Congratulations to Gary Ochman and Bea Boyer on completing the Whitmore 50 Challenge by swimming over 100 miles this summer. That’s over 6,500 laps!

Saturday, September 9, 2017

FREE
Vol. 15, No. 36

PARK THE MUF?
Rising cost estimates threaten viability
By Giles

At Tuesday’s Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission Meeting, Public Works Director Grady Dutton delivered sobering news. According to Dutton, building the Multi-Use Facility at Mammoth Creek Park would cost, at minimum, $1 million more than the $9.5 million originally forecast. At most, it could cost an additional $3.5 million.

The news came just after staff announced a PR campaign to re-brand the facility as “The Park” to solicit more local support for the project.

HMC Architects was hired by the Town to prepare a cost estimate ($250,000) and conceptual design ($150,000) for the Multi-Use Facility (MUF) last year. But as Dutton explained, HMC was in the process of negotiating a contract with a construction firm called Butler Manufacturing for the facility’s roof. A few weeks ago, Butler Manufacturing notified HMC Architects that the roof HMC designed for the Multi-Use Facility would cost $1 million more than HMC had originally estimated it would.

Additionally, Dutton reported that HMC Architects told Town staff this month that it should anticipate and budget a nine to ten percent design contingency for the MUF as construction costs statewide are mushrooming. For a $10.5 million facility, a ten percent design contingency is the equivalent of an additional $1 million. Dutton told Commissioners that HMC Architects is arguing that a cost estimating error of 10 percent is to be expected.

see MUF, page 6

CHAINLESS VELOCITY CHAMPS

Participants in the 2016 Mammoth Grand Fondo ride out in Long Valley. This year’s race, the 24th, will run on Saturday, September 9. There are a record 1,500 participants expected to ride.

The Men’s podium for the Annual Mammoth VCDH Chainless Velocity Race, presented by Five Ten. (l-r): Matt Guntert, Mattia Meneghello (2nd Place), Blake Petritz (1st Place), and Zach Rante (3rd Place), and Russell Malm. For more photos and race results, see page 19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTIN WALSH

ALL’S TRI-COUNTY FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR

By Lunch

We thought they’d packed up all the roller coasters at the conclusion of the Tri-County Fair, but Fair politics are a roller coaster unto itself.

On the eve of this year’s Fair, the firing of longtime Fairgrounds Maintenance Manager Ben Barlow created dissension and turmoil. Longtime volunteers such as Donna Bird (28 years) quit in protest of Barlow’s dismissal.

Michelle Denault, who has volunteered for the past 26 years, says she will not come back next year if the current Fairgrounds Administration is still in place.

In addition, this year’s horse show was reduced to two days (from its typical four) as many who normally participate decided to skip the Fair in protest.

Horse Show Manager Roxanne Tallman said she normally receives 70 entries for the Horse Show. This year, she received 28.

The Sheet spoke to Barlow this week. He doesn’t know why he was fired. “They didn’t give me a reason,” he said.

Barlow’s assistant, Jason Schuler, had been let go two weeks prior to Barlow. Schuler said he was told he was fired because he and his boss Barlow were seen having a beer off-the-clock after

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINE CASEY

see LOVE AND WAR, p. 2

Gravitational pull /p. 12/ /thesheetnews.com /
Hartley /p. 4/
Conflict Lake /p. 9/
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LOVE AND WAR
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work at the Fairgrounds.

Schuler said he had no previous disciplinary issues in his job, which he had held for four years.

He also said it was common practice among employees, including office personnel and CEO Suzie Woltersberger, to have a drink after work.

Donna Bird corroborated Schuler’s story. “Historically, after we were done on Thursday night (of the Fair), we’d take off our badges and have a corn dog and a beer.”

“I liked my job, and felt like I contributed to the community,” added Schuler. Fair Board member Jaquie Hickman had this to say of Barlow’s dismissal. “It was a personnel issue. Nobody wanted to see it happen. It was not malicious.”

Community member Debbie Barbieri disagrees. She thought the firing was political, which is why the community is upset. “I think it’s pretty shady, pretty shit*%y,” she said, adding, “Ben is the most honest, hardest-working person around. He knows the fairgrounds inside and out. And he’s invested in this community up one side and down the other.” Barbieri said Barlow has instructed 4-H, done missionary work, and would routinely use his own equipment down at the Fairgrounds and not charge the fairgrounds for its use. “He lived down there,” she said.

“The fairgrounds is friends, family and community - not this type of politics,” she concluded.

Fair management questioned

While Hickman said she believed fair attendance was up this year and that vendors were happy, others maintained that attendance was off as well as entries.

It is hoped some preliminary numbers will be disclosed at the Fair Board’s next meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 13, which begins at 10 a.m. at the Fairgrounds.

While Board member Paul Dostie is a champion of CEO Suzie Woltersberger (“She is doing a tremendous job and has 100% support of the Board.”), that sentiment has not seemed to trickle down to the rank-and-file.

A common theme expressed among several people interviewed is that Ms. Woltersberger is not qualified, nor does she have the disposition for her job.

As Bishop Town Councilmember Laura Smith deftly put it, “I want what’s best for the Fair … Suzie Woltersberger and Betty Jo Whitman are not good for our Fair in the positions they’re in.”

“Many jokingly refer to Whitman as “Junior CEO” because no one knows her actual job title.

Others were not so kind. To paraphrase one former volunteer, there’s not a phone call Suzie won’t answer, nor a meeting she won’t cancel.

This person added, “We need professional people in this town, and this is a difficult decision … but I can’t support that administrator.”

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This person added, “We need professional people in this town, and this is a difficult decision … but I can’t support that administrator … You need to be a people person in a position like that - dealing with a thousand different personalities. [Former Fairgrounds CEO] Jim Tatum had the people skills. He’d walk through the pavilions at 9, 10 at night to make sure you were okay, ask you if you needed anything.”

One final charge against Woltersberger: Nepotism. As Barlow and Schuler were let go, it presented an opportunity for a temporary employee named Cody Wayne Brown to take on greater responsibility.

While Dostie extolled Brown’s virtues (“The hardest worker we have ever seen”), Brown is apparently Betty Jo Whitman’s boyfriend, so … it’s helpful to be connected.

The Dilemma

Bird’s dilemma (love of fair, antipathy towards administration) is something that people are working through in their own way.

Corinne Buffington said, “I’m angry about Ben … but my husband is the ag teacher for FFA and I’m a community member. I won’t be boycotting things.”

 Roxanne Tallman: “I don’t know why he [Ben] was fired. But … I have nothing against them. [Fair Board or Fair personnel] and would do nothing to hurt them. I’m disappointed people aren’t supportive. This is an important event for our town - the town needs to support what the Fair is doing.”

Board member Judy Waggoner wanted to make sure that any story thanked sponsors, volunteers and exhibitors.

The next Fair Board meeting is this coming Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tallman Pavilion.

Cry me a river

At Mammoth Lakes Town Council’s regular meeting Wednesday, Council heard two appeals of transient occupancy tax enforcement actions.

In each case, the appellants, Peter Albert and the Lange sisters, Monica and Mary, argued that their fines should be reduced because they didn’t know any better when it came to their obligation to pay bed tax. Council rightly rejected their appeals.

As Councilman Shields Richardson said succinctly, “Ignorance is not an excuse.”

What I found most interesting about the appeals, however, was the absolute reluctance on the part of the tax cheats to take responsibility for their actions. As if they pay room tax everywhere else in the world but somehow, they were shocked to learn that people pay room tax here as well.

In both cases, the appellants grudgingly said they were “willing” to pay the back taxes, but not the fines and penalties … as if they had any leverage.

Council, to its credit, was “willing” to ignore them.

The Langes had collected $50,000 worth of rental income over a two-year period; Albert about $38,000.

In other Council news, Council gave Town Manager Dan Holler an $8,000 merit pay increase. He now earns approximately $179,000/year.

In public comment, Andrew Kastor of the Mammoth Track Club said the Club had been featured in the September issue of “Runner’s World,” which has a circulation of 677,000.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism won a “Destiny Award” at the most recent U.S. Travel Association conference for best destination website.

In public comment, Paul Rudder formally rejected an offer by Public Works Director Grady Dutton to serve on a search committee to help the Town identify rental opportunities for commercial office space - even though the Town’s lease at the Minaret Mall does not expire until 2021.

The Town currently pays about $40,000/month in rent for office space.

Rudder says his negative experience in dealing with the County regarding its office space search (the County is now exploring the feasibility of constructing its own new building) - and the Town’s stated support of the County’s plans - has led him to demur.

He compared his experience with the County to being in a beauty pageant, “Where the pageant employees are advising the judges how to vote.”
EASTERN SIERRA
TAILS AND TRAILS DOG FEST

Sunday, September 17, 2017
Hayden Cabin

8 am  Registration
9 am  Blessing of Animals, Dogathon & Walkers
9 am  2.7 Mile Tongue Draggers Trail
9:30 am  1.7 Mile Tail Waggers Trail
12:00–1:30 pm  Dog Contests - Look-a-Like, Best Costume & Best Wagging!

Registration Fee
$20.00 Entry (1 Person/1 Dog)
$5.00 Each additional dog

Register at MammothLions.org

Complimentary Donuts, Juice, Coffee, Tea
Not all the treats are for dogs!
Hot Dog Extravaganza $5

Sponsored by Mammoth Lions

Mammoth Lions is a Non-Profit Organization. Proceeds support sight related care: student eye exams/glasses, older eye/hearing exams and equipment; sight-impaired support systems i.e., Canine Companions for Independence and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Mammoth Lions donates proceed portions to the Town of Mammoth Lakes for dog waste stations, bag dispensers and waste recognition.
INCIDENT AT CONVICT LAKE

An altercation between two men at Convict Lake leads to a stabbing by fillet knife

By Rea

A disagreement between two men at Convict Lake on Sunday led to one of the men stabbing the other, according to both a Mono County Sheriff’s press release and Convict Lake Resort and Marina employees.

The altercation occurred in the shale beach area on the eastern side of Convict Lake, on the afternoon of Sunday, September 3, said Convict Lake Resort employee Shannon Glenn.

“We never have that happen up here,” said Convict Lake Marina Manager Dave Ward, who is an EMT and who was one of the first to encounter the stabbing victim. Ward did not know the age or name of the man who was stabbed.

“It’s always so peaceful up here, we don’t have a lot of problems,” said Ward on Wednesday, September 6. Ward said that other recreationists had observed the alleged assailant being aggressive prior to the altercation with the stabbing victim.

“It sounds like he was kind of an angry guy,” said Ward. “He actually confronted one of my customers in the [rental] boats, claiming they were getting too close to him. Then when this guy [the victim] had thrown a rock down, he came up just ballistic and started a fight.”

Ward said he believed the victim actually had the suspect in a “choke-hold, and was trying to get the knife away from him, but ended up getting stabbed in the process.” Ward said that the incident was reported to him due to the lack of cellular phone service in Convict Canyon. He said that the Mono County Sheriff’s Office were on a call on Benton Crossing Road, and it took them slightly longer than average to respond. “When the Sheriff’s Office didn’t show up, after about 10 minutes, I started walking up the trailhead because I heard somebody was injured,” said Ward, noting that he “didn’t want to jump in the middle of a guy with a knife.”

He said that almost immediately “this guy was walking towards me holding his stomach.” Ward said the victim had skinned knees and a knife wound that, to him, appeared “superficial.”

However, he said, “it was a fillet knife [used by the alleged perpetrator], and [the victim] had a pretty good gash into his stomach.”

“From our understanding he’s okay, he wasn’t critically injured,” said Glenn of the victim. “Whoever stabbed him missed his vital organs.”

Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun told The Sheet on Thursday, September 7 that the Sheriff’s Office is “looking for additional witnesses that may have seen some or all of the incident.”

Ward said that employees of Convict Lake had taken boats to the beach where the incident occurred in order to look for the man described by the victim, who, according to Ward, had an orange t-shirt and a mohawk-type haircut.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact investigator John Estridge with the Mono County Sheriff’s Office at 760.932.7549.
The Toiyabe Indian Health Project (TIHP) Board of Directors, which met in a special meeting on Friday, September 1, suspended four top administrators for 60-days-without-pay on July 14. Rumor had it that the TIHP Board planned to fire the four top administrators at last Friday’s meeting.

More than 30 members of the public, including several of the Toiyabe Health Clinic’s most prominent providers and staff, and prominent tribal members attended. Although the clinic staff was once again threatened with possible termination if they stayed in the room, many stayed. Some of the clinic’s nursing staff have reportedly quit already because of the TIHP Board’s actions, and it has also been reported that at least one Native-American Physician Assistant who had planned on coming to work at the clinic decided to not make the move because of the controversy surrounding the Board.

In an interesting admission, the Board acknowledged that they did not have authority to take disciplinary action against employees below the level of the top administrator, Chief Executive Officer David Lent. Lent is one of four administrators suspended.

The TIHP Board also reconvened the public meeting, re-announced the four administrators suspended. The Board met in Executive Session for several hours, and after reconvening the public meeting, reported that it had decided to meet with suspended CEO David Lent this Friday to discuss his fate.

It is feared that the personnel actions taken by the Board threaten the Bishop clinic’s reputation and its future ability to recruit new staff. Should the clinic fail as a result of the Board’s actions, the finances of all seven of the tribes represented on the TIHP Board could be negatively affected.

George Gholson, the Board’s Vice Chairman, said that he will contact CEO Lent and seek legal advice before the Friday, Sept. 8 closed-meeting. If Lent is not terminated, he will make the decision on whether Chief Operations Officer Rick Frey and Chief Financial Officer Mary Daniels will be terminated. On the other hand, if Lent is terminated on Friday, it will be up to the new CEO to make those decisions. Whether the decision to fire Human Resources Manager Cyndee Kiddoo can be revisited remains to be seen. Kiddoo was fired after being suspended for “not showing up for work the following Monday,” even though she had been suspended.

At last Friday’s meeting, Big Pine Paiute Tribe TIHP Board member Virgil Moose, one of the seven board members who voted to suspend the administrators, asked that the public comments “be removed from the agenda.” His rationale was that “the special meeting was regarding personnel matters,” and that “comments from the public would be irrelevant.” Moose’s motion was voted down on a solid 2-12 vote. The two votes both came from the Big Pine Paiute Tribe representatives.

Several administrators accused why, before the meeting started, acting CEO Cynthia Stone had told employees of the Bishop clinic to leave. There was concern expressed over whether the members of the TIHP clinic staff that remained during the meeting would be fired. Vice Chairman Gholson said it’s a policy for as long as he’s been on the board that “employees cannot be in meetings and cannot be politically-active or get terminated.” When several questioned the policy, Gholson to them that “We don’t have to show you the policy.”

Dr. Thomas Boo is one of the Toiyabe Clinic’s most respected physicians. He spoke of the “turf war” created by the board’s action to suspend the administrators, and said the Toiyabe clinic has not been a “healthy workplace” in the past five years. He expressed concern about “our ability to serve its people and provide a healthy place for people to heal.” He encouraged them to set aside their differences “to do the right thing for our people.”

Bishop Paiute Tribe member Kris Ho-hag, whose father was a doctor at TIHP at one time, said the clinic is vital to the community. “We can’t afford to go backwards … Toiyabe is supposed to be a healing place,” he said, “and you’ve created a culture of fear.” “Gossip and rumor and native/non-native rhetoric,” he added, “is worse than simply presenting the facts.”

Diane Hart mentioned a similar situation several years back which resulted in the board bringing in Dave Lent as the new CEO. She told the board that they should have been communicating with the staff. Hart also admonished the TIHP Board, saying they should have had “qualified people ready to step in” before suspending the top administrators. She expressed concern that the turmoil created by the board is already causing the project to lose grant funding.

Even the clinic’s Medical Director, Nancy Fong, told the board that the issue’s actions “have raised uncertainty.” She expressed concern about “our ability to continue to provide services.” Her recommendation was for the board to consider bringing in a third-party mediator.

Marjorie Neer, the TIHP’s Public Health Director for the past six years, said “My life has been enriched and changed by this opportunity [to work at Toiyabe].” However, she continued, “Our standing in the Eastern Sierra may be irrevocably damaged. I’ve been proud to work for Toiyabe … but I don’t know if I can say that right now.”

Noting that several nurses have left Toiyabe already and some doctors are considering doing so, Schneider suggested to the Board that “You’re going to have a big, beautiful building filled with secretaries [and no medical personnel],” if it pursues its current course.

Vice-Chair of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Council, Melvin Joseph, said he and many others are concerned. “We as leaders need to think about our people. What I see and hear, that is not what has been happening,” said Joseph.

He spoke of the board’s responsibility to serve its people and “provide a healthy place for people to heal.”

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MUF continued from page 1
for a project of this scale. "We are pushing back on that pretty hard," said Dutton. "I don't remember what if any contingency was built into the numbers we looked at initially," said Commissioner Laurel Martin. "Maybe it's time we go back and review all of the cost estimates to make sure we cover our bases and don't get slammed anywhere else."

On May 17, Town Council voted to commit $8 million to funding construction of the MUF at the same meeting. Finance Director Rob Patterson warned Councilmembers that those funds would not cover all essential construction costs, and described what the $8 million would fund. "Contingencies" were not on the list.

At Tuesday's meeting, Dutton told Commissioners that his staff had thoroughly reviewed the original cost estimate provided by HMC Architects, and that the initially forecast cost of construction did not account for changes in California's construction market over the course of the project. Dutton said the statewide market is going through a build cycle, so that demand has outstripped supply, driving the cost of construction up. He said staff is monitoring this but that HMC's Cost Estimator said it could increase the cost of construction by as much as $1 million.

When asked by Commissioner Sean Turner what recourse the Town has to $1 million, Dutton said that, because the error involved a sub-contractor hired by the consulting firm, all Town staff can do is ask HMC Architects to redesign the facility to budget and review the cost estimate before they pay them for their work. A contract between the Town of Mammoth Lakes and HMC Architects from 2016 reads that the firm was paid $250,000 to "enable additional value engineering work to prepare more detailed cost estimates," which was not, apparently included in the initial $150,000 they were paid to develop a Conceptual Design for the MUF.

"They've put us in a very difficult situation," said Turner at Tuesday's meeting. "We paid for that estimate. What evidence do we have that they even did the work? If this were a business plan... we made decisions, moved forward based on cost estimates that turned out to be false. I feel bait-and-switched."

"They're truly sorry. They made a mistake. It wasn't intentional," said Dutton. "Editor's note: Did they volunteer to refund the $250,000? Now that would be saying sorry."

In an email to The Sheet this week, Dutton said that, "Our contract requires them [HMC] to do redesign at no additional cost, should the estimate vary from the $9.5 million by greater than 10%. Having said that, we will have serious discussions with them about their fees, should that not be acceptable on bid day, to not have all the funds in hand." Dutton said he didn't foresee asking Town Council to take out additional bond debt for the project, and pressed Mammoth Lakes Recreation Executive Director Matt McLain, along with the Funding Ad Hoc Committee to have a plan for how to close the approximate $3.5 million funding gap by the next Town Council meeting on September 20.

HMC Architects also prepared the cost model for the new police station, for $48,000. Construction is already underway for that project, and the Town Council said contractoreward CDM $1.86 million to date.

According to Town Manager Dan Holler back in 2015, when HMC was awarded the design contract, "We've been very clear that this isn't a two million dollar construction budget, this is a total two million dollar project budget, so it should be tight, and they [HMC] recognize that as well."

By June, 2016, the approved budget for the project topped $3 million. The project, which was supposed to be completed this summer, is far from completion.

HMC Architects was also contracted by Mono County this year, at the recommendation of Town of Mammoth Lakes staff, to conduct a cost estimate for the proposed South County Facility. The Town Council voted to approve the cost estimate following Tuesday's meeting, and asked whether the prospect of increasing cost estimates would affect the County's decision to build the South County Facility. He said, "$20.5 million is the county's cap, we're going to float a request for proposals, but if the number doesn't come in under $20.5, we're not doing it."

The projected 10% construction cost increase would suggest the County's building is now $2 million more expensive.

At Tuesday's meeting, Dutton said he thought the cost-estimating errors would delay the MUF's construction by a few months at most. "We were initially hoping to be open for Thanksgiving 2018, now we may be looking at Christmas, if the funding is there on September 29th... So far, $12,000 of the potential $3.5 million in unmet funds have been raised. Of that $12,000, $7,500 was raised by members of Mammoth Youth Hockey during the "Raise the Roof" tournament series, to construct a roof over the town's existing rink. Dutton said that HMC Architects is expected to present a revised cost estimate to Town Staff this week. Design Review for the Multi-Use Facility is now scheduled for the October 3 Planning and Economic Development Commission meeting. The new cost-estimate will be presented at the September 20 Town Council meeting.
LOCAL BRIEFS

By Sheet Staff

Inyo, Union find common ground

According to a joint press release from Inyo County and Inyo County Employees Association (ICEA), Local 315 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, on September 6, the two have reached a contract agreement following 16 months of negotiations. Represented employees will see a 4-percent across the Board compensation increase over a 3 year period, consistent with packages already in place for other bargaining units within the County.

With the exception of modifying the sick leave buy-back program eliminated in most of the County’s other labor contracts, the new agreement preserves employee benefits currently in place, and addresses several non-monetary issues important to members of the Union. The agreement adds three months of retroactive pay to the end of the last contract for the first cost-of-living adjustment and accelerates timing of extraction is illegal and extremely hazardous standing and surface fuel loads to reduce wildfire fire severity.

Hallstrom in custody

Wade Kristofer Hallstrom, a Mammoth Lakes Resident who was charged with misdemeanor child endangerment and possession of controlled substances, as well as with felony manufacturing of a controlled substance, was arrested on August 27 at a friend’s house on 312 Lupin Street, according to David Anderson, Assistant District Attorney for Mono County.

“He was sleeping when contacted by the police,” said Anderson in an email to The Sheet.

Both Hallstrom and Graef allegedly shared an apartment at 97 Lupin Street. According to Hallstrom’s attorney, Hallstrom faces a preliminary hearing scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Fuel for thought

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council and Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District are seeking comments on a fuels reduction project to be implemented with the assistance of the Inyo National Forest.

The project proposes to perform fuels reduction on 667 acres to reduce hazardous standing and surface fuels to reduce wildland fire severity and improve forest health in the Lakes Basin. The work would preserve watershed function. The current forest conditions within the Lakes Basin are dense with continuous horizontal and vertical fuels profiles. Under the right weather conditions, it is likely that wildfire would burn as an active crown fire resulting in 100 percent mortality of the forest in the Lakes Basin.

A high severity wildfire in the Lakes Basin would be catastrophic to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, eliminating a major source of potable water.

The estimated total project cost is $622,340. Written comments may be submitted to: Mammoth Fire Protection District, 395 Olympic Boulevard, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 Comments must be postmarked no later than September 22. There will be a public meeting about the project on September 19, at the Mammoth Fire Station at 1 p.m.
Rod Carter came to America when he was 10. He moved here from the Philippines. After thirty years of working and living in the States, he was detained and subsequently deported early in 2002, just after September 11, 2001, at the age of 40.

Immigration enforcement was tightened at the borders following the terrorist attacks on September 11. According to the Department of Homeland Security, after the attacks of 2001, immigration law emphasized protecting the border and “removing criminal aliens to protect the nation from terrorist attacks.”

At the time, Carter, a former Bishop resident and Bishop High School graduate, was considered one of those threats to the US. Carter was deported back to the Philippines after spending more than 30 of his 40 years living and working in the United States.

Carter said in an interview via Skype from the Philippines in September 2016, that he has always considered himself an American.

“I eat, sleep and drink as an American,” he said.

Carter said that the trouble started in 2002, when he and his wife traveled to San Diego for a doctor’s appointment. They arrived early in the day, and the two decided to visit Tijuana. On the way back, US Customs and Border Protection asked Carter for his identification. In Carter’s case, they were looking for his green card.

He had forgotten to renew his card. He had lived here so long, he said he simply forgot. He had a criminal record that included a charge for being a “felon in possession of a firearm.”

By way of explanation, Carter said he was charged after he found a 1910 lever action .22 caliber rifle in an abandoned mine and sold the gun to a friend’s dad, “who I thought was a friend.”

The dad reported the gun to the authorities, along with information about where he had acquired the weapon.

Carter had a history of previous offenses, but said his immigration status was never questioned during his other arrests.

He agreed he wasn’t the most upstanding citizen, but he never hurt anyone, was never malicious and was leading a productive life as a law-abiding citizen at the time of his detention.

He was taken to the San Ysidro Immigration Detention Center for two-and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years. He retained a lawyer and-a-half years.

Carter said that when he arrived in the Philippines in 2003, he was deported. “They sent me back to my home country, but I was a stranger in a strange land.”

At the time, he believed there was a chance of him being able to come back to the states in five years, he said, but that it was a pipe dream. He is not even allowed to visit the States to see his five children. The only chance he has to return to the States, temporarily or otherwise, would be through a presidential pardon.

“It’s created a wedge between me and my kids,” Carter said. “That’s what hurts the most.” His wife still lives in the U.S., and some of his children have disowned him.

Carter said that when he arrived in the Philippines, he didn’t know anyone. He said hadn’t talked to his Filipino relatives in decades. He had to re-learn his native tongue, which is now a second language. A cousin helped him until he could get back on his feet working odd jobs.

He worked at a call center for a while before landing a gig teaching English to students in Japan via Skype. He said nearly every other job in the Philippines requires a college degree, even to be a manager at McDonalds. He considers himself a survivor.

He, along with his relatives, lives under the rule of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, who has deputized the country, allowing vigilante justice to be carried out against drug dealers and users alike. President Duterte’s policies are so brutal, he has earned the nickname, “Duterte Harry.”

Carter said the body of a man was discovered in his apartment complex, shot to death, with a cardboard plaque draped around his neck stating, “I’m a drug pusher.”

“I took a lot of things for granted living in the states,” Carter said.

He and his new Filipino wife live in what he describes as “just a box.”

He bathes with a bucket of hot water, there is no shower.

Carter has chiseled out a new life for himself, not an ideal one, but he pays the bills. He’s infuriated that he can’t return to the states and see his kids, but he has exhausted every avenue that may lead him back.

“To this day, it still blows my mind.”
CARUNCHING THE NUMBERS

Inyo CAO Carunchio and Supes wade through 2017-2018 budget

By Bodine

There were plenty of pats on the back and congratulations on a beautiful budget at the Inyo County Supervisors Budget Hearings held Tuesday, September 5 in Independence. County staff and administration received praise from the Supervisors for the hard work and diligence they exhibited in doing their job.

Supervisor Don Totheroh said he thought the budget was easy to understand and commended the budget team, which included County Administrative Official (CAO) Kevin Carunchio. Carunchio said that, although he didn’t necessarily want to write the 110-page introduction to the budget, it was necessary for him to explain the minutiae and fine details contained in the document.

This year’s budget includes funding for $1,255,585 in employee pension costs, wage increases from new labor contracts, the purchase of three landfills for $522,000, a new voting system for $160,000, $600,822 to Inyo and Mono county senior citizen programs, $449,267 in deferred maintenance projects, seven new patrol vehicles for the Sheriff’s motor pool, and five new employees.

The new employees were a touchy subject. Assessor Dave Stottlemyre said he needs more employees to do his job. His job is to assess properties which translates into property tax revenue that benefits the County, special districts, and schools. “The Assessor’s Office is where the revenue begins.”

In an interview after the meeting, Stottlemyre said he couldn’t put a number on how much potential revenue the county could lose by not assessing properties because there are insufficient personnel to do so. Xanterra, the concessionaire in Death Valley, is completely remodeling the Furnace Creek Inn and Resort to the tune of $100 million. Stottlemyre said he needs the staff to be able to witness stages of the project in order to properly assess the value of the property. For example, there may be improvements Xanterra misreports, unintentionally, that the County could miss losing out on substantial tax revenue.

In 1996, there were 11 positions at the Assessor’s Office, according to Stottlemyre, which were then cut to 10 in ’02, then eight-and-a-half in ’08. The office is now down to seven employees. The number of audits carried out by the department annually has been reduced from eight in 2011-12 to zero in 2016-17.

Stottlemyre has decided to assess the Coso Geothermal plant in-house, something that most agencies would outsource to a consultant. Stottlemyre said the former geothermal plant assessors was slow and always late.

The budget allows for an Auditor position with the stipulation that the hire appear before the board for a performance evaluation. It is not specified in the budget what aspects of the employee’s will be evaluated. Stottlemyre said evaluations are the first step toward possible complaints. Stottlemyre held his ground that he did not want employee evaluations. “So you can’t show us what you’re doing?” Tillemans asked.

At this point Carunchio, stood up next to Stottlemyre and put his arm around him. “Hey, great budget,” Carunchio said, “If we’re arguing about a second employee with performance evaluations then I’ll remove it (the performance evaluation stipulation). There’s no use getting this far into a lunch break.”

The Assessor’s Office operates independently of the Supervisors and CAO, says Stottlemyre. All reports from his office are sent to the State Board of Equalization and those reports are made available to the County once complete. It’s a sort of checks and balance system, he said. The Supervisors approved the budget unanimously. Stottlemyre is an elected department head, and none of the appointed department heads spoke at Tuesday’s meeting.
A DOGGONE GOOD TIME IN MAMMOTH

Mammoth Lions Club to host the Eastern Sierra Tails and Trails event at the Hayden Cabin

By Rea

Tails will most certainly be wagging next weekend at the first annual Tails and Trails event, to be held at the Hayden Cabin in Mammoth Lakes on Sunday, September 17.

“It’s an awareness-building event for the greater good,” said Dr. Arianne Weiner, a member of the Mammoth Lakes Lions Club, which is sponsoring the event to raise funds for various causes, including dog care stations in the Town of Mammoth Lakes and sight-related programs like Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Weiner told The Sheet this week that she hopes the festival will be a fun, family-friendly event where dogs and their owners can schmooze, frolic, get sweet pet schwag bags and maybe learn a thing or two about trail and pet etiquette in the process.

So, naturally, a dog-friendly event seemed like a great way to bring together people in the Eastern Sierra—after all, the Eastside is a paradise for dogs and the people who love them. And Weiner wanted to give dog owners young and old the opportunity to learn something new.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department officers will be available to offer dog licenses, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department will bring a fire truck and offer tips on how to take care of dogs during emergencies, and the Mono Arts Council will even be on site doing paw print art during the event.

There will be two trail options for pets and their owners leaving from Hayden Cabin—the “tail waggers” (1.7-mile walk) or the “tongue draggers” (2.7 miles). Then dogs and owners can cool off at the event’s vendor village, or get frisky by participating in events like an agility contest, a dog-owner look-alike contest, dog costume contest, and even a tail-wagging contest. Local musical favorites Good Livin’ will be playing all their “hound dog” songs.

“Since Mammoth does have so many pet focused groups, we’re just trying to get some of the awareness out there,” said Lion Alicia Olson. Olson said one of the event’s biggest supporters has been Lynn Dunlap of Tailwaggers, who recently opened a new grooming salon on Laurel Mountain Rd. at the former location of Spoiled Rotten. Dunlap said there won’t be on-site grooming at the Tails and Trails event (“that would be a bit much”), but that Tailwaggers would be bringing some fun products over from their store in the Minaret Mall. Weiner also gave a big shout-out to Mammoth Lakes Trails Coordinator Joel Rathje, who has helped map out the trails the dogs will use next weekend.

Olson said the Lions are hoping to see about 100 dogs at the event, and that pre-registration guarantees participants a dog toy. There will be a complimentary breakfast at the event, which begins at 8 a.m. on Sunday, September 17. Registration costs $20 per dog, and $5 per additional dog, with proceeds going to the Town of Mammoth Lakes in support of “poo fairy” dog waste stations. Another portion of the funds will support the Lions’ sight-related charitable causes, including eye exams and glasses for students and elders. Eyeglasses, safety glasses and sunglasses, hearing aids and old cell phones will also be collected to help those in need.

Register your furry friend today at www.mammothlions.org.
The Bridgeport Reservoir RV Park and Marina has a new owner following the untimely death of long-time manager and owner, Jeffrey Wenger in May. Chase Pasley of Bishop has had the campground and docks open for just two weeks but has already gained the admiration and support of locals. “I’ve never been a part of a friendlier or more accepting community,” Pasley told The Sheet on Wednesday, September 6. “I’m happy to be a part of the whole thing.”

An avid camper and lover of the Sierra Nevada, Pasley said he’d always wanted to run a campground, partially to set his own rules. He has never liked campgrounds with strict regulations, sites placed shoulder-to-shoulder to maximize space and profits, or unsavory hosts. Pasley admits he’s not much of a freshwater fisherman, “All the locals say they’re going to turn me into an expert.”

There’s a lot to learn about the business, he said, and he’s just getting his feet wet. Once he gets the lay of the land, he said he’s going to start establishing campground and user rules in his own style, and maybe hire some help.

He said he had no complaints from customers when he opened shop; the water was high and the reservoir fully stocked, leaving anglers smiling.

Pasley never had the opportunity to meet Wenger, but he’s the topic of conversation with so many people at the marina, locals and tourists alike, that he feels like he knows him. These same people tell him he’s running the place like Wenger would want it to be run.

Here We Go Again ...

Dear Editor:

Mr. Eastman, here we go again. I’ll have to throw your “you can’t fix stupid” line (from John Eastman’s letter to the editor which appeared in the August 12 issue) right back at you. Every summer we (and people all over the western U.S.) get a little smoke from forest fires and you pretend to plead for someone to educate you on the subject of fire-as-part-of-our-fire-adapted-environment etc. while calling the U.S. Forest Service names. I’m sure they have names for your type as well.

Let’s just admit that some people are uneducable even though they profess a desire to understand. But they’re really not interested in that.

Like our current, great “leader” they simply appeal to our own humanity’s lowest common denominators, point fingers of blame and whine. And so, like I wrote in response to your last year’s whine, it’s not helpful. And perhaps that old saw about age bringing wisdom should be retired.

Ken Reed
Bishop
Scientists at the Big Ears east of Big Pine, officially known as the California Institute of Technology’s (Caltech) Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO), the country’s largest university-owned radio observatory, have discovered a new “lens” in space that is magnifying scientists’ observations of objects in space. The lens, generated by a star cluster, is helping scientists to view blobs of hot gas that blast out of even more distant supermassive blackholes, according to an article by Caltech published August 15 at Caltech.edu.

The lens, called a gravitational lens, is created when a large mass, in this case a cluster of stars, is in front of a distant light source, like a black hole. According to the European Space Agency, the gravity from the cluster of stars bends space and time around them. The visible light from the black hole bends around the star cluster, and the light can be seen, but as an arc and not as a circular point. Albert Einstein spelled all this out in his General Theory of Relativity. The result is the light and image of the black hole magnified in a halo, called Einstein rings, around the star cluster.

In the papers, “Symmetric Achromatic Variability in Active Galaxies: A Powerful New Gravitational Lensing Probe?” and “The Peculiar Light Curve of J1415+1320: A Case Study in Extreme Scattering Events,” it is noted that this particular lens could be the first of intermediate size known to exist. For observational purposes, it is an ideal tool because it is small enough not to block the entire light source, giving scientists the opportunity to observe clumps of gas emerging from the black hole, as they plop out one at a time.

The newly found lens could be a way to study elusive black holes, but now it’s up to the theorists to figure out how to use the lens, Mark Hodges Technical Director of OVRO said. “We have known about the existence of these clumps of material streaming along black hole jets, and that they move close to the speed of light, but not much is known about their internal structure or how they are launched,” Harish Vedantham, a Caltech Millikan Postdoctoral Scholar was quoted as saying in the Caltech publication. “With lensing systems like this one, we can see the clumps closer to the central engine of the black hole and in much more detail than before.”

Supermassive black holes swallow nearly everything that gets near their mouth – light, gravity, mass – but there are blobs of gas that blast out of the hole at the speed of light for a couple million years, according to the article from Caltech. This gas can be observed in greater detail with the help of the lens.

“This system could provide a superb cosmic laboratory for both the study of gravitational mini-lensing and the inner workings of the nuclear jet in an active galaxy,” Anthony Readhead, the Robinson Professor of Astronomy, Emeritus, and director of the OVRO was quoted saying in the Caltech article. OVRO is the optimum utility for these observations, Hodges explained. Its 40-meter dish can collect more data with less distortion than a smaller dishes that use the same technology.

This discovery is the result of nearly a decade of twice-weekly observations of 1,800 supermassive black holes. Hodges added that discoveries like this one keep OVRO in business. These types of observations take years to complete and the results of tests and experiments would be in peril if OVRO were to lose funding.

Hodges also gives tours of the facilities on the first Monday of every month, unless it falls on a holiday, like Labor Day. For more information on OVRO, go to ovro.caltech.edu. or call 760.938.2075 to get on a tour. To learn more about this discovery, check out the August 15 issue of The Astrophysical Journal. There will be a tour this Monday, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Gravitational lensing for the rest of us: space and light are bent around the gravitational field of a large object, in this case, a star cluster.
Music has been a constant presence in the lives of brothers Manny and Ronnie Sanchez, as well as for longtime friend and fellow bandmate Sarven Manguilat, collectively known as “GrooveSession.” “At family functions, besides food, of course, there was always music. We were really fortunate to grow up in that atmosphere,” said Manny Sanchez, who plays drums and sings vocals in the band. The boys are celebrating their 10th year of playing “movin’ groovin’ music” to audiences across the United States, and their third year at the June Lake Jam Fest.

“When you see someone performing and making noise within an instrument, the light goes on, you feel inspired,” said Manny this week, as he and the band prepared to hit the road north for the festival.

The three men were all young when they started playing their own music—Manny got his first drum set at the age of nine. “My parents told me they had just one rule: ‘You can practice as much as you want when we’re not home,’” said Manny, who is one of those few drummers who can sing while he holds a beat—no small feat.

Manny’ s younger brother Ronnie picked up music at age 11, drawing on influences from both the brothers’ parents, but also from the punk and ska music popular in their native southern California (the boys are from Ontario, but “claim” the whole lower part of the state, where they gig all over the place).

“When we were kids we called it ‘our parents’ music,’” said Manny, referring to the tunes that would play on the stereo at home. “That could be anything from Led Zeppelin to Jimi Hendrix to Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. But then we grew up loving Green Day and Rage (Against the Machine) and 311.” Manny said that, even as the three band members got into newer music, they loved tracing the trajectory of where their favorite tunes came from. “You could hear some of the influence in the songs, you hear the old stuff” coming through, said Manny. “There might be new sounds, but really if it’s something conscious, it’s been told in some way before, which is great.”

It’s pretty much impossible not to smile when listening to their mellow music, threaded through with the virtuosic stylings of Manguilat, who started playing piano at the age of four and guitar at 10.

They also play in what’s often called “the universal music of sacred geometry,” or the alternative tuning of 432 Hertz. Dutch journalist Richard Huiskens claims that music turned to that frequency is softer and brighter, contributing to a more relaxed state of mind and body. “This band is about the Earth’s natural vibration and healing properties that positive music and intention bring to life,” states GrooveSession’s website.

The three men do all their own booking, writing and sound, and the June Lake Jam Fest is the first stop on a small fall tour. “We’ve got a good little weekend ahead of us,” said Manny, who said it was a true honor to be asked back for a third year of the festival. “What’s really special about the June Lake Jam Fest is that we usually come up Thursday night, so Friday morning we can go and do a little set at the Lee Vining elementary school.”

He said that he and his bandmates first met festival organizer Janet Hunt (“the brains behind the June Lake Jam Fest,” says Manny) four years ago at a private event the band played. Hunt mentioned that she was considering hosting a festival to benefit the Mono Arts Council.

“And we said ‘When you do it, we’ll come up,’ and six months later she said ‘Alright guys, I’m doing it!’” Manny said that “it’s really nice to see [the festival] growing” to two days this year. “Besides obviously the festival just kicking butt, it’s really cool to be able to go to the [elementary] school and talk about playing music and sharing with the kids,” said Manny. “That’s probably our highlight, besides of course just being in June Lake.”

GrooveSession play at 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 9 at the June Lake Jam Fest. For the full schedule, see the Calendar on page 15. Check out www.groovesession.com for more information about the band and to preview some of their music. Tickets are $90 for the full weekend and can be purchased at junelakejamfest2017.eventbrite.com.
BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. $2 off draft beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread. See ad, page 11.
Outlaw 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. 9.
Roberto's: 4–6 p.m. every day.
Austria Hof. 5–8 p.m. daily.
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. every day and all day Sunday. $5 dollar menu items, drink specials. See ad, p. 4.
Marine'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.
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.
Morrison's Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily.
Giovanni's Happy Hour Side Door.
Food & Beer Happy Hour 3:30-6:30 Thursday-Sunday. Table tacos $2.50, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine and house fries.

Saturday, Sept. 9/
Chamber Music Unbound Honors Strings performance, 2:30 p.m. at the Whoa Nellie Deli, Lee Vining. Fundraiser for students' musical trip to Germany.
Monthly Bishop Paiute Tribe COSA Bird Walk and Census. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the BLM/Forest Service building in Bishop. Info: hillarybehr@yahoo.com.
ESIA Campfire Program at Oh Ridge Campground in June Lake. Naturalist program around the campfire. 7 p.m.
Train Rides at Laws Museum, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tickets @ the Depot, $5 per person. Kids ride free w/adult.
Memorial Service for Mike Levine. 3-5 p.m. at Whiskey Creek in Bishop. Share stories of one of the Sierra's favorite curmudgeons!
Amaranth Harvest with Quachuu Aloom Guatemalan Farmers. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 50 Tu Su Lane, Bishop. Learn about seed saving. Free event hosted by the Bishop Paiute Tribe. 23rd Annual Mammoth Gran Fondo. Supported 102, 70, and 42 mile races from The Village, Mammoth. Registration: fallcentury.org. Race @ 8:30 a.m.
United We Ride 17th annual 9/11 Poker Run. Registration begins 9 a.m. at Brown's Town in Bishop. Ride stops at Rock Creek Resort, Roberto's Cafe in Mammoth and Tiger Bar in June Lake before returning to Bishop for BBQ lunch, live band, silent auction, etc. Proceeds benefit local charities. Riders $35 and passengers $30. Info: Dale @ 760.920.8274.

TOWN STUFF

September 8-9/
10th annual MHS Volleyball Invitational @MHS. Mammoth hosts 8-team tournament. @MHS. Play starts 2 p.m. Friday; MHS Varsity plays at 2, 6 and 8 p.m. Saturday 10-team double-elim. tournament starts Saturday 8 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 8/
ESIA Campfire Program at Shady Rest Campground in Mammoth. Naturalist program around the campfire from 7-8 p.m.
Big Pine Nawaanni-Ti Farmers Market, 5:30 p.m. to dusk next to the Big Pine Tribal Office, 825 Main Street. Bishop Broncos Football hosts Boron. 7 p.m. John Schwab Field.

Sept. 9-10/
June Lake Jam Fest 3 @ Gull Lake Park. See ad, p. 2, sidebar next page.

Saturday, Sept. 9/
Chamber Music Unbound Honors Strings performance, 2:30 p.m. at the Whoa Nellie Deli, Lee Vining. Fundraiser for students' musical trip to Germany.
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TOWN STUFF

Monday, Sept. 11/ 

Owens Valley Radio Observatory Tour. See the “Big Ears” up close and learn all about the Owens Valley Radio Observatory. 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Dr. Mark Hodges for info at 760-938-2075 (Ext. 109).

Mammoth Lakes Housing Board Meeting. 6 p.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes.

Bishop City Council Meeting. 6-8 p.m. @ City Hall.

Tuesday, Sept. 12/ 

Mono County Supervisors meet. 9 a.m. Bridgeport Courthouse. Live Broadcast: CAO Conference room.

Sierra Center Mall, Mammoth Lakes.

Inyo County Supervisors meet 8 a.m. County Offices, Independence.

Friends of the Mammoth Lakes Library Meeting. 1 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Library.

Storytime at the Mammoth Lakes Library. 10:30 a.m. All ages welcome.

Wednesday, Sept. 13/ 

Mammoth Planning and Economic Development Commission Meeting. 2 p.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth.

Mono County RAP Meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lee Vining Community Center.

Farmer's Market in Mammoth Lakes at the Mammoth Luxury Outlet Mall parking lot. 4-7 p.m.


Free lecture at the Mono Lake Center. @ Millpond Sept. 15-17. See ad, p. 7.

TOWNSMEN Events:

Wind River (R): Rookie FBI agent teams up with a local game tracker to solve the murder of a young girl in a small town.

It (R): Children in a Maine town band together to fight an ancient, murderous clown named Pennywise.

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

UPCOMING

Meet 4:30 p.m. at Mammoth Union Bank.

Bishop Paiute Tribe Community Market. 5 p.m. to dusk at the Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center in Bishop.

Saturday, Sept. 16/ 

Eastern Sierra Tails & Trails Dog Festival. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. See story, p. 10, ad p. 3, sidebar this page.


The Great Sierra River Cleanup. Meet 8 a.m. at the Eastern Sierra Land Trust (250 N. St., Bishop) for breakfast & coffee. Carpool from there to popular sites along the Owens River to clean up trash until 12 p.m.

Sept. 14-17/ 

Kamikaze Games @ Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. See ad p. 4, sidebar this page.

Sept. 15-16/ 

Poetry Days in Lone Pine. Poetry workshops and readings. See sidebar this page.

Sept. 15-17/ 

Millpond Music Festival @ Millpond Park. See sidebar.

Sunday, Sept. 17/ 

Sierra Club Bird Outing. Guided bird walk in Mammoth Lakes. Meet 7:45 a.m. @ Union Bank. Info: Karen @ 760.218.3956.

Thursday, Sept. 14/ 

Sierra Club Hike with Sally Series. 3 miles RT, gentle ups and downs, back by dark. Location TBD, Mammoth.

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

Wind River (R): Rookie FBI agent teams up with a local game tracker to solve the murder of a young girl in a small town.

It (R): Children in a Maine town band together to fight an ancient, murderous clown named Pennywise.

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

Customer Appreciation Day is back! All seats, all shows $6.00.
Help Wanted

Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasierie has the following positions available. Bowling Desk Employees, Server/ Bartender, Housekeeper Hostess. Contact Kevin O’Connell 760.934.4200 ext. 3, or Email: kwall@mmrocknroll.com

Full and Part time Hospitality Positions Available
Seeking responsible, outgoing hospitality/reservation agents for local management company. Excellent phone/customer service skills required. Previous experience preferred. Full time 40 hours per week. Pay DOE. Email resume to info@mammothhotelsandrestaurants.com, call 760-934-4572, or stop by at Meridian Blvd.

Maintenance Assistant Job:
Must be able & willing to assist with maintaining & repairing 20 chalets & other buildings. Experience required in snow removal, electrical, painting, carpentry & plumbing. This candidate must be able to perform vehicle maintenance on a variety of vehicles/equipment. Benefits include: Debbie & Mike Crowe Mammoth Mountain Chalets (760) 327-3681 Ext 0 (CA) amid@mmchalets.com

Good Earth Yogurt Now Hiring Manager
Good Earth Yogurt and Wellness is on the lookout for an outgoing and versatile team member with experience in the food service operations, the ability to work effectively in a fast-paced customer service environment, and the ability to work evenings and weekends on a regular basis. This position will be responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the store.

Technicians:
Good Earth Yogurt is looking to hire new team members! If you have an outgoing personality and love working with people in a fun upbeat family environment, this may be the job for you! This is a full-time position with flexible hours. Positions will require you to be able to work evenings and weekends on a regular basis. We are looking for someone who will be able to perform basic tasks at Good Earth Yogurt to support the daily operations of the store.

Noro 76 is hiring mini-mart cashier/clerk. Apply in person.

Mammoth Rock Rock \& Bowl
www.mammothrocknbowl.com

Help Wanted

Restaurant space for lease. 2000 – 4000 sq feet. Liquor license available. Email interest to dave@mammothgear.com

Help Wanted

Clergy: The Town of Mammoth Lakes is currently seeking an Ordinance Enforcement Officer. This is a full-time position in the Mammoth Lakes Police Department. The position requires a minimum of 2 years of related experience in local government, preferably in the planning or code enforcement area and a Bachelor’s Degree in a related field. Please contact the Town Clerk at 760-924-5801 ext. 6 for more information. Applications are available at the Town of Mammoth Lakes, 1401 Highway 91, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Applications due by 5:00pm on Saturday, September 2, 2017. Applications submitted by mail should be postmarked no later than September 2nd. Position available immediately. Salary commensurate with experience. Mammoth Lakes Police Department is an equal opportunity employer.


Bookkeeping Services Available. Let me keep your books up-to-date in order while you focus on your business or travel the world. Experienced in Quickbooks, Bookkeeping Office, Desktop, matrixed. Docs. Great references available. 805-540-0902.
Notice of Public Hearing

General Plan Amendment: GPA 17-002 & Zoning Code Amendment: ZCA 17-002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road, the Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission will hear a request for the following:

Request: Consideration of proposed amendments to the General Plan and Zoning Code (ZCA 17-002), which includes the following:

GPA 17-002:
- Addendum to the map page, the block on the map (if applicable), and the individual parcel on the map page or in the applicable book, the map page, the block on the map (if applicable), and the individual parcel on the map page or in the
- Amendment to Section 17.25.110 (Conversion of commercial structures to residential uses) to allow scrivener’s errors found within the Zoning Code and land use districts to be corrected.

Amendment Section 17.36.110 (Solid Waste/Recyclable Materials Separation and Storage) to provide for a closer-spaced striping basis for improving an alternate dumpling location

Amendment Section 17.51.120 (Condemnation Conversions) to allow the conversion of land from one use to another without informal condemnation

Application for: Request for Public Hearing.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road, the Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission will hear an application request for the following:

Application Request: The Planning and Economic Development Commission will consider a proposal to authorize the Town of Mammoth Lakes to purchase and sell land for the purpose of facilitating the construction and completion of a 1,500-gallon recycled water storage tank for the vault management and fire prevention purposes. The proposed action involves the vesting of regulations in place at the site of the proposed action.

An addendum is proposed to EIR State Clearinghouse (SCH #2006062154). The proposed action is with in the jurisdiction of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The proposed action is within the jurisdiction of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The proposed action is with in the jurisdiction of the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of Public Hearing

Public Scoping Meeting

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council and Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District are seeking comments on a fuels reduction project that would be implemented on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, representing the first implementation of the fuels reduction project. The project would be implemented on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, within the Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council (LAD, First Fire Machine) in the Mono County National Forest (Regional Forester and Technical Advisor), and the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (Community Outreach and Support).

The project was previously accepted by the U.S. Forest Service in September, 2016, as Meeting the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and is now being processed through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance.

The project proposes to perform fuels reduction on 64 acres to access hazardous standing and surface fuel loads to reduce potential wildland severity and improve forest health. The work would preserve vital watershed function and economic interests in the event of wildfire, post or paleth oil spills, or drought. The current forest conditions within the Lakes Basin are dense with continuous horizontal and vertical fuels profiles.

Under the right weather conditions, it is likely that wildfire would burn as an active crown fire resulting in 100% mortality of the forest in the Lakes Basin. High severity wildfires in the Lakes Basin would be catalytic to the Town of Mammoth Lakes eliminating the ability to achieve the significant loss of life and property, decreased ecosystem function, and economic loss through decreased tourism.

The proposed total project cost is 320,000.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to: Mammoth Fire Protection District, Fuels Reduction Project #2017-C18, Mammoth Lakes, CA, fax: by 760 934-9210, by email to: robert@mlfd.ca.gov, or in person at a Public Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 27, 2017, at 760 934-9210.

Written comments must be postmarked by no later than September 22, 2017.

If you would like more information and to see a map of the project area, please feel free to contact Captain Robert Williams, of the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District at (760) 934-2380.
MAMMOTH’S SUPER BOWL
More results, photos from last week’s annual Wave Rave Skate Competition

Photos by Todd Robertson

ADDITIONAL RESULTS FROM THE 19TH ANNUAL WAVE RAVE SKATE CONTEST:

Women’s Open Bowl
1. Tyler Brooking
2. Zeia Rose
3. Juls Wright

Masters Bowl
1. Teddy Rauh
2. Greg Bokenkamp
3. Scotty Goodman

Grand Masters Bowl
1. Mike Lary
2. Steve Bultsma
3. Cam Hamil

Legends Bowl
1. Mark Kleinertz
2. Steve Klassen
3. Bev Bihler

Men’s Open Bowl
1. Pat Reddy
2. Alex Carlson
3. Dante Madrigal

The 17th annual Wave Rave Skate Contest took place on Saturday, August 26 at the Volcom Brothers Skate Park in Mammoth Lakes.

Above (l-r): Tyler Brooking, Zeia Rose, Juls Wright.


Above: Wave Rave owner Steve Klassen with daughter Kinsley.

Above (l-r): Ewen Tomaier, Kaden Klassen, Shane Stacy.


Above: Dante Madrigal, Pat Reddy, and Alex Carson.


Above (l-r): Kylar Greene and Pat Reddy and Sonny Kai and Tyler Brooking.
MOUNTAIN BIKERS UNCHAINED

Kids and adults took to the slopes for the 2017 Mammoth Village Downhill Championship Chainless Velocity Race.

On Friday, September 1, Five Ten hosted the 2017 Mammoth Village Championship Downhill (VCDH) Chainless Velocity Race at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA).

The Chainless Velocity Race wraps up the overall 2017 VCDH points championship, presented by Five Ten. This year, 18-year-old Zach Rante took the men’s title, and 11-year-old Madeleine LeFrancois took the women’s title. See the full results below.

Photos courtesy of Justin Walsh

Mammoth VCDH Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Start Order</th>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mattia Meneghello</td>
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<td>02:00:94</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Zach Rante</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Matt Gunter</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Russell Malm</td>
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<td>Kris Martin</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Josh Smith</td>
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<td>Jake Langston</td>
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See the full results below.

Photos courtesy of Justin Walsh

Justin Walsh works the registration booth.

Left to right: Courtney Short (2nd), Jessica Cox (1st), and Madeleine LeFrancois (3rd) on the women’s podium. Bottom: Quentin LeFrancois during the race.

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