop.

“His repair bill is going to be probably [$400 or more in property damage],” said Miller, who declined to state how much he cost. “It was pretty involved, 10-12 hours with my husband digging up the concrete, driving him to the welder’s, the fiberglass repair man…”

we’re up to the felony level and beyond

“The Millers hired welder Todd Unangst to repair the steel, and Unangst’s colleague Dave to fix up the fiberglass. Mammoth Lakes Police Department was quick to serve justice for Bigfoot. “Officers recognized the suspects from the video and were able to locate James Hoodman,” wrote Hannah DeGoey, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police, in an email to The Sheet. “Hoodman confessed when questioned regarding the damage to Bigfoot. Hoodman also had a no bail warrant for being a Parolee at Large and was subsequently arrested.”

Miller said that the MLPD were “amazing” in their response to the report of the crime. “They’ve always been incredibly responsive to our needs as business people, and I’ve always been impressed with the high level of work they’ve given to our community.” She said that the type of people who think it’s funny to vandalize a statue “are the same kind of people who are typically doing other bad things in town, so I just felt…as a business owner that I was willing to take this on as a business expense. In the interest of keeping the peace, I wanted to make sure these guys weren’t doing these kind of things to other people.”

She hopes the swift arrest will serve as an example to others. “If we say as a community, ‘Hey, we’re not going to allow that kind of thing,’” maybe others will think twice before acting out. “A lot of little bad things add up, so we don’t want that as a community,” said Miller. As for Bigfoot, he’s back in action in front of the Fun Shop, with a pair of crutches and a bandage. “People have a real soft spot for this Bigfoot,” Miller said. “He’s become kind of beloved overnight.”

Miller said they’d likely keep the bandages on through the weekend, because it’s a conversation starter and it’s actually been good publicity for the Fun Shop. “We tried to make light of that and at least have a little fun with it,” she said.

NOTHING TO LOSE
AND A WORLD TO SEE.

Driftwood Creek
Summer Music Tour

The Gallery at Twin Lakes
July 22  4pm
Mammoth Brewing Company
July 23  4 pm
Liberty Sport Bar & Grill
July 26  3 pm
Black Donald Brewing Company
July 27  6 pm
Mill Creek Station
July 18  7 pm
East Side Bike Shop
July 29  6 pm

www.facebook.com/DriftwoodCreekMusic

Available at Eastside Sports
224 North Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514 tel 760.873.7520 eastsidesports.com
We were like, ‘This guy is not stopping.’ The three men watched as Arnold careened down the slope. ‘He went out of our sight and all I heard was him bouncing off rocks, crunch crunch, and then he emptied out at the bowl below.’ Wray said that they saw Arnold lying face down, unmoving, surrounded by snow and blood. ‘And we were like, ‘This guy’s either dead or paralyzed. There’s no way he’s alive.’ After several tense moments, they saw Arnold move. ‘So we all aborted the mission [to get to the top of Ellery Bowl] and scrambled down the rocks and skied to him,’ said Williams.

“I got to him first,” said Wray, “and he was just sitting there, holding his head. There was blood on the ground, and his helmet was 50 yards away.” Arnold’s helmet was crushed from both sides. ‘His googles survived,’ noted Kral. ‘Everything else was gone, and is still missing—skis, poles, GoPro, car keys, phone. Kral had first aid training and was able to get to the top of Ellery Bowl, and he was not wearing a helmet when he took the fall that sent him to the hospital. He did not know how he fell, or exactly what happened in the aftermath, other than that he had just arrived home from hiking Mt. Whitney together, and decided to go on a solo adventure.

“All I can say is thank God for helmets,” said Arnold, who was back in San Francisco this week, where he works in software sales. ‘If [Wray, Kral and Williams] weren’t there, who knows what would have happened.”

Another local man was injured on June 28 in the same location. Jordyn Murphy, 24, of Mammoth Lakes, told The Sheet on Thursday, July 13 that he doesn’t remember much about his accident—he had just arrived home from two weeks of rehabilitation in Reno and Bakersfield hospitals. On June 28, Murphy was backcountry snowboarding with friends down Ellery Bowl, and he was not wearing a helmet when he took the fall that sent him to the hospital. He did not know how he fell, or exactly what happened in the aftermath, other than that he was airlifted from the slope by a Mono County Search and Rescue helicopter. Murphy has a GoFundMe account set up to help with his medical bills at www.gofundme.com/help-for-jordyn-murphys-injuries.

Mike Mitchell and Bronco Kral assist injured skier David Arnold.


Arnold, likely thanks to his helmet, only incurred an emergency room visit and not weeks of rehabilitative therapy.

Murphy echoed Arnold’s sentiments. ‘Definitely travel with a buddy,’ Murphy said. ‘And I know I might not have had it, but safety equipment, safety equipment, safety equipment. I’m glad to be able to be here to tell the story.”
AD HOC AT HOME

MLT votes to create ad hoc committee to find direction regarding potential events position

By Rea

The Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board voted to create an ad hoc committee to determine the direction of the organization wishes to take in regard to events planning in Mammoth.

The Board voted 6-0 to create the committee, comprised of two members of MLT, two members of the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, and one Town of Mammoth Lakes representative at its meeting on Tuesday, July 11.

The representatives from Mammoth Lakes Tourism will be Colin Fernie and Sean Turner, with alternates Michael Ledesma and Kirk Schaubmeyer.

Recommendations from the committee likely will not come back until November, and committee members likely won’t begin to meet until after Labor Day.

“Probably after Labor Day is realistic to try to get everything together without pulling their hair out,” said MLT Executive Director John Urdi.

The Board also discussed having the committee host members of other entities, such as the Forest Service, Mono County Tourism, or the Bureau of Land Management, but decided that a smaller group might be more effective.

“I’d just hate to see it get to the point where everyone is so well represented we just get lost,” said Paul Rudder. “If we’re going to take on the responsibility, I’d like to see this board have tremendous influence.”

Urdi said that the position would live with (be employed by) the Chamber of Commerce, which is majority-funded by MLT.

“I think there are a lot of things that need to be settled as to what this position is doing, or where this funding is coming from,” said Urdi. “Since we’ve taken a hit with the budget we don’t want to take more of a hit with operating expenses.”

Mammoth Lakes Tourism’s funding was “recalibrated” by a vote from Mammoth’s Town Council at their meeting on June 21. Tourism’s allocation of Transient Occupancy Tax revenue went from 2.5 points to 2.35 points. MLT is still mostly funded by the Tourism Business Improvement District.

“I think there are a lot of things that need to be settled as to what this position is doing, or where this funding is coming from,” said Urdi.

He said that he’d looked at a number of resort destinations, and the way they handle their events vary wildly.

“I’ll bet some destinations are more successful than others,” said Rudder. “Breckenridge seems to be a ski area of our size and much more successful than we are … their infrastructure is renowned throughout the west.”

“I’m thinking we need to make a Frankenstein out of them (all the different programs that have been looked at and stealing the best ideas from each),” said Urdi.

MLT Chair John Morris expressed concern that, if the group did not return a recommendation until November, it would not be possible to hire an employee for the next summer season.

Rudder said that MLT’s participation in hiring an events position would be a good opportunity for the organization to show its commitment to locals.

“This organization needs to be out front and bringing stuff to Mammoth in a way it hasn’t in the past,” said Rudder. “Because we’re getting whacked from the Town Council and community at large that we’re not sufficiently visible. The locals here in town don’t see what we do, they live here and we do stuff elsewhere … and the Council is looking at us like a big fat turkey they want to slice up.”

Rudder said it would be a chance to get “political currency” for Mammoth Lakes Tourism.

“It’s an opportunity, that if handled properly, people, instead of being opposed to this organization, will be supportive of it … and it’s up to the Board to figure out how the hell to do this.”
NEW RELEASE OF LUXURY MOUNTAIN RETREATS NOW SELLING!

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

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