Mammoth Mountain Ski Area's insistence that the future of reliable regional air service lies in Bishop was made clear this week when MMSA's Eric Clark said that the ski area would support the renewal of Mammoth's Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) with the caveat that Ikon season pass sales not be subject to TBID. Ski school lessons and daily lift tickets will still be subject to TBID. Mammoth Lakes Tourism's Board of Directors voted unanimously on Tuesday, April 3 to approve that change to the Management District Plan, as well as to agree to pursue a renewal of the TBID only for another five years, not for another 10, as was the previous goal.

Clark had previously voiced Mammoth Mountain's desire to pursue air service in Bishop and put forth the possibility that the resort might withhold its support for the TBID if monies could not be allocated to Bishop Airport's attainment of Part 139 (commercial) certification (see "TBIDness Deals, February 10").

The TBID needs the support of 50.1 percent of assessed businesses for renewal, according to Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi. With the support of Mammoth Mountain, Urdi said, the renewal of the TBID was currently at 57 percent participation.

The agenda bill and resolution for the TBID are due to the Town Clerk by Monday, April 9.

Legally, the TBID can only be used for the direct benefit of the communities that pay into it, said Urdi. TBID paid by Mammoth Lakes businesses cannot be used for infrastructure at the Bishop Airport. However, it could be used for advertising in cities that service Bishop Airport (the dream is to have long-haul flights from Dallas and Chicago landing in Bishop) and also for, for instance, buses that bring passengers directly to Mammoth.

"So, you could put up a sign that says, 'Mammoth This Way,' and you could pay for a bus that goes to Mammoth, but you couldn't build a terminal for people going to Mammoth," said Board member Scott McGuire.

"A parcel tax of $50, would pay $265, while commercial parcels, which currently pay $550, will pay $765. Supporters hope that the parcel tax will allow Southern Inyo Hospital to recover from bankruptcy and remain open, arguing that the hospital supports 90-100 jobs. Those jobs, supporters say, provide economic benefit to local businesses. They also claim that having a hospital in the District improves local property values. If the"
WATERLESS LEASE
LADWP to turn off water for ranchers
By Bodine
The biggest private landowner in Inyo and Mono Counties, controlling more than 315,000 acres, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is offering ranchers new leases for pastureland in the Crowley Lake/Long Valley area, and at a discounted price—75 percent off. Those ranchers, some of whom have leased land from LADWP for more than a century, have been waiting for more than five years for new leases.

There’s a catch, though. There is no water included. LADWP is still asking lease holders to maintain the conditions of the land as they are now—green and lush—but now without water.

The new leases were mailed to ranchers in late February of this year. Cattle, grass, and the Bi-State Sage Grouse depend on those pasture lands for food and nesting grounds, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Sage Grouse, a chicken-sized, high desert-dwelling bird, narrowly escaped an Endangered Species listing thanks to the efforts of both environmentalists and ranchers, who act as stewards of the land.

The prime nesting ground for the birds in Southern Mono County are those same leased pastur lands that may soon go fallow.

Matt Kemp, President of the Inyo/Mono Cattlemen’s Association, stated in a letter to Mono County Supervisors on April 3 that over 15,000 acres will be affected. Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner Nate Reade told The BOS at its April 3 meeting the economic impact could total between $2.7 million and $8 million. Livestock accounts for 44.6 percent, or $13,390,000, of the $31,242,200 total agricultural activity in Mono County, according to “Agriculture in Inyo and Mono Counties: An Economic Profile,” published in 2017.

Well-watered pasture land is considered a commodity and is 90 times more valuable than rangeland, Reade told The Sheet in a separate interview on Monday, April 2.

“There’s millions of dollars at stake,” said Reade.

Mark Lacey, rancher and Vice President of the Inyo/Mono Cattlemen’s Association, said his herd has declined by 79 percent in the last five years, and that he won’t be able to bring those numbers up without a place to accommodate that growth. For Lacey, the waterless leases will translate into 500 fewer cattle and one less employee.

Reade explained that during historic drought conditions, local cattle were taken out of state to more fertile pastures. Those cattle will not return to the Eastside.

Lacey has been moving cattle to Oregon and greener pastures during the drought years, but transportation is too expensive to make it worth the trip, he said. He also owns land in Northern Mono County he can use as pasture, but this is an option many ranchers don’t have.

Those ranchers will cut their herd through attrition or other means. “There’s not a lot of other opportunities,” Lacey said.

The region saw a 56 percent reduction of agriculture value during the drought years, from 2012 to 2015. That value rose 14 percent in 2016 after record precipitation, but it would take several wet winters to restore the land and the size of the herd, said Reade. If the water is cut off, there may never be a comeback, he said.

A single acre of irrigated land can sustain more than 300 head of cattle, according to Reade. Without water, that number drops to 50.

If precipitation levels remain at or above normal, the lack of irrigation water may be tolerable. However, Lacey pointed out that in the last 17 years, only four have had excessive runoff.

LADWP lessees also have leases with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, and those leases will not be affected. But the base of operations for the ranchers are all on the LADWP leased land.

LADWP was unavailable for comment.

Ranchers are stewards of the land they lease; performing the irrigation that keeps those lands healthy for both their business and for LADWP.

“I can’t imagine what it would cost DWP to have to do it,” Reade said.

Reade quoted the water company from an LADWP Eastern Sierra Commitment and Issues report from April 2006: “Ranchers are stewards helping bring quality water to Los Angeles.”

LADWP is bound by the Long-Term Water Agreement to control the carcinogenic dust on the Owens Dry Lake. Inyo County Water Director Bob Harrington told The Sheet that in 2014-15, LADWP spread 53,700 acre-feet of water on the dusty lake near Lone Pine. In 2015-16, the projected usage amount was 58,700 acre-feet.

Rancher, lessee, and President of the Inyo/Mono Cattlemen’s Association Matt Kemp said LADWP allows approximately 30,000-acre feet of water to Long Valley through lease agreements. He said 80-90 percent of that water returns to the aquifer.

Reade explained leases have usually included a minimum of five acre-feet per year for ranchers, allowing for some water for stock to drink. He called the new leases “fundamentally flawed” because they are leases for pastureland that require water.

“With so many environmental regulations, you’d think it would be difficult to dry up 6,000-acres permanently,” Lacey asked.

He said it’s going to take the environmental community to put pressure on Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to include water with the leases.

Lacey said despite the lack of water, the prices for the lease are cheap enough to sign, the rate is 70-75 percent below what they were with water. Each lease
ADVENTURE RUNS DEEP

Welcome to the new standard in season passes. With two pass options starting at $599, unlock access to 26 iconic destinations across North America, including unlimited fun at Mammoth and June.*

LAST CHANCE TO SAVE UP TO $250 ON A CHILD PASS
Only available thru 4/9 with purchase of an Adult Pass

* Non Base Pass has holiday blackout dates at select destinations, including Mammoth and June. Dec. 26–31, 2018; Jan. 19–20, 2019; Feb. 16–17, 2019

LETTERS

The World According to AARP

Dear Editor,

I always look forward to Jack Lunch’s 2nd page editorials, especially his April Fool’s version. In last week’s April Fool’s version, he had some rather humorous “tongue in cheek” comments on the senior pass issue. Recently, there have been several Letters to the Editor in regards to Mammoth Mountain discontinuing the senior pass.

Some letters argue that the senior pass should be continued because seniors have been loyal to Mammoth Mountain over many years. Some argue they have bought the MVP pass in their earlier years when the Mountain was growing and needed support.

These same people continued to support the Mountain as loyal customers in their later years by continuing to buy the MVP or senior pass.

In talking with other seniors, I suggest taking a look at the senior pass from another perspective. Take a look at Mountain facilities usage and the amount of time seniors ski the Mountain versus the younger groups. Many of us seniors no longer desire to ski a full day to get our last dollars’ worth.

In fact, many of us will only ski from around 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. and then we get off the Mountain before it gets crazy.

In fact, this helps fill a void in lack of skiers during these hours. Most of us seniors avoid weekends and holidays, we usually ski mid-week. As seniors, we have come to realize that we are no longer immortal and that our bodies do not heal as if we were in our 20s, 30s or 40s.

Contrary to the Mountain’s claim, many of our senior friends have been injured by out-of-control skiers and boarders, especially during peak usage times.

When one looks at the usage factor of seniors versus the younger groups, the Mountain is getting a great deal from the senior pass.

Many years ago, while I was talking with one of my customer counterparts, he was commiserating about how he complained to his boss about a particular issue. His boss told him if he felt strongly about the issue he should vote with his feet—in other words, move on.

In fact, this young man took his boss’s advice and moved on to another company. Today, he is a senior vice president in that company. In the case of the senior pass, if you really feel strongly about the issue, vote with your feet and your pocketbook. Spoken as a senior.

John Stavlo
Mammoth Lakes
Fiscal conservative

I've always believed the MUF [Multi-Use Facility] was a pure “folly & financial fiasco.”

I was afraid it was a lost cause until your editorial “Cash Alligator” in The Sheet (March 24).

Holler’s comment about Mammoth Ice Rink’s concrete slab being unable to support a roof is disingenuous since the rink was built with the intent to be covered. IF Holler’s comment were true...it was true three years ago when controversy and debate raged between our community and the politicians. Why, suddenly, does this “information” become public?

I've never seen a cost-benefit analysis of the MUF, have you? The L.A. Kings are giving us $1 million to build the MUF. MLT is paying The Kings $600,000 over six years.

Seems to me we're only reaping $400,000 out of that deal. The Kings want to practice in Mammoth Lakes off-season when we want to use the MUF to recreate. What will it cost to 'make' ice in summertime? It's so easy to spend somebody else's money!

Am I the only fiscal conservative in town?

Sharon Raven Clark
Mammoth Lakes
Fiscal conservative

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A story which appeared in the March 30 edition of The Wall Street Journal notes that for the first time, students in more than half of U.S. States pay more in tuition to attend public colleges than the government contributes.

“As of last year, states allotted nearly $2,000 less per student than they did in 2001.”

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YEA FOR EVENTS DIRECTOR
MLT Board votes to fund Director of Special Events

The Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board of Directors approved the funding of at least one special events position in their Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget, with a possible second position contingent upon additional funding from the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The Director of Special Events would work “as a liaison for [MLT] and the Mammoth Lakes business community,” according to a draft job description presented at the Board meeting on Tuesday, April 3.

“This position will be responsible for event funding allocations, sponsorship acquisitions, new special event attraction, development of special event marketing plan and budget, event calendar coordination and assisting local event coordination to ultimately drive visitation,” according to the job description.

A second position, a Special Events Coordinator, would also live under the umbrella of MLT, but would require Town Council’s approval for a commitment of $125,000 in grant funds past the 2018-19 Fiscal Year, said MLT Executive Director John Urusi.

Salary and benefits for both positions was estimated at approximately $150,000.

Board member Sean Turner said “I think [a Director of Special Events is] the most important [return on investment] we can get on this Board.

“Our job is to increase tourism to this town, thereby increasing revenue. I think we should own this not only from a budgetary perspective but also from a strategic perspective. I don’t want to hold this back based on what Town Council is going to do.”

McGuire made a motion to put the entire events program into the budget, including the Director of Special Events and the Special Events Coordinator. However, only the Director of Special Events job will be flown until more funds are secured.

“If nothing comes from Town, the Board can still save those dollars, but the budget is there,” said McGuire. “If Town [decides not to contribute the funds], then there can be a reallocation where we see fit.”

The Board voted 9-0 to approve the allocation, with Town Council member Colin Fernie abstaining.

NAY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT JOB
MLT says no on consultant, Community Engagement Manager

At its meeting on Tuesday, April 3, Mammoth Lakes Tourism’s Board of Directors rejected a proposal by MLT staff to contract with consulting firm Heart & Mind, which proposed conducting a study to gauge the local community’s opinions of and expectations for MLT. The proposed study, which would have cost approximately $115,000, would have resulted, according to a proposal by Heart & Mind, in MLT’s understanding what its stakeholders expect, and how its “marketing and advertising initiatives can be communicated to truly resonate with the community.”

MLT staff also proposed adding a “Community Engagement Manager” position (who would work on local marketing and public relations, as well as support current staff), which the MLT Board also rejected adding to its Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget at this time.

“I object to spending $115,000 for consultant to tell us what our community needs,” said Board member Scott McGuire. “I think the proposal itself lacks the understanding of where the community is at already…to hear from people in town that MLT spends (too much) money, and people don’t understand how we’re spending money, seems to be a tone deaf proposal in itself.”

“We’re proposing to spend $115,000 to ask the community what it thinks we’re doing?” asked Board member Paul Rudder. “The optics of that would be a disaster. People in town would go nuts thinking we spend $115,000 of their money to ask them how they feel about us.”

McGuire said that he felt there was “a lot of listening that can be done before we drop 120 grand to get a survey from people.”

Board member Colin Fernie reminded the Board that they had given direction to MLT staff to delve further into community engagement, which had resulted in the proposed study.

“What the Board asked for and what is here are not the same thing,” said McGuire.

see NAY, page 5
NAY continued from page 4

“Somewhere between someone putting together a Survey Monkey and a $115,000 contract, something got lost somewhere.”

MLT Executive Director John Urdi said that he felt conducting the survey in-house would be “too close.”

Director of Communications Lara Kaylor and Director of Marketing Whitney Lennon both said that, as the organization’s funding ($10 million in revenue during FY 2016-2017) and reach grow, it would be helped by someone dedicated to tackling local projects and managing industry events, as well as representing MLT at local and regional government association meetings.

“We haven’t adjusted for this increase in budget,” said Lennon. “We’re growing quickly.”

Board members said that the position was not off the table indefinitely, but would be omitted from this year’s budget.

As for the study of community perception of MLT, Board member John Morris said, “I question the volume of naysayers and the amount of money spent to appease a relatively small group of people that are going to disapprove of whatever you do … I’m not hearing all that negativity out there. I’m hearing small amounts, which I have heard for 30 years. The volume of what’s being proposed here seems… out of whack.”

MEASURE J continued from page 1

hospital workers at SIH lose their jobs, some residents fear that workers will move out of the area, taking their families with them, which will undermine the school population and result in less education money from the state.

The hospital also provides preventative health care services, a skilled nursing facility and ready access to an emergency room.

However, a sizeable and vocal group of property owners oppose Measure J. Opponents feel that conditions that have resulted in three bankruptcies in the last 10 years have not changed. They are also unhappy that alternatives were not explored.

The total liability and debt owed to SIHD’s creditors is largely unknown, because the bankruptcy proceeding, filed in January by the District, is not yet completed. It appears to be at least $7 million, although Measure J opponents claim it is likely much more. Final costs would be determined by settlements negotiated by the District with its creditors. This includes claims against the District by former hospital management company Health Care Conglomerate Associates (HCCA) and by the Tulare Regional Medical Center. According to the District’s attorneys, Scott Neve and Ashley McDow, if approved, the bankruptcy plan will halve the number of approved claims. If it is not approved, creditors can demand full payment, file lawsuits, and even take possession of hospital equipment and other assets.

Opposition to Measure J is largely coming from voters in areas outside of the communities of Independence and Lone Pine (such as Darwin, Olancha, Keeler, Charleston View, Tecopa, Shoshone and neighboring communities in Death Valley). The communities in the far eastern part of Inyo County point out that they reside several hours away from the hospital in Lone Pine and go to Ridgecrest or Pahrump, NV for their medical needs, but are still forced to support SIHD. Several residents of Independence and Lone Pine also spoke at the community workshops, and said that they prefer going to Northern Inyo Hospital in Bishop.

Even if Measure J is approved, it will provide no guarantee that the hospital will remain open. The tax parcel increase was needed, according to the SIHD Board, to prove to the judge overseeing the hospital’s bankruptcy, Frederick E. Clement, that the District has the means to pay off its current and future creditors and come up with a credible business plan to continue operations. Clement gave SIHD more time to put the tax increase measure on the ballot, noting that, if it is not approved, the hospital will most likely have to be closed.

If Measure J does not pass, the skilled nursing facility (with 27 residents) would have to close. SIHD’s emergency department is the only one for a 135-mile stretch between Bishop and Ridgecrest. SIHD also operates a rural health clinic with telemedicine service, and provides examinations and physicals. SIH is also an acute care critical access hospital with three beds.

At the community workshops, the SIHD Board promised to provide quality care partnerships with Northern Inyo Hospital, which supports Measure J, to provide the services of specialists at the Lone Pine facility.

Supporters warn that, if Measure J fails and the bankruptcy case is dismissed, there is no alternative plan. There is concern that there are not enough volunteer EMT resources in the District to provide multiple ambulance runs if a patient must be sent to Bishop or Ridgecrest.

Many of the Measure J’s opponents say that it is unfair that property owners in the less affluent communities in southern Inyo County must pay the same amount of parcel tax while receiving little or nothing in the way of service. They also point out that a loss of jobs would likely have no impact on their remote communities.

According to the Inyo County Registrar of voters, new residents and unregistered voters can cast a provisional ballot until April 10 at the County Election office. Ballots must be postmarked by April 10 and received no later than three days after the election. The County offices will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on April 10 and are located at 160 N. Edwards St. in Independence. For more information on voter registration & voting by mail, phone 760. 878.0223.
By Rea

The DeDecker sisters grew up in the Owens Valley during the end of the Great Depression and World War II, and Carol DeDecker Wiens says that the town of Independence, where they spent much of their childhood, hasn’t changed much.

“Unlike most people, when I visit my hometown, I can say it’s like it was when I left it,” said Carol, who will be signing copies of her and sister Joan’s book “Sage & Sierra, A Memoir: Growing up in Owens Valley” this Saturday at the Eastern California Museum in Independence.

Carol and sister Joan DeDecker Busby, who is 14 months older, lucked out when their father Paul moved to Independence to work for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in the 1930s. The girls’ mother, Mary DeDecker, became a white photos taken mostly by Mary DeDecker.

Growing up there was “just so much fun, we thought we ought to write a story,” said Carol.

The DeDecker “girls” were road-tripping from Carol’s home in Boise, Idaho to Independence this week.

“We’re not taking our husbands, so we don’t have to think about what they want to do,” said Joan with a laugh.

The DeDecker sisters will be reading stories from their book “Sage & Sierra, A Memoir: Growing up in Owens Valley” on Saturday, April 7 at the Eastern California Museum, 155 Grant Street, Independence, from 1-3 p.m. For more information, call the museum at 760.878.0258.

By Bodine

**Attemted murder**

According to a press release from the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department, on Friday, March 23 at approximately 8:15 p.m. deputies responded to Northern Inyo Hospital for a patient that was dropped off at the Emergency Room. The victim, who was not identified, entered the ER with severe head and face trauma; injuries that are consistent with being beaten by a blunt object. The patient was stabilized and later flown out for further medical care.

The case is being handled as an attempted murder. Sheriff’s Department investigators believe the incident took occurred on Friday near Taboose Lane and See Vee Lane on the Bishop Paiute Reservation.

Anyone with any information that can assist in this investigation is asked to contact the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office at 760.878.0383.

**Starbucks and skydiving in Yosemite**

There is now a Starbucks located in Yosemite Valley Lodge’s Base Camp Eatery. A petition with 25,000 signatures didn’t prevent the opening of the coffee giant’s store in the national park on March 16, according to the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Freddy Brewster, a former Yosemite trail guide and man behind the petition, told The Guardian newspaper that the store opening “is representative of what our culture is becoming. The government is increasingly dependent on major corporations.”

Brewster’s petition states that with a Starbucks, Yosemite, “will lose its essence, making it hardly distinguishable from a chaotic and bustling commercial city.”

Also, The bustling and iconic Yosemite Valley can now be viewed from 11,000 feet during freefall with Skydive Yosemite, which is now offering skydiving out of the Mariposa-Yosemite Airport. Paul Wiggnall, El Capitan climber and the guy that pushes people out of the airplane, owns Skydive Yosemite with his wife Julia. He said divers can see Half Dome, El Capitan and other formations on their descent.

He said his planes and parachutes shouldn’t disrupt anyone else’s views, in fact, the passenger jets flying over the park at 30,000 feet will distract more tourists than the skydivers will.

As of now, the Wiggnall suggested that if the park was going to bring in a coffeehouse, it should have allowed one with better coffee, like Pony Express in Mariposa.

**Four dead in head on near Bridgeport**

According to the California Highway Patrol, a two-vehicle collision near Green Road on Highway 395 near Bridgeport on Friday, March 30 resulted in the deaths of the drivers and passengers of both vehicles. At approximately 5:15 p.m., a Subaru Impreza, traveling northbound on 395, drifted left of the solid double-yellow lines.

The Subaru subsequently collided head-on with a Chevrolet Silverado pickup pulling a fifth wheel trailer and traveling southbound on the highway. The Subaru came to rest blocking the northbound lane. The Chevrolet and fifth wheel trailer overturned and the pickup caught fire blocking the northbound and southbound lanes. A road closure was immediately established to facilitate rescue efforts and subsequent investigation.

The CHP Inland Division Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) responded to assist with the investigation. The roadway was reopened the next day. The party in the Silverado have not been released pending notification of next of kin.

All occupants appear to have been properly restrained. At this time, alcohol or drug impairment do not appear to be contributing factors to the cause of the collision. The cause of the collision is still under investigation.
The average gold ring generates over 20 tons of waste, writes Bonnie Gestring, Northwest Program Director at Earthworks, a non-profit organization whose mission is “to protect communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of mineral and energy development.”

Gestring, who has worked on mining issues for over two decades, will present “Mining 101,” a workshop designed to help locals understand mining techniques and their potential environmental impacts, on Tuesday, April 10 at Cerro Coso College in Bishop.

Gestring told The Sheet that the presentation is “intended to be an informational meeting about open pit cyanide leach mining,” the type of mining proposed for Conglomerate Mesa, an expanse in the southern Inyo Mountains between the Sierra Nevada and Death Valley National Park under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

“This could [also] tie in with the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan,” which, under the Trump Administration’s BLM, could be amended to open up fragile habitat, some of it in Inyo County, to mining (as well as to solar and wind farms), said Wendy Schneider, Executive Director of Friends of the Inyo, FOL, along with the Sierra Club and Inyo 350, are sponsoring the event.

Gestring’s talk will focusing mainly on Conglomerate Mesa, where a proposal for an exploration by Canadian firm SSR Mining, Inc., has prompted concern among locals (the closest community to Conglomerate Mesa, Schneider says, is probably Keeler).

Schneider made the point that there is no mine proposed for the area yet, only a proposal for exploration.

However, she said, “we believe Conglomerate Mesa is a special place,” said Schneider. “We are doing this event so we can teach people about modern mining techniques, what they are, and what we could expect if something like this were to move forward.”

Gestring explained that “cyanide leach mining,” which is the type of mining that would likely occur at Conglomerate Mesa, uses the chemical to leach gold from either a heap of ore or a vat filled with ore. In either case, tailings containing layers of cyanide solution remain long after the mine is gone, potentially affecting watersheds or, in the case of desert land like Conglomerate Mesa, groundwater.

“It’s really amazing to see what a huge volume of material is mined, and 95 percent or more becomes waste that remains on the landscape,” said Gestring, who lives in Montana.

“Montana has actually banned open pit cyanide leach mining. It’s the only state that has passed an initiative that precludes it,” said Gestring, who said that the practice has been banned in Montana (save for one grandfathered mine) since 1998.

“Montana is a very conservative state, but (the ban is a) direct result of the really substantial impacts resulting from the cyanide leach mines that were operating here. They’ve all had very substantial impacts to water.”

Gestring said the talk is “intended to be an exchange of information about the types of impacts that can occur, examples [of these impacts], laws that are applicable, how people can become involved, and what other communities have done” to either fight against open pit mines or to mitigate their problems.

Bonnie Gestring will present “Mining 101” on Tuesday, April 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cerro Coso College in Bishop.

MINING 101: Activist Bonnie Gestring to speak at Cerro Coso

By Rea

At the Mammoth Recreation Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 3, $36,800 worth of funds supplied by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County were recommended to be doled out to local athletic organizations. According to Katrina Kelly, Recreation Supervisor, who prepared the agenda action sheet, the funds are meant to supplement organized, non-profit and self-sustaining youth sports programs that may be in need of additional funding to provide enhanced programming or to foster greater participation from low-income students. Allocations are below.

<table>
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<th>Organization</th>
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2018 MAMMOTH YOUTH SPORTS FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
EASTER FOOLS AT JUNE MOUNTAIN

Over 3,000 eggs were collected by kids and grown-ups alike on Sunday, April 1.

Photos by Rea

Photos, clockwise from top left: James and Lindsey Janney with daughters Sarah, 5 and Aubrey, 2, of Bishop. Irie McCoy, 7, of Mammoth. Jasmine, Donovan, 5, and Sebastian, 9, of June Lake. Lindsey Yates with Georgia Fogg (left, 6) and daughter Dakota (5, right). Rylah, 6, Selah, 4 and mom Megan Uderlin of Ventura County. Grimm, 6, and Grace, 9, Gain of June Lake with their big bunny.

Jennifer Burrows
TOWN COUNCIL

- COMMUNITY building
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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JENNIFER BURROWS FOR TOWN COUNCIL
Inyo County Undersheriff Jeff Hollowell feels he’s the natural candidate to succeed his predecessor, Sheriff Bill Lutze.

“If it wasn’t me, I would anticipate that one of my Lieutenants would be running,” said Hollowell, who was born and raised in Bishop. “You have to have a certain amount of experience and knowledge as far as day to day operations. ‘I’ve had a lot of influences. I’ve had some really good Sheriffs and some really bad Sheriffs, and you learn from all of them. But the good ones keep you here and keep you going and keep you focused.’

Hollowell said he’d always known his life’s work was in law enforcement. “When I graduated from high school I knew exactly what I was doing,” said Hollowell, who entered the army for a two-year enlistment.

“I’ve been with the department for 30 years now,” says Hollowell, who has four full-grown kids (some of whom followed him into the military). “I’ve been through every position possible … I’m ready to move to the next step and ready to lead department into future.”

Hollowell spent much of his time working in narcotics and major crimes. He says the passage of Proposition 47 has tied law enforcement officers’ hands when it comes to drug offenses. “You can’t find a family that hasn’t been touched by [opioid or methamphetamine use] somehow,” said Hollowell, “But if you have somebody that has a simple possession and you have an attempted homicide case, you’re going to work that homicide case.”

Hollowell said that ‘over the last 8-10 years, I’ve seen other agencies’ [pay rates] go up and ours have remained pretty much stagnant.”

And, “as far as funding… I’ve been doing the budget for 10 years now and every time I do budgets, I cross my fingers that they’ll let me do a rollover budget and not ask me to cut 10-15 percent off,” said Hollowell.

“In reality, the only place I can cut 10 percent is in personnel. I don’t have 10 percent in pencils, papers or tires. We beg, borrow and steal every year.”

Hollowell said that his “top priority is to provide the most professional law enforcement agency [he] can for the citizens of the County…I’ve always maintained that if you’re going to work for us, you’re going to be professional and courteous, and anything else can get you in trouble.”

Hollowell said he’s always strived to respect the people he works with, as well as the members of the community he interacts with in his job. “At least 10 the people who like my Facebook page [www.facebook.com/hollowellforsheriff] are people that I used to deal with on a regular basis… sending them to jail,” said Hollowell. “And to this day I still talk to them, shake their hands.” He cited one man who paid him a compliment online.

“When I see him [today], he thanks me for chasing him down all the times that I did, because it finally caught on and he decided to turn his life around.”

Hollowell encouraged voters to call him (760.258.7254) or connect with him on his Facebook page. “If people have questions or concerns, I would rather hear from them than hear a rumor,” said Hollowell.

“This is my community. This is my department.”
COUNCIL VETERAN HOPES TO RETURN
Kirk Stapp wants transparency, fiscal responsibility back on the dias

By Lunch

Kirk Stapp is running for Mammoth Town Council this spring. If elected, he will have almost three times as much experience as his fellow Councilmembers—combined. Stapp served on Mammoth’s Council from 1986-2008. He is a former schoolteacher. Post-retirement, he’s written three novels. He is still very active in community affairs, serving as President of the Mammoth Lakes Housing Board, and as a member of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Board. He is also Treasurer of his Snowcreek IV HOA and a member of the Mono County Grand Jury.

Why is he running? “It may sound like a cliché,” said Stapp, “but I care about the people in this community, the business community, our natural environment, trails …”

“So, I’m disappointed with the current Town government.”

Specifically, he is dumbfounded that the current Council agreed to pay $6.5 million for the Shady Rest Parcel.

Yes, the idea behind the purchase (the goal of building affordable housing) is a noble one, a necessary one given the local housing shortage. But Stapp thinks the Town paid too much. Way too much.

“I don’t think [current Mayor] John Wentworth knows what it takes to do an affordable housing project. Every affordable housing project the Town has ever done has been accomplished that way. So we just spent $6.5 million, ‘borrowing’ the money from ourselves, in the hopes of giving that money away (to a developer), on a piece of land that was appraised for $1.6 million by a consultant hired by Mammoth Lakes Housing a little over two years ago.”

Further, Stapp made a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request after the Shady Rest purchase was announced out of curiosity as to whether the Town had hired anyone to do a subsequent appraisal. It hadn’t.

“We can’t find the money for road rehabilitation, vehicle replacement … the Town has identified nearly $5 million in upcoming maintenance obligations for its recreational facilities … in short, we have too many wants and not enough money.”

Never mind the latest $170,000 Council just authorized at its meeting Wednesday for further consulting work on its looming Solid Waste issue (The Benton Crossing Landfill is scheduled to close in 2023, meaning the Town will pretty much have to truck its garbage to Nevada).

“We need transparency,” he added. “I’m not a financial whiz, but it doesn’t look right. With Shady Rest, the Multi-Use Facility … we’re taking on a lot of debt, which is going to impact service levels for police, snow removal, asphalt overlays …”

“Without transparency, Council is just endorsing agenda bills without asking questions. My criticism of this Council is that they’re not digging into issues, particularly the budget, which is the anchor for policy decisions.”

For example, Stapp noted that Council had identified 105 tasks in its strategic plan that it wished to accomplish. “But they accepted that plan without a budget or a calculation of staff time required connected to accomplish these tasks.”

The upshot, he says, is that you’re creating a blank slate, where you’ve justified any sort of action the Town Manager may wish to take (“It’s in the plan”) without adequately pricing or prioritizing.

 “[Town Manager] Dan Holler’s agenda bills are crafted as done deals, with analysis that doesn’t offer options so much as arguments in support,” observes Stapp.

What does Stapp like? He’d like to see the TBID (Tourism Business Improvement District) renewed. And he is pleased the Town has funded its Reserve for Economic Uncertainty at a healthy $3.4 million.

But if you’re an optimist looking to vote for a cheerleader, Stapp is not your guy.

Without transparency, Council is just endorsing agenda bills without asking questions.

- Kirk Stapp

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Meticulous Care · Memorable People · Majestic Location
A mother to the community, grandmother, City Councilwoman, physical therapist, friend and wife, Patricia Anne “Pat” (Lammiman) Gardner passed away following a brave battle with cancer. Born on December 3, 1952 in San Luis Obispo, she died March 24. She was 65.

Pat moved to Bishop with her family in 1960 and graduated from Bishop High in 1971 before attending the College of Idaho and earning a degree in Biology in 1975. She then attended Northwestern University in Illinois, leaving with a Graduate Certificate in Physical Therapy in 1976. She landed her first physical therapist job at Physical Therapy in 1976. She landed leaving with a Graduate Certificate in Northwestern University in Illinois, College of Idaho and earning a degree High in 1971 before attending the Bishop Care Center, Pioneer Home Health and Mammoth Hospital. She retired in 2010. Pat continued to work as a physical therapist at the Bishop Care Center, Pioneer Home Health and Mammoth Hospital. She retired in 2016. Laura Molnar, physical therapist, worked with Pat at Pioneer. Molnar said Pat considered all of Bishop her family. “She was a Mom to the whole community,” Molnar said. “Pat was full of grace and that was a lesson she accomplished a whole lot more that way. “The most important thing she gave me was that she made me appreciate what I do.” Pat was a very active member of the Bishop United Methodist Church. Pastor Matt McPhee said Pat nurtured the faith of children as a long-time Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Leader. She cared for and supported church members in need as part of the Shepherds Care Team and was also a part of the Church Leadership Team. In addition, she had recently initiated new ministries such as the Children Chimes Choir and the Children’s Vocal Choir.

“Pat’s leadership, compassion, and faithful service, both within the church and the larger community, was an inspiration to many and she will be greatly missed,” wrote Pastor Matt. She dedicated her life to the service of her community, family and faith, he added.

Her family said she was thankful to wake up each day to the beautiful sunrises over the White Mountains and to end each day with a view of the glorious sunsets over the Sierra. She is survived by her husband, Ted; children Chris Gardner (and wife Cassie) and David Gardner (and wife Amanda); grandchildren Dylan, Jordan, Jaxon, and Aubrey; brother, John Lammiman (Kathy) and numerous, wonderful nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Church, in Bishop, at 11 a.m. on Saturday April 7, with a reception immediately following at the Bishop Elks Lodge. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local charity of one’s choice.

—Bodine

**OBITUARY**

**PATRICIA GARDNER, 1952-2018**

Patricia Gardner loved spending time with her grandchildren. In 2010, Pat continued to work as a physical therapist at the Bishop Care Center, Pioneer Home Health and Mammoth Hospital. She retired in 2016. Laura Molnar, physical therapist, worked with Pat at Pioneer. Molnar said Pat considered all of Bishop her family. “She was a Mom to the whole community,” Molnar said. “Pat was full of grace and that was a lesson she taught me: always maintain grace when talking with anyone. You can accomplish a whole lot more that way. “The most important thing she gave me was that she made me appreciate what I do.” Pat later served as a Board member for Pioneer.

Pat West, Administrator for Pioneer Home Health Care, started to say, “Pat is a Board member,” then corrected herself. “I can’t put it in the past tense yet,” she said.

West said Pat was always asking what she could do to help. She said she’s indebted to Pat for her leadership on the Board.

Pat also served for 15 years on the Bishop Elementary School Board and was elected to the Bishop City Council in 2012. Fellow City Council member Laura Smith said Pat was truly devoted to the things closest to her heart. “It was all about her kids and grandkids. We never spent a lot of time together because she was always with her family.” Pat was known for keeping a cool head and that made her a great moderator, said Smith. Smith said Pat was one of those rare people that could be reasoned with over a disagreement, though she was no pushover. “If Pat didn’t agree with you, she’d let you know, and she stood by what she believed in.”

Pat was a very active member of the Bishop United Methodist Church. Pastor Matt McPhee said Pat nurtured the faith of children as a long-time Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Leader. She cared for and supported church members in need as part of the Shepherds Care Team and was also a part of the Church Leadership Team. In addition, she had recently initiated new ministries such as the Children Chimes Choir and the Children’s Vocal Choir.

“Pat’s leadership, compassion, and faithful service, both within the church and the larger community, was an inspiration to many and she will be greatly missed,” wrote Pastor Matt. She dedicated her life to the service of her community, family and faith, he added.

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—Bodine
ON THE SLOPES

COOK, CLIFF, MAKE MAMMOTH KIDS FAMOUS
Stacey Cook and Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation help Eastern Sierra students get up on the hill

By Sue Morning

"I love this program and its ability to get kids active and outside, teach lessons through sport, and allow them to appreciate our beautiful environment that we live in," says ski racer and four-time Olympian Stacey Cook of Mammoth’s Ski P.E. program.

Cook, a CLIF BAR® sponsored athlete and the treasurer for the Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation, is passionate about giving back to her community, which makes her teaming with MMCF a natural pairing. Cook and MMCF share a number of similar goals, with one being “to give children the opportunity to get outside.”

Currently, MMCF supports over 500 Eastern Sierra children from Lee Vining, Mammoth, Round Valley, Bishop, Big Pine and Lone Pine in a Ski P.E. program, which gives many of them the opportunity to learn skiing or snowboarding for the first time. Cook’s sponsor CLIF BAR® (the official energy food sponsor of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Team, as well as of 11 Alterra Mountain Company destinations, including Mammoth) also believe in giving back.

CLIF BAR® began sponsoring athletes in 1992. Now, the company is in the process of developing a program that involves athletes in an additional capacity.

"The premise of the program was largely instigated between the athletes and CLIF BAR®," said Bryan Cole, Senior Sports Marketing Manager. "Essentially what we want to do is create a grant fund where by the athletes come to us with a project that they would like to support and we bring it to life.’’

On Monday, March 26, CLIF BAR® brought a film crew to Mammoth Mountain to film Cook, along with some of the Ski P.E. students that MMCF helps get on the hill. Over 100 young athletes spent the morning skiing and snowboarding with Cook while being filmed and interviewed by the production crew. Cook joined the students for lunch and spent a few minutes telling them her inspirational story. Later, the youngsters lined up to get personally autographed posters and photos with Cook. Then it was back on the hill for more skiing, snowboarding and filming.

Cook describes herself “as resilient, relentless, and fearless.” But her story is also one of perseverance and grace. She raced just five days after a high-speed crash during a training run at the 2010 Olympics that resulted in a helicopter medevac. In 2018, she suffered a similar experience in her last race before the Olympics.

see COOK, page 13
Unfortunately, she wasn’t able to recover from that accident as quickly as she did eight years before. Referring to the 2018 accident, Cook wrote on social media, “I got in the start gate of the training run yesterday and tried to push past the pain, tried to ignore the instincts to quit, tried to be superhuman when I know all too well that I am rather ordinary. I tried.” Unfortunately, time was not on Cook’s side and she was unable to race. But that didn’t stop her from cheering on her teammates and exhibiting true Olympic Spirit.

A few days after Cook’s stint with the ski P.E. kids, she posted on social media, “Busy week documenting the MMCF Ski P.E. Program in which I successfully got over 100 kids out of the classroom and onto the mountain to learn about my favorite subject (skiing & snowboarding)…They come from schools within about a 100 mile radius of Mammoth Mountain and many would not otherwise have the opportunity to learn the sports and from DJ Onesie and those picturesque Sierra views. You can also help cheer on the Ezakimak racers as they cross the finish line of the grueling uphill 5K race.

More information about the 2018 Mammoth Invitational, which runs April 6-8, and the online auction can be found at: www.mammothfoundation.org.

Exempting Ikon Pass sales from TBD frees up those funds for Mammoth Mountain to invest in Bishop Airport if it wishes.

“We look at it as saying, ‘We can spend that money on infrastructure,’” said Clark. “That’s our money, our commitment. We can figure out…how we can spend that money to solve the regional air service problem.”

Commissioner Sean Turner asked whether that meant that Mammoth Mountain did not support the further improvement of Mammoth Airport (such as the expansion of the apron and a new terminal building), and Clark responded “that is our position. We don’t think you should improve the terminal at this point. Yes, a wildlife fence, and yes, a wind sock. We do think there’s improvement needed at Mammoth, but we don’t think it needs an investment in the terminal.”

Clark also noted that the previous TBD, passed in 2013, did not specify that Mammoth Mountain would pay TBD on season passes. “The previous District Plan doesn’t highlight the season pass,” said Clark. “It just says ‘lift tickets’ [but] we paid [TBD on] the season pass.”

Urdi told The Sheet in an email that MLT anticipated to receive $5 million annually in TBD across all businesses assessed, but that, with the exclusion of the Ikon pass, he anticipates revenues will be closer to $4.5 million per year.

MLT commits a minimum of $2.5 million yearly to air service marketing and subsidies at Mammoth-Yosemite Airport from TBD funds, said Urdi. That includes a maximum cap $1.5 million annually to winter air service subsidy (Mammoth Mountain contributes any amount exceeding that number) and $500,000 for summer air subsidy. Additional contributions come from Measure A funds and Mono County, said Urdi. Urdi said at Tuesday’s meeting that MLT was “still on pace to do a resolution of intent [for the renewal of the TBD] at the April 18 Town Council meeting.”

The TBD, if renewed, would take effect on September 1 of this year and run through August 31, 2023.

SUMMIT SUNSET PARTY

Ride the gondola to the top to watch the sun set behind the Minarets and get down with plenty of family fun after dark, including food and drinks, fresh beats from DJ Onesie and those picturesque Sierra views. You can also help cheer on the Ezakimak racers as they cross the finish line of the grueling uphill 5K race.

APRIL 28 • 6:30PM

MY MAMMOTH

AUSTRIA HOF

RESTAURANT & BAR

TACOS TUESDAYS
TUESDAY: BAJA FISH TACOS $3.50
THURSDAY: POKI TACOS 3/$9

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SUMMIT SUNSET PARTY

Ride the gondola to the top to watch the sun set behind the Minarets and get down with plenty of family fun after dark, including food and drinks, fresh beats from DJ Onesie and those picturesque Sierra views. You can also help cheer on the Ezakimak racers as they cross the finish line of the grueling uphill 5K race.

APRIL 28 • 6:30PM
**Bar & Music**

**Happy Hour**
- The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. Get half off beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread.
- 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 specials 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. 13.
- Whitebar Restaurant Bar & Lounge
  - Unwind with daily drink and food specials 4-6 p.m.
  - Clocktower Cellar
    - Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily and all Sunday. $5
dollar menu items, drink specials. See ad, p. 10.
- Petra’s Bistro
  - Happy Hour 5-6 p.m. every day. See ad, p. 10.
- Mammoth’s famous Schlump’s Happy Hour
  - Mon thru Fri 4-6; Saturdays 4-5. Closed Sun. See ad, p. 5.
- Happy Hour @ The Bistro at Snowcreek
  - 4:30-6:30 p.m. daily.
- Mammoth Tavern
  - Happy Hour Tuesday-Thursday 3:30-5:30 p.m. Closed Mondays.
- Smokeyard weekend Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. in the bar only. 
- Happy Hour Daily 3-6 p.m.
- Giovanni’s Happy Hour, daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer get 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 5-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

**April 6-7/**
- Andrew Webber Blues Band plays 395 Bar & Grill 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Paiute Palace. Free.
- Friday, April 6/
  - Open mic @ Black Sheep Coffee in Bishop, 6-9 p.m.
- Sunday, April 8/
  - Some Assembly Required plays Black Doutnug. 7-9 p.m. Free.
- Monday, April 9/
  - Bowling and Beats at Mammoth Rock’n Bowl. 9 p.m. $4 games. See ad, p. 8.
- Tuesday, April 12/
  - MMMS Employee Night @ Mammoth Rock’n Bowl. $3 games and $2 shoes. Must show employee pass. See ad, p. 8.
- Wednesday, April 11/
  - Karaoke night @ Samurai, beginning at 8 p.m. See ad, p. 4.
- Wild Wing Wednesdays at Outlaw Saloon. 50 percent off all wings 6-9 p.m. See ad page 4.
- Thursday, April 12/
  - Latin Night at Mammoth Rock’n Bowl. 9 p.m. See ad page 8.
- Friday, April 13/
  - The Jaded Haters play Liberty Sports Bar & Grill. 9 p.m. Free. See ad, p. 7.
- Saturday, April 14/
  - Andrew Webber Blues Band plays Liberty Sports Bar & Grill. 9 p.m. Free.

**Town Stuff**

**April 6-8/**
- **Friday, April 6/**
  - OVCDC Indian Education Summit. Info for parents, educators, and community members to share skills, resources and help students and families be more successful. RSVP: 760.873.6547. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 4090 West Line St., Bishop. 
- **Saturday, April 7/**
  - **Book signing: “Sage & Sierra, a Memoir:** Growing up in Owens Valley with the DeDecker sisters, 1-3 p.m. @ the Eastern California Museum, 155 N. Grant Street in Independence. See story, p. 6.
- **American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 457 Rummage/Bake Sale.** 8 a.m.-noon @ Big Pine Town Hall. Info: Rick Fields at 760.263.4150.
- **Alfredo Rolando Ortiz in Concert:** “The Beautiful Paraguayan Harp.” 3-5 p.m. at the BUEHS Dorothy Joseph Theater. Tickets: bishopca.ca.org.
- **Audubon Society Trip Leader Training.** 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. See sidebar, next page.
- **Califonia Passholder Early Ups.** Load the lifts at 7:30 a.m. and enjoy a complimentary breakfast @ McCoy station from 8-9:30 or while supplies last. Info: www.mammothmountain.com.
- **Job Fair hosted by the Bishop Chamber of Commerce.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. @ BUEHS Tech Center (301 N. Fowler Street). Private and public sector jobs seeking all skill levels. Free for employers and candidates. Info: 760.873.8405 or execdir@bishopvisitor.com.
- **Audubon Trip Leader Training w/ Eastern Sierra Audubon Society.** Meet @ Lozito Conference Center at the Jill Kimmont Boothe School. BYO binoculars, lunch. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. See sidebar, next page. 
- **Sunday, April 8/**
  - **Big Pine Legion Post: Rummage and Bake Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m.** Big Pine Town Hall, Dewey St. in Big Pine. Birding, botany and lunch in beautiful Birch Creek with Friends of the Inyo. Fundraiser at the straw bale home of Sydney Quinn and Dennis Schumacher. Coffee & muffins, 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Birding and botanizing, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. $1 off draft beers, $2 off wine, $3 off beer. Lunch. 1 p.m. RSVP required: wendy@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760.873.6500.
- **Monday, April 9/**
  - **Bishop City Council meeting @ Bishop City Hall, 377 W. Line St.** Info: 760.873.5863. 6 p.m. 
- **Mammoth Lakes Housing Board meets, 6 p.m. in Suite Z.**
TOWN STUFF

Minaret, Monday, April 9 (cont’d)/
AARP tax help @ Mammoth Lakes Library. 1-5 p.m. in Ellie Randol Reading Room, Wednesdays also.

Tuesday, April 10/
Spellbinder book club meeting. Book is “Wonder” by R.J. Palacio. Meets 7 p.m. at Spellbinder on Main Street in Bishop. See sidebar.

Mining 101: A workshop with Bonnie Gestring, Northwest Program Director at Earthworks. Free and open to public. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cerro Coso College in Bishop. See story, p. 7.

Coffee with a Cop (Inyo County Sheriff’s Office and CHP) at the Lone Pine McDonald’s. 8-10 a.m.

White Mountain Research Station Lecture Series: “Up Close and Personal. Using pictures from automated cameras to recognize big-horn sheep” with Dr. Wehausen. 7 p.m. Owens Valley Station, 3000 E. Line St. in Bishop.

April 10-11/
Fall 2018 Open House @ Cerro Coso College. Admissions apps and updates, counseling services, financial aid assistance, etc. Tuesday: Bishop, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday: Mammoth Lakes, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 760.872.1565.

April 10-13/
Mammoth Library MakerSpace workshops. Tuesday: Middle school and up (including adults) 2-5 p.m. Adults only, 5-7 p.m. Wednesday: All ages from 2-6 p.m. Thursday: Elementary school age, 2-6 p.m. Friday: Adults only, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11/
Volunteer Eastern Sierra hosts weekly meetings from 7-8 a.m. at the Mammoth Gold Mercantile in the AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

Blocks (R): Overprotective parents join forces to thwart their daughters’ plans to lose their virginity on prom night.

Ready Player One (PG 13): Steven Spielberg Sci-Fi film about an ubiquitous virtual reality world called OASIS.

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

The Mammoth Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest is seeking comments for a proposed action to implement trail improvements in the Sherwins area.

The proposed project, the Sherwin Area Recreation Plan (SHARP), would create a system of non-motorized trails.

The proposed action includes:
- Reconstruct and Designate User-Caused Trails
- Construct Natural Surface Loop/Connection Trails
- Construct Permeable Surface, instead of gravel
- User-Created Trail Rehabilitation and Closure

It is anticipated trail construction and improvement certification program implemented starting summer of 2018 and possibly continue into 2019. The work will be completed in partnership with the Town of Mammoth Lakes under authorization of the Mammoth Ranger District.

The proposed action is currently available for a 14-day comment period. Comments are most useful if received by April 20, 2018 and should address issues, opportunities, concerns, and suggestions for the proposed project. Please see the attached letter for more detail.

Written comments can be submitted to Margie DeRose c/o Kerry Wood, P.O. Box 148 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or by email to comments-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us, with subject line, “SHARP Phase II Project.” For questions regarding this project, contact Kerry Wood, Inyo National Forest, Mammoth Ranger District Office, phone number 760.934.5523, or email kwood@fs.fed.us.

Water Efficient Landscaping

The Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) is offering a certifying Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) course in Mammoth Lakes this spring. QWEL provides graduates with knowledge in water-efficient and sustainable landscape practices, including water management and preservation of other valuable resources. QWEL is recognized as a WaterSense labeled Professional Certification Program for Irrigation System Audits. MCWD will host a number of guest speakers during the course. Upon successful completion, graduates can be listed as a Certified Professional on the WaterSense website. It is a 16 hour course and the schedule is listed below.

April 18, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., April 25, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., May 2, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., May 9, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. MCWD will need a minimum number of participants to host the class, so please confirm you or your staff member’s spot ASAP by contacting Betty at 760.934.2596 ext 274.
High Country Lumber in Mammoth is hiring! Seeking hard working individuals to assist customers in the lumber yard. We will train. Position is located at Mammoth Lakes, High Country Lumber location. High Country Lumber offers a competitive hourly pay rate + health benefits. Previous experience for qualify some employees. Application available online at https://www.mammothlakeslumber.com. Please deliver resume in person or pick up application at 243 Sierra Manor Rd in Mammoth.

Now hiring for management position at Domino’s! Applicants must be eager to learn, grow and do what it takes to be a great manager. Leadership experience preferred, but not required. If you are willing to learn and give it your all, we have the skills to instill in you! Position starts at $12.00 + tips. Hours 24/7 or 30 to 30 hours a week, then increases from there. We are looking for a long term applicant. Wages increase when you are able to adequately manage and run a shift. We are looking for closing managers who are able to sell a great example to fellow employees. Domino’s is a great place to work with plenty of growth opportunity. Hourly wages, tips, and eventually bonuses if you are willing to put in the effort and work. Domino’s is number one in the country, come join a great team! Come apply in store at 1934 Meridian Blvd.

Holiday Haus Motel and Hostel is now hiring a part-time Food Service Worker for a Front Desk Manager and Part-time Housekeeper. Excellent pay DOE. Please contact Seamus at 760.934.9803 to stop by and see us in person at 3905 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes.

Sierra Nevada Resort & Spa

Housekeepers ($11)
Cook ($9)
Dishwashers ($10)
Maintenance Worker ($12)

Please complete an application at 164 Old Mammoth Rd, or online at www.sierralodge.com.

Full time Maids Needed! Vacation rental company. Experience required. Must have vehicle.

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. This is a Full Time, Year Round position. We have an immediate opening for a Spa Maintenance position. This position also offers vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting and a clean DMV is required. Please call 760.924.3091 or 760.873.8599 to see our full job list online www.SierraEmployment.com.

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

- Janitor B $15
- Bookkeeper B $20-$25
- Office Manager B $22-$26
- Laundry Attendant B $15
- Maintenance Worker B $12
- Front Desk Agent M $12 - $15
- Guest Services M $12 - $16
- Const. Foreman M $33 - $36
- Const. Lead Worker M $39 - $43
- Customer Representative M $15-$20

Mechanical Worker, M 1 $18.41 - $22.52

Inspection & Audits Compliance Liaison

Call 760.924.5523 or 760.873.8599 for more information call 760.924.0523 or 760.873.8599

DRIVERS WANTED! Great summer jobs with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority! We’re looking for safe, customer service oriented, outgoing individuals to drive on the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) bus routes. These routes serve Mammoth Lakes, Town Trolleys, and other routes in the Mammoth Lakes area. Paid training to obtain a commercial driver’s license provided. Full and part-time hours available. Medical, 401(k), and other employee benefits. Renewed Restaurant, Great Work Environment, 760.934.3800 ext 46 Kristen@convictlake.com

Sierra Lodge is seeking manager in charge of day to day operations. Managerial experience plus, but previous hospitality experience is not required. Please deliver resume in person or pick up application at Sierra Lodge located at 2540 Main Street. Call 760.934.9803 ext 46 Kristen@sierralodge.com

The Alpenhof Lodge is looking for friendly, customer service oriented individuals to add to our team. We are currently hiring for the following positions: Front Desk, Housekeeping. Full time & part time positions are available. Positions can be seasonal but preferably year round, must be available to work weekends and holidays. Housing may be an option for the right full time employee. Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd, Mammoth. Administrative Assistant - $16.59 + Benefits + Bonus

DRIVE FOR ESTA Contact, Kristen (760) 934-9693. Ask for Russ.

The Alpenhof Lodge is looking for a talented and customer service oriented individual to join our team. We are currently hiring for the following positions: Front Desk, Housekeeping. Full time & part time positions are available. Positions can be seasonal but preferably year round, must be available to work weekends and holidays. Housing may be an option for the right full time employee. Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd, Mammoth. Administrative Assistant - $16.59 + Benefits + Bonus

For Sale

- Bookstore, 2,000 SF on Main St., Bishop, 1,000 SF upstairs, 30-40 book boxes, Asking $80,000. Call Diane at 760.957.7317.

Sierra Lodge is seeking manager in charge of day to day operations. Managerial experience plus, but previous hospitality experience is not required. Please deliver resume in person or pick up application at Sierra Lodge located at 2540 Main Street. Call 760.934.9803 ext 46 Kristen@sierralodge.com

For Sale

- 50 Acre Home on 2.06 acres with Single Family Home, full kitchen, living room, dining room, and garage. Asking $425,000. Call Diane at 760.957.7317.

For Sale

- 2bd/3bath/loft 2500/mo Available April 1 No Pets/Non-Smoking/Excellent Credit Email/Call for more information Z-Z-ZIPPERS! Great work environment. The ideal candidate will have excellent Excel skills, an aptitude for problem solving, and the ability to work with job assignments, and have a helpful attitude.

DRIVER WANTED

For Sale

- For Rent

For Sale

- Condos, $250.00/mo (flexible)
  Stunning 3-Story end unit in Mammoth Pines, 2dr/2bath/loft. Approx. 2000 sq feet Available April 1 No Pets/Non-Smoking/Excellent Credit Email/Call for more information Z-Z-ZIPPERS! Great work environment. The ideal candidate will have excellent Excel skills, an aptitude for problem solving, and the ability to work with job assignments, and have a helpful attitude.

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TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Mammoth Lakes will receive sealed bids for the following project:

NEW COMMUNITY MULTI-USE FACILITIES

in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California

Bids will be received at the Office of the Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, California, 93546 until 4:00 PM on Monday, April 15, 2019, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

Proposal forms and Contract Documents for this work are included in the specifications.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Project includes the construction of a New Community Multi-Use Facility was designed by Great Basin Architects. The site is 5.00 acres at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, California. The site is located 1.5 miles south of US Highway 91 and 0.25 miles west of Old Mammoth Road.

Notice of Public Hearing

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

General Plan Amendments

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Board of Supervisors will consider adopts the following amendments to the General Plan:

A) Revise the General Plan Land Use Element to adopt policies and regulations for commercial cannabis land uses including cultivation, manufacturing, processing, storage, laboratory testing, labeling, sale, delivery, distribution or transportation, and other uses related to cannabis and cannabis products. Policies include issues, Opportunities and Constraints, and regulations include identification of land use designations allowing commercial cannabis uses subject to a use permit and Cannabis Operation Permit that shall be set forth in Mono County Code Chapter 5.65; Chapter 24 - Short-Term Rentals; and Book 26 - Transient Rental Stands & Enforcement. Highlights of the proposed amendment include identification of June Lake neighborhoods where short-term rentals are allowed and prohibited, the addition of new policies and regulations governing short-term rentals, a separation of the permitting process for short-term rentals located in certain residential land use designations versus transient rental uses in non-residential or Multi-Family High land use designations; and the establishment of a second, required discretionary permit for short-term rentals in certain residential land use designations that is specific to the property owner and is non-transferable.

B) Revise the General Plan Land Use Element to update policies and regulations pertaining to short-term rentals in certain residential land use designations, including countywide policies, June Lake Area Plan policies, revisions to certain residential land use designations to permit short-term rentals subject to a use permit and a Short-Term Rental Activity Permit that shall be set forth in Mono County Code Chapter 5.65; Chapter 24 - Short-Term Rentals; and Chapter 26 - Transient Rental Stands & Enforcement. Highlights of the proposed amendment include identification of June Lake neighborhoods where short-term rentals are allowed and prohibited, the addition of new policies and regulations governing short-term rentals, a separation of the permitting process for short-term rentals located in certain residential land use designations versus transient rental uses in non-residential or Multi-Family High land use designations; and the establishment of a second, required discretionary permit for short-term rentals in certain residential land use designations that is specific to the property owner and is non-transferable.

C) Revise the General Plan Land Use Element to include housing policies that address a “fair share” of affordable/working force housing by future development projects with the potential for significant housing impacts, as determined through a housing impact assessment, while the housing mitigation toolbox is being finalized and the Housing Mitigation Ordinance is suspended.

D) Revise the Circulation Element to reflect technical amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan incorporating projects from the proposed 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program and Road Capital Improvement Program, which were approved by the Local Transportation Commission at a public hearing on Dec. 11, 2017. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, commercial cannabis policies are exempt under Business & Professions Code §26055(h), and an addendum to the existing General Plan EIR is being utilized for short-term rental policies and regulations, housing policies, and technical amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan in the Circulation Element.

On April 5, 2018, the Planning Commission made changes and edits to the proposed General Plan text and adopted Resolution 18-01 recommending that the Board of Supervisors find GPA 18-A-1 Commercial Cannabis exempt from CEQA per Business and Professions Code §26055(h), approve the use of addendums to the 2015 RTP/PGP EIR for GPA 18-B-1 Short-term rentals, C) Housing policies, and D) Transportation and Circulation Element, and adopt the text changes to the Land Use Element and Circulation Element of the Mono County General Plan. Project materials are available for public review at the Community Development Department offices in Bridgeport and Mammoth Lakes; for more information call 760.924.1800.

INTERESTED may appear before the Board of Supervisors to present testimony or, prior to or at the hearing, file written correspondence with Board Clerk, PO Box 715, Bridgeport, CA 93517. If you challenge the proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to Board Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

WATERLESS

continued from page 2

is different, including rent for each ranch’s base of operations and differing acreage.

Lacey said the ranchers have had few conversations with their landlords over this development.

The letter from the Cattlemen’s Association was presented to the Mono County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 2. Supervisors requested the item be agendized for a later meeting and that a letter be sent to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and a conversation with his office requested.

Beade will present his 2017 Agricultural Report to Mono County Supervisors at its next regular meeting on April 10. The ranchers will be at that same meeting to give public comment. There has been no date announced for the issue to reappear on the Supervisors’ agenda.
**HOROSCOPES**

**Aries:** It’s only fitting that “Cheeseburger birds” return during the early spring. That’s because the chatty, Mountain Chickadees are energetic, social and very adaptable, just like Aries. What makes Mountain Chickadees unique, besides their songs, are that they have white eyebrow stripes. What makes Aries unique is that you can find success and happiness everywhere you go, while some signs can barely get off the couch.

**Taurus:** An annual Gallup poll found that 2017 was one of America’s unhappiest on record. Almost half the states in America reported their overall sense of well-being went down during the “Mad Tweeteer’s” first year in office (and swamp levels appear static). That’s why Clouds would like to remind you that we don’t find our own happiness in other people, especially when they go by names like “Stormy” or “David.”

**Gemini:** While we don’t often realize it, the relationship we have with ourselves is the one that sets the tone for all our other ones. Therefore, try to improve yours. You can be kinder to yourself, pick yourself up when you’re feeling down, and keep telling yourself that you believe in you. It’s also a good idea to learn to love the way you look in the shower, especially since imperfections are what make us uniquely sexy anyway.

**Cancer:** Just in case you got distracted, the Stars would like to remind you that everything’s going to be all right. In fact, if you can just stay patient, kind, thankful and feeling good about your life and scantly-clad body, everything is going to be more than okay. It’s just going to sort of be like the NBA in the ‘80s: “Fan-friggin-tastic!”

**Leo:** This much we know is true: 1) The most grateful people are the happiest. 2) You can be the bomb without bombing anyone. 3) There’s no sense in looking backwards, you’re not going that way anyway. 44) And Clouds got this one right: “Whenever things don’t seem to make sense, it’s usually time for some naked nonsense.”

**Virgo:** If life is a big party, then Virgos are the ones standing in the back, taking it all in. But this doesn’t mean you’re not supposed to watch the whole time. It just means that when your song comes on and your moment arrives, you’re ready to stay cool, calm and collected and make the most of it. Therefore, feel free to enjoy the punch, just make sure it isn’t spiked too hard.

**Libra:** Budweiser is the self-proclaimed “King of Beers.” Bud also brags that it’s now made in part with rice. According to the “Reinheitsgebot,” or German Beer Purity Law, Bud isn’t even beer anymore. It’s just a beer-flavored beverage. This just goes to show you can be whatever you want to be. You can be the King or Queen of Wine or Wiensernschnitzel, Wisdom or Wooing. Whatever you choose, just remember to toast to it.

**Scorpio:** There’s a theory that people who are often late are more optimistic and are usually confident that everything that needs to get done will. Scorpios are often late but aren’t always as optimistic as they should be. That’s because Scorpios often have a blind spot for the beauty and blessings right in front of them, except when there’s nudity involved. To help, remember this line from philosopher William James: “Pessimism leads to weakness, optimism leads to power.”

**Sagittarius:** South Dakota was recently named the happiest state in the country. California tied with Texas as 13th. This just goes to show you that you can study anything you want. It also shows you that happiness is much more a state of mind than it is an actual state, unless you live in West Virginia or Nevada—in which case you’re probably going to need some medicinal or barley-and-hop-based assistance.

**Capricorn:** This sign tends to be very loyal. Sometimes, unfortunately, this doesn’t always appear to pan out and you may even get burned every once in a blue moon. But have no fear, it always swings back in your favor, for karma appreciates loyalty. Therefore, your new good luck t-shirt is in your lucky color of black and reads: “50 percent Deepak, 50 percent Tupac.”

**Aquarius:** To help embrace the arrival of spring, please do a couple of the following things. 1) Visualize wearing shorts more often. 2) Visualize yourself becoming more fulfilled so you can help fulfill others—in as many ways as possible 3) Visualize what you want in life, not what someone else wants for you, especially those “special” family members like Aunt Know-it-all and Cousin A-hole.

**Pisces:** Spring is a great time for your sign, since Pisces are so sensory-driven. Warmer air gets us outdoors, where the forsythia and bulbs are beginning to bloom and the BBQs are getting heated up. To help you make the most out of it, adopt a motto from fellow Pisces, the late Steve Jobs: “Stay hungry, stay foolish.”

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Check out 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!

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- Nursing & Clinical Lab Scientist sign-on and relocation bonus available!
NEW RELEASE OF LUXURY MOUNTAIN RETREATS NOW SELLING!

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

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