T-BONED AT A-FRAME

A two-vehicle collision occurred on Wednesday, January 31 at the intersection of Manzanita and Main Street in Mammoth. A Dodge Ram making a left-hand turn was struck by this GMC pickup and careened over the median and through an empty bus stop. See briefs, p. 5.

SEKI FOR BUSINESS

Sequoia-Kings Canyon (SEKI) to limit commercial permits this season

By Bodine

B usinesses that make their living in the backcountry are having that livelihood cut or eliminated with a stroke of a pen. Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park (SEKI) is implementing its new Wilderness Stewardship Plan this year, and that plan features massive cuts to “user days,” which will reduce the number of clients that guides and packers can bring into the park. SEKI has not offered a rationale behind the new permitting allocations.

Commercial businesses such as climbing guide services and pack outfits need a permit from the national park or forest they will be operating in to serve clients there legally. Permits or commercial use authorizations (CUA) for SEKI are required for commercial recreation activities in the popular Mount Whitney Zone. Much of the east side of Mt. Whitney, including the trail from Lone Pine, is in the Inyo National Forest, but the peak’s summit is in SEKI.

Sintia Kawasaki-Yee, Public Information Officer for SEKI, said it is still not known how the Inyo National Forest will enforce SEKI’s rules.

There will be 10 permitted guide CUAs splitting 975 user days for the Whitney Zone in 2018-2019, according to the CUA 2018-19 application form. Each CUA will receive 68 user days, leaving a pool of 295 leftover days. SP Parker, owner of Sierra Mountain Center, explained that in order to get those extra days, the CUA must prove it has reservations for a trip. However, clients aren’t going to plan a trip if there’s no guarantee there will be days available.

Prior to the new plan, there were no quotas, says Parker. Kawasaki-Yee said there were 30 CUAs available for the upcoming season, and there were 41 applicants. The 11 applicants not awarded a CUA were either non-profits (who aren’t required to have one), or were rejected, Kawasaki-Yee said.

Mimi Vedasz, owner of Alpine Skills International of Truckee and a permit holder for 38 years, was not awarded a permit. Her business will be devastated, she said. In 2012, the environmental group High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) sued the

see SEKI, page 6

PARKING WARS

Village employees face fines for parking at work

By Rea

I t’s tough enough for visitors to find a spot in Mammoth’s Village on a busy weekend, but Village employees, some of whom are coming from second jobs or from outside Town limits, are finding it harder than ever.

“It’s the same thing with housing,” said Ashley Robertson, a manager at Campo. “There’s so much housing and there’s nowhere to live. In the Village, there’s so much space and nowhere to park. It’s not setting employees up for long term success.”

Robertson presented a petition, signed by over 160 Village employees, to Mammoth’s Town Council at its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 17, asking Council address the issue. “I got that many signatures with virtually no effort,” said Robertson, whose restaurant employs 66 people. She said she left a copy of the petition at Smokeyard and almost all of its 50-some employees signed it. Stu Need at Lakanuki (which employs around 40 people) also distributed a copy. Need’s business was the second place to open in the Village in May, 2003, he said, and the issue of parking is “like a thorn in your side

see PARKING, page 8

HOME TURF VICTORY

Mammoth’s Omar Prietus goes in for a tackle against Mojave’s Manual Andrade at the Huskies’ home game on January 30. The Men’s Varsity Soccer beat Mojave 1-0, and the Women’s team beat Mojave 4-0. For more photos, see page 16.
A TIME OF RECKONING

By Lunch

In his letter to the editor this week (page 17), John Armstrong asserts that based upon nicknames I bestowed upon Mammoth Lakes Public Works director Grady Dutton, I have “reduced the inclination of citizens to take part in the governance of our community” by “casting unacceptable ridicule and scorn on the citizens of Mammoth Lakes.”

Okay. Let’s review.

Mr. Dutton sought to ban public and press from scheduled meetings with the Federal Aviation Administration officials. He claimed the meetings were private. He didn’t properly notice the meetings, sending out emails to “invited” parties late Wednesday afternoon prior to the first meeting held Thursday, January 25, at 1 p.m.

I called Town Attorney Andrew Morris on Thursday morning and said The Sheet would be attending the meeting, and if we were denied entry, we would pursue legal action against the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Morris assured me that no legal proceedings would be necessary and that The Sheet and members of the public were welcome to attend. Mr. Dutton is a Town staffer. He serves at the pleasure of the Town Manager, the Town Council and this community. It is his job to represent the entire community, to present issues and alternatives as objectively as possible, to give Councilmembers the best and most comprehensive information with which to make informed decisions.

Given the shenanigans which have occurred at Mammoth Yosemite Airport over the years, the Council and public should know all the facts and discussion regarding the future of the airport, and capital projects under consideration.

The Sheet and members of the public were welcome to attend.

At the meeting, FAA Western Regional Director Mark McClady again urged Mono and Inyo Counties to pursue a regional solution to commercial air service.

“We’ve gone through the environmental documents,” he said, “both airports have problems.”

However, the work needed to be done in Bishop to obtain a Part 139 certification necessary for commercial service “does not seem insurmountable,” according to McClady.

In fact, Bishop representatives feel they are very close to getting such a certification—which, I’m guessing, makes Mammoth airport proponents like Mr. Dutton very nervous.

Bishop also has a letter of interest from Allegiant Airlines, which would consider flying a 156-seat Airbus 319 airplane into Bishop’s Airport. As Inyo County Administrator Kevin Carunchio pointed out, Bishop Airport received an “infrastructure dividend” thanks to World War II. Bishop has cross-wind runways, a primary runway that is longer than Mammoth’s, is rated to 600,000 pounds and can accommodate aircraft as large as a Boeing 767.

It also poses few of the weather problems which are endemic to Mammoth Yosemite.

As stated in the LeighFisher passenger traffic study commissioned by Inyo County, which came out in February, 2017, Mammoth Yosemite has a 15 percent rate of cancellations and diversions—and this does not include winter’s numbers, which were significantly worse.

By contrast, the national average is 3 percent.

At a recent Mammoth Lakes Tourism meeting, MLT’s Executive Director John Urdi asserted that while Mammoth had about a 20 percent cancellation rate last season, even if the flights had been into Bishop, there still would have been 10 percent cancellations.

Friday’s meeting demonstrated that Mr. Urdi must have made up the 10 percent figure.

According to Bishop Airport Manager Ken Babione, Federal Express experiences perhaps two to three cancellations per year due to weather.

Bishop Airport averages eight inches of snow per year.

The LeighFisher study is worth a read. It projects Bishop Airport could expect to achieve 20,000 enplanements by 2020 and double that number by 2037.

The forecast is based upon one flight per day (156 seats) at a 68 percent load factor.

The study points out that peer resort communities tend to attract enplanement numbers between two-and-three times the permanent population.

Meaning, if the permanent population of Inyo and Mono Counties is approximately 32,000, the region should be able to attract a minimum of 64,000 enplanements per year.

Last year, Mammoth attained approximately 22,000 enplanements, yielding a ratio, in relation to population, of 0.7.

While Mammoth typically does less than 1,000 enplanements per month during the summers, the LeighFisher study noted that Kalispell, Montana (Glacier National Park) has achieved 40,000 enplanements during the month of July alone.

Yosemite National Park had 5.1 million visitors in 2016, according to the study. 800,000 visited in July of that year.

Engineering Consultant Robert Wadell referred to Mammoth and Bishop Airports as “complementary, not competitive airports.”

If this is the case, is it in anyone’s best interest for Mammoth to continue to pursue a $30+ million dollar airport terminal expansion project? Does Mammoth continue to push because a terminal expansion (for an airport that’s seen a 30 percent decline in passengers over the past five years) is a good idea or in the public interest, or does it push because the powers-that-be feel a need to make up for or justify the $50 million airport litigation setback?

Here’s hoping a regional solution for commercial air service inspires a forthright and honest Mammoth reckoning.
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AND MANY MORE...
By Rea

Mammoth’s Town Council will decide at its upcoming meeting on February 7 whether to fund the position of Eastern Sierra Recreation Coordinator (ESRC). If approved, the position will be the first-ever employee shared between the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County.

Mayor John Wentworth called the position a “harbinger of the future” for communities whose economies are based largely upon recreation. The U.S. Forest Service’s “Framework for Sustainable Recreation,” published in 2010, calls for communities bordering public lands to step up in areas where the Forest Service is struggling—namely, in the arena of recreation facilities, trails and roads. An example of this is the Town of Mammoth Lakes’ potential adoption of care of the Reds Meadow Road (the 8.3-mile road has been selected for a $24 million Federal Lands Access Program grant to repair it, provided the Town takes over its maintenance in perpetuity).

“This is how we bring sustainable recreation to life,” said Wentworth of the Recreation Coordinator job. Wentworth said that, if voters pass Senate Bill 5 (the “Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor for All Act of 2018”) in June, “millions of dollars [will be allocated] for the kinds of projects we need to do on federal lands.”

SB 5 would allocate funds for climate adaptation, wildlife conservation, and watersheds, to name a few of the beneficiaries of the bill. Mammoth Lakes and Mono County hope the ESRC position will help secure those funds locally.

“If we invest in this [Recreation Coordinator] position, this is going to leverage potentially millions from the federal government,” said Wentworth. “Climate change is the number one policy initiative in the state of California, and we need to do everything we can to leverage cap and trade,” he said.

Cap-and-trade is a program which seeks to hold California businesses to ever-more stringent emissions targets (the “cap”) while providing flexibility by allowing them to buy allowances (which allow them to emit a certain amount of pollution) or to swap existing allowances with one another (the “trade”).

Sierra communities benefit from cap-and-trade because the Sierra “is where all the carbon gets sequestered, where we have catastrophic wildfires, where the state’s drinking water comes from,” said Wentworth. District 5 Supervisor Stacy Corless said that, because of the Eastern Sierra’s sometimes-confusing division of responsibilities (the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management), it’s traditionally been difficult for the agencies to get things done or to find out who is responsible for what with regard to public land management.

“People don’t want to hear us say, ‘Sorry, we couldn’t open that bathroom because it’s [managed by the] Forest Service.’”

—Stacy Corless

“People don’t want to hear us say, ‘Sorry, we couldn’t open that bathroom because it’s [managed by the] Forest Service.’”

—Stacy Corless

This position could be a point of communication,” she said. “On public land [most people] don’t know where the Town’s administrative boundaries end and the County’s begin.”

Corless said that neither the Town nor the County could afford to fund the position by themselves, and that, though the position will “live” within the Town, meaning they will be on the Town’s payroll and report to the
LOCAL BRIEFS

By Sheet Staff

Low speed chase

On the morning of Saturday, January 27, the California Highway Patrol’s Bishop Unit 72-3 “was in pursuit of a cow,” according to CHP Bishop’s Facebook page. “Fortunately, the ‘suspect’ was taken into custody unharmed and without incident,” stated the CHP’s post about the pursuit. The low speed pursuit made the KTLA morning news on Wednesday, January 31. “We are in pursuit of a cow,” says an off-camera officer in the video, who is joined by another officer. “The cow is not yielding.” CHP did not disclose the stretch of road where the pursuit occurred.

Car crash on Mammoth’s Main Street

On Wednesday, January 31, at 5 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Police Department responded to a call for a two vehicle injury collision on Main Street at the intersection with Manzanita Road, next to A-Frame Liquor.

A 2005 Dodge Ram being driven by a 24-year-old Mammoth Lakes woman was traveling westbound on Main Street. For an unknown reason, the driver of the Dodge turned left, directly into the path of an eastbound 2006 GMC pickup truck being driven by a 32-year-old Mammoth Lakes man. The Dodge Ram was struck by the GMC pickup and careened over the dirt embankment on the south side of Main Street, through a bus stop, and came to rest on the frontage road in front of A-Frame.

Both drivers were transported by Mono County Paramedics to Mammoth Hospital with minor injuries. Alcohol and/or drugs are not believed to be a factor in this collision.

Job opening: District Ranger

Former Inyo National Forest District Ranger John Regelbrugge is joining the U.S. Forest Service Regional Office in Vallejo, said Inyo National Forest Public Affairs Officer Deb Schweizer this week. Regelbrugge will be working on the agency’s Forest Plan Revision on a regional level, said Schweizer. Regelbrugge started working on his assignment with the Region in August, as did former Forest Supervisor Ed Armenta, who is assisting with tree mortality and timber harvest-related projects, said Schweizer. Schweizer said she expected that the District Ranger position will be flown on usajobs.com in the next several weeks.

Hold your nose

The Inyo County Sheriff’s Substation in Lone Pine is closed until further notice, the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office reported on Thursday, February 1. “Due to a skunk and rodent infestation, and associated potential health concerns, we feel the best course of action is to limit exposure to our staff and the public,” the Sheriff’s Office stated on its Facebook page.

The CHP’s investigative offices in Independence are open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A 24-hour number is 760.870.0800.

Thirty pieces of Silver

Sharyn Connnett of June Lake was charged by the Mono County Office of the District Attorney, No. 9, 2017 with two counts of misdemeanor embezzlement from Silver Lake Resort, according to DA. Tim Kendall. Kendall said that Connnett was allegedly skimming money off food tickets to the amount of approximately $745 in 2017 and $517 in 2016. Connnett was arraigned on January 22 of this year and pleaded not guilty, said Kendall in an email to The Sheet. She was represented by a court-appointed attorney, and the matter was continued for a pre-trial hearing on March 5. Kendall said that Connnett will be required to pay back the amount stolen and that each count she faces carries a possibility of 1 year in jail, as well as fines.

Local youth hospitalized

Bishop High School student Ajia Saunders, 15, suffered severe head trauma as a result of a single vehicle crash on Saturday, January 27. She was flown to Renown Medical Center in Reno for brain surgery and is now in a medically induced coma.

According to the California Highway Patrol, 18-year-old Victor Etzquiel was driving a silver Toyota 4Runner northbound on a power line road, north of Gerkin Road, near the community of Wilkerson at the time of the accident. He was traveling at an unknown speed. One passenger was seated in the rear seat of the 4Runner and the three other passengers were riding outside the vehicle in the running boards. For reasons unknown, the passengers riding on the running boards were ejected from the vehicle and hit the ground sustaining injuries. Jesus Montano was only another adult in the vehicle, the other three were juveniles. All of the occupants are from Bishop. Three parties, including Montano were transported from the scene to Northern Inyo Hospital and one passenger, identified through Facebook as Saunders, was transported via Life Flight to Renown Medical Center in Reno.

An account has been set up at www.gofundme.com/ajia-saunders-medical to assist with medical costs.

HOLE IN THE BUCKET

MUSD Board approves bond ballot initiative

On Thursday, January 25, Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD)’s Board voted unanimously to authorize a school bond election to be held in conjunction with the next statewide primary election on June 5, 2018.

The election will determine whether the district issues $63.1 million in bond debt for repairs and upgrades to its three schools, Mammoth Elementary, Mammoth Middle, and Mammoth High. In order to pass, the bond measure will have to earn the support of 55 percent of votes cast by district residents.

The Board had previously approved a contract for Bond Counsel services with the firm Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, LLP, at its November 16, 2017 meeting. Orrick crafted the resolution passed Thursday, which estimates that MUSD will need to raise an average of $3.7 million annually for 33 years to repay the proposed debt. Those proceeds will be raised through an annual parcel tax, the rate of which will depend on assessed property values within the District boundary. The resolution estimated a maximum rate of $50 per $100,000 of assessed value.

When asked if better funding in years past could have prevented the school buildings from falling into disrepair, MUSD Chief Business and Financial Officer Brooke Bien said these repairs were inevitable. “If we had more money, would we be in better shape? Yes. Would everything be done? No.”

When asked if the District could have avoided asking the community to take on debt by putting a new parcel tax on the ballot, specifically for facilities improvement, Bien said that it was unlikely a parcel tax alone could raise enough to fund the proposed improvements and repairs. Major repairs need to be implemented now, said Bien. “If we go for this now, we don’t have to tear our facilities down,” said Bien on Wednesday, January 31.

Bien said MUSD began to experience a decline in property tax revenue due to property value decreases in 2010. As a result, the district cut funding to its maintenance facilities. “When times got tough…you always want to cut funds furthest from the kids and classrooms first,” said Bien. “[After the recession in 2008], many schools across the State cut repair funds to maintain class sizes and cover classroom and teacher costs.”

In California, school districts receive funding from a mix of local property taxes and state funds. Each school receives a minimum amount of funding per student, with a graduated scale that allocates more funding...
BUCKET
continued from page 5
If a district is unable to meet that minimum funding level per student using local property taxes, it receives supplementary funds from the State until that minimum funding level is met. Those districts, called Revenue Limit districts, are also eligible for additional State funding if 55 percent or more of the students they serve are English learners, students with disabilities, or students on free and reduced meal plans.

However, if a district meets the State’s minimum funding level per student with local property tax revenue, it does not receive funding from the State, even if it serves a disproportionate number of students who require additional resources. These districts are called Basic Aid districts, and most earn enough in property taxes annually that they make up for lost funding from the State through other local revenue.

As discussed in The Sheet’s January 27, 2017 story “Mammoth Voices IV: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bond,” MUSD earns just enough in local property tax revenue to meet the State’s minimum funding level, but does not earn enough to generate the excess revenue characteristic of most Basic Aid districts. Because MUSD technically meets the State’s minimum funding requirements, it is ineligible for additional state funds to support students who require additional resources. According to MUSD Superintendent Lois Klein, 60 percent of MUSD’s students are economically disenfranchised, and yet the district receives no support from the State to provide them with the extra services they need.

This means that MUSD potentially receives funding per student from the State than the poorest districts in the California.

Bien used the analogy of a bucket to explain why this is the case. If local property tax dollars don’t fill the bucket (the minimum funding level per student set by the State), the State will fill the remaining gap. If the bucket overflows with local property tax dollars, the school district can catch those funds in another bucket. If the State fills in the gap, it provides a separate bucket of extra funding for needier students, and if the school district fills that bucket itself, it doesn’t get either of the extra buckets.

Both Revenue Limit districts and wealthier Basic Aid districts have buckets that overflow. As for MUSD, the 2017-2018 Budget Summary predicts that the District will operate at a deficit of more than $1 million in the coming year.

According to the same document, MUSD is also expected to fall out of Basic Aid status this year. If this occurs, the district will be eligible for almost $300,000 in unrestricted funds, but not enough to pay the number of disadvantaged students. The Budget Summary indicated that, in 2009, MUSD received $1.2 million from that pot.

Bien said that someday, MUSD will be able to receive the additional state funds it was eligible for prior to the recession for its disadvantaged students. The Sheet will run a follow-up to this story regarding this effort in the coming weeks.

SEKI
continued from page 1
park for failing to conduct environmental studies on the impact of stock on sensitive high-elevation meadows before it decided to increase the allowable number of stock for individual pack outfits from 20 to 25 head.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered SEKI to complete an environmental study of stock impact on park ecosystems. The result of that study was the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, which was completed in 2015 and is set to be implemented for the first time during the 2018-2019 season, Kawasaki-Yee said.

Members of HSHA rarely appear at public meetings “...because they are often, frankly, not the best use of our limited time,” said Jim Carlson, spokesperson for HSHA, in a rare interview with The Sheet.

Kawasaki-Yee said the lawsuit isn’t responsible for limiting user days, but said that the environmental impact report completed after the court ruling is what guided the new CUA selection.

Carlson said that regardless of what representatives from SEKI might say, it was HSHA that forced the new plan. Carlson said SEKI paid lip service to requests for an environmental study and implementing quotas for stock, but took no action on the matters until HSHA sued.

Carlson added that HSHA has no position on other commercial uses like climbing guides or educational or environmental groups like the Sierra Club.

“And to be clear,” Carlson said, “we have never advocated for a complete ban on commercial stock use, as some lying packers, cynical bureaucrats, and radical politicians have claimed.”

Regardless of what caused the changes, many guides feel they’ve been unfairly treated by the SEKI selection process and quotas.

Vedasz said she has obtained a permit to operate her company in the Inyo National Forest but, said it does not help her serve clients who wish to climb peaks in SEKI. She has been in business since 1979. “There is no way to let you know how disappointed I am, as [will be our] clients that have done the famous ski tour for years. I don’t even have a reason why we didn’t get the renewal permit.”

Parker said the new quotas for the Whitney Zone will reduce his gross revenue by 40 percent.

Dave Miller, owner of International Alpine Guides of June Lake, said he was not awarded a permit and that will result in a 25 percent loss in revenue for his business. He also said he will hire two fewer guides this summer. The biggest cut will be to his guided John Muir Trail trips, he said, and to approaching the cirque of mountains outside Big Pine, known as the Palisades, from the rarely-visited west side. Both require operating within the boundaries of SEKI.

Miller was not given a reason for why he was not awarded a permit. He believes that not being given an explanation is a violation of Forest Service Order 48.6.

When asked about that order, SEKI Administrative Officer Jason Watkins said he would clarify the CUA selection process in a future interview with The Sheet.

The CUA application form states that applicants are required to be certified with the Union Internationale des Associations de Guides de Montagnes. Some applicants that were awarded permits have no prior guiding experience, much less certification, Miller said.

Miller said that a group known as Massachusetts Fitpacking, which bills itself as a “weight loss backpacking” company, will be able to receive permits to climb Mount Whitney this summer. He said those hikers are admittedly out of shape and being guided by people with little to no experience. According to the itinerary on the Fitpackers’ website, the group will drive from Las Vegas and hike 5.7 miles from 10,000 to 11,200 feet in the same day.

Other than Kawasaki-Yee, Representatives from SEKI were unable to comment on the CUA selection process or the quota change, but a future interview with The Sheet is pending. Pack outfits were also unavailable for comment.

There is a provision in the plan called “di minimus,” which means that a guide with a SEKI permit can reach a summit in SEKI, tap it and go down without officially utilizing user days. Without a permit, a guided party could not tick the summit proper.
WILL MEASURE J SAVE SOUTHERN INYO?
By James
The Board of Trustees for the Southern Inyo Hospital District have placed a parcel tax increase on the ballot for a special election scheduled for April 10, 2018. If approved by two-thirds of voters, Proposition J will add an additional $215 parcel tax to all property in the Southern Inyo Healthcare District which, according to its proponents, will allow the District to pay off its bankruptcy debts and re-invest in existing buildings and facilities.

SIHD is also considering floating a bond measure to pay off its outstanding debts. The proposed parcel tax revenue, if approved, would be used to pay off the bond. Proposition J is expected to raise around $600,000 a year for 15 years, or around $9 million over its term. However, even the hospital’s most ardent supporters admit it’s going to be a tough sell.

The tax revenue from Measure J is critical to the success of the Chapter 9 bankruptcy proceeding currently before the California Eastern Bankruptcy Court. The District must show that it can pay off its debts and provide a viable business plan that assures its continued existence. Skeptics of the tax say that, unless the Board looks to alternatives such as eliminating Emergency Room Services, which currently cost the hospital $1 million a year, nothing is likely to change.

Larry Kraus of Darwin and Doug Thompson of Lone Pine said SIHD should provide a full account of its true financial situation before asking the public to support a parcel tax increase.

SIHD is unable to provide that information because Health Care Conglomerates Associates (HCCA), which was contracted in 2016 to manage the failing hospital, has failed to provide timely financial reports and records.

According to the SIHD board, HCCA facilitated questionable financial transactions between SIHD and the Tulare Regional Medical Center (TRMC), another failing hospital with which HCCA had a management contract. TRMC closed its doors in 2017 and is also in bankruptcy proceedings. It has filed a claim against SIHD for $2.5 million, alleging that HCCA transferred some of its money into SIHD accounts.

Southern Inyo Hospital was forced to close in December, 2015. At that time, all of its Board members resigned. A new situation was appointed, and filed for bankruptcy protection in January 2016. Having heard of the success of HCCA in turning around the TRMC, the new Board contracted with them to reopen the hospital and see SIDH, page 20

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PARKING
continued from page 1
that's pretty painful in the begin-
ing, and as the years go on, it's just
dull pain that rises up every now
and then.'

When the Village was being
planned, the Town of Mammoth
allowed its builder, Intrawest,
to use a "formula" for calculating
parking spaces, said Tom Smith,
Carroll Manager of the Village.
Smith told The Sheet that one un-
derground parking spot was allot-
ted for each homeowner unit in the
Village (277 spots total) and that a
total of 298 spots are available in
the parking structure—meaning
that there are 21 spots available for
all of the 30 businesses that operate
in The Village. Whether businesses
were allotted one or two spots for
their employees (usually manage-
ment) depends on the square foot-
age of the business, Smith said.
He said that the overall parking
structure was for more mass transit and
airline passengers to be patronizing
the lodges. Juniper Lodge was built
the same way, he said, with minimal
parking. However, Smith said, "On
the whole, California is still a drive
market. And we have many guests
who show up who want two parking
permits."
The Town also accepted as part
of the Village deal a 1-acre parcel
of land below the Westin Monache,
which was originally meant to be-
come a multi-level parking struc-
ture. Last year, a 38-space surface
parking lot was built for close to
half a million dollars at that site.
Those parking spots all have 2-hour
limits enforced by the Mammoth
Lakes Police Department.

There is no street parking in
Mammoth Lakes from November 1
until April 30, so the only free spots
accessible to employees are those
under the jurisdiction of MLPD, and
all of those have two hour limits,
said Robertson. She said that MLPD
did not enforce these limits until
last winter (2017-2018 season) when
employees began receiving parking tickets.
"I've had half my kitchen line
walk out when they heard [Senior
Community Service Officer Kerri]
Orr was writing tickets," said Rob-
ertson. "That's not a viable way to
run a business. We can't have our
employees leaving two hours to
re-park their cars."
On January 10, 2017, Robertson
sent a letter to the MLPD asking
what alternative parking options
were available to her employees.
She said she's gotten "radio silence" from
MLPD ever since.
Another Campo employee, Hayley
Moss, told The Sheet that Orr re-
commended they take the bus.
"My problem with that is I live in
Crowley," said Moss, who is a high
school student. "A lot of people get
off at 3 a.m. and the bus isn't run-
ing," she added.

Robertson said that a lot of em-
ployees come straight to their Vil-
lage job from another job. Also, she
said, when it's busiest in town, the
buses are always late.
"I have employees who call me
Robertson said that a lot of em-
ployees call her to help them find
parking. "Do we have a spot or
should we take the bus?" was a com-
mon question. The employees want
to do their jobs, not worry about
parking."

"We can't have our employees
walking out
every two hours to
der-park their cars."

Ashley Robertson started a petition to ask for employee parking at The Village.

Mark Leffingwell of EscapeLA told
The Sheet that he's run the parking
lot under several different owners,
and there has been an employee
pass on offer since 2015. He said
passes average $70-80 per month
(longer-term passes get a discount).
He also said that passes are
transferable between employees,
and that there are a few businesses
in the Village who take advantage
of them (Gomez's, Alpine Approach
and Old New York Deli & Bagel com-
pany all purchase some passes for
their employees, said Leffingwell).
He said that last year, he only sold
nine employee passes to Village
businesses.

"It's not something that we make
money on, it's something that we
offer to make sure there's an option
for people," he said.
"So to say there's no option just isn't the
truth…" Leffingwell said that the park-
ling lot has added about 75 spaces
(from 150 to 228) in the last year,
and that "the Village isn't paying
us anything to do this… Our own-
ers have spent a lot of money just to
improve a piece of dirt that they're
going to end up building a hotel
on."

He said he's always been willing
to make deals (within reason) with
businesses.
"Nearly always when this hap-
pens, within 10 minutes another
bus with available capacity arrives
to provide service to these wait-
ing passengers," said John Helm,
Executive Director of Eastern
Sierra Transit Authority, in an email.
"As with everything else in town,
when it's busy, it takes longer to
do things... For this reason, people
need to allow extra time to get all
kinds of things done."

Robertson said many employees
don't have this extra time. Moss said
she's frustrated because "I think the
Village employees are the only ones
who have to pay for parking in this
town."

"No Town employee will ever
have to pay for parking, and if they
ever get a ticket they would throw
a complete fit," said Stu Need. Village
employees, he said, are "just trying
to do a job, to park their cars
everyone in California and in this
town does. Their rent is exorbitant.
They're just trying to make a living." There is parking available at
a large lot east of Minaret Road, run
by a company called EscapeLA,
which offers parking for $1 per hour
up to 4 hours, and for $10 per eve-
ning (until 2 a.m.).

As of January 1 this year, the Cali-
ifornia minimum wage is $10.50 per
hour. Robertson said that for many
employees, paying an hour's worth
of work to park is not reasonable.

"We love our jobs, we love what we
do," said Robertson. "But there's
always this looming thing in the back of your mind... am I going
to pay an extra $50 to be at work
today?"
MAMMOTH "™"
FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 8-11, 2018
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA

www.MammothFilmFestival.org
Town Manager, Mono County has already committed $50,000 to fund the position.

The final amount the Town will contribute was not available as of press time, but in previous discussions, it was proposed that the employee would split their time between Town and County projects 3/5 and 2/5 days per week, respectively. The potential employee would most likely coordinate management efforts between the Town, the County, and the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, as well as the Bureau of Land Management.

At next Wednesday’s meeting, Town Council will have to decide whether to amend the Town’s budget to fund the job.

Mammoth’s Council recently authorized $6.5 million for the purchase of the Shady Rest Parcel. Additionally, snowfall for the 2017-18 season has so far fallen short of expectations (see snow graph, p. 10), and the Town has a host of other large capital projects on its radar (the Multi-Use Facility, for example). However, Wentworth said, with the potential passage of SB 5 and associated monies that could be leveraged to benefit rural communities like Mammoth and Mono County, “I would imagine this position is going to pay for itself many times over.”

Corless also said that the culture of recreation communities and their relationship with the U.S. Forest Service has fundamentally changed in the last several years.

“Traditionally, everyone’s gone along and done their work in silos,” she said. “That’s something we’re trying to break down.”

She said that the state’s catastrophic wildfires in the last decade may have been a catalyst for this new approach to resource management. “Instead of having gate fee money stay on the Forest to fund positions, it’s all going to fight wildfires, so that attitude has fundamentally changed on that agency’s side. I feel it’s much more pragmatic and welcoming now than it was in, say, 2010.”

Wentworth also said that the District Ranger position on the Inyo National Forest (INF) has recently opened up, with the departure of John Regelbrugge to the National Office in Vallejo (Margie DeRose is currently the acting District Ranger). INF Public Information Officer Deb Schweizer confirmed this.

Wentworth said that “the willingness of the Forest Service to work together [with the Town and County]” is a reason that this position should be funded now. “It’s night and day what’s going on here,” said Wentworth. Town Council will vote on whether to fund the position at its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 7 at 6 p.m. in Suite Z.
Wear a Helmet!
We can fix everything else.

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Meticulous Care • Memorable People • Majestic Location

MAMMOTH FILM FESTIVAL
INVITES YOU TO COME MEET THE WAYNE FAMILY

FREE SCREENING OF NORTH TO ALASKA

AN EVENING WITH THE DUKE AND HIS FAMILY. HERE’S YOUR CHANCE TO CELEBRATE THE LEGACY AND FILM HISTORY OF MAMMOTH LAKES. ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH AT 5PM, MAMMOTH FILM FESTIVAL PROUDLY PRESENTS A FREE SCREENING OF JOHN WAYNE’S LOCALLY SHOT WESTERN “NORTH TO ALASKA” AT THE MINARET CINEMAS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF JOHN WAYNE’S FAMILY HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THIS RED CARPET EVENT! COME BE A PART OF THE PROUD ORIGINS OF MAMMOTH LAKES’ FILM HISTORY DURING THE INAUGURAL MAMMOTH FILM FESTIVAL.

MINARET CINEMAS
430 Old Mammoth Rd. Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Liberty Sports Bar & Grill
FREE LIVE MUSIC SUPER BOWL WEEKEND

Friday February 2
Ground Hog’s Day 9 PM

Saturday February 3
9 PM

Andrew Webber Blues Band

SUPER BOWL
Sunday February 4
Food & Drink Specials All Day

760.985.0514 3399 Main St.
Mammoth Lakes, California

We’re Social. Come Visit.
ROBIN HOOD COMES TO BISHOP

Bishop students perform in The Missoula Children’s Theatre’s production of Robin Hood

Photos by Gayla Wolf

On January 20, Bishop area students performed in The Missoula Children’s Theatre’s production of Robin Hood. The community is invited to see the Big Pine students perform Robin Hood on Saturday, February 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the Big Pine School.

L-R: Kaylee Cunningham evades capture as Robin Hood, Jack Slovacek makes his entrance as Prince John, and Aristocrats Kylee Acree and Kevin Rivas prepare their pie for the pie contest.

Alyssa Buchholz and Bowen Tordoff as horsemen.

L-R: Trent Buchholz, Kylie James, Tulie Saenz, Charlotte Haverstock, Olivia Daulton, Payton Hohenstein, Hazel Hays, Everley Patterson, Preslee Miller, Jay Mena, Joanna Daulton perform ask, “What’s a skunk to do?”

Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten Round Up

Parents and incoming Kindergartners, please attend Round Up at your local elementary school to find out about Kindergarten and TK enrollment, meet the teacher and see the school, get a free Kindergarten Survival Kit and Backpack, and learn about the free Summer Bridge Program!

If your child will turn 5 on or before September 1, 2018, then he or she can attend Kindergarten in the fall of 2018. If your child will turn 5 between September 2, 2018 and December 2, 2018, then he or she can attend Transitional Kindergarten in the fall of 2018.

Mammoth Elementary: Wednesday, March 14, 1500 Meridian Blvd, 760-934-7545
5:00 pm—Kindergarten Round Up
6:00-7:00 pm—Schedule a Kindergarten Well-Check with Sierra Park Pediatrics. (Well-Check required for school entry)
Mammoth Health & Safety Fair: May 26, 2018, 10 - 1 pm

Lee Vining Elementary: Monday, March 19, 132 Lee Vining Ave, 760-647-6460
10:00 am—Kindergarten Round Up
10:30-11:30 am—Birth-to-5 Health and Safety Fair, LVES Gym

Bridgeport Elementary: Monday, March 19, 205 Kingsley St, 760-932-7441
12:30 pm—Kindergarten Round Up (recess at 12:15)
1:00-2:30 pm—Birth-to-5 Health and Safety Fair, BES Gym

Edna Beaman Elementary: Tuesday, March 20, 25541 Hwy 6, Benton, 760-933-3397
12:30 pm—Kindergarten Round Up
1:00-2:00 pm—Birth-to-5 Health and Safety Fair, Room 10

Antelope Elementary: Monday, March 26, 11552 Hwy 395, Coleville, 530-495-2541
10:00 am—Kindergarten Round Up
1:30-2:30 pm—Birth-to-5 Health and Safety Fair, AES Gym

FREE ESUSD Birth-to-5 Health and Safety Fair: Children’s books, poison prevention & nutrition information, car seat safety checks, child ID fingerprinting, free bike helmets, and Peapod Playgroup Equipment for the kids.

760-924-7626 www.monokids.org
ALL YOU NEED IS
Love & Dinner
Treat your sweetheart this Valentine’s Day. From a romantic dinner complete with a red rose to a decadent four-course lakeside dining experience, you’ll be sure to impress with a special evening out on February 14.

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MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM/VDAY

FREE PUBLIC SCREENING
CHANGING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AT A TIME
MULLY
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8TH
8PM
MINARET CINEMAS
439 OLD MAMMOTH RD,
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546
WWW.MAMMOTHFILMFESTIVAL.ORG
From January 22 through January 26, Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) hosted its 12th annual Operation Mountain Freedom at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Wounded Warrior athletes, ranging from 21 to 88 years of age, joined DSES volunteers for a week of snowboarding, alpine, and nordic skiing with their families.

On January 25, DSES hosted a Ceremonial Arch of Honor for the athletes, followed by an address by Mammoth Resorts COO Mark Brownlie. DSES Deputy Director Laura Beardsley reported that this year’s event drew more participants (48 athletes) than ever before. The event is always free for Wounded Warriors and their families.

OFF TO THE RACES

The CNISSF South 2 Division held its first races of the season on January 25, at Mammoth Mountain. Mammoth High School’s Kris Martin won the men’s Snowboard Giant Slalom. Bishop’s Paige Lary won the Women’s Snowboard GS. Martin and Lary won the Snowboard Slalom races. MHS’ Mason Forsythe won the men’s Slalom ski race. Husky Hallie Clute won the Women’s Slalom. Husky Sean Walker won the Men’s GS Ski Race. Cary Walker won the Women’s GS for MHS.
SPORTS

MHS GIRLS HOOPS TURNS IT AROUND

By Lunch

Good things come to those who wait. Better things come to those who work their butts off. The best things come to those who do both.

Mammoth High School Girls’ Basketball Coach William Bauman and the players who’ve stuck with him during his program rebuild are testament to that.

Bauman arrived at Mammoth six years ago as a first-time, 26-year old coach hoping to revive a program that had literally been dormant for three years.

The first year, the team won one game and averaged 16 points per contest.

Over the first four years, the team’s record was 16-51.

But lately, Bauman’s patience has started to pay off. The team was 13-6 last year. This year, the Girls are 12-5 overall (5-2 league) and finish their regular season at home with two rivalry games versus Vasquez (3rd in league) this Friday and Lone Pine (1st place and undefeated in league) next Thursday, February 8.

Priscilla Yanez and Sydney Willingham are senior tri-captains (along with Junior Morgan Sanders). They’ve lived the turnaround. Both laughed about the time during their freshman year when Coach Bauman got so frustrated after a loss to Big Pine that he broke a clipboard in the locker room.

They said they both played basketball from 6th grade on, and noted that when they were in 8th grade, Coach Bauman started coming by, recruiting, making sure they planned to continue playing in high school. Yanez and Willingham convinced fellow senior (and starting forward) Denise Apodaca to come out for the team her sophomore year.

Adjectives they use to describe their coach: Disciplined, Motivated, Optimistic.

“He always wants to grow, not only as a person, but as a team,” said Yanez. If you sit in on a practice, you’ll note the focus and attentiveness of the players. There’s not a lot of goofing around, and yet, there are still plenty of smiles and laughter.

The team averages 45 points per game and is led by Sophomore Center Ella Thompson, who scores 16 a contest, followed by Sanders (9.5) and Yanez (8.5).

Thompson also averages 15.5 rebounds, 3.5 steals and 3 blocks per game.

The first player off the bench is Freshman Sam Jones, daughter of the Boys’ team’s Assistant Coach Andrew Jones.

Bauman said the highlight of the season thus far was his team’s 42-34 road victory at Vasquez.

He says Morgan Sanders is the team’s most improved player this year.

Support the team as it makes its playoff push. Game times on February 2 and 8 are at 5:30 p.m.
TWO HOME FIELD WINS FOR HUSKIES
Mammoth High School Men’s Varsity Soccer beats Mojave 1-0, Women win 4-0

On Tuesday, January 30, Mammoth High School Varsity men’s and women’s soccer teams played Mojave for their last home league game of the year. Both teams won, with the women beating Mojave 4-0, and the men winning 1-0. Both teams have one last league game at Vasquez on Monday, February 5, before playoffs start.

According to women’s Varsity Coach Tom Cage, his team’s defense has allowed only two goals all season, and have scored 46 goals so far. They are 6-0 for league play. The men are 7-0 for league play this season.

Mammoth High School Men’s Varsity Soccer

Above: Mammoth’s Daniel Garcia.

Above: Judy Maravillas.

Above: Jonathan Vargas. Right: Alberto Quintana.

Above: Mammoth’s Jamie Tapia-Mara.

Above: Lainey Need takes a corner kick.

Above: Mammoth’s Carlos Lemus.

Above: Lainey Need takes a corner kick.

Above: Judy Maravillas.

Above: Mammoth’s Daniel Garcia.

Above: Mammoth’s Hallie Clute.

Above: Mammoth’s Jamie Tapia-Mara.

Above: Mammoth’s Judy Maravillas.

Above: Mammoth’s Carlos Lemus.

Above: Mammoth’s Hallie Clute.

Photos by Giles
Help Wanted

Temporary Snow Removal Operators
The Town of Mammoth Lakes is looking for Temp Snow Removal Operators for the 2017-2018 season. Salary $20.00 to $22.00/hr. Commercial license required. Full-time, three days a week to start immediately. No experience necessary. Competitive pay. Please email resume to mammothsnowoperations.com.

Office Assistant: Seeking an office assistant who is motivated, organized and possesses strong customer service skills. Part-time, Mon-Fri, flexible hours with potential for full-time employment. Please send resume to jessica@countryclass.com

For Rent
2BR,1BA Apartment for Rent Furnished washer/dryer hook-up, no garage. $1500.00, 1 year lease, and local references, Greg 760.937.7560.

Tourist Information Center
A front Desk Person. Needed to assist guests with information and have some knowledge of the area.

Commercial/Bookkeeping Services
Bookkeeping Services Available. Let me assist you. Experience not required. Must be able to work nights or weekends. $20.00-$25.00/hr.

Front Desk Position at Sierra Lodge
A Front Desk Position at Sierra Lodge is available. Sierra Lodge will be open for 7 days a week, shift is 7am-7pm. This is a part time position. Salary starts at $13.50 per hour. Please send resume to info@sierralodge.com.

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person Is Doing Business As: Skyline Tree Service
Michael McLaughlin P.O. Box 74 Arrowhead Dr. # 58 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 January 24, 2018. File Number 2018-0012 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Pawsitively Spotless Grooming
Randi Kramp P.O. Box 7675, 94 Laurel Mt. Rd. Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a Individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 16, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 10, 2018. File Number 2018-0010 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Horizons Trading & Exchange
Milton Anthony Fryer P.O. Box 1223, 561 Forest Trail Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 16, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on December 29, 2017. File Number 2018-0017 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Walker Properties
Christopher, Lara Walker P.O. Box 8105 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 9, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 9, 2018. File Number 2018-0010 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

LETTERS
Shame on you
Dear Editor:

There you go again. Casting unacceptable ridicule and scorn on the citizens of Death Valley National Park. You have a long and unfortunate history of attacking the people of our community who give their time for council or supervisor positions, commissions and boards, or they may work for our county or town as employees.

In doing this you have reduced the inclination of citizens to take part in the governance of our community. You may critique the job performance or the policy, but please do not attack the person.

Have you ever attempted to use your editorial space to create a positive and inspiring vision for Mammoth Lakes and the Eastern Sierra? I cannot recall a time when you have done this. It is certainly a lot tougher than being sarcastic, snide and rude to those who are working hard to improve our society.

Grady Dutton is a sincere, capable, and hard-working man who has our community’s best interests at heart, and he does not deserve to be labeled with the derogatory nicknames you assign to him. Thank you sir. You owe him and many others an apology.

John Armstrong
Mammoth Lakes

Non-Essential Employee?
Dear Editor:

So there’s an “Aquatic Ecologist” at Death Valley National Park (“Pupfish feel Alaskan Earthquake,” The Sheet, January 27, 2018) In case of another federal government shutdown, would that be a non-essential employee?

Ken Harrison
Cardiff by the Sea

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Sierra Crest
Greg Newbury, Lynda Salcido 1149 Red Peak P.O. Box 8105 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a husband and wife. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 9, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 9, 2018. File Number 2018-0010 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Sierra Crest
Ken Harrison, Melissa Harrison 844 Debra Circle P.O. Box 8105 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a husband and wife. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 9, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 9, 2018. File Number 2018-0010 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Sierra Crest
Ken Harrison 835 Old Mammoth Road P.O. Box 8105 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 9, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 9, 2018. File Number 2018-0010 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Sierra Crest
Ken Harrison, Melissa Harrison 826 White Poodle P.O. Box 8105 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a husband and wife. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 9, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 9, 2018. File Number 2018-0010 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Sierra Crest
Ken Harrison, Melissa Harrison 826 White Poodle P.O. Box 8105 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a husband and wife. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 9, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 9, 2018. File Number 2018-0010 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Person is Doing Business As: Sierra Crest
Ken Harrison, Melissa Harrison 810 Debra Circle 844 Debra Circle P.O. Box 8105 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a husband and wife. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 9, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 9, 2018. File Number 2018-0010 (2/03, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)
calendar of events

BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. Flatbread. See ad, p. 10.

Outlaw Saloon: Happy Hour Monday; All Night Happy Hour; 4-Midnight, Tues-Fri 4-6 p.m. Tuesday; $2 tacos 4-10 p.m.; 6-9 p.m. Wing Wednesday 50% off all wings. Thursday: Burger & Beer special 4-9 p.m. See ad, p. 9.

Roberto’s 4-6 p.m. every day.

Austria Hof 5-8 p.m. daily. See ad, p. 10.

White Bear 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. 4.

Petra’s Bistro Happy Hour, 5-6 p.m. every evening. See ad, p. 4.

Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour Mon. thru Fri 4-6: Closed Sun. See ad, p. 5.

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

Mammoth’s Heaven 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, 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.

February 2-4/
Super Bowl 52 extravaganzas @ Liberty Bar. Friday kicks off with Jaded Haters, Saturday features the Andrew Webber Blues Band. Both shows feature 9 p.m. Big game Sunday on 10 HD TVs, free shirts and swag, plus food special. See ad, p. 11.

February 2-3/
Powerflex 5 plays Rafter’s. Rockabily! Americana. 10 p.m. Free. 21 & up.

Friday, February 2/
The Jaded Haters play Liberty Bar. Music starts at 9 p.m. Free show. Local rock/funk band. See ad, p. 11.

Open Mic at Black Sheep Coffee Roasters, Bishop. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 3/
The Andrew Webber Band plays Liberty Bar. Music starts at 9 p.m. Free show. Local blues band. See ad, p. 11.

Sunday, February 4/
Super Bowl 52, Eagles and Patriots, 3-30 p.m. tees, Super Bowl at the Outlaw Saloon. See ad, p. 13.

Super Bowl 52 at Rafter’s, 3:30 p.m. Giant projection screen, drink and food specials. See ad, p. 21.

Monday, February 5/
Open Mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co. 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, February 6/
Trivia at Mammoth Brewing Co. 7 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Friday, February 2/
MHS Varsity Basketball hosts Vasquez. Girls @ 5:30 p.m. Boys follow at 7 p.m.

Bishop PTO presents: Family Movie Night at the Bishop Elementary School Cafeteria. Doors open at 6 p.m., Despicable Me 3 starts at 6:30 p.m. Free admission, snacks and raffle tickets for sale.

Saturday, February 3/
Woolly’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.

Rock Art presentation by Independence resident Courtney Smith at the Eastern California Museum. 1-3 p.m. 155 N. Grant St. 760.878.0258. See sidebar, next page.

Saturday, February 3/
City of Mammoth Lakes Street Fair and 5K Road Race @ Mammoth Lakes Community Center. Register online at mammothlakesregistration.com/events.

Sunday, February 4/
The Writers Circle at the Imagination Lab (621 West Line Street, Bishop) is always welcoming of new members and meets 1-2:30 p.m.

Allan Bard 20k classic @ Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center. Call 760.934.2442 ext. 8 for start times and information.

The Lone Pine Film Museum hosts Pirates of the Caribbean V. 2 p.m. Snowshoe or Hike out of Mammoth with the Sierra Club. Meet at 10 a.m. at Union Bank, Mammoth. Bring lunch. Info: 760.937.0499.

Monday, February 5/
Mammoth Lakes Housing Board meets. 6 p.m. at MLH. 587 Old Mammoth Road.

Special Meeting of the Mono County Board of Supervisors. Town Council Chambers, Suite Z in the Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes, Mono Basin Historical Society Meet- ing @ the Lee Vining Presbyterian Church. Potluck at 6 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m., talk at 7 p.m. Info: 760.647.4641. Special screening of The Trail Beyond, with a lecture by Richard Foye.

Mammoth High School Booster Club Board Meeting, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Library. Info: Shanna Bissonette at inlinechiro@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 6/
Special Meeting of Mammoth Lakes Town Council. Subject: Cannabis. 1 p.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall.

Mammoth’s Recreation Commission meets. 9 a.m. in Suite Z.

Mono County Board of Supervisors Meeting. 9 a.m. Mono County Courthouse, Bridgeport. Live telecast from CAO Conference Room, Sierra Center Mall, Mammoth.
Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre will perform Oscar Wilde’s play, The Importance of Being Earnest, from February 7-18. The play is directed by Susan Dalian, and is suitable for viewings of all ages. The Importance of Being Earnest is a trival comedy for serious people, a farceical play in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personae to escape burdensome social obligations.

Tickets are available online at www.mammolakesreperotrytheatre.org. or at the door, for $22. Online, tickets are available for $20 for adults, $18 for seniors, and $10 for students.

All shows will be at the Edison Theatre in Mammoth, starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 4 p.m. on Sundays. See ad, page 4.

The Mammoth Film Festival

The inaugural Mammoth Film Festival will run from February 8 through 11. The festival features a variety of events, including a dinner with women in film, virtual reality experience in the Mammoth Con Exhibition Hall, an evening with John Wayne’s family, and discussion panels featuring Emmy-nominated producers, as well as live musical performances.

Over the course of the festival, over 100 films will be screened, and there will be six red carpet world premieres of new films.

Individual premier tickets are available for $20. VIP passes are available for $200, and Mammoth Passes are available for $300. Basic Festival Badges are available for $160.

Films start at 7:30 and 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 8. On Friday, the first films screen at 10 a.m., and the last screenings start at 8:30 p.m.

Screenings start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, and the last screening will begin at 11:30 p.m. Screenings run from 10:30 a.m. on Sunday to 3:30 p.m.

For a full schedule of events and tickets, visit mammolfilmfestival.org. See ad, page 9.

AARP Tax Aide programs

It’s tax season, and the AARP Foundation Tax Aide programs in Bishop and Mammoth using IRS-certified volunteers are now preparing federal and state tax returns online without charge to low and moderate income residents.

In Bishop at the Birch Street Annex, appointments are available Tuesday afternoons, Friday afternoons and Saturdays. To schedule an appointment, call 760.937.0174.

In Mammoth at the Mammoth Lakes Library, appointments are available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. To schedule an appointment, call 760.934.5674. Spanish speaking assistance is available and walk-ins are welcome.

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

Hostiles (R): Christian Bale stars as an Army captain escorting a dying Cheyenne war chief back to his tribal land in this Western set in 1892.

Maze Runner: The Death Cure (PG 13): Third in the dystopian novel-based series. Gladers must break into the deadliest maze of all and make it out alive.

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

UPCOMING

Rambler Brewery.

February 8-11/ Inaugural Mammoth Film Festival.

Over 100 films in four days. John Wayne’s “North to Alaska” plays 5 p.m. on Saturday at Minaret Cinemas. See ads, p. 9 & 11.

Thursday, February 8/ MHS Varsity Basketball hosts the regular season finale versus Lone Pine.

Girls play 5:30 p.m. Boys follow at 7 p.m.

Mammoth Film Festival presents: Mully.

Free movie screening at Minaret Cinemas. See ad, page 13.

Adventure Movie Screening: Under an Arctic Sky.

7 p.m. See sidebar ads p. 14 & 15.

Tri-County Fairgrounds 2018 Committee Planning Meeting.

6:30 p.m. in the Tallman Pavilion, Tri-County Fairgrounds.

Saturday, February 9/ Mammoth Film Summit: Judges Panel.

1-4 p.m. at Minaret Cinema, Mammoth. Free to Mono Co. students with student I.D. See ad, p. 9.

Saturday, February 10/ 3rd Annual International Feast Fundraiser hosted by Bishop Sunrise Rotary @ the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. Info: 760.920.0109.

Celebrity charity bowling tournament, fundraiser for the Mammoth Media Institute, happens at Mammoth Rock ‘n Bowl on Saturday from 2-4 p.m. More info: mammolfilmfestival.org. See ad, p. 3.

Annual Owens River Cleanup.

Meet at 8 a.m. at Pleasant Valley Campground with waders and gloves. Coffee and baked goods at 8 a.m., lunch for all volunteers at noon. Hosted by the California Waterfowl Association.

Rock Art at ECM

Local Rock Art expert Courtenay Smith will give a talk about how specialists analyze rock art across the southwestern United States at the Bishop Union California Museum this weekend. A rich variety of rock art imagery will be presented. Smith, a resident of Independence, has traveled from California to Oregon, and Utah and Wyoming to study and photograph the regional variations and similarities of Native American Rock Art.

The presentation will take place at the Eastern California Museum on Saturday, February 3, 2018, from 1–3 p.m. For more info, call 760-878-0258.

“Into the Woods” tickets

Tickets for the Tony-winning musical “Into the Woods,” produced by Playhouse 395, go on sale February 1. The story intertwines the plots of several well-known fairytale, bringing Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, and beanstalk-climbing Jack into the woods where they will end up meeting a witch, Rapunzel, the giant, and a couple of charming princes.

“Into the Woods” will run the first three weekends in March with shows on Fridays, Saturdays and the first two Sundays, at the Bishop Union High School Theater. Ticket prices for Premium Reserved seats are $20 for Adults, $15 for Students. General Admission seats are $16 for Adults, $12 for Students. All tickets will be discounted by $2 on opening night, Friday, March 2. Purchase tickets at https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3234639 or 24/7, or over the phone at 1-800.838.3066, ext. 1. Tickets available at the Bishop Chamber of Commerce or at Inyo Council for the Arts. Call 760.920.9100 or visit www.playhouse395.com for info.

Scotty’s Castle Tours

DVNHA and the National Park Service are pleased to offer walking tours of the Scotty’s Castle. This season’s tours are scheduled for Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., now through April 14, 2018. Tickets are $25 per person, plus ticketing fee. Space is limited to 13 participants per tour. Reservations Required. For more detailed information and to register online, visit our Scotty’s Castle Walking Tour Event Page.

Under an Arctic Sky

On Thursday, February 8, the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association will offer a public screening of Under an Arctic Sky, an adventure surf film by Christ Burkard and Sweetpaints Media, in Mammoth Lakes.

The film was shot in Iceland, and features footage of athletes surfing against the backdrop of the Northern Lights. Movie starts at 7 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Forest Service Welcome Center. Admission is $5, and doors open at 6:30 p.m. See ad, p. 14.
Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JOHN PADELSKY
Case No. PR 182002

Tori DeHaven, Master
The Town of Mammoth Lakes
157 Short Street
Mammoth Lakes, California 93546

Case No. PR 182002

The petition requests authority to administer the estate assets or of any petition or account as provided by Section 20166 and 20167. Submission of a bid shall be authorized by Section 7029.1 of the Business and Professions Codes.

The work shall be completed within the time set forth in the Contract.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the conference room in the Town Offices on February 15, 2018 at 2:00PM, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, California.

To order the plans and specifications by telephone call (760) 934-7493. The plans and specifications for this work can be viewed online at http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/bids.aspx. Oral clarifications are non-binding and will not be published in the legal advertisement.

The Town has made a determination that retention of 5% of the total amount of the bid, as a cash deposit, will be withheld by the Town to ensure performance of the successful bidder. The work shall be performed in accordance with the General Prevailing Wage Rates for this project.

Each and every bidder is required to purchase and submit a California Certificate of Insurance in the amount of $500,000 minimum for each of Professional and General Liability.

A copy of the rates and the General Prevailing Wage Rates for this project, is available at the website http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/bids.aspx.

The work includes full completion of the Upper Meridian Boulevard Concrete Improvements project. Pursuant to Labor Code Section 1771.1(a), a contractor shall demonstrate his qualifications by having a valid certificate and shall maintain all required licenses and permits, as well as all required insurance policies. All bidders must provide documentation at the time of the bid.

The contractor is responsible for any and/or all bids the Town reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or to utilize any alternative method of procurement. The Town reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids without all alternates. The Town reserves the right to negotiate the terms of the contract. The bids shall be received at the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, California, 93546 until 5:00PM on February 28, 2018.

Each and every bidder is required to purchase and submit a California Certificate of Insurance in the amount of $500,000 minimum for each of Professional and General Liability.

The work shall be completed within the time set forth in the Contract. The negotiation and contract process for this project is between the Town and the contractor. The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. The contractor shall comply with all orders and directions given by the Town.

The Sangre De Cristo Athletic Booster Club will conduct a Public Notice of Sale by competitive bidding for the personal property located at 204 Northside of Markleeville Road, Markleeville, California. The property consists of various used items listed below on or after February 6, 2018. A copy of the Inventory and Appraisal of Property for these items is available at 310 Northside of Markleeville Road, Markleeville, California. The undersigned will sell at Public Sale by competitive bidding for the personal property described below on or after February 6, 2018.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the burden of proof shall be on the property owner to prove that the public hearing described in this notice or in written notice published in the legal advertisement was not timely served to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at or prior to, the public hearing.

A copy of the Notice of Public Hearing Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA-17-001)

The work is to be completed within the time set forth in the Contract. The Contractor is responsible for any and/or all bids. The Town reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or to utilize any alternative method of procurement. The Town reserves the right to negotiate the terms of the contract. The bids shall be received at the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, California, 93546 until 5:00PM on February 28, 2018.

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RELIABLE GAME PREDICTION: PASSED OUT ON COUCH

By Harold Hartley

The Super Bowl is coming … same old Patriots, and I predict the same old outcome. Passed out on the couch.

But at least there are signs of trouble at paradise—that maybe, just maybe, the Patriot dynasty has run its course. I believe a lot of the report that ESPN ran. I believe Owner Bob Kraft told his coach Bill Belichick—I am never letting you trade Brady. I believe that forced Belichick’s hand and he had to trade Brady’s heir apparent, Jimmy Garoppolo, against his wishes. Belichick gave him to Kyle Shanahan, the son of a friend of his.

I think the whole episode pissed Belichick off because sentimentality, holding on too long … it goes against the Patriot Way.

And this may sound crazy, but I think Belichick is planning to depart this team this year. He seems different. He is working his way out.

Meanwhile, Brady gets ever more irritated with this TB12 stuff was fine until he started acting like a cult leader. The everforemost thing is getting old. The diet and kale underwear, the Facebook documentaries, enough. He has excelled at the point of being a QB and not infecting the rest of us with his personal life. Now he is becoming Cam Newton with all the contrived antics and reality TV baloney.

Okay, the actual game. Says here the Pats win 26-17. In the seven Super Bowls the Patriots have played this century, the largest final margin in the Super Bowl is coming … same old Patriots. And I predict he Super Bowl is coming … same old Patriots.

Belichick has been up at 3 a.m. looking at the Eagles game tape and knows what to do to him. This is an oddity, that the Eagles get in a lot of third and long situations on offense and that’s a bad place to be against the Pats. They are too smart for you to win by converting those. The Eagles have pass rush up front and that is the ultimate kryptonite for Brady and any other QB. What the Pats will do is run a lot of hurry up and no huddle to keep the Eagles personnel on the field because the Eagles rotate a lot of defensive linemen in and out. Expect a lot of no-huddle quick offense with quick passes and screens to get the linemen running.

It’ll be a one-score game until Foles throws a late pick and the Pats ice it with a Gotkowski field goal. ----- I hope the Patriots win. Yeah, I said that. I don’t hate the Patriots like a lot, but I do hate them. They pass me off because they are what I wish I had in a sports team … A SMART ORGANIZATION, WITH SOUND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES, STRUCTURE AND DISCIPLINE, BUT ABLE TO MOVE QUICKLY AND STAY AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION BY BEING PROACTIVE AND NOT REACTIVE. THEY THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX AND ARE CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE. They are simply better than every other franchise. PERIOD. If you hate the Patriots, you hate greatness or are just jealous because they beat your team all the time. That’s it. They don’t talk a lot of trash—other than that little irritating bastard Edelman. They are business first. They don’t have the most talent; they have the most intelligence. Why hate the run they are on? It is phenomenal. Tom Brady has been a starting QB for 16 years. This is his eighth Super Bowl trip. Every other year he is in the Super Bowl. They change RBs, WRs, have few stars. They changed from a running and defensive team early on in the dynasty, to a team that threw two TEs on the field at the same time and dominated the middle of the field. They eliminated 3-4 defenses as an every down defense by lining up and throwing the ball 24 times in a row and never on first down. They couldn’t run, so they developed a three yard passing tree and used them like runs. They are brilliant. They are versatile with all their defensive players and offensive players.

The real mystery to me is how other coaches haven’t gotten smarter about the way they approach the game of football. The Patriots don’t play a brand of football every single week … they look at what you do and adapt every week. To do that you need smart coaches and smart players—not a forced spread offense, they dumb down the team (Steelers) says stuff like “we are going to play Steeler football this week.” Which is fine, until you lose to good teams in the playoffs who review ALL your tape and tendencies and attack them.

As for the playoff games leading up to the Super Bowl, the Saints’ blew the odd-eggsbury of a lifetime. That was their time, and they had a good balance of rookies and veterans. Had Drew Brees versus Case Keenum. And then botched it, not because of a “miracle” play, but because of a complete coaching and execution breakdown.

Coaching Carousel

The Carolina Panthers finally fired Offensive Coordinator Mike Shula. Finally. But then they hired Norv Turner to replace him the same day. Oh boy … it must be 1992 again. This is like divorcing Lindsay Lohan to marry Courtney Love. You’re trading in young and crazy for old and crazy.

Advice to men out there: Once you get rid of crazy, give yourself some time to enjoy it before you drink from that well again.

Mike Vrabel is the new head coach of the Titans. So another Belichick disciple gets hired to coach. He had like two years as a LB coach, one year as a defensive coordinator (where he inspired a perennially great defense to its worst effort in years), drops a lot of f-bombs on Hard Knocks and gets a head coaching job.

He is preceded in his job by Jeff Fisher, Mike Munchak and Mike Mularkey. Not a Murderer’s Row of coaching greatness.

And while Vrabel says he backs QB Marcus Mariota and wants to run a spread offense, I predict as soon as he gets in, he will pull a Jay Gruden and start looking to replace the QB with a “Brady Type.” By this time next year he will be bashing Mariota and telling ownership to move on. Retread alert … Jon Gruden is back with the Raiders.

Let’s start by debunking the myth.
of Gruden the QB Guru. Who has Gruden ever developed? I have heard he developed Favre. ‘Course I have heard about 10 people get credit for developing Favre from Gruden to Steve Mariucci to Mike Holmgren to Mike McCarthy. How many people had their hands up Favre’s ass?

John Gruden had success with Rich Gannon … after Gannon had already been in the league a decade. He didn’t develop Gannon. Post-Gannon, he went to Tampa. He was traded to Tampa by the Raiders mind you, and won a Super Bowl with Tony Dungy’s team that was loaded. All he had to do was increase the Bucs’ offense from scoring nine points a game to 13 points a game because Dungy let the aforementioned offensive moron Mike Shula run his offense until the ownership fired Dungy’s dumbass.

So Gruden won the Super Bowl with a journeyman named Brad Johnson. After winning the Super Bowl, Gruden went 7-9, 5-11, 11-5, 4-12, 9-7, 9-7 in his remaining six years in Tampa. That’s 45-51 overall. So he took a journeyman named Brad Johnson. After winning the Super Bowl, Gruden went 7-9, 5-11, 11-5, 4-12, 9-7, 9-7 in his remaining six years in Tampa.

The bright side, this creates an another horrible AFC team that will let their QB do as they please. Gruden is already and make Mark Davis look like a normal human being, never mind running an NFL team. Gruden should have never taken $100 million for 10 years to coach… he knows good and well he is going to screw that team up more than it already is and make Mark Davis look dumber than his Jim Carrey in Dumb and Dumber haircut.

On the bright side, this creates an other horrible AFC team that will let the Steelers get to the AFC championship game to lose to the Patriots— unless they face Jacksonville first.

After Brad Johnson, Gruden proceeded to DEVELOP the following QB wunderkinds: Rob Johnson, Chris Simms, Brian Griese, Bruce Gradkowski, Tim Rattay and Luke McCown. Now it gets better. After trading for or drafting that collection of bums, he figured he would hit lighting again by admitting he couldn’t develop a QB, a fact most football idiots cannot seem to remember, and signed Jeff Garcia as his savior.

But the thing I really remember is laughing my ass off at the sight of John Gruden on TV with 5 QBs already in his Tampa training camp (let me insert the legendary Stoney Case here now) and begging retired JAKE PLUMMER to come out of retirement to be his team’s QB. And Jake Plummer rejected him because he said he was committed to a professional handball career? You think I am making this up? Google Jake Plummer and handball and read this: https://www.si.com/nfl/2015/07/01/si-vault-jake-plummer-retirement-handball-denver-broncos.

Gruden overload. He clearly took advantage of the fact that Mark Davis, the idiot owner of the Raiders, is mildly retarded. Mark Davis should have to undergo some kind of competency hearing to evaluate his capacity to function as a normal human being, never mind running an NFL team. Gruden should have never taken $100 million for 10 years to coach… he knows good and well he is going to screw that team up more than it already is and make Mark Davis look dumber than his Jim Carrey in Dumb and Dumber haircut.

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Cleveland Coach Hue Jackson defiantly says no one made him hire an offensive coordinator. He hires his own staff. Okay. Has any coach in the history of any sport who has a winning percentage of 0.031 in two years (winning one of 32 games in two years) been so arrogant. He also said “I don’t think anyone could have done the job I have done here the last two years. * Well you are right about that Hue - most people would have won at least two or three.

Hold on … I found the coach to rival Hue Jackson. Jeff Fisher made a statement that the Rams proved by winning how he left the team in great shape.

Jeff Fisher should know the Rams are proving he is one of the worst coaches to ever get a headset. He left and the team immediately got better and more exciting. With a lot of the same players. Another indication of how bad he and his staff were. During the playoffs Jared Goff, Nick Foles and Case Keenum were all leading teams in the playoffs. They were on the top three teams in the NFC. STARTING PLAYOFF GAMES. All three were coached by Jeff Fisher in the last two years and looked like some of the worst QBs in the NFL. All three were considered bums/busts, including Goff who was taken number one overall. They then got better coaches and all three are gonna be starting QBs for franchises next year and Foles and Keenum are gonna get paid. Jeff Fisher should shut up and eat some leftover humble pie out of his disguist mustache.

NFL experts are now saying “you don’t need an elite QB to win a Super Bowl” after Keenum and Bortles and Foles made the conference championships.

Stop it. Before the NFL draft less than a year ago, during free agency, the mantra was “either you are a team with a franchise QB or one without a franchise QB and you can’t win without a franchise QB.” Now that’s all changed?

There were a lot of injuries this year. Aaron Rodgers, Deshawn Watson, Carson Wentz. And the same people who said RBs were worthless a few years ago now say they want Saquon Barkley drafted in the top two or three and think the Steelers should pay Le’Veon Bell $15 million a year.
VOLUNTEERS WANTED
FOR THE INAUGURAL
MAMMOTH FILM FESTIVAL™
FEBRUARY 8TH-11TH, 2018

WHAT WE’RE LOOKING FOR:
We’re looking for individuals who are enthusiastic, outgoing, willing to work and who are passionate about film, media or entertainment! Outside of day-to-day responsibilities, volunteers will also have the opportunity to attend our industry run panels, exclusive events and the opportunity to network with various filmmakers from all over the country.

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