THE ROAD TO PYEONGCHANG
Grand Prix is final chance to make Olympic team

By Rea

This weekend, Olympic-caliber skiers and snowboarders will descend upon Mammoth Mountain for the Toyota Grand Prix—the final qualifying event for athletes who wish to compete in the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, which begin February 9.

Mammoth residents and visitors will have the chance to get as close to the Olympics as possible without a ticket to the main event overseas.

This year’s competition is the 11th Grand Prix to be held at Mammoth Mountain, said Lauren Burke, Public Relations and Social Media Manager for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. In 2014, Mammoth hosted the qualifying events for all U.S. Olympic snowboarders headed to Sochi, said Burke.

Mammoth is the final stop for U.S. Freeski and Snowboard athletes, said Andrew Gauthier, Press Officer for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA). “They have a series of five Olympic selection events to secure their spot on the team going to Korea,” he said. There was something in the water ever, both skiers and snowboarders will be competing for their spot on the Olympic team. This weekend’s event will culminate in a U.S. Freeski & Snowboard team nomination ceremony on Saturday, January 20 beginning at 8:30 p.m. The ceremony will be followed by a free fireworks show.

This is also the first year that the contest, which will be televised nationally, will take place at night (both Friday and Saturday), said Burke.

Sierra Lifeflight retired two Cheyenne Series turbo prop engine planes on Saturday, January 13 at their hangar in Bishop with a celebration that featured fire trucks, ambulances, free food and lots of smiles. See more photos of the event, page 8.

Freeski & Snowboard team will culminate in a U.S. Olympic-eligible winter event for athletes who wish to compete in the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, which begin February 9.

An athlete competes in the Freeski Halfpipe competition.

Mammoth’s marijuana dispensaries plead with Council to end retail moratorium

By Rea

Can I give away free weed?” asked Steve Klassen at Mammoth’s Town Council meeting on Wednesday, January 17, during a discussion about cannabis regulations that evolved into a plea from local dispensary owners to allow the sale of commercial cannabis.

“Because if [consumers] can’t go and get it someplace in town, I think I probably should.”

Klassen, who owns the Mammoth snowboard shop Wave Rave, said that “since Christmas, we’ve been asked hundreds of times where people can get cannabis,” in town.

Recreational use of cannabis for adults over 21 became legal statewide on January 1 (following the passage of Proposition 64 in November 2016), but the Town of Mammoth Lakes still has a moratorium on its commercial sale which is scheduled to remain in effect until September 6 of this year. Currently, the only way to get legal cannabis in Mammoth is to visit one of two medical marijuana dispensaries, Green Mammoth (owned by Don Wright) or Mammoth Lakes Wellness (owned by Robert Calvert).

But consumers must hold a medical recommendation card to be able to purchase marijuana. “I turned away a kid in a wheelchair who was 21,” without a medical card, Wright told The Sheet after the agenda item came up on Wednesday. “He was being carried up the stairs by a 20-year-old with a medical card,” to whom Wright could not sell marijuana, due to his age. Potential consumers can visit a website such as www.hellomd.com to get an expedited medical recommendation, but Wright said he is not legally permitted to tell customers about those services.

Wednesday’s agenda item was intended to address “buffer zones” for commercial cannabis sales in Mammoth. Members of Town Council agreed that they would like to see 600-foot buffer zones between schools, youth centers, parks and day cares, and 500-foot buffer zones in between commercial cannabis businesses. However, the discussion ultimately turned into a heated back-and-forth about how quickly commercial cannabis sales in Mammoth could become a reality.

“The way we have mishandled this, we have driven the black market in Mammoth,” said Council Member Bill Richardson hold the purchase agreement for the Shady Rest Parcel on Wednesday, January 17. See more Council news, pages 3 and 9.
HELLO, DOLLY!

By Lunch

Here's a curveball for you.

Upon reading last week's coverage of the proposed M.U.F. ("The Bare Necessities" and "Mind The Gap!"), I couldn't help but think to myself, maybe the issue isn't just about the extravagance of spending (at minimum) $13 million on the project. Maybe the issue, at this point, is also that they're not being extravagant enough.

As Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commissioner Christie Osborne said, "What I don't want to build is the ice-skating version of Canyon Lodge."

And I suppose what she's talking about is not building a project which is seemingly outdated the moment it opens. Consider Canyon. It is too small for busy ski weekends. The acoustics make it a mediocre events venue. It's certainly serviceable, but hardly top shelf. And this was, I imagine, fairly evident from the day it opened.

When I reflect back upon my childhood in Hanover, New Hampshire. I recall that Dartmouth College built its own "multi-use facility," Thompson Arena, which opened in 1975.

Initially, the 3,500-seat arena was used for hockey, basketball and concerts. In fact, my parents took me to a Dolly Parton concert there in the late '70s.

What I remember about that concert is Dolly stopping halfway through the show and smirking at the audience and saying, "I know what you're lookin' at."

Of course, I know what I had been looking at, and I had brought a pair of binoculars to get an even better look, and I couldn't figure out how Dolly had busted me from so far away.

But then, her punchline: "My wig ... you're lookin' at the size of my ... wig."

So here's what happened with Thompson Arena. Despite best intentions during its construction, it didn't really work as a basketball arena. It was too expensive to change over the surfaces in-season when hockey and basketball alternated weekends. And as a basketball venue, it was just ... cold. And the floor was too far away from the seats. It wasn't intimate.

They played basketball there for a few seasons before returning to the old Alumni Gym until a new, 2,100-seat basketball/volleyball arena, Leede Arena, opened in 1987.

The college discontinued hosting concerts at Thompson Arena almost immediately because the acoustics were terrible.

So what started as a "multi-use facility" is an ice rink. And it's a terrible facility which was built 43 years ago and looks like it could have opened yesterday. But it was an absolute mistake to believe that it could ever be anything more than a hockey rink. Although it has served as a rainy-day alternative for graduation ceremonies.

It certainly helps to have an endowment of several billion dollars when it comes to capital projects.

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So ... what about our proposed M.U.F.?

The multi-use designation is the red herring in my view, a cover for politicians and Town staffers who don't want to acknowledge that the Town plans on spending a significant amount of money on a relatively small special-interest group (hockey-players/skaters).

That said, the argument made by the ice folks is, at least, somewhat compelling, and based upon projections that hockey will draw tournaments and interest and unique visits from people who might not normally visit Mammoth.

So if that's what this is—a visitation-driving amenity—it would seem a few things should be revisited and reconsidered.

1.) "Value-engineering" should be outlawed as a catch-phrase. If the rink is going to be as successful as its proponents say it will be, then let's focus on rink versus rinky-dink. The proposed 250-square foot locker rooms seem ridiculously small/not user-friendly. Christie Osborne would call that a Canyon Lodge move.

The proposed movable bleacher seating for just 50-75 people? Sounds inadequate, although Town Parks and Recreation Director Stu Brown says most people like to stand and watch hockey games through the glass and you don't need a lot of seating. He says additional, temporary seating could be brought in for special events.

2.) Hmm. Visitation-driving amenity. Sure sounds like Mammoth Lakes Tourism's war chest should be raided if this is the case, and not just to sponsor L.A. Kings intermission reports.

3.) Why not make the 2018 Council election a referendum on the M.U.F.? Sauser (for) and Hoff (against) are not up for reelection, meaning it's a two-out-of-three seat contest. Force candidates to declare whether they're for or against and vote accordingly. See what the general public really thinks about this idea.
On Wednesday, January 17, Mammoth’s Town Council authorized Mayor John Wentworth to sign an outline Statement of Intent with Inyo County regarding a working relationship between Mammoth-Yosemite Airport (MMH) and Bishop Airport. The Council voted 4-1, with Council member Bill Sauser voting no, to authorize Wentworth to sign the non-binding statement.

Inyo County’s Board of Supervisors were authorized to sign the document on Tuesday, January 16 at their regular meeting, said Public Works Director (and Interim Town Manager while Dan Holler is on vacation) Grady Dutton. Inyo County Administrative Officer Kevin Carunchio was present at the Mammoth Council meeting on Wednesday.

“This subject has been around longer than Mammoth’s been around,” said Dutton (referring to the Town before it was incorporated in 1984). “This is an effort to say, ‘Look, we’re serious about regional air service. We’re serious about enhancing its reliability,’” said Dutton.

Dutton said that each airport will continue to work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) individually, but that, “we want to impress upon the people of this region and the FAA that we’re willing to work together.”

Just before the Statement of Intent was authorized, Town Council unanimously approved a resolution adopting the MMH Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP), which Dutton said, “doesn’t mean we’re going to accept or even apply for any particular grant.” Mayor John Wentworth added that the ACIP “doesn’t commit us or the FAA to funding,” improvements to MMH.

The Statement of Intent is a product of meetings of the Mono-Inyo Airport Working Group (MIAWG), and identifies “opportunities” for the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo County to work together in programming commercial air service at Bishop Airport and in establishing Bishop as a weather alternate to MMH.

Former Town Council member John Eastman gave public comment, saying that he was concerned about some of the language in the statement. “Three phrases were used: ‘Town funding,’ ‘financial aid,’ or ‘cost sharing,’” said Eastman on Wednesday. “Those words or phrases were used nine times in a three page document.”

Eastman expressed his concern that the Town of Mammoth Lakes is already involved in several expensive endeavors, citing the purchase of the Shady Rest Parcel (which was also signed on Wednesday), the potential construction of the Multi-Use Facility, and existing capital projects at MMH.

“To use words like ‘cost sharing’ [is] not responsible,” he said. He also said that Town Manager Dan Holler should be present to read the document.

Council member Shields Richardson said that the document had previously been vetted in MIAWG meetings, and that he believed Holler had seen it.

“I think the main word I saw in that document was ‘non-binding,’” said Mayor Pro Tem Cleland Hoff.

Town Attorney Andy Morris said that the statement was, “not anything that we have to live up to. Our intention is that we would try to, [but] if circumstances change, the Town can get out of this.”

Mayor Wentworth said that the Town of Mammoth Lakes was “very grateful there’s a willing partner to work with and [we will] do everything we can,” to provide robust and reliable air service to the Eastern Sierra.
ONE YEAR LATER, WOMEN MARCH AGAIN
The second annual Eastern Sierra Women’s March will take place this Saturday in Bishop

By Rea

I t’s been a year since Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States, and some Eastern Sierra residents say that it’s more important than ever to hold a second annual Women’s March, which will take place on Saturday, January 20 in Bishop.

“I think that last year, there was a visceral reaction to the election,” said Janet Carle, one of the organizers of this year’s march and the founder of Mono 350, a climate change action group.

“Everyone was so in shock that people just wanted to come and do something to address the feeling that we had. We didn’t really know what was going to come, we didn’t know how Trump was going to be as president,” she said of last year’s protests, most of which were held on January 21, 2017, the day after Trump’s inauguration.

Worldwide participation in those marches has been estimated at over five million people, according to The New York Times. The Washington Post attempted to count the number of participants in the United States, finding 635 reported marches with a “best guess” of 4,157,984 participants, or 1-1.6 percent of the U.S. population.

According to womensmarch.com, there are 673 “sister marches” that will be taking place across the world on January 20 and 21, 2018.

“What the last year has proven is that people want to turn back the clock in a lot of ways,” said Carle. “You kind of have the feeling that women have to keep regaining what we thought we had.”

As well as being the first year of President Trump’s term, 2017 was also the year that media mogul Harvey Weinstein was publicly shamed after sexual assault allegations surfaced against him, resulting in a domino effect of allegations against other powerful men. It was the year of the #metoo movement, spurred by women from Hollywood to hospitality, who spoke out about their own experiences with harassment.

“I think the #metoo movement has demonstrated that we’re not going to be set back,” as women, said Wendy Schneider, Executive Director of Friends of the Inyo. Schneider has been distributing posters advertising for the march and is planning on attending the event in Bishop on Saturday. She marched in Los Angeles last year.

“I think that message was expressed loud and clear, and [this year’s march] is a little bit like icing on the cake. In case anyone missed it,” said Schneider.

“We have a situation where a sitting president has bragged about sexual assault while insulting women, who is glorifying ignorance by denying science and encouraging people in their basest instincts to hate and to be greedy,”

Schneider said that she is marching again this year because, “we don’t have to support these kinds of policies. We can believe that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. That’s what we demand and we are going to continue to demand that. We are watching.”

“I think we’re at a point where women are, in a very public and positive way, trying to give each other strength and hope and stand up for what’s decent,” said Frances Hunt, an organizer for the Sierra Club who has also volunteered to organize the Bishop march. “And I think it’s created a level of awareness in men as well… I think decent people, men and women, are wrestling with the idea of ‘How do I stand up for what is right?’

Hunt also said that the march is intended to be a celebration, and not just an expression of disapproval of Trump’s policies.

“I do think you need to be for something,” said Hunt. “I think we’re better off when people are for positive things instead of just being anti-Trump.”

Hunt, who was also in Los Angeles for last year’s march, said that she believes people will be compelled to participate because the event will foster hope in a time when things seem scary, and creates a local opportunity to spend time with a group of “people who share your concerns.”

Hunt said that even though people were angry at last year’s march, “it wasn’t an angry demonstration… in some ways it can be more of a celebration of the values that you support and that are dear to you. I think people did get a lot of positive feelings out of it.”

Janet Carle said that the last year has “woken people up, there’s no question about that,” noting that before Trump’s election, she didn’t know that Congressman Paul Cook (R-CA 08) was her representative. “Now, he’s on my speed dial,” said Carle.

The theme of this year’s nationwide women’s marches is “Power to the Polls.”

“We are the leaders we’ve been waiting for,” declares the “Power to the Polls,” page on the Women’s March website. “This next stage of the movement will channel the energy and activism of the Women’s March into tangible strategies and concrete wins in 2018,” states the site.

And women are running for office in record numbers. Marge Doyle, a nurse from Joshua Tree, is challenging Congressman Cook for his 8th District seat in this November’s election. Stephanie Schriock, President of Emily’s List (an organization devoted to electing female candidates), told The New York Times in December that about 1,000 women contacted Emily’s List about running for office or getting politically involved in the 10 months prior to the 2016 election.

Since Trump was elected, Schriock told The Times, over 22,000 women have contacted her organization. “We have never seen anything like what we have seen over the last 12 months,” Schriock told The Times. “If you could underline that four times, that’s what I mean.”

“I think people are absolutely impassioned and fired up,” said Hunt this week when asked how people could make their voices heard locally. “People who’ve never called or written their members of Congress or the White House have called and written.

And people who haven’t come out to City Council or Board of Supervisors meetings have come out. People are actively thinking about running for office who’ve never run before… I think people have really realized that you’ve got to stand up and be counted.”

Carle said that the event will bring a “cross section of the Eastern Sierra” to downtown Bishop, and that organizers include members of the Bishop Paiute Tribe and the Hispanic community.

“The march is a symbol, but over the course of the year people have done a lot more than marches,” said Hunt. She cited the inclusive “values statement” adopted by the City of Bishop in July 2017 as an example. “I believe in the message that empowering women empowers all of us,” said Carle.

The Eastern Sierra Women’s March will start at Bishop City Park around 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 20. The event is open to everyone and is intended to be a peaceful demonstration. The march will conclude with speeches and booths hosted by various organizations in the park. For information about booths, contact Julie at jmtdiee@icloud.com, and to volunteer, contact Jess at jessica.ary@gmail.com.

PHOTO: JESSICA ARY
T he Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) is asking for another environmental review of Casa Diablo IV geothermal plant, which Ormat plans to construct near Mammoth Lakes. The Casa Diablo IV (CDIV) project entails a new plant that would triple the amount of geothermal electricity generated at Ormat’s existing plant, which is located at the northeast intersection of highways 91 and 395. Ormat’s existing plant generates 29 megawatts per hour, and the Casa Diablo IV geothermal plant is expected to generate 59 megawatts per hour, enough to power 40,000 homes hourly.

MCWD released a statement on January 11, 2018, asserting that two years of new data and findings by the US Geological Survey suggest that geothermal fluid and MCWD drinking water are intermingling, a problem that could be exacerbated by the drilling required to create Casa Diablo IV. This has been MCWD’s argument against the Casa Diablo IV project since 2006. MCWD, which supplies water for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, has asked Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) to generate a supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) reflecting the new findings.

Mono County Counsel Stacey Simon was involved in the project during the compilation of the original Environmental Impact Report for CDIV in 2011. Every Environmental Impact Report requires a lead agency sponsor it. According to Simon, Great Basin was selected as the lead agency for the original Casa Diablo IV EIR, despite the project having little to do with air quality, because Great Basin is the only local, non-federal permitting agency that can do so for a project held on federal lands.

Phil Kiddoo, Air Pollution Control Officer for GBUAPCD told The Sheet on January 16 that he wasn’t sure if the January 11 statement released by MCWD was, “a press release or propaganda.” Kiddoo prefaced the interview by saying that MCWD and GBUAPCD are currently in litigation over the original EIR, which MCWD considers to be an inadequate California Environmental Quality Act report. He said he was limited in what he could comment on.

In 2010, Ormat argued, and still does, that an impermeable geological barrier exists between the hot geothermal water and the potable drinking water. The USGS considered that fluids are intermingling, with air quality, because Great Basin is the only local, non-federal permitting agency that can do so for a project held on federal lands. Paul Thomsen added that there is no evidence that Great Basin should re-open the EIR. The new data collected by the USGS which MCWD referred to has not been peer-reviewed. Ormat still contends there is no connectivity between the geothermal fluid and Mammoth’s drinking water.

In a prepared statement, Ormat said that MCWD is continuing a media campaign to perpetuate a battle it’s already lost and at great expense to its customers. Ormat Executive Director Paul Thomsen added that there is no evidence that Great Basin should re-open the EIR. The new data collected by the USGS which MCWD referred to has not been peer-reviewed. Ormat still contends there is no connectivity between the geothermal fluid and Mammoth’s drinking water.

The Bureaux of Land Management, the federal agency that gave the Casa Diablo IV project the green light, was unavailable for comment.

IV. The Politics of Mixology

Mammoth Community Water District calls for additional environmental review of Ormat’s Casa Diablo IV

By Bodine

On January 10, U.S. District Judge Dale Drozd of Fresno rejected Inyo County’s dismissal of a lawsuit filed by the Bishop Paiute Tribe against the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office. That court order, filed in March of 2015, was an attempt to bar the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office from arresting or prosecuting Tribal police officers for carrying out Tribal law on Tribal land.

The lawsuit came after Inyo County Sheriff’s deputies cited a woman at her non-Indian ex-wife’s home on the basis of the law enforcement authority to detain the suspect in the case law.

The latter charge was dropped when a court found that Johnson was acting and responding as a Tribal police officer.

The judge called Inyo County’s reliance on a 2001 Ninth Circuit case “inapposite” (i.e., inappropriate) of its argument.

Drozd wrote that “At worst, the decision in Brewer (the argument used by Inyo County) is effectively fatal to the County’s motion to dismiss, since the plaintiff there was allowed to maintain suit against the County on the basis of the law enforcement actions of the County’s Sheriff—precisely what plaintiff seeks to do here.”

In his 17-page ruling, Drozd wrote, “Johnson, by virtue of his status as a duly appointed officer of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, possessed the inherent authority to detain the suspect in the course of investigating whether she had violated the state court protective order.”

The case will proceed to trial in Federal Court at a time as yet to be determined.

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DISMISSAL DISMISSED

District judge allows Bishop Tribe’s lawsuit to move forward

By James

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OP-ED: MORE FUNDING FOR FIRE IN CALIFORNIA

By Randy Moore

In 2017, more than 1,500 wildfires burned over 600,000 acres of National Forest System lands in California, including the Thomas Fire, the largest in California history. Although the fire is fully contained, the surrounding communities are presently dealing with debris flows caused by a landscape that no longer has the protection of vegetation for a stable ground. To date, 17 people have died, several others are still missing, and more than 100 homes have been destroyed as a result of these mudslides. In early October, a series of wind-driven wildfires burned more than 200,000 acres across Northern California. The fires destroyed thousands of structures and killed 44 people. Although the fires did not occur on Forest Service lands, the agency worked closely with state and local cooperators on fire suppression efforts.

The Pacific Southwest Region has spent over $500 million preventing or suppressing wildfires over the last year. Funding for suppression efforts performed by the Forest Service comes from the overall agency’s budget based on a 10-year rolling average—a model that is simply unsustainable, given the last several years of unprecedented fire seasons. When wildfire suppression funding is insufficient, the Forest Service is forced to shift money away from other investments designed to build healthier, more sustainable communities. We must find a permanent solution that restores the balance between fire prevention, fire suppression and resource restoration.

We are working to reduce the potential for future loss by performing hazardous fuel reduction treatments. In Fiscal Year 2017 alone, we performed fuels reduction treatments on over 310,000 acres of Forest Service lands across the state. However, 10 million acres of National Forest System lands in California are currently at moderate to high risk of disease or fire. The science, data and monitoring show that hazardous fuel treatments and thinning positively affects fire behavior and lowers the catastrophic risk of fire damage.

We are appreciative of the ongoing work of USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and Congress who have acknowledged the funding issue and are working hard to help resolve these challenges. Finding a permanent solution to fix the fire funding problem will go a long way in sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of our Nation’s forests and grasslands for current and future generations.

Randy Moore is the Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

FIRE IS THE FUTURE

The National Park Service is updating the Fire Management Plan for Devil’s Postpile National Monument to allow prescribed burns in its wildernes area, and to allow NPS to permit natural fires to burn when they enter the boundaries of the monument.

According to Deanna Dulen, Superintendent of Devil’s Postpile National Monument, said that, unbeknownst to many, there has only been one prescribed fire in the park’s history, which has been managed for about 100 years with intense fire suppression tactics.

In 1992, The Rainbow Fire burned 82 percent of the monument. Of that area, 25 percent experienced high severity burning, which killed seeds and other life buried in the soil that would otherwise have naturally reseeded the forest. That burn scar is comprised largely of a mix of shrubbery and large downed trees.

In 2011, during the Devil’s Wind Storm, thousands of large-diameter trees were uprooted during a 12-hour period of sustained 100-mph winds, leaving a massive fuel load at Mammoth Pass. According to Dulen, portions of the downed trees adjacent to the trail that goes up and over the Postpile itself were systematically burned in March 2015.

According to National Resource Manager Monica Buhrer, forest fires have historically burned at varying intensities in the Sierra Nevada with some frequency. Over the last 100 years, patches of high-severity burns have grown, so that the seeds of plants which previously recolonized the ecosystem after a blaze are too dispersed to do so. This phenomenon can be observed in the chaparral that comprises the bulk of the Rainbow Fire burn scar.

Buhrer said that if the area around Mammoth Pass were to burn now, it would create a very hot, severe fire similar to that of the Rainbow Fire. When asked this week what the likelihood of such a burn threatening the Town of Mammoth Lakes was, Mammoth Fire District Division Chief Jeff Hinson said, “High enough that it’s a concern.”

Hinson and Pusina said the new Fire Management Plan would create more opportunities to eliminate fuel at Devil’s Postpile by burning it—and more smoke. ‘Any fire that is Managed… is treated as a Prescribed Fire, and as such, is subject to the Clean Air Act,’ and air quality standards enforced by Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, said Pusina.

Pusina said fuel loads need to be addressed now, not pushed off for another generation to deal with.

Today, we have support from our regional office to address these issues, but it is still easier to play the hero card and put fires out. We know we’re good at that, we’ve been doing it for a hundred years. What’s harder is to say, ‘I’m going to go out, knowing that if it got out of control, it could burn homes, to take a calculated risk.’

Dulen said that one of the goals of the plan is to restore the natural buffer created by the Rainbow Fire’s burn scar, and to extend that buffer so that a fire can’t burn up and over Mammoth Pass to threaten the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Hinson pointed out that the Town is surrounded by natural buffers in almost every direction—except for at Mammoth Pass.

Pusina said it’s not a matter of if Mammoth Lakes will burn, but when. Fires aren’t new to the Sierra ecosystem, but the developments that abut California’s forests are. “We ask people to come to terms with fire if they choose to live in California, in these wildlands. We can’t pass this problem of fuel loading off to future generations. We are paying for that now.”

The project is in the initial scoping phase, and the public is invited to comment, by visiting parkplanning.nps.gov, or by mailing Superintendant, Devil’s Postpile NM NPS PO Box 3999, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546. Comments will be accepted through February 16, 2018.
A GOOD TIME TO BE IN THE BUSINESS

Should Mono County have a Narcotics Enforcement Team if possession is a misdemeanor, not a felony?

By Bodine

According to Mono County District Attorney Tim Kendall, narcotics use is the number one “social issue” in Mammoth Lakes and Mono County today.

Following the passage of Proposition 47 in 2014, drug addicts in California get just an infraction for possession of personal use amounts of heroin, and thieves get nothing but a ticket for stealing up to $949 worth of goods from a business like Kmart. There would seem then, no reason to reinstate the Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), which was disbanded in 2016 due to lack of personnel and resources, or to continue with Drug Court. Kendall says otherwise.

Prop 47 reduced the penalties for many crimes—primarily drug possession and property theft—from felonies to misdemeanors. The purpose of the bill was to reduce the number of people held in California’s prisons. According to a 2016 report by the Public Policy Institute of California, Prop 47 has been successful in doing this.

Kendall told The Sheet that, while simple drug possession now incurs a ticket for stealing up to $949 worth of goods, addicts who may require help through drug court are said that drug court can still play a role in enforcing narcotics laws, even if the crimes people are sent to investigate a person of interest for possession but end up unearthing a whole host of other crimes, which are often related to narcotics. “Law enforcement still pursues misdemeanor driving under the influence crimes, why not misdemeanor drug crimes?” asked Kendall.

Mono County Deputy Probation Officer Dylan Whitmore told The Sheet he thinks Prop 47 offers a disincentive for offenders who might require help through drug court. He said that drug court can be invaluable in helping addicts get straight. More than 90 percent of addicts will not seek help without first having contact with law enforcement, he said.

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MONET in the middle of 2014, prior to the election of Sheriff Ingrid Braun. Those departures left a single investigator from the DA’s office to handle 132 cases in 2016, and 40 percent of those cases were for sales and transportation of narcotics. There were 339 narcotics cases in 2011. Kendall said that crime rates have not fallen by more than 50 percent in those five years, which suggests that the crimes are still occurring but are not being policed.

Arrests within the County ranged from 800-950 per year, said Kendall, until 2014, when arrests dropped to 676. In 2015, the total number of arrests dropped to 516, then to 385 arrests in 2016. As of May 25, 2017, there had only been 156 arrests in Mono County, according to data provided by Kendall.

There have been 13 narcotics-related deaths in Mono County since 2013. In 2015 and 2016, 19 children had parents that sought treatment for methamphetamine and heroin abuse. Kendall said that Mono County Child Protective Services intervenes with three to six children per month whose parents have some type of narcotics issue that has been brought to their attention. Inyo County District Attorney Tom Hardy was unavailable for comment regarding how the passage of Proposition 47 has affected narcotics-related crime in Inyo County.

Law enforcement still pursues misdemeanor driving under the influence crimes, why not misdemeanor drug crimes?

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A GOOD TIME TO BE IN THE BUSINESS

By Bodine

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FLYING OFF INTO THE SUNSET
Locals gather to retire old planes, welcome new recruits into the Sierra Lifeflight fleet

On Saturday, January 13, Sierra Lifeflight hosted the public for a retirement party at the organization’s hangar at the Bishop Airport. Partygoers celebrated the careers of long time pilot Gary Thompson and two Cheyenne Series turbo prop engine planes. The planes have been replaced with King Air C-90 series planes, which will offer more space for medical professionals to tend to patients in-flight.

Photos by Gayla Wolf

Regional Director of Program Operations Mike Patterson won the Flag and Eagle Award.

Regional Director of Program Operations Mike Patterson won the Flag and Eagle Award.

Top Left (L-R): Big Pine Fire and Rescue saves Aiden Elmer with Grandpa Bill LeFever, Captain Dave Calloway, and Medic Lloyd Wilson. Top Right (L-R): Kiley and Sarah Simpson, Anna Taplin, and Monroe Prange.

Above (L-R): Billy Rossi and Baby Brinkley on her first trip to the Airport. Far right: Lone Pine firefighters (L-R) Ethan Riesen, Ren Bills and Ralph Enriquez.

Above: Wallen Russell, Londyn Russell and Leighton Bogie board the new plane.

Above: Wallen Russell, Londyn Russell and Leighton Bogie board the new plane.


PARK IT HERE, FOR NOW

Town of Mammoth Lakes promises a phased approach (in a good way) to Main Street Plan

By Rea

Mammoth’s Town Council heard an update on the Main Street Sidewalk Project on Wednesday, January 17. Engineering Manager Haislip Hayes presented a reworked version of the project, after Town staff received input from business owners on that street.

Main Street business owners Tom Cage, Paul Rudder and Camille Miller were present at the Council meeting to offer their opinions on the staged implementation of the plan, which initially called for parking on the frontage road alongside Highway 203 to be removed. The revised plan will change the current angled parking to 90 degree parking, said Hayes.

Mammoth’s Town Council accepted the Main Street plan in 2014, but discussions with concerned business owners resulted in the changes that were presented on Wednesday.

“We expect this to be an interim step,” said Public Works Director Grady Dutton. “This is not the ‘Main Street Plan.’”

Dutton said that in “maybe 10 or 20 years we expect those buildings [set back on the frontage road] to move forward. But we heard very strongly from businesses, ‘don’t take away our parking right now. We need it right now.’”

The original idea was to turn Main Street into a “grand avenue” with multi-use paths, transit features and buildings in place of the frontage road. The design presented on Wednesday keeps the two-way frontage road in place, with the idea that it will eventually be eliminated.

“I like the idea that we’re willing to do something incremental,” said Camille Miller, who owns the Mammoth Fun Shop on Main Street. “We can’t just remove parking and hope for the best. [We should be] creating behaviors that support future walking uses, but this helps to bridge that gap.”

She said that, in the future, attitudes around parking may change. “I don’t want us to become complacent in our pursuit of more [contemporary] parking solutions.”

Paul Rudder, who owns the Luxury Outlets on Main Street, said that, while “it’s not a perfect project, I don’t want that to get in the way of us having a project. I’ve been waiting 30 years for a sidewalk on Main Street.”

Tom Cage, who owns Kittredge Sports and the Chevron on the north side of Main Street, said that, although the project may be starting “a little smaller than some of us would have wanted,” the incremental approach would allow business owners to, “see its functionality…then we can work towards businesses building forward on properties.”

He said that, at least for now, “the Southern California customer wants convenience, and that convenience is parking.”

Sausser expressed his fear that Main Street would continue to look like “the 405 freeway,” especially if a 6-8 foot wide hardscaped “promenade” (as Hayes described it) were installed on the south side of the highway as planned.

Sausser suggested split-rail fences, which he said used to line Main Street before it was a 4-lane road. “Or maybe we could hire people to stand there with banners… so Main Street is attractive,” he said.

According to the staff report, a total budget of $7,786,456 has been allocated to the Main Street Plan to date. A large portion of that will be from grants, Hayes said, but he did not immediately respond to a request for comment on how much grant funding the Town currently has for the series of projects.

Grady Dutton also said that the Town was in talks with Caltrans, the agency that has the right of way on Main Street, to reach an agreement about snow removal on the proposed promenade, a “sensitive discussion” which he hopes will be resolved this coming fall.

Hayes also said that Caltrans has applied for a grant on the Town’s behalf to complete the Multi-Use Path from Lake Mary Road to Joaquin and Callahan Streets.

Mayor Wentworth accepted the proposed changes presented by Hayes with the caveats that the proposed infrastructure on the south side of Main Street be identified as the Town Loop with proper signage, and that Town staff return to Council with a proposal for funding projects that are not funded by the state grants. He also asked that Trails Coordinator Joel Rathje be directed to come up with a signing and messaging plan for the proposed promenades.
Last week, President Donald Trump referred to some nations as “sh*t hole countries.”

The Sheet asked people on the street: What is your number one sh*t hole ski area and why?

- **Mount Rose. It’s a small place, not a big time resort, and the lift people know your name. Mammoth’s great, but it’s not like that.**
  - Katherine Greenblatt, Reno

- **Mountain High, in SoCal, for the night boarding. They used to sell these $80 quad passes at Big Five and you’d split ‘em with your buddies so you’d each pay $20.**
  - Aaron Covell, Corona

- **June Mountain. The crowds are terrible, the powder gets tracked out immediately, there’s long lift lines, and the employees are grumpy. It’s definitely not where the locals go. Catch my drift?**
  - Josh Mann, Mammoth Lakes

- **Whiteface, AKA ‘Iceface,’ in Lake Placid, New York. It’s all ice, from top to bottom.**
  - Jack Huang, Mammoth Lakes

- **Mt. Baldy, because there’s never any snow, and there are always too many people.**
  - Michael Munson, Mammoth Lakes

- **June Mountain. The crowds are terrible, the powder gets tracked out immediately, there’s long lift lines, and the employees are grumpy. It’s definitely not where the locals go. Catch my drift?**
  - Josh Mann, Mammoth Lakes

- **Cataloochee in North Carolina. What a joke that place was. Three lifts, and the black diamond run was a cat track made of solid ice.**
  - Ryan Salay, Mammoth Lakes

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**State Farm**

**Contact:**
Dave R Easterby, Agent
437 Old Mammoth Road Suite J
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Call or Email | 760-934-7575 | Dave.easterby.ngk3@statefarm.com

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**FOR 4 PAWS**

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FOR 4 PAWS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization providing monetary assistance to pets in need.

From sheltered animals, to injured animals, to animals owned by families in need, For 4 Paws has helped our local vets give the animals the care they deserve. Let’s not let any of our precious babies go without!

FOR 4 PAWS: PO BOX 2266 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
FOR MORE INFO: Stacy Budfield 88-59.0024 cell
TAX ID: 81-2752369

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GRAND PRIX
continued from page 1

Mammoth's Toyota Grand Prix in January of 2017, Copper Mountain and the Dew Tour at Breckenridge in December of 2017, last weekend's Snowmass Grand Prix and, finally, this week's event in Mammoth.

"Freeskiing and Snowboarding probably have one of the more intense qualifications processes," said Gauthier. "Also, most of them go to the X-Games after this, so there's no break before Korea. And Snowmass and Mammoth are back to back. So to stay healthy is a pretty impressive feat."

Both the Halfpipe and Slopestyle events will be visible from the sun-deck at Main Lodge, from the lifts above the massive terrain features, and from the sidelines and base of both courses, said Burke. Additionally, "if you're coming down Broadway while the Slopestyle competition is going on, you can pull off at the rope line and watch," said Burke. For those who would rather avoid the crowds, the competitions can be live streamed on www.nbcsn.com.

It's been all hands on deck at Mammoth for the last few weeks to get ready for the event, said Burke. TJ Dawold, the Director of Unbound Terrain Parks, praised his crew for their hard work in building the Olympic-sized 22-foot Halfpipe and Slopestyle course. They built the camera-ready courses on top of maintaining the rest of the Mountain's parks (Forest Trail, South Park and all Playgrounds).

Dawold said it took his Snowcat crew about 10 days (with five Cats working all night and a day crew to fine-tune their work) to build the Slopestyle course, and three weeks with three Cats to get the Halfpipe up and running. "With a little bit of determination and teamwork," the crew was able to put together a world-class course. Dawold and his top Cat operators designed the courses, focusing on "rideability and making sure that the athletes are happy," he said.

"TJ and the guys on the crew have such great relationships with the athletes," said Burke. Locally-based riders like Chloe Kim, Kelly Clark and Maddie Mastro have "spent so much time training here that the Cat crew are able to get feedback from the athletes through the process" of building the courses. "I've never seen a crew that works so closely with athletes," said Burke.

When asked about the possibility of a storm hitting Mammoth this weekend (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, was calling for one to three inches on Friday at Mammoth Mountain as of press time), Dawold laughed, saying "it does always snow on the Grand Prix. We have a running joke that we should have the Grand Prix at the end of November," to build a base.

If it's dumping, Dawold said, the athletes can't compete, and the competition will be put on hold. Dawold said it would take all of the Mountain's eight Snowcats working for 12 hours to put the course back together.

"But if there's one thing these guys do have, it's experience!" said Burke. "We have a lot of pride in our program and what we can accomplish," added Dawold.

As if on cue, in strolled skier Nick Goepper (Goepper finished second behind Gus Kenworthy in the men's Freeski Slopestyle event at Snowmass on Sunday, January 14), and shook Dawold's hand, complimenting the course. Goepper is the only American Slopestyle competitor that has held two podiums thus far in the competition, so it's likely he'll be headed to PyeongChang in February. Snowboarders Chloe Kim and Shaun White (who achieved a score of 100 at the Halfpipe in Snowmass) have already locked in their spots on the Olympic team, but both athletes will still be competing at Mammoth's Grand Prix.

"The course will be open after the Grand Prix for local shredders," said Dawold. "And the U.S. team might stick around and train for a while before they go to Korea."

He reminded riders that the offerings in the other parks are still open while the Grand Prix is happening. "We do put a lot of effort into the Grand Prix, but we also put a lot of effort into our public offering," said Dawold. "The jumps in Main Park are just as good all season as they are for the Grand Prix."

The main event will take place at Main Lodge, with contests in Main Park below the chair line of Unbound Express (Chair 6). The vendor village will be at the base of the competition venue, off the Main Lodge sun-deck, between Broadway Express (Chair 1) and Unbound Express.

Burke says that some of Mammoth's properties have been sold out for at least a month, and to expect a crowd. "We always encourage people to take public transportation wherever they can," said Burke. "It'll make everyone's lives easier." The free Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) Red Line bus travels to Main Lodge from The Village (stop #18 across from Sushi Rei) and can be accessed from other ESTA lines in town (visit www.estransit.com for information on routes). Free parking is available along Minaret Road between The Mill and Main Lodge, with shuttles operating every 10 minutes. Visit www.mammothmountain.com for a full schedule of this weekend's events.
A WOMAN’S PLACE IS ON TOP

When Dr. Arlene Blum first set her mind to summiting the 26,200-foot monolith Annapurna I in 1972, an all-female team had never climbed that high.

Of the world’s 14 peaks with summits higher than 8,000 meters above sea level, none had been summited by women. So when Blum, who was a seasoned mountaineer by her mid-20s, set out to make the first ascent of an 8,000 meter-plus peak by an American woman, she was challenging the status quo, even in America’s counter-culture-loving climbing community.

Annapurna I has the highest mortality rate of any peak in the world. It was the first peak higher than 8,000 meters to be summited by humans. To date, 60 people have died climbing it, and only 157 people have successfully summited. In the early ’70s, it had only been climbed by eight people.

When asked why she chose Annapurna I, Dr. Blum said simply, “I knew women could climb high mountains, but at the time, people didn’t seem to think they could.” So she chose the most challenging peak she could find as a test piece.

Blum recruited 12 of the strongest female mountaineers she could find to join her. Blum chose to ascend the Dutch Rib, a knife’s-edge ridge of ice that had only been climbed for the first time a year before, in 1977. In the year leading up to the trip, the 12 women, who ranged in age from their early 20s to 50, fundraised the $380,000 necessary to finance the climb by selling t-shirts that read, “A Woman’s Place is On Top.”

Despite suffering some terrible pick-ups and one-liners from their male peers, they made it to the Himalaya.

The American Women’s Himalayan Expedition was not universally popular with the rest of the climbing community. “At the time, we had trouble getting our permit approved by the American Alpine Club. There was an attitude of pseudo-protectiveness that created obstacles for us. It was like, if our permit approved by the American Alpine Club. There was an attitude of pseudo-protectiveness that created obstacles for us. It was like, if a woman dies in the mountains, she’s trying to prove something,” said Dr. Blum this week.

By 1978, when the American Women’s Himalayan Expedition set out to climb Annapurna I, Blum had proven herself as a leader during the first all-female ascent of Denali (which included a successful all-female rescue claims made by male teams claiming first American ascents.

When asked how the all-female Annapurna I expedition differed from her experiences climbing massive mountains with men, Dr. Blum said, “There was a real sense of discovering what we were capable of. It felt like the grown-ups weren’t there. We were the kids on our own, and it was a real adventure.”

Dr. Blum no longer climbs “dangerous peaks,” (she does not include free-climbing in this category) and hasn’t since she became a mother in 1978. She hadn’t anticipated giving up big Everest-style expeditions, but found that, “being a mom was way fun and interesting, and I didn’t miss it.” She did, however, carry her daughter the length of the Alps and continued to climb in California. She cited Mount Humphreys, all of the Minarets, North Palisade, the Evolution Range, and the East Face of Mount Whitney as favorite

A member of the Expedition leads the Dutch Rib, a snow-covered ridge, on Annapurna I.

Filmmaker Dymphna Taylor, Margi Rusmore and Christy Teun go off on their long johns while filming the team’s ascent on Dutch Rib. (2005).

Dr. Blum rappels on Annapurna I in 1978.

The American Women’s Himalayan Expedition at the team’s base camp below Annapurna I, in the Himalaya. Arlene Blum is pictured at the bottom right of the photo.

Blum in 1970 as a member of “The Denali Damsels,” the first all-woman team to summit the peak.

Dr. Arlene Blum talks big mountain ascents, tragedy, and toxic molecules in Mammoth Lakes

Dr. Blum is also the author of “Annapurna: A Woman’s Place” (1980), and “Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life” (2005). Join the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association for a dinner with and presentation by Dr. Blum at The Bistro at Snowcreek in Mammoth at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 20. Tickets are $70 and are available at www.esiaonline.org. All proceeds benefit ESIA.
By Bodine

Maybe they’ve been out in the sun too long, or maybe it’s the freedom that comes with living far from civilization, but the art coming out of the eastern edges of Inyo County is reflective of the vast expanse its artists gaze into every day and night. Artists from Darwin will be bringing their wares and intentionally broken words to the Tecopa Artists Gallery in Tecopa, home of the Tecopa Hot Springs, from January 20 until March 31.

According to the 2010 Census, the population of Darwin is 43. Founded in 1874, Darwin is the former home of the Defiance mines, of which there were once 60 in operation. It once boasted a population of 3,500 people, and was known as a rough town, where fights, stabblings and murders were rampant. The last mine closed in 1945, and some intrepid residents have been hanging on ever since. Many have taken to creating exotic desert artwork.

Judyth Greenburgh, a commercial artist by trade, has been working with kaleidoscope art for more than a year, in addition to creating photography and rusted can art. She recently became a self-professed kaleidoscope junkie and housemate, “and really messed up my living arrangement.”

Greenburgh said that the towns of Tecopa and Darwin are kindred spirits, as it takes a certain kind of person to live in the desert without reliable internet service or cell phone reception, among other things.

Most of the Inyo County outliers have an affinity for vast expanses, wide vistas and a flat horizon. Many Darwin residents had previously lived near the ocean; another inspirational sweep.

In 1997, Goss was exploring the desert near Darwin as a visitor. While she was out of town, her housemate in San Francisco brought home a date from a bar. That night, the date murdered her housemate “and really messed up my living arrangement.”

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The show starts Saturday, January 20 and runs through March 31 at the Tecopa Artists Gallery, 860 Tecopa Hot Springs Road. Tecopa. The opening reception will be January 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. Greenburgh will offer a kaleidoscope workshop from 10 a.m. to noon and Goss will offer readings of Darwoon Dyreez from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 18. Reservations are required for the kaleidoscope workshop. Call 760.852.4420 for more information about the event, or go to tecopa springs.org. Tecopa is located on Highway 127, halfway between Baker and Death Valley Junction.

Deciphering Darwoonish
Artists from the wilds of Inyo County gather for a show in Tecopa

calendar of events

BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/

The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Party, 3-6 p.m. off draft beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5
Flatbread. See ad. p. 7.

Outlaw Saloon: Happy Hour Monday; All Night Happy Hour; 4-Midnight, Tues-Fri 4-6 p.m.

Sunday ticket NFL Outlaw opens early at 10 a.m. with breakfast burritos, Bloody Marys and mimosas. Roberto’s 4-6 p.m. every day.

Austria Ho. 5-8 p.m. daily. See ad. p. 11.

Whitbark 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. 3.

Petra’s Bistro Happy Hour, 5-6 p.m. every day. See ad. p. 3.

Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour Mon. thru Fri 4-6; Saturdays 4-5. Closed Sun.

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

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

Smokeyard weekend Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. in the bar only.

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

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

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

Black Velvet Coffee’s Happy Hour, from 4-6 p.m. every day.

Morrison’s Happy Hour Daily 4-6 p.m.

Friday, January 19/

Open Mic Mash-Up @ Black Velvet Coffee Roasters, Bishop. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 20/

Rebel Shakedown @ Rafters. California Reggae. 10 p.m Free. 21 +, Chris Murphy and the Bracken Band Live at the Council for the Arts Original and traditional Irish music on guitar and violin. 7-8 p.m. at ICA. Tickets: $15 at ICA.

Sunday, January 21/

Some Assembly Required plays Black Doubt Brewing. 7 p.m. Free.

Sunday NFL Specials at Outlaw Saloon. Jaguars v. Patriots at 12:05 p.m., Vikings vs. Eagles at 3:40 p.m. See ad. p. 9.

Monday, January 22/

Bowling n Beats @ Mammoth Rock’n Bowl. 9 p.m. $3 games with costume. Open Mic Happy Night @ Black Doubt Brewing. 6 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23/

Karaoke @ Rafters with DJ CDS, 10 p.m. Free, 21 & up.

Trim the Tree @ Mammoth Brewing Co. Starts 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24/

Trivial Night at Mountain Rambler Brewery. Starts 8:15 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

January 19-31/

Calico Quilters Art Show at the Mammoth Lakes Library. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Purchase proceeds support Friends of the Mammoth Lakes Library.

January 19-March 31/

Wilderness Photography by Eastern Sierra artist Londe Padebsky, 12-5 p.m. Wednesday-Monday at the Mono Arts Council Gallery, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes.

January 19-21/

U.S. Open Snowboarding & Freeski Grand Prix @ Mammoth. Athletes compete for their spot on Team USA at PyeongChang 2018. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. each day in Unbound Park at Main Lodge. Associated events like autograph signing and concert. Check mammothmountain.com for full schedule. See ad, page 2 and story, front page.

January 19-20/

Inyo Associates Meeting in Death Valley. Join community leaders for networking and discussion. 5:30 p.m. social hour, 6:30 p.m. dinner.

Friday, January 19/

USFA National Ice Skating Month: Free Fridays. Free “first timer” skate assist sessions on Friday nights. Times: 4 p.m., 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6 & 6:30, 7 +, walk-ins welcome. Sessions are 20 minutes. See ad. p. 3.

Snacks and Science Fridays at the Mammoth Lakes Library. Make stress balls with different fillers, 1 p.m. Ages 4 & up.

Saturday, January 20/

Eastern Sierra Women’s March (second annual). Event open to everyone. Kicks off 9 a.m. in Bishop City Park. Booths in park after march. Info about booths: jmtiede@icloud.com, to volunteer: Jessica.jay@gmail.com. See story, p. 4.

Alabama Hills Film History Tour. Meet at the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center, Lone Pine, at 10 a.m. Tour goes until 12 p.m.

Murder Mystery Dinner Play. Help solve the murder of Roberto Clappini. Tic: $30. Pre-sale tickets available at Elks Lodge office, Bishop. Tickets also available day-of. Proceeds benefit Elks Lodge and local charities, 5 p.m. Adventure Series Dinner with Arlene Blum. Fundraiser dinner hosted by the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association at the Bistro at Snowcreek Athletic Club with special guest Arlene Blum. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Tickets: $70. Info: lae@esiaonline.org. See ad, page 4, story page 12.

Wooly’s Saturday Parade in The Village at Mammoth. 3:45-4:30 p.m. Music, face painting begins at 3:45 p.m., parade begins at 4 p.m.

Sunday, January 21/

Sierra Club Ski, Snowshoe, or Hike Adventure (depending on conditions). Meet at Union Bank parking lot in Mammoth at 10 a.m. Info: Ann at 760.934.9271.

Math Counts Winter Warm-Ups. 9 a.m. to noon at Bridgeport Elementary School. See sidebar, next page.

Quarteto Neuro Concert. 3-5 p.m. at the Bishop High School Auditorium. Call Community Printing for tickets: 760.873.3049 or buy them at the door. See sidebar next page.

MAMMOTH LIQUOR

Beer lovers’ candy store
Selection of more than 300 beers
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LICK HER AT YOUR OWN RISK

THE SHEET | Saturday, January 20, 2018
www.thesheetnews.com
Quarteto Nuevo Concert

This is the third concert in Bishop Community Concerts Association’s 70th season series in Bishop. Quarteto Nuevo merges western classical, Eastern European folk, Latin, and jazz.

Winners of the Beverly Hills National Auditions, Quarteto’s master musicians create emotively charged soundscapes with instruments and sensibilities that represent very different world cultures. Their unique instrumental mix, featuring a second saxophone/alt flute (Damon Zick), cello (Jacob Szekely), guitar (Kenton Youngstrom) and hand percussion (Felipe Fraga)—colors their wide-ranging repertoire, from Heitor Villa-Lobos’ “Bachianas Brasileiras” and Chick Corea’s “Children’s Song No. 6” to Traditional Macedonian “Gadjarsko” and original works “Hector, Desmond and Titus,” Song” and “Dizer O Que.” For tickets to the show on Sunday, January 21, call Community Printing at 760.873.3049.

Full moon snowshoe

Enjoy the magical light of the full moon on this guided snowshoe tour. Depart the Tamarack Lodge Ski Center at 7 p.m. for a 1.5 hour after-dark excursion, then gather for fire-side refreshments inside Tamarack Lodge. The Tour is $59 and snowshoe rentals are included. Space is limited, call 800 MAMMOTH to make your reservation. Tours are available January 22-30, and February 27-28. See ad, page 7.

Mammoth Lakes curling league

Join the Mammoth Lakes inaugural Adult Curling League. This is a coed league. Each team must consist of at least four members, but may have an unlimited number of substitutes. All adult participants must fill out an Adult Participation Waiver. Team managers will be responsible for completing a team roster and ensuring team participants have a reservation. Participation is free. See ad, page 7.

Hike the Alabama Hills

The Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office, Alabama Hills Stewardship Group and Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association will be hosting two hour guided hikes. “The Alabama Hills under foot” hike will be held on Sunday, January 14. Hear geological and cultural tales on several short walks.

“The Alabama Hills are Alive” hike will be held January 27. Discover native flora and fauna.

For info, contact BLM Bishop Field Office, Alabama Hills Steward Dave Kirk at dmkirk@blm.gov, or call the Eastern Sierra Visitor Center at 760.876.6222.

The Post (PG 13): Meryl Streep stars in this political thriller directed and produced by Steven Spielberg which follows the Washington Post’s race to expose The Post (PG 13): Meryl Streep stars in this political thriller directed and produced by Steven Spielberg which follows the Washington Post’s race to expose

Mammoth Unbound Series

Step up your on-hill game with a friendly competition or enter for a chance to qualify for the USASA National Championships and U.S. Revolution Tour. Open to all ages and skill levels, each event will feature a medal ceremony and a chance to win tons of sweet stuff. Competing must have a USASA membership. Sign up for a USASA membership and select the Unbound Series as your home series.

Full moon snowshoe

Enjoy the magical light of the full moon on this guided snowshoe tour. Depart the Tamarack Lodge Ski Center at 7 p.m. for a 1.5 hour after-dark excursion, then gather for fire-side refreshments inside Tamarack Lodge. The Tour is $59 and snowshoe rentals are included. Space is limited, call 800 MAMMOTH to make your reservation. Tours are available January 22-30, and February 27-28. See ad, page 7.

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

The Post (PG 13): Meryl Streep stars in this political thriller directed and produced by Steven Spielberg which follows the Washington Post’s race to expose a massive government cover-up.


For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com.
REGULATED IN INYO
Inyo County announces regulations and permitting for cannabis
By James

At the January 16 Inyo County Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors heard the second and final reading of the commercial cannabis regulations on land use, zoning, business licensing, and abatement of nexus. The four supervisors that voted in favor of the new regulations were First District Supervisor Dan Totheroh, Second District Supervisor J. Griffiths, Third District Supervisor Rick Pucci, and Fifth District Supervisor Matt Kingsley. Fourth District Supervisor Mark Tillemans recused himself from the meetings on commercial cannabis to avoid any potential conflict of interest over his stated interest in the industry. The new regulations will go into effect on February 15, 2018. Over 20 meetings and workshops were held throughout Inyo County since the passing of Proposition 64 in November of 2016. That Proposition resulted in the recreational use of cannabis by adults becoming legal statewide on January 1, but many communities have placed their own moratoriums on its use.

The Board’s regulations cover only unincorporated areas of Inyo County and not the City of Bishop, which has its own regulations which currently prohibits commercial cannabis activity of any kind. The City of Bishop cannot prohibit medical marijuana or recreational marijuana use within the city limits, nor can it prohibit grows of up to six plants for personal use.

Before a business license for commercial cannabis can be approved by the County, residents will have the opportunity to offer public comment. Additionally, applicants must obtain a conditional use permit through the County Planning Commission. Applicants must meet state regulations to obtain a state license, which must be renewed annually.

An expedited county abatement process was implemented to quickly address any “nuisance” complaints resulting from any commercial cultivation operation.

Commercial operations are banned in rural residential zoning areas. Changes might later be needed to accommodate growers and businesses, especially in outlying rural residential areas in the eastern parts of the county where some farmers have already been growing cannabis.

There will be 39 cultivation licenses available in District 5 alone. District 4 will offer only two cultivation licenses, and District 3 will offer no cannabis licenses of any kind. District 2 will offer two licenses for indoor cultivation, but none for outdoor cultivation, and District 1 will offer two cultivation licenses.

Each Supervisor made the decision on the number and types of licenses allowed within the licensing zones created within their own supervisory district.

For more information about the final regulations, call Inyo County Planning Department at 760-878-0263.

CANNABIS continued from page 1

Sausser.

Robert Calvert told Council that he had received an offer from a person who wished to sell him 800 pounds of marijuana. The seller was not licensed, and even if he were, Calvert can’t legally sell recreational marijuana, so he declined the offer.

“Where do you think that 800 pounds is going?” asked Calvert. He also said that Mammoth Lakes Wellness is, “experiencing lettering,” for the first time ever—groups of people 21 and over waiting outside his business and “asking medicinal patients if they can buy cannabis for them. It’s generated by the lack of an ordinance in this town. We’re losing business we can’t get back.”

“Visitors who come up here are dumbfounded when they find that we do not have adult use recreational [marijuana].” said Mayor Pro Tem Cleland Hoff. “And they’re taking it out on the businesses.”

Mammoth Lakes and Mono County are both considering putting a recreational marijuana tax on the June 5 ballot. However, Town Attorney Andy Morris said that the State requires that the ballot language be submitted to the County, “no later than 88 days [before the election], and taking tax County counsel, it’s going to be very tight. You have to [... decide] what you want the tax to look like in February.”

He added staff are considering a special tax requiring 2/3 voter approval which could be “earmarked” for whatever the Town wants to use the tax to fund. Another option would be to “allow cannabis operators to pay something that looks like a tax,” but would in fact be a “contractual agreement at arms’ length between the city and the operator.”

“Then we are stringing this out to ridiculous proportions,” said Hoff.

As far as taxing, at this point I could care less whether we tax it or not. It comes down to [whether] we’re going to be the best Alpine recreation resort in the country. People want this.”

Calvert said that Mammoth was “missing the boat” and that customers hoping to buy commercial marijuana in Mammoth, “are not coming back... our image is being crushed and our businesses are bleeding.”

For several minutes, a motion was made on the table (put forth by Sausser and seconded by Hoff) to convert the medical businesses to commercial businesses in an expedited fashion, which Mayor John Wentworth called “reckless.”

Morris said that repealing the moratorium on commercial sales was “a little bit scary” and pointed out that the State does allow 120-day temporary licenses for commercial sellers, “so they’re not permanently entitled to sell in the absence of any regulatory structure.”

It was finally agreed that an extended workshop would be held on the date of the next Town Council meeting, February 7, to discuss the details of the issue in depth.

This would also allow Council to review a packet prepared by HdL Companies, a cannabis consulting service, which will be given to Town staff on Monday, January 22.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Assistant Planner Nolan Bohrloff told The Sheet that the Town “retained [HdL] specifically for writing the tax ballot measure resolution,” to appear on the June ballot. Their analysis is expected to include a proposed tax rate and anticipated revenue.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sale of Abandoned Property

NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Sections 2328 of the UCC, Sections 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at Public Sale by competitive bidding on Monday, the 22nd day of January, 2018, at 5:00PM, on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Sure Self Storage, 58 Commerce Dr., Mammoth Lakes, CA, County of Mono, State of California, the following:

- 4 boxes of unopened books
- 6 boxes of miscellaneous store returns
- 1 plastic box
- 4 plastic boxes
- 1 box of garage sale items
- 1 box of wine glasses
- Small Suitcase
- 1 TV Stand
- 1 Plastic Storage Box
- 2 Boxes of Beverage Glasses
- Plastic Bag
- 1 plastic box
- 1 box of miscellaneous
- Coleman Camp Stove.

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and free of any claims.

Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement or to enforcement of lien imposed on said property pursuant to sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Sections 2328 of the UCC, Sections 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

Dated this 10th and 17th day of January, 2018.
Gary Czarnot, Auctioineer
4097 E. 22
760-934-4583
TS #2018-0006

Attention:
Surplus Equipment Available
Computers & Peripherals, Office Furniture, & Scientific Equipment

In accordance with District Rule 1101 Section 4.3, the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District will be disposing of certain District materials, equipment and assets deemed to be surplus. Surplus items will be made available first to non-profit organizations, government agencies and schools at no charge. To see a complete list of items and the process for obtaining them, please visit our website at www.obsapcd.org/purchasing or call Susan Cash at (760) 872-8211 extension 230 no later than 5pm, January 25, 2018.

Introductory Microsoft Excel

This course will include an introduction to spreadsheets. A spreadsheet is an interactive computer application for organization, analysis and storage of data such as budgets.

Schedule: January 24 to February 5
5:30 to 7:30pm
Mon and Wed
AEC in the ML Library

FREE!

*Pre-Registration is recommended. Please stop by the Adult Education Center (AEC) located in the Mammoth Lakes Library or call (760) 914-4131, Monday-Thursday, 10-5.

Mono County Office of Education
Adult Education Center
Located in the Mammoth Lakes Library (760) 914-4131
Capricorn: The Stars are saying this is the right time to speak a truth you need to say aloud. Clouds believes in you and will support you no matter what. Just try not to say anything that will do unnecessary damage or ruin your chances of make-up sex later.

Aquarius: There’s a theory that if people would ground themselves more, we’d be healthier. Basically, it states that if we could just spend time touching the earth directly with our hands, feet or other parts, our bodies would naturally heal and thus be healthier. Since it’s a light snow year, try doing some grounding. As a reward, your body would rely on you much more.

Pisces: You never know when, or from where, something great will happen in your life. Sure, we get hints, and faith is usually helpful, but you never know which way the wind will blow and if or will blow in something good. Faith is usually helpful, but you never know which way the wind will blow and if or will blow in something good.

Aries: If you’re in need of some motivation during this odd winter we’re having, just do these three things: Remember that you’re an Aries and you’re meant to shine. Remember that blaming farts on the dog only works a few times. And always remember that it’s either “One Day,” or “Day One.” You get to decide.

Taurus: This much we know is true: The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest, and the first to forget may be senile. This much we’re not sure of: President Trump’s mental health, why someone can take the same situation you’re whining about and win with it, or why you’re so darn irritable, even when you’re angry.

Gemini: To be a truly environmentally responsible people we must embrace the idea that body heat is a precious resource during the cold winter months. Therefore, be sure to practice cuddling more often. If you’d like to turn the heat all the way up to canoodling, try this line, “I would love to respect the hell out of you all night long.”

Cancer: It’s pretty tough to enjoy the rest of the month, but first it will piss you off. If you’re in need of some mo-

Leo: To help you get through cold and flu season, and to keep you making the most out of this blessed year, please find your new sources of inspiration—and Vitamin C—from Halls Cough Drops. Every wrapper offers helpful pep talks like, “Tough is your middle name!” (Which works well if your middle name is “Dolores” or “Sheldon”), “Give yourself a High Five!” (Low Fives are nice, too), and, “Inspire envy.” (Which is easily accomplished by feeling comfortable going au natural). To help you get used to swinging your magic wand in honor of others, try this on for size: Think of those you care about while offering these spells; May your life be too important to be taken seriously. Make the road always rise to meet you. May the force be with you. May you be rich beyond your wildest dreams and then share your riches with local non-profits. May you dive in exotic places like Hawaii, Vietnam and the Alabama Hills Cafe. And may you have plenty of reasons to dance with no pants.

Libra: January will pick up speed as the Red Hot Chili Peppers. “Where I go, turn the page.” Or better yet, “If you need some lovin’ and you need it right away, take a little time out.”

Scorpio: To help you get used to swinging your magic wand in honor of others, try this on for size: Think of those you care about while offering these spells; May your life be too important to be taken seriously. Make the road always rise to meet you. May the force be with you. May you be rich beyond your wildest dreams and then share your riches with local non-profits. May you dive in exotic places like Hawaii, Vietnam and the Alabama Hills Cafe. And may you have plenty of reasons to dance with no pants.
Finding Your Happy Place

Middle-aged dad explores the benefits of hypnotherapy with Lisa Dewey

By Mike McKenna

W

e all understand that it’s a good idea to regularly cleanse our bodies. Cleansing our minds, however, is something very few of us think about, and it’s about time we should. That’s because if our minds are clogged and unhealthy, our bodies and lives will be, too. There are good reasons why so many of us are feeling stressed out, or are battling some kind of physical or psychological problem.

While we can’t always change what we have to deal with in life, we can change how we choose to handle these challenges. Pharmaceutical companies advertise one way and traditional psychiatrists offer another. Meanwhile, in quiet places like yoga studios in NoHo, people like Lisa Dewey are offering still another method: hypnotherapy.

Expanding instead of shrinking

Long before Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung made it popular, seeing psychologists has been the accepted way to try to cleanse the mind. But seeing a “shrink” doesn’t work for everyone. That’s why alternative options like hypnotherapy are increasingly gaining popularity.

Hypnotherapy is an often-misunderstood practice with a fairly easy core concept: Use a deep state of relaxation to tap into the mind. Once you reach that state, a lot of good work can happen under skilled guidance, as habits can be released, memories can be repaired or given closure, anxiety can be soothed, pain can be managed, or a better and healthier mindset can be ignited.

It’s really about shifting things on a subconscious level for the better,” Lisa said as we sat in her office in the Yoga NoHo building in Los Angeles. “The modern world is crazy with kids, deadlines, a 9-to-5, careers. It’s overwhelming, I help people feel calm, centered and like they’re leading from a place they want to lead from.”

Lisa’s practice isn’t about shrinking; it’s about expanding and releasing.

“It’s what she likes most about a field that found her. “I enjoy people experience that shift. It can be as simple as one day after we’ve done some work realizing, ‘Oh, wait, I’m not feeling that negative thing or pain anymore.’” Lisa said, when advised me to lean back and find a comfortable position to begin my first ever hypnotherapy session.

“I hate what I do. I believe in it so much,” she said. “I do it myself and it’s made a huge difference.”

High on life

Lisa grew up in Mammoth and went to college in San Diego. She stumbled upon the techniques of hypnotherapy while helping others.

Lisa’s dad, Don Dewey, passed away when she was still a teenager. The unexpected loss led Lisa to suffer from panic attacks for years afterwards. They worsened after her then-boyfriend, Chris Herren, barely survived a freak snowboarding accident.

Realizing how fragile life can be, Lisa decided she wanted to do more with her, so she moved back down south and took a job working at a women’s recovery center. The work introduced her to hypnotherapy. Lisa saw the good it did for struggling women, so she decided to try it herself. Soon thereafter, she stopped having panic attacks and hasn’t had one since. Lisa was so inspired by the positive impacts she decided to study hypnotherapy at the acclaimed HTH Institute in San Francisco, which required she complete over 400 hours of training.

“Okay,” she says in her gentle, calming voice as I begin working on deep breathing, “what would you like to work on?”

Most are the same as most middle-aged dads. I want to be 27 again. Since that isn’t possible, I say that I’d like to feel less stressed, more self-confident, more at ease in life—basically, the way I felt at 27.

After a couple breathing relaxation activities, we went to a deeper level. While I can’t say I ever unconsciously, I definitely felt like part of me was floating to places I’d never been, kind of like the time I went to Tijuana.

Lisa then guided me to the spot in my body where I could physically feel a block and we worked on releasing it. After what felt like a long dream, Lisa called me back into the moment.

“I was a bit groggy but instantly felt different. After the session, as I walked down to meet Jack Lunch at the Kahuna Tiki Bar, I felt lighter and more positive than I have in a long time. I was high on life, instead of just the usual substances.

Even lawyers can do it!

Besides working with regular old stiffs like me, Lisa’s practice is becoming increasingly popular with corporate sales and business teams. She said that stress management techniques, which are a big part of hypnotherapy practices, have proven to be very beneficial for those working in business environments. After Lisa does mindfulness and meditative work with the teams, their overall productivity picks up and things like sick days decrease.

“They’ve found it to be a good business investment,” Lisa said about her happy, high-powered clients.

Lisa said that most professional team members are skeptical at first, like a group of lawyers she recently worked with. But after she told them she could get them feeling better in 90 seconds, even they decided to give it try, and the lawyers were happy with the results.

Ultimately, what I’m doing is helping people help and heal themselves. Everyone has an inner healer. I think everybody knows how to heal themselves, they just forget. I help them to remember,” Lisa said. The biggest misconceptions people have about hypnotherapy surround the hypnotic state, “People think that they are not going to be in control or that they will be brainwashed. The truth is you are in full control. You’re driving. I’m just co-piloting and helping navigate.” You can have multiple levels of consciousness at one time. So you can be an observer and still be in the experience,” Lisa said about the process of hypnotherapy.

“There’s this wonderful place where fate and free will come together. Fate is what happens to you. Free will is how you choose to handle the things that have happened to you,” Lisa explained. “When you’re in hypnosis, since you have free will, you can choose how you want to handle the things that have happened to you.

A couple weeks after our session I had a follow up phone call with Lisa. I happily reported my progress since our session.

“It’s very rewarding when clients come back and say they feel more calm, more relaxed, lighter,” she said, citing the very things I was feeling post-hypnotherapy.

“When clients can discover something they didn’t know they had within them, or they get over something that has bothered them or held them back,” Lisa said in her silky-smooth and soothing voice, “when they experience that shift, then I feel like I’ve done my job. That I’ve helped.”

(To find out more, or to book a hypnotherapy session in North Los Angeles or via Skype/Facetime, please email Lisa@LisaDeweyHypnotherapay.com or call 323.886.1270.)
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