STOPPED COLD
By Lunch
Alaska Airlines announced last Friday that it is closing operations at Mammoth Yosemite Airport. Commercial air service to and from Los Angeles will end as of November 30, 2018. Commercial air service to and from San Diego will not be resumed. The last flight of the 2017-2018 winter season occurred on April 16. Alaska Airlines cited Mammoth Airport’s “underperformance” as a key factor in the decision. When contacted for comment last Saturday, Alterra Resorts CEO Rusty Gregory said via text, “They [Alaska] wouldn’t be pulling out if we were a destination they believed would grow beyond LAX and San Diego. Bishop would allow this growth because larger aircraft with greater range can reliably land there.”
Sheet: Do you think Alaska is gone for good?
Gregory: No, I don’t think so. But we need a revised
see ALASKA, page 20

STOPPED BY COLE!
By Benham
Imagine losing a hockey game 13-1 and you are the goaltender. That was Devon Cole in her first competitive game. But the scoreline was only half the story. Sure, she let in thirteen goals, but she stopped 100 shots. “Every single one of the coaches on the other team wanted to know who she was,” Coach Patrick Bernard said.

Before moving to Mammoth, Devon had never played hockey. She grew up in Hermosa Beach with her parents, Jay and Colleen. They moved here to ski.

That was until Jeff Posey, co-director of Mammoth Youth Hockey (MYH), saw Devon in Vons wearing an LA Kings hat and asked if she wanted to come out and give hockey a try.

“I had never really played hockey before, but I was like yeah, sure, why not, and ever since then I’ve pretty much never left the rink.” Devon found her passion on the Mammoth Ice Rink and Posey found himself a future top-level goalie.

This fall, she’s attending Lawrenceville Prep School in New Jersey to pursue her passion of playing hockey. “I’m really excited. It hasn’t fully settled in yet so I’m not really nervous. I’m sure I will be.”

Her dream is to play college hockey. “I-D-I would be great but at the moment I’m shooting for D-III.”

“I’ve never lived anywhere close to my team. I’ve always had to travel for hours. But
see COLE, page 16

THE RIDE FINALLY ENDS FOR MHS BASEBALL
By Benham
SR Mining, a publicly traded Canadian company, has received a permit to explore for gold in Conglomerate Mesa.
If they find it, they will seek approval from the BLM to mine a site at Conglomerate Mesa (in southern Inyo near Death Valley).
The type of gold they are likely to find is Carlin Gold. It’s microscopic and embedded in pyrite, which tends to be found in limestone deposits.
To extract Carlin Gold, SSR would have to build an open pit cyanide heap leach mine.
Currently there are seven wells drilled to a depth of 400 feet.
During exploration, SSR will extend these wells to 1,000 feet. SSR has not disclosed what chemicals will be present in the hydraulic fluids used in conjunction with drills to deepen the wells.
On the morning of May 22, at the Lone Pine Airstrip, Bruce Gordon, founder of EcoFlight, flew concerned citizens over Conglomerate Mesa.
Friends of the Inyo Executive Director, Wendy Schnieder and Jora Fogg, Policy Director, acted as in-flight audio guides.
They explained that Conglomerate Mesa is home to
**DOWN AND DIRTY**

My general advice to writers, particularly to new writers/reporters who ask me how long a piece should be, is as follows: Write until it gets boring, and then stop.

Of course, younger writers tend to overestimate how interesting they are, so their stories are always too long.

I preface the column this way just because this is one of those days where I have a certain amount of space I have to fill, and I’m going to write until I fill it, and if I have to push through boring to get there, so be it.

Topics to cover today: Monday’s Town Council Candidate forum, notes from my lunch with John Wentworth, and County Superintendent candidate Jennifer Huß finally laying her cards on the table.

You know, I never get to say those squishy things (“You all are so wonderful for putting yourselves out there, etc.”) during candidate forums. Maybe it’s because I’ve got my mind too focused on the next thing. Like ... was Brent Truax really Yes on Z? How come I can’t remember? Or when Kirk Stapp says one more time that he exited politics for a period because his wife fell ill. I dunno. I thought he lost in 2008 before she got sick. And I thought he ran one time while she was sick. But again, I can’t remember.

I don’t understand why candidates seem so resistant to the idea of Cleland Hoff as Mayor.

Being Mayor doesn’t confer one more ounce of power. You don’t get an extra vote. Sure, I guess being Mayor means it’s easier to find a reason to take a roadtrip to “lobby” on behalf of the Town, but ... it’s just a ceremonial title. In the old days, Eastman couldn’t have cared less about it. Barrett pretended not to care but secretly he seethed. Wood loved it. Harvey loved it, but pretended not to.

Wentworth looooves it.

Note to Jen Burrows. I doubt Sauser does much homework. Then again, he’s spent his whole life here. He doesn’t need to do that much homework. Hmm. Is a kneejerk reaction more mental or physical?

When you’ve got a Town Manager like Dan Holler (whom I like just fine) but ... he likes to spend money and he seems a little shifty to me. That’s a point in Stapp’s favor, admitting he’s a micro-manager.

Salcido’s a brilliant, milquetoast candidate. Fine temperament. Says nothing. No clue what she thinks. But I’ll figure it out eventually and she’ll learn to hate me.

Benham didn’t mention the introductions in his forum story. Let’s not equivocate. I ripped the hell out of Hoxie and Wentworth for not attending.

Hoxie’s excuse is that she’s working the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival. My reply is that you’re in town and it’s one hour of your time. If you can’t spare that hour, you’re not serious.

Hoxie then tried another excuse on me when I saw her at the Film Festival shindig on Wednesday night: That she hadn’t been formally invited to the event. Shit, really. I can’t count the number of stories I would have missed out on if I’d listened to the bureaucratic snitch/asshole who told me I wasn’t allowed to be in the room.

If I were a candidate for office, you couldn’t keep me out of the room. As for Wentworth, he was in Washington, D.C. on some lobbying mission to a government agency that had an acronym with a “US” in it. Apparently, he’d booked the trip in advance. Blah, blah, why? Why the hell would you book a trip on the taxpayer dime (at least the airfare) two weeks before you potentially would be out of a job. Lame ducks shouldn’t lobby.

He must be pretty confident in his electoral chances.

So I met with him for lunch on Wednesday. And of course he’s smart as hell and charming in his way. He’s likable. It’s hard to imagine him not winning. But this is what I told him: Well, something like this: John, your strength is that you’re the smartest guy in the room, and your vision for the recreational economy ... it’s inspiring, and it’s aspirational, and there’s a bit of Elon Musk about you.

Ted Carleton .... Jack of all Lunches 760.614.0546 / jacklunch@yahoo.com
June Simpkins .... Jack of everything else 760.937.3967 / juneatthesheet@gmail.com
Mike Bodine .......... Writer cookwithmike@gmail.com
Jack Benham .......... Writer jackbenham@gmail.com
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Clouds McCloud .......... Ass-astrologer

For a subscription to The Sheet contact Lunch at his above e-mail address, or call the office. Issues are mailed out bi-weekly. Cost is $65/year.
JOIN US JULY 13-14

Friday’s Wine Walk
30+ wineries, a complimentary wine glass to take home, and live entertainment at The Village at Mammoth!
$50

Saturday’s Grand Tasting
35+ wineries, delicious bites from 5+ restaurants, auctions, live entertainment, cider, dessert, and more!
$99

All week Seminars
Check out our educational wine seminars presented with Chef Frederic Pierrel’s amuse-bouches!
$35

Buy your tickets today at mammothfoodandwine.org

Mammoth Food & Wine Experience is the premier fundraising event for Mammoth Lakes Foundation, which was founded by Dave McCoy in 1989 and supports higher education and cultural enrichment in the Eastern Sierra. Visit MammothLakesFoundation.org to learn more.
Very disappointing news that Alaska Airlines is discontinuing air service to/from Mammoth. Many of us have been huge supporters of the rebirth of commercial air service since the early meetings with Alaska Airlines in 2007/2008, encouraging them to enter our market, which they did nearly 10 years ago.

As a former Councilmember, Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) board member and current member of the Town’s air advisory group, I have warned about this potential loss of carrier numerous times. You can’t keep reducing capacity, making excuses, calling it “right-sizing” and rationalizing why planes are empty, while our peer resorts have been reporting increased enplanements year over year.

Two very different press releases were issued this week, one by Horizon-Alaska and one by MLT. In the MLT press release, transparency must be questioned as MLT clearly is not being 100% forthcoming and takes no accountability for its failure to market and fill airline seats.

Facts about Alaska replacing its Q400 fleet with the ERJ 175, which is not as good an aircraft in the mountains, has some merit, HOWEVER, Alaska was already committed to the ERJ. We knew that was coming. And at the very least, we could have made a strong case to be the very last market for the Q400 - that is, if we were a profitable growing marketas opposed to an underperforming one.

Airlines are in the business to make money, not just settle for revenue guarantees.

- Michael Raimondo

Sincerely,
Michael Raimondo

---

**LOCAL NEWS**

**BofA PULLS OUT, TOO**

Representatives from the corporate offices of Bank of America have confirmed that the Bishop branch will close on September 11.

“We constantly adapt our financial center network to fit clients’ changing needs and habits, and while the decision to close a financial center is a difficult one,” said Colleen Haggerty, Vice President of Media Relations for Bank of America in an email to The Sheet, “it is driven primarily by changing banking behaviors as more clients have adopted our online and mobile banking offerings because of the convenience they provide. ATMs will remain for customers to conduct business, according to Haggerty, or they can travel to the branch in Ridgecrest (a mere 137 miles). Haggerty did not explain what customers without internet access or limited access to transportation are expected to do.

The closure will not impact automatic deposits or bill paying withdrawals. Local customers should be receiving letters notifying them of the changes by next week.

Haggerty said BoA will work with displaced employees to find “similar level roles within the company.” She did not give any details on how this works, but given the next closest branch is in Ridgecrest, any employee wishing to stay with the company will have to move from the area. There may be severance packages available for those eligible.

The property, owned by the company, will be sold once the building is decommissioned.

According to analysis by the Wall Street Journal published in February, as of September, 2017, Bank of America had closed 1,597 branches. The reduced overhead in labor and real estate costs aided in BofA reporting its highest profits on record. Up until the Great Recession of 2008-2009, banks were adding new branches to expand and grow business, according to the Journal. After the collapse, banks started closing branches to save money and to keep pace with increased regulatory fees and scrutiny.

As banks trimmed staff and became less user-friendly, online and ATM banking became more popular, and profits rose without the branches.
MAY 25–30
Score end-of-season deals on the biggest brands with up to 70% off winter outerwear, accessories and equipment. Shop in-store and check out the tent sales happening all weekend long to dial in huge savings with clearance prices.

WINE WALK
JAZZ
WINE/BEER & FOOD TASTING
MORE JAZZ
JULY
6-8

JAZZ MUSIC
JULY
6, 7 & 8

SAVEmTHE DATE
3 DAYS: 2 VENUES
JAZZ WEEKEND

JAZZFEST
FREE ADMISSION & MUSIC: AT THE VILLAGE
WINE WALK + JAZZ FRIDAY 7.6
JAZZ SATURDAY 7.7
760.914.3122 JAZZ FEST.org
DETAILS / INFO / WINE WALK TICKETS / SHOWTIMES

JAZZ BY THE CREEK
AT THE HAYDEN CABIN
JAZZ + FOOD TASTING SUNDAY 7.8
760.934.6299 MAMMOTH MUSEUM.org
DETAILS / INFO / TICKETS / SHOWTIMES

www.mammothjazzweekend.org

Memorial Day Sale
MAY 25–30
Score end-of-season deals on the biggest brands with up to 70% off winter outerwear, accessories and equipment. Shop in-store and check out the tent sales happening all weekend long to dial in huge savings with clearance prices.

www.mammothparksandrec.com
Info / Volunteer / Donate: LAUREN PLUM at (760) 965-3899

Volunteers Needed!
Help Build Our New Playground!
The Parks and Recreation Department was awarded $100,000 to install a new, 7,770 sq. ft. inclusive playground at Mammoth Creek Park, which provides physical, sensory, social-emotional, cognitive and communicative benefits of play for all abilities. This playground is groundbreaking and will serve as a National Demonstration Site.

Volunteer to Build Our New Playground
Monday - Friday
June 11 - June 22
7:30am – 4:30pm
AM & PM Shifts Available

Volunteer your time and receive a t-shirt, lunch and a chance to win great raffle prizes such as 3-day Bluesapalooza passes, 32" LED TV, Pool passes, restaurant/retail certificates and more...

MAMMOTH SPORTS
MAMMOTH SPORTS
NOAH WAY TO SAN JOSE
Flood forces 395 closure
By Bodine
Rains from a spring storm brought down a wall of mud and debris Monday night at the California/Nevada border, forcing the closure of Highway 395 in both directions.
The road reopened at 1 p.m. Tuesday, but according to Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) officials, the wet weather pattern is expected to continue through the weekend and may cause the road to close again.
A flash flood warning for the Topaz area was issued by the National Weather Service in Reno at 12 p.m. Wednesday.
A Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued at 2 p.m. on Thursday for the Topaz area calling for quarter-sized hail and winds causing roof damage.
According to Caltrans District 9, three mudslides were reported near Topaz Lodge and Casino and the state line.
The first, a wall of mud approximately 20 feet tall according to Christine Knadler at Bishop Caltrans District 9, hit the road at about 6:30 p.m. Monday night. She said there was more than five feet of mud standing on the roadway in some spots.
NDOT’s Meg Ragonese said additional debris is expected to come down the hills west of Topaz Lodge and Casino. That hillside was torched in the Sinkard Fire that burned 8,900 acres in August/September 2017.
Vegetation helps keep a hillside stable, Knadler said. When that vegetation is lost in a fire, the soil is loose and susceptible to sliding.
There were no reports of property damage or injuries.
The Topaz Lodge and Casino did not receive any damage according to Night Manager Daniel Hayes. The lodge was never closed, he said, but he did acknowledge some light debris in the parking lot is being cleared.
Bishop Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tawni Thomson said the north-south detour through Smith Valley is a viable alternative and the road closure should not have a ‘catastrophic impact’ on visitation this weekend.
In other road closure news, Reds Meadow Road that accesses Devil’s Postpile, Rainbow Falls and Reds Meadow Pack Station is closed until further notice. According to a press release from the Inyo National Forest, the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo National Forest have cleared the road beyond Minaret Vista, but an inspection of the road to Reds Meadow revealed severe damage to the pavement.
The road is being excavated and repairs have begun, but there is no time set for the road to reopen.
On a positive traveling note, Tioga Pass opened for the season on May 21.
IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT ...

Mammoth Council Candidates survive down-and-dirty final round at candidate forum

By Benham

It was a dark, wet Monday night for the final campaign event of the 2018 Mammoth Town Council election. Hopefully not symbolic of the Council’s political future.

On the second floor of the Mammoth Brewing Company, those gathered drank beer. The candidates drank water.

Lesley-Anne Hoxie and John Wentworth did not attend.

Camille Miller and Jack Lunch moderated.

Lunch asked his questions fast and wanted the answers short.

“Where should the airport be in one word?”

“Bishop,” said Burrows, Stapp and Salcido.

Truax tried to use more than one word to equivocate but Lunch cut him off.

Salcido handled a question about her loss in the 2010 Southern Mono Healthcare District hospital board election. “When the hospital board [has an election],” she said, “it’s less on issues than it is around people that know people.”

Basically, she said she lost because she’s not as popular as Dr. Steve Swisher or Jack Copeland.

But is running for Council any less of a popularity contest?

Miller asked questions that allowed the candidates to elaborate.

Truax expressed disappointment in the format - he was referring to Lunch’s style, not Camilles’ - and said, “I don’t believe in caustic questions.” This earned some claps.

When the clapping stopped, he gave a vague answer that included the phrases, “better dialogue”, “open session”, and “more proactive”.

The original question was about bringing economic growth to Mammoth.

In her answer to the same question, Burrows found the word ‘opportunity’ and ran with it: “…a unique opportunity with Alterra… we have an opportunity to provide a great partnership while protecting the interests of our town … opportunities we never had before … take the opportunities Alterra might provide us.”

Lunch asked Burrows with whom she aligns with more philosophically: Councilmember Hoff or Councilmember Sauser? She chose Sauser, citing that he does his homework and is prepared.

How would she know?

Hoff remained the focus of the questioning when Lunch asked whom the candidates would choose as Mayor if elected.

Currently, Council ‘rotates’ its members in as Mayor, and by that system, Hoff’s turn is next for 2018-2019. That said, the rotational system is not binding. Individual Councils can choose whomever they want as their Mayor.

Salcido and Stapp said they would honor the current system for next year and vote for Hoff. Truax and Burrows were noncommittal.

After the candidates had answered, Hoff hollered, “not cool” from her table. Following the event, she said she was glad to know what her future co-workers thought of her. She did confront Truax and Burrows afterwards.

Stapp said the current Town Council should be blamed for the failure of the Multi-Use Facility to move forward. He put it simply. “The MUF see FORUM, page 8
started out with ‘let’s make this,’ and then figure out how to pay for it. They did it backwards.’

Miller put the candidates through a ‘thought exercise.’ “Let’s pretend an eccentric billionaire has just proposed digging a tunnel from Fresno to Mammoth,” she suggested.

Lunch tried to prompt the candidates by yelling out, “Be philosophi-

cal.”

The candidates answered in literal terms.

In a moment of unanimous agreement, a signature of this campaign, all candidates pledged to vote yes on Measure B (for the School Bond).

Truax faced a question about Sierra Nevada Resort not complying with TBID taxes and cutting a deal with the Town Manager instead of paying what town code mandated. “We paid mostly what the town required, there was a partial sav-
ings as to the resort fee, as to what it went for because we were paying somebody else using the golf course at that point in time and it went towards that.”

The question was whether or not a private negotiation with the Town Manager was appropriate, and that did not get answered directly.

In another thought exercise, candidates decided who they would like to be stranded with on a desert island if they could only choose amongst themselves.

Salcido chose Burrows. Burrows reciprocated. They cited each other’s nursing and health backgrounds.

Truax asked, “Can anybody cook?” Stapp chose Councilmember Sau-
sen, because he can fish.

Workforce housing—this cam-
paign’s defining issue—then reared its head. Apparently, the workforce housing challenge has stumped the Town since 1984. It seems that it’ll get kicked down the road as long as those who serve and participate don’t rely on it or live in it.

When asked whether they would support increasing the transient oc-
cupancy tax on short term rentals to subsidize landlords who make less by renting long term, the candidates balked at making a choice.

Stapp encouraged policy discus-
sion on inclusionary housing. Truax said he’d look into it. Then, echoing Governor William J. Lep-
etomane (from the film Blazing Saddles), he called for immediate action. “We need to pass an ordi-
nance immediately restricting what can be Airbnb, and what can be [long term] rentals.” No harumphs were heard. When Lunch pressed with “But would you do it?” he didn’t answer.

Burrows wouldn’t subsidize long-
term rentals because “the town doesn’t have the money.” She fell back on her step-wise small project approach in which the town incen-
tivizes developers.

Salcido would like to encourage long-term rentals, but not necessar-
ily through higher TOT.

By the end, beer levels were low and spirits were high. The candi-
dates had shown well under the bright lights of interrogation. Election Day is Tuesday, June 5.

A special thanks goes out to The Chosen Hearts Board & Crew as well as Mammoth Rooney Company for hosting the Celebration of Thanks with FREE food, drinks & prizes for all who participated in cleaning up our community.

Who’s RESPONSIBLE for government oversight?

YOU ARE!
- WE WANT YOU -

Join us! The Grand Jury is your watch dog team to oversee our governmental departments, people, processes and operations to ensure they are appropriate and in the best interest of the community, and the people they serve. Our job is powerful - uncovering information and communicating it to the public - with the purpose of holding government accountable.

Just released interim report: http://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/
Term of service is July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019.

If you live in Mono County do your civic duty it impacts our future!
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PHO!
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House battered chicken in zesty citrus sauce with steamed jasmine rice. You know you love it!

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NEW ITEM

THAI’d UP!

Serving Beer, Wine & Sake!
REMEMBERING FEAR, GREED, AND PRICE DISCOVERY

By Paul Oster

Q: The Mammoth real estate market sure seems to be active with rising prices, low inventory and the best properties seem to be selling fast. So at this point, what should buyers be careful of (the old “buyer beware”)?

A: All of the real estate fundamentals still apply, but the hotter a market becomes the more that type of thinking seems to get tossed out the window. At least by some, and sometimes many. There are changing dynamics in this market including new Ski Area ownership and what might be a change in their “old” way of thinking. And the nightly rental business is ever changing too, and that is a big driver of current real estate values, primarily in the condominium market. That is where the greatest trepidation is.

Location is still the paramount criteria but the value of different locations is changing in Mammoth’s four square miles of privately owned land. Many buyers become perplexed by the variety of locations in Mammoth Lakes. They think they “know Mammoth” but they have missed many of the intricacies and the “features and benefits” that each afford. And the nightly rental consumer is changing their way of thinking (shuttles and walking) to the fun zones that offer shopping, food and beverage, cultural opportunities, etc. As Mammoth evolves to be less winter-centric, this trend shall continue.

But there is also demand for properties that offer the peace and quiet that some Mammoth locations can afford. Properties on the periphery of town and many of the Snowcreek locations offer that. Many buyers (and nightly renters) are looking for a nice combination of the two; convenience and some serenity. It isn’t necessarily easy to come by. Because so few new properties have been constructed in the past 10 years (especially condominiums), buyers have been forced to consider older properties. Many of these have quality locations for overall convenience, but most are in need of major remodeling or updating. Contractors and materials are in demand making the remodel process challenging for many new owners. Patience is a virtue, but frustration can easily follow.

Some new owners are bringing in “buyer beware.” The夜间 rental business also have substantial issues. Many buyers who want to get into the nightly rental business also have defined ideas as to how to remodel and reconfigure to attract the maximum rental demand and revenue. Balancing all of that can make for tricky business decisions. Nobody is immune from mistakes. Mammoth’s new Quality of Life ordinance has impacted the rentability of some units. Overall, this was necessary legislation due to the surge of “wild west” renting driven by the likes of VRBO and Airbnb. Add to that the Town’s new digital consultant who monitors all of the online marketing (and compliance) of nightly rental properties. This industry, and the properties within it, are under the highest degree of local scrutiny and regulation ever. Properties with non-conforming issues can be compromised. Buyers need to understand these issues.

The nightly rental industry continues to be in a state of “competition and disruption.” Airbnb has been the biggest disruptor and almost every rental condo in Mammoth is listed there. But the industry pundits report that the renting consumers are waking up to the fact that they are now paying extra for booking through Airbnb (and VRBO). Conjecture is that the consumer will increasingly pursue booking directly with the owner, especially in “repeat business” markets like Mammoth. So owners looking for maximum return will need their own websites and Facebook pages. The industry will evolve even more in the future. If it isn’t disruption, it will be competition.

Mammoth has seen solid tourism the past two years. That has enhanced the return on investment (ROI) for many of these nightly rental condos. The Town’s intense (and expensive) marketing efforts have contributed to that. But it is apparent that the southern California economy has plenty of discretionary spending available and Mammoth has certainly benefited. This can cycle over the years (it always has) so relying on peak revenue numbers warrants caution. Buyer beware. 

www.wfainet.com
FOR SALE: A true Mammoth gem! This fairy tale cabin in the woods was originally constructed in 1930. This residence is located on a private road, and sits on over half an acre lot that is zoned rural residential. Eastern Sierra craftsman and metal worker, Henry Means, lovingly designed and crafted all the metal railings, copper cabinetry, and metal accents on the drawers, doorways, and windows. Henry Means also designed and crafted most of the custom woodwork in the home, and, later, Huntington Beach, California woodworker, Michael McCormick, designed and crafted the beautiful closet doors in both the master and second bedrooms. The house is comprised of three bedrooms, and an ample size loft with a queen-size futon, two bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, huge cellar/laundry/storage/utility room. The bonus is a bright sunroom set up for casual or formal dining, and also includes a cozy sitting area for reading, relaxing, afternoon snoozing, or even just looking out the windows to admire nature’s surroundings. The house has an oversized 1-1/2 car garage. A French drain and seasonal creek run next to the house. Park 5 or more cars on two driveways made up of stone pavers. The list goes on and on! Please come by the OPEN HOUSE and see for yourself all that this charming home has to offer! Refreshments will be served! ASKING $1 MILLION.

For More Information Call (760) 937-7518
Greta Campbell, Realtor Associate, BRE # 01278077
15861 Caltech Circle · Westminster, CA 92683
gretainhb@gmail.com
Want more kids or grandkids? There’s a certain mojo rising on Wagon Road

As Claudia Reich tells it, her second home at 71 Wagon Road has nearly tripled the size of her family over the past nine years. “I don’t know what it is,” she says. “Maybe it’s the view [from the deck] that does it. You know, when it’s getting dark, and snowy, and the flakes are sparkling on the trees …”

Sheets: And it gets people randy?
Reich: Something like that.

Claudia and her husband Steve co-owned a condominium at Woodlands for 25 years before purchasing the Wagon Road property in the Trails. At the time of purchase, “the kids were starting to get married,” she said. They’ve since added two in-laws and seven grandchildren to the original core of four, so they’re selling the Wagon Road property to buy a bigger place at Gray Bear.

But it’s about more than just an extra bedroom. The Gray Bear home is on Sierra Star Golf Course, and according to Claudia, her husband is “kind of an addict” when it comes to golf. “He envisions he’s gonna get me to play a lot more golf because I’m right there [on the course],” she says simply.

Claudia is retired after 30 years in the marketing industry. Her husband still has his insurance agency.

Sheets: So he’s still working?
Claudia: (with a laugh): If you consider 18 holes working.

The Reichs’ visit Mammoth equally in both summer and winter seasons. One of the family’s favorite winter activities which Claudia imagines the neighbors find strange occurs when just the right amount of snow falls: enough to blanket the asphalt but not so much where you can’t drive through it. The family likes to tie a rope to the back of a vehicle and pull the kids around the cul-de-sac. One grandchild, she says, can do a full 360-degree spin.

A classic Mammoth memory: Claudia and Steve were caravaning up to Mammoth with friends when they stopped in Lone Pine. Steve thought Claudia had switched cars to ride with their friends and took off. When Claudia got out of the bathroom, no one was there. She called the California Highway Patrol for a ride. They caught up to the caravan in Bishop.

Why Tammy Hooper is their realtor: After Tammy showed the Gray Bear property to Claudia and her eldest daughter, Claudia’s daughter told her mother, “You’ve got to get Tammy to sell the Wagon Road.” When Claudia asked why, her daughter replied, “Because she’s cool …”

Learn more about the Reichs’ home for sale on the facing page.
MAMMOTH SUNNY SIDE HOME

71 WAGON ROAD • 4 BR / 3.5 BA / 2-CAR GAR / RV PARKING • The Trails, Lot 34 • $1,059,000
Unique street-to-street, extra large corner south facing lot. Craftsman style home drenched in sun, open floor plan, view windows, hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, extra outdoor living space and bonus game room. Must see to appreciate. Rare find!

BIGWOOD ST #1 • 1 BR / 1 BA / 1-CAR GAR
1629 Majestic Pines Drive • $265,000
Sunny corner unit, low HOA, near shuttle route, on public trail system.

420 PINECREST • 1 BR / 2.5 BA
Silver Vista Estates 1, Lot 45 • $599,900
Convenient location, quiet neighborhood, sunny views, Unfinished stand-up basement.

898 JUNIPER DRIVE • CROWLEY LAKE
$899,000
Residential estate with 9 cabins on 3.35 acres nestled among pines, aspens and two year-round streams.

that place in your mind
that won’t go away.
that place in your heart
that tells you to stay.
mammoth

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rentals are not the stable, triple-net leases pursued by savvy investor types. But they can provide excellent revenue and owner usage. That is the plum.

The recent higher condominium values will certainly impact the ROI, and probably not for the better. Potential buyers need to understand that values and nightly rental revenues aren’t likely to rise in lockstep. Also consider that “dynamic rental pricing” (pricing based on demand and supply) becomes the norm with new software and apps available to just about every owner and agency.

With fluctuations in weather (and global warming??), snow conditions, the economy, etc., and there can be negative and varying impacts to the gross and net revenues.

The balance of 2018 will be all about price discovery. Rising mortgage rates may have some impact. But what the buyers are willing to pay for new listings is yet to be seen. So far the spring has produced some new listings at “fair” prices and plenty of them have sold. But listing prices that are stretching well beyond the recent comparable sales may linger on the market. Many of the fervent postcard-sending local Realtors may be setting higher expectations for sellers. Those expectations may not be met until the pre-winter sales rush. Or not at all.

It is up to the pool of buyers where prices go. But these buyers should be forewarned not to “just buy anything” if the market heats up. That rarely ends well. Buyers need to be calculating with their purchases. Serious buyers need to do their homework and pay attention.

Most of Mammoth real estate is still selling well below the peak of 2006-07. For condos it is running in the 70-80% range. So most southern California buyers see value in the market. Without any major economic hiccups or other “black swan” events, the values may be heading back to those peak values. Many California markets have, so it isn’t so unreasonable to think Mammoth’s should.

No one knows what the impact of higher gas prices and potential inflation will do to both real estate and nightly rentals. The success of the Ikon Pass may overwhelm all of it. Cheap ski passes can influence the local market in many positive ways, including demand for real estate. And the lack of substantial new construction (especially in the condo hotel market) will keep the supply limited to existing properties.

Then there is the Alterra effect. The new zip line and proposed changes at Canyon Lodge shouldn’t affect anybody's inherent real estate values. But some substantial improvements at Eagle Base (after 20 years of talk) could certainly impact values in that periphery. Real capital investment programs or substantial “cultural” changes (not talk and promises) in the resort could make a difference community-wide. If it happens, it can't happen soon enough.

For now the Alterra effect is mostly hyperbole. We’ve been here before. And like before, these Ski Area acquisitions can happen in front of national economic disasters and that effect can be profound. Today’s buyers shouldn’t be buying just on Alterra hype. But the breadth of this new company brings stability and an exchange of knowledge, experience and customers that Mammoth has never experienced. That should be a good thing. How it will equate to higher and lasting real estate values is uncertain. But once again, some buyers are purchasing simply on the hopes and dreams of new Ski Area ownership and perceived added value and direction.

Finally, the luxury home market remains strong in Mammoth. If you weigh the cost and availability of good vacant lots, the cost of quality construction and the time it takes to design and build, many of Mammoth higher-end home offerings look like bargains. And this segment of the market is an odd mix of “peace and quiet” and convenience too — they rarely come together. These buyers also need to carefully consider their desires. But as we often say in Mammoth, “that is a quality problem.”

This weekend, remember those who served our nation. And next week, please vote intelligently.

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX of Mammoth. For other timely real estate information you can go to www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com. For legal, accounting, or construction advice, please seek out the appropriate professional.

OSTER continued from page 10

FEATURED LISTINGS:

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO LIST!

Escape the Mammoth crowds in quaint June Lake!
70 Highland Drive
Sun drenched custom 4 bedroom, 3 ½ bath 3750 sq.ft highlands retreat with a large family room and 2 car garage boasts top quality construction and breathtaking mountain views. Asking $1,289,000.

Log Home Living in Mammoth!
595 Canyon Blvd.
Custom 2811 sq.ft. handcrafted log home, 3 bedrooms, plus loft, media room, 3 car garage, fenced yard. Located near Canyon Lodge & The Village at Mammoth. Asking $1,348,000.

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COLE
continued from page 1

now, I won't have to miss school to play." She'll be able to walk to the rink and, unlike the rink here, this one has a roof.

But, Devon's not one to bad mouth the Mammoth's facility. "It's pretty. It has a nice view." She added, "a lot of kids have never played outside before, so, I guess, we take that for granted."

She has the perspective of someone twice her age.

Being the pride of a small hockey program might lull a player into complacency. Not Devon. She explains her game as if she has a blueprint of it rolled out in front of her.

"I definitely need to work on coming out more, challenging the puck, taking away the angles. When I start to retreat into the net, I just give up so much space, because I'm small."

Frank Frievalt—who, among others, coached Devon—said she has "good sense of location between the pipes", "a good butterfly position", and a general knack for the position.

Where others see strengths, Devon finds opportunity for improvement.

Frank Frievalt—who, among others, coached Devon—said she has "good sense of location between the pipes", "a good butterfly position", and a general knack for the position.

Where others see strengths, Devon finds opportunity for improvement.

As for Frievalt, she calls him Captain Frank. He praises her "great work ethic."

Coach Bernard has been amazed by her "tenacity, grit and self-drive."

When asked what it's like to have a puck flying at her face, she brushed it aside, "I don't find it scary."

"One time I took a puck to the knee and I couldn't walk for about three weeks. Nothing was broken but it hurt pretty bad. I kept playing the rest of practice."

She was the only girl on her Tahoe Grizzlies travel team. Surely a situation that might induce heckling. She said, "I can't hear the fans." Instead she's completely focused on the game. There's an asset that doesn't need improving.

Hermosa Beach is LA Kings territory. Jonathan Quick, the Kings all-star goalie, has been her inspiration. "He was my favorite player before I even started playing hockey." A conflict of interest arose when she joined the Anaheim Lady Ducks youth travel team. She was forced set aside her love of Quick and the Kings, swallow her dislike of everything Anaheim and wear their orange and black sweater. Pride in her teammates and program carried her through.

She's never been in a goalie on goalie fight. Although she has seen plenty of scuffles and pushing matches. That's hockey. Once, she was called for tripping. A teammate served the penalty in her stead.

It's been about five years since she started playing, but she's come a long way since that first thirteen goal game.

"In a tournament in January [this winter], my team went to semi-inals and that game went to a shootout and I was in net. My goalie partner and I had split the game. We both had shootouts. So it was 0-0. I was in net for the shootout and we won."

The next game also went into a shootout with Devon in net and again the team won. "That was pretty much the most exciting feeling ever."

Besides playing, she has helped coach the younger goalies in the Mammoth Youth Hockey program and is grateful to her coaches and teammates. Devon and MYH might be small, but are not to be overlooked. MYH and the town are fortunate to be sending a talented and tenacious representative to the other side of the country. Devon sees it the other way around. She loves Mammoth Youth Hockey for showing her and cultivating her passion.

Eventually, she'll be back to see friends and family, skate on Gem Lake and maybe even lace them up in a new hockey facility someday.
Mammoth Neighborhoods Group which brought you “Yes on Z” endorses:

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LYNDA SALCIDO
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PARA TOWN COUNCIL

STACEY ADLER
FOR Superintendant of Schools
MONO COUNTY

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Endorsements

County Supervisor Bob Crabbe
Former County Supervisor Tim Myers

Re-Elect Supervisor Stacy Corless

THE SHEET | Saturday, May 26, 2018

MORE LETTERS ...

Some TBID for facilities

Dear Editor:

It's a bit ad hoc but I'd like people to be thinking about that MLT budget, the renewal of TBID and most importantly how we use those funds. In light of the recent surprising withdrawal of Alaska Airlines and the upcoming renewal of TBID, I request that Town Council make a clear directive on the use of TBID funds.

According to the 2017-2018 MLT budget, $5.2 million will be collected in TBID. Per the original documentation of the TBID assessment, it was estimated that of the budget, 50% of these funds are allocated for Sales, Marketing and Public Relations. In that initial TBID assessment that was sold to employers, Proposed Sales and Marketing Activities included “Development of tourism-related infrastructure”.

I agree that the TBID should remain. It’s an assessment that can be paid by passing this through largely to our consumers/“tourists.” However, since the news was disclosed this week that our local airport is regressing by losing flights, I urge Town Council to direct MLT to stop or significantly reduce its 10 years of subsidizing the airport. For lack of a better phrase, “let’s stop beating a dead horse.”

A few years back, I approached the MLT director for TBID fund support for a roof over the current ice rink. I was met with total resistance. For this reason I urge this Town Council to take the lead with these funds.

I’ve heard that the passionate current interests of those vying for Town Council to be childcare and housing. I love that the passion lies there. But just like how we'd like tourists to extend their stays and keep coming back to Mammoth, we need to put other amenities in place to keep these families here as well. Currently a new family has no place indoors to take their young children to play. And as they grow, their children are limited in their opportunities. Currently, they can train to be elite skiers or bowlers.

Our peer resorts have only experienced growth and progression with their airports and their amenities. We need a community center, a multi-use facility, a covered ice rink, a pool, and a conference center. These will support and strengthen tourism for families and for locals. These amenities can and should be funded by the healthy TBID budget if it is renewed. At 50% of the estimated $5,200,000, a portion of that, let’s say $2 million can go a long way. It can pay for a $15 million MU/M Community Center in less than 8 years. Or how about a pool in 10 years?

I fully support the Town’s effort to have a decent ice rink. We are a “year round” resort—why can’t we skate in the summertime? Why not ask Vons for help if they can assist through their foundation? This exploration may have already been done, but I have never read anything about it. I am out of my element when it comes to funding commercial projects. I am sure someone in town knows quite a bit about this.

If Idaho can do it …

Dear Editor:

I was extremely disappointed in the disparity of the bids over the cost estimates for the Multi-Use Facility. I do not know of a major ski area that does not have a decent ice rink nearby. Way back when, I thought it should have been the centerpiece of the Village at Mammoth.

I have since come to the conclusion that it should be a year-round skating arena; not part-time. Athletes like to practice in high altitudes; why not figure skaters and hockey? Last summer my son visited McCall, Idaho, a town of 2,900 people. He was surprised to see a full service ice rink right in the middle of town! He took several photos that I forwarded to the Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Department. I believe the town was looking at some venues at the time. In September, a neighbor was taking a vacation trip to McCall, so I told him my story.

My primary question was, how did a town of 2,900 people ever afford this? I found out from his investigation that they set up a 501c3 nonprofit with ALBERTSON’S, their only grocery store in town. I have since come to the conclusion that incorporation may be able resolve this situation. I emailed this info in September, along with a couple of email addresses and the Director’s name, in order for the Town to get more information, if they so desired.

But as with the photos, I did not receive an acknowledgement that they were received.

Another thing that intrigued me, was that they incorporated storefronts as a part of their rink that are rented out for yearly income.

Recently I explored the VONS-FOUNDATION.ORG website which is part of ALBERTSONS COMPANIES FOUNDATION. Why not ask Vons for help if they can assist through their foundation? This exploration may have already been done, but I have never read anything about it.

Lynn Altieri-Need
Mammoth Lakes

Dale Gilbert
AnaehinMammoth
SHAFT
continued from page 1
one of the few Joshua Tree popula-
tions in the state that is expanding; a
fossil record, the sequence and order
of which would be destroyed by a
mine; a population of Pinyon pine
that the Paiute and Shoshone tribes
harvest for nuts and have done so for
centuries; the remains of charcoal
and masonry sites erected for the
Cerro Gordo mine; as well as mule
deer, mountain lion, and golden eagle
habitat.
Although there are a few dirt roads
into Conglomerate Mesa, it is likely,
said Schneider, that SSR would fly
in equipment on helicopters. Noise
pollution would disturb the golden
eagle, other bird species and with
other animals.
Angela Johnson the SSR Geologist
in charge of their Conglomerate Mesa
project confirmed that the permit to
would allow fly-in equipment and
staff.
She explained that the company
had gone through the entire envi-
ronmental review process which
involved third party biologists and an
archaeologist.
She added that during construc-
tion a biologist will be present at the
drill sites to advise SSR “if they come
across something that may be endan-
gered.”
Johnson said that SSR has a con-
tract with Keeler Community Service
District to procure water for the drills.
SSR will use one truckload a day
which is about 1,000-1,200 gallons.
Where it will go once it’s been shot
into the ground?
Johnson assured that through a
reverse circulation process the water,
mud, which contains drilling fluid
and the drill cuttings end up in a
lined sump ready for recirculation.
Friends of the Inyo isn't so sanguine
about that. They contend the chem-
ically-laced water could run-off into
Owens River and Lake.
It could also run east into Death
Valley National Park.
Maybe, both.
California Wilderness Coalition and
the Lone Pine Shoshone-Paiute Tribe
have joined Friends of the Inyo in op-
position.
There are two courses of action: ask
the BLM Field Office to do another
environmental review or appeal
directly to the Department of the
Interior and tie operations up in the
9th District Court of Appeals.
The BLM Field Office in Ridgecrest
had no comment.
A representative of Congressional
candidate Marge Doyle arrived at the
air strip and announced Doyle's op-
position to mining in Conglomerate
Mesa, calling it “a fantasy proposed
for short term gain.”
A Friends of the Inyo press release
noted, “This is the first roadless area
in California faced with development
threats under the Trump Administra-
tion.”
ALASKA

strategy to be able to re-attract them.”

The initial press releases issued by Alaska Airlines and Mammoth Lakes Tourism were striking in their differences.

“Although later The Sheet learned that what it had received was not an official press release but an intranet (internal) corporate communication. It sounds sexier than it is. No mention of a grassy knoll.

The most notable difference was in that Mammoth Lakes Tourism tried to blame the service cut on a nationwide pilot shortage.

Alaska spokesperson Bobbie Egan reacted by saying, “I have no idea where they got that.”

The quote about the pilot shortage in MLT’s release came from air service consultant Kent Myers.

The most notable difference was in the MLT press release which blamed the service cut on Alaska’s decision to retire the Q400 aircraft.

Former Mammoth Councilmember and MLT Board Members Michael Raimondo and Matthew Lehman did not believe the initial MLT press release was an accident.

Raimondo scoffed at the pilot shortage rationale is because Alaska is opening new routes elsewhere (which they wouldn’t be doing if they didn’t have the personnel to fly the planes).

Sun Valley, Idaho was the only other ski resort to lose a route (from LAX).

The reason why Raimondo and Lehman scoffed at the pilot shortage rationale is because Alaska is opening new routes elsewhere (which they wouldn’t be doing if they didn’t have the personnel to fly the planes).

From Gary Beck, Horizon Airlines (Alaska subsidiary) president and CEO.

“Closing the Mammoth station was not an easy decision but is necessary as we face increased operational challenges. Only the Q400 is equipped with the right navigation resources to land there, and we have fewer available as we retire aircraft and optimize our regional flying to emphasize using E175s in southern California. Sun Valley faces similar challenges, but will still be served through Seattle.”

Right-size to no-size

Mammoth Yosemite Airport’s commercial air service peaked in 2013 with nearly 31,000 enplanements. Over the past five years, enplanements have fallen by about a third as flights and seats have been reduced.

On the one hand, this led to more efficiency and a higher percentage of seats getting filled.

This also led to lower airline subsidy payments and even won MLT Executive Director John Urdi a bonus (as his contract has a provision which rewards him for increasing the percentage of seats filled).

On the other hand, as Mr. Raimondo points out in his letter on page 4, airlines are interested in more than subsidy payments. They want more than survival. They want growth.

Alaska spokesperson Egan also let slip that the decision to retire the Q400 plane has been well-known for a few years now. So this decision to exit the Mammoth market should come as no surprise, and Mammoth should have been long-braced for this possibility.

And while it was not mentioned by Alaska or MLT Mammoth’s decision to begin subsidizing charter air service (Jet Suite X) out of the same L.A. market while Alaska enplanement numbers lagged could not have been popular.

In fairness, Alaska’s financial performance over the past year or so may have pushed up the death blow to earlier than it may have otherwise.

According to a May 21 article in Airline Weekly entitled “The Eskimo Catches a Cold,” Alaska’s best-in-the-industry operating margin from the 2nd quarter of 2017 fuzzled into a 3% (lowest of any major U.S. airline) margin by the 1st quarter of 2018. The article mentions a confluence of factors which weighed on margins, including increased labor costs, the high cost of integrating its newest acquisition (Virgin Airlines) and the opening of 44 new routes in 2017.

What happens now

The MLT press release does state that “Mammoth Lakes Tourism is in discussions with other major airlines to not only replace the discontinued Alaska Airlines service from Los Angeles (LAX) and San Diego (SAN) for winter 2018-19, but to possibly expand into new markets as well.

New winter 2018-19 service announcements will be made as soon as they are finalized.”

Raimondo believes that to be more fantasy than anything.

Why would another major airline take a chance on a market that a competitor gave up on for underperforming? he asks rhetorically.
COUNTY ADDRESSES TRANSIENT RENTALS
By Trefry

At the May 15 meeting of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, the Board approved Mono County Code Chapter 5.65 pertaining to the controversial topic of transient (nightly) rentals. The new chapter establishes a permitting process for such rentals in Mono County and lifts the moratorium on non-owner-occupied rentals in June Lake – but not the rest of the county. Mono County has long decided against an outright ban on transient rentals of single-family homes, because it deems promotion of tourism and allowing locals to make money as important as preserving communities.

According to Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich, the new regulations are intended to “create harmony between all these various competing interests.”

Mono County’s transient-rental regulations are based on three types of rentals: types I, II, and III. According to Wendy Sugimura, senior analyst at the Community Development Department, Type I rentals are owner-occupied (meaning that the owner or property manager lives off the premises and secure the required permits). Type II rentals are non-owner-occupied rentals in June Lake – but not the rest of the county. Mono County homes on VRBO or Airbnb unless you plan to live on the premises and secure the required permits.

Chapter 5.65, which goes into effect on June 14, establishes a permitting process for all transient rentals of single-family residential homes – setting compliance standards for Types I and II and putting in place a structure to respond to the expiration of the moratorium on Type II, which is expected to happen by February, 2019.

These include basic safety measures like a requirement for smoke alarms, landline telephone service, and carbon monoxide detectors, as well as more visible signage and compliance with the county’s Dark Sky regulations.

The new permitting process will require new rental applications to be discussed at a public hearing.

The Short Term Rental Activity Permit must be renewed annually, on August 31st. And the text of the code states that if there are sufficient objections during the public comment hearing for each new application, it should be denied.

Chapter 5.65 also addresses some concerns in June Lake; it allows for no more than eight Type I transient rentals in the upper Clark Tract, which is 3% of the total properties. In the Williams and Petersen Tracts, all transient rentals of any type are banned. Because of the establishment of Type III rentals, June Lake is the only place in the county where it’s currently legal to rent a non-owner-occupied property.

To prevent people from renting out multiple residential homes as a business, no one person or company can have a stake in more than one such rental.

According to Milovich, non-owner-occupied rentals will not permanently remain exclusive to June Lake. Similar to how Type III rentals were established in June Lake to incorporate community concerns, more public outreach on a per-community basis will be necessary, either to lift the moratorium or establish Type III rentals as an option.

“The County doesn’t have the resources to do an intensive community process like we did for June Lake, so it will probably be a simpler engagement process through the existing Regional Planning Advisory Committees (RPACs),” said Sugimura in an email to the Sheet.

That said, a recent community meeting held in Mono City showed there is at least one community in the county which is almost completely opposed to short-term rentals of any kind.

The meeting was hosted at the home of local activist Margy Verba, and attended by at least 15 concerned residents, as well as Supervisor Bob Gardner and Community Development Department Analyst Wendy Sugimura.

Nearly everyone in the room spoke out against transient rentals, despite the fact that owner-occupied (Type I) rentals are currently and have long been legal in Mono City, along with most of the rest of the county. There is currently not a single nightly rental advertised in Mono City; nor have there been any applications to the county for permits to operate one.

Barbshe Miller, who lives in Lundy Canyon next to a non-owner-occupied (Type II) short-term rental that was authorized through the ‘overlay district’ process formerly required to license such rentals, spoke about his experience of having an Airbnb for a neighbor. He said that even though the owner followed proper procedures and got public input before establishing his rental business, the rental does still negatively affect see RENTALS, page 28
A NICHOL FOR YOUR PERSONNEL FILE?

By James

It’s been 12 years since Inyo County voters have had a chance to vote for a new Sheriff. The current Sheriff, Bill Lutze, is retiring after 45 years of service with the department. Lutze is supporting his Undersheriff since December 2014, Jeff Hollowell, to replace him. Hollowell has 30 years of service, and has gained experience in almost every aspect of the department’s operations and budget as a supervisor. Running against Hollowell is deputy Joshua Nicholson, who has worked for the department for seven years.

While Inyo County elections are generally mild affairs, if not downright boring, this Sheriff’s election is proving an exception. There are hard feelings developing between the camps.

Nicholson’s penchant for making comments critical of almost everything about the department is likely to make it hard to mend fences within the department no matter who wins the race.

It was his performance at the first forum in response to a question about ever being disciplined and the way that Nicholson responded that set off the department’s investigation to determine why Nicholson was reprimanded.

At that forum, Nicholson acknowledged that he’d been disciplined but then quickly deflected his response to talk about his military service.

Hanging over Nicholson’s head is the lack of candor over his temporary promotion to corporal in August of 2014 and his demotion back to patrol officer eleven months later towards the end of his probationary period. He says that he was never told why, which is likely true. By law, the county does not have to give a reason to terminate or take away a promotion while an employee is under probation.

However, a few sources familiar with the action taken told The Sheet that there is no way he could not have known as he would have been in contact with his supervisors during the entire process.

Then there is a troublesome incident which occurred just last year in the Buttermilks involving three deputies. A frightened woman camping with her boyfriend filed a complaint of harassment and intimidation against three deputies, one of whom was Nicholson. The Sheet was told that, by law, all law enforcement agencies must respond to any complaints filed against an officer and they must conduct a prompt, thorough investigation of all complaints. They then must report the results in writing back to the person who made the complaint.

The woman was sent a letter notifying her that her complaint was upheld as being “substantiated by the investigation” and that the department had “disciplined the officers involved.”

One of those officers was Nicholson.

While the woman making the complaint was not told what disciplinary actions were taken because of confidentiality rules on officer discipline, The Sheet would later learn that it involved suspensions without pay, which is euphemistically called “beach time” in the department.

The Sheet is still investigating this incident to provide greater details. Why has this come up now? The Sheet only recently became aware of possible issues related to Nicholson’s record with the department and it was at the candidates’ forum in Independence on May 1 that we first took notice that there was “discipline” issues with a candidate.

We reached out to Nicholson and he declined to discuss his personnel file, which fueled even more interest. Hollowell on the other hand, agreed immediately to let us look at his personnel file, which included his military record, a suggestion made by Nicholson’s record with the department and the lack of candor over his temporary promotion to corporal in 2014.

Hollowell’s records showed 30 years of service, and has gained experience in almost every aspect of the department’s operations and budget as a supervisor. Running against Hollowell is deputy Joshua Nicholson, who has worked for the department for seven years.

Hollowell strongly disagrees with Nicholson’s accusations in the press, at the forums and online at his website.

What’s interesting about this election is that the candidates largely agree on almost all the issues: sanctuary cities, providing better coverage in southern Inyo County, the importance of school safety, and 12-hour work shifts for deputies.

Other areas of agreement are to improve retention of officers, although what matters is not whether the numbers and reasons for the departures are examined more closely.

The candidates agree that changes in state law reducing drug possession to misdemeanors make it harder to enforce drug offenses. They both solidly support Carry Weapons permits as long applicants meet the requirements. Both men feel that the opioid crisis and mental health issues are straining the department’s operations, personnel, and budget.

But in the end, what matters is not just what the candidates agree or disagree on. What matters is how the next Sheriff will provide the necessary leadership and example to his officers and staff of appropriate and acceptable behavior.
**ADLER MAKES HER CASE**

**Mono County Superintendent highlights her accomplishments over the past eight years**

By LUNCH

D

r. Stacey Adler has served as Mono County Superintendent of Schools for the past eight years. 2018 is the first time she has faced an electoral challenge.

Dr. Adler moved to the area in 2002, taking a job as Principal of the Mammoth Elementary School. She served as Principal for four years until jumping over to the Mono County Office of Education (MCOE), where she served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction under Catherine Hiatt.

During this period, she completed her doctorate, and says she defended her thesis the same week she was told that Hiatt would not seek reelection. Her Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Huh, is running against her this year, and a recent employee survey indicated there are some rumbles of discontent within the organization. So what’s the takeaway for Adler? In terms of leadership, she says, “You can’t give everybody what they want all the time ... but my door’s always open. If people aren’t happy, let’s discuss it. I’ll give you my rationale [as to why I made the decisions I did].”

What she hasn’t done is let the recent controversy distract her from the district’s mission statement, which talks about developing and facilitating exemplary programs for students and communities.

A brief description: MCOE manages a charter school based in San Diego County. Some of the folks in the MCOE office perform extra administrative work for the charter and are compensated via stipends.

There was lax oversight by the MCOE Board of Directors in how those stipends were administered, and the Board was unaware that Dr. Adler had also been paying herself a stipend for work performed.

Her Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Huh, is running against her this year, and a recent employee survey indicated there are some rumbles of discontent within the organization. So what’s the takeaway for Adler? In terms of leadership, she says, “You can’t give everybody what they want all the time ... but my door’s always open. If people aren’t happy, let’s discuss it. I’ll give you my rationale [as to why I made the decisions I did].”

What she hasn’t done is let the recent controversy distract her from the district’s mission statement, which talks about developing and facilitating exemplary programs for students and communities.

A few of her accomplishments over the past eight years:

*North Star Counseling Center. Adler used her pull at the state level - she now serves as President of CCTESA (California County Superintendents Educational Services Assn.) - to land a $250,000 mental health grant. After the grant expired, she teamed with Mono County Behavioral Health to keep the Center alive. The Center offers low- to no-cost counseling services. This past year, North Star served 98 local students and 88 local families.*

*Footsteps2Brilliance. Again, this is an online educational program (akin to the abcmouse learning program touted on kids’ television, but Adler says Footsteps is better-aligned to bilingual learning which Adler learned about through the County Superintendents Assn. “I thought it was a good idea, because we don’t have a lot of preschool opportunities, and sometimes not a lot of literacy opportunities within the home.”*

Going to the mountains is going home.  

- John Muir

Dave Easterby, Agent

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Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546


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**DONALD STRIPLIN, MD**

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2ND FLOOR SUITE B  
SIERRA CENTER MALL  
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546  
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Notice of Ordinance

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Board of Supervisors, at its regular meeting held on May 15th, 2018, in the conference room at the Mono County Administration Building, Mono County, California, adopted Ordinance No. 2018-0092, amending Section 3.5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Mono County Code. The Ordinance will become effective 30 days from the date of its adoption and final publication.

Pursuant to the County Charter and the County Code, a copy of the Ordinance will be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and will be available for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk, in the County Administrative Building, Mono County, California.

To be listed on the Board's List the Contractor should submit a copy of a California State Contractor's License and an Article of Incorporation or a Certificate of Incorporation, state name, principal place of business, and principal place of organization, along with the contract, and pay the required fee. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Mono County Administration Building, 912 West 4th Street, Bishop, California, on Thursday, May 31, 2018, at 9:00 A.M. to answer questions with regard to the project. A copy of the plans and specifications will be available after June 6th, 2018, at the Mono County Administration Building, Mono County, California. A list of the successful contractor(s) will be posted at the Mono County Administration Building, Mono County, California, and at the Mono County website, www.monicounty.ca.gov. A copy of the contract will be available at the Mono County Administration Building, Mono County, California.

In the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California, on Friday, May 25th, 2018, the Town Council will consider the Ordinance. The Ordinance amends the Local Coastal Program to provide for a minor coastal development, consistent with the General Plan and the Coastal Program policies and amendments, and is supported by a Coastal Environmental Report (CER).

To order the plans and specifications by telephone call 760-934-8044. Mail and specifications are also available at the Mono County Administration Building, Mono County, California.

Notice of Ordinance

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BIDING

The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, in accordance with Section 15-12 of the Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code, is hereby giving notice that the Town of Mammoth Lakes intends to award a CONTRACT for the PROJECT described below.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, time and place of opening of sealed bids for this project, will be held at the Town of Mammoth Lakes, in the conference room at the Town Offices on Friday, May 25th, 2018, at 10:00 A.M. The Town of Mammoth Lakes reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or to reject any part of any bid on the grounds of non-compliance with the requirements of the Notice Inviting Bids

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF BID INVITING BIDS

TS #2018-0100

The Town of Mammoth Lakes, or by a bid bond in the sum of not less than 10% of the total amount of the bid, as a condition precedent to bid on a contract for which the bid has been awarded to the successful bidder, copies of which are on the record, and available for sale to any interested party, will be filed in the office of the Town Clerk at Town Hall, 341 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, California, or by a certified cashier's check payable to the order of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California.

Notice of Public Hearing

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING SEWER & WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (MLWBD) AND LEAFY OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL OF THE PLAN WITHIN THE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 18, 2018, the Town of Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers, 475 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 2, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, has been set as the time and place of a meeting of the Board of Supervisors to consider adoption of an Amendment to Resolution #2017-002 to amend the boundaries and assessment districts contained within the plan, the term “business districts”, includes all businesses, retail businesses, restaurants, retail businesses, and retail stores.

Purpose: The MLWBD is designed to provide specific benefits to the applicants to encourage commercial activity at assessed businesses. Sales, marketing, media relations, and management services will be marketed to the public of Mammoth Lakes, and new traffic and air service will support marketing programs will increase tourism activity, tourist, meeting and other destination events, thereby increasing tourism and commerce at assessed businesses.

Budget: The total MLWBD annual budget for the fiscal year of June 1, 2018, to May 31, 2019, is approximately $30,000.00. This budget is expected to fluctuate from year to year, but is expected not to change significantly over the MLWBD's term.

Assessment: Based on the boundary, the assessment rate will be tiered as indicated in the table below. All assessments are a percentage of the actual assessed value of the property and assessed value of businesses, retail businesses, restaurants, retail businesses, and retail stores. Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Type</th>
<th>Annual Assessment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1</td>
<td>2% of rental revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>1% of annual gross revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3</td>
<td>0.5% of annual gross revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be listed on the Board’s List the Contractor should submit a copy of a California State Contractor’s License and an Article of Incorporation or a Certificate of Incorporation, state name, principal place of business, and principal place of organization, along with the contract, and pay the required fee. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Mono County Administration Building, 912 West 4th Street, Bishop, California, on Thursday, May 31, 2018, at 9:00 A.M. to answer questions with regard to the project. A copy of the plans and specifications will be available after June 6th, 2018, at the Mono County Administration Building, Mono County, California. A list of the successful contractor(s) will be posted at the Mono County Administration Building, Mono County, California, and at the Mono County website, www.monicounty.ca.gov. A copy of the contract will be available at the Mono County Administration Building, Mono County, California.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of Ordinance

TS #2018-0092

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF BID INVITING BIDS

TS #2018-0092

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

Notice of Public Hearing

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

Notice of Public Hearing cont.
Notice of Ordinance

ORDINANCE No. 18-17-10: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT REPEALING CHAPTER 7 OF THE DISTRICT CODE IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPEALING THE FIRE District of the Mammoth Community Water District as follows:

SECTION ONE. PURPOSE, FINDINGS AND AUTHORITY

This Ordinance amends the Mammoth Community Water District Code (“District Code”) Section 17-1, by repealing Chapter 7, which contains the purchasing regulations of the District. The Board finds that the purchasing regulations in Chapter 7 are outdated, difficult to administer, and unduly complicated to amend. Therefore, Chapter 7 is being repealed and the existing purchasing regulations replaced with a streamlined and user-friendly process.

SECTION FOUR. INUTILITY

If any provisions of this Ordinance or application thereof in the circumstances is held invalid, no other provision of this Ordinance shall be affected thereby.

SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE; PUBLICATION

This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its adoption and shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published and circulated in the District within 10 days of the Board’s adoption of this Ordinance.

Notice of Public Hearing

Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA) 18-001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, beginning at 6:00 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 Town Council will hear a request for the following:

Application Request: Zoning Code Amendment 18-001 — Amend various sections of Chapter 17-48 (Signs) of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Zoning Code to:

1. Eliminate the restriction of only one (1) Halo Lit sign per property and the 20 square-foot-size restriction of Halo Lit signs; and

2. Allow the size of signs with halo lighting to be up to the maximum size and number allowed for the various sign types where halo lighting is currently permitted (i.e., wall sign, hanging sign, monument sign, projecting sign, or theater sign).

PEDC Recommendation: The Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC) considered Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA) 18-001 at a noticed public hearing on May 9, 2018, and recommended to the Town Council approval of Zoning Code Amendment 18-001 as recommended by staff.

CEQA Determination: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15164, an Addendum to the Town of Mammoth Lakes Sign Code Update Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2011022603) has been prepared describing that no new or increased environmental impacts would result from the proposed project.

Location: Town-wide

Zoning: Non-Residential Zoning Districts

Proponent: Town of Mammoth Lakes

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Town Council either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, appear in writing with the Executive Secretary and has been circulated to the community. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65069(b), if a matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or to the matters responsive thereto. Pursuant to Public Notice. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than June 1, 2018, contact Ruth Traxler, Associate Planner, at (760) 965-3637. Fasalismes may be sent to (760) 934-7493, or email at: traxler@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Town Council | P.O. Box 1609 | Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Impending Power to Sell Tax-Defaulted Property

NOTICE OF IMPENDING POWER TO SELL TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTY (Rev. & Tax. Code, §53361, 3362)

Pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code sections 3681 and 3682, the following conditions will, by operation of law, subject real property to the tax collector’s power to sell:

• All property for which property taxes and assessments have been in default for five or more years

• Any property the tax collector has received a request to bring the property to the next scheduled tax sale from a person who has a nuisance abatement or a declarant of a tribe or a nonprofit organization that has the purpose and has the power to collect property taxes and assessments and has been in default for three or more years.

Note: The power to sell schedule for nonresidential commercial property is three or more years of tax default, unless the county adopts, by ordinance or resolution, the five-year tax default schedule.

The parcels listed herein meet one or more of the criteria listed above and, thus, will become subject to the tax collector’s power to sell on July 1, 2018, at 12:01 a.m., by operation of law. The tax collector’s power to sell will arise unless the property is either redeemed or made subject to an installment plan of redemption initiated as provided by law prior to close of business on the last business day in June. The right to an installment plan terminates on the last business day in June, and after that date the entire balance due must be paid in full to prevent sale of the property at a tax sale.

The right of redemption survives the property becoming subject to the power to sell, but it terminates at close of business on the last business day prior to the date of the tax sale by the tax collector. All information concerning redemption or the initiation of an installment plan of redemption will be furnished, upon request, by Gerald A. Frank, Mono County Assessor. Finance Director/Treasurer, Tax Collector, P.O. Box 139, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Inquiries by phone may be directed to (760) 932-5480, or by email at treasurer@mono.ca.gov.

The amount to redeem, including all penalties and fees, as of June 2018, is shown opposite the parcel number and next to the name of the assessor.

PARCEL NUMBERING SYSTEM EXPLANATION

The Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN), when used to describe property in this list, refers to the assessor’s map book on the map page, the block on the map, and the individual parcel on the map page or in the block. The assessor’s maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available in the assessor’s office.

PROPERTY TAX DEFAULTED ON JULY 1, 2012 FOR THE TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER CHARGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM NUMBER</th>
<th>ASSESSOR’S PARCEL NUMBER</th>
<th>PROPERTY ADDRESS</th>
<th>ASSESSEE NAME</th>
<th>AMOUNT TO REDEEM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>001-100-068-000</td>
<td>11 TOPAZ LN</td>
<td>MCKAY BROTHERS CATTLE CO.</td>
<td>$13,128.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>002-020-024-000</td>
<td>1328 Cunningham Lane</td>
<td>BRANDON REY FAMILY TRUST</td>
<td>BRANDON ARNOLD DEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>008-141-010-000</td>
<td>157 Main Street</td>
<td>BRANDON REY FAMILY TRUST</td>
<td>BRANDON ARNOLD D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>015-113-071-000</td>
<td>155 South Crawford Avenue</td>
<td>FOX HILL INVESTMENT CORPORATION</td>
<td>$30,766.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>006-240-001-000</td>
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<td>ECKERT GREG &amp; TERRI</td>
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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.
Outlaw Saloon: -Happy Hour Monday: All Night Happy Hour; 4-11, Tues-Fri 4-6 p.m. Tuesday: $2.50 Tacos 4-9 p.m.; 6-9 p.m. Wednesday: Wing Wednesday 50% off all wings. Thursday: Burger & Beer special 6-9 p.m. See ad. p. 9.
Roberto’s 4-6 p.m. every day.
Austria Hof 5-8 p.m. daily.
Whitebark 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 day Sunday. $5 dollar menu items, drink specials.
Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour. Mon. thru Fri 4-6 p.m.; Saturdays 4-5 p.m. Closed Sun. See ad. p. 5.
Happy Hour @ The Bistro at Saturday, 4:30-6:30 p.m. daily.
Mammoth Tavern Happy Hour Tuesday-Sunday 3:30-5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.
Smokyard weekend Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. in the bar only.
Sidewalk Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m.
Giovanni’s Happy Hour, daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.
Lakanuki Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m., $4.50 margaritas, Mai Tais. Happy Hour drink specials 10 p.m. -close.
Black Velvet Coffee’s Happy Hour, from 4-6 p.m. every day.
Morrison’s Happy Hour Daily 5-6 p.m. Monday-Thurs.
Wild Wing Wednesdays at Outlaw Saloon. 30 percent off all wings 6-9 p.m. See ad. p. 9.

Saturday, May 26th
Saint Billy Bosley @ East Side Bake Shop. Music 6 p.m., dinner 5-9 p.m. 1561 Crowley Lake Dr., Crowley Lake. Filmaker’s Bash presented by Non Plus Ultra. Celebration of MLFF visiting filmmakers. Open beer and wine bar. Performances by DJ Paul McCaffrey, HOTI MT, Vinyl Williams. Location: Rafters Restaurant & Bar, 202 Old Mammoth Rd. in Mammoth. Time: 10:00 pm-close. Tix: $25 online (mammothlakesfilmfestival.com), $30 at the door. A Celebration at the Summit, hosted by Mammoth Mountain. Ride gondola to the top for live music by The Sundowners, BBQ, lawn games and wine to the top for live music by The Sundowners, BBQ, lawn games and wine bar. Location: Sierra Event Center second floor. More info: www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.org.

Sunday, May 27th
Devils Box String Band @ East Side Bake Shop. Music and lunch 1-3 p.m. 1561 Crowley Lake Dr., Crowley Lake.
June 4th/ Summer kickoff party @ Rafters with the legendary Pato Banton. Starts 9:30 p.m. $10 cover.

TOWN STUFF

May 22-26th
Mule Days @ the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. More info: see sidebar on next page.

May 26-27th
It’s a Charmed Life Quilt Show, presented by the Calico Quilts Quilt Guild of Bishop. Collection of quilts, quilts for purchase, door prizes, quilts of valor display, two opportunity quilts, refreshments, an i-spy game and live piano music. Location: Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. 205 N. Fowler St. in Bishop. Adults $5, seniors 60+ $4, children 12 and under are free. Info: 760.873.6147. Hours: 10-5 Sat. and 10-4 Sun.
Used Book Sale at the Mammoth Book Chelaet on Old Mammoth Road across from The Stove. 10-5 daily.

May, 25-28th
Memorial Day Arts and Crafts Show. Arts and Crafts, food, music on Sunday. Fri-Sun. 9 am-9 pm. Mon. 9 am-2 pm Bishop City Park, 688 N. Main St. in Bishop.

Friday, May 25th
Mountain Bike Park Opening Day. Mountain biking on Mammoth Mountain kicks off at 9 a.m with opening of select lower-mountain trails. Shuttle service available.
Sierra Star Golf Course Opening Day. Golf season kicks off at California’s highest golf course. Call 760.924.4653 for tee times and course info. 2001 Sierra Star Pkwy. in Mammoth.

Saturday, May 26th
Opening day for the Mammoth Museum at the Hayden Cabin. Experience the history of Mammoth. Open daily, 10:00 am-6:00 pm. 5489 Sherwin Creek Road in Mammoth. For more info. call 760.934.6918.
BLM Wild Horse & Burro Adoption. During Mule Days at Tri-County Fair Grounds. Animal Preview from 12-3 pm Adoption/Auction starts at 3 pm. Information and paperwork at BLM table near Corrals. MLFF Producer’s Panel & Brunch. Hear industry professionals speak about getting a film made and to market. 10:30 am. Sierra Event Center 2nd floor. More info: www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.org.
Sierra Spirit Award Ceremony and Conversation with Melissa Leo. Ceremony follows screening of Frozen River. 8:00 pm. US Forest Service amphitheater. Tix and info at mammothlakesfilmfestival.org.

Sunday, May 27th
MLFF Closing Night Awards Party. Open beer and wine bar. Location: Sierra Event Center second floor. 452 Old Mammoth Rd. in Mammoth. Time: 9:00 pm- “wee hours”. Tix: $25 online (mammothlakesfilmfestival.com), $30 at the door.

Tuesday, May 29
**Mammoth Lakes Film Festival**

This year's five-day Mammoth Lakes Film Festival will run from May 23-May 27 in Mammoth Lakes. VIP Passes are available for $195 and include access to all film screenings, including opening night of the festival, advance screening selection, access to the filmmaker lounge from 9:11-11 am, and admission to 4 parties.

Movie Passes cost for $125 that includes access to 10 movie screenings and advance screening selections. This pass does not include admission to the opening night screening. Tickets for Opening Night Screenings are only. Individual screening tickets, as well as Individual Gala Events and Filmmaker Parties, are also available. For tickets and a complete film schedule, visit www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.com. See ad.

**Mule Days celebration**

Mule Days is in full swing. The weekend's activities include packing competitions, rodeos, barbecues, western entertainment, the world's largest non-motorized parade, and clinics. Tickets can be purchased by calling 760.872.4263 or online at www.muledays.org. Unless otherwise stated, events are held at The Charles Brown Auditorium at the Tri-County Fairground in Bishop. For full schedule of events and clinics as well as camping info, visit www.muledays.org. The schedule of special events is as follows:

- **Friday:** 7-pm-Performance by Bobby Kerr Mustang Act & Young Living Essential Oils Percheron Hitch
- **Saturday:** 11 am-Mule Days Parade. 8:30 pm-Dance with Monte Mills
- **Sunday:** 10 am-Cowboy Church with Frankie "Punkin't Smith" in the house in Bridgeport. Time: 9:00 am.

**Lands & Legacy celebration**

Celebrate the hope and resiliency that can be found in nature with Friends of the Sierra. Lands & Legacy Benefit Paddle Raise comes to life with mystifying magic tricks by Tammer, a delicious dinner, open bar, and an exciting Paddle Race where guests champion causes that will have a major impact on the future of our region. That same weekend, all dinner attendees are invited to join us for one of two guided land tours on very special arts lands. For more information, visit eslt.org or call (760) 873-4554.

**Arts and Crafts Show**

The four day Memorial Day Arts and Crafts Show displays quality handmade items by artists. Approximately 100 artists sell photography, jewelry, woodworking, watercolors, sculpture, clothing, and much more. Food vendors keep the crowd satisfied with a variety foods and shaved ice. Free musical entertainment is provided throughout the day on Sunday. The show is held annually in the Bishop City Park and runs in conjunction with the Mule Days celebration.

**10th Anniversary of Trail Days**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo National Forest are teaming up for the 10th Season of Trail Days on the Mammoth Lakes Trail System. Beginning June 2 with National Trails Day and finishing on September 15 with The Great Sierra River Cleanup, volunteers will have plenty of opportunities to help maintain the places we all love to play. Funded by Measure R, local recreation user groups and businesses will co-host and sponsor each of the events, providing free breakfast, free lunch, and raffle prizes. Trail Days 2018 events will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Saturdays of June 2, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 15.

Volunteers should prepare to get dirt: wear long pants, closed-toed shoes, and sunglasses are recommended. MTLPA will provide all tools. For more info, visit mltpa.org or email traildays@mltpa.org.

**Reds Meadow Road Closure**

The Inyo National Forest, with the assistance of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, has plowed and cleared the Reds Meadow Rd, beyond Minaret Vista. Engineering and the Acting District Ranger evaluated the road conditions.

In the valley, there are two sections of road that received considerable damage: south of Starkweather Lake and south of Sotcher Lake.

In both of these locations, the sub-grade material under the road as has washed away and the road has buckled. There are hollowed spots in the road due to the loss of material. It IS NOT SAFE TO TRAVEL THESE SECTIONS OF ROAD. The road will be closed to all traffic, including bicycle traffic while work is underway.

Due to the complexity of this work, the forest service cannot estimate an opening date for the Reds Meadow Road at this time.

**Murder Mystery Submissions**

The Sierra Classic Theatre is calling all writers to submit scripts for the theatre's fall 2018 Murder Mystery. Email a cover page, a brief synopsis, and up to 10 pages of the script to Allison at allisonmpc6@gmail.com. The deadline is June 15, 2018. For more information, go to sierraclassictheatre.org.
**Help Wanted**

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

- Bookkeeper M/SDE
- General Laborer M $11-$16
- Masonry Operator M $12-$15
- Journeyman Carpenter B DOE
- Maintenance 24 Hour, 5 Days/Week B DOE
- Luxury Call Center Agent M $15-$20
- Apprentice & Journeyman Tile Setter B SDE

Call 760-924-0523 or 760-873-8599
Send resume to [email protected] or see full info at www.SierraEmployment.com

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**Now Hiring - Join Our Team!**

Great Basin Bakery is currently seeking applicants for part-time and full-time team members. Seeking energetic early risers to join our cafe team. Excellent customer service & work ethic required. To work scheduled shifts consistently and reliably. Duties include basic food & beverage prep, POS operation, and cleaning & stocking. Ability to begin work as early as 05:00 A.M., weekends & holidays, and ability to work in a fast-paced, high-pressure environment. Service food experience and a current food handler card are a plus. APPLY IN PERSON AT 275 SOUTH MAIN STREET, BISHOP, CA.

**Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasciere** has the following positions available:

- Bowling Desk Employees, evening positions available. Contact Kevin O’Connel 760.934.4200 ext.223, or Apalr Nard, ext. 229
- The Outlaw Saloon is in search of day time server/bartender. Must have experience. Drop off your resume to manage- ment daily, ask for Hector.
- Samurai is hiring servers/kitchen crew experience preferred 760.964.0507.

**Seeking a FT, Year-Round, Skilled Worker to Join our Grounds Crew Team.**

Afternoon and evening position. Must be willing to work weekends. Must be able to walk 30 lbs, and have basic maintenance skills. Position starts at $13/hour. Email Chavel for an application at cmurzag@sierrasour.com

“Experienced Pizza Chef for new business - Hours 2pm to 10pm. Can work weekends. Seeking to hire a motivated, energetic, reliable individual to work in our new restaurant. Please contact: 760.934.2448 or stop by and see us in person at 3905 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes.”

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**Sierra Nevada Resort & Spa**

Housekeepers ($11)
Dishwashers
Maintenance Worker

Please complete an application at 164 Old Mammoth Rd. or email [email protected]

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability / Notice of Public Hearing**

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED 2018-2020 GENERAL BUDGET AND REPORTS AND PUBLIC HEARING THEREON BY THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Notice is hereby given that the proposed county bud- get and reports for the fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020, are available for public inspection at the offices of the County Clerk of Mono County, 107 Elderberry, Crowley Lake, CA 93517. The board may continue the Public Hearing to an additional item. The public hearing will commence on Friday, June 8, 2018 in the board chambers, 2nd Floor, County Courthouse, Bishop, California 93517. The board may continue the Public Hearing to an additional item. The public hearing will commence on Friday, June 8, 2018 in the board chambers, 2nd Floor, County Courthouse, Bishop, California 93517. The board may continue the Public Hearing to an additional item. The public hearing will commence on Friday, June 8, 2018 in the board chambers, 2nd Floor, County Courthouse, Bishop, California 93517.
PLACE BIRD BACK ON THE MENU
Bi-State Sage Grouse could get endangered listing after all
By Bodine

On May 15, U.S. Ninth District Court Chief Magistrate Judge Joseph Spero ruled that the bi-state sage grouse, a local and regal mountain chicken, deserves another chance at getting listed as an endangered species.

In 2016, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), whose job it is to declare if a species is endangered, declared the bird did not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. Environmental groups, including Desert Survivors, Center for Biological Diversity and the Western Watersheds Project quickly filed suit over decision. Two years later, their arguments have convinced the judge.

The environmental groups contended that the FWS ran with weak evidence in 2016 that the bird’s habitat was healthy enough to sustain a waning population. They also raised doubts about a voluntary conservation plan.

The bird had been on deck for the coveted listing in 2010, 2012 and in 2013, when the FWS was ready to designate 1.8 million acres of the bird’s dispersed habitat as “critical.”

Dan Hottle, spokesperson for the FWS told The Sheet that in March, 2016, a study by the US Geological Society appeared to indicate the bird’s population had flat-lined. Wendy Sugimura, then-Mono County Community Development Analyst received the 2016 National Wildlife Conservation Partner on behalf of the county for its sage grouse conservation efforts the same week the FWS was sued.

Laura Cunningham, California Director of the Western Watersheds Project, maintains the FWS did not even look at some of the habitats that are failing.

Based on the Service’s own data, the bird should have been listed, said Ilene Anderson from the Center of Biological Diversity. The habitat has not supported the current population that is on the verge of extinction.

The groups sued the FWS claiming it based its decision on faulty habitat data and the Bi-State Action Plan.

The Bi-State Action Plan is a conservation program drafted and implemented through a partnership of public and private entities known as the Local Area Working Group that created the plan in 2012. The Plan has 78 projects aimed at improving habitat like removing invasive trees while also addressing threats like mining and grazing.

The Action Plan was voluntary with no guarantee it would be implemented or if what was proposed in the plan could be done at all, Anderson said.

Tellingly, the Working Group’s website has not been updated since 2016, save a job listing advertising for a state sage grouse coordinator position. Mono County is part of the Local Area Working Group, party to the lawsuit and has a large stake in the game. More than 80 percent of the private lands in Mono County could be affected by a “critical habitat” designation if the bird gets listed.

The two prime habitats for the bi-state sage grouse are at Bodie and in Long Valley. Anderson explained that if the bird is listing as endangered, it does not necessarily mean its habitat will be designated as critical. Land designations and bird listings do not spell the end of development or grazing in those areas, according to Anderson.

Mono County Counsel Stacey Simon told The Sheet, “The County’s position has long been that voluntary efforts and commitments to preserve and enhance populations of the bi-state sage grouse are preferable to listing under the Endangered Species Act. It is for this reason that the County devoted significant staff time and resources to participate in the development of the Bi-State Action Plan with USFWS, BLM, and others.”

Pam Bierce, spokesperson for the Service, told The Sheet in email on May 23, “We are considering next steps in light of the court’s decision in the context of this administration’s priorities for the sagebrush ecosystem.”

“The judge has ordered the Service to take a long, hard look at the data,” and make a decision of how best to protect the bird, Cunningham said. She added that if the Service does not come back with a better designation or solution, her group will fight that decision.
DORE STOP IN LEE VINING

By Trefry

Although not exactly new (it was three years old a couple of weeks ago), the Epic Cafe is becoming more and more of a hot spot in Lee Vining. Serving paninis, salads, baked goods, specials and more, it is many locals’ favorite place to eat.

Linda and David Dore opened the Epic Cafe three years ago on the grounds of the Lake View Lodge (on your left as you approach Lee Vining from the south, right before Mono Market) through an agreement with the Banta family that runs the motel. Linda says she’s wanted to open a cafe for at least 20 years, so when a suitable space finally popped up, the Dores jumped on the opportunity. “When I was able to lease this building, it really became a true inspiration [to open a cafe],” Linda says.

Before the Dores took it over, the building was a small coffee shop that even locals didn’t often visit or even know about. Now, it is a bustling local gathering place – and that’s before the opening of Tioga Pass. Once the annual influx of tourists from the Central Valley begins, it gets a whole lot more busy.

Linda describes the work of running a restaurant as “exhausting, sleep-deprived… and extremely rewarding.” The Dores want the Epic Cafe to be a community service as well as a business; they try to use local products wherever possible, and David is often seen riding his bike down to the Mono Market to pick up ingredients when they run out.

Both Linda and David are longtime locals who moved to the Eastern Sierra from Los Angeles as kids. Linda, enchanted by the Eastern Sierra, came to Mammoth from the San Fernando Valley as soon as she got out of high school, and began cooking at Roget’s (now Nevado’s) in 1979. David, who was born in Whittier, moved to June Lake with his family when he was six.

When asked what memorable experience in the Eastern Sierra has really stuck with her, Linda responded, without missing a beat, that it was “meeting my husband David. He’s definitely stuck with me!” Linda and David fell in love while they were both working at the Mammoth Reservation Bureau, but when Linda saw David walking across the parking lot with his three children, she says her heart skipped a beat. However, the kids turned out to be great, and Linda and David now have four grandchildren, ages 7, 6, 3, and 1. Most of them live far away, so Linda and David often go road-tripping to visit during the six-month off season.

Naturally, the Dores have little free time from May to October; in the winter they continue to run their catering business, Linda Dore Food-service, which they have owned since 2002. But when they do have some spare time, they enjoy hiking and rock climbing; some of Linda’s favorite spots are Tuolomne, the Alabama Hills, and Clark’s Canyon.

Of course, they also enjoy spending time with each other, and sleeping – because there isn’t often time to do much of that during a busy week at the Epic.

The Epic Cafe is open from 7 a.m. ’til 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Jennifer Burrows
TOWN COUNCIL

My agenda is the community, I come with zero conflicts of interest, and you are the only ones I work for. I am not a seasoned politician or a great public speaker. I am criticized often for a lack of filter, but you will always know where I stand. I am a good listener. I do know how to achieve consensus and get things done. I am familiar with government budgets and have participated in numerous union negotiations.

Housing should be our top priority. Our community comes first as does our environment. The Alterra deal will bring an enormous amount of visitors and capital to our town. We want to be a good partner, but also protect our towns interests. If we continue to make this a great place to live, it will be a better place to visit.

It’s important that we move in the right direction, while at the same time I will always deal with potential problems immediately and head on to ensure we stay out of trouble.

Four years ago, we became deeply divided. It’s time to work together. Please vote for me on June 5th.

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VOTE
THE ULTIMATE GIFT
Elvina Arventii pays it forward for Operation Christmas Child

By Benham

Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes stuffed with toys, school supplies, and toiletries to impoverished children around the world. Elvina Arventii was one of those children.

And she'll be in Bishop this weekend for Mule Days to tell you about her story.

She grew up in Kivertsi, a small town in western Ukraine. Her family was big. Her mother took care of the children. Her father worked for a railroad. Sometimes, instead of a paycheck, her father would receive vouchers to the company store.

That meant waiting in line just to get into the store, sometimes for hours, and then bring home whatever was left on the shelves.

One day, Operation Christmas Child volunteers showed up at Elvina’s house. She grabbed a shoebox and ran to her room. She found gum inside. She had never chewed gum before. She had a childhood of chewing to make up for.

She chewed it all day, then before going to sleep, she would stick it to the headboard of her bed.

When it dried up, she soaked it in warm water. When it lost its flavor, she pressed jam into it. It started out pink and ended up brown. “I chewed that special gum for almost a month, until my mom found out and threw it away.”

Ten years ago, she moved to Fresno with her family. She had been living in Fresno for a few months when she went to mass one Sunday, and was shocked and delighted to see children carrying Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes down the aisles.

“It was so emotional,” she said. “I had to start all over and google ‘What is Operation Christmas Child?’ She had to learn, like any other volunteer, how to pack the boxes, how to send them out.

Now, Elvina travels around California and the country telling her story. “I’ve been on both sides of the story and for me it feels better to give than to receive.” She has a two year old daughter who helps her pack boxes. She also works with volunteers, some in their 80s. “Packing brings people together,” she said. It’s a simple, powerful way to help children around the world.

“It was just very special for us to know that someone cared.” Elvina doesn’t know who sent her box way back when because it didn’t have a note in it. Wherever she goes, she encourages volunteers to include a note with their address and a picture, so the children can write back. She said, “It’s fun to know who exactly got your box.” A few years ago, boxes she packed were sent to Ukraine.

Elvina will walk in the Mule Days Parade Saturday morning with members of Operation Christmas Child’s Northern Nevada/Eastern Sierra region. Among those walking with her will be Jimmy Smith, a local volunteer who packed more than 200 shoeboxes last year.

Also walking will be Tracy Trautman, Regional Manager of the West Coast area for Operation Christmas Child.

On Sunday at 10 a.m., Elvina will tell her story to the congregation at Calvary Chapel in Bishop as well as present the church with a plaque thanking its members for 15 years of participation.

For the Love of a Child

If you see or suspect abuse or neglect, please call:

1-800-4-A-CHILD
1-800-422-4453
National Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-340-5411
Local Child Abuse Hotline

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The Terror of the Swamp Thing

Dinner at 5:30 $8 adults & $5 kids
Monday May 28 & Tuesday May 29 at 6:30

Sponsored by Wild Jr’s with Mono County Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Program funds
The 4th annual Mammoth Lakes Film Festival kicked off with a screening followed by a cocktail party on Wednesday night. New Orleans-based Filmmaker Michael Arcos and Festival Director Shira Dubrovner. This is the second straight year Arcos has had a film in the festival. The film he brought last year featured a very memorable shot of a car burning on a beach. When asked how he got permission to do the shot, Arcos said, “In Beaumont, Texas, there’s a nudist beach where you can legally set a car on fire.” Just one of many things you can learn at a film festival.

Spanish Lucas Parnes and Jesus Serna’s feature film “Barren and Empty: The Sea” screens Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at Edison Theatre. They learned of the Film Festival online, as the MLFF is on Moviemaker Magazine’s list of the top 50 film festivals worth your entry fee. They traveled from Spain to be here for the weekend.

Kendra Knight of the Mono Arts Council and Rashad Whitehead.

Familiar faces Alekos McKee, Alicia Vennos, Larry McKee and Sophia McKee were among the locals who turned out.
Geminis: Your birthday gift to yourself is an easy one: remind yourself every day that this year is going to be a great one. Sure, this won’t always be easy. Like every year, some days will be effortless and some days you won’t want to get out of bed—which, of course, is recommended every once in awhile. But if you don’t expect great and happy things to happen, then you won’t even recognize them when they decide to hop into bed with you.

Cancerians: Cancerians are very alluring, which is why Clouds has such a special affection for you folks. The fact that your symbol looks like the number 69 also plays a role with this. Another reason Clouds, and so many others, love Cancerians is because you are such touchy-feely folks. We all need to be touched more often, so start playing your role, feeling free to help you cut down mental farts every once in awhile. You just don’t want to make it last too long or have it turn into a bad habit. To help you cut down on the need for either, your new motto is “Less stress, more sex.”

Scorpios: There are only three things that cannot be hidden for long: the Sun, the Moon and the Truth. Scorpios can sometimes have challenges with the truth since part of your nature is to be secretive. To help, remember that the first lie we tell is always to ourselves and the second lie is usually much easier and may involve alcohol or inappropriate Snap Chatting.

Pardon my French, but you’re an a$$hole.

-Cameron Frye

Taurus: A couple in upstate New York recently had to take their 30 year old son to court in order to get him to move out. It’s a good time for you to move out of some situation in life that has been holding you back. Hopefully, it’s something easy like finally changing your wardrobe or workout habits and not something that has been dragging you down for three decades and smells like socks.

Aquarius: It looks like this would a classic case of inappropriate Snap Chatting. Please never forget that it’s I demand euphoria!”

-Capricorn

Pardon my French, but you’re an a$$hole.

-Cameron Frye

Pisces: Pisces can often find love confusing. That’s why these lines should help A) You can’t just find love, you’ve got to make it. B) You know it’s love when you’d rather argue with that person than kiss someone else. See! Love is like passing gas, if you try to force it too much it can turn into crap.

Aries: Since this is a good time to really go after any dream you have long harbored, it will be helpful to remember the great line from the Roman poet Virgil, “Fortune sides with he who dares.” It would also help to get used to adopting this line from Calvin of Calvin and Hobbes fame, “Happiness isn’t good enough for me. I demand euphoria!”

Virgo: Spring is a very impassioned and exciting time of the year. It’s usually easy to get the juices flowing, but this spring is actually more about taking things easy and in stride. Therefore, in case anyone tries to rush or force you into anything you don’t feel up for, please feel free to use this line from Cameron Frye, “Pardon my French, but you’re an a$$hole!”

Libra: Please never forget that it’s your birthday gift to your-
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