YEAR IN REVIEW
**MAMMOTH AIR OR...**

By Lunch

I’ve been around here long enough, you know that every new idea eventually circles back around.

Particularly when folks are feeling flush.

Makes me think the term “snow-blindness” should have a second definition.

Back in 2002, which, given the pace of life these days, pretty much sounds like the 19th century, then-Mammoth Mountain Ski Area CEO Rusty Gregory proposed flying 757s from Dallas and Chicago into Mammoth Yosemite Airport. The environmental impact reports contemplated that the airport would serve more than 300,000 passengers annually.

Commercial air service was finally restored in 2009-2010. We’ll be lucky to achieve 300,000 total enplanements by 2022-2023 given the current usage.

Mammoth-Yosemite has always been dogged by its limitations (only one runway, which is too short, an inadequate terminal, inadequate foot traffic which make it too small to accommodate bigger jets, poor weather, etc.) and its lousy marketing.

From the July 15 editorial:

Commercial air service into Mammoth peaked in 2013 with 30,858 enplanements. By 2016, that number had fallen to 22,253, a 28 percent drop. The numbers YTD for 2017 are off another 13 percent. June 2017, at 834 enplanements, was 16 percent off 2016.

Meanwhile, Fresno’s summer air traffic (June through September) totaled 253,430 enplanements in 2015 and then jumped to 284,967 in 2016 during the same time period, a 12.4 percent increase.

Some of that may have been due to Fresno aggressively adding seats. In 2015, it had 275,027 available commercial seats during those four months. It is sized to offer 44,486 more seats, for a total of 319,513 seats.

The bulk of those additional seats were offered June through August. In 2015, it had load factors of 98.3 percent in June and 99.2 percent in July.

In 2016, it added 6,910 passengers in July, but offered 18,814 more seats. Sure, the load factor went down to 85.6 percent, but using MLT math, each of those customers was worth at least $1,000, so they brought in $7 million worth of incremental revenue.

Question: How is Fresno, California eating our summer airline snack box?

A key factor, it would appear, is that no one knows there is air service to Mammoth Lakes.

The top Google search result for “Yosemite National Park: Which airport might work best?” turns up a TripAdvisor article which touts Fresno as the top choice, followed by Merced, Reno, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas. Doesn’t mention Mammoth, even though Mammoth-Yosemite Airport is equidistant from Yosemite Valley to Fresno-Yosemite Airport (estimated 2.5 hours by car).

Another TripAdvisor forum titled “Best Airport for Yosemite” similarly does not mention Mammoth. I kept looking at various sites. I kept coming up empty.

Seems like we need to do a better job of getting the word out that we exist, and that it’s ten times more enjoyable to approach Yosemite Valley from the east versus the west. Heck, we might even convince them the Valley is overrated and it’s more fun (and sane) to stick around here.

Seems as if the goal over the past several years is to have a commercial airport for the sake of being able to say we have one (ironically, for marketing reasons), while doing our best to limit the losses.

So it was an interesting turn in 2017 to see Inyo and Mono Counties join together in a working group to discuss the idea of a regional air service solution.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi was quoted in The Sheet’s October 21 issue as saying that “Mead and Hunt [the consulting firm that MLT recently hired to look at regional air service solutions], is absolutely factoring Bishop Airport into its 5-to-10 year strategic plan.”

That plan was unveiled earlier this month. The initial report focused on Mammoth-Yosemite opportunities and didn’t factor Bishop in much at all, making Mono County Supervisor Bob Gardner furious.

“I thought there was going to be more of a focus on what makes most sense in terms of reliable regional air service. The Eastern Sierra is a region, dammit,” said Gardner.

What’s interesting is that Mammoth Mountain really used to care about Mammoth versus Bishop as a primary airport, just because the proximity to town was such a selling point.

Reliability, however, seems to be more of a selling point. As MMSA’s Eric Clark said in October, “Our interest is to make it easier for them [customers] to get here.”

If that’s the interest, then a few fieldwork are going to have to be torn down over the next few years. 1.) Someone needs to tell Mammoth Public Works Director Grady Dutton that a $35 million airport terminal expansion at Mammoth Yosemite Airport makes no sense given the current air traffic numbers. 2.) While it’s certainly a challenge to market an airport with as much unreliability and as many weather cancellations as Mammoth, resisting Bishop as a winter alternative is folly. Likewise, the stagnancy in our summer air business represents a gigantic missed opportunity.
Mammoth Lakes Film Festival vs. Mammoth Film Festival: A retrospective

By Rea

On Wednesday, December 27, The Hon. Judge Mark Magit ordered an injunction against Silver Sail Entertainment, LLC, to be instituted on March 1, 2018, two weeks after the inaugural Mammoth Film Festival. Mammoth Lakes Film Festival director Shira Dubrovner told The Sheet that she would prefer the injunction be issued immediately, but that this was the second-best outcome she could ask for.

This spring, a group that is not affiliated with Mammoth Lakes Film Festival announced it will be hosting the first annual “Mammoth Film Festival.” The announcement generated some confusion around town. The inaugural event for the Mammoth Film Festival was instantly recognizable, like “Sundance” and “TriBeCa” are. However, he said that the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival had “earned something that deserves some level of protection,” particularly because the festival had recently been featured in Movie Maker Magazine’s “Top 50 Film Festivals Worth Your Entry Fee.”

Magit said he felt it would be most fair to “allow them to proceed with this first film festival in February, which is six weeks away…then have the injunction go into effect so this issue could be resolved… at a later date.” Magit set a trial date for April in order to resolve the issue before the MLFF, which happens during Memorial Day Weekend, got too far into its film submission deadlines. Magit said he did not see malice in the MFF’s adoption of their name, though Bornfeld disagreed. Bornfeld called their use of the name “predatory.”

Magit said that he currently had no evidence that the MFF organizers had acted in bad faith, and that Tanner Beard gave a sworn statement that he had planned on bringing a film festival to Mammoth Lakes as far back as 2011, before the MLFF existed. Beard said in his statement that he waited until the name “Mammoth Film Festival” was abandoned by its previous owner, before obtaining it.

The attorney for Silver Sail, Matthew Brining, who joined in the hearing via telephone, said that the MFF was going to be bringing in a different client than the MLFF. He also said that Sophie Turner’s film “Josie” will be the opening night gala film. Turner is an actress on the hit HBO series “Game of Thrones. The MFF’s Facebook page lists “Dylan MacDermott” as one of the stars of that film, but his name is misspelled in the festival’s post (the actor’s last name is spelled “McDermott”).

“The court’s greatest concern is a lack of evidence on both sides,” said Magit on Wednesday, stating that there was not enough documentation provided by either festival to demonstrate that the similarity in names would lead to the public, filmmakers or festival-goers being confused.
Mammoth Resorts, comprised of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, June Mountain Ski Area, Bear Mountain and Snow Summit, entered into a "definitive and binding agreement to sell," according to then-Mammoth Resorts Chairman and CEO Rusty Gregory.

The buyer: A partnership consisting of Aspen Skiing and KSL Capital Partners. The deal closed on July 31.

The move accelerates the consolidation within the industry and positions Aspen-KSL to challenge Vail Resorts for industry leadership. Vail's holdings include Vail, Whistler, Breckenridge and Heavenly among its 14 resorts. In California, Vail also owns Northstar-at-Tahoe and Kirkwood.

While Gregory said the deal is a private transaction and would not reveal the price tag is "approaching $800 million." Earlier that week, Aspen Skiing said the price tag is "significantly above the assessed value and appraised value of the property."

Mammoth Lakes Mayor John Wentworth announced at a regular Council meeting on Wednesday, November 1 that the Town had reached a tentative agreement to buy the 25-acre Shady Rest Parcel for $6.5 million.

According to the Town's press release, "Acquisition of the property represents the most significant action currently available to the Town to secure land as part of a series of solutions to address the community housing shortage." The property is currently zoned to accommodate 172 workforce housing units.

Mayor Dan Holler said the Town has enough cash-on-hand to do the deal without touching its REU (Reserve for Economic Uncertainty).

According to Holler, the property owner, an entity called All-California Funding, consisting of numerous small investors, says it was into the property for $12 million and is selling at a "significant financial loss."

However, the purchase price is significantly above the assessed value and appraised value of the property.

Mono County Assessor Barry Beck said the property is currently assessed at $2 million.

Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) had the property independently appraised back in December, 2015. That appraisal came back at $1.6 million.

"That property has almost negative value," because of the zoning (affordable housing overlay), said Mammoth's first Housing Director, Andrea (Clark) Rooste. But as Mayor John Wentworth explained, the Town's desire to acquire the parcel means it was willing to pay a bit of a premium. "Without housing, we cannot be the community we want to be."

They Said It:

“In Mammoth, it’s about getting open…We never consider saying ‘no’ until we’ve exhausted every way of trying to say ‘yes.’”

- New Mammoth President/COO Mark Brownlie

TOWN TO PURCHASE SHADY REST PARCEL

By Lunch

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/Jerky Boys Hit the slopes

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) is not admitting it did anything wrong, but it's agreed to shell out $3,750,000 (Reserve for Economic Uncertainty). According to documents from the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, it was determined that MMSA violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 by making pre-recorded or artificial voice telephone calls to consumer landlines and cell phones without proper consent.

Cohen added that the individuals that were called were MMSA customers and pass holders, not numbers randomly picked out of a phonebook, but did not give specifics of how those people were called. MMSA admits to no malice.

Several people have contacted MMSA after receiving the postcards asking if this was a phishing scam, according to Cohen. Even more people have called to complain about the settlement and say that they disapprove of large corporations being sued.

Cohen said he's urging people to file the claim regardless of their views because the settlement has already been paid by MMSA. What money doesn't get claimed will go toward an as yet undetermined charity.

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Story claims that on April 15, 2014, he received an unsolicited phone call on his cellular device from MMSA, 1-800-MAMMOTH, advertising deals on season passes. He received another on April 23.

The total settlement, minus attorney fees and other costs, is about $2,857,500.

Cohen said it was in the best interest of MMSA to settle the case.

Legal counsel for MMSA, Kirkland and Ellis, LLP of Chicago did not return calls for comment.
The Year in Snow

On Tuesday, January 24, Mammoth Mountain reported that it had received 246 inches (over 20 feet) of snow in January alone. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area received a total of 616 inches of snow over the 2016–17 season, necessitating the National Guard trucking snow out of Mammoth. The Town’s snow-removal vehicles burned through 40,000 gallons of diesel fuel in January (beating the previous record of 25,000 gallons), and 17 out of 31 flights out of Mammoth-Yosemite Airport were cancelled. In other news...

Winter wonder wedding: Michelle and Matthew Jimenez tied the knot in the midst of a snowstorm at The Eatery and Mammoth Brewing Company on January 8. “We actually had people telling us we should choose a different location, because there might not be any snow,” said Matthew. “I planned an entire wedding (at Convict Lake) we didn’t end up having,” said Michelle, who ended up tying the knot in the Brewers’ hall while the storm raged outside. “It worked out better than we could have imagined.”

/from The Sheet January 14/

Januburied...literally: An avalanche hit a home in Long Valley on January 22, putting residents Dan Cornign, Heidi Vetter, and Tina and Russel Villa (with their infant daughter Isabel) out temporarily. Over 60 residents showed up at their home to help shovel out their cars and house on January 28. From the Sheet January 28/

Slip sliding away: Windows broke and roofs collapsed around Town. Suzanne Nortometimes, who lives in the Ski Trails in Old Mammoth said, “the pressure on our windows…it’s like I’m being squeezed like a zit.” Traci Burgard, who lives in an apartment complex on Lupin Street, woke to her 9-year-old son screaming in the wee hours of Monday, January 23 after his bedroom window broke, spilling snow into his room and covering his bed in shattered glass. She told The Sheet that the photos she took of her son’s bedroom ended up on Good Morning America.

An apartment complex housing five families and two businesses saw its roof collapse on February 8. Fire Marshal Thom Heller told The Sheet that a complex at 40 Mountain Boulevard had also been “red tagged” and evacuated on February 4. All eight units in that building were evacuated, Heller said.

/from The Sheet January 28-Feb. 11/

Snow wars crush infrastructure: A propane fire prompted service to be cut off to 167 customers in Old Mammoth for several days beginning on January 27. From the Sheet February 4/

Disaster declared: On January 31, Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun acted in her capacity as Director of Emergency Services to issue a Disaster Proclamation for Mono County. The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) followed suit, ratifying its own proclamation on February 1. From the Sheet February 4-Feb. 11/

National Guard Rescue: After both the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County declared a state of emergency in January, “Mono County leaders reached out and requested the National Guard’s help,” said Captain Will Martin, Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the California Military Department, in an email to The Sheet. “The crews arrived at Mammoth Lakes on March 1 and went to work the next morning around 7 a.m.,” said Martin. They convoyed a total of 10 heavy trucks to Mammoth Lakes, including several Army M1157 10-ton dump trucks, and one HEMMT wrecker. “The Calif Guard also deployed several of its Air Force dump trucks and tractor trailers to support the effort,” wrote Martin. They wrapped up their mission and headed back to their bases on Sunday, March 5.

/from The Sheet February 11/

Saved by the plow: Marcus Mazzaferri’s Pacific Crest Trail adventure almost came to a tragic end on June 2, when, attempting to ford Return Creek 15 miles north of Tuolumne Meadows, he was swept off his feet and into the gushing stream. After losing his backpack to the current, he was left with nothing but his clothes and his running watch. Somehow, he managed to retrace his steps and find rescue by the National Park Service crews plowing the Tioga Pass Road. “Every day is a good day right now,” he said in a phone interview from Portland, Oregon, where he is recuperating from his experience. “I’m crazy lucky for sure.”

/from The Sheet June 10/

see IN SNOW, page 15
The Year in Debt Accumulation

As Lunch wrote in February, great walls of snow can do strange tricks to the mind. Stephen King’s “The Shining” is the great literary and cinematic testament to that. While the snow and isolation turned Jack Nicholson crazy and murderous in the film, the abundant snow has a different effect on local politicians and government officials. It may not make them murderous, but it sure as hell makes them crazy — crazy to spend money. How quickly we forget the drought and the lean times and the cutbacks when there is snow underfoot and gathering clouds overhead.

In 2017, the Town of Mammoth, Mammoth Unified School District, and Mono County all contemplated large-scale capital projects.

MUSD bids for a bond
Mammoth Unified School District plans to seek voter approval of up to $63.1 million in bond sales to finance facilities improvements to its elementary, middle, and high schools. The measure will be placed on the ballot for the next statewide election on June 5, 2018, and would have to earn the approval of at least 55 percent of the district’s voting residents.

Taxpayers are still paying off a $14.1 million bond series approved by voters in 1998 for district-wide facility improvements and the construction of the Mammoth Middle School building. That bond won’t be paid off until 2026.

In 2008, MUSD placed a $65 million bond series to fund construction of a new High School on the ballot, which failed.

On Monday, May 9, Bien gave The Sheet a tour of MUSD properties. Paint was peeling, floors were carpeted with discontinuous, donated carpeting, shingles were falling off of the roofs, and many windows were single-pane. Bien said proposed improvements include improved energy efficiency, replacing roofs, and renovating indoor spaces. She said the boiler system desperately needs repair. MUSD’s projected annual budget for 2016-2017 is $13,282,654.

The Taj Mahal McFlix
Tuesday, May 16 marked the day when County Supervisors finally called the bluff of the Sierra Center Mall ownership. Supervisors believed the Sierra Center’s monetary terms for a lease and/or purchase were unfavorable, and its performance as a landlord untenable.

For District 3 Supervisor Bob Yoder, it was all about the window. As Gardner explained, there was a window in the County Administrative Officer’s (CAO) conference room that has been broken. He saw it as a symbol of the mall’s commitment (or lack of commitment) to taking care of maintenance issues. So he waited. And waited. Six months he waited. The window, he said, was ironically fixed on Monday, the day before the meeting — too little, too late, as far as Gardner was concerned.

MUF estimate: on the Dutton
Town Staff had contingencies pulled from HMC’s cost estimates

By Giles

I

uring a meeting on November 23, 2016, Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Public Works Director Grady Dutton and Parks and Recreation Director Stuart Brown told HMC Architects to remove “the project contingency” budget item from the cost estimate the firm compiled for the Multi-Use Facility (MUF) at Mammoth Creek Park West. According to meeting notes obtained by The Sheet in a public records request, HMC’s principals Chris Taylor and Kyle Peterson replied that, “in our professional experience, a 10 percent contingency is customary at this point in a project estimate.” At that time, HMC Architects estimated the MUF was, at minimum, $1.1 million project.

On May 17, 2017, Mammoth’s Town Council voted to authorize funding for the project. Staff indicated that “value engineering” had reduced the cost of the project to $9.5 million. On September 4, 2017, Dutton announced at a Recreation Commission meeting that the Multi-Use Facility at Mammoth Creek Park West would cost, at minimum, $1 million more than the $9.5 million originally forecast by HMC Architects.

On September 4, Dutton also reported that HMC Architects had told Town staff the facility’s roof was slated to be $1 million more than originally forecast, and that the project could cost as much as $12 million. On October 4, Town Council authorized the issuance of $5.5 million in bond debt for the MUF.

Bait-and-switch?
At a September 4 meeting, Recreation Commissioner Sean Turner said, “I feel bait and switched,” to which Dutton responded, “They’re [HMC Architects] truly sorry. They made a mistake. It wasn’t intentional.” In the original cost estimate, HMC Architects presented to Dutton and Brown on November 14, 2016, there was a 13 percent contingency. It appears that contingency did not make it into the final cost estimate provided by HMC Architects to Town staff not because HMC Architects forgot to include it, but because Town staff requested it be omitted.

When asked if he was involved in the decision to remove the contingencies from the cost estimate, Town Manager Dan Holler said, “I was not involved in any of these detailed discussions.”

They Said It:
“I’m just covering my vagina with leaves and hoping no one falls in.”
- Marina Gershon, on possible repeal of The Affordable Care Act

“i am a businessman... everything except my wife and my dogs is for sale.”
-Paul Rudder

I’m not crazy about [pursuing] new construction. But all things are not equal.”

“You’re asking us to go into partnership with you … but have given us no reason to feel good about that,” said Supervisor John Peters.

County employees picked up on that and accused them (apparently, they must have all been taking sick days, or leave time). And they lapped up every word of criticism of mall management. The stories about inoperable fire alarms, noxious fumes and leaking roofs.

At one point, Assistant CAO Tony Dahan met with County employees “deserved” to hear the soothing sounds of dripping water at work.

Ralph Lockhart said, “If they want to own their own facility, buying an existing building is so much more cost effective than building a new structure … it is unfortunate that emotions have played such a big role in County decision-making.”
The year in narcotics

Six people over two weeks in July. That’s how many people walked into the offices at Mono County Behavioral Health seeking help with opioid addiction.

Thirteen people over the past four years.

That’s how many people have died from drug-related overdoses since 2013, according to Mono County’s Director of Behavioral Health Robin Roberts.

Nineteen. That’s the number of children in 2015-2016 who had parents seeking treatment at Mono County Behavioral Health for methamphetamine and heroin addiction.

And yet, Mono County now holds the dubious distinction of being the only County in California which does not have a Narcotics Enforcement team.

As Roberts said, “Who’s going to have to die for people to start paying attention?”—implying that it will take the death of someone well-known locally for the spike in substance abuse issues to truly register.

Mono County District Attorney Tim Kendall addressed a joint meeting of Mammoth Lakes Town Council and Mono County Supervisors on Tuesday, July 18 to talk about the demise of MONET (Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team).

He said that prior to 2011, MONET was funded in equal measure by the Town, County, Mono County Probation and the Mono County DAs office.

However, the year in narcotics is far from over as Kendall recounted the story of an anonymous caller to the police department who had been watching a house.

When officers arrived, they found three people dead.

That left just one person in the DA’s office holding the whole thing together.

Kendall said that he can no longer have just one person doing the job without help. “The cases are too big and too dangerous [to handle] without backup.”

Despite having just one member, Kendall said there were 132 cases opened last year. This compares with 339 cases in 2011, pre-Town defection.

However, of those 132 cases, 44 percent involved additional crimes, including four shootings.

Kendall said that historically, only 15 percent of cases involve multiple crimes, so the trend is troubling.

Seventy-three percent of last year’s cases originated in Mammoth Lakes.

Police Chief Al Davis said that it would cost $180,000 for the Town to get back in the game and dedicate one officer to MONET.

According to Kendall, Sheriff Ingrid Braun said the County would participate if the Town participates.

As Kendall noted, the Town whittled its officer level from 17 to 11 in the wake of its near-bankruptcy in 2011.

A Plague of Pills?

For the past seven years, that staffing level has remained static, meaning, to quote the great philosopher Bon Jovi, we’ve been “living on a prayer” ever since.

Councilman Bill Sauser claims the Town does not have the resources to fund the position.

Which is an absolute lie. The Town has the resources—just not the political will. And that’s on Sauser, Wentworth, Richardson, Fernie and Hoff.

And it will be on them every day until they get something done.

Of course, this hasn’t seemed to perturb their thinking when it comes to building baubles which will have plaques in the entryway with their names on them.

They Said It:

“I’m struggling to tell people why I can’t bust the guy who is selling drugs to their kids.”

- Mono County D.A. Tim Kendall

According to the same database, there were 5,987 prescriptions written for opioids in Mono County in 2016, which, according to the 2015 census, has a population of 13,909 people.

The CDC also reported that higher rates of prescribed opioids were associated with small towns that serve as regional gathering places for larger rural communities. The CDC called these regional commercial centers “Micropolitan Areas.” Generally speaking, California lagged behind the Midwest, Southeast, and New England when it came to the quantity of opioids prescribed per capita in 2015. However, Central and Southern Nevada and Northern California had some of the highest prescription rates per capita of any region in the country.

Currently, there is no Methadone Treatment Center in the Eastern Sierra, where patients can receive chemical treatment for withdrawal symptoms resulting from their dependence upon opioids. The closest such facility is in Lancaster.
Every Year in Review issue, The Sheet “celebrates,” or rather “roasts,” the dubious accomplishments of a person or persons who bungle their way into small-town notoriety. One thing we do know about the Eastern Sierra: It is a magnet for embezzlers and social media whizzes.

THE CHURCH OF BUSTED
Local detained, charged with embezzlement and theft
By Giles

On April 3, Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) arrested 27-year-old Mammoth Lakes resident Christopher “Christo” Ryan Patrick. Patrick was charged with 2 misdemeanor counts of embezzlement and entering a non-commercial dwelling. He was also charged with 3 felonies: burglary, receiving known stolen property, and theft from an elder. As of press time, he was being held at the Bridgeport Jail for $20,000 bail.

According to Hannah DeGoey, Executive Assistant to MLPD Chief Al Davis, the arrest was made after MLPD received an anonymous tip that several individuals were living in a home on Snowridge Lane in Mammoth Lakes without the property owner’s permission. The property owner told police that he had not authorized anyone to be in the home. It was determined that Patrick had moved into the residence and had been unlawfully occupying it for 10 months. He was also unlawfully renting rooms to several other tenants.

Patrick is the founder of “The Church of Fun,” a self-described religion. A post on the organization’s website from September 2016 describes The Church of Fun as, “[a religion] of peace, of love, and of fun. It is one of little rule or structure … It gains its power through community, a sense of family and a knowledge of shared humanity.” He also worked as Woolly, performing for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area as The Mountain’s mascot. DeGoey confirmed that one of the other tenants was a “back-up Woolly.” It was a veritable Woolly cabal.

On the same website, Patrick described his efforts to find a revenue source for The Church of Fun. The organization is not listed on the Internal Revenue Service’s list of organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable donations. On May 19, 2016, Patrick shared a link to a PayPal site linked to The Church of Fun with the caption, “A tax deductible religious donation.”

DeGoey confirmed this week that the property owner and victim of the crimes is over the age of 65. “Subletting is a civil issue; what’s criminal here is the trespassing onto the property, embezzling money from roommates while illegally residing in the home, removing and/or destroying the victim’s property from the residence, and entering the structure with the intent to commit a crime,” said DeGoey.

In an interview this week, Patrick said, “I saw the housing crisis this winter, and all of the storms, and that’s the reason they [the other occupants] were staying there. If they hadn’t needed a place to stay, I wouldn’t have had anyone there.” Patrick said that he started The Church of Fun out of good will and that he doesn’t think his arrest will end The Church of Fun. “If I have to do the paperwork and start a new church, I’ll call it ‘The Church of Turn the Other Cheek.’” Patrick also said he completed several service projects over the last year while acting as The Church of Fun. He collected burritos from local restaurants and distributed them to people living on public land behind Shady Rest Park and off of Benton Crossing Road. “This was a really dumb mistake. This started with good will,” said Patrick.

(from The Sheet April 15/
see DARWIN, page 9)
#Busted in #Bridgeport: The Mono County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) got an easy break on a vandalism investigation when Bridgeport resident Lorena Holdaway, 21, posted a photo on the social media photo sharing site Instagram of the Bridgeport ballfield bathrooms covered in graffiti. “Went out last night to give my baby painting lessons,” wrote Holdaway, coupled with a picture of the bathrooms and the hashtags #lastnight #graffiti #Bridgeport #N8TVE and #DIGIT, among others.

Mono County employees discovered the graffiti on August 23. “MCSO became aware of a social media post, including a photo, claiming responsibility for the graffiti,” read a press release from Sheriff Ingrid Braun. Holdaway was booked into the Mono County Jail on one count of Felony Vandalism and an unrelated Felony Warrant issued out of Ventura County, according to the MCSO’s press release. As of press time on August 24, she was being held on $50,000 bail.

/From The Sheet August 26/

Thrift store thief: Bishop Police officers apprehended 21-year-old Dan John Andreas III inside the Inyo Mono Association for the Handicapped (IMAH) Thrift Store late in the evening on November 22, the day before Thanksgiving. Jenny Park, IMAH Program Director, said the man was caught with clothes and merchandise. Park said that in the past, people have broken in to start fires or defecate on the floor. Burglars made off with knock-knacks in September. Park said that if someone came in during business hours needing a jacket they couldn’t afford but needed, she’d probably give it to them. IMAH supports adults with developmental disabilities and receives monetary donations from the community, but Park said it’s the thrift store that keeps the program running.

/From The Sheet August 19/

Disheveled and dangerous: Zachary Brummett of Bakersfield took cops on a 115-mph high-speed chase up the Sherwin Grade on June 3, and was apprehended June 5. During the chase, Brummett turned off of the highway, traveling west on a Forest Service road, and quickly lost control of his vehicle, which went airborne. A bare-foot, fruitless man-hunt ensued. California Highway Patrol received a call the next morning from two female hikers who reported seeing a distraught young, white male without shirt or shoes that, “had a disheveled look.” Brummett was subsequently arrested about 3.5 miles from the bottom of the Lower Rock Creek Trail. Due to Brummett’s dehydration and multiple wounds to his feet, he was airlifted to a waiting deputy and transported to Northern Inyo Hospital upon his arrest.

/From The Sheet June 10/
The Eastern Sierra lost some good ones this year—people who made this place better with their presence. What follows is a synopsis of those who lived and left their mark on the Eastside, and who will be remembered beyond 2017.

Mike Coffey (b. 1952): Mammoth Lakes local Mike Coffey died in October. He was born in Boston and moved to Mammoth in 1987 to run the Sandy’s Ski and Sport shop here (what is now the P3 Sports location). He owned the Booky Joint from 2000-2006.

What brought him the most joy in his life was his daughter, Eryn Coffey Caler, who told him he was going to be a grandfather just before he died. As Eryn said simply, “he was my person.”

Jim Pettigrew (b. 1951): Jim Pettigrew passed away in October. The owner of Jim Pettigrew Construction, Jim was a ski instructor at Mammoth Mountain.

In his youth, Jim put up first ascents on El Capitan. Climber Werner Braun recalled that in the winter of 1968, Jim was living in a cave behind Camp 4 and subsisting on birds. His feats earned him nicknames like “Little Caesar” “PettyBrew,” and “Tasmanian Devil.”

“My dad never said no to any of my dreams no matter how crazy they were. He was mine and my sister’s number one fan and was my mom’s rock,” his daughter Angela said.

Ron Tinsley (b. 1945): Ronald Keith Tinsley died on September 20. Ron was a Mammoth Mountain ski patroler for 14 years.

The poem that is framed on the wall of the tack room in his barn said this: “Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a well-preserved body—but rather to skid in sideways, beer in one hand, steak in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming ‘Woo hoo! What a ride!’”

Kendal Michelle Johnson (b. 1968): The girl floated down a mountain,” said her older sister, Dawn Sheriffs-Heslip. “She didn’t ski, she floated.” Dawn recalled with laughter the times that Kendal would coax her into skiing down Scotty’s or Dave’s Run at Mammoth Mountain.

Kendal loved teaching children on the mountain during the two years she spent as a ski instructor. Dawn also said that Kendal, who, prior to her death, worked at the Dolt Center in Mammoth, had a talent with animals. “If it had a heartbeat, she could train it.”

Lori Ann Isel (b. 1962): Lori died after a two-year battle with cancer. Lori was born in Newport Beach, the daughter of Michael and Andrea Hiser. When asked about their friendship, high school friend DeeDee Atwood said this: “Heaven for me would be being with my beloved, eating ice cream, and rescuing people from Hell,” wrote Nordlinger in his April 2017 memoir.

Kendal Michelle Johnson.


Gary Williamson (b. 1938): Best known for his decades as the manager at The Toggery in Bishop, Gary Williamson passed away on June 16 at Northern Inyo Hospital. He was 79. He had a passion for gardening and flowers and would do yardwork for elderly neighbors physically unable to get down in the dirt.

His daughter, Janet Fant, said helping other people was always a part of his DNA. At The Toggery, he would wrap presents his elderly customers purchased and even delivered them.
Margaret Phelps (b. 1937): Margaret Phelps, tireless volunteer, mother and wife, passed away on July 30. She was 80. “She touched many hearts and volunteered in countless ways in the community, and left some very big shoes to fill,” said Pastor Erin McPhee of the First United Methodist Church in Bishop. One of Margaret’s dearest friends, Nela Dunaway, said, “She was creative, smart and kind and did many great things.”

Michael Levine (b. 1939): Michael Levine, the curmudgeon of Swall Meadows with the heart of gold, passed away this summer. Levine was a longtime employee of the United States Forest Service. Michael, who was born in Brooklyn, never lost the accent. Friend Darrell Menning observed, “He was a bit of a curmudgeon…. He wasn’t happy unless you was kvetching. He wasn’t a religious man, but that doesn’t mean you could take the bagel and lox out of him.”

Matt Ciancio (b. 1975): Matthew Ciancio, 42, died in a parachuting accident in Mammoth Lakes, California. Born in Connecticut, Ciancio moved to Mammoth Lakes to ski, and was soon introduced to rock climbing, which became an obsession for him. He worked as an X-Ray Technician at Northern Inyo Hospital. Friend Jason Lakey said, “You could count on him for more than just being a reliable climbing partner. If you had a life problem or a girlfriend problem, he was there for you. He was a true friend.”

Debbie Frievalt (b. 1964): As Debbie’s husband, Mammoth Lakes Fire Chief Frank Frievalt, said in admiration of his wife’s toughness, “I’m not man enough to be a woman like that.”

The couple met while Debbie was working as a wildland firefighter for the Kernville Heli-tac crew and Frank was serving on a BLM Engine. When he finally screwed up the courage to ask her out, he was so intimidated, he forgot to set a time and place. He even forgot to tell her his name. “I had to go find her car later and put a note on her windshield telling her who I was.”

Eileen Peterson (b. 1938): Peterson was that quiet person who inspired and helped light the way for those around her. She started a Girls’ Athletic Association in high school because females weren’t allowed to play organized sports at the time. She moved to Bishop in 1977, taking a job at Northern Inyo Hospital where she worked as a medical technician in the lab until 2006. One of Eileen’s proudest accomplishments was the co-founding of Wild Iris, which was the only crisis-counseling resource in the Eastern Sierra at the time. On her kitchen counter was a non-descr ipt red phone to take crisis calls. Some referred to it as the “Bat Phone” or “the nuclear football.”

Carl Lind (b. 1942): Carl was co-owner of the Bishop Veterinary Hospital, one of the founding fathers of Mule Days, a Bishop High School Trustee for decades and a mentor to countless students and greenhorn veterinarians. Mule Days co-founder and pacer, Bob Tanner asked Carl to “help out” in 1974 when the fledgling event still had wet hooves. “The next thing I know, I’m the Board chairman.” Carl could always be found on fall Friday at his regular seat at the Bishop Bronco football games, long after his own children were grown.

Erin Willingham (b. 1971): Erin “Will” Willingham, a resident of June Lake and 20-year veteran of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Road Department, died with his boots on February 17, on the job. Willi was born in
The more The Sheet covers Inyo County, the more we discover it's just as dysfunctional as everyplace else.

The top story from Inyo County this year appeared to be the saga of the Toiyabe Indian Health Project (TIHP) clinic.

Toiyabe Turmoil: On Tuesday, September 26, the Toiyabe Indian Health Project Board of Directors, following a special meeting, voted 7-6 to fire its long-time "at-will" employee, CEO David Lent, just a little over two weeks after having reinstated him. Lent had refused to resign, saying he had done nothing wrong, and that they would have to fire him. Lent is credited with putting together a management team that was largely responsible, according to a source at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), for the successful effort to build the new, recently-opened $17.5 million primary care clinic located on the Bishop Paiute Tribe Reservation.

However, it appears his refusal to fire his three administrators, whom he had reinstated on his return after a "special board meeting" on September 8, ultimately cost him his job.

Lent’s steadfast position was that the charges leveled against he and the suspended administrators by now-former Human Resource Assistant Geraldine Weaver were disproved, and they should be reinstated and paid for the two months they missed while on suspension. That three of the administrators were white and not Native American also played a significant role in some of the accusations leveled at the administrators, with allegations that the American Indian Hiring Preference Policy was not being followed.

The new 55,000-square foot clinic offers medical, dental, optometry, pharmacy, behavioral health, public health and preventive medicine services. It was made possible through a $14 million low-interest loan from the USDA. That loan may be in jeopardy, as several professional staff and providers have resigned, and others are signaling that they would leave over the toxic, hostile work environment created because of the firing of the CEO and the treatment of the other three administrators suspended along with Lent on July 14.

The ongoing story lent (pun intended) itself to a bounty of clever headlines, including:

What A Tangled Web We Weaver Toiy'all Be Crazy House of Toiyabe

And my personal favorite from the September 16 issue, "Lent Reinstated—But Will He Last 40 Days?"

Then there was the surprising revelation that Inyo County Supervisor Mark Tillemans wanted to get into the marijuana business.

He didn't exactly advertise this interest when he was running for election in 2016.

From the October 14 editorial, entitled “THC for the Tillemans” in honor of Cat Stevens:

THC for the Tillemans: Inyo County Supervisor Mark Tillemans told The Sheet that he will step to the podium at the Inyo County Supervisors meeting scheduled for October
Isn’t my passion to run my business more important than how the Town might be laid out? Leave [Main Street] the %*#$ alone.
-Steve Klassen on proposed Main Street plans

They Said It:

17 and address the Board and the County about his possible entry into the commercial cannabis business. Tillemans said that neither County Counsel nor his own attorney believe that his having a vote on cannabis regulation while he also considers going into the weed business himself presents a conflict of interest.

“There is a perceived conflict,” he said. And because of that, he said he will recuse himself from voting on cannabis-related items going forward.

According to the California Secretary of State, Tillemans formed a Limited Liability Company on September 19 called INYOSOL, LLC.

Under type of business, he described it as “cultivation, manufacture, distribution.” Tillemans said he is working off the same information concerning cannabis regulation that his fellow supervisors and the public are privy to.

He said he has been transparent with his possible business venture. He is not currently involved in the business per se, but he has been promoting the area as a prime growing spot with lots of sun and little humidity.

The latitude of the Owens Valley is just a few degrees from the Hindu Kush in India, where marijuana is supposed to have originated, Tillemans said. Samples of locally grown marijuana have tested to be some of the most potent on the planet, he added.

Tillemans has been learning about the industry, going to workshops about the cannabis business.

He has also bought land in the Olancha area. Tillemans said it only makes sense to buy up private land in an area where there is so little land to buy.

The area could become the Napa Valley of marijuana, said Tillemans. In a meeting of the Mono County Supervisors in May, Michael Draper of Mono County Planning said Mono County has that same potential. Constituents are still trying to decide how they feel about this.

We received the following letter just this week:

Dear Editor:

I find it quite disturbing that board member Mark Tillemans bought land in Olancha with the intent of engaging in the commercial cannabis industry, while promoting Inyo county as the potential “Napa Valley of Marijuana”. (The Sheet, October 13, 2017, article by Mike Bodine: ‘Supervisor looking into weed biz, says there’s no conflict’).

It is unclear how Tillemans could keep an open mind on the issue, which involves many opposing views to his, while seeking to make a personal profit.

Most of Olancha’s residents are strongly opposed to any commercial Cannabis activity in the area, and felt it as an affront to have a powerful Board member promote it against their best interests.

Even though Mark Tillemans recused himself from voting on the Cannabis ordinance, he did so reluctantly, citing no legal conflict of interest. How someone, who tends to profit from the outline of an ordinance, does not have to recuse himself legally, is beyond my ethical sensitivities.

Mr. Tillemans would be well-advised to put down his cell phone during Board meetings, and listen to the speakers (see video of December 19, 2017, Board of Supervisors meeting, at 2:29:46 and 5:33:45), and be of service to the public, instead of the other way around.

Jael Hoffmann
Olancha Resident

In other Inyo headlines:

Tri-County Fair CEO Suzie Wollersberger fired longtime Maintenance Manager Ben Barlow on the eve of this year’s event, causing a revolt among fair patrons and volunteers alike.

The Bishop Paiute Tribe unveiled a proposal to build a monstrous truck-stop on Line Street, thrilling West Bishop residents.

JC Penney closed.
Mountain Light Gallery closed.
Radio Shack closed.
El Pollo Loco opened.
Rusty’s is for sale.

Bishop was voted one of the top 25 towns to live in by Outside Magazine, which stated it’s the “best climbing hamlet to call home before it’s too late.”

Bishop City Council is worried about the volume of empty commercial space in town.

Editorial note: how long before we see Dollar General?
By Press Release

In March 2017, The Mammoth High School Ski and Snowboard Teams won the California/Nevada State Championship. Over 270 athletes competed in the final races, held from March 6-10 at Northstar Resort. The MHS Ski and Snowboard Team won the Championship Title by 212 points. The MHS Ski Team Coach Jimmy Morning said, "There is no doubt in my mind that if we were able to progress on, our team would be one of the best high school teams in the nation."

The MHS Snowboard men tied for first with the Shasta High School Ski Team in the GS/Slalom Combined results. The MHS Women tied for 7th with Tahoe Truckee High School in the Combined GS/Slalom results. The MHS Snowboard Team walked away with the overall second place position.

Snowboarder Nick Hildebrand placed 5th in the GS and 6th in the slalom to finish 5th in the combined. Jacob Schroder placed 9th in slalom, and 17th in the GS to land him a combined 10th place. Andrew Gray placed 19th in the GS. Kris Martin, placed 7th in the SL and 23rd in the GS. Evan Hilliard finished in 19th in the GS and Team Captain, Carlos Morales finished strongly with a 37th in GS and 44th in slalom.

In the Snowboard Women’s events, MHS Freshman Tyler Brooking placed 4th in the GS, Janelle Weinert finished 32nd in the GS and 35th in the slalom while Hannah Goodwin placed 50th in GS and 38th in the slalom.

Team Captain Mallory Podosin placed 1st in the GS, beating all of the guys in her first run, and second place overall. Next year’s CNISSF Championships will be hosted by the Southern 2 Division at Mammoth Mountain, CA. “I am so proud of this team, they are legendary!” said MHS Ski and Snowboard Team Director, Connie Moyer.


Above (L-R): Hayden Mannetter, Cody Jayne, Cary Walker, Devon Cole and Mason Forsythe hang out at the finish of the Grand Slalom race course.
IN SNOW continued from page 5

Hot dams: Southern California Edison spent untold amounts of money flying in pumps to the Rush Creek Dam System in order to mitigate danger from high runoff. Within the last ten years, two earthquake faults were identified in June Lake: the Silver Lake Fault, which essentially runs along Highway 158, and the Hartley Spring Fault, which runs roughly parallel, about 5 miles east of the Silver Lake Fault. According to SCE’s Rudy Gonzales, the proximity of these faults reduces the volume of water legally allowed to be held in each of the reservoirs, to ensure that they maintain their structure in the event of a catastrophic earthquake. Some residents were disgruntled about helicopters flying over their homes in June Lake, but representatives from SCE said in a Town Hall meeting on August 15 that flooding in the area would have been far worse without the efforts to control the dispersion of the runoff.

IN SNOW (continued from page 5)

NASA AND SNOW

NASA’S airborne snow observatory comes to town

By Giles Thomas Painter, Lead Investigator for the NASA Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO), says he and his team have found a way to determine precisely how much water is in a given High Sierra basin at a given time. The team conducts aerial snowpack surveys from a King Air plane that is specially rigged to allow an imaging spectrometer and a scanning LiDAR machine to capture detailed imagery of the topography below the plane. LiDAR captures the distance between the plane and the surface of the ground by recording the length of time needed for a pulse of light to travel from the machine to the ground’s surface, and back. This information, collected continually, is then used to create an image of the topography below. During the winter months, flight surveys are conducted monthly. That data is then entered into a computerized model called ISNOBAL, which compares the “snow-on” data with a snow-free topographic map of the basin being analyzed created from data collected by the same means in the summer of 2012. The difference between the two maps is the volume of snow in the basin at a given time.

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After his team flies a particular drainage, it takes them just 24 hours to collect the data, feed it into ISNOBAL, and generate a short and long-term forecast for how much of that water will manifest as runoff in a river in that basin. Four and a half years into the project, Dr. Painter says his team is able to predict the volume of annual runoff in a given river drainage with as little as 2 percent error. The increased accuracy of those predictions may allow water managers to maximize efficient use of California’s water supply.

Drought

NASA’S airborne snow observatory comes to town

By Giles Thomas Painter, Lead Investigator for the NASA Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO), says he and his team have found a way to determine precisely how much water is in a given High Sierra basin at a given time. The team conducts aerial snowpack surveys from a King Air plane that is specially rigged to allow an imaging spectrometer and a scanning LiDAR machine to capture detailed imagery of the topography below the plane. LiDAR captures the distance between the plane and the surface of the ground by recording the length of time needed for a pulse of light to travel from the machine to the ground’s surface, and back. This information, collected continually, is then used to create an image of the topography below. During the winter months, flight surveys are conducted monthly. That data is then entered into a computerized model called ISNOBAL, which compares the “snow-on” data with a snow-free topographic map of the basin being analyzed created from data collected by the same means in the summer of 2012. The difference between the two maps is the volume of snow in the basin at a given time.

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Friend of the Devils: Devils Creek, which operates out of Mammoth’s Business Park, took its name from the fictional town (a thinly veiled Mammoth) in Luan Mendel’s 2010 novel “Yard Sale.” It’s a family affair: Luan’s husband John recently retired after 42 years in the automotive industry. Their son, Clayton, and daughter-in-law, Aleksandra, both have day jobs in Mammoth, Clayton as a brother, Trevor, and his wife Emily will also be involved in the business.

Bishop JCP closes: In an abrupt departure from the company’s stated intention just over a year ago to not close its stores, JCPenney announced the closure of 138 stores nationwide on Friday, March 17. Among those stores was its Bishop location. Store Manager Starla Shunkwiler said JCPenney has been doing business in Bishop for the past 80 years. The store closed for good on June 18.

A Bold move: Pam Bold became the new director of the High Sierra Energy Foundation on May 1, replacing the retiring Rick Phelps, who was the original director. Phelps served for nearly 12 years. Bold had served as Phelps’ assistant since July 2015.

Mammoth vs. NIH: Friend of the Devils: Mammoth vs. NIH: Friend of the Devils:

DeCoster owns and operates Insane Jeep Audio in June Lake, manufacturing one-of-a-kind, in-dash multimedia and navigation systems for the off-road vehicle aftermarket. He gets software and parts from all over the world. DeCoster is the poster child for Mono County’s push for tech-savvy entrepreneurs to ditch the city and plug into a different lifestyle in the mountains, while still running their businesses.

Grocery Outlet is In: In June, the Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC) approved a new Grocery Outlet store to be located at 37 and 77 Old Mammoth Road (adjacent to the Shell Mart). Unlike other Grocery Outlet stores, this one will be painted in earth tones, like “Middlebury Brown,” “Caramel Apple” and “Guacamole Green,” in accordance with the Town’s color handbook.

Pop-Up: The Question: In early June, a pair of entrepreneurs decided to park a 30-foot Airstream trailer across the street from Elevanton, an outdoor retail store located on Main Street in Lone Pine. Whitney Gear, operated by Charlie Brown and Mary Scudder, caused a stir by not having a brick-and-mortar building from which to peddle merchandise. A new County ordinance passed in July subsequently limited parking, preventing Brown and Scudder from doing business on Main Street. Brown said he felt persecuted and that Whole Foods was an excuse to protect other businesses,” which he characterized as a “vigilante group.”

No One to Watch the Store: The Bishop Certified Farmers Market did not operate this summer, for the first time in 23 years. Volunteer Sue Chudy had been managing the market and handling the administrative work necessary to make it run for years. Chudy told The Sheet on June 19 she couldn’t do the work by herself anymore.

JLB Growing: June Lake Brewing purchased five parcels surrounding and including their warehouse this summer, which included both the June Lake General Store and Trout Town Joe. The decision was made after the property, held in the Drell Family Trust, was threatened to be sold from under them. “We had to take all the funds that we had set aside for expansion and liquidate them to make a deposit on a loan to purchase the properties, because our future was in jeopardy...” said Walsh. The plan, Walsh said, is to build a “mega-building” on the Main Street of June Lake that will encompass a General Store, June Lake Brewing’s headquarters, and their production center.

The Best Gets Better: The Best Western High Sierra Inn in Mammoth got a makeover this fall. The 73-room hotel, built in 1999, is managed by Emily and Brent Cooley, who are heading into their 10th year overseeing the property. The cafe was remodeled, and opened this December as The Resting Nomad.

The Maven Bike Shop out of his garage.

They Said It:

“We had to take all the funds that we had set aside for expansion and liquidate them ... because our future was in jeopardy.”

- JLB’s Justin Walsh

Brandon, Theresa, and Sienna Brocia (with Olivia) outside the former Chart House, which will become a market.

Choi Lepre at the new DSES thrift store.

Edens property sold: Steve Selser of The Selser Group in Encino will soon be the owner of the McDonal’ s property on the corner of Sierra Park Road and Highway 203. He told The Sheet he is still under contract with McDonalds until the sale is final and wasn’t sure when the deal will close. McDonalds shuttered its doors in 2016.

Deer season is open at Albert’s: Albert’s Meat Market and Deli on Main Street in Bridgeport was taken over by long-time Bridgeport local Jason Bullington, following previous owner Albert Pegorare’s death in January. Bullington said it was Pegorare who taught him the art of making a good sandwich.

A new leaf for Red Lily: Patricia Vaniers’ Red Lily Floral Design is blooming in a new location—the 20-year-old Mammoth business reopened in the Minaret Mall on Saturday, September 16. Vaniers took over Red Lily Floral Design about 13 years ago.
A Black Tie affair: Partners Jeremy Goico and Colin Fernie purchased a new storefront for Black Tie Ski Rentals, the deal closing August 1. They are now located in the old Mammoth Times space on Old Mammoth Road, next to the Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra Thrift Store and within a stone’s throw of Vons.

Tribe Snowboards drops in: Tribe Snowboards debuted their new line this fall, which is available at Wave Rave in Mammoth. “I’ve worked at skate and snowboard shops since high school,” said Jake Elhart, the 26-year-old owner of Tribe Snowboards, “and really just kind of went out on a whim,” when he found some snowboard presses for sale online in 2014.

The Little apple dumpling gang: People have been stopping by the Virginia Creek Settlement for 90 years—whether it was a store, restaurant, bar or brothel. Those smart folks can enjoy homemade apple dumplings, or fish or brothel. Those smart folks can enjoy homemade apple dumplings, or fish.

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Nakid Ambition: Entrepreneurs Amanda and Andrew Kovanis are the co-owners of Nakid Imagination, a clothing company based in Bishop. Amanda recently learned how to sew shirts herself from bolts of American-grown cotton. “When I tell people I make the shirts, they don’t believe me. But, yeah, I make the actual shirts!”

A new coat of wax at Fastski: Matt Finnigan, who worked at Footloose Sports for 32 years, is taking over from current Fastski owners Robin and Emily Falkingham, and is going to be slowly easing the Falkinghams into semiretirement. “Local people are very special,” says Emily Falkingham. “When they make a commitment, it’s a life long commitment.”

Get Hammered: Black Velvet’s Matt Hammer opened a new distillery in the Village just before Christmas, with help from Jason Senior and Karl Anderson, formerly of Mammoth Brewing Company. “It’s so cool, there’s so much amazing science and art that’s going on,” said Hammer in January 2017 while planning the project.
The aftermath of being charged with Driving Under the Influence isn’t cheap, but then again, neither is therapy.

The Sheet asked people on the street: Would you perform a sexual favor for a police officer to get out of a DUI?

“Hell no! Hell! No!”
- Jacob Haataja, Mammoth Lakes

“Well, it depends on how drunk I was.”
- Ellie Hacker, Boulder, CO

“A lady cop? I’m in.”
- Billy Calhoun IV, Mammoth Lakes

“Well, I would never put myself in that situation, but if it came down to it, I’d do whatever it takes.”
- Jon Brusky, Mammoth Lakes

“Well, it depends on how drunk I was.”
- Ellie Hacker, Boulder, CO

“Only if his or her moustache is smaller than mine.”
- Jason Compton, Mammoth Lakes

“Hmm. Probably not.”
- CJ, Mammoth Lakes

In the wake of allegations made by over 50 women that movie mogul Harvey Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them, women across the world (and some men) have used the hashtag #metoo to share their stories and experiences.

The Sheet asked three questions: 1. Have you heard of the hashtag #metoo? 2. Did you post #metoo? 3. Why or why not?

“I didn’t post, because I felt like if I posted, maybe somebody else would see it and know that they are not alone. I don’t really talk about the fact that I was raped, ever, and I think that comes from blaming myself. We’re taught that we are supposed to be stronger than that. Since posting, I’ve had a couple of people who’ve approached me to share their experiences, and it feels good.”
- Lesley-Anne Hosie, Mammoth Lakes

“I did not post myself, though I have been harassed more times than I can count. Just yesterday, I stopped to ask for directions while driving on a dirt road out by Bodie, and had the dude follow me in his car, stopping every place I stopped, even after I drove down a bunch of obscure dirt roads. I ended up sleeping in my car in a hotel parking lot in Mammoth Lakes. I felt safer there than at a campsite.”
- Katherine Dietterich, Breckenridge

“Of course we’ve all had those experiences. I wanted to post, but didn’t because it felt vulnerable. I have had guys take pictures of me behind my back while I’m bartending, but it’s not just women who experience this. It’s men too.”
- Holly Moseley-Raymond, Mammoth Lakes

“I didn’t post #metoo, but I think it’s about time people start talking about sexual harassment. It shouldn’t have to be a big taboo—that discomfort is what allows it to continue.”
- Shannon Robertson, Mammoth Lakes

“I did not #metoo, but I have had a lot of issues with sexual harassment and assault in my life. There’s a big difference between men and women here, and women are outnumbered. It’s probably more dangerous here than other places, in part because people come here and think it’s this perfect, safe little town.”
- Aly Vanko, Mammoth Lakes

“I did not #metoo, but I think that Facebook gave people a voice who didn’t have one, and I hope that this will make men aware of how large a problem this is.”
- Emily McIlvried, Yosemite
Help Wanted

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

- **Carpenters** M $29-$35
- **Photographer** M $15
- **Room Inspector** M $15
- **Apprendice Carpenters** M $15-$20
- **General Laborers** M $14-$18

Call 760.924.0523 or 760.873.8599

See our full job list online at www.SierraEmployment.com

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**MAMMOTH ROCK & BOWL**

Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasieria has the following positions available:

- **Bowling Desk Employees**, **Bartender**, **Expediter**

Contact Kevin O’Connell 760.934.4200 ext.225, or Ann Ward ext. 221

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**Temporary Snow Removal Operators**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has a need for Temp Snow Removal Operators for the 2017/18 winter season. $22.92 - $26.53/h. Commerce license required. Full-time, opportunity to work day or night shifts and potential overtime. Secure a job for the winter and save up to 20% off a dedicated, hard-working road crew!

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**Executive Assistant to Chief of Police**


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**Mammoth Lakes**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is looking for an Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police to join the Mammoth Lakes Police Department. If you have a passion for law enforcement, excellent administrative skills and a desire to serve our local community, apply now! Visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov, or call 760.934.4200. Go to our website at www.footloosefoods.com or e-mail us at footloose@footloosefoods.com to schedule an interview.

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**Housekeepers ($11)**

**Dishwashers**

**Maintenance Workers**

Please complete an application at 1610 Main Street or e-mail to: craig@mammothmobil.com or call 760.934.2414 or stop by and see us in P.O. Box 76, 913rd St. Mammoth Lakes, Ca.

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**Hiring for the following positions:**

- **Room Inspector** M $15
- **Maintenance Assistant**
- **Dishwashers**
- **Housekeepers ($15)**
- **Photographer** M $15-$18
- **Carpenters** M $29-$35

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**Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasieria**

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**Mammoth Lakes**

For Hire

**Bookkeeping Services Available.** Let us keep your books up-to-date and in order while you focus on your business or travel the world. Experienced in Quickbooks, Microsoft Office, Dropbox, Google Docs. Great references available. 805.540.0802.

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**GORDOS LLC**

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**Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District—AIR MONITORING TECHNI- CAL SPECIALIST**

Keeler Office (Full-Time, with benefits) Salary Range: $5,444-6,617/ Month

Under general direction, oversees operation of the Great Basin Unified Air Monitoring Network from site location, to design, permitting, installation and operation. Supervises and manages Monitoring Techni- cian I and II personnel to assure meeting required capture with environmental require- ments set by the EPA, State and District. Completes, assists, reviews, tracks and directs maintenance, housekeeping, and field to field report preparation. Works directly with the District’s environmental and other agency representatives to facilitate a smooth implementation of all air moni- toring completed on and around Owens Lake. Education and Experience:

- Completion of a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in a physical science, engineering or envi- ronmental field of interest and five years’ experience in a scientific position;
- or 10 years’ of observation of eight or more years in the air monitoring field achieving at least two years’ experience in Technical Air Monitoring II level position or any combination of education and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills and abili- ties. Previous supervisory experience is desirable.


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**Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name Statement**

The Real Estate Book

The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name:

- **Fresh Horizons, Inc.**
  P.O. Box 1721
  Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corpora- tion. The fictitious business name was filed in Mono County on October 25, 1999. File Number 399-399.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on December 22, 2017. File Number 2017-0249 (12/30, 1/6, 1/13, 1/20)

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**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

Is Doing Business As: GORDOS LLC

Luis Javier Curiel
P.O. Box 242
June Lake, Ca. 93529

This business is conducted by a limited li- ability company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on November 12, 2017.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on November 22, 2017.

File Number 17-229 2017-0236 (12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30)

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**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

Is Doing Business As: Billie Edmund Lazano
P.O. Box 242
Bishop, Ca. 93514

This business is conducted by an individ- ual. The registrant has not yet begun to trans- act business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on November 22, 2017.

File Number 17-232 2017-0237 (12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30)

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**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

Is Doing Business As: Justin Long Construction

Justin Long
P.O. Box 369 93 3rd St.
Lee Vining, Ca. 93541

This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on November 12, 2017.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on November 22, 2017.

File Number 17-229 2017-0236 (12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30)

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**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

Is Doing Business As: Lozano Labor Plus

Billie Edmund Lazano
P.O. Box 242
Bishop, Ca. 93514

This business is conducted by an individ- ual. The registrant has not yet begun to trans- act business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on November 22, 2017.

File Number 17-232 2017-0237 (12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30)
**BARS & MUSIC**

**Happy Hour**

- The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. **Pursuit of Happiness Hour** 3-6 p.m. $1 off draft wines, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. **$5 Flatbread**. See ad. p. 8.
- **Outlaw Saloon** - **Happy Hour** Monday thru Friday 4-6 p.m.; Happy Hour during all regular season NFL games.
- **Sunday ticket NFL Outlaw** opens early at 10am with breakfast burritos, Bloody Marys and mimosas. Roberto’s 4-6 p.m. every day.

**Austria Hof** 5-8 p.m. daily. See ad. p. 11.

**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. 15.

**Petra’s Bistro Happy Hour**, 5-6 p.m. every day. See ad. p. 15.

**Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour** Mon. thru Fri 4-6; Saturdays 4-5. Closed Sun. See ad. p. 7.

**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.

**Side Door** Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m.

**Giovanni’s Happy Hour** daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.

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

**Black Velvet Coffee’s Happy Hour**, daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.

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

**Friday, December 29/** Dead Winter Carpenters play at Mountain Rambler Brewery. 8 p.m.

**Saturday, December 30/**

- **DJ RodneyO featuring Synergy at Rafter’s, Mammoth.** 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Free. 21 & up only.

- **Sunday, December 31/**

  **New Year’s Eve at Eagle Lodge with DJ Psycho Therapist and DJ WLDCT.** 1.800.MAMMOTH for info. See ad. p. 3.

  **New Year’s Eve Pre-Set Dinner and Party at Morrison’s.** 3-10 p.m. 4-course pre-set menu @ $56/adult. $20/kid under 12. Reservations required. 760.934.7427. See ad. p. 2.

  **Intimate Lakeside Dinner & Champagne Toast.** Starts 6 p.m. @ The Lakefront Restaurant, Tamarack Lodge. See ad. p. 6.

  **East Coast Countdown @ Mountainside Bar & Grill, Mammoth Mountain Inn.** Free event, toast at 9 p.m. See ad. p. 6.

  **Prix Fixe Dinner & Party Feast.** @ Outlaw Saloon starts 6. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.

  **New Year’s Eve Party at Mammoth Rock ‘n Bowl.** 4-6 p.m. with bowling lane package, champagne toast, and bottle service. 6 and 9 p.m. seatings, $25 cover charge. 760.934.4200. See ad. p. 9.

  **A Night of Mystery Masquerade Party.** @ Black Velvet Coffee, Mammoth. 21+. Ticket @ blackvelvetcoffee.com. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

**MAMMOTH LIQUOR**

- **Beer lovers’ candy store** selection of more than 300 beers LIQUOR = LEGAL AND FUN LICK HER AT YOUR OWN RISK

**TOWN STUFF**

**December 29-31/**

- **Wabi Sabi Exhibit** at Manzanar Bookstore, feat. art work by local artists. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day.

- **Textile Art Show** @ Mammoth Lakes Library with the Calico Quilters Guild. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Ellie Randol Reading Room.

- **December 29-30/**

  **NASTAR races return to Mammoth.** Info: 760.934.0642 or raceadmin@ mammothresorts.com

- **Silent Disco in The Village.** Three DJs will pump their sound into wireless headphones. Pick your channel and rock out in the Village. 5:30-9 p.m.

- **December 29-January 7/**

  **Public Skate at the Mammoth Ice Rink.** 12-3 p.m.; 3:30-6 p.m.; and 7-10 p.m. Skate Assist lessons available 4-6:30 p.m. on Fridays, Ice Rink will open at 7:30 p.m. on December 25. See ad. page 5, sidebar next page.

- **December 30-31/**

  **Full moon snowshoe tour of Tamarack.** Naturalist-guided tour lasts 1.5 hours and begins at 7 p.m. at Tamarack XC Ski Center. $59 includes equipment. Reservations required. 1.800.MAMMOTH for info. See ad. p. 9.

- **Saturday, December 30/**

  **Wooly’s Saturday Parade in The Village.** Begins 3-45 p.m. with music and face painting, ends with dancing around 4:20 p.m.

  **“The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged),”** with MLRT. Starts 7 p.m. See ad. p. 3.

**Sunday, December 31/**

- **New Year’s Eve family fun & fireworks @ The Village.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Woolly, hot cocoa, live music, party favors. 1.800.MAMMOTH for info.

- **Alabama Hills Under Foot Interpretive, guided tour.** Meet 10 a.m. at the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center, Lone Pine. Tour concludes at 3 p.m.

- **Monday, January 1/**

  **Inyo-Mono Broadcast Consortium Advisory Council Meeting.** 9 a.m. In town Council Chambers, Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes.
Ice Skating at the Mammoth Rink

The Mammoth Ice Rink is open seven days a week (weather permitting), with public skating sessions offered every day throughout the holiday season (December 25-January 1). For more information, visit www.mammothicerink.com or by calling 760.965.3695.

Transit to Old Mammoth Road

Limited transit service will provide three morning trips from the Old Mammoth Road area into Town, and three evening trips from Town to the Old Mammoth Road area.

Departures from the Old Mammoth Area will commence at 7:13 a.m., 7:45 a.m., and 8:18 a.m. Return trips will start from the area at 8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. and arrive at the hospital at 2:45 p.m., 4:23 p.m., and 5:05 p.m. Beginning on January 8, the second run of the limited route will depart five minutes earlier. The route will depart from Aspen Village at 7:40 a.m. and from Old Mammoth Road and Red Fir at 7:42 a.m.

The schedule for all other runs will remain unchanged. The service will operate seven days a week. Further information is available online at www.mammothtransit.com or by calling 760.924.3184.

Stormwater Meeting in Mammoth

The Town is developing a Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) and is inviting the public to participate in the process. The meeting is on January 8, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. in Suite Z. The SWRP is required by the California State Water Resources Control Board to establish eligibility for bond funding for stormwater quality improvement projects. Please RSVP to jrobertson@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov by January 3, 2018.

Eastern Sierra Pet-care Tips

If you have a dog, anchor the top of your holiday tree to a wall using strong cord or rope. Make sure any presents accessible to pets are securely wrapped. Don’t use ribbon or raffia. Clean up pine needles, as they can puncture pets’ intestines if ingested. Keep tree ornaments, yarn, ribbon, and garland well out of pets’ reach by hanging them high on the tree. Don’t use tinsel. Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettia plants are poisonous when consumed. Place them out of pets’ reach, along with electrical cords. When entertaining, be sure guests know these and other household rules that help keep your pets safe.

Shorten exercise walks for dogs in sub-freezing temperatures. If your pet must be outside at all, provide adequate shelter. A dog house should be no more than three times the dog’s size. The door should face away from the wind—usually south. And avoid blankets and straw—they can harbor fleas. Use cedar shavings for bedding instead. Provide similar shelter or access to a building for outdoor cats. Never allow your dog to walk on a lake or pond that looks frozen. The appearance of ice can be deceiving and pets can fall through and drown. Parasite prevention: Pets should take monthly flea, tick, and heart worm year-round. Take your pet for fecal exams for internal parasites at least yearly, and keep your yard clean of feces.

Diet: Most indoor pets don’t need their diet adjusted for different seasons. Be sure your pet’s water supply doesn’t freeze and use a non-metal water dish. Candy, especially chocolate, can make pets sick. Chocolate poisoning—caused by theobromine, a compound found naturally in chocolate and related to caffeine—can be fatal. Paws: Rock salt, used to melt snow and ice, can irritate paw pads. Clean pads thoroughly after a trip outside. Get them some booties. Regularly clip your pet’s nails.

Motor vehicles and antifreeze: Antifreeze can be lethal. It tastes sweet to pets and contains ethylene glycol, a toxic agent. So always clean up any antifreeze if it spills. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you suspect your pet has consumed antifreeze.

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

Star Wars: The Last Jedi (PG): Luke Skywalker’s peaceful existence gets upended when he encounters Rey, a young woman with strong signs of the Force.

Jumanji: Welcome to The Jungle (PG-13): Four teenagers discover an old video game console and are literally drawn into the video game Jumanji.

For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com.
Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person Is Doing Business As:
Horizons 113
Jared Kutsch
P.O. Box 8632, 2113 Meridian Blvd. #113
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by Co-partners. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 24, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 24, 2017.
File Number 17-206
12/22/17 (12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 1/6)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person Is Doing Business As:
RMND Media
Todd Robertson
P.O. Box 3799 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on August 15, 2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on September 21, 2017.
File Number 17-2033 (12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person Is Doing Business As:
Eastside Snow Removal
Jeff Bonneau
2976 Eastside P.O. Box 7976
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 1, 2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on September 5, 2017.
File Number 17-2039 (12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person Is Doing Business As:
SAMURAI
H &T International Inc.
P.O. Box 8522, 452 Old Mammoth Road
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation.
The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 2, 2017.
File Number 17-2037 (12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30)

Providing Financial Solutions for All Aspects of Your Life.
As the years progress, the caliber of art in the Eastern Sierra grows, with high-quality theatre productions, local musicians rocking the stage at Bluesapalooza, and a new artists’ residency in Mammoth. Below are some highlights of the culture of the Eastside.

Mike Aguirre: On June 10, Mike Aguirre played a free harmonica show at the Edison Theatre in Mammoth. In doing so, Aguirre made good on a promise made to his brother Kerry during Kerry’s struggle with addiction, that if Kerry would get back onstage with his guitar, Mike would get back onstage with his harp. Tragically, Kerry died during a relapse in 2014, while earning his bachelor’s degree at UNLV at the age of 63.

Dreddie Poppins at Bluesapalooza: For the first time in recent memory, a local band, Dreddie Poppins and the Professionals, played Mammoth Brewing Company’s 22nd Annual Mammoth Festival of Beers and Bluesapalooza. The band featured one of MBC’s own, bartender Eddie Wright as frontman, drummer Lawrence Bowie, and Levi Keszey on keys and electric guitar in addition to Dunn and saxophonist Dave Benami.

An art gallery in Walker: In May, photographer Sandy Powell opened the Walker Western Art Gallery next to The Burger Barn, on Highway 395. When asked how she picked the location, Powell said, “If not in a major city, why not Walker?”

Shady Rest or The Getty: The Forest Island Project, spearheaded by Kiersten Puusemp, brought three resident artists to Mammoth Lakes during the Fall shoulder season. The artists were Drea Zlanabitnig, Helen Mirra, and Krysten Cunningham. Cunningham practiced her installation for The Getty lawn at Shady Rest Park.

Dave Benami at Bluesapalooza

Nolan Nitschke at Sierra Light Gallery

Sierra Light Gallery: Bishop-born-and-raised digital landscape photographer Nolan Nitschke opened Sierra Light Gallery on Mammoth’s Main Street in August. Nitschke was selected to have his second photograph featured at The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C starting on November 17.

Jesse Steele, Mike Aguirre, Jesse Rea, Skylar Kenny, Maurice Cooper in Sierra Classic Theatre’s August production of “As You Like It.”

An art gallery in Walker: In May, photographer Sandy Powell opened the Walker Western Art Gallery next to The Burger Barn, on Highway 395. When asked how she picked the location, Powell said, “If not in a major city, why not Walker?”

Shady Rest or The Getty: The Forest Island Project, spearheaded by Kiersten Puusemp, brought three resident artists to Mammoth Lakes during the Fall shoulder season. The artists were Drea Zlanabitnig, Helen Mirra, and Krysten Cunningham. Cunningham practiced her installation for The Getty lawn at Shady Rest Park.

Keep Mammoth Clean & Pristine

Fats, Oils and Grease FOG cause major problems in the sewer collection system. Help keep Mammoth clean and pristine by keep your sink free of FOG.

In partnership with our customers, the Mammoth Community Water District supplies reliable water and sewer services to the community.

Mammoth Community Water District (760) 934-2596 www.mcwd.dst.ca.us

Keep Fats Oils and Grease Out of Your Sink!

Fats, Oils and Grease FOG cause major problems in the sewer collection system. Help keep Mammoth clean and pristine by keep your sink free of FOG.

In partnership with our customers, the Mammoth Community Water District supplies reliable water and sewer services to the community.
What would the Eastern Sierra be without its characters? What follows are excerpts from just a few of the personal profiles we ran this year.

Mammoth Snowman: “If it’s raining, we tell people. If there’s a forest fire and it’s smoky, we’re going to tell you not to come,” said Mammoth Snowman Steve Taylor of his marketing strategy. Taylor manages mammoth-snowman.com and discovermammoth.com. “When I go skiing, I ski by myself so I can ride up a lift and talk to people,” he told The Sheet.

“What’s that? I build up my [fan base]. I don’t spend all this money that [Mammoth Lakes Tourism] did. I spend a dollar a day on Facebook ads and I go out and tell people about my website, and give them a sticker, and they’re fans for life…”

Julie Thomas: Julie Thomas moved to the United States in 2006. She’s from Torreon, Coahuila, in the heart of Mexico. She was raising three children (now 16, 24, and 22) on her own and owned her own business, a small commercial sewing operation, and a gordita cart. When she got a job at Subway making sandwiches. She didn’t know a lick of English. There was this guy who kept coming around the Subway, sometimes twice a day. He’d make small talk with the gal behind the counter, even though she didn’t speak his language and he didn’t speak hers.

His name was Danny Thomas, and he works as a Corrections Officer at the Owens Valley Corrections Camp in Round Valley. They married in 2012. After they were married, Julie began making dresses holidays and special occasions for Danny’s four young granddaughters. He encouraged her to open a dress shop on Main Street. “Dreamy Dresses” was born. Unfortunately, according to Danny, Julie is currently “stuck in Mexico,” and Dreamy Dresses is temporarily closed while the family struggles to get Julie back home.

Julie and Danny Thomas in Julie’s shop, “Dreamy Dresses,” on Bishop’s Main Street.

Carla Spencer: “There has been a tradition of setting up hurdles for kids to jump over to get into certain kinds of classes,” said Mammoth High School’s AP Spanish Language teacher Carla Spencer. “This is especially true in college-bound courses. Over the last three years or so, we [teachers and administrators] have really been evaluating whether those make sense.” An example? Intensive summer homework for advanced placement courses.

“A kid who has to work full time to support their family may not be able to afford to do that. That doesn’t mean they won’t succeed in the class or that they shouldn’t be there,” Spencer saw an opportunity to challenge and engage skilled Spanish speakers and partnered with 8th grade teachers at Mammoth Middle School to create a placement exam administered to all middle school students at the end of 8th grade. Spencer then opened her

They Said It:

“Why I love Trump. Four words you should never say. Then you log into your 401k and it’s like an 802w.”

- Harold Hartley

Carla Spencer: “There has been a tradition of setting up hurdles for kids to jump over to get into certain kinds of classes,” said Mammoth High School’s AP Spanish Language teacher Carla Spencer. “This is especially true in college-bound courses. Over the last three years or so, we [teachers and administrators] have really been evaluating whether those make sense.” An example? Intensive summer homework for advanced placement courses. “A kid who has to work full time to support their family may not be able to afford to do that. That doesn’t mean they won’t succeed in the class or that they shouldn’t be there,” Spencer saw an opportunity to challenge and engage skilled Spanish speakers and partnered with 8th grade teachers at Mammoth Middle School to create a placement exam administered to all middle school students at the end of 8th grade. Spencer then opened her
AP Spanish class to sophomores who were co-currently enrolled in honors English.

In 2014-2015, Johnny Morales, Rosaura Garcia, and Mayra Garcia were the first sophomores to enroll in Spencer’s AP Spanish Language course. All are native Spanish speakers. The trio of friends then decided to enroll in AP Spanish Literature and AP English Literature. “Miss Spencer really makes you feel confident, like you can do anything,” said Morales. All three are now first generation college students.

Head of the herd: Mark Brownlie is Mammoth Mountain’s new President/COO. Brownlie, 47, who started his career at Mammoth in 1997 in the race department, is passionate about being the best. His goal is to offer the best on-mountain ski experience in the world. When asked what frustrates him most when it comes to managing the mountain, people, he said, “Having a contentment with mediocrity would be my biggest disappointment.”

Brownlie grew up at the base of Cairn Gorm, one of Scotland’s five ski resorts. His grandfather was a rancher—at one time the family raised 2,500 sheep and about 170 Angus cows. Brownlie was the only heir of his generation and fully expected that ranching was his future. There was just one problem: He really, really liked to ski.

After working in the ski industry for several years, Brownlie moved to Mammoth full-time in 2002 when he became head coach of the Mammoth Mountain Ski and Snowboard team. His grandfather was a ski resort owner, and these days, they don’t make them like the 82-year-old Bishop anymore. “We have all sorts of issues, so it’s just hard to predict who will fill in when I pass on,” said Carter. “And maybe the trails just won’t get fixed then, I don’t know.”

Eastern Sierra. His son, also Bill Carter, now has a dental practice down the block from his dad. “We have all sorts of issues, so it’s just hard to predict who will fill in when I pass on,” said Carter. “And maybe the trails just won’t get fixed then, I don’t know.”

Spartan Strong: “What is a Spartan race?” Answer: They’re obstacle course races of varying distances, from three miles (Sprint) to 12-14 miles (Beast). Some of the obstacles include turning over a 450-pound tire, or carrying an 80-pound bucket of rocks for a half-mile. According to Mammoth resident and professional athlete Ryan Kent, it’s the fastest-growing sport in the world. After hearing about the races, training, and trying a few, Kent quit his job as a Mammoth Mountain lift supervisor/bike park employee to pursue his dream as a professional athlete. In early October, Kent competed in the 2017 Spartan Race National Championship at Squaw Valley, a 16-mile race held on the ski mountain, featuring 35 obstacles.

Fireball: You all know Fireball. Even if you don’t know him, you know him. For the past nine years you could pretty much hear him before you could even see him at Vons (and this is not a jab about his relatively diminutive stature), running his mouth in an endless feedback loop. A living, breathing Energizer Bunny.

November 3 marked his last day of work at Vons. And it left some, particularly local youngsters, feeling very disoriented. As one mother told The Sheet, “The kids would never ask if we were going to Vons. They would ask if we were going to see Fireball.”

He has taken a job waiting tables at the Bistro at Snowcreek. Sheet: How did you get the name Fireball?

Fireball: It was given to me when I first moved up here to ski, although lately, some people have started calling me Furball ‘cause I don’t ski as fast as I used to.

Sheet: Any long-term plans or dreams?

Fireball: I’m a day-to-day guy. I’m not looking to get rich. I actually dread money. If I came into some, I’d probably give it all away ... I’ve got no long-range plans—unless there’s a sugar mama out there.

As for Vons, what he’ll miss most of all are his regulars. “If you think you’ll miss me, just know I’ll miss you even more.”

Saddling up: People like Dr. William Carter aren’t talkers, they’re doers—and these days, they don’t make them much like the 82-year-old Bishop optometrist who spends much of his free time repairing hundreds of miles of trails in the backcountry. “If we don’t do it, nothing happens,” says Carter of the trail work he’s been doing for about the last two decades in the Eastern Sierras. He and his wife Marilyn moved to Bishop because Carter “wanted a place where you feel confident, like you can do anything,” said Morales. All three are now first generation college students.

P E O P L E
continued from page 24

see PEOPLE, page 27

The irrepressible Fireball at Vons.

The coolest grue is at the club

Come on in and WARM YOUR BUNS.
Try our delicious

SIN-AMON ROLL!

OPEN DAILY
6:30am - 1:30pm
Next to Shell Mart Hwy 203 & Old Mammoth Rd

The SheeT I Saturday, December 30, 2017 www.thesheetnews.com

Year in Review: People
If you're looking for love in all the wrong places, that means you're probably reading The Sheet personals.

Here's a sampling of the year's best.

I saw you... have finally solved your housing shortage. Nice igloo! I saw you... are about the only one who is very pleased about the snow removal. Don't, wait, you live in Bishop?

In search of... someone to plow my roof. Paying you $20/ hour doesn't seem like enough.

In search of... someone to clear my tank. Shovel not required: You can use your hands if you like.

I saw you... had the roof cave in on you. I would agree, your spouse has put on some weight.

In search of... missing Super Bowl ring. If found, please return to Matt in Boston.

I saw you... closed the highway due to wind. Can you close Carl's Jr. roof? That makes my boyfriend windly.

I saw you... out on Valentine's Day with your ex. I imagine she didn't dislike either the debt or the STD.

In search of... a job where you can work out in the elements? Try the County or Town. Working in the Minaret or Sierra Center Mall is as dangerous as working on an Alaskan fish boat, but with better benefits.

I saw you... are subject to terrible pay and working conditions. But enough about The Sheet.

I saw you... were on the run from the law after stealing a housekeeping van. You didn't have to go through so much trouble to examine my sheets.

I saw you... are working on the police facility at the moment. How much does it cost to rent tent space?

I heard you... were involved in a foot pursuit. Talk about a Lehr jet!

I hope to see you... on St. Patty's Day. Those of us in greater kinship to St. Jade always enjoy the respite supplied by Patrick.

In search of... someone to spring ahead with. Well, technically, I'm just hoping to get head.

In search of... someone to help me fill out my NCAA Tourney bracket. If you'll be my Duke, I'll let you ravage my Wake Forest.

I saw you... were looking for a four-leaf clover. Hey dumbass, I was supplied by Patrick.

In search of 'Cocks fans to watch the game with me on Saturday. Warning: I don't tolerate chokers. I saw you... an gender fluid. That's cool. As long as fluid sharing is involved, I'm good with it.

I hope to see you... on Palm Sunday. Only question I have is, 'left or right'?

In search of... a place to squat now that the Church of Squat is belly up. I could bring my pew if you'll just show me where to kneel.

I saw you... sold out to Aspen. Hmm. If they've got the X Games, maybe we should start the XXX Games. Better yet, a pass to one would be good for double penetration to both events.

I hope to see you... on Cinco de Mayo. I hear that tequila makes your clothes fall off. That said, can we hang out somewhere that's dimly-lit?

I saw you... at the craps tables with a shit-eating grin on your face. How about them pair-o dice?

In search of... a horse to bet on in the derby? Thunder Snow would seem like a good fit.

I saw you... got busted by Detective Corless. Hmm, deep down, do you wish to be 'supervised'?

I saw you... satiating the Manzana. Is this the Mammoth version of being a 'Friend of Bill'?

I saw you... approved the MUF, but warn that the town needs to do some serious fundraising to support it. Ain't that the story of every marriage?

I heard you... say that your employees accomplish "great things" every day. Wow. Good for you. I generally hope for great things every other week.

I saw you... approved a "value-engineered" MUF. I assume that means it doesn't come with a Brazilian.

I heard you... claimed the media peppered you with four-letter, personal insults. That's incorrect. I told you that I thought you were 'Ping' wrong. There's a difference. I see... that May is National Masturbation month. Shoot, it's almost over. Better get to work!

I hope to meet you... at the Film Festival because you are one of my favorite directors and I'd love to experience your visual creativity in my singles. Did I mention I have a waterbed? We could do a scene from Butt Pirates of the Caribbean!

("Editor's note: The above was written pre-Weinstein."

In search of... a walk-on part in the war, but will accept a lead role in your cage.

I hope to see you... at the Mule Days parade. In honor of Trump, I'm gonna make it a Moscow Mule Days parade.

I hope to see you... on Town Clean-Up Day. If you'll bend over to pick up all that trash, I'll reward you with a hot dog and lots of relief.

In search of... someone who wants to be my Wonder Woman. Note to Lynda Carter: I'll take you at any age.

I saw you... at the "Community Conversation" (aka Wentworth's talking points). Question: When are we gonna start pulling weeds vs. smoking 'em? Observation: If we spray-painted the "landscape" on Main Street red, maybe it would convince people we actually live on Mars, encouraging Elon Musk to colonize us. How's that for a business development plan?

I saw you... want to hold a bake sale to help raise money for the MUF. A bake sale? How many dispensary participants are participating?

I saw you... disbanded your drug task force. I think this bake sale has some merit.

I saw you... are about the only one who is very pleased about the snow removal. I heard you... are planning to do the half marathon. If you can run half as well as you talk, it shouldn't be a problem.

I saw you... wish to spend $50,000 on two lips. If found, please return to Matt in Boston.

I hope to see you... at Oktoberfest this weekend... I'm going to try to focus on my ass, which is May-fest, as opposed to your face which is December-fest.

In search of... a path to early retirement. As I'm a millennial who carries the weight of the world on her shoulders. Come to think of it, my back hurts.

I saw you... might open up some housing to non-college students. I'm interested. Will there be background checks?

I saw you... could use some emotional support dog. Remember, it's supposed to be for emotional support only, so stop putting peanut butter on your underwear.

In search of... emotional support doggy-style. Enough said.

I saw you... could use some emotional support. Here's an idea. Stop being a dick. Then you'll have more friends and more support.

In search of... an emotional support cat because I am a pussy.

In search of... an emotional support cat, which is just a little crazy, because when was the last time a cat gave a shit about anybody.

I saw you... are interested in getting an emotional support animal. Here's an idea for you. Get a python. Then you won't need any more emotional support because that will have been overwhelmed by anxiety.

I heard you... were appearing in The Crucible next week. So, how's it hanging?

I hope to see you... at The Crucible next week. And people wonder why New Hampshire is so depressed.

I see you... want to be Iron Man for Halloween, which is ironic, since I mostly knew you as Whiskey Dick.
he was two years old, and he's won national championships every year since he was seven. He's the defending champion in slopestyle in the USASA (United States of America Snowboard and Freeski Association) snowboard youth division. He's participating in the Revelation Tour this year, which will qualify him for bigger contests that eventually lead to the Olympic Trials.

All that traveling isn't cheap, and Henricksen said he started making duct tape wallets as a way to help his family with his competition expenses. "A lot of kids come from a wealthier background. I don't, so I make these."

Chepe for President: José "Chepe" Rodriguez, owner of JR Tire in Mammoth, once weighed 250 pounds. He started jogging after his doctor told him he'd be dead if he didn't do something about his health. "So I started running... Now, people I used to see every day don't recognize me from back then!" Justin Lawrence, owner of Mammoth Expeditions, said that Chepe saved the day for him and his clients by helping them repair their own truck, free of charge. "Chepe is awesome!" Lawrence told The Sheet. "He has helped us out in many, many ways...Chepe for president!"

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Chepe Rodriguez of JR Tire.

The Marlboro cowboy: When Marye and Lou Roeser bought the Mammoth Lakes Pack Station in 1960 (the couple operated it for 38 years), Lou started a side business, called Old West Film Outfitters. He used his knowledge of the backcountry and photography skills to scout locations for commercial films. Later that year, he agreed to supply the horses for John Wayne’s film, “North to Alaska.” Lou developed a niche business staging and supplying horses and wagons for western films and commercials shot in the Eastern Sierra throughout the 1960s and ’70s. Although he never smoked, he starred in a few Marlboro Cowboy commercials. In 1965, the Roesers supplied horses and a chuckwagon for “Nevada Smith.” Marye, who was working as a horse guide when she met Lou and had been a wrangler, lent her horse, Chongo, as a stunt horse in the film. Steve McQueen, who starred as Nevada Smith, wanted to buy Chongo. Lou told McQueen that the horse belonged to his wife and that she certainly wasn’t interested in shipping him off to a stable in Southern California. “Besides, Steve McQueen rode a horse like a motorcycle,” said Lou, who said McQueen used to ride his motorcycle at full speed down the trail that is now Hot Creek Road. “Wayne, though, he was a good rider,” said Lou.

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“If you really wanted a defining story about the Mammoth Lakes Post Office, it would be about former Postmaster Jim Epperly and his resemblance to Major Major from Joe Heller’s ‘Catch 22.’”

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