MAMMOTH GETS AN “A”
And finally, for something besides effort

By Lunch

Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler revealed that the Town’s credit rating has been bumped upwards at the Mammoth Lakes Lions Club luncheon on Wednesday.

Holler said the Town now has an A rating, considered “upper medium grade.” Its former rating had been a BBB-, considered “lower medium grade.”

According to Standard and Poor’s, an obligation rated A is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.

An obligation rated BBB exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

Holler said the rating change will allow the Town to save a significant amount of money by refinancing its airport litigation obligation. The Town pays 5.75% interest on its current loan.

see CREDIT, page 2

TAKING OUT THE GARBAGE

Melissa Reeves and her dog Jet, take to the trails at the Mammoth Lions’ Eastern Sierra Tails and Trails Dog Fest on Sunday, September 17 at Mammoth Creek Park. For more photos, see page 19.

By Lunch

This Mammoth Disposal garbage truck caught fire Monday, September 18 at Whitmore Pool. No word yet as to whether or not it can be recycled.

OLD SCHOOL 2?
College never ends ... or, at least, college housing

By Rea

Mammoth’s Town Council voted 3-1, Wednesday, with Mayor Pro Tem Cleland Hoff voting no, to approve a General Plan amendment that would allow employees of institutions like Mammoth Hospital to reside in the South Gateway Student Apartments at Cerro Coso Community College.

The amendment modifies an Institutional Public land use designation affecting a 57-acre parcel of land owned jointly by the Mammoth Lakes Foundation (MLF) and Kern Community College District. It also affects the Trails End Park and the site of the current Community Center.

Approximately 15 Trails residents attended Wednesday’s Council meeting on September 20 to voice their opposition to the change.

A letter written by Trails resident Michael Bowes to his neighbors adjacent to the MLF parcel (Bowes is a 12-year resident of the Trails) was titled “Workforce Affordable Housing next to the Trails” and claimed that “the Mammoth Lakes General Plan proposed change is to allow affordable housing to be built on the south side of Meridian Boulevard on the Mammoth Lakes Foundation and as well as possibly on the Trails End Parcel.”

The language in the General Plan, adopted in 2007, read that “Residential uses are not permitted, with the exception of employee and student housing that is accessory for the college.” The amended language, approved by Council on Wednesday, read that the exception to residential

see SCHOOL, page 9

FATCO Give or get goin’ Damn regulations! My back hurts Xmas creep

Holler thinks the Town should now be able to reduce that interest rate by a percentage point or more, shaving the total airport payoff by $2 million over the life of the loan.

At the Lions luncheon, Holler said Standard and Poor’s was swayed by Mammoth’s strong economy the past two years — particularly the increase in summer business. Mammoth’s relative lack of long-term debt was also cited as a positive.

The Sheet asked Holler if the rating change would ironically serve to encourage the town to add long-term debt in the form of an ice rink or new administrative office building.

Holler pointed out that the Town plans to leverage Measure R dollars, not General Fund dollars, to borrow against in order to take out a construction bond for an ice rink/multi-use facility.

Sergeant Rick Moberly is currently on paid administrative leave from the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, pending an internal investigation.

He was placed on leave as of September 10. No word as to what the investigation is about.

Meanwhile, Police Chief Al Davis is expected to announce the name of the department’s new lieutenant hire on Friday, September 22.

There were 16 applicants and six who interviewed for the job, including current MLPD Sergeant Eric Hugelman.

Chief Davis said finalists participated in a technical interview, community interview, and written exam.

Chief Davis said he will make the final decision on the hire.

Mono County Investigator Frank Smith is also on paid leave … but his is more popularly referred to as retirement.

Smith, according to District Attorney Tim Kendall, was forced to retire due to medical reasons. He apparently injured his back at the shooting range while he was moving a target. Kendall said several people, including himself, witnessed the incident.

Kendall described Smith as an excellent police officer and an excellent investigator. He lauded Smith for his “creativity” in his approach to the job.

As one who witnessed Mr. Smith’s creativity firsthand, I have a somewhat different opinion of his skills. His hero complex, from my observation, hindered his ability to make clear-eyed decisions. And that’s about as polite as I can phrase it.

Smith has moved out of the area to St. George, Utah, where he is now operating a business with his wife called Family Adventure Tours Company, abbreviated as FATCO.

According to FATCO’s website: We are a family-owned and operated off-road guide service that assists and enables our customers to travel safely through public lands to unique and far away destinations without the worry of logistics, food, and fuel—we take care of it all! FATCO provides all types of off-road guided adventures, including single and multi-day excursions through some of the most remote places in the western United States using a variety of transportation modes. Adventure Motorcycles, Utility Vehicles, Jeeps, Side by Sides or Mountain Bicycles, you choose your mode of transportation and FATCO will get you to your destination!

Most days are 100+ miles in total length, making for a long day on the trail! FATCO prides itself on taking the “Least Traveled Routes” to the day’s destination to ensure your group gets to see things most folks never will.

So as I understand it, Smith’s back is good enough to travel 100+ miles a day along the “least traveled” backcountry routes, yet it is not good enough to work what is largely a desk job.

Thank you, taxpayer, for subsidizing FATCO.

Attempted Carjacking in Bishop

On Saturday, September 16, at 1:30 a.m., the Bishop Police Department responded to an attempted robbery in the 100 block of Whitney Avenue. The victim was sitting in his parked vehicle when a male subject approached the driver’s side door of the vehicle. The suspect threatened the victim, entered the vehicle and sat in the driver's seat. A second male also entered the passenger side of the vehicle. After a short time, both men exited the victim's vehicle, and left. Both suspects were arrested in the 700 block of Tu Su lane. Steven Ariaz, age 34 of Bishop and Dillon Bever, age 26 of Bishop were arrested and transported to the Inyo County Jail.

Both subjects were booked on various felony charges.
KENDAL MICHELLE JOHNSON
1968-2017

By Rea

Kendal Michelle Johnson, who passed away in her home in Mammoth Lakes at the age of 49, loved animals, skiing, being outdoors and was a dedicated member of her church. She passed away on September 7.

“The girl floated down a mountain,” said her older sister, Dawn Sheriff-Heslip, who moved to Mammoth with Kendal in 1990 and now lives in Winemucca, NV. “She didn’t ski, she floated.”

Dawn recalled with laughter the times that Kendal would coax her into skiing down Scotty’s or Dave’s Run at Mammoth Mountain.

“Well, Kendal breaks out in wings and takes off and floats down the run, and here’s me, the fat lady, oh man, I was pissed. I had a complete yard sale!” But, she said, “watching her ski was a blessing. She really loved Mammoth Mountain.”

Dawn said that one of her younger sister’s greatest joys was teaching children on the mountain during the two years she spent as a ski instructor.

“She just loved giving to those babies, teaching them a new gift.” Dawn also said that Kendal, who, prior to her death, worked at the DoIt Center in Mammoth, had an incredible talent with animals. “If it had a heartbeat, she could train it,” said Dawn. She said that Kendal pursued a bachelor’s degree in zoology at San Diego State University in 1999, and that she subsequently worked as a sea lion and dolphin trainer in Nuevo Vallarta, on the Baja peninsula.

“If I had a problem with one of my dogs or cats I’d call my sister and she’d tell me how to deal with it,” said Dawn. “She was just brilliant with that stuff.”

Kendal and her former husband, Scott Johnson, were married for 18 years and traveled on Johnson’s boat extensively, from Mexico to Bali to Costa Rica.

For two years prior to her death, Johnson lived with her partner, Bert Meyer, who works in Mammoth in construction. Meyer and Kendal met at church, said Meyer, who said that Kendal was very dedicated to her faith. Meyer said Kendal always wore little bows in her hair, “it was sort of her trademark,” and that her favorite color to wear was yellow.

He said that, following a knee surgery, Kendal hadn’t skied the last few seasons, so the two of them went snowmobiling instead around Shady Rest and up the San Joaquin Ridge. He said that Kendal had bought a pass for the upcoming ski season in anticipation of her knee being healed enough to ski once more.

She loved camping, hiking, and soaking in the natural hot springs in the Long Valley Caldera, Meyer said.

Dawn told The Sheet that her sister’s health had been failing prior to her death, and that she was able to see her one last time at Renown Medical Center in Reno, NV.

“We just sat together,” said Dawn. “We watched Jeopardy, and she got every damn answer wrong, which is ironic because she was always smarter than me,” she said with a laugh.

“We just did what Kendal and Dawn do,” said Dawn. “I think the only thing we didn’t do was play backgammon or cribbage. We just hung out and it was quiet, and just us, and it was good.”

Kendal Michelle Johnson is survived by her parents, Sharon Searle (Bodamer) and Kenneth Williams, as well as by her sister, Dawn Sheriff-Heslip (Williams). She is also survived by her aunt Joyce Wilsey (Williams), cousin Drew Wilsey, and nieces Krystal Heslip, Shawna Sheriff, and Kaitlyn Petersen; as well as nephews Thomas Heslip and Joshua Heslip.

Dawn said that Kendal’s greatest loves were her dogs—Ginger, who died years ago, and Mister Bear, whom she cared for until her death. Kendal did not have any children.

A celebration of life for Kendal Michelle Johnson will be held on Saturday, September 30 at 3 p.m. at Grace Community Church, 217 E. Sierra Manor Rd. in Mammoth Lakes.
DANCING UP TIOGA PASS

At 13, Kirk Harper was the youngest person ever to compete in the 12.4-mile Tioga Pass Run this year

By Bodine

Kirk Harper ran his first Tioga Pass Run this year, finishing in 2 hours 40 minutes, an average time for the 12.4-mile long hill. Not bad considering Harper started running just three months ago—and that he's 13. He wasn't sure if he was old enough to race but wanted it so badly that he said he was 15 on the registration form. He's the youngest racer to ever finish the run.

Harper said in an interview with The Sheet that he was "kind of forced into it (the race)." His dad Bryan Harper and Kirk's running coach Benjamin Mitchell started laughing.

Kirk Harper was a soccer player in North Carolina and always the fastest player on the team, Bryan Harper said. The Harpers had moved to Bishop a year ago.

At mile three of the race, Harper said he began to doubt himself if he could even finish the race. Then, he said, he lifted his head to see his dad in a car next to him yelling, "Keep going!"

Mitchell told Harper to back it off a bit and save it for the entire race. "I gave him the ingredients to make his own soup," Mitchell said. Harper learned to set goals and achieve them, how to push through when you hit a wall, and the importance of training hard so the race isn't so tough, Mitchell explained. He said Harper has Olympic potential.

"He's always worked hard," Bryan Harper said of his son. "He'd give you the shirt off his back."

True to form, Kirk Harper once gave his brand new shoes to a boy at his school in North Carolina that didn't have any. Mitchell said he saw the big heart in Harper, too.

Bryan Harper said his son is like any 13-year-old boy, in that it's hard for him to concentrate with so many distractions.

His grandmother Mary Anne Harper said in a sweet Southern accent that Kirk Harper had a different girlfriend every week, then every day for a while. "I came out in May just to straighten him out," said Mary Anne.

May just happened to be about the same time Kirk Harper started running.

“By the sixth mile he was dancing,” Bryan Harper said. Kirk was spurred on by Michael Jackson and Johnny Cash on his headphones. “I've never run that far before,” Harper said with a smile. A long-distance runner himself and USA Track and Field Coach, Mitchell took Harper up hills, out to the track at Bishop High School, and the two even ran at 10,000 feet of elevation in the White Mountains for training. There was cardio-vascular training, longer runs and attention to nutrition.

“I gave him the ingredients to make his own soup,” Mitchell said. Harper learned to set goals and achieve them, how to push through when you hit a wall, and the importance of training hard so the race isn’t so tough, Mitchell explained. He said Harper has Olympic potential.

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FALLOUT AT THE TOIYABE CLINIC

Could the board’s suspension of top administrators cause the USDA to reconsider funding the clinic’s operations?

By James

The atmosphere in the board room at last Friday’s Toiyabe Indian Health Project’s Board of Directors meeting was much calmer than in recent meetings. CEO David Lent, reinstated at the September 6 meeting, returned to work this week after being suspended July 14 on a 7-to-6 vote for 60 days without pay, along with three other top administrators.

The TIHP board is composed of representatives from seven federally recognized local tribes. It now seems to be looking at ways to avoid the pitfalls in Indian hiring preference policies and considerations taking further action. Dianna Hart said that she was concerned upon hearing that the USDA may be poised to renegotiate clinic’s loans because of the controversy over the suspension of the administrators and she is concerned that the Bishop Tribe “is in a bind (financially).” She ended with saying that “I’m really concerned about the future.”

It needs to be said that the board appears ready to move forward after reinstating Lent. Big Pine Tribe representative Dave Moore recommended that the board look into creating an internal compliance officer/auditor’s position to look into any irregularities in any department, review job descriptions, ensure compliance with policies, and suggest corrections if needed.

Moose went on to suggest that the board hold workshops to establish priorities. Several ideas mentioned were workshops on employee morale, dealing with the financial issues facing the clinics in Lone Pine and Coleville, concerns over the dialysis unit, policy reviews and improving communication within the organization (between the board, the staff and the community served). It was well-received by the board members.

There was an election of board officers as well at Friday’s meeting. The new officers are: Chairman George Gholson, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe; Vice-Chair Genevieve Jones of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe; Secretary Earleen Williams of the Bishop Paiute Tribe; Treasurer Virgil “Dave” Moose, Big Pine Paiute Tribe, treasurer, and White Dove Kennedy, executive member at large.

The board’s meeting on Friday was supposed to be a presentation on the Annual Budget Report, but because of the suspension of the CFO Mary Daniels, the amount of work to produce the current budget and the projected budget reports, proved overwhelming to the office staff. It was suggested to bring Daniels back, if she would accept, to make sure that the reports were completed.

An Update:

The Sheet obtained a copy of a letter sent by Douglas Colucci, Community Facility Specialist for the USDA, to Cynthia Stone, interim CEO of THHP, dated August 9. The letter informed Stone that the USDA planned to begin attending the THHP’s monthly board meetings.

They also requested information such as THHP’s monthly financials, board minutes from January to August 2017, interim management resumes/background information, as well as monthly visits by the department, monthly staffing levels, and evidence of current insurance, among other information.
The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is moving from its current location, the site of a former rent-by-the-hour hot tub joint, to a new building next to the Court- house on the McFlex Parcel. The MLPD announced on its Facebook page that it will begin the move on Monday, September 25, and will have “limited services during the transition.”

“It’s not a business like a restaurant where you can say, ‘We’re remodeling, we’re going to close for a week,’” said Public Works Director Grady Dutton. “We can’t do that. It’s a police station.”

The MLPD announced that its business office (at the old location, 368 Old Mammoth Road) will be open Monday, September 25 through Thursday, September 28 and will close to the public on Friday, September 29. It will reopen Monday, October 2, at the new location (58 Thompsons Way).

MLPD also announced that the Liv- eScan fingerprinting service won’t be available until the end of October.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will continue to pay the lease on the old Police Station until it is up on December 31, 2017. The monthly rent for that space is $5,766, according to Public Works Director Grady Dutton.

As of Thursday, September 21, the new Police Facility looked mostly completed on the outside, but machinery and construction materials were still present within the building. “That’s what it always looks like in a project like this in the last couple weeks,” said Dutton.

When asked why the employees weren’t moving in closer to the end of their lease, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police Hannah DeGoey responded, “Have you ever tried to move in the snow, much less move an entire station? We are moving in stages. While we’re excited to get into the new building…it’s going to take several months until we’re fully operational in the same capacity over there, which will take us right up to the end of our December lease.”

DeGoey also said that it was important for the move to occur before MLPD reaches peak service levels as the winter holidays approach. “We don’t have extra of anything essential for us to have redundancy between the two stations, particularly when we’ve got our hands full come November and December.”

As for the cost of the station, the budget approved by Mammoth’s Town Council in June, 2016 was $3,073,286. Engineering Manager Haislip Hayes said this week that the station is “further along than it looks,” and that “I won’t give the final price tag until it’s all said and done which is the another month to close out. Besides, (Editor Jack Lunch) offered a free 1 page ad to anyone who could guess the final price tag...I am pretty sure I am winning that. My ad will be awesome.”

Editor’s note: Unfortunately for Hayes, he’s too close to the operation to be eligible for the prize.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new facility will be held on Thursday, October 5 at 11:30 a.m.

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GIVE OR GET GOIN’

McClain recommends making board fundraising, giving mandatory

By Giles

A meeting Tuesday, September 12 of the Mammoth Lakes Recreation’s Board of Directors, new Executive Director Matt McClain proposed bold changes to the Board’s bylaws.

McClain recommended that the Board adopt a “Give or Get” policy, which would require that every Board member finance a personal annual gift to Mammoth Lakes Recreation or solicit an outside gift of equal value. If Board members don’t comply, they may not participate in board meetings. McClain said that “This is a common practice among nonprofits, and especially among successful ones,” said McClain at last Tuesday’s meeting. According to a 2014 Stanford Graduate School of Business survey of 924 directors of nonprofit organizations, 42 percent of American nonprofit organizations have some form of Give or Get policy. McClain said establishing such a policy was “the right thing to do to help the community that Board members “have skin in the game.”

McClain noted that many grant applications require one-hundred percent board giving. Board member David Page said, “If you’re soliciting donations, the first thing people ask is, ‘What are your board members giving?’ And if the answer is that they are not, then it’s, ‘Why should I?’”

When board members asked McClain what he thought an appropriate dollar amount would be for the mandatory gift, he cited examples. He said that when he served as Director of Marketing and Communications at the Catalina Island Conservancy, the mandatory annual gift was in the six figures. “You won’t be able to find any better deals for this,” said board member Teri Stehlik to that figure. McClain said that at Protect Our Winters, where he served as Vice President of Development and Operations, the mandatory gift was set at $500. Director Shields Richardson suggested $500 to $1,000 for the first year.

The real value of Give or Get is not what check you have to write; it’s in capitalizing on your opportunities.”

-Matt McClain

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THE SHEET | Saturday, September 23, 2017
IN A HIRING MOOD
Five new funded positions added to Inyo County budget
By Bodine

Inyo County is in a hiring mood, having budgeted several new positions for 2017-18, but some terms and conditions apply. Treasurer/Tax Collector Alisha McMurrtrie sees some of the stipulations placed on new hires in the 2017-18 Budget as a control mechanism to keep and her employees in line. The county says it is simply following code and other arrangements previously voted on by employees. The trouble started with labor negotiations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was struck between Inyo County and the Elected Officials Assistants Association (EOAA) in March, which included a stipulation that new EOAA employees be at-will or contract employees who serve at the whim of the County Supervisors. At-will or contract employees can be terminated at any time without justification.

Uncharacteristic for a budget, some details of the position of Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector are included in the document, such as a requirement that position being flown in-house. This position is the first to be filled under the new MOU. It would be hard for any department head to find loyalty in an employee that was working for, or contract employees who serve at the whim of the County Supervisors. At-will or contract employees who serve at the whim of the County Supervisors.

Uncharacteristic for a budget, some details of the position of Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector are included in the document, such as a requirement that position be flown in-house. This position is the first to be filled under the new MOU. As McMurtrie told the Inyo County Supervisor at the Budget Hearings held September 5 that her office has been short-staffed for five years. She requested an assistant in 2015-16, but approval was delayed. She said these at-will employees will have two masters, the department head, and the supervisors, an arrangement that could undermine the trust between the department head and the employee. It would be hard for a department head to find loyalty in an employee that was working for, or contract employees who serve at the whim of the County Supervisors. At-will or contract employees who serve at the whim of the County Supervisors.

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**DAMN REGULATIONS!**

California Highway Patrol mans the streets for the 10th Annual Eastern Sierra ATV & UTV Jamboree

By Rea

Former Mono County District 4 Supervisor Tim Fesko says that the Eastern Sierra ATV & UTV Jamboree is “the biggest single event” that happens in northern Mono County each year, and that “it outweighs income brought in by other events, hands down.”

However, the organizers of the 10th annual Jamboree, which will bring about 175 off-road vehicle riders to Mono County to adventure on hundreds of miles of public lands, have had a few unexpected bumps in the road this year.

First, organizers had to move the date of the festival, which is based out of Coleville and Walker, from just before Father’s Day, when it typically occurs, to this upcoming weekend due to restrictions intended to protect the Bi-State Sage-Grouse, said Fesko, who owns the Meadowcliff Lodge in Coleville, (site of a KOA campground where most of the participants stay).

And most recently, Fesko said, he was told by Bill Boyers, the Lieutenant Commander of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in Bridgeport, that the Jamboree needed to hire a CHP officer to perform traffic control duties for the event, an unplanned-for expense that will cost the organizers just shy of $4,000.

“We’ve never had to pay anything” in the past, Fesko told The Sheet, “so that wasn’t budgeted.”

During the Jamboree, riders travel several miles on both Larsen and Eastside Lanes, which are paved roads under the jurisdiction of CHP.

Fesko said that members of the local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) historically manned the paved roads, “but according to Bill [Boyers], we’re not legally able to do that. To become completely legal we have to hire people able to do traffic control.”

Boyers told The Sheet that the issue of hiring a CHP officer has “actually been worked on for about the last four years. The issue is, basically, the ATVs don’t have any authority to be on the paved roadways. It’s a violation of the vehicle code.”

Boyers said that ATVs and UTVs don’t have taillights, blinkers, mirrors, or any of the other components required to legally use roads alongside larger vehicles, so the CHP must either close off or man the roads for the event, similar to what happens during Mammouth’s Gran Fondo or the June Lake Triathlon.

However, Boyers said, the CHP wanted to work with the Jamboree so that the addition of an officer didn’t break the bank.

“We didn’t want them to have to increase the entry fee” this year, said Boyers. “In reality we should probably have two officers minimum, but because of cost we’re trying to assist them.”

He said that the CHP would provide training to the CERT personnel, who will have the authority to direct traffic. However, the CERT Team personnel “don’t have the authority, if someone says they’re going to go on through, to stop them” because they’re not uniformed officers.

“For seven years it worked very well” having CERT teams man the roads, said Fesko. “The last couple years [the CHP started] putting more restrictions on things.”

Fesko said that, if the event ends up needing two officers in the next several years (at a cost of approximately $7,500, he said) “that would be pretty much taking any profit” the event makes. “We give well over $2,000 to the Walker River Fish Enhancement Fund,” as well as Antelope Valley Fire Department and Antelope Valley CERT, out of the profits from the event, said Fesko. “Businesses have come up with extra money to raise enough to do this,” added Fesko, who says the economic boon from the event is felt in local hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and other establishments.

“The residual out of that is the fact that these people come up here again and again, and not just for the Jamboree.”

“We’re trying to work with them, we’re trying to help them,” said Boyers, who also noted that he was surprised the event was able to secure insurance for past years, because most providers stipulate that event participants obey all laws. “It’s very clear in the vehicle code those vehicles may not be on the roadway,” said Boyers.

He also said that the organizers of the Jamboree were lucky that no issues came up in the last nine years due to the lack of CHP protection. “They came up in the last nine years due to issues that came up in the last nine years due to issues that occurred,” added Fesko, who was surprised that the event was able to secure insurance for past years, because most providers stipulate that event participants obey all laws.

“Businesses have come up with extra money to raise enough to do this,” added Fesko, who says the economic boon from the event is felt in local hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and other establishments.

“The residual out of that is the fact that these people come up here again and again, and not just for the Jamboree.”

The Eastern Sierra ATV & UTV Jamboree runs from September 26-30. For more information, contact info@monochamber.com or 530.208.6078.
housing that supports and is ancillary to the allowed institutional uses…" as well as student housing.

The MLF submitted its application for the amendment on May 23, 2017. E.L. Smoogen, President of the Trails Homeowners Association, “Is there something hidden in the woodwork here that maybe has to do with expanding this whole thing into just typically low income housing?”

Traxler replied that “originally the…group that worked on the 2007 General Plan had proposed that housing of all types be permitted… but during the public hearing stage, a group called Advocates of Mammoth that fought strongly against that…as a result of their concerns, it was scaled to allow housing for just students and faculty.”

Councilmember John Wentworth interjected during the public hearing to clarify that “this [amendment] will not open up [the land] for workforce housing or community housing as a general proposition. It will be constrained to the types of housing that Ruth [Traxler] mentioned.”

“Right, the institutional public,” replied Bowes. “As we all know, things evolve over time.”

“Just want Council to know that I’m feeling duped and railroaded by the Mammoth Lakes Foundation,” said Trails resident Lisa Wiles. “I’m taken aback by what they really want to do.”

“Any other buildings will deface what we can see and what we can enjoy,” said Trails resident Margie Altenbach. “The Wounded Warriors are being trampled on. [The land] was going to be for the Wounded Warriors, and now it’s going to be for public use, for low income.”

“I would just like to say the comments that were made, some were very inaccurate, some very much misinformed,” said Evan Russell, CEO of the MLF. “There’s no land change going on here. No buildings being proposed to be built. That will have to go through a whole separate process. All we’re trying to do is take existing beds and expand the use of those beds. Maximize their potential going into this next winter.”

Caroline Sanderson, Campus Manager at the Eastern Sierra College Center, told The Sheet on Thursday that there are only three available beds currently at the South Gateway Student Apartments.

The apartments “hadn’t been full when they started these discussions with [Mammoth Hospital CEO] Gary Myers,” said Sanderson. “Now because of the lack of housing, our students need to actually be there.”

However, Russell said that many of the rooms which had previously had two beds have been reduced to one. “So what that does to us is our rental yield is way down. Then we have to subsidize the building to keep it afloat,” said Russell. “This is a financial thing really…we’d be happy if the building would break even, or even make a little bit of money, but it hasn’t done that.”

Russell said that the building has never been completely full in the 8 years the Mammoth Lakes Foundation has owned it.

Russell said that MLF had been in discussions with Myers to open up that housing to hospital employees because “he’s got people coming and going all the time now, we’re trying to…see if this could be a viable place to house” hospital employees. Myers is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the MLF.

Councilman Bill Sauser told the Trails residents present at the meeting that, “as someone who has been in Mammoth longer than any of you in the audience, I am finding it ironic that the people who are occupying land that was the first land trade the Forest Service made specifically to create workforce housing are arguing against workforce housing across the street.”

The Trails had initially been zoned for affordable housing in a land trade with the Forest Service, but no deed restrictions were placed on the properties there, so they became market-rate homes.

Councilman Colin Fernie said that, while he agreed that communication could always be improved, “I think we’re going through a pretty significant process as a Council to address workforce housing needs. I think if we come out of that effort with an unwillingness to look at creative solutions for workforce housing, it’s going to be a waste of everyone’s time.”

Mayor John Wentworth said that if that housing was opened up for institutional employees, that would ease the pressure of what is available elsewhere in the market. “Things are going to be changing in this community in a pretty significant way going forward. We do have a housing crisis. There is a need for us to work together as a community and address these kinds of things.”
The next meeting of the Town of Mammoth Lakes-County of Inyo Airport Working Group, which was scheduled for Friday, September 22 in Bishop, was cancelled due to a calendar conflict, said Mammoth’s Town Manager Dan Holler this week.

Instead of attending a meeting to discuss possible solutions to the problem of reliable regional air service in the Eastern Sierra, Holler and Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Works Director Grady Dutton will be interviewing architectural and engineering firms for the Mammoth-Yosemite Airport (MMH) expansion project, said Holler. “We did a [Request for Qualifications] for that and we got eight responses,” said Holler. “We did a [Request for Qualifications] for that and we got eight responses,” said Holler.

At last week’s Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors reduced the amount that Mono County gives annually to the Mammoth-Yosemite Airport to subsidize their air service by $15,000 (that money went to fish enhancement and youth sports funding instead), with District 4 Supervisor Bob Gardner noting one of his constituents as saying “When are we going to get past this pretend airport thing?” (See “Mono County Budget approved, past this pretend airport thing?” (See “Mono County Budget approved, past this pretend airport thing?”)

John Urdi, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Tourism, had initially asked Supervisors to approve a $100,000 subsidy for commercial air service at MMH in 2017, from the County’s General Fund. That amount was reduced to $50,000, then to $35,000, at the Tuesday, September 12 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Gardner told The Sheet this week that the reduction in funding was an attempt to make a statement about his preferred airport location—Gardner believes the solution would be to form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with Mono County, Inyo County, the City of Bishop, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes as players, and to create an “Eastern Sierra Regional Airport,” which would be located in Bishop and governed by the JPA.

He likened the idea to the formation of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, or ESTA. “Ten years ago, they authorized to receive commercial flights (except for those operated by JetSuiteX, a charter company that prevents their plans from landing at MMH), The Sheet reported that the cost of required improvements to bring the Bishop Airport to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards for commercial air traffic would be approximately $23 million, $20 million of which could be covered by the FAA (See “Inyo County and Mammoth Lakes ‘Still Dating,’ July 7).”

The Mammoth-Yosemite Airport has already qualified for an FAA grant of approximately $30 million to expand its existing aircraft apron and improve its terminal, the same project that Dutton and Holler will be interviewing prospective architectural firms for on Friday.

“As a federal taxpayer, I don’t like the idea that we’re spending FAA dollars at [both] Mammoth and at Bishop,” said Gardner this week. When Holler was asked about this, he said that the federal money can’t simply be shuttled around. “If we put [the MMH project] on hold, then the FAA says, ‘Okay, you don’t want $30 million in grant money, that’s fine.’ It doesn’t automatically go to Bishop or back to us.”

By Rea

TWO-TIMIN’ FUN
Mammoth Lakes-County of Inyo Airport Working Group meeting sidelined by “calendar conflicts”
FUELS REDUCTION REDUX
Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, Inyo National Forest try to keep fire hazard under control in the Lakes Basin

By Giles

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, United States Forest Service, and Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council collaborating on a fuels reduction project in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, in hopes of preventing a catastrophic wildfire from threatening homes in Old Mammoth and trapping visitors in the Lakes Basin.

Mammoth Lakes Fire Marshall Thom Heller said last week that a crown fire in the Lakes Basin would threaten homes and lives in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. “Right now, if we could stop a fire in its infancy, we could put it out. If it got ahead of us, we would be hard-pressed to manage it within such a small area,” said Heller last week.

Heller said that, under the existing conditions, if a fire were to occur in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, it is likely that it would result in a complete burn of the forest, and in years to come.

Such an event would compromise the Town’s water supply.

Heller said that a large-scale evacuation of the Lakes Basin would be “difficult at best.” There are only two ways in and out of the area, one of which is a single lane road that leads to Old Mammoth. “There is a natural bottleneck at Twin Lakes,” said Heller, who said that if a fire-related incident were to occur at that site, people could be trapped in the Lakes Basin.

Deb Schweizer, Public Affairs Officer for the Inyo National Forest said that, “in the fire exclusion years, roughly eight natural fire cycles were missed in the mixed conifer forest. That means there is eight times the amount of dead vegetation that has accumulated that can feed a fire.”

At a public meeting regarding the project on Tuesday, September 19, Mayor John Wentworth asked if, in the event a private contractor is hired to carry out the fuels removal portion of the project, the Inyo National Forest (INF) would monitor the consultant’s work diligently. Wentworth cited the last fuels removal project carried out in the Lakes Basin, in the vicinity of Panorama Dome. Wentworth said he recalled that the project was delayed by two years, and that the contractor used vehicles and equipment that destroyed existing trails. “They left the area kind of a mess… At the end of the day, the Forest Service said, ‘OK, we’re done here,’” said Wentworth, who says evidence of the wreckage is still present.

Wentworth was referring to the Panorama Dome Stewardship Contract, which the INF awarded to Smith Crane and Rigging of Mound House, Nevada in 2010. According to a Progress Report submitted by the INF to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in January 2013, the project was scheduled to begin in July of 2011, but was delayed due to persistent snowpack until July 2012. The same report indicates the project was completed in November of 2012.

In June, 2013, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA), along with Friends of the Inyo and Fatbike Mammoth, hosted a volunteer trail work day to re-establish the Panorama Dome Mountain Bike Trails, including sections of the trail affected by the fuels reduction logging effort. Photos from the June 2013 event indicate that many large trees were left strewn across the trails, and debris was littered across the area.

Schweizer said the INF “may have timber sales to private contractors, and we will emphasize the importance of removing timber in a prompt manner and restoring any damage which may occur.” Schweizer said certain recreation trails may experience temporary closures during timber operations for safety, but that the agency does not plan to alter existing trails. “Damage may occur, but we will work with the contractor and specialist to restore any damage which may occur.”

Of additional concern at Tuesday’s meeting, was the status of fuel on Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve, a large swath of undeveloped, wooded land between the Mammoth Lakes Basin and the rest of town. Fire Chief Frank Frievalt said that MLFPD has been in communication with Carol Blanchette, the Director of Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve, but that MLFPD has no jurisdiction to enforce fuels removal from the property, which is owned by the State of California. One meeting participant, a resident of Old Mammoth, said, “I’ve been back there, and it’s a jungle.”

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council and Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District are seeking comments on the fuels reduction project, which was previously scoped for National Environmental Quality Act compliance and is now being scoped for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. The project proposes to reduce fuels on 667 acres of land, by cutting and removing standing fuel from all layers of the forest canopy. The project is expected to cost $622,000, the bulk of which is expected to be covered by a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. For more information about the project, or to submit comments on the ongoing CEQA analysis before the September 22 deadline, contact Captain Robert Williams at 760.934.2300 or Robert@mlfd.ca.gov.
RETURN OF THE SLIM PRINCESS

Carson & Colorado Engine #18, the Slim Princess, on the road through Independence on US 395, Wednesday, Sept. 20. The restored locomotive is being trucked from its home at the Eastern California Museum, in Independence, to the Laws Museum in Bishop. The engine will be in operation and running on the tracks at Laws on Saturday and Sunday. For more info, contact Laws Museum at 760.873.5950.

Mary Bassler, MD
Board Certified Family Physician

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2017 KAMIKAZE GAMES
Sierra Eastside Mountain Bike Association cleans up
Photos courtesy of SEMBA


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CHRISTMAS IN... SEPTEMBER?

By Bodine

It’s not even fall yet and Kmart already has (fake) Christmas trees for sale, ranging in price from $100-$300. You can buy a Halloween costume, a paper turkey centerpiece for Thanksgiving, and tinsel all in one aisle, at the same time.

This marketing scheme of offering holiday sales before the traditional season is known as Christmas creep.

Kmart should have the entire Lawn and Garden section filled with Christmas junk by the time you read this. Historically, it’s not unusual for the Christmas stuff to share shelves and space with Halloween costumes and Thanksgiving decorations as it slowly creeps out into the main floor. This year, there will be more space for the fall holiday products, and Christmas will get its own room, said one source involved in the holiday hype who wished to remain anonymous.

The source said this will be the biggest Christmas display the Bishop store has ever had. For years, the green and red goods have been brought out in September, but never at this magnitude, said the anonymous source.

It appears that retailers are trying to fill that sales gap between Back to School sales and Halloween.

Ana Serafin Smith of the National Retail Federation (NRF) told The Sheet that the goods are coming out sooner because that’s what the customers are asking for.

Retailers wouldn’t be doing this if consumers aren’t going to buy it,” Smith said.

The longer shopping season allows consumers to buy everything they want for the holidays without having to break the bank when having to purchase it all in one month, she said.

Retailers also begin advertising layaway plans in September so people have time to pay for that big screen TV or iPhone and have it under the tree in time for the big day. For example, Walmart started its holiday season layaway program on Friday, September 15. It will last until December 11.

The advertising is starting earlier and earlier, too. In 2012, Kmart aired its first ad on October 28. In 2013, the first ad appeared on televisions on September 9, the first day of school for many students on the east coast, according to Ace Metrix, a video advertising consulting company.

A poll conducted by CNBC in 2014 found that 71 percent of Americans polled said they were annoyed when retailers had Christmas items for sale before Halloween.

Smith said e-retailers like Amazon are not taking a bite out of brick and mortar stores, forcing them to start sales earlier, because Amazon has store fronts now, too.

According to a story published in Market Watch in March, employment at department stores is down 14 percent nationwide since 2012, or 250,000 jobs, as a result of Amazon’s dominance in the retail market.

NRF’s holiday season sales forecast will be published later in September. Sears Holdings Company, Kmart’s parent company, did not return calls to The Sheet.
BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. Half price drafts, beer, wine, $2 off specialty drinks. See ad page 9.

Trivial Tuesday at Mammoth Tavern. Starts 7:30 p.m. Free. (760) 937-9186. Mammoth Tavern, 1070 Main St.

Mammoth Tavern Happy Hour: Tuesday-Sunday 3:30-5:30 p.m. Closed Mondays.

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

Friday, Sept. 22/

The Jaded Haters play Liberty Bar. Local rock-funk band. 8 p.m. See ad, p. 11.

Open mic night @ Black Sheep Coffee in Bishop. 6-8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 24/

Sudoku Weekly Required plays Black Double Brewing. 7 p.m. Free.

Swing Dancing at Mammoth Brewing Co. 7 p.m. Free. Lesson at 8 p.m.

Happy Hour all night at the Outlaw Saloon for Sunday football. Starts 10 a.m. See ad page 9.

Monday, Sept. 25/

Bowling @ Beets at Mammoth Rock n’ Bowl. 9 p.m. See ad, p. 2.

Open Mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co. 9 p.m.

Happy Hour all night at the Outlaw Saloon for Sunday football. Starts 7:20 p.m. See ad page 9.

Tuesday, Sept. 26/

Trivia Tuesdays @ Mammoth Brewing Co. 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 28/

David Patterson (acoustic blues) plays the Inyo Council for the Arts in Bishop. 117 So. Main St. 7 p.m. Info: (760) 873-8014

TOWN STUFF

Sept. 22-24/

Mammoth Oktoberfest, a family-friendly event featuring music by Bavarian Maiden, Bavarian cuisine, keg toss, log cutting, stein holding, tug-o-war. Free.

Pabananima Powwow at the Paiute Palace Casino, Bishop. California Indian Days celebration, art & craft vendors, tiny tot contest. Call pabananimapowwow@gmail.com for info.

Sept. 23-24/

CHSRA: District 9 Rodeo at the Trinity County Fairgrounds in Bishop.

Slim Princess Reunion at Laws Museum. Grounds admission will be $10 for adults, children under 13 free. Tickets for cable cars are $20 each in limited quantities and are now on sale. See story, p. 12.

Friday, Sept. 22/

Dine in a local restaurant then stroll to visit participating shops. Live entertainment, free raffle to win a gift certificate to the Bishop Chamber member of your choice. 7-9 p.m.

Sierra Classic Theatre Annual Membership Party. 5:15 p.m. at Giovanni’s Pizza. Come celebrate a great year/stop by to learn more about being a part of SCT. Pizza and beer on us! Visit www.sierraclassictheatre.com for info.

First ever Eastern Sierra Capital Summit. Learn what it takes to start a small business, meet lenders, attend workshops, etc. Time: 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Locations: Westin Monache Resort in Mammoth. Mammoth Cross Country hosts the DML Invitational. Time: 3 p.m.

MHS Volleyball hosts Boron. JV’s start 4 p.m. Varsity plays - 5 p.m.

Bishop Football hosts Silver Valley. Time: 7 p.m.

Mammoth Lakes Library Snacks and Art Day. 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 23/

Second Annual Mammoth Storytelling Festival. 12-4 p.m. at the Hayden Cabin. See sidebar next page.

Volunteer Day: Sage Grouse Workday at Sweetwater Flat. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Come together with volunteers and staff from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Bridgeport Ranger District, to help maintain a safe home for sage grouse near Sweetwater Summit. To learn more and sign up, contact Monique Nelson, USFS: moniquelnelson@fs.fed.us.

Love and Logic Early Childhood parenting class, 7-9 p.m. at Giovanni’s Pizza. Mammoth Lakes Library presents a family-friendly event featuring music by Bavarian Maiden, Bavarian cuisine, keg toss, log cutting, stein holding, tug-o-war. Free.

Pabananima Powwow at the Paiute Palace Casino, Bishop. California Indian Days celebration, art & craft vendors, tiny tot contest. Call pabananimapowwow@gmail.com for info. 

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**UPCOMING**

Visit www.runsignup.com/race/ca/ as well as a kids 1k event. To sign up, feature the traditional 5k/10k as sponsors and donations. The run will move to its new location the week of September 25, 2017, and have limited administrative services available during the transition.

**TOWN STUFF**

**UPCOMING**

**Mammoth Highlands Police Station Moves**

Mammoth Lakes, CA—The Mammoth Lakes Police Department will move to its new location the week of September 25, 2017, and have limited administrative services available during the transition.

**Mammoth Lakes Police Planning Meeting**

A meeting on Tuesday, September 26, at 6:30 p.m., at 5 p.m. at the same spot.

**Sunday, Sept. 30/ Monday, Oct. 1**

**ADDITIONAL EVENTS**

**Mammoth Lakes Housing Meeting**

Meet 6 p.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes.

**Bishop Planning Commission Meeting**

Meet 6 p.m. in City Hall, Bishop.

**Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission Meeting**

Meet 6 p.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes.

**Bishop Chamber of Commerce Business after hours**

Meet at the brewery at 9 a.m. Bag and pickers provided. Info: sarah@junelakebrewing.com

**Tuesday, Sept. 26/ Wednesday, Sept. 27**

**Bishop Chamber of Commerce Business after hours**

Meet 6-8 p.m. at the same spot.

**Sunday, Oct. 1/ Monday, Oct. 2**

**Meet and Greet Reception: The Forest Island Project**

Meet 6:30-8 p.m. @ FI Studios @ the Sierra Center Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Meet resident multi-media artists.

**AT THE MOVIES**

**Minaret Cinemas**

Kingsman: The Golden Circle (R): When their British headquarters are destroyed, the Kingsman rely on their American spy counterparts.

Home Again (PG-13): Life for a single mom in Los Angeles takes a sudden turn when she allows three young men to move in with her. Stars Reese Witherspoon.

**For movie times, call 760.934.3113 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com. Customer Appreciation Day is back! All seats, all shows $6.00.**

**Mammouth Homecoming**

The Mammoth High School ASB, staff, and students, would like to invite the entire community to our annual homecoming celebration. The celebration will kick off on Friday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m., behind Mammoth High School. Come meet our football team, coaches, and cheer squad. Enjoy fresh cookies baked by our culinary arts classes and delicious hot cocoa.

On Friday, October 6, join us at Gault/McClure Stadium and watch our awesome Husky Football Team joust with the Desert Christian Knights. The game begins at 7 p.m. The half-time celebration will conclude with the crowning of our 2017 Homecoming Queen and King. Join us for an evening of family fun and school spirit.

**James Wilson & Dick Noles Memorial Project**

Join Sierra Eastside Mountain Bike Association, Friends of the Inyo, Bishop Bureau of Land Management, and the Mammoth Lakes 4x4 Club for a day of road restoration in celebration of National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 30. Rock dust will consist of fixing washouts on popular use trails in the Tungsten Hills, just outside of Bishop. The area is known for 4x4 driving, mountain biking, trail running, and more.

Sponsoring agencies will provide the tools, gloves, and instruction. Participants should bring water, close-toed shoes, sun protections, and long pants. Breakfast and coffee will be provided.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the junction of Ed Powers and Tungsten City Roads outside of Bishop. Info: 760.873.6500.

**SUDS: A ’60s Musical Soap Opera**

Tickets are now available for the Playhouse 395’s Fall Production of the musical SUDS. This soap opera is set in a 1960s laundromat.

Bringing this play to life here in Bishop will be four favorite Playhouse actors who have been thrilling audiences in many past productions. The all-star cast of Patti Cook, Patricia Barton, Michelle Dossey and Jordan Kost has been busy rehearsing for this production since May. They are working under the skillful and creative direction of other Playhouse veterans. Director Ron Valenzuela, Choral Director Dave Hardin and Choreographer Jose Pizana. Mary Baker has designed the very creative laundromat set.

Each performance will be brought to life at the Elks Lodge, which will be transformed into a 1960s Las Vegas Lounge Ballroom. This event encourages people to dress in their ’60s finest.

Help Wanted

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

1. Carpenter M $29-$35
2. Apprentice Carpenter M $25-$30
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5. Line Cook M/B $14-$17
6. Maintenance Worker M $11-$15
7. Food Service Worker M/B $10
8. General Laborers M/B $11-$15
9. See our full job list online: www.Sierraemployment.com

Full and Part time work available in Mammoth Lakes. Starting $12-$16 an hour. We prefer self-starters, restart experience are pluses. Be a part of the best staff, help the best customers, and help the best toys. Apply at Mammoth Mountaineering Supply, Alpine Approach, or Mammoth Gear Exchange for or orders at mammothgear.com.

Help Wanted

Housekeeper

Must be able & willing to work nights, weekends, and holidays. Experience in cleaning several bedroom chalets after departures & prepare for arival. Spanish speaking ability is helpful, but not required. 1 year of experience preferred. Debbie & Mike Crowe. Mammoth Mountain Chalets (800) 327-3681 Ex 10 (CA) 760.834.8518 Ext 0

Reservations@MMChalets.com

Maintenance Assistant Job

Needed for maintaining & repairing 20 chalets & other structures. Experience is needed in snow removal, electrical, painting, carpentry & plumbing. This candidate must be able to perform vehicle maintenance on a variety of vehicles/equipment. Debbie & Mike Crowe. Mammoth Mountain Chalets (800) 327-3681 Ex 10 (CA) 760.834.8518 Ext 0

Reservations@MMChalets.com

Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasserie has the following positions available: Bowing Desk Employees, Server, Host, Line Cooks. Contact Kevin O’Connel 768.934.4200 ext 122, or Ann Ward at 768-934-3122.

Help Wanted

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is looking for a Payroll/HR Specialist to join our family. If you’re looking for a rewarding career in municipal government, then this is your chance. If you enjoy a challenge, this could be the ideal opportunity for you! Payroll/HR Specialist $58,033 - $81,659 + competitive benefits package.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov, or, send your resume and references, on (760) 956 3604. Application deadline: September 25th.

DRIVERS WANTED

It is not too early to be thinking about winter employment! The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority is seeking responsible and energetic Drivers. Paid training class for commercial License, Passenger Endorsements and Airbrake Certificate begins October 9th. Vacation pay after 6 months service. Call 760.873.4499.

THE SHEET

Saturday, September 23, 2017

AIRPORT

continued from page 10

later, it just goes away.”

Holler also emphasized that “the airport terminal work we’re looking at is necessary to maintain our current level of service.”

Inyo County District 2 Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, also a member of the Working Group, told The Sheeet, “I can only speak out as a Bishop supporter but the FAA has assured us that our plan is sound and that we should be moving forward with the improvements that we’re doing in Bishop” to allow commercial aircraft to land.

“So we have the support from the FAA, and we have the funding to do the matching grants... Whether the FAA has the money to do both [Bishop and Mammoth airports], I don’t know.”

Gardner says the solution lies at Bishop Airport (which has the capacity to handle larger planes, and has a one-time federal correlation, compared to MMH’s one-in-five). “Then we would sit as a board like we do with [ESTA] and make decisions that way. Then it is a territorial thing. That’s when decisions about what’s what in large metropolitan areas do.”

MMH also isn’t equipped to handle large airplanes—the de Havilland Canada Dash 8 or Q400 is the plane currently used for the Bishop side flights. “We have runways that are extremely long and can be built to 150 feet wide,” said Griffiths. “There’s no obstructions, and we have three of them, so you could land in just about any wind condition.”

The Bishop Airport, Griffiths said, was “built as a military backup during World War II so you can land a B-52 bomber there.”

Anecdotally, MMH is seen as unreliable. “Where do we go when we have to go somewhere? Reno, the Manager said at a public forum in April that the FAA is looking into the sale of Mammoth to Aspen-KSL. ‘We have to deal with the unreliable air service here before we even look at funding from the FAA, and our money, we need to make sure that money is going to an airport where planes can land, and Bishop figures into that.’

MLT recently commissioned a strategic air service plan for MMH with aviation group Mead & Hunt. The plan, a 5- to 10-year outlook, will give MLT a “guideline for air service for the next decade and beyond,” said MLT Executive Director John Urdi.

Urdi said in an email to The Sheet this week that “Mead & Hunt is looking at a range of options for Bishop, and those options have been discussed in every communication we have had with them. They have been talking now about the FAA’s intentions to privatize the region with consistent, reliable and sustainable air service.”

“I give him a lot of credit for pursuing this study,” said Gardner of Urdi. “Assuming that study is objective…I think it’ll go in the right direction. If that study comes out with a recommendation for an airport in Bishop, that’s a good thing.”

The next meeting of the Town of Mammoth Lakes-County of Inyo Airport Working Group has not yet been scheduled.
ASSESSOR
continued from page 7
up at the budget hearings. She said because it’s in the budget. She added that this situation is different from the usual process of a position being approved in the budget and details ironed out later as personnel matter. She said if the conditions or provi-
sions are passed, there’s not much a department head can do about it.
She said she didn’t think the supervisors would question why she and Assessor David Stottlemeyer were discussing personnel matters at a budget hearing. She added there may have been confusion because these sorts of details have been part of the budget in the past.
After voicing concerns with ad-
ministration, the word “may” was
added to the MOU, meaning the
employee “may” be at-will or a Merit System employee, but does not give
specifics on how the decision will be
made. She said she felt compelled to
bring the matter up in open session
and then the record.
Carrucho said the county has the
right to enter into contracts with
new EOA employees as was decided
during the at-will discussion. The
at-will stipulation is in line with the
county’s Merit System Ordinance,
amended November 2016 that states,
“all other management-level
positions (including department or
division heads and any deputy or as-
sistant department or division head)
that become vacant after December
1, 2016 will be exempted from the
Merit System and become at-will
employees.”
The County would be breaking
its own code if it does not hire an
at-will Assistant Treasurer-Tax
Collector.
He added that all the information
he has provided here is spelled out in
the County Code and Personnel Code,
available online at the County’s
website.
McMurtrie said that the at-will
stipulation is in direct opposition
to the independence of an elected
official who is at-will by the
supervisors, including the District Attorney, Au-
ditor/Controller, Treasurer-Tax Col-
lector, Assessor and Clerk-Recorder,
act as a checks and balances system
between the county and money or
laws, she explained.
The supervisors denied McMurt-
rie’s request to have her assistant be
a Merit System employee.

I hope to see you at Oktoberfest this weekend... I’m going to try to focus on that and not think about the weather and the snow and anything else that might be on your mind which is December-Fest.
In a press release, she said: “As a Millennial who carries the weight of the world on her shoulders. Come to talk to me if you have any ideas, dreams or fears. I saw you... might open up some hous-
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HARTLEY LAYS IT ON YOU

Select week three NFL picks
By Hartley

Rams laying 2.5 points at San Francisco. Wow. The Rams, much like a person on welfare with no birth control, shouldn't be laying anything. Once again, how bad is your team if you are giving up points AT HOME to the Rams? Be honest with your fans. Tell them you are only opening the stadium every week to blow their money and will rack up more penalty yards than yards rushing. Take the Bears and the points.

The Dolphins are laying 6 points at the Jets. Dear Jets fans. You think booing the team or sending Twitter messages about how much the team sucks means anything to management when they know you'll still pay them THOUSANDS of dollars a year on tickets and refreshments and then buy AT LEAST one of their $140 jerseys every year. There are thousands of things to do in New York City every minute of every day, yet these mouthbreathers fill the stadium every week to blow their money and watch some of the worst football EVER played. Lay the points. The Jets are bad. Even a Dolphin QB Jay Cutler pick-six won't change the outcome. Patriots laying 13.5 points to the Texans. The Texans aren't great but they usually play the Pats well enough because they put pressure on Tom Brady. Before we talk about the game let's talk about Brady. Something isn't right with him. Is he getting younger? Don't give me that vegan s&^t either. He looks robotic almost. They should cut him and I am sick of watching him duck and throw while falling down. In his defense, he has NO OFFENSIVE LINE and seems completely out of place as a head coach you have all the makings …

The Bears were a blow job they would never play down to the competition and seems completely out of place as a head coach you have all the makings …

QB Eli Manning is washed up, and I am sick of watching him duck and throw while falling down. In his defense, he has NO OFFENSIVE LINE and seems completely out of place as a head coach you have all the makings …

QB Sam Bradford being injured is no surprise. The head coach says "he may be out a week, he may be out for several weeks, but he is fine." If he were fine he wouldn't be out "a week, maybe several weeks" dumbass. He would be playing. Take the Bucs.

Eagles laying 6 points to the Giants. Lay the points. The Giants are … A MESS. QB Eli Manning is washed up, and I am sick of watching him duck and throw while falling down. In his defense, he has NO OFFENSIVE LINE and seems completely out of place as a head coach you have all the makings …

Now in the game last week the Giants are inside the other teams 5 yard line and decide to go for it on fourth down. The head coach blasted Manning for the penalty, citing "sloppy QB play." So he completely dumstruck his QB in the media. This is the same guy who talked smack last week about the Cowboys before they MAULED his team. So if the Broncos beat the Cowboys 42-17 and the Cowboys beat the Giants 19-3 … how good are the Giants?

Titans laying 2.5 points to the Hawks? Wow. The 'Hawks are bad usually in that 10 a.m. time slot when they travel east. But are you telling me the Titans and their QB overrated are better than the 'Hawks? I am not seeing it. That said, it sure seems like Seattle's message to QB Russell Wilson is: we gave you the money, so you figure it out. Sorry we didn't invest in anybody around you.

Packers laying 9 points to the Bengals. The Packers are struggling and laying 9 at the same time. How is that possible? Because that prison yard in Cincinnati that is the Bengals practice field is blowing up as you read this. And QB Andy Dalton's true LACK OF TALENT is showing. Lay the points.

Monday Night … the Cowboys laying 3 to the Cardinals. The Cowboys are a marketing organization, not a football organization. Arizona's Carson Palmer is a fossil, not a quarterback. Take the marketers to pound the fossil … once they get him on the line they'll pummel him with credit card offers and geriatric drugs he can't refuse.

Comenzando el 4 de Octubre Mammoth Hospital Ofrecerá Gratis Clases de Preparación Al Parto

Las clases bilínguas serán instruidas por las pediatras y los obstetras/ginecólogos

El equipo de Obstetricia y de Pediatría de Mammoth Hospital
William White, MD, Kristin Wilson, MD, Louisa Salesbury MD, Kristin Collins, MD, y Maxine Karimoto, MD.

Los Temas incluirán:
10/4/17 Nutrición y conceptos básicos de obstetricia
10/11/17 Visita al centro de nacimiento
10/18/17 Parto natural
10/25/17 Amamantamiento
11/1/17 Anestesia
11/8/17 Pediatría y postparto obstétrico

Mammoth Hospital Offering Free Childbirthing Classes Starting October 4th

Bi-Lingual Classes Taught by Pediatrists and OB-GYNs

Our Obstetrics and Pediatric Team
William White, MD, Kristin Wilson, MD, Louisa Salesbury MD, Kristin Collins, MD, and Maxine Karimoto, MD.

Topics Include:
- Build confidence in your body's ability to give birth.
- Learn from our professionals alongside other couples.
- Discuss pain relief and birthing topics with our doctors, including massage, relaxation, breathing techniques, and medications.

Classes held weekly on Wednesdays starting at 6:00pm for one hour each session.

For more information and to sign up, call 760.924.4044. www.mammothhospital.com
A TAIL WAGGIN’ GOOD TIME
First ever Eastern Sierra Tails and Trails Dog Fest a success
Photos by Aleksandra Mendel

On Sunday, September 17, the Mammoth Lakes Lions Club hosted the first annual Tails and Trails Dog Fest at the Hayden Cabin Museum in Mammoth Lakes. There were 175 human participants and 45 dog-walk participants. The event raised $6,000.

Kaya and owners Bailey Thompson and Jimmy Garcia won first place in the costume contest. Kylie and owner Janet Foy won first place for best trick, and Bodie and owner Krystle Stewart won first place for the tail waggin’ competition.

Above: Bailey Thompson and Kaya won first place for the costume competition.


Above (l-r): Volunteer Maureen Rojas gets silly with the kids.

Above: Lions Tony Rojas and Dennis Hartman man the hot dog stand.

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Above (l-r): Volunteer Maureen Rojas gets silly with the kids.

Above: Lions Tony Rojas and Dennis Hartman man the hot dog stand.

Are you a landlord or tenant? Do you have questions about your rights & responsibilities?

Attend a FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP to learn about Fair Housing, health and human safety standards, maintenance requests, security deposits, and much more!

Wednesday, September 27
Landlords: 10:00 AM—12:00 PM
Tenants: 4:00 PM—6:00 PM
Mammoth Lakes Library, Ellie Randol Room

For more information contact Patricia
760-934-4740
patricia@mammothlakeshousing.org
Se habla español

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