A group of scientists from the Eastern Sierra are preparing for the August 21 total solar eclipse in a completely unique way—the members of Aspendell-based Earth to Sky Calculus will be spreading out along the path of totality and launching a dozen stratospheric helium balloons to capture photos of the first total solar eclipse to cross the United States since 1918. The helium balloons, which travel to the edge of the atmosphere (to about 100,000 feet) before they explode, will be carrying “payloads” of cameras, radiation sensors, and GPS trackers. For the solar eclipse project, spherical cameras will be added to the balloons. “We hope to get 360 views of the moon’s shadow on the earth,” said Dr. Tony Phillips, who founded the organization of young scientists and who runs a website called spaceweather.com to document the group’s findings, among other projects of his own. “That has never been done before.”

Several Earth to Sky students traveled to Indonesia in March of 2016 to do an on-the-ground simulation of the upcoming launch (see “Earth to Sky students take off for Indonesia,” March 5, 2016), and now the big event is finally upon them. “It’s really almost surreal,” said Joe Harvey, who was one of the students who traveled to Belitung Island in Indonesia to experience his first total solar eclipse. “In less than one week I’ll be in Wyoming experiencing another total eclipse, where a little less than a year and a half ago I was in another country.” Harvey said that the opportunity to “go launch some balloons and hang out with some dogs in Aspendell” in the summer of 2014 has truly changed his life. “I grew up in Bishop. I see ECLIPSE, page 12

A TOUGH RACE INDEED

L.A. CONSIDERS CONDEMNATION
THREATS TO BE GARBAGE

By Lunch

Inyo County Supervisors adopted resolutions of necessity to authorize the filing of condemnation actions to acquire three properties from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The action was taken at the Board’s August 15 meeting in Independence. The properties in question are the sites of three County landfills. The County believes it has the right to force a sale of the land by invoking “eminent domain” (the taking of private property for public use) in order to protect the public health and welfare. According to Inyo County Administrator Kevin Carunchio, lease restrictions imposed by LADWP have made the County’s “ability to manage its landfills tenuous at best.”

As Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson said in his presentation Tuesday, the state requires that counties show they have a 15-year waste management plan in place. Los Angeles was only willing to offer a three-year lease extension at the Sunland Landfill outside Bishop—an extension that was signed by the County earlier this year. Landfills in Independence and Lone Pine are currently operating without leases. The Sunland lease also includes a 180-day termination without cause provision. Hardly a provision which would encourage long-term planning. Further, Benson said the new lease more than tripled the County’s rent, and with Bishop’s landfill having 99 years of useful life remaining, Benson said it makes logical sense for the County to own the facility instead of leasing it.

Benson estimated closing the three existing landfills and then opening a new landfill would cost $17 million, provided the County could find a suitable site. According to Carunchio, the County first approached LADWP about condemning the properties in March, offering to have LADWP join the County in a tour/appraisal of the landfill sites. In May, the County, based upon independent appraisals, offered to purchase the properties. According to Carunchio, LADWP rejected the offers, pending its own appraisals, which it suggested Inyo County should pay for. The letter did say, “LADWP is willing to participate in good faith discussions regarding the future of the Landfill properties.”

On Monday, a day before the hearing, Murphy and Evertz, a law firm retained by the County, filed a grand jury request for LADWP to produce documents. In July, LADWP rejected the County’s condemnation proposal, and LADWP offered to have LADWP join the County in a tour/appraisal of the landfill sites.

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LANDFILL
continued from page 1
the city of Los Angeles, submitted an eight-page letter to the County.
One of attorney John C. Murphy's principal arguments against the Inyo
Supervisors adopting a resolution to condemn the properties is that it
would represent noncompliance with CEQA (California Environmental
Quality Act). Murphy wrote that “compliance with CEQA is mandatory
before a public entity may condemn property for a proposed project.” He
included citation of ample legal precedent.

What was interesting, however, was the final paragraph. The verbage had
changed slightly, and gotten more specific:

“In sum, LADWP remains willing to discuss all outstanding issues, and,
specifically, mutually acceptable terms and conditions of a voluntary sale.”

As Supervisor Jeff Griffiths commented Tuesday during Board delib-
eration, “The sudden offer to perhaps sell indicates to me we’re heading
down the right path … I don’t believe making findings [in the resolution]
interferes with the [negotiating] process. We can fight and play at the same
time.”

While Los Angeles asked the Board to defer voting on the resolution so
that the parties could continue negotiations, the Board demurred. Supervi-
sor Matt Kingsley observed, “It’s hard for me to negotiate a lease for years
and then get a letter with the less than 24 hours notice … you can’t stop a
process based upon a last-minute verbal offer.”

County Supervisors approved the resolutions authorizing the filing of
condemnation actions by a unanimous vote.

Other governmental entities are keenly interested in what transpires
regarding this potential condemnation. Mono County, for example, has
dozens of leases with LADWP. “We’re watching it closely,” said Mono County
Assistant CAO and former Solid Waste Superintendent Tony Dublino. “We’re
very interested.”

On Wednesday, LADWP General Manager David Wright issued a state-
ment in which he said, “As the landowner, LADWP has had particular
concerns regarding the management of the Bishop-Sunland Landfill which
is unlined, fails to meet current regulatory standards, and can negatively
impact the watershed.”

He concludes with the following:

“LADWP maintains that the landfill must be operated with the appropri-
ate measures to protect the land and the safety of the watershed. We will
continue to protect the water and L.A.'s water rights regardless of the own-
ner's interests.”

A fifth of West Nile

A fifth mosquito has tested positive for the West Nile virus in Inyo County
and a first has tested positive in Lone Pine. According to a press release
from the Inyo County Mosquito Abatement District issued on Friday,
August 11, positive samples had previously been discovered in the Bishop
area.

At the Inyo County Board meeting on Tuesday, Agriculture Commissioner
Nate Reade said he had “never seen the volume of mosquitoes like we’ve
seen this year.”

He said recorded numbers are four- to five-times historical norms.

He said it is estimated there are 3.2 billion (not a typo) mosquitoes
hatching daily in the corridor between Pleasant Valley Reservoir and Warm
Springs Road in Bishop.

“We have these mosquitoes out there breeding like crazy,” quipped Su-
ervisor Matt Kingsley. “We need some family planning.”

Of course, family planning does come with a price tag. Reade estimated it
would cost $250,000 to institute an aerial spray program.

While that conjures images of aircraft spraying pesticides, Reade ex-
plained there would be no planes and no “fogging”—that it was more of an
“aerial application”

The biggest challenge for the County’s Mosquito Abatement program is
that in hot weather, mosquitoes have a 7-10 day life cycle.

LADWP’s Acting Director of Supply Chain Services Anselmo Collins said,
“we recognize that time is of the essence and we will expedite funding.”

As Reade explained, because L.A. is not putting the excess water on the
lake, they’re spreading it over the Owens Valley which has created a tremen-
dous mosquito habitat.

As for help from the state, it’s not coming—yet. As Reade explained, an
emergency hasn’t been declared yet. So, no emergency, no moolah. Inyo’s
current classification is “high threat level.”

West Nile was first detected in Inyo County in 2004. According to Inyo
County Health Officer Dr. James Richardson, only 20 percent of people bit-
ten by a mosquito carrying the virus will contract the disease, and only 1
percent of those will experience life-threatening reactions. Symptoms range
from mild fevers to severe headaches that can lead to neurological illnesses.

There is no preventative vaccine for humans. Horses are susceptible to
contracting West Nile, but there are preventative vaccines available for
livestock.

For more information go to https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html, or
the State of California West Nile virus website http://www.westnile.ca.gov/.
To report mosquito problems to the Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement
Program, call 760.873.7853.
18th Annual Golf Classic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 AT SIERRA STAR GOLF COURSE

Four Person Scramble

$125 INDIVIDUAL / $500 FOURSOME SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Have fun and support Mammoth Lakes Foundation and Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra—two nonprofits working together to make Mammoth a better place to live!

REGISTER TODAY! Registration includes greens fees, cart, lunch, and more. To register, sponsor a Wounded Warrior, or get more information call 760.934.3781/760.934.0791 or visit https://golfclassic.ticketspice.com/18th-annual-golf-classic
A NON-STOP BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL

Six Bishop Kmart employees arrested for months of walking out with merchandise

By Bodine

Several current and former employees at the Kmart in Bishop allegedly teamed up to steal clothes and electronic goods from the store. The six suspects are believed to have stolen more than $50,000 in merchandise, according to a press release from the Bishop Police Department (BPD).

On Friday, August 11, BPD officers recovered stolen merchandise from the residence of former Kmart employee Lorena Castro, 20, of Bishop. Castro was subsequently taken into custody. Former employee Jasmine Cornoa Vargas, 20, was arrested later that day. Both were charged with possession of stolen property.

On Monday, August 14, BPD officers took four current Kmart employees into custody; Rachel Dominguez, 33, Jamie Lynn Hutchinson, 31, Isabel Darlene Morello, 35, and Nicole Adrien Rogers, 36; all of Bishop. The women were booked into Inyo County Jail for embezzlement of more than $950, and conspiracy to commit a felony.

The four women were still in custody at Inyo County Jail as of Wednesday, August 16.

Kmart did not return calls from The Sheet, but other former employees, who wished to remain anonymous, reported that the four older women had worked at the store for several years. The younger suspects were only employed at Kmart for a short time.

Jessica Scida, Public Information Office for the BPD said it has not yet been confirmed if there was any money taken in addition to the smuggled merchandise, or what the suspects planned on doing with the merchandise once they got it out of the store. It is also unclear at this time whether they planned to sell it or keep it. She added the embezzlement went on for months.

The suspects allegedly conspired to steal goods and all worked the closing shift, according to Scida. She said it has yet to be officially verified, but that the goods were taken out of the store in shopping carts or employees’ pockets.

The day before the initial arrests, Asset Protections Managers for Kmart’s parent company, Sears Holdings, contacted the BPD. Sears had been conducting its own internal investigation and concluded that the six suspects were conspiring, Scida said.

One anonymous employee said, “I wasn’t made aware of the investigation or the arrests until they [co-workers] didn’t show up to work and the Bishop Police Department released details to the public."

“I wasn’t made aware of the investigation or the arrests until they [co-workers] didn’t show up to work and the Bishop Police Department released details to the public.”

During the course of arresting the six individuals, two males were also arrested. Tony Diaz III, 42, of Bishop, was arrested on a felony warrant and booked into Inyo County Jail. Tony Diaz Jr., 68, of Bishop, was cited for driving on a suspended license.

According to a January 2015 report at Fortune.com, America leads the world in dishonest employees. In the rest of world, employees account for 28 percent of inventory loss and shoplifters for 39 percent. In the States, employees account for 43 percent of lost inventory, or approximately $18 billion annually, $2.3 billion more than shoplifters.

On average, American employees embezzle $43 billion a year from employers, according to Global Retail Theft Barometer, a research engine that studies the impacts of shoplifting, employee fraud, and accounting errors on retail markets worldwide.

Representatives from the Kmart store in Bishop deferred all questions to the company’s corporate offices. Sears Holdings did not return calls to The Sheet.

“I wasn’t made aware of the investigation or the arrests until they [the rest of the closing shift] didn’t show up to work and the BPD released details to the public.”
This week, public officials in Mammoth Lakes and Mono County heard disturbing statistics regarding the impact of housing shortages on the local economy.

The statistics were compiled by BBC Research and Consulting and WSW Consulting.

Jennifer Halferty, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing, presented WSW’s draft Community Housing Action Plan at Tuesday’s Mono County Board of Supervisors Meeting. According to WSW’s research, the long-term rental market in Mammoth Lakes reached a zero percent vacancy rate in January 2017, and has remained at less than 2 percent vacancy through the traditional spring shoulder season and summer. As one survey respondent who identified themselves as a local property manager said, “It’s a landlord’s market; low quality units command substantial rent.”

WSW’s report speculated that the reason Mammoth’s housing inventory is so poor (realtors surveyed said that the few units of housing available for less than $400,000 need to be gutted or demolished because they have substantial structural damage) is that property owners could not afford to keep up with repairs during the recession and subsequent drought. Now that the market is up, WSW reported that, “many owners lack the incentive to catch up with repairs.” The report went on to say that this is exacerbated by the fact that “a high percentage of locals.”

By the end of summer 2017, the median rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in Mammoth Lakes reached $1,300, which is more than six times as lucrative for property owners than renting it out on a nightly basis in order to subsidize their rent in another community.

Jen Garner, Principal Consultant for WSW Consulting and Research, told Supervisors on Tuesday that she had surveyed 41 employers from Mono County about housing. Of those employers surveyed, 69 percent reported that they had difficulty retaining employees because of a lack of housing, and 87 percent reported that the housing shortage statewide had a detrimental effect on their ability to recruit employees. She said employees were experiencing growth without any guarantee that they would have the staffing to accommodate it.

When asked what the most common ways employees who choose to stay compensate for the lack of affordable places to live, 61 percent of employers surveyed said that employees picked up a second or third job. Thirty to thirty-six percent of employers said that employees reported that they had moved into a car or started camping. “This is homelessness,” said Supervisor Stacy Corless.

Additionally, many of the residents also surveyed many property owners by people who don’t live here. They also surveyed many property owners who were young professionals from Southern California who purchased property in Mammoth Lakes with the intention of renting it out on a nightly basis in order to subsidize their rent in another community.

By Giles

THE SHEET | Saturday, August 19, 2017 www.thesheetnews.com

LIVING ON A PRAYER
Preliminary reports from Mono County Housing Needs Assessment: homelessness on the rise

The Whitmore Pool is open 7-days a week with public swimming and lap swim offered in August. Last day is Friday, September 1! Please call the Whitmore Pool (760) 965-3692 for additional information.

The Adult Softball League continues at Shady Rest Park and join coach Kyle at the Community Courts for drop-in Adult Clinics every Tuesday & Thursday from 3:30-5:30 for only $10.

TOWN CONDUCTING SCHEDULED MULTI-USE PATH & ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has contracted with Spiess Construction to perform scheduled maintenance in August on the Lakes Basin multi-use path from Horsehead Lake to Minaret Road and the Loop multi-use path from the Mammoth Middle School to Sierra Park Road. The contractor will also be reconstructing Hillside Drive north of Forest Trail, Sawmill Road and Chateau Road. Work also includes microsurfacing treatment on multiple roads within Town limits.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS FOR THE EASTERN SIERRA

Temporary fire restrictions on all public lands managed by the Bishop Field Office in Inyo and Mono counties are in effect until November 6, or until hazardous wildfire conditions on public lands in the Eastern Sierra improve.

Sept. 5: Recreation Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00 AM

Sept. 6: Town Council Meeting, Suite Z, 6:00 PM

Sept. 13: Planning and Economic Development, Suite Z, 2:00 PM

Town e-News: Town e-News is your direct source for Town news, events, meetings and announcements. Subscribe online under “NOTIFY ME” at www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL IN JUNE LAKE
Southern California Edison announces plans to remove pumps installed earlier this summer from the Rush Creek Dam system

By Rea

Representatives from Southern California Edison (SCE) and the U.S. Forest Service held a town hall meeting at the June Lake Community Center to discuss the Rush Creek Hydroelectric system on Tuesday, August 15. One major takeaway from the meeting was that, without the series of dams located above Silver and Grant Lakes, flooding in the area would have been far worse this summer.

“It’s the highest snowpack we’ve ever recorded in history up at Gem and Agnew Lake,” said Wayne Allen, Licensing and Compliance Manager for SCE. “That equated to 80,000 acre-feet of water…all that water has to go somewhere into the Rush Creek system. All of this snowmelt has to pass through our system down through Silver Lake, Grant Lake, and out into Mono Lake.” One acre-foot is water one foot deep per acre of land.

SCE first held a town hall meeting to address concerns from June Lake residents about runoff on June 19, at which its representatives explained the steps they were taking to ensure that water levels in the series of dams in the Rush Creek Hydroelectric System (at Gem Lake, Agnew Lake, and Waugh Lake) were maintained at safe levels. The agency is required to keep the water level low in case a seismic event were to damage one of the dams (see “Dam! That’s a lot of water!” May 27 and “Hot Dams,” June 23), as they are within a few miles of the Silver Lake earthquake fault, which runs adjacent to portions of the June Lake Loop.

SCE first began reassessing safety precautions in the system in 2012, said Nicolas von Gersdorff, Dam Safety Manager, following a 2007 finding that the Silver Lake Fault was considered geologically active. “That led to a series of studies to reassess dams based on awareness there is a fault right there,” said von Gersdorff. “By 2012 it was very clear it was prudent to restrict the reservoir [level] at Gem and Rush (Meadows, the dam at Waugh Lake), and CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) analysis at Agnew showed that should also be restricted.”

SCE ended up flying a dozen industrial pumps up to Agnew Lake this spring, each of which could accommodate 100 cubic feet per second (cfs), at a cost which none of the officials present at Tuesday’s meeting could determine. That was “Phase 1” of the project, said Gonzales, and this past Tuesday’s meeting marked the beginning of “Phase 2,” or the decommissioning of the pump system. Allen said that SCE recognized that June Lake residents had complained about the flight path of the helicopters that delivered the equipment and the resulting noise (the staging area was at the June Mountain parking lot). He said that SCE was currently trying to get the necessary permits to operate the staging area at the “dump site.”

Drains at Agnew Lake, now empty of flow. See “Hot Dams,” June 23, for comparison.

An alternative landing spot north of June Lake that would allow the helicopter flight path to bypass most residential areas. However, “currently everything will continue out of the June Mountain site” said Allen. SCE also will discontinue use of the loud “Huey” helicopter and bring in a quieter sky crane, said Allen. Finally, SCE will be employing a tram system that makes its way from the Rush Creek Powerhouse to Agnew Lake to transport any items possible, which should not disturb residents as much as a helicopter.

Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun praised SCE’s efforts at Tuesday’s meeting, particularly their funding of an IPAW (Integrated Public Alert Warning) system for Mono County.

Braun said this system is essentially similar to an “Amber Alert” but that “this will come through to anybody in a certain area. Say, somebody camping at Silver Lake will get that notice on their phone to seek high ground or evacuate…it’s pretty amazing, but it cost money that the County didn’t have, but now it does.”

Braun said that “truthfully [the project] has gone very very smoothly… We haven’t had any public safety issues to speak of…we had some minor flooding throughout the County, but that was to be expected.”

If your house was under two feet of water, without SCE it might have been under ten.

-Diana Pietrasanta, U.S. Forest Service

The barge of pumps at Agnew Lake this week, after having regulated 80,000 acre-feet of water which flowed through the Rush Creek Hydroelectric System this summer.

“The part that scares me is you guys have this seismic situation, and I knew nothing about it,” said Rubendall. “I was in the direct path of evacuation, told it was zero, as a homeowner, and I pay my [SCE] bill. You have my email. What I did receive was getting in galoshes and going into this water, 10 feet of water and finding sandbags in my backyard that still have not been removed.”

“It’s not Edison’s responsibility to keep water out of backyards,” said Rudy Gonzales, Government Affairs Representative for SCE. “We did [deliver] sandbags with [Mono] County, we hope it helped…we minimized the spread of the water over time. So maybe it was 400 [cfs] for a long time, but it would have been 900 in your backyard.”

Another attendee, Eddie Gonzalez, said that sandbags had been left on his property and he would like them removed. It was told that SCE would do so.

Another June Lake resident told Rubendall that “you’re buying a house that historically floods,” and that “they have taken precautions himself.”

“If Edison had never put dams along that drainage, 900 cfs would have gone through that system,” said Diana Pietrasanta, Public Services Staff Officer for the U.S. Forest Service. “It’s just nature. That’s how much water went through the system. They’re not flood control dams, they’re storm and runoff in the creek system as a result of the work we did. Had we done nothing the amount of flow would have been greater at its peak level, and the damage would have been greater.”

Another attendee, Eugene Gonzalez, said that sandbags had been left on his property and he would like them removed. It was told that SCE would do so.

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ORMAT TESTS THE WATERS
Testing for Casa Diablo IV Wells to ensue
By Bodine

Ormat Technologies will begin testing new wells to be used as part of the Casa Diablo IV project on August 21. The Casa Diablo IV project will ultimately include new wells and a generation plant that will double the plant’s electrical output from 29 megawatts to 59 megawatts, enough to power over 40,000 homes, according to Ormat.

Before operations can begin, the wells are subject to a 30-day flow and injection test, which will consist of pumping water from one well and then injecting it into another well, according to Steve Henricksen, representative for Ormat. Ormat generates electricity at its Casa Diablo plant by pumping hot geothermal fluid from its well sites and piping it to the power plant, where that fluid is then injected back into the geothermal groundwater reservoir.

Henricksen said via email, “the test will be used to better characterize the geothermal resource in the Basalt Canyon,” where the new wells have been constructed.

Ormat is also hoping to learn more about the geothermal resource’s size, among other attributes that will inform its expanded operations. Ormat may change its plans or drilling locations depending on the results, Henricksen said.

Well 14-25 will be tested for the temperature of water flowing through it, and Well 12-25 will be tested to see how it performs as an injection site. Mammoth Community Water District has argued in the past that geothermal fluid is mixing with drinking water at Ormat’s wells, as has been found to be the case with Well 14-25.

United States Geological Survey Chemist Emeritus Bill Evans said at a Long Valley Hydrological Advisory Committee meeting in October 2016 that the observed water and soil chemistry in Well 14-25 has changed since 2011, even though geothermal activity has remained constant. He said he put his money on the drought causing the change, and that it was not necessarily the result of Ormat’s practices.

Irene Yamashita of MCWD said water samples are already being taken as part of the Casa Diablo IV project. The new wells that will be used to better characterize the geothermal groundwater and the cold groundwater aquifer are mixing. She said that MCWD requested that Ormat build additional monitoring wells to ensure this was not the case, and that they have not been drilled.

The new wells that will be used for the Casa Diablo IV project were initially dug in 2010-11 and were tested shortly after construction was complete, but this will be the first long-term test to which they have been subjected. Other than the relatively new wells drilled in 2010 and 2011, there have not yet been any new wells drilled for the Casa Diablo IV project.

Letters

No longer a Republican

Dr. Terry McAteer, former Superintendent of Inyo County Schools, wrote this Letter to the Editor to The Union of Western Nevada County, CA. It was published on August 16.

Dear Editor:

I have been a lifelong Republican. I have been elected six times (four times in Nevada County and twice in Inyo County) as County Superintendent of Schools. I worked hard for the Reagan and Bush campaigns (even being invited to the inauguration for my assistance).

I am first, though, an American. This week, I was aghast that my party leader (President Trump) gave voice to hatred and gave life to un-American activities which undermine our foremost American tenant that “all men are created equal.”

Therefore, I have changed my party registration this week because I cannot morally be in a party with a leader who is a bigot.

As an American Irish-Catholic, I am fully aware of the hatred spewed upon my immigrant relatives by the KKK and the Know Nothing Party.

This week, I was aghast that my party leader (President Trump) gave voice to hatred and gave life to un-American activities which undermine our foremost American tenant that “all men are created equal.”

The discrimination they faced was unfair and brutal solely because they worshiped in a different church. All immigrant groups (Italians, Polish, Jewish, Slavic, etc.) who came to the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s faced the backhaul led by the same hateful groups that reared their ugly heads this past weekend in Charlottesville.

The Republican Party was formed in the 1850s as an anti-slavery party. They represented oppressed peoples such as ex-slaves and Native Americans. They represented the Horatio Alger “rags to riches” youth who knew that anything was possible through hard work.

As a youth, I was inspired by Congressman Jack Kemp, Mayor John Lindsay and Governor Reagan as they offered a “big tent” for Republicans and a moral and progressive type of leadership.

Those days are gone and moderate Republicans, like myself, have been left shaking our heads.

The final straw came this week, as a political party without a moral leader is a bankrupt party. After 42 years as a Republican, I can no longer be associated with a party that endorses hatred and bigotry.

Dr. Terence K. McAteer, Former Superintendent of Schools, Nevada County and Inyo County

Grass Valley
LOCAL BRIEFS

No water at Whitney Portal

The water system at Whitney Portal has been shut off, according to Deb Schweizer at the U.S. Forest Service. The system's source has tested positive for both E. Coli and total coliform bacteria. The cause of the contamination is unknown and cannot be corrected at this point. This system is the only potable water system in the Whitney Portal, and this closure affects all areas. Visitors to the area are advised to bring water while recreating in Whitney Portal.

Mammoth man convicted of murder

On Thursday, July 20, a jury in Santa Ana convicted Jose Esteban Cardenas Zuniga of Mammoth Lakes with the murder of a 25-year-old sex worker in a Santa Ana parking lot in October 2007, according to the Orange County Register. Surveillance tapes put Zuniga at the scene of the crime but they couldn't link him to the murder. In 2013, Zuniga was arrested on an unrelated charge but a DNA sample from Zuniga matched that found at the scene of the 2007 murder.

The Orange County Register reported that Zuniga's counsel said he had sex with the woman but did not kill her. His DNA was found on the victim's face and body. Zuniga faces 25 years in prison.

Inyo County Grand Jury recommends a proper cleaning

The 2017 Inyo County Grand Jury report was released August 11. The Bishop Police Department facilities have made the grand jury report mandatory this fiscal year, this time, it made the report for a lack of tasers. “Due to a lack of equipment, officers have limited options to deploy less lethal weapons,” read the report. The panel of volunteers investigated the Inyo County Jail and said it needed a good cleaning and had a need for more isolation cells, to meet bank recommendations. They also toured the Inyo County Juvenile Facility and found that it too needed to be cleaned. Owens Valley Conservation Camp #26 was commended for being a “highly-cost efficient and well-maintained facility.” The Grand Jury Report found that the Inyo County Clerk Recorder/Registrar or Voting Office needs signage at polling places and, in the case of inclement weather, better access to the polls. The jurors also followed up on a complaint about a dirty bathroom at an Inyo County Public Health Department office. The volunteers found the restrooms to be clean during their inspection and recommended the department contract with a cleaning service.

At Southern Inyo Hospital, parcel tax and other monies are being spent in accordance with the law, according to the report. However, there is a need for more income to pay off bankrupcty debts, and due to a shortage of EMTs in Lone Pine, there are often delays when transferring patients to other facilities. The Inyo County Free Library has been underfunded since 2010, the report concluded, and does not have the staff to “perform basic operations.” The respective department has 90 days to respond to the report. To view the full report, go to http://clerkrecorder.inyocounty.us/p/ grand-jury-reports.html.

Search and rescue operations

A body believed to be that of 55-year old Tom Fennessey was found at the base of Thunderbolt Peak, on the Inyo National Forest side of the Cali- fornia Dperson on Sunday, August 13. He was reported missing on August 10. Fennessey was last seen on August 9 when he left his cabin solo to climb 14,000-feet peaks in the range. His plan was to climb Thunderbolt Peak and traverse to Mount Sill, kicking off Starlight Peak, North Palisade and Palisade Peak along the way. On Wednesday, August 9, the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office received a 911 call from a group of backpackers reporting an injured hiker on the Baxter Pass near Independence. Inyo County Search and Rescue volunteers responded to find a patient, a solo backpacker in his forties, sitting on a log in the middle of the creek. According to the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office, he had slipped at a dangerous creek crossing and severely injured his leg, preventing him from walking or moving. He waited over 24 hours for someone to find him and call for help. The hiker was eventually airlifted out by a CHP helicopter.

After this mission, the helicopter was dispatched to the Inyo National Forest to pick up a subject with a broken leg.

The Crowley Creeper

The Mono County Sheriff’s Office has identified a suspicious person frequenting the Hilton Creek, Crow- ley Lake, Long Valley, Aspen Springs and Tom’s Place communities. This person has a criminal history but is currently not wanted for any crime. A person matching the description of the known person was seen by a homeowner peering into garages. The person of interest stated he was looking for a delivered package and stated he lived at a location nearby. The homeowner thought the person was PURPOSE and knew his statement to be false. The person of interest is a male white, 67 years old, brown hair and brown eyes, 5’8”, 160 pounds. He is usually ridings a bicycle, often on creek, and will stop and feign taking photographs. He is believed to be camping in the area. These communi- ties are advised to keep their garage doors closed, doors locked and ve- hicles secured. Community members observing any suspicious activity are encouraged to call the Mono County Sheriff’s Dispatch at 760.932.7549, option 7.

BIGELOW VISITS MONO COUNTY

5th District Assemblyman talks fire, housing, cows

R epUBLICAN Assemblyman Frank Bigelow visited Mammoth Lakes on Friday, August 11 to meet with his Mono County constituents and discuss air quality, housing bills, and wildfire, among other topics.

Bigelow represents California’s Fifth Assembly District, which encompasses the most beautiful part of California, according to the Assemblyman, including Yosemite National Park and parts of the Lake Tahoe region. He’s held his office since 2012, and was formerly Mono Hadera County Supervisor. Wearing a cowboy hat and sporting a grey moustache, which he said “used to be brown” before he got into poli- tics, Bigelow strikes a George W. Bush-esque image as a politician the average Joe would like to have a beer with. He comes from a family of ranchers, says “I’m a cowboy by trade” and had been on a backhoe...I have a life cycle that gives me a perspective that is maybe a little different from many of our legislative colleagues that I serve with.”

He's self-deprecating but confidently so (“I happen to be just a dumb cow- boy that counts cows,” he said in tout- ing his experience in CalFire, “I’m in- funding for CalFire by pointing out the flaws in a chairwoman’s accounting) if you want to be involved in governing, think local, think City Council, be on the Board of Supervi- sors, get involved locally,” said Bigelow on Friday. “It gets a little murky when you get farther up the stream, so I’ve learned.”

Bigelow most recently voted “nay” on AR398, which would extend California’s cap-and-trade policy vote passed anyway (and AB617, which modifies CalFire’s air quality regulations (that vote also passed).

You do probably represent the most beautiful part of California, according to Bigelow, a Senate auditor. Jenny Senior. “AB617 would be establishing air quality control standards. You voted against that, which…”

There’s a nuance inside the law that would have triggered the State air board putting more control over the locals,” responded Bigelow, “and I wanted the locals to have more control. I don’t want to have the State air board have more control.”

“We all breathe the air,” said Senator. “Instead of voting against one thing maybe go back and try and fix it? That was the purpose of the [voting against the bill],” said Bigelow.

“I don’t think you’ve done to correct that,” asked Senator.

“At this point there’s no introduction of new bills to fix what that nuance was. We have to wait until the next session,” replied Bigelow.

Bigelow also responded to Mam- moth Lakes Housing Executive Direc- tor Jennifer Hallerry’s question about what she would support on the Atkins bill, after the current recess. Mammoth’s Town Council took a “neutral” stance on support of that bill, which would impose a 4% tax on real estate transactions, which would go to an affordable housing fund (see “Call me Switzerland,” August 12).

“I won’t say where I’m involved be- cause I want to see what amendments come forth before I say yea or nay. I tend to say no on the $75 fee because I think that’s an unfair cost that’s being levied in there. I don’t really have a firm position.”

Bigelow cited the State’s budget shortfall. “I get kind of sideways on this, I know how much money the State has borrowed,” he said.

“This is why I would encourage you to support SB2, because it doesn’t do that to our State budget,” said Hallerry. “Housing is a critical need, and SB2 would create a permanent source of funding. It self-funds.”

The California Association of Realtors supports SB2, and is one of Bigelow’s top campaign contributors ($12,500 last year, according to Vote Smart).

April Sall, Director of the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership, asked Bigelow “What strategies do you see at the state and regional level to help mitigate and address funding cuts on federal lands?”

Bigelow responded that the “State doesn’t really engage on the Federal stuff. Where I engage is working with Congressman [Paul] Cook and other representatives to see how we can get additional funds, resources, whatever the case may be, back here in Californi- a.”

He said that one challenge he fac- es is the animosity in Washington (presumably among the Republican party) for California. “Some of the challenges are it’s an ‘ABC’ world, Anything But California,” said Bigelow.

We don’t have a good relationship in particular. Now we’re talking about trying to separate from the U.S. and become our own state. That doesn’t bode well for making friends. You can’t poke people in the eye without expect- ing something in return. California has marched a long ways down the path trying to be its own. It causes some of its own impacts.”

Bigelow also discussed the issue of wildfire in California. He said that taking care of the massive tree die-off as a result of years of drought and bark beetle infestation “is going to take a lot of money, it’s going to take a lot of gumption on everybody’s part. We’ve got to get ahead of this problem and we can’t really get there fast enough. If you wish to write to Assembly- man Frank Bigelow with comments, concerns or questions, contact his Capitol office at State Capitol, Suite #1419, Sacramento, CA 94249 or call 916.319.2005.

see BRIEFS, page 23
By Giles

This week, Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi gave the Mono County Board of Supervisors an update on the status of air traffic at Mammoth Yosemite Airport for summer 2017.

Urdi said that Mammoth Yosemite Airport saw a 59 percent load factor for its flights during the winter of 2016-2017. “We would really like to get to 70 percent,” said Urdi at Tuesday’s Board meeting.

This past winter, 20 percent of flights between San Diego and Los Angeles and Mammoth Lakes were cancelled, as were 25 percent of the flights between Mammoth Lakes and San Francisco. Urdi reported that 82 percent of those cancellations were due to inclement weather.

Despite having more seats on flights available during the summer months, passenger loads have declined steadily since summer 2013, when approximately 70 percent of seats were filled. “When you look at the 11,000 people affected by cancelled flights, inbound or outbound, this year, those people may never fly here again,” said Urdi, who said that cancellations due to extreme weather from this winter proved that other options for landing during inclement weather need to be explored.

Winter air traffic at Mammoth Yosemite Airport is subsidized by the Town of Mammoth Lakes through the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) tax and Measure A. Urdi said that Mammoth Yosemite Airport has an advantage because it is further along in gaining commercial air service to Bishop, “something we need to keep an eye on.”

Urdi also said he could see spending a certain amount of Mammoth’s TBID dollars to support components of air service at Bishop’s airport, if there is a demonstrable way to assess just how much of that investment is returned to Mammoth’s business community. Losing that much visitor base in the winter hurts, said Urdi.

The Board of Supervisors took no action on Tuesday, but will decide whether or not to allocate $100,000 towards Mammoth Yosemite Airport operations as part of its annual budget discussions in the coming months.
THE BUS STOP STOPS HERE
Union Bank Branch Manager Jeff Buss retires after 42 year career

By Lunch

Chances are, if you've banked in the Eastern Sierra over the past 20 years, you've banked with Jeff Buss at one time or another. Buss, 65, retires this Friday. His final stop—Mammoth's Union Bank branch. Customers will miss his good humor, his consistency and his professionalism.

Buss grew up in the La Cañada/Flint Ridge area and graduated college from the University of Denver. He started his career in Security Pacific's management training program in 1975.

Over the next four decades, he had 13 different stops at 12 different companies.

His area of expertise: commercial loan underwriting and origination.

As Buss explained, the industry has changed dramatically over the course of his career. In the beginning, it was all about having a varied skill set. Not only would Buss go out and get the clients, but he'd analyze the deals and finally maintain/monitor the relationship.

Now, he says, the marketing, underwriting and portfolio management are all separate departments. It used to be more fun, he said, because there was a level of creativity as well as a level of understanding of the businesses you were lending to.

“You need to be out talking to the owner/CFO to understand the business,” said Buss. A defining moment for him as to the changing nature of the business occurred in 1995. Buss was stationed in a centralized lending area. He turned to a colleague and recalls saying, “I just approved a loan, and I don’t know what the company does.”

Unsurprisingly, when approached by a recruiter, he jumped at the chance to hook on with Union Bank and move to the Eastern Sierra with his wife Kathy in 1996.

He knew that his career would never be the same, and that there would be less complexity in the transactions. But in his mind, it was a fair trade for backyard access to the mountains.

“In my 20s and 30s, I always wondered how people lived here,” he said. “It was just so isolated. But in my 40s, I wondered how to get here myself … and I was fortunate to have a wife who went along with it.”

When asked about some of his favorite recreational spots, Buss just smiled. He is as tight-lipped recreationally as he was professionally.

As Buss is a bank manager, I had to ask about bank robberies. He didn't experience many in the Sierra—the last time Mammoth's branch got hit was in the summer of 2013. At the outset of his career, however, he managed one branch in L.A. that got hit so often that the LAPD began stationing guys inside the bank posing as bankers.

What has banking taught him about human nature?

“Always lead with the idea that you’re dealing with a good person … but have a healthy skepticism. And verify.”

What is something he won’t miss? Opening and closing foreign-based accounts. The bank spends a lot of time and loses money on customers who sign up for an account for a few months while they’re in the U.S. (often traveling) before they return to their native countries. It’s a lot of work and processing for accounts that generally don’t hold much of an average daily balance.

What does the future look like?

“Well, in the ‘70s, branch managers had all the power … now that power is centralized and managers have a lot less prerogative today [in decision-making],” He says the tech-driven nature of things means fewer people in the lobby and ultimately branch offices will be smaller in the future.

Angela Teller has put in an application to replace Buss.
Mammoth's Town Council voted 3-0, with Councilmember Colin Fernie recusing himself and Mayor John Wentworth absent, to deny an appeal of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) fees by local property owner Grace Clark.

Robert Patterson, Finance Director for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, told Council at its meeting on Wednesday, August 16 that he and his staff had come across an advertisement for a room Clark as part of the Clark Trust in the Westin Hotel. Clark did not list a business tax certificate on her advertisement, meaning no TOT or Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) was being collected and remitted to the Town. Patterson’s department initiated an enforcement case on May 9 of this year, according to a staff report he prepared.

“While Ms. Clark did respond to the initial citation and came into the offices to complete the proper paperwork, the finance staff had a very difficult time getting Ms. Clark to understand that the continued advertising must stop. As a result, $12,500 in administrative citations were issued in this case.”

Patterson said on Wednesday that the $1,000 per day citations issued by the Town in such cases are “really intended to get people’s attention” and the Town continued sending Clark the citations until June 12 of this year, as Clark’s Airbnb advertisement for her room at the Westin remained online.

Clark removed the advertisement on June 13 and hand delivered her documentation to the Town, which determined that she had a rental income of $48,996 for a 12-month span. Subsequently the Town issued Clark a notice of determination totaling $22,514.36, including the $12,500 in citations.

Mammoth Lakes Police Chief Al Davis presided as a hearing officer at an appeal hearing for Clark on July 5, and exercised his right to reduce Clark’s citations from $12,500 to $1,000. Clark paid in full the new total cost of the Town’s determination, which was $11,014.36, but was requesting on Wednesday that the $2,654.98 in penalties and interest be refunded to her.

“I had no idea about TBID and TOT because I was absolutely naive,” said Clark on Wednesday. She said she had purchased the property as part of her mother’s retirement portfolio, and “that’s where all of the revenue was coming for her future.” She said that once she was made aware of the violation, she made no new contracted rentals. “I’m just asking for grace on the situation” from Council, she said.

The consensus among Council was that penalties are imposed for a reason, and that if they were to waive Clark’s, it would set a bad precedent for future violators.

“Just an unfortunate, expensive learning experience for you,” said Council member Cleland Hoff. “I am glad Chief Davis did take off those fees, I feel that was the right move. However, to keep consistent and to keep rules in place, unfortunately it’s something that is … the grace period has already kind of come and gone.”

Hoff also told Clark that, since she had previously worked at the Westin, she should know the rules regarding transient rentals.

“Well, I was a server,” Clark responded.

“On the bright side [the money] is going to a good thing,” said Hoff. “It’s helping increase our effectiveness with TOT collection...I would like to keep to a certain level of consistency on this, and as I said, this is heartbreaking for me to do.”

“It doesn’t encourage those of us to continue doing the right thing when I know 10 people I can count right now who advertise and don’t remit taxes to the Town. ‘And they don’t feel they should [pay] the 14 percent, so they’re not.”

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mean, it’s Bishop. I would never have guessed in a million years I’d join a group that would take me to Indonesia … or go to present at a space weather conference … or go to an astrobiology conference in Chicago.”

Earth to Sky members will position themselves in Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Kansas, leading up to the eclipse, according to Dana Crom, Joe Harvey’s mother and a diehard supporter of the group’s endeavors. Crom is driving a motorhome out to Wyoming to act as a support team for her group—Kim Craft, former Executive Director of Mule Days in Bishop, is a friend of Crom’s and has offered her property in Fort Laramie as a launch site.

The group of scientists have been lucky to secure their sites in several different locations across the path of totality, the areas from which viewers will be able to see a total eclipse—in recent weeks, news stories have sprung up about $500 campsites and $2,000 hotel rooms in the eclipse’s path.

“We were really fortunate, because it wasn’t until about a month ago that we started seeing these horrific articles” about people flocking to the path of totality and businesses cashing in.

The Wyoming team will have a documentary filmmaker flying out to meet them, said Crom, but rental cars are completely booked from large cities near the path. Luckily, she said, the filmmaker was able to borrow a car, but traffic may be clogging the roads.

Phillips said that the high level of interest in the event and the short window that the moon will cross the face of the sun has also created some logistical challenges for the balloon launches. For instance, if wind or weather patterns predict that the valuable payload (equipment aboard the balloons can cost anywhere from $1,000-$5,000 and carries priceless scientific data) will land in an undesirable location, (say, a remote mountain range or river), members of Earth to Sky can usually delay a launch or move locations.

This will be different. “We can’t throw everything in a truck and drive 50 miles down road and launch there,” said Phillips. “Instead, it’s going to be the zombie apocalypse traffic jam.” However, they have a few tricks up their sleeve. “We might say, hey, let’s switch out our big parachute, which allows the payload to come down slowly, for a smaller parachute which will make it come straight down…Or, let’s put more helium in the balloon. That will cause it to rocket up faster and change the flight path.”

The original plan was for Earth to Sky groups to launch their balloons across the United States, from Oregon to South Carolina, but instead, the groups will be launching more balloons in fewer locations.

“The reason we’re doing that is because when the moon’s shadow arrives, if we have launched multiple balloons, we can have the shadow basically be greeted by a whole train of balloons and cameras that stretch from ground level, to aviation altitudes, all the way up to the stratosphere. So we’ll be able to photograph the eclipse from a variety of different altitudes and angles to get very best photography possible.”

The balloons will also collect data with thermometers and pressure sensors, so they can “discover what the moon’s shadow does to the temperature structure of the atmosphere,” said Phillips. “We will be able to find out how it affects [the atmosphere] at different altitudes and maybe even make a nerdy data-driven movie of how the temperature changes at different altitudes as the shadow comes by.”

None of this, of course, is cheap. The balloons themselves cost about $2,000 a pop. And, well, they pop. Earth to Sky funds their research using a unique method, by sending non-scientific items to the edge of space for the earthbound. They’ve sent necklaces, photos, and even a marriage proposal.

“So far we have a 100 percent success rate,” said Phillips.

“Probably during the eclipse we’re going to be launching $30,000 or more worth of cameras, radiation sensors, not to mention the parachutes and helium, so probably we’re going to throw everything in a truck and drive 50 miles down road and launch there,” said Phillips. “Instead, it’s going to be the zombie apocalypse traffic jam.” However, they have a few tricks up their sleeve. “We might say, hey, let’s switch out our big parachute, which allows the payload to come down slowly, for a smaller parachute which will make it come straight down…Or, let’s put more helium in the balloon. That will cause it to rocket up faster and change the flight path.”

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ECLIPSE TIPS

California will experience a partial eclipse, with a peak of about 80 percent of totality, on August 21, 2017:

• In Mammoth Lakes, the moon, in its orbit, will begin to pass in front of the sun at 9 a.m. By 10:20 a.m. the moon will cover 80 percent of the sun.

• Mammoth Mountain is hosting an eclipse viewing party at the 11,053’ summit at a cost of $23 for adults and $10 for children. All gondola riders will receive eclipse viewing glasses.

• Never look directly at a solar eclipse—looking at the sun without eye protection can cause permanent damage or even blindness. Dr. Tony Phillips of Earth to Sky Calculus has a great trick: “Everyone who has a colander in their kitchen actually owns a beautiful solar eclipse projector,” says Phillips. “If you take your colander outside and let the sun shine through it onto the ground or wall or sidewalk, you will see a matrix of images of the sun. When the eclipse is in progress, the sun will no longer be a circle, it’ll be a crescent, and you can see that just as plain as day.”

• An alternative method, from NASA: “Cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other, creating a waffle pattern. With your back to the sun, look at your hands’ shadow on the ground. Or just look at the shadow of a leafy tree during the partial eclipse; you’ll see the ground dappled with crescent suns projected by the tiny spaces between the leaves.”

• For more information about how to safely view the eclipse, visit www.eclipse2017.com.nasa.gov/safety.

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Dana Crom (left) and Joey Harvey (right) prepare to launch a balloon.

A pinhole eclipse viewer courtesy of the Delta College Planetarium, Bay City, MI.

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On Monday, August 21, the moon will move between the earth and the sun for a solar eclipse that will cast a 70-mile wide shadow in a path crossing 14 states from Oregon to South Carolina. This event will be the first “coast-to-coast” eclipse in 99 years.

The last time North America saw a solar eclipse was in 1979, prior to the invention of mechanisms that convert solar power to electricity. Today, solar power is a large part of the California grid, and, according to a report by California Independent System Operator (ISO), which manages input into California’s electrical grid, the partial eclipse observed in California is expected to cause a loss of 6,008 Megawatts of electricity that would normally be produced by solar power. Bloomberg Technology estimates that the eclipse will wipe out approximately 9,000 Megawatts of electricity across the United States, which is enough power to supply about 7 million homes. It’s also the equivalent of about 9 nuclear reactors.

According to California ISO, on a given day, as much as 30-40 percent of the electricity in California’s grid is supplied by solar energy, which is typically a very reliable resource in the Golden State. According to a fact sheet by the California Local Government Commission, “nearly 10,000 Megawatts of commercially operational grid connected solar are currently operated by California’s utilities, but nearly 7,000 Megawatts of solar production will be missing during the peak of the solar eclipse.

To compensate for this loss, California ISO has been preparing for the eclipse since 2016, working with gas and utility companies and generators across the state to procure additional power during the three hours for which the grid will be most affected: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. California ISO said that it does not anticipate power outages as a result of the lost solar power, in part because it plans to tap into the more than 6,000 Megawatts of hydroelectric power to which California has access.

According to a publication by the California Local Government Commission, residents can help prevent any power outages associated with the eclipse by unplugging unnecessary home electronics between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Monday, August 21. Additionally, the agency recommends turning off lights, and holding off on operating high consuming devices, such as air conditioners, dryers, dishwashers, and washing machines during the event.

Sally Gaines, President of the High Sierra Triathlon Club, won her age group at the USA Nationals in Omaha, Nebraska on Saturday, August 12. Gaines finished her total Olympic Triathlon in a time of 2:46:12.97, making her first in the 65-69 age group. This win makes Gaines eligible to go on to represent the USA in the World Triathlon Championships. Way to go, Sally!

Meanwhile, High Sierra Tri Club member Emily Underkoffler took third place in her age group for her very first full distance Ironman in Santa Rosa on July 29. Must be all that high-altitude training put into practice. Congratulations, Emily!
THE PEOPLE’S DOWNHILL RACE SERIES

This summer marks the third year of the re-vamped Mammoth Village Championship Downhill Race Series at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

The free race series is organized and run by volunteers Justin Walsh, Jonathan and Nicole Widen, and Courtney Fitzgerald with support and facilities provided by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. All race events are free to the public, and as Walsh says, “open to everyone from kids, ammateurs, professional athletes, to old men.” All races have one division for all racers.

The event is sponsored by Five Ten Footware, Footloose Sports, The Maven Bike Shop, Ohanas 395, and June Lake Brewing, and a bib wins you a free raffle ticket for weekly gear giveaways at the weekly after-party. Walsh called it a grassroots race program. “It’s brought out a lot of local kids. It’s a real familial event.”

Races run on select Friday evenings. Register from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Adventure Center. Info and weekly race stats: junelakebrewing.org.

Clockwise from top left: Gabe Taylor (55) of Mammoth Lakes gets some air, Zach Rante (21) came in 1st place overall for the men’s division, and 11-year-old Madeline Lefrancois (131) of Mammoth Lakes, who came in 2nd overall for the women’s race division. Photos of the August 11 race.

Left to right: Justin Walsh, Nicole Widen, Courtney Fitzgerald, Jonathan Widen.
EZAKIMAK ROCKS TO THE TOP

Event, now in its sixth incarnation, draws smiling crowds, and a new kids’ division brings the groms to the trails

Photos by Peter Morning

The sixth Ezakimak Challenge (Ezakimak is “Kamikaze” spelled backwards) took place this past Saturday, August 12. This event that featured a Kids Ezakimak Challenge, where racers 14 and under ran or biked to the top of Discovery Chair 11. Lauren Burke, Public Relations and Social Media Manager for Mammoth Mountain, said there were approximately 120 competitors who were just crazy enough to run the 5k, with 2,000 feet of elevation gain.

Sarah (left) and Audrey (right) Tomiier crush the kids race. Kids get ready to start their division of the Ezakimak, new this year.

Photos, from left: Brittni Hutton and Wade Meddles take first places in the Ezakimak Challenge. Meade Plum (left) of Bishop and Thomas Fuller (right) of Redlands, get ready to rumble. Tanner Johnson (left) and Josh Wray (right), both of Mammoth Lakes, sport some sweet running gear on their race to the top.

Sarah (left) and Audrey (right) Tomiier crush the kids race. Kids get ready to start their division of the Ezakimak, new this year.

Mammoth’s own superstar Lindsay Tollefson hustles to the top. Tollefson took second place.

Andreas Braun of Mammoth really puts his back into it.

Photos from left: Brittni Hutton and Wade Meddles take first places in the Ezakimak Challenge. Meade Plum (left) of Bishop and Thomas Fuller (right) of Redlands, get ready to rumble. Tanner Johnson (left) and Josh Wray (right), both of Mammoth Lakes, sport some sweet running gear on their race to the top.

Sarah (left) and Audrey (right) Tomiier crush the kids race. Kids get ready to start their division of the Ezakimak, new this year.

Mammoth’s own superstar Lindsay Tollefson hustles to the top. Tollefson took second place.

Andreas Braun of Mammoth really puts his back into it.
Help Wanted

Sierra Employment Services, Inc is hiring for the following positions

Cook B $11-14
Janitor B $11-14
Adobe Host $11-14
Hill Assistant B $13-17
Housekeepers M $15-18
Cashiers M/B $11-14
Fourseasons Carpenters M/B $26-340
Purchasing & Warehouse Clerk M $18-25

Call 760-924-0523 or 760-873-8599
See our full job list online
sierraemployment.com

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is looking for Crossing Guards to help keep our local kids safe for this school season. Must be able to work both flexible hours and a flexible schedule. Visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov, or see Kari Orr at the Mammoth Lakes Library front desk for information to apply.

Everyone should love their job! Join our team and find out why we love ours! Full time positions in retail, food service, and Mammoth is currently accepting applications for full and part-time sales associates. We offer competitive wages, competitive health insurance benefits. Other benefits may include the possibility of travel as well as a ski pass. Please pick-up an application at the shop or email your resume to mammothsierraonline.com.

Part-Time Teller, Union Bank Mammoth Lakes Union Bank has openings for two part-time, benefits-eligible Tellers in its Mammoth Lakes office (34 hours and 20 hours). The teller position is the main point of contact to service customers transactions in the branch and for integrating events. This position has a high degree of interactions with customers and provides a high level of customer service by responding to customer inquiries, processing customer requests, resolving customer issues or referring them to an appropriate party within the branch, and making sales referrals. Must have strong verbal and written communication skills. Ability to learn and use branch equipment. Good math, reading and comprehension abilities. Must enjoy working with customers and employ- ees. Strong interpersonal skills. Knowledge of Banking. Typically requires some customer service experience. Must have a high school diploma or G.E.D. This is a part-time position. Please send resume to kate@unionbankmammoth.com. Union Bank is a proud member of the Wells Fargo Bank network. Visit www.unionbankmammoth.com for more information.

Help Wanted

TONIK - NOW HIRING
(760) 934-8518 Ext 0

Housekeepers (11) Cooks
Disushers Maintenance Worker

Please complete an application at 167 Old Mammoth Blvd. or e-mail pl@thelandingtahoe.com

Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock & Bowl is hiring for the following positions

Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock & Bowl is hiring for the following positions:

Manager with experience. Join a bank that's as committed as you are to making a positive difference in the communities we serve. Experience in all aspects of retail banking, including customer service and sales. The bank is a member of the Wells Fargo Bank network. Visit www.unionbankmammoth.com for more information.

Hi, I'm Rachel. Morrison's Restaurant and Bar is looking to hire a full and part-time host. If interested please reach Rachel at 760-934-7425. Or email Rachel@morrisonssrestaur-

Help Wanted

OBEDIENT PRIVATE RESIDENCE: Front desk, Full Time Position: Seeking a responsible, outgoing administrative employee! (psychiatric) 

- Competitive pay!
- Primary Objectives:
- This position will:
  - Work independently to manage the front desk and its activities.
  - Serve the needs of our Owners and Guests to the highest possible level of professionalism.
  - Proofread and polish. Skills, and attributes of
- Demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills
- Possess strong and already organized organizational skills with the ability to focus on one task at a time and complete it with excellence.
- Have focused attention to detail and problem solving skills.
- Working knowledge of office equipment (printers and fax machines, computers)
- Demonstrate a high degree of motivation; be performance and results oriented.
- Exercise accurate judgment to make decisions that benefit the residents, property owners and fellow employees.
- Be able to successfully, positively, and purposefully manage our challenging relationships with customers, service providers and process.
- Demonstrate ability to meet self-initiated deadlines.
- Possess ability to identify ways to improve processes and systems as well as effectively implement the necessary changes.
- Previous reservation Experience preferred.
- Please deliver resume in person or pick up application at Obdienz Private Residence located at 2610 Meridian Blvd.

NOW HIRING: Front Desk Associates and Housekeepers: Competitive pay plus benefits. Send resume to HolidayInn@momamth@gmail.com or call 760-934-2417.

Pizza Chef/Delivery Driver/Cashier Z-Pizza Mammoth is hiring full and part-time. Apply online at www.zpizza.com, or by email - mammothsllice@gmail.com.

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**Calendar of Events**

**BARS & MUSIC**

**Happy Hour/** The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. $1 off beers, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread. See ad, page 15.

**Outside Saloon:** Monday: All Night Happy Hour; 4-Midnight, Tues-Fri 4-6 p.m. Tuesday: $2 Tacos 4-10 p.m.; 8-9 p.m. Wing Wednesday 50% off all wings. Thursday: Burger & Beer special 4-9 p.m. See ad, p. 11.

**Roberto's:** 4-6 p.m. every day. Austria Hof: 5-8 p.m. daily. See ad, p. 10.

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

**Clock Tower Cellar** Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily and all Sunday $5 dollar menu items, drink specials. Petras 5-30-6:30 $22 Bolognese/drink special, $3 off specialty cocktails and food discounts.

**Mammoth's famous Slocum's Happy Hour** Mammoth's famous Slocum's Happy Hour: Mon, thru Fri 4-6; Saturdays 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.

**Smokeyard 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 Tai. 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 Cafe Happy Hour** 3:30-6:30 Sunday-Thurs. Street tastics $2.50, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine and hot fries.

**Tamarack Lodge and Resort:** Joe Gray Jr, at the Baby Grand playing Joe Tamarack Lodge and Resort; $2.50, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine Happy Hour 3:30-6:30 p.m. Happy Hour @ The Bistro at Snowcreek.

**Smokeyard weekend Happy Hour** 4-6 p.m. every day.

**Ski Beach** Happy Hour, daily 4-6 p.m. Half price sushi Mondays.

**Brewing Co.** 4-7 p.m. Free.

**ESIA Campfire Program at Shady Lake Committee.** 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day of the summer. Info: www.monomale.org.

**ESIA Campfire Program at Shady Lake Committee.** 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day of the summer. Info: www.monomale.org.

**The Sierra Light Gallery Grand Opening** 5-9 p.m. wine, food, and raffle at 399 Main St. Suite M-2. See ad page 2, story p. 22.

**Eastern Sierra Interpretive Ass. (ESIA) Campfire Program at Shady Rest Campground in Mammoth.** Naturalist program around the campfire from 7-8 p.m.

**June Lake Women's Club Bingo.** Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Early bird games 5:30 p.m., with regular games starting at 6 p.m. Cash pay outs and food.

**Rental bike & Pedis at Footloose Sports in Mammoth.** Starts 8 a.m.- 40 percent off rental bikes. See ad page 13.

**Sierra Eastside Mountain Bike Association, USFS, and FOI.** Meet at the upper trailhead parking area at 8 a.m. for a day of trail work. USFS will provide tools, but bring close-toed shoes, food, and water.

**Pioneer Party; Annual Meeting of the Southern Mono Historical Society at The Mammoth Museum at the Hayden Cabin.** See sidebar next page.

**Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery.** Fundraiser barbecue from 4-7 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m. RSVP with Ted @ 760.878.8393.

**Free Yoga in the Village Plaza.** 8-9 p.m. Donations welcome.

**Glass Mountain Hike with Friends of the Inyo (FOI), Hike 1,000 ft Glass Mountain, 6 hour trip, steep 3-mile RT hike.** RSVP for meeting time at info@friendsoftheinyo.org.

**Wild Harvest Interpretive Hike with FOI.** Meet at Parker Bench Trailhead at 10 a.m. for 3 mile RT interpretive hike.

**ESIA Panorama Dome Guided Hike** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Panorama Dome Trailhead. Easy hike.

**ESIA Campfire Program at Oh Ridge Campground in June Lake.** Naturalist program around the campfire from 7-8 p.m.

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**Sunday, August 20/** Lower Rock Creek Trail Day with Sierra Eastside Mountain Bike Association, USFS, and FOI. Meet at the upper trailhead parking area at 8 a.m. for a day of trail work. USFS will provide tools, but bring close-toed shoes, food, and water.

**Pioneer Party; Annual Meeting of the Southern Mono Historical Society at The Mammoth Museum at the Hayden Cabin.** See sidebar next page.
Annual Meeting of the Southern Mono Historical Society

Join the Southern Mono Historical Society for its annual general membership meeting on Saturday, August 19 at the Hayden Cabin and Mammoth Museum, 54485 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes. Cash bar service begins at 4:30 p.m., followed by the General Membership Meeting and project updates, to which all are welcome, at 5 p.m.

At 6 p.m., food vendors will begin serving, and at 6:30 p.m., local, “live music” will perform. Music and dancing go to 9:30 p.m.

This event is free to members of the Southern Mono Historical Society. There is a $15 cover for non-members, or you can become a member at the door for free entrance to the event. Info: 760.934.6918.

Free Customer Service Training

The Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce is offering free online customer service training through September 30. Enroll for free in the Peak Performance Program. mammothlakeschamber.org. See ad, p. 16.

Mammoth Rocks: A Taste of the Sierra

This will be the ninth year this annual 70s’, 80s’, and 90s’ tribute rock festival, and food festival has run at The Village in Mammoth. The event kicks off at 4 p.m. on Friday, August 26 with live entertainment from the Inyo Crater Band and food festival at The Village in Mammoth.

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This year’s event will be held on Saturday, August 26 with Rockin’ Down the Highway—Doobies Hits and Musical Tributes. Followed by Eagles cover band Boys of Summer (4 p.m.), then Fireball (6 p.m.), with Bruce Springsteen Tribute Band The Rising at 8 p.m.

Mammoth Rocks free, and local restaurants will be serving food throughout the festival. VIP Registration includes a Rider VIP Reception on Friday evening, shirt, a free drink token, and scenic mountain group rides on Saturday, August 27, and convenient parking.

Proceeds from tickets go toward construction of the Wounded Warrior Center in Mammoth Lakes.


18th Annual Golf Classic

Take your game further during Mammoth Lakes Foundation and Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra 18th annual Golf Classic on the Sierra Star Golf Course in Mammoth Lakes on Aug. 27. For the third year in a row, Mammoth Lakes Foundation (MLF) and Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) welcome 144 golfers for a fun-filled 18 holes to benefit higher education, the arts, and DSES’ construction of the Wounded Warrior Center.

The Village at Mammoth Summer Movie Series, 7-10 p.m. at the Village Plaza.

The Inyo Crater Band and food festival at The Village in Mammoth.

From August 17 through August 26, Mammoth Mountain will host its Annual Wine Weekend Event. The weekend kicks off on Thursday, August 17 with a dinner at Mountainside Bar and Grill featuring Rodney Strong Vineyards. On Friday, August 18, there will be a wine dinner at Panum Restaurant featuring Robert Mondavi Winery. Starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 19, the annual Village Wine Walk will commence. Celebrate with live music and drinks from over 20 wineries from 6-9 p.m. On Sunday, August 20, Campo Restaurant will host a gourmet brunch featuring champagnes. For tickets and more info, visit mammothmountain.com or call 800.MAMMOTH. See ad, page 18.

$102 for 102 Campaign

Dave McCoy turns 102 years old on Thursday, August 24. To commemorate his incredible milestone, the Mammoth Lakes Foundation invites the public to join in a $102 for 102 campaign. MLF was established by McCoy in 1989 and offers free college education to any Mono County high school graduate or resident pursuing an AA degree from Cerro Coso Community College.

In Mammoth, MLF supports around-theater programming through the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre, the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival. Visit www.mammothlakesfoundation.org for info.

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Notice Inviting Bids

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID
AIP No. 3-08-2016-016
Mammoth Lakes Airport
PERMITTLE WILDLIFE FENCE

Sealed proposals for the work shown on the plans and specifications are invited for the construction of Mammoth Yosemite Airport

In The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California will be received at the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes located at 417 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546 until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

Proposal forms for this work are included in a separa
t contract documents for Mammoth Yosemite Airport

To The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California Each prospective bidder must provide the information required by the bid documents and specifications.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
The contract consists of the furnishing and installation of a new 8-foot chain link fence with four double swing gate, two pedestrian chain link gates, seven concrete fence post pads, and all necessary hardware, labor and controls and two pedestrian gates, and a security camera system. The total length of the fence is approximately 1423 linear feet.

This project will be partially funded by the Airport Improvement Program of the Federal Aviation Administra
tion (F.A.A.). The estimated range for the construction cost of the project is between $50,000.00 and $90,000.00. The Engineer's Estima
t will be made public at the Bid Opening.

DRAFTING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS:
Plans and specifications will be made available for a NONREFUNDABLE FEE at the Town offices at the Engineer’s Office. The following is a list of the plans:

Description
Special Bids, 1 Form, 2 half- sized plans 12x18
Picked up at the Town or Engineer's Offices 15/75
Shipped UPS, FedEx, or US Mail 15/95
Town of Mammoth Lakes Office
417 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546

General Description of Project:
This is a permitting project that requires a new security fence around the perimeter of the Mammoth Yosemite Airport.

Sealed proposals for the work shown on the plans and specifications are invited for the construction of Mammoth Yosemite Airport

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Notices
The median rents in Mammoth Lakes are now more purportedly more expensive than those in Jackson, Truckee, and Breckenridge. The Sheet asked: Are you concerned that the next generation won’t be able to afford to live in Mammoth?

“Absolutely. My kids went to Mammoth High School, my sons and their kids live Bishop, my daughter lives in Crowley. It’s gotten progressively more expensive since I’ve lived here, and especially in the last year.”
- Janet Francis, restaurant owner

“I feel like it’s harder for young families and it’s gotten worse since I’ve grown up here. My brother went away to school and wants to move back here, but he doesn’t want to move in with my family and can’t afford anything else.”
-Karly Roman, 17, salesperson/student

“My rent has gone up every year for the last three years. I’ve seen the Town work on affordable housing projects, but it just hasn’t been enough to keep up. The stronger the economy gets, the more we’ll see rent go up.”
- Rob Nott, real estate broker

“With Airbnbs taking up housing, young people can’t work and live here. If you want to live here, you have to have a good job, and this is happening everywhere.”
- Lynne Blanche, restaurant owner

“Absolutely. We as a town did not foresee that it would be such a large problem. I’ve heard many people say they took jobs as servers, housekeepers, sales clerks, but left because they couldn’t find housing.”
- Rebecca Garrett, realtor

“Our community and the world in general are not leading the next generation on a path to give them the skills they’ll need to conserve and be savvy enough to live here. Too much marketing for how little housing there is. People ask me where they can pull off the road to sleep in their cars.”
- Tony G. Shell Mart manager

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**Public Input Sought**

**Mental Health Services Act**

**Three-Year Plan**

Mono County Behavioral Health invites community members to:

1. Access the plan at: www.monocounty.ca.gov/MHSA
2. Send comments via email to: agreenberg@mono.ca.gov
3. Share input at a community meeting: August 22nd at 5:30 p.m.
   Sierra Wellness Center
   Sierra Center Mall, Second Floor

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**MONO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

**Dr. Stacey Adler, Superintendent of Schools**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SUFFICIENT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Pursuant to California Education Code 60117 et seq, a public hearing will be held to receive input regarding whether each pupil in the Mono County Office of Education program has, or will have sufficient textbooks or instructional materials, or both for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The hearing will be held: August 24, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. at the Mono County Library, Mammoth Branch, 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Parents, teachers, and members of the community interested in the affairs of the schools and programs operated by the County Office of Education are encouraged to participate in the public hearing process.

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**TS # 2017-0174**
PHOTOGRAPHING THE PERFECT STORM

By Giles

Local photographer Nolan Nitschke has opened a new gallery on Mammoth’s Main Street

Nitschke has spent the better part of his 30-some years chasing storms with his camera in the High Sierra. Nitschke was born and raised in Bishop, and was first drawn to photography when he saw Galen Rowell’s photographs on display at the Mountain Light Gallery on Main Street. When asked to characterize his style and the types of places he’s drawn to photograph, he said simply, “When everybody else is leaving the high country because of the weather, I’m usually heading in. I check the weather daily for any kind of turbulence, or storm, something peculiar.”

When Nitschke was seventeen, his parents bought him what was then the latest in point and shoot camera technology: a Canon PowerShot with a “whopping three mega pixels” of resolution power. He grew up fishing and backpacking, and proceeded to take the camera with him on every adventure he went on that summer. “I was addicted, immediately,” said Nitschke.

Nitschke studied at Boise State University, where he double-majored in Graphic Design and Philosophy, focusing on digital photography. He man in college, and quickly started studying photography in his free time. He bought a reflex) camera when he was a fresh-

and continued to study photography in his free time. He bought his first DSLR (Digital single-lens reflex) camera when he was a fresh-

man in college, and quickly started focusing on digital photography. He traveled the Sawtooth Mountains in Idaho, shooting basins and ranges in stormy weather, and studying light and composition. In the summers, he returned to Bishop and photographed the Eastern Sierra. He spent hours studying the photographs of Galen Rowell and Ansel Adams. “I started looking really closely at their photographs, and I thought, I know these places, and I think there are other ways to photograph them. I think I’ve seen what they saw, but I’ve also seen them differently.” He set out to capture those differences.

What followed, says Nitschke, were a lot of failed attempts to capture the drama of places in the Sierra as he imagined and remembered them from his childhood adventures. “The landscape here is so dynamic. You’ve got the highest and lowest points in the continental 48, Yosemite, the desert, the Owens Valley. It’s an amazing training ground because of how many things there are to shoot,” said Nitschke. He says he “fails” on about 80 percent of his missions, to this day. “The light—when it’s right—it’s like nowhere else. But sometimes the clouds disappear, or the light never shows up. For every 999 failures, I might get one success and that makes it worth it. When I know I got it right, know it’s [the image is] insanely beautiful, I wear a grin for days,” said Nitschke.

Nitschke aims to shoot scenes in incredibly high resolution and quality, so that he can create massive prints of the dramatic landscapes he captures. Although he’s experimented with film photography, he’s committed to using digital for this purpose. He hopes those large images will be compelling to Mammoth’s art-savvy mountain community and visitors alike.

Nitschke’s photographs have been featured on major news sites such as Yahoo and The Daily Mail. He’s also been published in magazines such as Outdoor Photographer, and his photograph of Mount Whitney was displayed as part of the Smithsonian Collection in Washington, D.C. Locals may recognize his photography from the Mammoth Gallery, where it was displayed for several years. He’s traveled all around the world and United States chasing storms and other turbulent mountain scenes for his photographs. Despite that, he says he’s a permanent East Side resident. “This is still the most beautiful place I’ve ever been to, and it will always hold my heart. I don’t think I could ever leave here permanently,” said Nitschke, who added he has a particular fondness for the Bristlecone Pine Forest—when illuminated by lightning. Nitschke is opening a new gallery in Mammoth Lakes, called Sierra Light Gallery. His photographs are on display at the new location, right next to the Liberty Bar on Main Street. This Friday, Nitschke will host a Grand Opening reception, with wine and sangria and a raffle to win one of his prints. He specializes in high-resolution landscapes that can be blown up to create large images. Additionally, Liberty Bar will offer happy hour prices on drinks all night for those who show up with an invitation from the Gallery Opening reception. For more information about Nolan Nitschke and his photography or to order prints, visit www.thesierralight.com or stop by the Sierra Light Gallery.

Nitschke has worked in many capacities around the area to support his photography and said that he’s ecstatic to have his own space. “This has been a dream for a long time,” said Nitschke of opening his own gallery. The reception runs from 5-9 p.m.

Local photographer Nolan Nitschke at Sierra Light Gallery, in Mammoth Lakes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOLAN NITSCHKE

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ARTS

www.thesheetnews.com THE SHEET | Saturday, August 19, 2017

22
Margaret Phelps, dear friend, tireless volunteer, mother and wife, passed away on July 30. She was 80. Friends said she wasn’t sick but became weak and passed away suddenly, to the shock of the community.

“She touched many hearts and volunteered in countless ways in the community, and left some very big shoes to fill,” said Pastor Erin McPhee of the First United Methodist Church in Bishop.

One of Margaret’s dearest friends, Nela Dunaway, is bound to a wheelchair. Dunaway said Margaret would come to visit her at least once a week. Margaret was Dunaway’s little dog’s best friend. “She was creative, smart and kind and did many great things,” said Dunaway.

Margaret was a substitute teacher at Benton and volunteered in the library. She was a member of Bishop Mural Society, the Calico Quilters, Bishop Community Garden, Master Gardeners Program, the Methodist Church and volunteered at any animal or children organization. She always wanted to help.

“Margaret was a beloved member of Bishop United Methodist Church and the larger community, and her presence is greatly missed,” said McPhee. “She was known as ‘Miss Margaret’ by the children that she worked tirelessly to reach and love.”

She was a certified Master Gardener and a mentor to other gardeners. “Everybody looked up to her,” Dustin Blakely, Farm Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension program. He said folks at the Bishop Community Garden don’t know what to do without her. “Folks depended on her, her spirit lives on through them.”

Everyone is invited to wear beautiful colors to a celebration of Margaret’s life at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 19, with a reception to follow at the Bishop United Methodist Church, 205 N. Fowler Street, Bishop. In lieu of flowers, people are encouraged to send any donations and love to a favorite charity to keep the spirit of giving alive as Margaret would want. Donations sent to Bishop UMC will support children’s ministry in Margaret’s memory.

Pastor McPhee said Margaret didn’t want a somber funeral service. “She wanted a colorful celebration of life. We wanted to remember the life that she led, the eternal life she has in heaven, and the life that all of us continue to carry on in her absence. As we give thanks for what Margaret did and who she was, may we honor Margaret’s life by continuing the work that she did—by living a life of loving service that makes a difference.”

-May we honor Margaret’s life by continuing the work that she did—by living a life of loving service that makes a difference.

-Erin McPhee
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