Phillip Anguay, Mammoth’s new Acting Postmaster

There’s a new Acting Postmaster in Mammoth, and he’s about to learn how to put tire chains on.

Phillip Anguay sat down with The Sheet at the end of his first week at the Mammoth Lakes Post Office (he started on Wednesday, November 8) to talk about his family, his experience with snow (or lack thereof), and Thanksgiving dinner suggestions.

Anguay’s been with the United States Postal Service for 20 years, he said, and decided to do a stint in Mammoth to gain some more experience in his career. He’s a father to five children, two of whom are currently studying at junior colleges near Anguay’s permanent home of San Miguel, California (8 miles north of Paso Robles). The third, a daughter, is a freshman in high school, and he’s also got a seven and five-year-old.

When asked how his wife, Maricella, is coping without him, Anguay smiled. “She’s got a pretty good system by this point,” he says. She home schools the two younger kids, who will be coming up to visit their dad during the Thanksgiving holiday.

On that note, Anguay asked, any recommendations for a good restaurant to take them out to? He’s currently staying in a hotel room, which doesn’t lend itself to turkey dinners, but he’s looking for a semi-permanent home for the next several months during his tour of duty in Mammoth (aren’t we all?).

“My seven-year-old has only seen snow once,” said Anguay, “and the youngest one has never, and he’s about to learn how to put tire chains on.”

When asked how his wife, Maricella, is coping without him, Anguay smiled. “She’s got a pretty good system by this point,” he says. She home schools the two younger kids, who will be coming up to visit their dad during the Thanksgiving holiday.

On that note, Anguay asked, any recommendations for a good restaurant to take them out to? He’s currently staying in a hotel room, which doesn’t lend itself to turkey dinners, but he’s looking for a semi-permanent home for the next several months during his tour of duty in Mammoth (aren’t we all?).

“My seven-year-old has only seen snow once,” said Anguay, “and the youngest one has never, and he’s about to learn how to put tire chains on.”

When asked how his wife, Maricella, is coping without him, Anguay smiled. “She’s got a pretty good system by this point,” he says. She home schools the two younger kids, who will be coming up to visit their dad during the Thanksgiving holiday.

On that note, Anguay asked, any recommendations for a good restaurant to take them out to? He’s currently staying in a hotel room, which doesn’t lend itself to turkey dinners, but he’s looking for a semi-permanent home for the next several months during his tour of duty in Mammoth (aren’t we all?).

“My seven-year-old has only seen snow once,” said Anguay, “and the youngest one has never, and he’s about to learn how to put tire chains on.”

When asked how his wife, Maricella, is coping without him, Anguay smiled. “She’s got a pretty good system by this point,” he says. She home schools the two younger kids, who will be coming up to visit their dad during the Thanksgiving holiday.

On that note, Anguay asked, any recommendations for a good restaurant to take them out to? He’s currently staying in a hotel room, which doesn’t lend itself to turkey dinners, but he’s looking for a semi-permanent home for the next several months during his tour of duty in Mammoth (aren’t we all?).

“My seven-year-old has only seen snow once,” said Anguay, “and the youngest one has never, and he’s about to learn how to put tire chains on.”

When asked how his wife, Maricella, is coping without him, Anguay smiled. “She’s got a pretty good system by this point,” he says. She home schools the two younger kids, who will be coming up to visit their dad during the Thanksgiving holiday.

On that note, Anguay asked, any recommendations for a good restaurant to take them out to? He’s currently staying in a hotel room, which doesn’t lend itself to turkey dinners, but he’s looking for a semi-permanent home for the next several months during his tour of duty in Mammoth (aren’t we all?).

“My seven-year-old has only seen snow once,” said Anguay, “and the youngest one has never, and he’s about to learn how to put tire chains on.”
ARMPIT OF AMERICA

Book clubs sound theoretically interesting to me. But generally, by the time I learn of the club and the book being read, it’s too late for me to actually read the book and participate.

That or the book is a treatise of navel-gazing, family dysfunction that some might classify as “chick lit,” and though Jeannette Walls’s “The Glass Castle” was a fine memoir, I don’t know if I want to rehash that misery for fun.

Part of the “Glass Castle” was set in Battle Mountain, Nevada, which was ignominiously declared the “Armpit of America” by the Washington Post in 2001.

According to the website Atlas Obscura, Post writer Gene Weingarten said he chose Battle Mountain because of its “lack of character and charm, its pathetic assemblage of ghastly buildings and nasty people.”

Never mind that the town proudly displays rocks on a hillside above the town with its unfortunate initials, BM.

I suppose the reason I’m fixated upon Battle Mountain is because I spent a year as a reporter in Elko, Nevada and the only bright spot of spending a year in Elko is that at least it’s not Battle Mountain.

On November 29 (I’m giving you almost two weeks), Spellbinder Books in Bishop will be hosting a book club at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Chuck Klosterman’s “But What If We’re Wrong?: Thinking About The Present As If It Were The Past.”

Now this is a great book club book because of the premise. Klosterman imagines what it would be like to look back upon the times we live in 150 years from now. 500 years from now. And he tries to guess who or what will be remembered, and why.

And a lot of his argument is that what might appear obvious to a person living in the historical moment—well, of course The Beatles will be remembered and why.

However, is the novelist of today like a poet of yesteryear? Can any kid under 20 name a poet? If they can name one, would it be anyone other than Frost?

100 years from now, maybe what we’ll be remembering are bloggers —writers who can fit the modern attention span. But by that measure, maybe poets can make a comeback. If they rhyme and use a little levity. I’m betting on Seuss.

Klosterman also talks about how science and technology may completely alter what we remember and what we value. And he also talks about modern civilization being the first to record virtually everything.

Personally, I feel sorry for the aspiring historian of the future who has to wade through the sheer amount of useless crap we generate. Hopefully, that historian will not necessarily equate volume with truth. Except for The Sheet personals. Those are all true.

Other things I know: Mammoth Town Councilman Colin Fernie has announced he’s not running for reelection, but Mayor John Wentworth will throw his hat in the ring once more. Inyo County District 3 Supervisor Rick Pucci has told The Sheet he’s also running for reelection.

Speaking of the Inyo Supes, County residents came out in force last Tuesday to comment on the Perdito Mine Exploratory Project. Canadian-based SSR Mining wishes to dig deeper (from the existing 400 feet to approximately 1,000 feet) at seven already disturbed and abandoned sites in the Inyo Mountains between Cerro Gordo and Malpais Mesa to determine their commercial viability.

Essentially, these sites are getting a second look because modern extraction techniques (cyanide heap leach) might make them salvageable. Most citizens testifying at the hearing oppose a second look based upon environmental concerns.

We’ll have the story next issue.

Correction:

In “Where the Red Fir Grows,” November 11, The Sheet erroneously reported ESTA Executive Director John Helm’s email address. Helm’s address is jhelm@estransit.com, not .org. The Sheet regrets this error. Helm asks that residents of Old Mammoth affected by the discontinuation of the Gray Line please email him by Sunday, November 19, to give specific requests of transit times that would benefit them.
LETTER

Seeing Red (Line)

Hello Town Council,

First off, thanks for all you do with our town and thanks for trying to bring Red Line service to Old Mammoth. At one point, we were all for the Red Line coming down our street on Red Fir. Now we are not, due to the lack of planning and forethought.

With regards to the Red Line on Red Fir, here is a great question for you to consider and answer:

Why would Red Fir residents ever consider a temporary Red Line (large bus) service coming down their street when the plan is to abandon the residents of Red Fir in the spring and not provide service to them at all? The near term proposal to build a turn around at Woodman Street removes and abandons service to Red Fir residents and offers minimal recreational value. If any turn around is to be constructed, it should be at a location that makes sense and fits the master recreational/public transit plans of this town. The expansion of public transit needs to be in “lock step” with the already identified public transportation/recreational needs set forth by this town. The once Sherwin Working Group (SWG) which included the TOML, MLTPA, and the U.S. Forest Service, produced a plan, and while we realize this plan is a bit older, it still holds its value and relevancy.

As you know, The Sherwins Area Recreational Plan (SHARP), produced by the SWG, identifies that a multi-use staging area is needed on Old Mammoth Road at the intersection of La Verne/Fir Streets (Mill City). The SHARP document also states “This staging area will be served by public transit” and “Expanded routes support the Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan vision for public transportation mobility and can help alleviate potential traffic congestion both on the roads and at the parking areas.” We realize the town and cooperating recreational partners are probably a while off from formalizing this multi-use staging area, but the public transit piece could be a reality in the near-term. This hub would provide access to many outdoor recreational activities that fall in line with the vision of Mammoth Lakes and provide access/egress to over the snow users accessing the Sherwins and beyond. It would also serve as a trailhead for Nordic skiers/snowshoers to access the Lakes Basin zone via the Old Mammoth Road “back route.” Maybe Tamaramak/MMSA would eventually consider grooming down to this location? It would reduce the impact of the Lake Mary access area with traffic and parking.

Summer recreational opportunities also abound at this location. A direct non-transferable shuttle from/to MMSA to a Sherwins trailhead sounds “magical” and opens up all kinds of new recreational opportunities that don’t involve driving your car everywhere and battling traffic and parking. The shuttle will still provide access to all of Old Mammoth, including Red Fir, and increase ridership by providing a portal for infinite recreational opportunities. Ridership would open up to even more demographics than just Old Mammoth residents.

If we’re going to expand the Red Line, lets do this right initially and expand the service to a location that makes more sense and is in line with the TOML’s General Plan and vision. Lets not rush this expansion. If it needs to be thought out more, then so be it. We would rather see it done right. This service would further enact the needs identified by the SHARP/TOML and open up opportunities to not only Old Mammoth residents, but the entire town.

We urge you to work with ESTA, have them go back to the drawing board, and develop a long term solution that benefits all of Old Mammoth and the Town.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss further. Thank you in advance for addressing this!

Lyle Koegler
Red Fir Road

Ed’s note: To comment on Old Mammoth transit options, email John Helm at jhelm@estransit.com before November 19.
WE WANT WEED, SAYS NO MO CO
North Mono County residents hope marijuana can bring industry to their area
By Bodine

Marijuana can be synonymous with lethargy, but not when it comes to money.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, November 14, some residents in the north part of Mono County (Walker, Coleville and the Antelope Valley) expressed their support for bringing the new, legal cannabis industry to their communities.

Pam Humic, President of the North Mono County Chamber of Commerce, sent a letter of support for cannabis which Supervisors read on Tuesday, along with a plea to County leaders to expedite the permitting process for growers and other industry enterprises by January 1, 2018, the day recreational marijuana can be sold at the retail level.

In accordance with Proposition 64, which was passed by voters in November 2016, a prospective cannabis entrepreneur needs permits from his or her county before getting permitted by the state to grow, distribute or sell legal, adult-use cannabis in California. Mono County's permitting process will not be ready for the January 1 deadline. Mono is not alone. According to High Times magazine, Los Angeles, Oakland and San Francisco will not be ready either. Alex Traverso, Chief of Communications at the Bureau of Cannabis Control, told The Sheet the office is trying to keep a record of what municipalities and counties will be ready for permitting on January 1, but that list changes daily.

The latest set of regulations and guidelines from the State were handed down on Thursday, November 16. Traverso had no comment when asked how these entities are expected to process the new regulations and be ready to fire up less than 6 weeks later.

Mono County has been considering waiting until November 2018 to issue permits, when voter-approved fees can be levied on sales and cultivation.

Humic and Eric Edgerton of Tilth Farms, a marijuana cultivator and now regular fixture at Mono County Supervisors meetings, urged the county to have regulations in place in time for the 2018 grow season, generally May-September. Edgerton could not be reached for comment.

Humic told The Sheet the new green business could bring dozens of jobs into a place where the only secure employment is with Topaz Lodge and Casino, just over the Nevada border, or at the Mountain Warfare Training Center. Growers and distributors would generate tax revenue for the community along with paramedics and volunteer firefighter departments, Humic said.

Senior citizens partake in medicinal marijuana, Humic said. According to the Antelope Valley Community Profile from 2008 and U.S. Census information, the highest percentage of Mono County residents over the age of 65, 15 percent, live in north Mono County. Tim Fesko, former Mono County Supervisor and owner/operator of Meadowcliff Lodge and Coleville KOA RV, said there are residents, including seniors, who may not use cannabis, but understand and support the economic benefits of the industry.

If they pass a background check, there's no reason senior citizens couldn't work at a cannabis dispensary or a distribution center, says Humic. "I hear people say, 'I don't smoke, but it if it's for the betterment of the community, I'll support it,'" Humic said.

Fesko said marijuana is no longer a conservative or liberal issue, but a business one. If the County misses out on having permits in place, there's no guarantee interested parties will continue to wait for the proper paperwork to grow or sell, Fesko explained.

Supervisors and County staff have been holding workshops, performing community outreach and following the action at the state level. As stated in a meeting in August, County Supervisors plan on raking through the new regulations and using that information in moving forward. The body has made no formal decision on cannabis regulation in Mono County.
T he popularity of the granite outcrops at the base of the Sierra Nevada west of Bishop, the Buttermilk Boulders, has grown exponentially along with the popularity of climbing as a mainstream sport. It hosts some of the hardest bouldering routes on the planet including Paul Robinson’s Lucid Dreaming and has become an international climbing destination.

(Ed. note: It is ‘Buttermilk’ not ‘Buttermilks’. It’s not the Yosemite or Bishop Rock Valleys, is it?)

But, climbers and boulderers are squeezing the life out of the beloved rocks. There is little control over where visitors camp or how they defecate or a comprehensive plan to deal with trash or parking. Plants are being trampled and there’s the danger that out-of-town visitors introducing invasive plants to the area via seeds stuck in shoes or tires, said Deb Schweizer Public Information Officer for the Inyo National Forest (INF).

The Buttermilk area is receiving “higher levels of use in an area not really made for it,” Schweizer explained. She added the area is also popular for off-highway vehicles, adding to the overcrowding INF that manages most of the land, does not have a method for counting the number of visitors, according to Schweizer.

Other land managers, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Bureau of Land Management are looking for the right solution to manage the crowds and the attractive landscape. An official designation such as a recreation area could usher in paved roads, established fee campgrounds and rezoning or forest lands.

“The designation could do what we don’t want to happen,” Schweizer explained. “Easier access could bring even more visitors.”

Dispersed camping, or camping where there are no designated areas and away from other campers, is currently allowed in the Buttermilk area, with the exception of LADWP land, but camping has outgrown that definition. Schweizer said it’s rare to find a spot for everyone to camp out there.

There is a tipping point where visitation exceeds management efforts and changes become necessary before resources disappear or are inaccessible, says Policy Analyst for the Access Fund, Katie Goodwin. She understands Schweizer’s argument but used Joe’s Valley in Utah as an example of an area beyond the tipping point. The Forest Service did not upgrade roads or amenities at the popular bouldering for fear of attracting more visitors. Boulders kept coming and growing in numbers despite not having services. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are now spending more than $250,000 on vault toilets and campgrounds to mitigate damage and keep the resources sustainable.

The agencies were also pressured by local government to make changes after once elected officials became aware of the extent to which the climbing community spends money locally, according to Goodwin.

Goodwin said she felt Buttermilk is beyond the tipping point. Voluntary groups like Friends of the Inyo, Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association and the Access Fund regularly clean up trash, plant native plants in disturbed areas and reestablish and redefine trails to the rocks and routes. Redefining bordered trails is very important in the spring after winter snows shift rocks and trail boundaries where small rocks are used to frame the boundaries of small trails, also known as gumdropping.

Schweizer explained that human nature can be to follow the path, or trail, of those who have gone before.

Goodwin explained the Access Fund wants to bring in its trail crew and establish maintained trails. Paperwork and expensive environmental studies that are mandated anytime work is performed on federal lands have thwarted those efforts.

The Access Fund is educating potential Bishop boulderers about what to expect on the Eastside, where to park and camp and how to clean up after themselves. It’s going to popular climbing gyms in metropolitan areas like Planet Granite and Touch Stone, with their program.

Julia Runcie of Friends of the Inyo said in an email that the organization tries to educate climbers to the impacts of their sport by introducing new climbers to the concept of stewardship and caring for high-use areas like Buttermilk.

Runcie said she feels that education maybe the key to sustainable climbing. “Many young climbers are growing up with an ethic of responsibility for the public lands where they climb,” she said. “If people learn to really care about a place, they will want to care for it. Friends of the Inyo’s stewardship program tries to harness that energy and put it to work for public lands.”

The Access Fund, the Friends of the Inyo and other volunteer groups are picking up the slack where the Forest Service money and staffing run out.

We are seeing far more visitors and we have less staff than previously, so we will need to rely on partners to help us be successful.

-Deb Schweizer

Volunteers at the Buttermilk Boulders cleaning up trash and planting native bitter brush. The efforts were organized by the Friends of the Inyo for the 10th anniversary of the American Alpine Club’s Fall Highball Climbing Festival in Bishop November 3-5.

The Forest Service budget and staffing has been cut radically since the mid-2000s. According to a 2015 report by the Forest Service, more than 50 percent of the entire Forest Service budget, approximately $2 billion, is used to fight wildfires. In 1995, 16-percent of the budget went to firefighting.

There are fewer people on the job at national forests but visitation to the great outdoors continues to increase. According to the Forest Service there were 142.5 million visitors in 2005 and 149 million in 2015 to national forests with an expected growth of 12 million a year until 2020, the farthest the report predicts out.

“Buttermilk is a microcosm of what Inyo (National Forest) is dealing with right now,” Schweizer added; so few people and resources to manage an ever increasing amount of visitors. “We are seeing the popularity of numerous places throughout the forest and the Buttermilk represents a wider problem for the Inyo. We are seeing far more visitors and we have less staff than previously, so we will need to rely on partners to help us be successful.”

The Forest Plan Revision will be finished before the agency embarks on any area planning efforts.

“We anticipate that the area will continue to be managed similarly in the upcoming years with more engagement with our partners,” says Schweizer.
50 YEARS OF CHEER
The Bishop Christmas Parade turns 50

By Bodine

The annual Bishop Christmas Parade, tree lighting at the City Park and Santa sitting tradition is rolling down Main Street for the 50th time on Saturday, December 2. The smell of hot cider and cocoa will waft onto the sidewalk from downtown shops open late for the Street of Lights. There’ll be hot cocoa and candy, and firepits on street corners for standing around and chewing the fat with friends and neighbors. No one’s a stranger at the Christmas Parade.

If this sounds old fashioned or even a little slow, that’s the point. The night isn’t necessarily about checking items off the gift list, there’s plenty of time for that. It’s about seeing the lights and tinsel, candy canes and kids and being part of the community.

This year’s parade theme is “Christmas in Our Big Backyard.”

The parade starts at 4:30 p.m. at High Country Lumber and goes north (toward the Pole) on Main Street and ends at the Bishop City Park. The Tree Lighting Ceremony starting at 5:30 at the front of the park. Stores and shops will be open, 6-8:30 for the Street of Lights Party. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will be stationed at Cotowin and Eliza Tuesday through Sunday.

The BIG Raffle will be at the City Park at 8:30 p.m. To enter the BIG Raffle, you must be present during the 50th time on Saturday, December 2. There’s a chance to win raffle prizes including $500 cash.

Government reimburses the California Unemployment Insurance fund on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all UI benefits paid to former federal employees, and that “each Federal agency is responsible for reimbursing the EDD for the UI benefits paid to their respective employees.”

Employees are eligible for unemployment insurance if they lose their job through no fault of their own (i.e. a layoff or firing for reasons that don’t constitute misconduct). In some states, seasonal employees are not eligible for unemployment, but California does provide those employees with benefits, provided they earned enough in their “base period” to qualify. In a state like California, which relies heavily on seasonal employees to staff its resorts both in winter and summer, this means a lot of chances to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI).

In 2014, the EDD paid $2.54 billion in regular UI benefits (excluding any federal extensions), and in the same year, the EDD received and processed more than 2.8 million initial claims. Funds come from taxes paid by employers on the first $7,000 of each employee’s wages, as well as from personal income tax withheld from employees’ wages. In California State Fiscal Year 2012-13, $59 billion was collected, $47 billion of which was from personal income tax, according to the EDD.

There’s a philosophy among some UI beneficiaries that since they paid into the system, they can reap the benefits. “I never did real traveling like some people do, cruising all over the country,” said former Yosemite employee Erin, who withheld her last name. “I friend of mine who was traveling asked me to go to her mailbox, sign her claim form, and send it back, so she wouldn’t know she wasn’t in California.” That kind of gallivanting has even spawned a phrase: “Funemployment.”

She said that, mail fraud aside, she personally never took too much advantage of the program. “I was actually pretty well behaved on unemployment,” she said, noting that “I can’t go very long without working.” Erin did, however, recall a meal in New Orleans where she and three other friends all laid down their EDD cards as payment “with EI capital right on the front,” she said, laughing.

Server and former manager at Mammoth Mountain Billy Calhoun said that he’s only ever collected UI once, for two weeks after being laid off by Mammoth Mountain. He said that’s unusual. “A lot of people who work for the Mountain work lots of hours, work overtime, so they can get the most possible payout for their unemployment check when the Mountain closes. But they take five or six months off and do it again. They plan for it, and it’s stealing,” said Calhoun.

Danilo Chacon works as a manager at Mammoth and as a cook at two local restaurants. He works three jobs for most of the year. “I see my Mammoth coworkers down town in the summertime and they say, ‘hey what are you doing these days?’ Oh, I’m climbing, traveling—this is unemployment,”

Lauren Burke, Public Relations Manager at Mammoth Mountain, did not respond to requests for comment about how many employees the Mountain network off each year, and how many of them are collecting unemployment in the off season. However, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the seasonal net change for unemployment in California was -0.6 percent in 2016. In Mono County, unemployment rates fluctuated 1 percent between January of 2016 (5.1 percent) and October (6.1 percent).

Emily McIlvried is a Naturalist for Aramark, the concessionaire in Yosemite. She typically works for Aramark seasonally, works out of the year, and has collected UI during the shoulder seasons, when it is difficult to find work in the Eastern Sierra.

She believes that NPS encourages skilful employment, lets you UI so they will commit to returning in the future and not find a comparable, year-round job that would incentivize them to leave their position with the Park Service. Another employee who wished to remain anonymous for it, and that their supervisors encourage it.

Victor Dunphy is a Wilderness Ranger for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. For the last six years, he has worked five months out of the year for the National Park Service. He typically relies on Unemployment Insurance for income from January through May. “They give you a Rank of America debit card. You can go to an ATM and take cash out.”

Dunphy said that it’s easy to bypass the Work-Search requirement on the program’s online interface. He said you can report that you are looking for work, then bypass filling out a form that indicates where and still receive your benefits by simply clicking “next.” “They don’t come asking,” said Dunphy.

In McIlvried’s experience, if you can demonstrate to the EDD that you will have a job waiting for you next season, you are not required to provide proof that you are seeking additional employment while collecting UI.

Local business owner Brandon Brocia said he supports employees who are laid off during shoulder season seeking UI. “It’s part of having shoulder seasons,” he said.

The EDD says fraud includes employees working off the table, and remitting insurance…not reporting wages earned, and withholding information or giving false information to the EDD. One example of fraud includes employees working “under the table,” meaning that their employers pay them cash wages while they are still collecting unemployment. Those employers also avoid paying payroll taxes and insurance for those employees, which saves them money.

“I bet there are at least 300 people in Mammoth right now working under the table and collecting unemployment,” said Cody Barrett, Manager at A Frame Liquor. It’s colloquially referred to as “double dipping.”

However, that situation is dangerous for both employees and employers—if an employee working under the table gets injured, for example, they are not covered under worker’s compensation. Also, according to the Internal Revenue Service, penalties for under the table employees include fines and possibly even prison time for tax evasion.

Barrett said he’s looking to hire three people right now. “A lot of people in town work one season and take the rest of the year off. That’s okay. You should work if you can,” said Barrett. He said he sees many in A Frame Liquor who are mountain employees. They’re coming in, buying beers and cigarettes when the unemployment stipend comes in.”

Calhoun said there are two types of seasons in Mammoth Lakes: the ones when you can work, and the ones when you can’t. “If you’re skipping seasons when everyone can work? And when they hand me that card at the cash register, and they don’t tip me? That’s upsetting.”
LISTENERS IN MAMMOTH LAKES, BISHOP, AND TOM’S PLACE HAVE BEEN WITHOUT ACCESS TO RENO PUBLIC RADIO (KUNR)’S BROADCAST SERVICE SINCE LATE SEPTEMBER. ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT FROM KUNR’S GENERAL MANAGER, DAVID STIPECH FROM OCTOBER 26, STIPECH FROM NOVEMBER 16, SERVICE TO THE REGION WILL BE RESTORED BY DECEMBER 8, AT THE EARLIEST.

The outage started in late September, and was caused in part by damage to KUNR’s aging broadcast equipment at the Poleta site, which is located east of the City of Bishop, off of Line Street. According to Stipech, the complete outage started as frequent phantom disruptions to the broadcast, brought about by an aging system. Eventually, KUNR was forced to turn off the transmissions, as cut-outs and static became more and more frequent. The equipment at Poleta feeds the signal to Mammoth Lakes and to Tom’s Place. KUNR determined that the equipment cannot be repaired “without any certainty of uninterrupted broadcasts,” and needs to be replaced.

The Poleta property is owned by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). KUNR has a lease agreement with LADWP which governs its ability to operate there. In a statement from October 26, Stipech reported that, “a move to another site would be a year in the making even if an ideal site were identified, but no ideal site exists.”

According to Joe Ramallo, Assistant General Manager for Communications, Marketing and Community at LADWP, KUNR’s plans for the replacement of its broadcast equipment at the Poleta site were identified, but no ideal site exists. “A move to another site would be a year in the making even if an ideal site were identified, but no ideal site exists.”

At that point, KUNR was faced with either finding an alternative location to the Poleta site or ending broadcast service to the Mammoth-Bishop area altogether.

In mid-October, LADWP offered its own tower-climbing technicians to complete KUNR’s equipment replacement at the Poleta site. As of October 26, KUNR had submitted a plan for the replacement of its broadcast equipment to LADWP. Stipech reported in a statement from that date, “a quick review is critical to get things ordered and work scheduled so it is completed this fall before winter sets in.”

According to Joe Ramallo, Assistant General Manager for Communications, Marketing and Community at LADWP, KUNR’s plans for the replacement of the equipment at the Poleta site have been approved. Ramallo announced that KUNR and LADWP have reached an agreement that KUNR’s ability to repair the broadcast equipment at the Poleta site was initially delayed due to lease negotiations with LADWP. He also confirmed that KUNR rejected LADWP’s initial contract terms for a new lease on the basis that they would present financial and logistical barriers to KUNR remaining at the site. Although he confirmed a renegotiated agreement has been reached, Ramallo did not divulge the details of the new lease agreement, such as whether LADWP had raised KUNR’s rent at the site.

Stipech said Thursday, “If all goes well and weather cooperates, KUNR’s broadcasts to the region will resume once the work is completed that week [Dec. 5-8].”

Reno Public Radio and LADWP collaborate to restore service to Mammoth, Bishop, Tom’s Place
By Giles

A move to another site would be a year in the making even if an ideal site were identified, but no ideal site exists.

-David Stipech

STAY TUNED...

Reno Public Radio and LADWP collaborate to restore service to Mammoth, Bishop, Tom’s Place

AUSTRIA HOF
RESTAURANT & BAR
FINE DINING & SPIRITS

BOOK YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER >
TRADITIONAL 3-COURSE
ADULTS $38 | KIDS $15

FIRST COURSE
○ Tonight’s Soup: Roasted Butternut Squash
○ Caesar Salad: Hearts of Romaine with homemade croutons and shaved Parmesan
○ House Salad: Baby greens, pecan, candied walnuts, fried leeks with a walnut oil & rice wine vinaigrette.

SECOND COURSE
○ Roast Herb Turkey: Apple-sage roundstuff stuffing, Grand Marnier cranberry relish, candied yams, mashed potatoes and natural cran gravy, seasonal winter vegetables.

THIRD COURSE
○ Homemade Pumpkin Pie: With ginger ice cream and cinnamon crème anglaise
○ Warm Apple Strudel: Served with vanilla ice cream and caramel sauce

RE-OPENING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22
HAPPY HOUR DAILY 5-7PM | OPEN 7 DAYS @ 5PM FOR DINNER
NOW BOOKING FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES!

760-934-2764 | 924 CANYON BLVD | NEXT TO CANYON LODGE
About 28 percent of residents surveyed said they planned on leaving the area in the next five years to buy a home or to find cheaper, more affordable housing.

“About 28 percent of residents surveyed said they planned on leaving the area in the next five years to buy a home or to find cheaper, more affordable housing.”

- Study by BBC Consulting

Mono County recently received a Housing Needs Assessment conducted by BBC Research and Consulting that came with an unstartling conclusion: housing is expensive and wages are low. About 30 percent said they planned on moving in the next five years because rent or home prices were too high.

The assessment is a start to first understanding and helping to alleviate the housing shortage in the county along updating the county’s Housing Mitigation Ordinance. The last assessment was conducted in 2005. The study focused on the unincorporated parts of the county, but available housing in Mammoth and employment are tied to the rest of the county’s needs and shortages and so available housing was included, but not an assessment for housing needs in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Less than half of Mono County residents—42 percent or 5,800 residents, to be precise—live in the unincorporated parts of the county. Nearly 8,000 live in Mammoth.

BBC’s analysis concluded most of the jobs available now and in the future—cooks, cashiers, clerks, maids—won’t offer wages that will allow employees to afford the price of a home. These jobs pay between $10 and $15 an hour, and some earn tips.

Healthcare jobs are the exception to this rule. This is particularly true in the field of nursing, for which jobs can pull down about $40 an hour, according to BBC.

Most homes, condos, town-homes or single-family dwellings for sale in Mono County, including Mammoth, are currently on the market for more than $550,000. According to BBC, of the 118 single-family homes for sale in Mono County, 98 are priced at more than $550,000. Ten homes are priced in the $350,000 to $450,000 range and are located in the Bridgeport, June Lake and Bishop areas with only one available in that price range in Mammoth Lakes. There are five homes in the $250,000 to $350,000 range that are located in the Coleville and June Lake area. There is one home priced in the $150,000 to $250,000 range for sale in Bridgeport, and four in the 0-$150,000 range, mostly cabins, in the Mammoth Lakes area.

Of the 119 condos available in the county, 56 are priced at more than $550,000, 32 are in the $350,000 to $450,000 range, 24 are in the $250,000 to $350,000 range, and seven are in the $150,000 to $250,000 range. All of these are located in Mammoth Lakes. One mobile home is for sale in the 0-$150,000 range in Mammoth, as well. BBC also found that, in Mono County, the average rent is almost as much as the average mortgage. The average monthly rent for a single-family home in Mono County is $1,708 and the average mortgage for the same home is $1,984.

Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing, Jennifer Halferty told The Sheet the wages to housing disparity is a chronic problem in all of Mono County. Some wages do not meet the cost of rent, Halferty added, which has created a population she called the working homeless: people with jobs that can’t afford a place to live.

For more about Mammoth’s working homeless community, see The Sheet’s story “Any Port in a Storm,” from January 14, 2017.

The grand total of housing units needed to meet current and future housing needs in the unincorporated parts of Mono County is between 120 and 170; 70 units to accommodate projected future growth and 50 to 100 units to meet current shortages. The data for the study was comprised largely of a survey of 41 employers and 1,169 permanent and seasonal residents, including workers that commute from outside the county.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors will revisit the Housing Mitigation ordinance in December. The Mono County Housing Element will be updated so as to be in alignment with Town of Mammoth Lakes Housing Element by June 30, 2019.
A BRAND NEW WORLD
Mammoth’s Town Council vows to prioritize affordable housing

By Rea

For Mammoth’s new Housing Action Plan to work, says consultant Wendy Sullivan, the Town of Mammoth Lakes needs to sink more money into housing programs and invest in at least one full-time Town staff member to tackle housing. “It’s important to keep in mind moving forward that this is needed to implement a successful program,” said Sullivan, who, along with Steve Frisch of the Sierra Business Council, led a joint workshop on Wednesday, November 15 with Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission and the Mammoth Lakes Housing Board to discuss the plan, which was developed by WSW Consulting.

A Housing Needs Assessment compiled by WSW found that Mammoth Lakes currently has a housing gap of 595 units which it will need through 2022 ($340 of those need to be below market rate), said Sullivan. Just to play catch-up, Mammoth needs another 330 units right now.

The workshop was arranged so that the Housing Action Plan could be presented as a document to Mammoth’s Town Council on December 6, said Mayor John Wentworth.

The target of the plan is to provide 200 to 300 new community housing units within five years, target a full-time Town staff member (or Mammoth’s new Housing Action Plan) at a rate faster than job growth in the near term, and to retain a strong base of residents and employees living in town, said Sullivan.

Local resident Kathy Cage asked Sullivan if those new units accounted for proposed development in town (such as Jim Demetriades’ Old Mammoth Road property), and Sullivan said they did not. The numbers were “based on the job growth that we have” currently, she said.

MMSA’s Tom Hodges also said that Mammoth is “notable in our difficulty and expense even larger workforce into the community. About a construction boom bringing an even larger workforce into the community. We are living in a brand new world. There are pressures on community housing that did not exist a few years ago.”

- John Wentworth

We are living in a brand new world. There are pressures on community housing that did not exist a few years ago.

John Wentworth

However, Sullivan stressed, resources from the Town are needed for this plan to become a reality.

“Funding [for housing] from the Town has been inconsistent over the years for various reasons, partly due to political commitment,” said Sullivan. “Staffing … is thin. It’s made management of the programs and coordination difficult.”

Sullivan stressed accountability.

“Don’t point fingers. Someone become accountable, and take on that role.”

“We are living in a brand new world,” said Mayor Wentworth at the conclusion of the meeting. “There are pressures on community housing that did not exist a few years ago.”

Wentworth also said that he and other elected officials are the ones accountable for the success of the plan.

“The public should absolutely have the confidence and accountability and ownership of this program lies with the people they elect. They can go to the ballot box… if they feel this is not working.”

Tom Hodges said that Mammoth could become “an example for everybody else” in how resort towns handle housing. “We can make our community successful.” He also said that the Housing Needs Assessment was “the best money the Mountain ever spent.”

Frisch also noted that “it’s really an opportune moment” to focus on housing, “with the increased focus on housing through the state.”

However, Sullivan stressed, resources from the Town are needed for this plan to become a reality.

“Funding [for housing] from the Town has been inconsistent over the years for various reasons, partly due to political commitment,” said Sullivan. “Staffing … is thin. It’s made management of the programs and coordination difficult.”

Sullivan stressed accountability.

“Don’t point fingers. Someone become accountable, and take on that role.”

“We are living in a brand new world,” said Mayor Wentworth at the conclusion of the meeting. “There are pressures on community housing that did not exist a few years ago.”

Wentworth also said that he and other elected officials are the ones accountable for the success of the plan.

“The public should absolutely have the confidence and accountability and ownership of this program lies with the people they elect. They can go to the ballot box… if they feel this is not working.”

Tom Hodges said that Mammoth could become “an example for everybody else” in how resort towns handle housing. “We can make our community successful.” He also said that the Housing Needs Assessment was “the best money the Mountain ever spent.”
MONO STUDENTS’ SCORES DOWN
Superintendent Stacy Adler addresses worrying statistics

By Bodine

Mono County Superintendent of Schools Stacy Adler presented her annual update to the Mono County Supervisors on Tuesday, November 14. She covered enrollment, low test scores and enrollment a new day-care center.

Test scores and graduation rates are down across the County. In the most recent round of standardized testing, only 30 percent of students in grades three through eight scored at or above the State and Federal standard in mathematics. Additionally, only 35 percent of students in grades three through eight tested at or above the State and Federal standards on the Smarter Balance Assessment Test, Adler explained.

The Smarter Balance Assessment Test is relatively new, and Adler said students and faculty are still gaining familiarity with the testing protocol. The school has used the program for three years. The test is given to third through eighth graders, and is administered over a computer.

Many of the registered students were not on track for a diploma in their homeland and may be more interested in earning a paycheck to feed their own children and family than graduating high school, said Adler.

Mono County Office of Education is the authorizer of the school, which means the department’s staff oversees operations, handles business, and serves as mentors to the school’s administration. MCOE makes a “little money” from the school, Adler explained.

Enrollment remains consistent countywide except for a little bump in the Eastern Sierra School District, particularly in Benton. There are 434 students in the Eastern Sierra District which includes Benton, Lee Vining, June Lake, and Bridgeport. There are 1,200 students in the Mammoth Unified School District, and 12 at Sawtooth Ridge Community School in Bridgeport.

Adler said the Urban Corps, a charter school in San Diego which MCOE manages and that is technically within the department’s boundaries, depresses local statistics for standardized testing. She added that more than half of the students enrolled at the Urban Corps are refugees from around the world. Students spend half of their time in a classroom and the other half learning a trade, such as construction, while getting paid.

Many of the registered students are not on track for a diploma in their homeland and may be more interested in earning a paycheck to feed their own children and family than graduating high school, said Adler.

Mono County Office of Education is the authorizer of the school, which means the department’s staff oversees operations, handles business, and serves as mentors to the school’s administration. MCOE makes a “little money” from the school, Adler explained.

Enrollment remains consistent countywide except for a little bump in the Eastern Sierra School District, particularly in Benton. There are 434 students in the Eastern Sierra District which includes Benton, Lee Vining, June Lake, and Bridgeport. There are 1,200 students in the Mammoth Unified School District, and 12 at Sawtooth Ridge Community School in Bridgeport.

By James

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, 12 local Big Pine residents participated in a workshop regarding cannabis regulations in Inyo County. The workshop was one of five conducted by County staff over the last two weeks.

Conspicuously absent from Tuesday’s community meeting was Fourth District County Supervisor Mark Tillmans, the community’s representative. Second District County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths was, however, present.

Tillmans recently recused himself from any County Board of Supervisors meetings and other discussions on commercial cannabis due to his expressed personal interest in the cannabis business.

The County commercial cannabis workshop was hosted by the Director of the Planning Department, Cathleen Richards. Richards was accompanied by County Administrator Kevin Carunchio and other County staff.

When Tillmans’ constituents asked where they should direct their questions and concerns in his absence, they were told to contact the Planning Department or the CAO’s office.

Under the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), the County has until January 2018 to implement local ordinances for commercial cannabis in its unincorporated areas. If the County does not implement its own ordinances, it will be saddled with regulations established by the California Bureau of Cannabis Control (CBCC) which will begin accepting permit applications on November 20. AUMA allows adults 21 years of age or older to legally grow, possess, and use cannabis for non-medicinal purposes.

It will be legal, on January 1, 2018, to sell and distribute cannabis through a regulated business.

Most of the concerns expressed by residents at Tuesday’s meeting centered around commercial residential cultivation, for which there was little support. There were concerns expressed over the odiferous nature of cannabis plants, health issues (e.g., allergies), the potential for crime, and negative effects it might have on the family-friendly character of residential neighborhoods. Set-backs, currently set at 100 feet, were felt to be inadequate by many home owners. One person even suggested a 5 mile setback.

Ed Morse, a local landscaping contractor, felt the County’s seven-year limit on non-competitive license renewals might be too short, saying that a more appropriate limit might be 10-12 years so owners can recoup the high startup costs of starting a quality commercial grow operation.

The County Supervisors will decide on new regulations at their meeting on Tuesday, December 5. Until then, a County-wide moratorium on commercial cannabis activities is in effect to allow the process to be completed.
HUSKIES HEAD TO FINALS

By Anna Strathman

Last week, the Mammoth High School Cross Country teams ran exceptionally well at CIF Prelims in Riverside. The CIF Southern Section is notorious for their fast course and nationally ranked runners.

Each of the Mammoth runners accomplished what they needed to run Personal Records (PRs). Jordyn Harper and Guy LaBorde secured individual qualifying spots for finals, while the girls’ team placed 5th, earning them a team spot. The boys’ team came within seconds of qualifying as well. On Friday, the girls and Guy LaBorde will travel back down to Riverside for finals.

A WORD OF ADVICE

Fernie talks finance and campaign strategy at Mammoth Voices

By Giles

At the Monday, November 13 meeting of the Mammoth Voices series “June 2018: Are we Ready?” Mammoth Town Councilman Colin Fernie announced that he would not be running for re-election when his term is up in June 2018. “For me, it’s time to focus on something else. I’ve been pretty involved for the last six years, and it’s time to pivot and let somebody else get in there,” said Fernie of his tenure on both Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission and Town Council.

Fernie estimated that being a member of Town Council demands on average 20 to 25 hours a week of work. “Sometimes it’s 10, sometimes it’s 40,” he said.

Fernie had never run for public office prior to his 2014 campaign for Town Council. He recommended creating a separate campaign bank account and diligently accounting for every dollar in and out of it. He suggested having a campaign team and manager, and he recommended spending $5,000-$10,000 on a campaign for office. He commented that about $7,500 on his campaign.

He also recommended hosting meet and greet events over going door to door to talk to people or asking them for signatures to support your candidacy. “Everyone in Mammoth likes free beer and food,” said Fernie. Acknowledging that several thousand dollars is a lot of money, Fernie said, “Don’t refuse to take donations, it gets people involved,” said Fernie.

Candidates are required to file Contribution Reports with Mono County if they receive a monetary or non-monetary contribution of more than $1,000 during their campaign.

Fernie also warned against seeking the bare minimum number of signatures (20) on your nomination papers and recommended taking the time to get the maximum number of signatures (30). “Don’t assume longtime locals signatures will be valid,” said Fernie, pointing to the fact that many people who live in Mammoth are registered to vote elsewhere or forget to change their address when they change addresses.

“Be cognizant of your social media campaign,” said Fernie. “All parts of your life are a representation of you, and nothing is off limits.”

Fernie also recommended knowing your strengths as a candidate, and seeking out interactions with groups in town that will support you for them, and those that will disagree with you on policy matters.

The Deadline to file Nomination Papers with the Town of Mammoth Lakes for the June 2018 Town Council election is March 9.
The Mammoth Lakes Women's Club hosted the second annual Turkey Bingo at Lakanuki in Mammoth Lakes.

The money raised at Wednesday's event will support academic scholarships for Mammoth High School students, as well as field trips at Mammoth Middle and Elementary Schools.

The Mammoth Lakes Women's Club also supports art and music in the community, and helps to fund workshops at MHS and MES with the Felici Trio and Chamber Music Unbound.

Wednesday's event raised $2,300.
After 37 years, Andrea and Tony Colasardo and Corty Lawrence turned over the keys to Footloose Sports to Silver Chesak and Zach Yates. Dozens turned out to celebrate the changing of the guard on Wednesday, November 14.


Julie Rolfe and Courtney Sloper.

Photos, clockwise from top: Laetitia Welcome, Irina Sukharnikova, Captain Jim and his lorry Rodan, Evie Costello and Kathy Copeland. Amy Ambard serves up cake and Dakota Yates, 5, new heiress to the business, wrangles dogs Roger and Tony.


Bodhi, 5, and Sky Bennett, 3.

SEASON LONG FAMILY FUN
Get ready to hit California’s family mountain on Opening Day and save $80 before pass prices go up. As always, kids 12 and under ski/ride FREE. Buy your pass now for unlimited winter fun this season.

June Mountain Season Pass
ONLY $399
Price goes up Dec 16

888.JUNEMTN JUNEMOUNTAIN.COM

MAMMOTH CELEBRATES NEW FOOTLOOSE

Photos by Rea

MAMMOTH BREWING COMPANY

IS 22 YEARS OLD!

EATERY

ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS

$4 NOBLE TROUT & SESSION IPA PINTS

$5 SMOKED TRI-TIP DOG WITH CHIPS

OTHER GREAT BEER SPECIALS

NOW THROUGH DEC. 11!

CONNER MAIN & MATT
MAMMOTH BREWING CO
760.964.7461

SEASON LONG FAMILY FUN
**BARS & MUSIC**

**Happy Hour**/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill, Pursuit of Happiness is open 3-6 p.m.
- $1 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.
- $2 Tacos 4-10 p.m., 8-10pm. Wing Wednesday 50% off all wings. Thursday: Burger & Beer special 4-9 p.m. See ad, p. 9.

**Robin Hood:** 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. daily and all day Sunday. $5 dollar menu items, drink specials. See ad, p. 10.

**Patria's Bistro Happy Hour**
-$4.50 Margaritas, Mai Tais. Happy Hour happens Monday-Saturday 3:30-5:30 p.m. every day. See ad, p. 10.

**Mammoth's famous Slocums Happy Hour**
Black Velvet Coffee's Happy Hour, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily. $.99 Slocums with any entree.

**Happy Hour** @ The Bistro at Snowcreek
- 4:30-6:30 p.m. daily.

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

**Smokyard weekend Happy Hour**
- 4-6 p.m. in the bar only.
- Side Door Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m. Giovanni's Happy Hour, daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.

**Lakantuki Happy Hour**
- 3-6 p.m., $4.50 margaritas, Mai Tais. Happy Hour drink specials 10 p.m. -close.

**Black Velvet Coffee's Happy Hour**
- From 4-6 p.m. every day.

**Morrison's Happy Hour Daily**
- 4-6 p.m.

**Food Cache Cafe**
Happy Hour 3:30-6:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. Street tacos $2.50, $3.50 beef, $7.57 beer/wine and house fries.

**Friday, November 17/18**
- DJ De Marco Cruz @ Rafters. 10 p.m.

**Sunday, November 19/20**
- Some Assembly Required plays @ Black Outpost Brewery, 7-9 p.m. Free.
- Football Happy Hour Specials @ The Outlaw Saloon. Specials run during the game. First game @10 a.m. See ad, p. 9.

**Monday, November 20/21**
- Bowling ‘n Beats: Onesies Party with DJ Onezie @ Mammoth Bock ‘n Bowl. 9 p.m. See ad, p. 7.
- Manic Mondays @ the Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour 4 p.m.-close. See ad, p. 9.

**Tuesday, November 21/22**
- Tuesday Night Special @ Morrison's Glass of wine or draft Coors Light with any entree.
- Karaoke @ Rafters with DJ CDS. 10 p.m.

**November 23-26/27**
- $1 Lava Moon plays at Tusks Bar at Main Lodge each day during Thanksgiving weekend, 2-5 p.m.

**Friday, November 24/25**
- Live music with The Sextones in The Village, 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 25/26**
- Making Love DJ Zee & DJ Rodney@ in The Village, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

**Town Stuff**

**November 16-19/20**
- Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre presents “Always Patsy Cline.”
- Thursday-Saturday @ 7 p.m., Sunday @ 4 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, Bishop. Tickets: www.edistonetheatre.org. See ad, page 4.

**November 17-18/19**
- Artistic meeting @ Inyo Council for the Arts. ICA members and other interested artists invited to attend.
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. on Saturday. Coffee and light breakfast provided. RSVP: lynne@inyo.org or enrimage@schat.net. Info: 760.873.8014. ICA, 137 S. Main St. in Bishop.

**November 17-19**
- Three screenings of The Longest Straw in the Owens Valley.
- Friday: Smokehouse Banquet room, 325 Main St. in Lone Pine. 6-9 p.m. Saturday: Inyo Council for the Arts, 137 Main St. in Bishop. 6-8:30 p.m. Sunday: Owens Valley Growers Cooperative, 149 Edwards St. in Independence. 6-8:30 p.m.

**Friday, November 17/18**
- Sewing basics class with Inyo Council for the Arts in Bishop. New to sewing or need a refresher? Join ICA for this fun class. Limited spots available. 6-8:30 p.m. @ ICA, 137 Main St. Bishop. Tix: wildonioncreations.org or enrimage@schat.net.

**Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery Holiday Christmas Sale.**
- 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. @ the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery.

**November 18-19/20**
- “String Theory” with Chamber Music Unbound. Discover a musical cosmos of truth and beauty with string quartets by Schubert, Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Tix: $25 adult, $20 senior, $7 student, available online at www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org, at the Booky Joint or at the door. Thursday-Saturday @ 7 p.m., Sunday @ 4 p.m. at the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery.

**Saturday, November 18/19**
- “TOWN STUFF” with Chamber Music Unbound.
- Discover a musical cosmos of truth and beauty with string quartets by Schubert, Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Tix: $25 adult, $20 senior, $7 student, available online at www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org, at the Booky Joint or at the door. 45 minutes before performance. 7:30 p.m. Saturday @ Mammoth lakes Liberty Sports Bar and Grill.
- Nordic Sock Hop @ @ The Lone Pine Library. 1 p.m. Ballet for 7+ @ 2 p.m. Jazz Hip Hop for 7+ @ 3 p.m. 168 W. Line St. in Bishop.
- Three screenings of The Longest Straw in the Owens Valley. Friday: Smokehouse Banquet room, 325 Main St. in Lone Pine. 6-9 p.m. Saturday: Inyo Council for the Arts, 137 Main St. in Bishop. 6-8:30 p.m. Sunday: Owens Valley Growers Cooperative, 149 Edwards St. in Independence. 6-8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 18/19**
- Tamarack XC Ski Center Opening Day.
- Enjoy the groomed trails, conditions permitting, 8:30 a.m. Convict Lake Restoration Planting. Volunteers needed to help plant native shrubs near Convict Lake. Please wear closed toe shoes and long pants. Tools and gloves provided. Meet @ the junction of Highway 395 and Convict Lake Road at 8:30 a.m. Coffee and light breakfast provided. Info: wendy@friendsoftheinyo.org, or call 760.873.6500.

- Volunteers interested in becoming a foster parent. 3:30-5 p.m. at Giovanni’s Pizzeria, Mammoth. Info: 760.924.1770.

- Family Arts School @ the Inyo Council for the Arts. ICA members and other interested artists invited to attend. 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. on Saturday. Coffee and light breakfast provided. RSVP: lynne@inyo.org or enrimage@schat.net. Info: 760.873.8014. ICA, 137 S. Main St. in Bishop.

**Sunday, November 19/20**
- Mammoth Lakes Ski Center Opening Day.
- Enjoy the groomed trails, conditions permitting, 8:30 a.m. Convict Lake Restoration Planting. Volunteers needed to help plant native shrubs near Convict Lake. Please wear closed toe shoes and long pants. Tools and gloves provided. Meet @ the junction of Highway 395 and Convict Lake Road at 8:30 a.m. Coffee and light breakfast provided. Info: wendy@friendsoftheinyo.org, or call 760.873.6500.

- Volunteers interested in becoming a foster parent. 3:30-5 p.m. at Giovanni’s Pizzeria, Mammoth. Info: 760.924.1770.

- Family Arts School @ the Inyo Council for the Arts. ICA members and other interested artists invited to attend. 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. on Saturday. Coffee and light breakfast provided. RSVP: lynne@inyo.org or enrimage@schat.net. Info: 760.873.8014. ICA, 137 S. Main St. in Bishop.

**Monday, November 20/21**
- Bowling ‘n Beats: Onesies Party with DJ Onezie @ Mammoth Bock ‘n Bowl. 9 p.m. See ad, p. 7.
- Manic Mondays @ the Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour 4 p.m.-close. See ad, p. 9.

**Tuesday, November 21/22**
- Tuesday Night Special @ Morrison’s Glass of wine or draft Coors Light with any entree.
- Karaoke @ Rafters with DJ CDS. 10 p.m.

**November 23-26/27**
- $1 Lava Moon plays at Tusks Bar at Main Lodge each day during Thanksgiving weekend, 2-5 p.m.

**Friday, November 24/25**
- Live music with The Sextones in The Village, 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 25/26**
- Making Love DJ Zee & DJ Rodney@ in The Village, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
**TOWN STUFF**

**Monday, November 20/ Workshop for remote professionals**
@ The Fort in Mammoth, followed by networking party. Workshop begins at 5 p.m. Party @ 6:30. Attendance is free. The Fort is at 452 Old Mammoth Rd.
**Inyo Associates Meeting.** 5:30 p.m. @ the Elks Lodge, 151 East Line St., Bishop.
**Tuesday, November 21/ Inyo County Board of Supervisors Meeting.** 8:30 a.m. @ the County Administrative Center, Independence.
**Mammoth County Board of Supervisors Meeting.** 9 a.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes.
**Wednesday, November 22/ Storytime @ Mammoth Lakes Library.** 10:30 a.m.
**Thursday, November 23/ Turkey Trot.** Registration: $25 advanced (www.active.com) or $30 on race day. Shirt included. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Mammoth Creek Park. Hot chocolate social @ 10 a.m. See ad page 2.
**Morrison’s Thanksgiving Dinner.** Adults: $36. Kids under 12: $12. See ad page 19.
**Woolly’s Holiday Village in Sierra Room @ Mammoth Mountain Inn, includes letters to Santa, photos with Woolly, ornament making and more.** 2:30-7:30 p.m.
**Salvation Army Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. @ 621 W. Line Street, Bishop. Donations accepted. Info: 760.872.2124.

**UPCOMING**

**Friday, November 24/ Holiday tree lighting in the Village @ Mammoth, join Woolly and Santa for photos, kids’ activities and live music outdoors. 5:30-7:30 p.m.**
**Holiday wishes with Santa and Woolly at Mammoth Sports in The Village. 7 p.m.**
**Tamarack used equipment sale.** Come by the Tamarack XC ski center early the day after Thanksgiving, begins 8 a.m. See ad page 11.
**November 25-26/ Cardinal Village Christmas Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sit with Santa from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Alabama Hills film and natural history hikes with BLM and ESIA. Hikes begin at 10 a.m. both days and leave from Eastern Sierra Visitor Center. Info: Dave Kirk at dmkirk@blm.gov or 760.872.6222.
**Saturday, November 25/ Holiday wishes with Santa & Woolly @ Mammoth Sports in The Village. 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, November 29/ Book Club @ Spellbinder Books in Bishop. Book “What If We’re Wrong?” by Chuck Klosterman. See Lunch’s review. p. 2.**
**Thursday, November 30/ What We Don’t Know About the Universe, Owens Valley Radio Observatory Lecture. 6-7 p.m. @ Cerro Coso in Bishop. Lecture by Vikram Ravi of Caltech.**

**Friday, December 1/ Inyo County Film Festival with Friends of the Inyo in Bishop, 7-9 p.m. @ ICA, 137 S. Main St. Visit www.friendsoftheinyo.org for info.**

---

**Winter Transit Service Changes**

Transit services in the Town of Mammoth Lakes will be modified as of November 17.

- The Red Line will commence operations between Snowcreek Athletic Club and Main Lodge along Old Mammoth Road and Main Street with a bus every 20 minutes from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.
- Service to Canyon Blvd., Lakeview Blvd., Kelly/Majestic Pines, and Juniper Springs Resort will be provided with the Blue-Yellow Line with service every 30 minutes from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- The Town Trolley route will transition to night service operating from 5:40 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.
- In addition, the Purple Line route will travel southbound out of Mammoth from Meridian to Main Street and southbound on Lupin from Main Street to Meridian. Also, the Purple Line will switch its alternating service to the College and elementary school with departures from Vons at the top of the hour, and to the RV Park and Visitors Center with departures from Vons half-past the hour. Please contact ESTA at 760.920.3359 for more information.

---

**AT THE MOVIES**

**Minaret Cinemas**

Thor: Ragnarok (PG 13): Thor faces The Hulk in a gladiatorial contest then has to save the world.

Justice League (P 13): Bruce Wayne enlists his newfound ally Diana Prince to face an even greater enemy than ever before.

---

**Pies for a cause**

Help the Mammoth High School junior class raise money to host prom by buying a pie for Thanksgiving. All pies made by The Stove. Flavors are: Boysenberry, apple, cherry, pumpkin. Pies cost $16.95 each. Pick up dates are November 20, 21, 22. Pick up location is The Stove, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Info: the Liam Bassler: 760.934.7450 or Lisa Okamoto: 760.914.0461 or lokamoto@ mammothuds.org.

**Shop with a Cop donations**

The annual Shop-With-a-Cop event will be held on Saturday, December 9. Children from disadvantaged families are picked up at their homes on Saturday morning by their law enforcement “partners” and taken to local stores. After buying gifts and children respond Code 3 (lights and sirens) through Bishop to K-Mart to shop the extravaganzas. Each child is given $200 to shop for gifts for their families. After all the gifts have been purchased, local volunteers wrap the gifts, and the officers and children travel home.

Our goal is to provide Christmas to 60 children and their families. This event is completely donation driven. Donations can be dropped off at the Mono County Sheriff’s Office, Inyo County Sheriff’s Office, Bishop Police Department, and Mammoth Lakes Police Department. Please make checks payable to ESPOA (Eastern Sierra Peace Officers Association) with “Shop-with-ocop” written in the memo line. ESPOA is a 501(c)3 non-profit and your donation is tax deductible. Participant nominations can be submitted to easternsierrashopwithacop@gmail.com, or with Jessica Scida @ 760.873.5866.

---

**Tax-Aide Volunteers Needed**

The Bishop AARP Tax-Aide site need volunteers for the upcoming tax season. We are looking for Tax Counselors, Client Facilitators, and Translators. Client Facilitators and Translators require minimal training. Tax counselors will receive specialized training and IRS/AARP provided materials. The materials are provided in early December, which allows time for self-study prior to the classroom training, which is scheduled to begin January 4-5 and 8-11. The Bishop Tax-Aide Site will operate 2 afternoons a week and Saturdays. Volunteers will generally serve a minimum of four hours per week February-April 5. To join the Bishop Tax-Aide volunteers, register online @ aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer. Info: Sue Stavlo @ 760.934.5674.

---

**Art shines in the home**

The public is invited to come enjoy an open studio and holiday art sale at Frances Cholewa and Tom Meyers’ home and studio in Bishop’s McLaren neighborhood this first weekend in December. A colorful and abundant display of art and ceramic pottery will be installed throughout the home, studio and garden.

Tom Meyers and Frances Cholewa specialize in the creation of functional clay objects and raku pottery. Shop with a Cop volunteers will purchase a napsack of four pieces for $100. Karen Nielsen Licher will be exhibiting modern and abstract oil paintings. Bruce Licher will be exhibiting his black and white landscape photography throughout the home. Bruce will also be present with many of his recordings on vinyl and CD along with print editions and greeting cards that he and Karen have designed & printed at their Independent Project Press.

The public is welcome to attend a reception on Friday, December 1, from 6-9 p.m. Beverages and light hors d’oeuvres will be served. The sale will continue on Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Sunday, December 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 373 Mt. Tom Rd. Bishop. Info: 760.937.4655.

---

**Fall street sweeping in Bishop**

The Bishop city crew will sweep streets each Wednesday and Thursday between about 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. and will continue on this schedule into December. To keep out of the way of the sweeper:

- Properties along the streets are responsible for the removal of their own leaves. Don’t put your leaves on city streets. For more information contact City of Bishop Public Works at publicworks@cityofbishop.com or 760.873.8438.
Help Wanted

Sierra Employment Services is hiring for the following positions:

Cashiers B $10.50-11/hr
Maintenance Worker M $18 M $18
Clerical Receptionist B $16,16-17/hr
3221 M $20
Housekeepers M/Crewley $15-18/hr
General Laborers M/B $11-15/hr

Call 760.924.0523 or 760.873.8599
See our full job list online www.SierraEmployment.com

Help Wanted

Mammoth Lakes, CA

Full and Part time Food Service Staff

Mammoth Rock & Bowl

Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasserie has the following positions available: Full time Bartender, Server, Bartender, Brasserie Hostess, Contact Kevin O’Connell 760.934.4200 ext 223, or Ann Ward ext 221

Full and Part time Hospitality Positions Available

- Responsible, outgoing hospitality/ reservation agents for local management company. Excellent phone/customer service skills preferred. Previous reservation experience preferred. Flexible 16-40 hours per week starting immediately. $12-14/hr
- DO NOT call to speak to stacey@mammothreservations.com

Maintenance Assistant Job: Must be able & willing to assist with maintaining & repairing 20 chalets & other structures. Experience is needed in snow removal, electrical, painting, pentry & 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 Ext 0
(0)
760.934.8518 Ext 0
Reservations@MMChalets.com

Front Desk, Maintenance Worker

and Housekeeper: Holiday Haus Hotel and Hostel Now Hiring for year round positions. Experience is preferred. Maintenance Worker and Housekeeper. Excellent pay DO.PLEASE contact Todd Roberts at 760.934.2414 or email us to see us in person at 3905 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes.

Hotel seeking front desk agent/night audit clerk. Must be able to work graveyard shifts 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. 6 days a week. Please call 760.934.2414 and stay your interest. Start in a part time position and see us in person at 3905 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes.

Mammoth Slopes Home

Room for rent $240-$250 per month. All utilities included. W/D Internet Must be Dog Friendly Non Smokers $10 per month Available 11-15-17 760.934.2764

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

For Hire

Bookkeeping Services Available. Let me keep your books up-to-date and in order with the IRS. My focus on your business will be the world! Experienced in Quickbooks, Microsoft Office, Dropbox, Google Docs. Great references available. Call/text 760.934.2764.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing Dec. 5, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in the Mono County Courthouse, 278 Main St., Bridgeport, CA, to consider General Plan Amendment 17-03: Cannabis. New General Plan language in the Land Use and Conservation/Open Space element and Section 4.4.8, Subsection 4.4.8.58, Appendix B, specific policies of commercial cannabis activities under Prop 64, which was passed by the voters on Nov. 8, 2016. The General Plan text contains Issues, Opportunities and Constraints in the Land Use and Conservation/Open Space regulations, including special provisions, policies, and Actions in the Land Use Element. The potential commercial cannabis activities are defined by the State’s licensing structure, and include uses such as cultivation, nurseries, processing, distribution, retail, and microbusiness. Specific regulations governing site-specific requirements (such as setbacks, etc.) are not included in this general plan amendment. In accordance with state law, this project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. Project materials will be available for public review at the Community Development Department offices in Bridgeport and Mammoth Lakes; for more information call 760-924-1800. INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to appear before the Board of Supervisors to present testimony or, prior to or at the hearing, file written correspondence at Clerk of the Board, PO Box 715, Bridgeport, CA 93517. If you challenge the proposed action(s) in court, you may be required to pay costs including attorney fees, if the court determines the appeal is frivolous. If you challenge the action on appeal, you are entitled to representation by the county counsel. If the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to prepare a report and testimony, the report will be available at the Clerk of the Board office or at the Mono County Government Center.

NOTICE OF ORDER

ORDER NO. 017-17 AN ORDER OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,500,000 plus any other monies necessary, subject to execution of appropriate deeds and financing, for the purchase of real property which the Board of Supervisors has determined is necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare. Property will be held in the Mono County Real Estate Fund and used for a multi-family housing project in Mammoth Lakes.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing Dec. 21, 2017, in the Town/County Conference Room at 10:10 a.m. located at 437 Old Mammoth Rd., Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. The purpose of this public hearing is to consider a Conditional Use Permit Application 17-014 for the Zoning Districts M-3 and M-4 located at 153 Kernville Way, Mammoth Lakes, CA, to allow the setting of a medicinal marijuana dispensary within the Zoning Districts M-3 and M-4. The public hearing will be conducted by the Mono County Planning Commission to present testimony or, prior to the hearing, file, or to submit comments, contact Megan Mahaffey, Planning Commission, PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, telephone 760-924-1800. The public hearing is being held in accordance with the Mono County Planning Rules, Sections 11.5.2, 11.5.3 and 11.5.5. Any party wishing to be heard at this hearing must file a written notice of intention to appear no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017, with the Mono County Clerk of the Board, PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

NOTICE OF ORDER

ORDER NO. 017-17 AN ORDER OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,500,000 plus any other monies necessary, subject to execution of appropriate deeds and financing, for the purchase of real property which the Board of Supervisors has determined is necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare. Property will be held in the Mono County Real Estate Fund and used for a multi-family housing project in Mammoth Lakes.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing Dec. 21, 2017, in the Town/County Conference Room at 10:10 a.m. located at 437 Old Mammoth Rd., Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. The purpose of this public hearing is to consider a Conditional Use Permit Application 17-014 for the Zoning Districts M-3 and M-4 located at 153 Kernville Way, Mammoth Lakes, CA, to allow the setting of a medicinal marijuana dispensary within the Zoning Districts M-3 and M-4. The public hearing will be conducted by the Mono County Planning Commission to present testimony or, prior to the hearing, file, or to submit comments, contact Megan Mahaffey, Planning Commission, PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, telephone 760-924-1800. The public hearing is being held in accordance with the Mono County Planning Rules, Sections 11.5.2, 11.5.3 and 11.5.5. Any party wishing to be heard at this hearing must file a written notice of intention to appear no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017, with the Mono County Clerk of the Board, PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

NOTICE OF ORDER

ORDER NO. 017-17 AN ORDER OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,500,000 plus any other monies necessary, subject to execution of appropriate deeds and financing, for the purchase of real property which the Board of Supervisors has determined is necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare. Property will be held in the Mono County Real Estate Fund and used for a multi-family housing project in Mammoth Lakes.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing Dec. 21, 2017, in the Town/County Conference Room at 10:10 a.m. located at 437 Old Mammoth Rd., Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. The purpose of this public hearing is to consider a Conditional Use Permit Application 17-014 for the Zoning Districts M-3 and M-4 located at 153 Kernville Way, Mammoth Lakes, CA, to allow the setting of a medicinal marijuana dispensary within the Zoning Districts M-3 and M-4. The public hearing will be conducted by the Mono County Planning Commission to present testimony or, prior to the hearing, file, or to submit comments, contact Megan Mahaffey, Planning Commission, PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, telephone 760-924-1800. The public hearing is being held in accordance with the Mono County Planning Rules, Sections 11.5.2, 11.5.3 and 11.5.5. Any party wishing to be heard at this hearing must file a written notice of intention to appear no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017, with the Mono County Clerk of the Board, PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

NOTICE OF ORDER

ORDER NO. 017-17 AN ORDER OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,500,000 plus any other monies necessary, subject to execution of appropriate deeds and financing, for the purchase of real property which the Board of Supervisors has determined is necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare. Property will be held in the Mono County Real Estate Fund and used for a multi-family housing project in Mammoth Lakes.

POSTMAN continued from page 1

has never seen snow, so when I sent them some photos, they were excited.” Anguay also said he’s been sending them “selfies” with Mammoth Mountain in the background to give them an idea of what town is like.

“I grew up in the Sacramento area, so Bishop! I thought that was the other side of the world,” said Anguay on Wednesday, November 15, “When they told me Mammoth Lakes, I thought it was more toward Woford Heights [near Kernville, in the Southern Sierra],” he said. “Then, when I looked at the map, I saw it’s up, up and up. And up.

This winter will be his first time putting on tire chains (although at least he has a friend who has a 4wd car). He said with a laugh that he can always walk to work if things get too hairy, “I might have to get knee pads and elbow pads!”

Anguay met his wife when they were both living in the Central Valley—they’ve been married for 22 years. He’s a Giants fan and reminded us the time he took his son to see Pablo Sandoval in 2001, which hit three home runs on Game one of the 2012 World Series. He’s also got attention to detail. After years of living in Central Coast wine country, Anguay (who doesn’t imbibe himself) can recite stats on many of the local wineries. “I think it’s important to know about the industry in the place you live,” he said.

Working for the Postal Service has afforded his family the chance to see a lot of the state—Anguay first held the position of Postmaster in a very small community of Madison, in the northern California. He and his wife once had the opportunity to move to Hawaii for Anguay’s job, but decided to stay in California due to Mari’s pregnancy with their youngest son. Mammoth, he agreed, is a far cry from Hawaii.

Anguay also made the distinction that he’s not actually the Postmaster, rather the “Acting Postmaster,” a position that was held until recently by Crystal Southwood, who, Anguay said, told the USPS that she was ready to return home to her other Heights, California. Technically, Anguay said, Jim Epperly is still the Postmaster at the Mammoth Lakes Post Office. He doesn’t know why Epperly left or where he is, the reasons Anguay said he met Epperly’s former neighbor who confirmed Epperly left town.

Anguay also said that he would revisit the idea of recycling in the Mammoth Lakes Post Office—he’s already been asked by one patron if he will be bringing the program back forward. He said that identity theft was a concern for the unlocked bins near the post-office boxes. Anguay plans to be in Mammoth for about three months, however, he said, Southwood’s assignment was also only meant to be temporary (she ended up being in Mammoth for almost a year), so he’ll see how long his tenure at Mammoth ends up being.

For now, Anguay is looking forward to seeing his family for Thanksgiving. Getting to know his new customers—and hopefully practicing putting on his tire chains.
Scorpio: In numerology, triple-digit numbers are said to be a sign from the Heavens. Since Scorpios tend to be more in touch with the angels, how about listening to your guardian angels more often. In case you’re wondering, 333s are blessing, 777s mean miracles and the Angels have been listening to a lot of “You Gotta Be” by Des’ree lately. “Listen as your day unfolds, challenge what the future holds, try and keep your head up to the sky ... Love will save the day.”

Sagittarius: To end this latest year of your life in style and set a solid attitude for your next epic one, please adopt one of these as your latest motto: a) “It’s not my job to wake up anyone who is sleeping on me.” b) “Get money, stay healthy, take trips, anyone who is sleeping on me.” b) “Get money, stay healthy, take trips, exercise. Make more love. Make less war. To end this latest year of your life in style and set a solid attitude for your next epic one, please adopt one of these as your latest motto: a) “It’s not my job to wake up anyone who is sleeping on me.” b) “Get money, stay healthy, take trips, anyone who is sleeping on me.” c) “I'm too magical for your skin. I don't want to get in touch with my monsters, I want to be more in touch with the angels.”

Pisces: Since happiness is something Pisces tend to wrestle with and sometimes only try to get in touch with while playing beer pong, here are a few scientifically proven ways to become happier: Smile more often. Help others. Plan a trip. Exercise. Make more love. Make less war. Go outside. Sleep more, especially naked.

Aries: In case you’re in charge of the music during the holiday season, here are some numbers from the “Ar-ies Favorite Hits Collection, Volume 5.” From Sheryl Crow, “If it makes you happy it can’t be that bad.” From Niall Horan, “Yeah, I already know that there ain’t no way of stopping your plans and those slow hands of yours.” And from Weird all Yankovic, “And I forgot the next verse/Oh well, I guess it pays to rehearse/The lyric sheet’s so hard to find/What are the words? Oh, nevermind”

Taurus: Clouds doesn’t know where you came from. Clouds doesn’t know where you’ll go. Clouds doesn’t know you’re favorite color or your favorite thing to do on a snowy day. All Clouds knows is that the world is a better place because you’re here, especially when you embrace this idea and do so while wearing little more than a smile.

Gemini: While Clouds is not a “doc-tor,” Clouds has read a lot of Carl Jung, Eckhart Tolle and likes a couple of Dionne Warwick songs. Therefore, here’s your latest prescription: 1 half-hour-plus serving of fresh air a day. 2 doses of hugs per day (pets included). 3 shots of something funny or positive daily—fortune cookies count). 3 shots of something funny or positive daily—fortune cookies count). 3 shots of something funny or positive daily—fortune cookies count).

Cancer: Since happiness is something Pisces tend to wrestle with and sometimes only try to get in touch with while playing beer pong, here are a few scientifically proven ways to become happier: Smile more often. Help others. Plan a trip. Exercise. Make more love. Make less war. Go outside. Sleep more, especially naked.

Leo: Since advice is like earlobes—everybody’s got one—please select a line that you’d elbow your way through a crowd to recite. This way, you select your own earlobe. 1) “Being positive, even in a negative situation, isn’t being naive, it’s being a leader.” 2) Courtesy of Clouds Rules for Life. Love and/or Sex. “Donuts should be considered health food because eating them makes you happy!” 3) And from Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

Virgo: This is a great time for you to free yourself of an patterns in your life that don’t bring you happiness of fulfillment. Sometimes, the best break is a clean one, especially when bones and crappy relationships are involved. Since change can be a challenge for Virgos, be sure to take plenty of deep breaths and to mut- ter “Screw it. I can do.” Anytime your feeling an inkling of insecurity.

Libra: The Stars are reporting that your love life is about to heat up. Your key will be to stay out of your own way and not create problems for your love life is about to heat up. Your key will be to stay out of your own way and not create problems for the minor beatings and small victories in your life. We all dig scars better place because you’re here, especially when you embrace this idea and do so while wearing little more than a smile.

Pisces: Since happiness is something Pisces tend to wrestle with and sometimes only try to get in touch with while playing beer pong, here are a few scientifically proven ways to become happier: Smile more often. Help others. Plan a trip. Exercise. Make more love. Make less war. Go outside. Sleep more, especially naked.

Aries: In case you’re in charge of the music during the holiday season, here are some numbers from the “Ar-ies Favorite Hits Collection, Volume 5.” From Sheryl Crow, “If it makes you happy it can’t be that bad.” From Niall Horan, “Yeah, I already know that there ain’t no way of stopping your plans and those slow hands of yours.” And from Weird all Yankovic, “And I forgot the next verse/Oh well, I guess it pays to rehearse/The lyric sheet’s so hard to find/What are the words? Oh, nevermind”

Taurus: Clouds doesn’t know where you came from. Clouds doesn’t know where you’ll go. Clouds doesn’t know you’re favorite color or your favorite thing to do on a snowy day. All Clouds knows is that the world is a better place because you’re here, especially when you embrace this idea and do so while wearing little more than a smile.

Gemini: While Clouds is not a “doc-tor,” Clouds has read a lot of Carl Jung, Eckhart Tolle and likes a couple of Dionne Warwick songs. Therefore, here’s your latest prescription: 1 half-hour-plus serving of fresh air a day. 2 doses of hugs per day (pets included). 3 shots of something funny or positive daily—fortune cookies count). 3 shots of something funny or positive daily—fortune cookies count). 3 shots of something funny or positive daily—fortune cookies count).

Cancer: Since happiness is something Pisces tend to wrestle with and sometimes only try to get in touch with while playing beer pong, here are a few scientifically proven ways to become happier: Smile more often. Help others. Plan a trip. Exercise. Make more love. Make less war. Go outside. Sleep more, especially naked.

Leo: Since advice is like earlobes—everybody’s got one—please select a line that you’d elbow your way through a crowd to recite. This way, you select your own earlobe. 1) “Being positive, even in a negative situation, isn’t being naive, it’s being a leader.” 2) Courtesy of Clouds Rules for Life. Love and/or Sex. “Donuts should be considered health food because eating them makes you happy!” 3) And from Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

Virgo: This is a great time for you to free yourself of an patterns in your life that don’t bring you happiness of fulfillment. Sometimes, the best break is a clean one, especially when bones and crappy relationships are involved. Since change can be a challenge for Virgos, be sure to take plenty of deep breaths and to mut- ter “Screw it. I can do.” Anytime your feeling an inkling of insecurity.

Libra: The Stars are reporting that your love life is about to heat up. Your key will be to stay out of your own way and not create problems for your love life is about to heat up. Your key will be to stay out of your own way and not create problems for
PROBING THE COSMIC DAWN
A short history of the universe with Caltech graduate student Michael Eastwood
By Giles

Researchers at the Owens Valley Radio Observatory hope that their telescope will allow them to be the first in the world to observe the origins of the universe's first stars. On Thursday, November 9, Michael Eastwood gave a presentation on that research, called “A History of the Universe: 13.8 Billion Years ago Today.”

Eastwood, a graduate student at the California Institute of Technology, is studying the origins of the oldest stars in the universe from the Owens Valley using the Owens Valley Long Wavelength Array. He grew up overseas, then got his B.S. in physics at Rice University in Texas. His interest in astrophysics brought him to the Owens Valley, where he is conducting research for his doctoral thesis, which he plans to finish next year.

Five years ago, he and other graduate students assisted with the construction of the array, which is comprised of 256 antennae spanning a distance of 450 football fields in the Owens Valley. The array was constructed by a consortium of astronomers from Caltech, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Harvard University, The University of New Mexico, Virginia Tech, and the Naval Research Laboratory. The array is especially good at detecting faint radiation emitted by bodies in our own galaxy.

Eastwood’s research is predicated upon the fact that the universe is constantly expanding. As such, light appears to stretch as it moves from the furthest corners of the observable universe towards earth. Light takes time to travel across space—it doesn’t just happen instantaneously. Since what we see is dependent upon objects in the sky emitting light (and in Eastwood’s case, radio waves), we see distant objects as they were in the past, and when astronomers study distant galaxies, they are studying them as they were in the past. It is therefore possible, if you can see far enough away, to observe the earliest moments in the universe’s history.

Where powerful optical telescopes such as the Hubble telescope capture images of the universe using optical light, radio telescopes capture images using radio waves. According to Eastwood, certain wavelengths of light are better than others for observing different parts of the universe. Different objects emit different types of radiation. Long wavelength arrays detect radiation that has a lower frequency and is therefore especially useful for detecting objects that are so far away that the radiation they emit appears stretched due to the constant expansion of the universe.

Eastwood’s goal is to observe the first stars ignited. These bubbles release long wavelength radiation that tends to be “choppy,” in part because they tend to emit lots of hydrogen. Stars formed later in the universe's history tend to generate gas clouds comprised of heavier metals, which tend to emit radiation with different characteristics. According to Eastwood, much of the long-wave-length radiation produced within our own galaxy is relatively “smooth” in frequency. It’s Eastwood’s goal to find a way of reliably distinguishing between the choppy signals emitted when the first stars turned on and the smooth signals emitted by closer galaxies and objects.

There is a lot of distracting radiation out there. Every galaxy has a supermassive black hole at its center that tosses radiation around. Nebulae create radiation, as does the plane of the Milky Way Galaxy, and the planes of other galaxies, where particles get trapped and move at close to the speed of light. Eastwood said that the bright nature of this plane is a huge source of distraction for the telescope.

Eastwood said that the Long Wavelength Arrays have facilitated the discovery of 3,000 new exoplanets in the last few years. Radio telescopes can tell observers whether or not a planet has a magnetic field, which is a strong indicator of whether or not it has an atmosphere. Radio telescopes have the potential to inform astronomers about the potential for life on other planets.

Eastwood said that no one has been able to separate the choppy signals emitted by the first stars from the foreground emissions produced by closer galaxies so far, but that researchers are close. He’s hoping that the ongoing efforts at the Owens Valley Radio Observatory will lead to new information about how the first stars formed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL EASTWOOD

Michael Eastwood (right) and colleague Marin Anderson (left) out on a day of work at the Owens Valley Long Wavelength Array.

©️ 2017 The Sheet Newspapers. All Rights Reserved. No portion may be reproduced without permission.
A NEW HOME FOR FAMILY FUN

CreekHouse
AT SNOWCREEK RESORT

NEW RELEASE OF LUXURY MOUNTAIN RETREATS NOW SELLING!

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

3-4 BEDROOMS UP TO 2,742 SQ. FT. • SALES 877-766-9275 • LIVECREEKHOUSE.COM

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

Another Luxury Development by The Chadmar Group

SNOWCREEK RESORT