GIRL SCOUTS GET TO IT

By Lunch

Girl Scout Troop 580 Bronze Award Team members Ellie Crall, Kaithla Halferty, Sage Harper, Lucy Perry, and Katherine Truax. For the full story, see page 15.

COUNCIL APPROVES KINGS DEAL

By Lunch

Mammoth Lakes Town Council approved a resolution at its meeting Wednesday allocating $675,000 in General Fund support to fund a sponsorship partnership with the Los Angeles Kings.

The agreement is part of an overall, six-year, $2 million sponsorship deal which also involves Mammoth Resorts.

Mammoth Resorts will pay the Kings $225,000 annually for a marketing agreement for the first 2/3 of each season (up to March 1). Mammoth Lakes Tourism then takes over for the final 1/3 of the season.

The Town of Mammoth is scheduled to pay $175,000 this year and then $100,000 per year thereafter.

In return, the Kings are supposed to make a $1 million donation to the Town and enter into a use/sponsorship agreement for the proposed Ice Rink/Multi-Use Facility.

As Town Manager Dan Holler said in a phone conversation Thursday, at the outset, the Town approached the Kings about a straight donation for Mammoth’s proposed new rink. What that has morphed into is more of a “trade.”

As Holler pointed out, the Kings will also get the benefit of a tax write-off for their donation, as the check would go to Mammoth Lakes Recreation, a 501(c)3 organization.

One interesting point in relation to the Town’s funding of its share of the deal. Paragraph #2 of the resolution states, “Whereas, the Town Council has committed 2.35% of TOT revenues for tourism-related purposes to be provided to Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) with any excess revenues generated over the Town’s base budget to be held in a reserve for the same purposes with use to be approved by the Town Council and in consultation with MLT.”

Meaning, the Town has capped its dedicated payment to MLT.

Holler said it would not have been appropriate for MLT to enter into a contract with the Kings given the uncertainty of its future revenue. Mammoth’s Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) is up for renewal this year.

If it is not renewed, it would expire on August 31. MLT’s marketing at Kings games could begin as early as tomorrow, when the Kings host the St. Louis Blues in an afternoon tilt at the Staples Center.

Some educators love getting out of town

By Giles

On Wednesday, at the apparent urging and/or request of Board member Tony Dublino, the Eastern Sierra Unified School District Board met and discussed its district travel policy.

According to Dublino, “(travel) expenses have ballooned over the past few fiscal years.” He pushed for the Board to more concretely define what constitutes “actual and necessary travel expense.”

While the Board agreed to set an annual travel budget and review travel expenses on a quarterly basis, the general consensus of Dublino’s fellow board members is that Superintendent Don Clark’s travel expenses are reasonable.

As the District’s Business Manager Mollie Nugent said, “Sending people places is a value judgment.”

And Board member Jimmy Little firmly believes there is value in sending management and staff other places to “gain an awareness of the world around us.”

In the past, said Little, when the District was in financial straits, “we tightened our belts and made choices.” But currently, the District is a bit more flush, and

see ROADTRIP, page 2

CORPORATIONS PUT ASSESSOR ON DEFENSIVE

Taxpayers foot the bill for appeals by MMSA, Ormat, 8050

By Giles

Over the last three years, Mono County has spent more than $439,000 defending itself against property value assessment appeals filed by three property owners: Mammoth Resorts, Ormat Technologies, Inc., and Mammoth 8050.

For 2017, Mono County had a secured assessment roll value of roughly $5.3 billion. It’s unsecured roll value was approximately $401 million. Beck reported at a Mammoth Unified School District Board meeting on Thursday, February 22, that 2017 was the third highest roll total in Mono County history.

The assessment roll value reflects the total assessed value of property in Mono County. That figure determines the property tax revenue for the County in a given year. If a property owner feels that his or her property has been assigned an assessed value that is higher than it should be, he or she can appeal that assessment. Mono County currently has $2.4 million in reserves on-hand to pay back property owners who successfully appeal their property value assessments.

As was reported last week, there are currently 398 active assessment appeals filed against Mono County. Of those appeals, 368 were filed by three property owners: Ormat Technologies, Inc. (102), owners at Mammoth 8050 (224), and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (42).

Beck said that the County contracts consultants to assist with settling

see ASSESSOR, page 2

Queen of The Sierra

Seniors revolt

Huh? Who dat?

Defer and ... spend

Drop knees, not bombs

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/p. 16/
during these times, he said he encourages staff training and development if there's a desire for it.

He said the Board has also encouraged the Superintendent to be an advocate for the District statewide, and to take on roles in various state organizations.

Clark currently serves as the ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Small School District Committee Chairman and was a featured panelist at the ACSA Symposium held in January in Monterey.

Mono County Office of Education Superintendent Stacey Adler is similarly involved in statewide educational organizations. She currently serves as President of the CSESA (California County Superintendents Educational Services Association).

As Clark explained, if you direct someone to get involved, after a few years, they're going to start getting tapped to serve in leadership positions, and "you end up having to spend some time on it." So if you ask for an advocate, look out.

Trouble is, how does one place a value on a local Superintendent's involvement in the state educational hierarchy? As Dublino challenged to his fellow Board members, "Educate me as to the benefits to the kids in this district regarding Superintendent travel. Do we really influence state policy? Is this the best use of Don Clark's time? Two schools need a principal."

"In addition to serving as Superintendent of the District, Clark also doubles as principal of two of its schools. The District serves Coleville, Lee Vining, Bridgeport, June Lake and Benton. Board member Bob Tems observed, "You can't put a value on his lobbying. It's not tangible."

Little chimed in, "Don's brought a lot of ideas back [from his travels] ... "

While this may be a bit of an imperfect science, The Sheet asked four district schools (the two County Districts in addition to Eastern Sierra Unified and Mammoth Unified) about its code 5200 expenditures.

The California School Accounting Manual describes code 5200 expenditures as "travel and conference."

In 2016-2017, Mammoth Unified's Business Manager Brooke Bien said the District operated on a $14 million budget and spent approximately $49,000 on travel and conferences.

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Eastern Sierra Unified's Business Manager Mollie Nugent said her district operates on about a $10 million budget. In 2016-2017, it spent approximately $119,000 on travel and conferences.

County Offices of Education spending on travel and conferences is a bit harder to quantify just because some of that travel is related to training that County offices provide to satellite districts.

As Inyo County Office of Education (ICOE) Business Manager Tom Snyder explained, "we have a fairly large child development department (i.e. child care providers, preschool, etc). This department has been awarded grants to be the regional lead on providing training to preschool teachers in San Bernardino county. Therefore, there are also significant amounts of our travel that are related to provided training as opposed to attending training or workshops."

Inyo County’s travel budget is further complicated by its charter school management, which Snyder broke out separately.

From July 1, 2017 to the present, ICOE has spent approximately $130,000. About $73,000 of that was related to the child development fund referenced above. Another $21,400 was ascribed to charter school management.

The 2017-2018 yearly budget line item for Superintendent travel was $7,000, of which Superintendent Lisa Fontana had used $4,300 to date. It's annual travel/conference budget is $258,000.

Mono County provided The Sheet its warrant register from December 1, 2016 through November 30, 2017.

The Sheet asked for a separate breakdown of $200 code expenditures, but as this was not provided as of press time, Lunch did it by hand.

The estimate: Mono County Office of Education spent about $110,000 during the above-referenced time period on travel.

Eastern Sierra Unified Superintendent Don Clark acknowledged Wednesday that some of that travel expense may be related to services rendered to ESUSD. "MCOE provides a lot of staff development for us," he said.

The Sheet estimates that Superintendent Stacey Adler, Assistant Superintendent Tammy Nguyen and then-Human Resources Manager Jenni Huh spent about $45,000 in travel among the three of them during the above-referenced time period.

ICOE's annual budget is approximately $12 million. MCOE's annual budget is $5.2 million.

One interesting difference just between MUSD and MCOE: According to Business Manager Brooke Bien, MUSD does not pay for mileage reimbursement when its staff travels. You can drive your own car, but the District will only pay for gasoline.

MCOE maintains a fleet of 11 cars, yet it offers full mileage reimbursement if you choose to drive your own vehicle, and spends somewhere around
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Mono County Health Department

www.monohealth.com

Mammoth Lakes Office
437 Old Mammoth Road
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Phone: 760–924–1830

Bridgeport Office
37 Emigrant Street
Bridgeport, CA 93517
Phone: 760–932–5580

“This project is/was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.”
Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for your article on “Alterra Walks it Back.” It is hoped that Alterra is listening to some of their critics.

The new Ikon Passes primarily target jet setters who have the resources and time (most working people get 20 days or less of annual vacation) to ski multiple resorts in one ski season. Mammoth’s customer base is not the world’s rich and famous who flock to very high-end ski resorts to be “seen.” Mammoth previously tried to attract these people with the Village and high-end establishments, many of which failed for lack of business.

In its push to try and increase Mammoth Mountain visitors and profits Alterra seems to have totally forgotten many of its base customers - the working people who have supported Mammoth Mountain and the Town of Mammoth over the years and made it what it is today. We’ve supported Mammoth during droughts, recessions, fires, and record snowfalls. We’re senior now and on fixed incomes. If we worked long enough and hard enough and were lucky, we managed to save enough to afford a second home in Mammoth. We don’t typically ski weekedns, holidays, or even all day. And, when we can ski, we often ski with physical challenges such as hip and knee replacements, cancer treatments, and arthritis.

The dropping of a senior pass says Alterra no longer cares about seniors or our business – shame on them!

Nancy Young Moore
Senior Citizen

Give seniors (i.e. me) a break
To Rusty Gregory:

I understand the value of the almighty dollar. Even more important is the almighty corporate dollar which explains the loss of the senior discount on the new Ikon passes. As a devoted charter member of the Mammoth MVP pass (now the California pass) I am dismayed that corporate America questions the value of senior citizens. When the MVP pass was created in 2000, it was marketed as a value to those that purchased the pass at a special rate, and that passes at that rate were limited. It was a special value! However, the underlying reason was that upfront funds were needed for infrastructure improvements and the locals came through. Those of us that have continued to purchase the pass over the years, always believed that we had a special relationship with Mammoth because of this, even when we started to lose some of the original benefits. However, the loss of the senior discount is not only confusing, but seems contrary to common sense, even in the corporate world.

It is confusing, in that corporate thinking still provides a discount for college students but ignores the contributions seniors have made to the continued success of Mammoth. Is it because of the amount of alcoholic beverages that they tend to consume on the mountain? I also find it difficult to believe they are ignorant of the fact that when numbers are down during the week, it is often seniors, not college students who are there skiing and spending money for food and drinks that carry the mountain, from one weekend to the other.

Why not give us a break. Considering all the money that is funneled into other type of promotions throughout the year, a senior discount program corporate-wide would not be out of the question. In reality, considering that many seniors have disposable income, it would be a prudent way to draw many new skiers from that other monster ski corporation that you are competing with.

The above reasoning should apply not only to Mammoth, but all of the ski areas within the new corporation. What do you say Rusty? I really would like an answer.

Steve Newman
Mammoth Lakes

Bean counters smoking grass

Dear Editor:

Thanks to The Sheet for the updates on next season.

As I read the article I see that consolidation of a number of ski resorts under the IKON PASS is the new future for skiing and Mammoth. I notice that as a senior I have been thrown under the bus. I am curious how the Alterra group came up with the new package prices. As I understand that the mountain receives 80% of its upfront operating cost from season pass holders and 25% never us that pass. I have 2 friends that did not use their pass the last 2 years due the health issues.

As to doing away with the senior pass I think the bean counters are smoking too much grass and will check (sic) the goose that lays the golden egg.

As a senior and a Mammoth skier since 1967, my main destination for those years has been Mammoth and June. I skied for years with friends, later with my wife and children and today with my grandchildren and extended family. The senior pass has been a lifeline for my family and a benefit on my retirement income.

As a retired senior I drive up from Los Angeles and ski Mammoth from...
Monday to Thursday. The mountain mid-week is never crowded. As a matter of fact the majority of the skiers, at my estimate, are between 65 and 80. If you take incentive away from that group of skiers, the mountain and Town of Mammoth will feel the loss of revenue.

Over a number of years the mountain has made major improvements in grooming and lift operations and I appreciated the upgrades. But the new pass options are confusing and restrictive. I have no intentions of buying a pass to go skiing in Vail for 7 days or any other ski resort that I have to fly to. Flying today a big hassle, the security, hidden fees, accommodations and etc. As a senior I jump in my car and go.

Also the article on the town and airport issue is nothing new. I remember when the Town buried the old Mammoth sidewalk under the snow. The airport issue and subsequent lawsuit costing the town millions, The Village with no parking and now paid parking.

I wonder how much input Rusty Gregory had on the new pass offerings. Whoever designed the new pass offering must keep in mind Mammoth is an island at the West end of the USA and the majority of the Town’s visitors come from Los Angeles, San Diego and Las Vegas areas. Why would I fly east when Tahoe is closer?

Sincerely, 
Herman Roethel

MULTIPLIER EFFECT

Dear Editor:

Rusty Gregory and Alterra Mountain Company should be congratulated and thanked for remedying in quick fashion the exclusion of unlimited passes for all skiers, and that is to restore the discount for those of us that are 65 years of age and older. We believe this would still result in increased revenue for Alterra while at the same time providing enhanced value for Mammoth’s older constituency.

Many of us bring our children and grandchildren to Mammoth, which translates to additional lift ticket sales and revenue from associated lodging, equipment rentals and sales, restaurants, etc., much of which is associated with Mountain venues. In other words, there is a family “multiplier effect” over and above our (senior) patronage that boosts Alterra’s bottom line as well as the Town’s economy.

Finally, many of us only ski or snowboard a few hours each day, which lessens congestion on the slopes for much of the day. As such, a reduced pass price for seniors makes sense from a usage standpoint.

Instituting a version of the Ikon Pass program that includes a senior discount would be a win-win for Alterra and its senior customers. Last but not least, it would be in keeping with Dave McCoy’s vision, which would mean a lot to Dave himself and those of us that are 65 years of age or older. If you take incentive away from the mountain and shift the focus to Alterra’s long-term goals, it would mean a lot to Dave himself and would mean a lot to his progeny, Rusty Gregory.

Sincerely, 
Mike Asay, San Clemente, CA; Paul and Edie Cucura, Sandpoint, ID; Bill Draeger, Mammoth Lakes, CA; George and Linda Goddard, Reno, NV; George Hamori, Los Angeles, CA; Dan Masciandaro, Valencia, CA; Irving and Claire Oousky, Santa Monica, CA; Howard and Anne Rosen, Los Angeles, CA; Bob and Jean Schroeder, Los Feliz, CA

Sincerely,

Michael A. Schnepp, Rusty Gregory.

Town-County Development Agreement on the agenda for Friday

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County will discuss and vote on a Property Use Agreement for the construction of a new Civic Center on the McFlex Parcel at the Board of Supervisor’s meeting, at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 9. The regular Supervisor’s meeting was postponed on Tuesday, March 6 due to a lack of quorum. According to the meeting’s agenda, the agreement will establish cost-sharing responsibilities for the two entities. According to the staff report, the agreement was negotiated by Town and County staff for several months prior to being placed on the agenda. The report reads that “the remaining points of contention were resolved in the last month, and staff of both parties agreed to bring the item before elected officials.” Mammoth’s Town Council approved the Agreement unanimously at its February 21 meeting.

The 8.24 acre McFlex parcel is located next to the Superior Court house.

In 2007, the Town and County entered into an agreement to develop a Civic Center at the McFlex Parcel, to house departments from both entities. Mono County has been contemplating new office space for its staff in Mammoth Lakes for some time. The County’s current lease at the Sierra Center Mall is set to expire in 2019, and its lease at the Minaret Mall is set to expire in 2021. At past meetings staff and Supervisors have discussed the benefits of having all of the County’s South County programs and services located in one building, as opposed to being split between two facilities as they are now. The Town’s lease for its office space at the Minaret Mall expires in 2021.

With looming deadlines and potential for rent hikes, the two entities have been exploring other options for office space at new facilities. Last summer, the Mono County Supervisors voted to turn down a lease renewal offer at Sierra Center Mall. The County currently pays $1.3 million per year in rent to house its offices at that location.

The County announced its interest in building a new, 33,000 square foot facility on the McFlex parcel in Fall 2016. In July 2017, County Administrative Officer Leslie Chapman reported that the projected cost of constructing such a facility was $20.9 million, before the cost of debt issuance and financing. That figure was projected to balloon to about $42.5 million over 35 years due after compounded interest.

If the two entities decide to share infrastructure, like water, sewer, internet and technology (if available), parking, etc., costs would be divided according to how much space each uses in the hypothetical new facility. The agreement currently describes a scenario in which Mono County would occupy approximately 62% of the facility, with the County taking on approximately 62 percent of the infrastructure costs after construction.

The Agreement authorizes the Town Manager and County Administrative Officer to appoint a joint committee to resolve any disputes between the two parties over the project.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 9 in Bridgeport with teleconferencing from the County Administrator Office in the Sierra Center Mall. A video recording of the meeting will be available at monocounty.ca.gov the following week.

For more information, contact Town Manager Mike Bausch at 935-4433 or administration@mta.ca.gov.
THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE BRIGADE
Mono County trains volunteer EMTs to keep ambulances staffed in the Tri-Valleys

By Rea

Mono County’s Tri-Valley area just got a lot safer.

After an avalanche occurred at Mammoth Mountain on Saturday, March 3, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) based in Benton were able to stage an ambulance at the Green Church on Owens River Road, in addition to fully staffing an ambulance back in Hammill Valley. This was due to the fact that 12 new EMTs are now living in the Tri-Valley area.

The group of EMTs, based in the communities of Benton, Chalfant and Hammill Valley, recently earned their certifications to practice Basic Life Support services out of the White Mountain and Chalfant Fire Stations. They also completed Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) triage training on February 24—just a week before the avalanche, which could have been a real mass casualty, occurred in Mammoth.

The EMT program was organized by Dave Doonan, Chief at the White Mountain Fire Department, and taught by Ray McGrale, a paramedic and training officer with Mono County Emergency Medical Services.

The class took each student 180 hours of classroom study, plus 24 hours of clinical time, McGrale told The Sheet.

“It was pretty consuming,” said Chris Carter, a Hammil Valley resident who took the EMT course along with his wife. “As a group we kind of laugh about the fact that we all know each other, and it kept us all motivated to be there. You come home from work, you’re tired, and you want to kick back, but you know your friends and neighbors are at that class, and they had a hard day too. That really kept everybody motivated.”

“Now we have a cadre of trained people in the area who are able to respond” to emergencies, said Carter.

“The important thing is that these are all our neighbors. We’re taking care of our own community… it adds a greater level of commitment when you know you’re taking care of each other.”

Doonan also said the opportunity to become EMT-certified is huge for residents in an area where jobs can be hard to come by. “It’s a jump start to a career,” he said.

Doonan also said that, “Since we’ve had these new EMTs, we’ve been able to average about 17 minutes to a scene,” said Doonan, who said that the rural standard response time for California is 20 minutes for 90 percent of calls. Before the new EMTs were certified, “it could take close to 30 minutes to respond, depending on where the call was”.

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The new, volunteer EMTs serving the Tri-Valley region. For more, see story p. 8.
There is an actual election for Mono County Superintendent of Schools this year. Mono County Office of Education (MCOE) Superintendent of Schools Stacey Adler has run unopposed since she was appointed to the position following the retirement of Catherine Hiatt in February, 2010. Her former Deputy Superintendent and Director of the Special Education Local Area Plans or SELPA, Jenni Huh is going to give Adler some competition this year. Huh announced her candidacy in February. She agreed to meet for an interview on March 6, accompanied by February.

By Bodine

Selpa Administrative Support Specialist Deanna Tuetken and Taylor Kumhue, California School Employees Association Chapter President and the current SELPA Deputy Superintendent for Mono County Free Library.

“It’s time for a change,” Huh told The Sheet. “Since I started, there has been a lot of mismanagement. There’s a lack of trust for the administration.” Employees feel mistreated, disrespected and neglected by the upper echelon of the MCOE, Huh said. This current climate continues, says Huh, MCOE and the county will begin losing valuable employees.

Tuetken was very passionate about working a change at the top. “We need someone that’s ethically and morally sound and fiscally responsible.” She said that in the more than five years she’s been with MCOE, she’s seen people cherry picked for certain positions. She said that some people are treated differently than others.

When asked why she didn’t run in the 2014 election, Huh said, “I could have waited and been appointed to the position being advertised.” Neither Huh nor Tuetken were prepared to run for the position.

“Tuetken said she didn’t think anyone deserves to be appointed to the position without an election. “I could have waited and been appointed,” she said.

Neither Adler nor Tuetken were compensated for the extra work they performed for the charter schools. Adler laughed and said that the employees that were awarded stipends did little extra work outside of their normal duties, save adding a couple extra names to a spreadsheet.

“The issue is not who did or did not get a stipend, but that they were issued at all without review, oversight or public input,” Huh said. She said she didn’t think anyone deserved a stipend.

The Sheet has requested public records documenting the amount of additional work performed by MCOE employees, the contract between the charter school, and MCOE including what MCOE charges for management services and where that extra revenue is spent. They have not yet been made available.

Huh admitted that she isn’t familiar with all the details concerning the relationship between MCOE and the charter school it manages, but said she is curious as to why no neighboring school district or office of education would authorize and manage the school. Why did a charter school in a major metropolitan area seek assistance from a small office of education located 400 miles away, she asked.

In regards to the stipends, Tuetken said, “It breaks my heart to know that money that could have been spent on teachers or books or special education, was going to fill the pockets of the administration.”

The Sheet asked Huh about her strengths and weaknesses. She said that one of her strengths is being inclusive. She said that in her current capacity as SELPA Director, she does not manage from the top down. When implementing change she includes the entire staff, “Everybody’s opinion matters. Progress comes from discourse,” said Huh this week.

Her weakness is being a rebel. “I often stand up for what I believe in, even if, in this situation, I’m at risk of retaliation.”

When asked to describe Adler’s strengths and weaknesses, she said she had no comment. “I feel very strongly that what makes a good leader is not so much the degrees and certificates [they have] but knowing how to lead and collaborate,” said Huh.

The following story “Climbing the Chart(ers),” February 17, 2018,

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The Sheet asked Huh about her strengths and weaknesses. She said that one of her strengths is being inclusive. She said that in her current capacity as SELPA Director, she does not manage from the top down. When implementing change she includes the entire staff, “Everybody’s opinion matters. Progress comes from discourse,” said Huh this week.

Her weakness is being a rebel. “I often stand up for what I believe in, even if, in this situation, I’m at risk of retaliation.”

When asked to describe Adler’s strengths and weaknesses, she said she had no comment. “I feel very strongly that what makes a good leader is not so much the degrees and certificates [they have] but knowing how to lead and collaborate,” said Huh.

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ST. PATRICK’S DAY

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MUF WILL LIKELY BE PHASED PROJECT

Mammoth Recreation Commission weighs $4.9 million in deferred maintenance against new projects

By Giles

At the March 6 meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission, Recreation Director Stu Brown told commissioners that town staff has identified $4.9 million in needed Major Maintenance and Capital Improvement Projects pertaining to the Town's recreation facilities.

Brown reported Tuesday that, so far in 2018, the Town has completed $175,000 worth of maintenance projects. Of the $4.9 million identified, $800,000 in major maintenance has been budgeted over the next three years.

One of the more costly items was the Whitmore Pool.

According to the staff report from Tuesday's meeting, the Whitmore Pool requires approximately $800,000 in maintenance and repairs. Some are required to ensure the pool is in compliance with various health and safety codes, said Brown. Among the more costly of these improvements is the replacement of the 22-year old pool heater, which will cost $25,000. Additionally, the chemical controllers for both the lap pool and the kiddie pool need to be replaced, which will cost $7,000.

At the same meeting, Town Manager Dan Holler reported that the Town has allocated roughly $9 million in funding for the Multi-Use Facility (MUF) at Mammoth Creek Park West. Holler said that, if a pending market-in funding for the Multi-Use Facility is approved between the Los Angeles Kings Hockey Team, the Town, Mammoth Lakes Tourism, and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, The Kings have "conceptually agreed" to donate $1 million toward the construction of the facility. As part of that deal, the facility, once built, will be branded "The Official Training Center of the L.A. Kings."

Holler said that the Multi-Use Facility is currently a $12 million project, and that the Town would like to have $11.5 to $12 million identified before the project goes to bid this month. Holler said the Town would like to bid the project as one completed package, to be built over two years, but that if it cannot secure the necessary funds by bid date, it will have to be phased.

Holler said that the Town will look at budgeting additional general fund monies for the MUF during its budget review in April. Additional requests for Measure R allocations are also being considered.

Commissioner Christie Osborne asked if there was a way to get the town's NGOs, commissions, and Town Council to agree to a memorandum of understanding that the project will be built to completion. Holler said that each financial decision will have to be decided by the Council. "So we could be looking at building something that never gets completed?" asked Osborne. "Hypothetically, yes," replied Holler.

While the MUF is still being hashed out, construction of the facility's new inclusive playground will begin this spring. On February 7, Town Council voted to authorize staff to purchase the new playground for $127,000. Additionally, Town Council authorized staff to apply for $20,000 in Measure R funds from Mammoth Lakes Recreation to allow the town to surface the new structure. Town Council has also allocated $75,000 in reserves from the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Mid-Year Budget Review Process for installation.

On Tuesday, Brown reported that the playground structure will be purchased from the manufacturer, a company called GameTime. Last month, Brown said the Parks and Recreation Department had already received a $100,000 grant from GameTime for the playground.

Brown said in an email this week that The Noon Rotary Club of Mammoth Lakes has indicated it is interested in donating the inclusive components for the playground, which Brown said will total $17,000. Inclusive means the park will be handicap accessible.

In order to save money and bolster community support, the Commission elected to have the playground constructed via a "Supervised Community Build." Members of the community will be invited to assist with the playground's installation over a seven to ten day period in June. The installation will be supervised by GameTime. Brown reported Tuesday that it is expected the playground will be completed by July, and said in an email that the community build (aka a barn raising) is expected to save the Town $74,000.

Brown said that if the Town chose to construct the playground, it would have to wait two years for the next National Parks and Recreation Association/Disney Play Spaces Grant cycle. The Town has applied for a grant from the National Parks and Recreation Association to assist with expenses. Brown said that the results of the town's grant application will be known in May.

So we could be looking at building something that never gets completed?

-Christie Osborne

Reasons to buy a vacation property in Mammoth Lakes

- Mammoth Resorts was recently sold for nearly $800 million and is now part of a larger conglomerate, Alterra Mountain Company, which has promised significant resort investment.
- Numerous commercial developments are pending.
- We represent the region's finest properties with exceptional skill using the most innovative technologies available.
- Future Mammoth Lakes airport expansion with additional flights and destinations, along with a proposed regional plan for commercial air service with additional flights, destinations and more reliable service.
- With an $8 million annual marketing budget, Mammoth Lakes Tourism has an incredible global marketing arm that is bringing in tens of thousands of international visitors. Mammoth's room tax revenue rose a staggering 63% between 2014-2015 and 2016-2017.
- We know the market (20 years combined experience) and enthusiastically embrace the latest technology while sourcing out the best investment properties.

Call us today to learn more about Mammoth Lakes Vacation Properties! Lucrative rental program and for a list of current properties for sale. Airbnb and VRBO are not only changing the way people travel, they are changing investment strategies for real estate moguls. Let us help you become one.

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MammothLakesProperties.com

Jamie Kelly (760) 914-0625
info@mammothlakesproperties.com DRE 01452346

Cynthia Fleming (760) 914-4444
info@mammothlakesproperties.com DRE 01899459

Resort Property REALTY, INC.
AVALANCHE!
Locals recall last Saturday’s inbound avalanche at Mammoth Mountain
By Giles

At approximately 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, March 3, an avalanche was triggered at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA), which sent snow and debris into a section of trail that was open to skiers and riders.

Lucas Dunn, who lives in Mammoth Lakes, said he was skiing from the top of the Canyon Express to The Mill at the base of Chair 2 when the event occurred.

“I was probably 300 feet above where it stopped,” said Dunn this week. “I heard a rumble for a couple of seconds, and then everything became white.”

According to a press release issued on Saturday morning by MMSA’s Public Relations and Social Media Manager Lauren Burke, “Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrol was performing routine avalanche mitigation work in a closed area when a large avalanche released on the Climax ski run.” Burke reported that the avalanche traveled down the Upper Dry Creek trail and stopped at the bottom of The High Five Express (Chair Lift Five). “The powder cloud from the avalanche extended about 100 meters into an area open to the public, where two guests were partially caught,” reported Burke. “Both were able to immediately free themselves without serious injury.”

In addition to the two guests caught in the slide, six MMSA employees working at the bottom of the closed lift were partially caught. Burke reported that all were able to free themselves.

Dunn descended into the area below Chair Five as the snow settled. “The first thing I saw was that all of the orange lines and posts used to set up the lift lines were taken out… and I saw a snowmobile that was upside down and partially buried.”

Dunn called the scene disorienting and chaotic. “You couldn’t see where it had started from because of the low-hanging clouds,” said Dunn, who said that, between the debris and the rubbernecking skiers, “it wasn’t clear if the avalanche came from the face of five or from the top of the mountain.”

Chris Rosien also saw the slide occur. He was skiing down from Solitude when it happened. “Suddenly, there was snow everywhere, and people were yelling from the bottom of Chair Five,” he said.

Dunn said a ski patroller immediately began shouting directions. Burke observed that it is common for people to hike or traverse to ski the face of Chair Five before the lift is open. “A lot of people like to duck that lift line,” said Dunn. Although Chair Five and the trails immediately below it were closed at the time the incident occurred, the lift was turning. Dunn said he thought the blizzard conditions deterred people from waiting at the base of the lift for it to open, as they often do on powder days.

Dunn maintained that the avalanche ran into terrain that was open to skiers. “It was an open part of the run that it came in to,” said Dunn. “However, it didn’t come into it with dangerous speed or a dangerous amount of snow.”

Mammoth resident Joe Marrone was at Canyon Lodge when the avalanche happened. He said it was difficult to leave the mountain. “Everyone just wanted to drink… it was a scary time, but even though the mountain closed, the economy was stimulated in town,” said Marrone, who reported seeing over 300 people at Mammoth Brewing Company about an hour after the mountain closed.

“There were people skiing down Main Street,” said Dunn. He said that a lot of people were stranded away from their cars when the lifts shut down. “You couldn’t even pick up hitchhikers because it was white out on Minaret [Road]. It was a crowded Saturday powder day, with a lot of people on the lower part of the mountain,” which generated confusion.

When asked what type of avalanche mitigation work caused the slide, Burke said in an email this week that “a full investigation is underway and we will have the details to you when available.” She said the last inbound avalanche of similar magnitude occurred in April 2006. The last avalanche-related death to occur at Mammoth Mountain was in 1980, when a guest hiked into a closed area of the mountain.

Now that you’ve bought your property, who should manage it?

- Our annual CAP rates are consistently 10-15%: $500,000 condo = $50,000 to $75,000 annually. Traditional reservation companies can’t match us.
- Summers are just as busy as winters so you can expect year-round income.
- We know how to make your property stand out with top placement on Airbnb, VRBO and Expedia, resulting in more bookings and more revenue.
- Professional photographs, instant responses to rental inquiries, guest management, cleaning, maintenance and the lowest management rates in town make Mammoth Lakes Vacation Properties a turn-key management company.

“We were so happy with our first experience with Jamie Kelly we decided to do it again! With the help of her rental company, Ready for Rentals, we were able to make enough profit on our first property to make it worth our while to buy a second.” – Alex & Julie

“This is our first vacation rental and we had no idea what to expect or what to do. Jamie and Cynthia were recommended to us by the realtor who sold us our condo. We turned everything over to Jamie and Cynthia and they handle everything. The first thing they did was to tell us what we needed to do to the condo to make it a highly valuable property; we followed their instructions to a ‘T’ and the condo looks great! Our reviews have been great. Our condo has had high rental activity and we have had to do very little.” – Rick2655

“He was extremely helpful to have agents who are knowledgeable in rentals gauge what the property’s income potential was before I made the purchase. Even since the first month that my condo was on their rental program, it was paying for itself. Months later, the rental income has inspired me to purchase another property in the near future. I am so happy and grateful that they provide a rental service program that you can depend on and trust.” – Angela Cupo

“Jamie and Cynthia took over rentals for my Mammoth condo about six months ago and I could not be more impressed. They are very responsive, helpful and extremely knowledgeable about the market. How does that translate? We are making not only double or triple what we earned last year but over $50,000 more than rental agencies we’ve used before.” – Eric Lacko
Now it’s time to piss off a whole segment of you. Message to aging Baby Boomers - enough. Senior citizens need to stop bitching about the new ski pass pricing and that there is no longer a dedicated senior pass at Mammoth. Particularly the well-heeled seniors who own second homes here. When I saw the letter in this week’s paper which suggests that the resort should charge a guy less money because he also brings his kids and grandkids here on vacation … Am I the only one who sees a disconnect here? Another gentleman claimed that seniors are being “thrown under the bus.” I didn’t realize that $200 equated to being thrown under a bus.

My family’s health insurance premium (for a Bronze plan) went up $500 this year. Per month. Now that’s a real bus, not just the Volkswagen Microbus Alterra’s using on its seniors.

A lot of the seniors visiting and/or living here have more money than any of us other generations. Never mind that they have a helluva lot more free time, too. The over-65s enjoy maximum pension benefits, benefits that are now being rolled back for future generations because the system is well on its way to insolvency.

They enjoy free medical care. They attended college when it was free, or at least virtually free. Starting a few decades ago, they started the push to roll back estate taxes, and have steadily increased the limit ever since, just in case some of their parents are still holding on. They have an increased standard deduction from the IRS. They’ve had Barack and Donnie and Ben and Janet juicing the stock market for a decade. They also get 20% off at Denny’s. Never mind the early bird discounts at Carrows Restaurants.

But what I loved about him and about that entire group. They had no virtually no basketball skills, but they certainly had guts. He didn’t even come out of the game. Buzzer at the end of the 1st quarter. Toss dinner. Wave to sidelines. Inbound ball.

Back to the seniors …

I’m far more inclined to support discounted Youth (13-18) and Young Adult (18-25) passes than I am to support a senior pass. Otherwise, skiing has no future anyway. I imagine young people would protest ski/snowboard pass prices if they weren’t already protesting school shootings and racial profiling and sexual harassment.

But they’ll get to protesting economic issues soon enough. So seniors better start being nice to them. I’m starting early. Right here. I’m gonna cut out this article and put it in my pocket so someday when I can no longer find my car keys (I’m already having trouble remembering where I put ‘em), some young person will take pity on the groovy old guy who remembers when Don Zimmer managed the Red Sox and help me find ‘em. Here’s how I’d solve this issue. I say the Mountain only provide a discounted senior pass if a copy of a tax return is also submitted as verification of need.

In fact, I think the Mountain should charge seniors even more ($699) and dedicate the excess towards subsidizing the youth passes. By the way, Mammoth did announce this week that skiers over 80 will continue to ski for free.
OBITUARY
GENNY SMITH, 1922-2018

Born in San Francisco in 1922, Genny Smith died on March 4, 2018. She was 96 years old. Genny Smith loved being outdoors. She had a quiet cabin in the Lakes Basin, and was a writer and historian who loved to share what she knew and what she saw. In the 1950s she organized a group that would eventually stop a trans-sierra highway from being built through Mammoth Lakes, and later helped sue the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to stop them from decimating Mono Lake.

She wanted future generations to experience the same joy the mountains and lakes and birds had given her. She was a devoted conservationist.

Smith attended Reed College, where she earned a degree in Political Science. After a stint with the Red Cross during World War II, she married Gerhard Schumacher and began teaching in Bakersfield. A local ski club introduced her to Mammoth Lakes and the Eastern Sierra. Eventually, she started coming in the summer to hike and backpack.


She acquired her cabin in the Lakes Basin in the 1950s and married Ward Smith in 1968. The two spent summers at the cabin until his death in 1998.

Genny wasn’t a big woman, but she halted an entire road from being built. Arguably, her most famous achievement was stopping the construction of a trans-Sierra highway, which would have cut through the heart of the mountains from Red Meadow to the westside via Minaret Road. Upon learning about the project in 1958, she began writing letters and gathering a team of like-minded activists to start what would become a 27-year battle to thwart the State’s efforts to build the road.

It wasn’t until 1972 that then-Governor Ronald Reagan announced after a pack trip through Middle Fork Valley, that the road would not be built. Jack Fisher chronicled the fight in his 2014 book, “Stopping the Road.”

Sydney Quinn, one of Genny’s oldest and dearest friends, described her as reserved and quiet. When she spoke she got straight to the point and didn’t mince words.

While working to expand Death Valley National Park in the early 1990s, Genny gave valuable advice to the crew of young environmentalists leading that charge: don’t trust the developers and local environmentalists in the Lakes Basin that included helicopter rides and a fancy spread of food. Prather said Genny looked at the amenities then turned to him and said, “Beware, there are sharks in the water.”

In 2017, Genny received the Andrea Lawrence Award, presented by the Mono Lake Committee, of which she was a founding board member. Genny and Andrea were close friends.

Genny brought valuable insight and strategy to the fledgling committee as it set out to take the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to court, said Executive Director Geoffrey McQuilkin.

She had a leadership philosophy about wanting to share ideas but have people discover them on their own, McQuilkin said. The committee took that philosophy to heart.

Robert Joki, owner of Twin Lakes Gallery, started Genny Smith Days Pioneer Festival on Labor Day.

As a young, eager environmentalist, Greg Newbry was befriended by Genny in 1975. He sought out her sage advice while trying to stop an aggregate plant from being installed at The Borrow Pits at the base of The Sherwins, in Mammoth Meadow.

“She was a genius to the trees and the flowers and the wilderness,” he said.

In her fights against various industry Goliaths who threatened local wilderness for profit, Genny was organized, factual, and always kept a cool head. “Don’t just sit up there and scream,” she’d say.

Genny had a gift for bringing...
otherwise strange bedfellows together for a like-minded cause, said Mono County Supervisor Stacy Corless. In stopping the road, she created a coalition that included packers and hippie environmentalists. Anything is possible until it’s proven that it’s not, was one of Genny’s maxims.

She was a bit of a hippie and dressed the part of one. Former Executive Director for Friends of the Inyo Paul McFarland said that Genny’s books are the window through which generations of people view the Eastern Sierra. The wilderness looks the same now as it did 50 years ago and a that’s a testament to her efforts. “We’ve inherited what we have from her,” McFarland said.

As Genny got older, she was troubled that she wasn’t as mobile as she once was, but she lost none of her spark. Quinn told a story of one visit to Genny’s cabin in the Lakes Basin this past September.

Genny said her doctor wanted her to use walking poles to get around. “I don’t want to use poles,” Genny said defiantly. Then Genny picked up the poles and pretended to use them. She told Quinn to take her picture and send it to her doctor so she could be done with them.

Newbry never went backpacking with Genny, but wanted to go with her to Thousand Island Lake. It was her favorite spot and she talked about going back often. As she aged it became evident she wouldn’t have the strength to visit that lake again. He told her he would do whatever it takes, even if he had to carry her. He did one better and rented a helicopter. Genny got the bird’s eye view of her beloved lake, Mt. Andrea Lawrence, Duck Lake, the Minarets and Convict Lake. (A video of the flight is available on The Sheet’s Facebook page.)

Newbry said it was always her way to give credit to someone else, but that she was the one who stopped the Trans-Sierra Highway. She had no ego.

Many of the people interviewed for this story said they had been thinking about her the weekend she passed. There will be a celebration of life this summer.

Mike Bodine

LOCAL BRIEFS

Would you like some meth with that?

On Wednesday, March 7, Carlos Perez, 38 from Bishop, was arrested for allegedly tainting a beer with a stimulant and serving it to a female acquaintance who was eventually hospitalized. Bishop Police arrested Perez on March 7 at approximately 7 p.m. at the 400 block of Main Street in Bishop. A search of his home revealed that he was in possession of methamphetamines.

Where is Congressman Cook now?

It’s been a year since Jason Graham of Indivisible Victor Valley started a campaign that placed a picture of 8th District Representative Paul Cook “Missing”, on milk cartons, mimicking missing children photos. The cartons were available throughout the 8th district. At the time, Graham was fed up with Cook for refusing or declining to attend town hall meetings in the wake of the election of Donald Trump.

Cook joined fellow Republicans in hiding after the inauguration. Now he joins California GOP politicians in being out-funded by Democrat rookie candidates. According to an article in the Mercury News from February 4, Cook has raised $128,000 so far as part of his re-election campaign. His opponent, Marge Doyle, has raised $178,000.

Cook has held his office since 2013. Republican Doug Malfa, who represents the 1st District, which includes Redding and Richvale, has raised $130,000 and his opponent Jessica Halcombe, a lawyer, has raised $147,000. Districts 1 and 8 are considered dyed in the wool GOP districts.

In light of recent debate about gun regulations, Cook has received $16,100 in campaign donations from the National Rifle Association according to the Center for Responsive Politics.
BIGHORNS FOR THE BRONZE

Girl Scout Troop 580 to host Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep event in Mammoth Lakes

By Rea

Five Mammoth girl scouts are raising awareness about the endangered Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep (SNBS) through an interactive event to be held on March 10 at Mammoth Middle School.

Dubbed “Project Bighorn,” this event is the Bronze Award Project for Kaihla Halferty, Sage Harper, Lucy Perry, Katherine Truax and Ellie Crall, members of Girl Scout Troop 580, led by Drea Perry.

The girls learned about the endangered Sierra Nevada Bighorn from Ginny Chadwick, a scientist and board member of the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation (and self-described “bighorn groupie”).

Ginny’s enthusiasm is contagious, and the girls just happened to be looking for a project to complete for their Bronze Award, which is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior (ages 9-11) can achieve.

So they decided to host their own event to raise awareness about the endangered species.

“We don’t want them to go extinct,” said Lucy, as she sat in the back of Drea Perry’s car on the way to view the elusive sheep in Sawmill Canyon in early February.

“Our motto is: 500 and climbing,” said Sage, citing the approximate current numbers of SNBS in the Sierra (the “climbing” double meaning was dreamed up by Lucy).

Lucy, Sage and Kaihla all got to attend a field trip to see the creatures in the flesh on February 1, hosted by the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation.

“We got to miss school,” said Lucy gleefully.

The girls, each armed with their own binoculars, were able to spot three groups of Bighorns, which could be seen easily through spotting scopes provided by the Foundation and other participants.

“When there’s only 500-some in the whole world, seeing them is a pretty powerful experience,” said Ginny Chadwick as the girls peered through the scopes. “He’s looking at me!” shrieked Lucy as she checked out a ram, a member of the Baxter Herd, while he grazed.

The troupe also learned some telemetry techniques from Scientific Aide Danielle Glass, as well as some genetic history from Dr. John Wehausen, who did his Ph.D. dissertation work on the SNBS in 1974 and has worked with the sheep ever since. “He taught us how to use jellybeans to show how the genetics of the sheep have spread,” said Kaihla.

Project Bighorn will take place at Mammoth Middle School on Saturday, March 10 from 2-5 p.m. The event will feature art by some of the Girl Scouts, real Bighorn sheep artifacts, interactive art, a photo booth and a scavenger hunt.

There will also be Girl Scout cookies for sale, to sweeten the deal.

The Girl Scouts are still accepting volunteers. To volunteer, contact Drea Perry at projectbighorn@yahoo.com or 760.914.1309.
Sierra mountaineering legend Doug Robinson to present on the evolution of backcountry ski touring in the Eastern Sierra

FREE YOUR HEEL, FREE YOUR MIND

By Giles

Local mountaineer Doug Robinson, who, along with Galen Rowell, made the first ascent of Half Dome using only chockstones in 1973, will present on backcountry skiing in the Sierra Nevada on Saturday, March 10 at the U.S. Forest Service Welcome Center in Mammoth Lakes.

Robinson was the first president of the American Mountain Guides Association, and is a long time ski guide in the Sierra Nevada.

“I’m celebrating my 65th year on skis,” said Robinson in an interview this week. He’s been a backcountry ski guide in the Eastern Sierra since the 1960s. “I started skiing in high school, back in the early ’50s. We had bear trap bindings, wooden skis, and leather boots that came to just above the ankle.”

Today, Robinson is a telemark skier. He’s moved on to plastic boots, but, unlike the typical alpine set up, his boots have a flex point in the toe that allow him to drop a knee while skiing downhill. Telemarking involves skiing with a free heel, so the foot is anchored to the ski by a spring-loaded cable. This set up lets the skier move uphill and downhill. It was the norm for backcountry ski travel prior to the invention of modern alpine ski touring gear, which allowed skiers to lock their heels down when skiing downhill and free them to ski uphill.

In the 1950s, backcountry skiers and travelers strapped seal skins to the bottoms of their skis to help them climb steep slopes without slipping backward. Robinson and his friends couldn’t afford skins, so they used Nordic ski wax to climb hills, including Mount Shasta and Pyramid Peak. In 1970, he and Peanut McCoy, one of Dave McCoy’s sons, skied the John Muir Trail without skins. They used Nordic wax to allow them to keep traction while skiing uphill.

In 1974, Robinson convinced the owner of Rock Creek Lake Resort to allow him to stay in Rock Creek Canyon for the winter. He chose the spot at the recommendation of Norman Clyde, the mountaineer for which Clyde Minaret is named. It was in the 1970s that telemark skiing came to the United States from Europe. At that time, there was no alpine touring gear, and skiers had to hike if they wanted to ski in the backcountry. Robinson wanted to cover great distances on skis, and practiced out of Rock Creek Lake. “I was a dyed in the wool telemarker for 20 years after that,” said Robinson this week. “We were skiing on narrow Nordic skis with metal edges. We took it on like a crusade.”

Ever seen the bumper sticker, “No one cares that you tele?” This next part is what that sticker is all about.

“It was the cool thing to do to show up to Mammoth Mountain with your telemark gear,” said Robinson. “All of the lifties and patrollers did it on their days off.”

There’s another popular bumper sticker out there that reads, “You’re girlfriend cares that I tele.” Robinson said that the allure of the

see ROBINSON, page 20
Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission will hear on appeal a request to extend the Moratorium on the establishment or expansion of Commercial Cannabis businesses within the Town.

Application Request: Use Permit (UPA) 17-004: A use permit application for the establishment of a new Bed and Breakfast Inn located within the Rural Residential (RR) zone. The proposed Bed and Breakfast Inn features three guest rooms and an on-site owner/managing business located upon a 0.27 acre parcel at 1980 Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

CEQA Determination: The proposed Bed and Breakfast Inn with bridges across Mammoth Street will not result in any new environmental effects that were not previously considered in the project-related Mitigated Negative Declaration for Grading Plan Ch-94 (SEIR 1989-042018).

Location: 79 Carter Street (APN: 022-321-000-000)
Zoning: Rural Residential / Easement Overlay (RR)
Proponent: Zachary Salsam (applicant) / Amy Walters (property owner)

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request (Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel) are invited to advise the Commissioners of any effect which may be felt to result from the project described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing.

For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the environmental impact report or other Project-related materials, contact Fred Carleton, Assistant Planner at (760) 934-3343 or qbarnard@imaca.net. Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission PO Box 1609 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 TS #2018-0028

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road the Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission will hear on appeal a request for the following:

Application Request: Use Permit (UPA) 17-004: A use permit application for the establishment of a new Bed and Breakfast Inn located within the Rural Residential (RR) zone. The proposed Bed and Breakfast Inn features three guest rooms and an on-site owner/managing business located upon a 0.27 acre parcel at 1980 Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

CEQA Determination: The proposed Bed and Breakfast Inn with bridges across Mammoth Street will not result in any new environmental effects that were not previously considered in the project-related Mitigated Negative Declaration for Grading Plan Ch-94 (SEIR 1989-042018).

Location: 79 Carter Street (APN: 022-321-000-000)
Zoning: Rural Residential / Easement Overlay (RR)
Proponent: Zachary Salsam (applicant) / Amy Walters (property owner)

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**calendar of events**

**BARS & MUSIC**

**Happy Hour**

The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. $1 off draft beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread, Open mic plus returns, house by the Yard Acoustic as Folk w/ house sound & lights on Monday @ 9. See ad, p. 13.

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 4-6 p.m. See ad, p. 9.

Roberto's 4-6 p.m. every day. Austria Hof 5-8 p.m. daily. See ad, p. 23.

Blancnak Coffee's Happy Hour, 10 p.m.- close. St. Patrick' s Day drink and food specials. Free.

1 a.m. St. Patrick' s Day drink and food specials. Free.

**TOWN STUFF**

**March 9-11**

Into the Woods with Playhouse 395. See sidebar.

**Friday, March 9**

Free Concert: The Dream Warriors, Frank Waln, the Sampson Brothers and Tanaya Winder. 7 p.m. at Round Valley High School Gym. Hosted by the Round Valley High School Native American Club.

Community Reads Kick-off Dinner. 4:30-8 p.m. at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Reserve free tickets in advance at Inyo Council for the Arts, 137 S. Main St., Bishop, or 760.873.8014. Performance by Estrellas de Mexico.

**Weekly Happy Hour at the Fort**, 3-6 p.m. at the Sierra Center Mall. Free networking event open to members and non-members.

Locals Night Out in June Lake at the June Lake Community Center. Fundraiser for The Little Loopers. Shrimp, ribs, and salad bar dinner at 7 p.m., cocktail hour at 6 p.m. Tickets: $20 per single, $35 per couple. Free babysitting in the adjoining room.

**Saturday, March 10**

Living Legend Doug Roginson: Across the Great Divide. Discovery Store at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. 6-9 p.m. See ad, p. 3, story p. 16.

**Eastern Sierra Community Auction.**

Proceeds benefit operating costs of United Methodist Church. Silent and live auction for home and gardeners and desert gardens. 6-8:30 p.m. @ 205 N. Fowler St. in Bishop. 760.872.7701. See ad, p. 5.

**Project Bighorn @ Mammoth Middle School.**

Presented by Bronze Award Team of Girl Scout Troop 580 Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation. Artifacts, scavenger hunt, photo booth and more. 2-5 p.m. @ Mammoth Middle School. Volunteers needed. Contact Drea Perry @ 760.914.1309 or projectbighorn@yahoo.com.

**Sage to Summit and Inyo SAR 5k.** 8 a.m. at Millpond Recreation Area. Eastern Sierra Audubon Society. COSA walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at USFS/BLM Offices, Ponce Lane, Bishop. Birders of all levels welcome. Info: hillary.behr@shoppaiute.org or 760.920.5287.

**Woolly's Saturday Parade.** 3:45-4:30 p.m. at the Village in Mammoth.

**Tahoe Adventure Film Festival.**


**Eastern Sierra Community Auction.**

6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 205 N. Fowler St., Bishop. Info: 760.872.7701.

**Friends of the Eastern California Museum Annual Meeting.**

Polluck and presentation by local historian Pam Vaughn. See sidebar next page.

**Sunday, March 11**

Sierra Club Snowshoe outing to the Mammoth Knolls. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Union Bank parking lot in Mammoth Lakes. Trip follows a “blue diamond” route from the Scenic Loop Road to Shady Rest Park. 5 miles. Info: Dick, 760.709.5050.

**Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar**

**Giovanni's Happy Hour**

Side Door Happy Hour 4:30-6:30 p.m. daily. Mammoth Tavern Happy Hour Tuesday-Sunday 3:30-5:30 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Smokedeye weekend Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. in the bar only. Side Door Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m. Giovann'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.

Mammoth's Happy Hour Daily 4-6 p.m.

Friday, March 9

Christine Widell and Dallas Freder


Some Assembly Required

Sunday, March 10

Team of Girl Scout Troop 580/Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation. Artifacts, scavenger hunt, photo booth and more. 2-5 p.m. @ Mammoth Middle School. Volunteers needed. Contact Drea Perry @ 760.914.1309 or projectbighorn@yahoo.com.

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Upcoming

**The Last of the Red Hot Lovers**

A play by Neil Simon. "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," a play by Neil Simon. It will run on March 2-4, 9-11, 16 & 17 at Bishop Union High School. For tickets and more information, call 760.920.9100, visit playhouse395.com, or go to BrownPaperTickets.com. The play is directed by Michael Reynolds and Dave Hardin, and the orchestra is conducted by Mark Hatter.

**Minaret Cinemas**

**A Wrinkle in Time (PG):** After the disappearance of her scientist father, three peculiar beings persuade Meg, her brother, and friend into space to find him. Fifty Shades Freed (R): Another installment in the Fifty Shades of Grey series. For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com.

**FECM Annual Meeting**
The annual meeting of the Friends of the Eastern California Museum is scheduled for Saturday, March 10 at the Eastern California Museum, 155 N. Main Street, Independence.

The event is free and open to the public. It starts with a reception at 4 p.m. at the Eastern California Museum.

There will be a potluck dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Owens Valley School Multi-Purpose Room, and will be followed by a presentation by local historian Pam Vaughn. Vaughn will present on photos from the Laws Museum Archive.

To info: call 760.878.0258, or visit www.fecm.org.

**AARP Tax Aide programs**
The AARP Foundation Tax Aide programs in Bishop and Mammoth are now preparing federal and state tax returns online without charge to low and moderate income residents.

Appointments are available at the Bishop Annex Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. To schedule an appointment, call 760.937.0174.

Appointments are available at the Mammoth Library, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-5 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 760.934.5674.

**June Lake Winter Festival**
The Seventh Annual June Lake Winter Festival will run on March 16 and 17, 2018. This year’s celebrations will include a snowmobile poker rally, snow sculptures, a Family Fun Zone, and, for the first time ever, a dog parade. The Family Fun Zone will be hosted by June Mountain and will feature food, festivities, music, kids’ games, and sledding.

Orientation starts on Friday evening at 5 p.m. at the Sierra Inn on Main Street.

The traditional winter triathlon will not take place this year, but will be replaced by the dog parade. Participants should dress their dogs in costumes. For more info, visit www.visitjune.com.

**Community Conversation**
Join Town Councilmembers Colin Fernie, John Wentworth, and Mono County Supervisor Stacey Corfess for another Community Conversation. This event will focus on answering questions about housing, infrastructure, and recreation programs and policy that participants asked at the November town hall meeting. No-host food and drink available 6-8 p.m. at Mammoth Brewing Company, on Monday, March 12.

**The Last of the Red Hot Lovers**

From March 22 through April 1, Sierra Classic Theatre and Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre will perform "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," a play by Neil Simon. In the play, middle-aged and married, overworked and overweight Barney Cashman wants to join the sexual revolution before it’s too late and arranges three seductions. The first, Elaine Navazio, proves to be a foul-mouthed bundle of neuroses. For Bobbie Michele is next, a 20-ish actress who’s too kooky by half. Last is Jeanette Fisher, a gloomy, depressed housewife who happens to be married to Barney’s best friend.

The play stars Allison McDonnell Page, Julia Runcie, Chuck Scalatoni, with Shira Dubrow.

Tickets are $22 at the door. Shows run Thursday through Saturday, March 22-April 1 at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. All shows are at the Edison Theatre in Mammoth Lakes. See ad, page 3.

**Into the Woods**

Playhouse 395 presents Stephen Sondheim’s Grammy Award-winning musical Into the Woods. The play will run on March 2-4, 9-11, 16 & 17 at Bishop Union High School. For tickets and more information, call 760.920.9100, visit playhouse395.com, or go to BrownPaperTickets.com. The play is directed by Mike Reynolds and Dave Hardin, and the orchestra is conducted by Mark Hatter.

Jonna Kost will play Jack of Jack and the Bean Stalk, Jennifer Velazquez will play Little Red Riding Hood, Rhianna Carter will play Rapunzel, and Cinderella will be played by Laura Whiteside. Jesse Steele and Amy Hemler will play the central roles of the Baker and his wife.

Volunteers are needed for ushering and selling refreshments during intermission. For info about volunteering, call Karen at 760.873.7644. See ad, page 6.

**North Landing Road Closure**
The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) will implement a temporary road access closure at North Landing Road (north of Crowley Lake Reservoir) to limit vehicular access to sage grouse breeding grounds from March 1 through April 24. Vehicular traffic from the public will be prohibited during this time to limit recreational use during the prime breeding season for this sensitive species. The closure will be lifted Tuesday, April 24, prior to Fishing Opener.

**White Mountain Spring Lectures**
The White Mountain Research Center Spring Lecture Series for 2018 will kick off on Tuesday, March 27. The series will run through April 24.

The first lecture, titled, “The Bigger Picture: How Rock Art fit into the Lives of the People who Made it,” by David Lee of Western Rock Art Research, will take place on March 27. All lectures will be performed at the White Mountain Research Center, on East Line Street, Bishop.

**AT THE MOVIES**

**Minaret Cinemas**

**A Wrinkle in Time (PG):** After the disappearance of her scientist father, three peculiar beings persuade Meg, her brother, and friend into space to find him. Fifty Shades Freed (R): Another installment in the Fifty Shades of Grey series. For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com.
Help Wanted

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

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Janitor
Receptionist
Laundry Attendant
Custodian
Forklift Operator Unit 5 $12 - $15
Forklift Operator M $14 - $16
Appliance Number M $18 - $22
Bookkeeper B $20 - $25
Bureaucratic Certifiers M $29 - $35
Maintenance Worker M $29 - $35
Housekeepers M $14 - $17
Seasonal Laborers, M $15 - $20
Customer Representative B $12
Apprentice Carpenters M $15 - $20

Call 760.924.6523 or 760.873.8599 and visit our full job listings online: www.SierraEmployment.com

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TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES Equipment Mechanic $47,795 - $67,253 + competitive benefits The Town of Mammoth Lakes is looking for a skilled Equipment Mechanic to join our associated Public Works Department. If you have experience in the maintenance and repair of automotive, construction, and other power-driven equipment and you’re looking for a career opportunity with a variety of work and benefits:

- Eligibility for CalPERS Retirement
- Paid leave starting at 5 weeks/year
- 100% health benefits
- Employer-paid health insurance
- $1,100.00 tool allowance
- Possession of, or ability to obtain Class A license required
- Experience with transit vehicles is preferred

Specialized training required. For more information and to apply, visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov, or contact Human Resources Director at 760.965.3604. Application deadline: April 8.

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The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority is seeking an Account Clerk I. This position will work form the Mammoth Lakes Office and provide a variety of duties including: accounting, bookkeeping, coordination of the operation of ESTA’s Mammoth Area fixed routes and demand response public transportation services, providing the public with route information, facilitate communication between operations staff and with vendors, and perform data management activities and general office duties. Skills demonstrated include excellent oral and written communication, computer skills, attention to detail, organizational and planning skills, as well as a customer service attitude. Please apply by April 15, 2018. EEO employer.

For Sale

Bookstore. 2,000 SF on Main St., Bishop, with 1,000 SF upstairs. 30-40,000 books. Asking $80,000. Call Diane at 760.973.7317.

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NO CLASSIFIEDS

THE SIERRA NEVADA RESORT & SPA

Housekeepers ($11)
Cooks
Dishwashers
Maintenance Worker

Please complete an application at 164 Old Mammoth Rd., or e-mail pl@thelandingtahoe.com.

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Sierra Nevada Rock & Bowl

Rock & Bowl $80,000. Call Diane at 760.937.7317.

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Z-Z-ZIPPS!

Sportswear, parkas, pants, packs & duffels.

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ANGLERS BRAVE THE COLD FOR TROUT
Locals and visitors bundled up for the annual Early Trout Opener at Diaz Lake

By James

The weather at the Annual Early Trout Opener held at Diaz Lake on Saturday, March 3, in Lone Pine, was not for the faint-hearted or fairweather fisherman. The bitterly cold temperatures in the morning, combined with high winds, discouraged all but the most dedicated anglers from participating. Even so, most of the anglers gave the fishing derby positive reviews and insisted they’ll be back next year.

The Early Trout Opener on March 3rd marked the opening of local waters from Independence south and west of U.S. 395, to trout fishing. Saturday’s event marked many anglers’ first opportunity to get a fishing line in the water for the 2018 season.

Jayne, Mandi, and Jerod Campbell from Death Valley were camped out on the west shore with their friends from Beatty, Nevada, Anne Grace and Buddy Campbell. They were simply enjoying each other’s company at the Opening and the chance to camp.

“When the wind was really blowing last night, and it was really cold!” said Buddy Campbell, as his 2-year-old, less-than-three-pound toy chihuahua named “Chuck” shivered uncontrollably his arms.

When asked about how many years they have fished at Diaz Lake, Jayme Campbell laughed and said, “All my life.” It turns out that she is originally from Lone Pine and that Diaz Lake, which was formed by an earthquake in 1872, was named after members of her family.

The Diaz family established a ranch by the lake when brother Rafael and Eleuterio Diaz emigrated from Chile in the 1860s. They owned and operated a successful cattle ranch until the land was sold to the City of Los Angeles. Diaz Lake is now operated by Inyo County under a lease agreement with the City of Los Angeles.

The winners of the Early Trout Opener on Saturday were:

**Adult- Largest Fish:** First Place—Bryce Ippolito of Yorba Linda with trout weighing 3.4 lb. Second Place—Larry Munson, Sr. of Barstow with trout weighing 2.1 lb.; Third Place—Larry Munson, Jr. of Barstow with trout weighing 1.56 lb.

**Adult- Largest Stringer:** First Place—Debra Giber of Lone Pine with stringer weighing in at 6.92 lbs.; Second Place—Teresa Franklin of Aqua Dulce with stringer weighing in at 6.46 lbs.; Third Place—Michael Sorenson of Duarte with stringer weighing in at 6.4 lbs.

**Junior- Largest Stringer:** First Place—Charity McDaniel of Mammoth Lakes with stringer weighing in at 2.56 lbs.

The Blind Bogey, sponsored by Gardner’s True Value and Lone Pine Rocks & Gifts, worth $800, was won by Louie Chavez of Lancaster with trout weighing 1.84 lbs.

**Mammoth Hospital is Hiring!**

**Benefits**
- Year-Round Stability
- Paid Time Off

We are currently hiring for positions in nursing, radiology, accounting, housekeeping, and more!

Check our many open positions on our employment page at [www.mammothhospital.org/employment](http://www.mammothhospital.org/employment) and see why our last employee satisfaction survey scored in the 90th percentile of hospitals!

- Nursing & Clinical Lab Scientist sign-on and relocation bonus available!

**Available Positions**
- Licensed Vocational Nurse
- Registered Nurse
- Physical Therapist
- Restorative Nurse Assistant
- Certified Nurse Assistant
- Hospitality Aide

**We’re Social. Come Visit.**

**Mammoth Hospital**

**Elevate Your Health**

**Meticulous Care**

**Memorable People**

**Majestic Location**

**Join Our Team!**

**Bishop Care Center** is a difference-making, skilled nursing and short-term rehab facility located in beautiful Bishop, California — the small town with a big backyard. Bishop employees get to do meaningful work surrounded by the beauty of the Eastern Sierra.

Call 760-872-1000 or apply online at [www.BishopCareCenter.com](http://www.BishopCareCenter.com)
complicated appeal claims.

Beck said that the $43,900 excludes hours contributed by County Counsel’s Office, whose staff defends the County when appeals go to court that are “not too complicated or too high in value.”

Beck said that Mono County uses the services of three consulting firms to assist with claims pertaining to geothermal power, ski areas, and other complicated appeals. Those groups are Harold Bertholf Inc. (for other complicated appeals. Those geothermal power, ski areas, and

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**HOROSCOPES**

**By Clouds McCloud**

**Libra:** Clouds has heard some Libras are having challenges right now. It happens. To help, try remembering to sing along with Mr. Rogers, “What do you do with the mad that you feel? It’s great to be able to stop and know that there’s something deep inside that helps us become what we can.” If that’s not enough, try to laugh more and remember that life’s like a can. “If that’s not enough, try to laugh inside.”

**Sagittarius:** The oldest known message in a bottle recently washed up on a beach in Australia. It had been written in German and dropped on a beach in 1886. Unfortunately, it wasn’t a love letter. It was simply meant to figure out ocean currents.

**Aquarius:** There are lots of fun ways to relieve stress. You can spend some time outdoors or take up meditating or yoga. You can make love like you just got out of prison. If you choose the latter, here’s some Clouds-mo Sex Advice: #117: If it feels good and ain’t hurting anybody, have at it. #333 If at first you don’t succeed, just fix your ponytail and try again. #711 Always be cautious about talking dirty in a foreign accent, at least until we elect a new President.

**Pisces:** Since positive momentum and inner peace are barreling towards you like Buddhas on snowboards, please adopt these lines. From a coffee cup. “There’s no angry way to say bubbles.” From Winston Churchill, “I am an optimist. It does not seem to be much use being anything else.” And from a bumper sticker “Inhale good crap. Exhale bullcrap.”

**Aries:** The real trouble with life is that it doesn’t come with its own soundtrack. The real beauty of life is that you usually get to supply your own. A little Miles Davis and Michael Jackson can be nice. Sometimes just the sound of the wind, or the rain, or the river are ideal. Sometimes it’s best to sing in the shower or the car or in front of others. The point is, pick whatever sounds you want. It’s your movie, the rest of us are just playing parts.

**Taurus:** As those of this rather stubborn sign can attest, it can be easy for you to hold onto grudges and general resentment towards others. And even though such anger feels powerful, it’s really fool’s gold. Forgiveness is where the power and real gold lies. Reciting some Buddha usually helps: “Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else. You are the one who gets burned.”

**Gemini:** You Geminis are extremely versatile and adaptable people. That’s why Clouds sometimes pictures you as big chameleons wearing puffy jackets. Of course, Geminis are happiest and most fulfilled when you are small and nimble. Since karma is as real as a jackhammer, your new role models come from the Nation of Islam in America. They have a “no backstabbing” policy. You are only allowed to say negative things about another person to that person’s face. Therefore, your new mission is to not tolerate any more backstabbing in your life. Back to be a bit bumpy. To help, try to become more shock absorbent and try not to take anything too personally or to turn any small moment into an unnecessarily large one. If you do deserve to take some blame, be sure to stand up and take it like an adult and don’t run away from it like a little child/POTUS. Americans love to forgive people who admit their flaws anyway.

**Cancer:** The old wives tales says that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Since you have the traits of both beasts, be sure to get in touch with your wild side as spring arrives. It is, after all, the season for growth and less clothes, and if that doesn’t inspire you then nothing will. Since karma is as real as a jackhammer, your new role models come from the Nation of Islam in America. They have a “no backstabbing” policy. You are only allowed to say negative things about another person to that person’s face. Therefore, your new mission is to not tolerate any more backstabbing in your life. Back to be a bit bumpy. To help, try to become more shock absorbent and try not to take anything too personally or to turn any small moment into an unnecessarily large one. If you do deserve to take some blame, be sure to stand up and take it like an adult and don’t run away from it like a little child/POTUS. Americans love to forgive people who admit their flaws anyway.

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