The Bishop City Council denied an appeal by Roy and Beula Chacon for a conditional use permit (CUP) to allow the construction of a storage unit at a property on East Line Street. Public comment for the item at the Council meeting on Monday included pleas by neighbors of the East Line Street property to the council to retain the historic integrity of the area. The project would include a two-story, 4,144 square-foot building with large doors located at 168 East Line Street for storing antiques and automobiles. Beula Chacon explained to the Council that the building would be used to store what is now being held at their downtown location, the Hi-Sierra Crafter’s Mall. The plan is to empty the mall and use the space to store items from their downtown location.

Bishop Council denies Chacons

By Bodine

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By Lunch

At a meeting of Mammoth Lakes Tourism’s Executive Committee on Wednesday, Board Chairman Brent Truax stepped down from his executive committee post pending an inquiry into alleged ethical, if not violations, then perhaps transgressions. McGuire was not the only person to ask Truax to resign his post this week.

Mammoth Lakes Town Councilman John Wentworth has asked for his resignation from the MLT Board altogether. As MLT Executive Committee member Sean Turner observed on Wednesday, there has been a lot of public chatter since last week’s “Jimmy Fest” hosted by Turner’s own Mammoth Brewing Co. It wasn’t actually called Jimmy Fest, but it could have been. The meeting was essentially about the current state of mind of Sierra Nevada Resort owner Jim Demetriades, who not only talked about the state of the current redevelopment plans for his resort, but also lobbied hard for Mammoth to pursue airport terminal expansion plans. He believes it will take too long to get Bishop Airport established. In the meantime, he says, it only makes sense to build out Mammoth Airport, as MLT Executive Committee member Sean Turner observed on Wednesday, there has been a lot of public chatter since last week’s “Jimmy Fest” hosted by Turner’s own Mammoth Brewing Co.

CALLS FOR TRU-AXE

By Bodine

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BORN REDDY

See CHACON, page 23

He listens to Jared /p. 18/
Belabor Day /p. A1/
New ownership /p. 17/
Smoogen v. the world /p. 8/
Real Sheet /starts p. 10/
A PAIR OF VICTORIES

I revisited with Wave Rave Snowboard Shop owner Steve Klassen this week to ask him about the status of his war on City Hall.

The war is over.

The meeting at Bretton Woods occurred last Friday morning. It was attended by Klassen, Community Development Director Sandra Moberly, Town Recreation Manager Stu Brown and Public Works Director Grady Dutton.

Taking heed of the previous meeting, Dutton introduced a new drawing which would leave the frontage road access to Highway 203 intact but would place a bus shelter in front of Wave Rave and remove several parking spaces.

This is what Klassen had initially suggested as a compromise and he quickly agreed to the plan.

He also hopes the Town seizes on the possibility of perhaps including an e-bike charging station in conjunction with the bus shelter, and possibly install a small park and bench on the back side.

In any event, Wave Rave’s commitment to partnering with the town on skate camps and contests is back on track.

Then there’s the issue of June Lake Beach Access which we wrote about in the July 14 issue.

In fixing one problem (by installing vault toilets at June Lake to replace the former toilets which continually backed up), the Forest Service managed to destroy the pavers surrounding the bathroom which were critical in providing handicap access.

Randy Short announced this week that Mono County has since stepped in to restore the pavers.

“We owe a very big thanks to Leslie [Chapman], Tony [Dublino] and the Mono County Board of Supervisors for stepping up and solving this problem,” he said.

The restoration is pictured below right.

The Sheet attended the August 28 joint meeting between the Mammoth Town Council and Inyo County Board of Supervisors regarding commercial air service.

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.

The meeting was mostly a rehash, but ... Inyo County’s Acting CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) Clint Quilter did produce a timeline charting when Inyo County believes it can complete the required environmental documents to move forward.

Quilter said that Inyo County met with the Federal Aviation Administration on August 23, put out an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for an environmental consultant on August 27, and hopes to complete CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) docs by next fall.

Overall, Inyo County thinks it can complete all work necessary for Part 139 certification (for commercial service) within three years. Or at least that’s the goal.

A few things that jumped out:

1. Hot Creek Aviation’s Pat Foster said that he’s been at Mammoth Airport for the past 20 years. Within the past 3-4 years, airport activity has really spiked. It looks like the new normal, he said, and Mammoth may need to invest in airport infrastructure whether it expands commercial operations or not.

2. Stephen Kalish pointed out that the new Mammoth-Denver flight will not be cheap. So I had Benham run a random check of mid-January flights. The verdict. A one-way flight from Denver-Reno costs $188. A one-way flight from Denver-Mammoth costs $390.

3. Mammoth Mountain Chief Operating Officer Eric Clark announced that Mammoth Mountain’s goal is to accommodate as many as 1.8 to 2 million annual ski visits. The current record, I believe, stands at about 1.6 million.

4. Mammoth Councilmember Lynda Salcido wanted a “founding document” created - like the U.S. Constitution for Eastern Sierra Regional airports to make sure we’re all drinking the same Kool Aid. Councilman John Wentworth jumped in and suggested that the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments could draft it.

Inyo Supervisor Matt Kingsley demurred. “Don’t overcomplicate it,” he said.

The upshot from the meeting: To each his own. Maybe we’ll meet up later on the trail.
49th Annual
LABOR DAY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Mammoth Lakes' Premier Art Festival
September 1, 2, & 3, 2018
10am - 6pm, Monday 10am - 3pm
The Wood Site, Minaret Road between Main Street & Meridian

FREE ADMISSION!

Live Local Bands on 2 Stages!
Main Stage: Bodie 601 Band, Idle Hands String Band,
Sandy & the High Country, and MORE!
Side Stage: Cassie & Devin, Skipping Stones, & Leina'ala

International Food Court
Mammoth Brewing Company Beer
Specialty Cocktails
Over 120 Artists
Kids Art Activity Area
Art Raffle

JUNE LAKE JAM FEST 4
Sat Sept 8 -
Sun Sept 9, 2018
Gull Lake Park
June Lake Loop

INFO-TICKETS-LINEUP
junelakejamfest2018.eventbrite.com
monoarts.org/june-lake-jam-fest

JUST ADDED!
Friday Night Kick Off
September 7th at June Mtn Chalet

WE THANK sheat FOR THEIR ILI4 SPONSORSHIP
Dear Editor:

In response to your response to Valerie Cohen’s letter regarding Holly Dudley’s complaint about the sexist marketing of e-bikes, I think you missed a great opportunity to apologize. Here was your perfect chance to admit that your comment was offensive; Ms. Dudley’s well-worded letter simply stated that not all women need or want an e-bike so they can ride with boyfriends or husbands.

This marketing ploy was bound to get hackles up among women cyclists. While e-bikes might make riding more pleasurable for couples of uneven strengths, I can think of better ways to advertise sports equipment in 2018 without offending half the population.

My point is that there was a chance to acknowledge Ms. Dudley’s complaint about the stance of the e-bike article in the Eastern Sierra Summer Guide, and to throw some respect to the women who ride under their own power. There’s still time.

Nancy Fiddler
Crowley Lake

Editor’s Reply: Oh, Nancy ... I could respond. But then we’d be celebrating Belabor Day!

Dear Editor:

It is unfortunate that the wood site appears to be going back up for sale rather than maintained as the fabulous event site it has served as for many years.

When Mr. Winter approached us with his proposal, our price and terms were too high for him. While Sam Walker and I have enjoyed providing the site for minimal rent (no rent for non-profits) for many years, we decided to bring down the price and make the terms generous enough to accommodate his business plan. We hoped Mr. Winter could make it work.

It now appears that Mr. Winter does not believe he can afford all the requirements the town has asked for to comply as an event site.

I suggest the Town Council consider purchasing the site because of the uniqueness of its location and the available parking. The probable loss of current and future potential events held on the site should be considered carefully an economic standpoint and as a community benefit/tourist attraction.

Dennis Hartman
Mammoth Lakes

BISHOP MAKES TOURISM GAINS

“Bishop is changing from a pit stop to a destination,” said Tawni Thomson, Executive Director of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce at a Bishop City Council meeting held Monday, August 27.

She credits the Bishop Tourism Improvement District (BTID) tax for the increase in visitation.

Two percent of gross receipts from all lodging establishments to Bishop are assessed and collected for the district. This is year four of the BTID program. BTID has allowed the Chamber to advertise in nationwide publications, reaching more than 12 million readers. This is an 1,800 percent increase from four years ago.

Bishop has been featured in the French magazine GEO, with a circulation of 500,000 and is the first town in California to be named one of the Top Ten “True Western Towns” by True West Magazine.

Subscriptions to the Chamber newsletter is up 35 percent, or 1,948 people, in the past year. Visits to visitbishop.com have risen dramatically since 2013. Visitors to the site to 2015-16 topped out at 106,000. In 2017-18, 316,000 people clicked on the site, a 198 percent increase.

Good management and cunning employees have been able to minimize the cost of paid advertising on social media, like ads on Facebook. Thomson explained the industry average price of cost per click on an ad is $1.55, but the team at the Bishop Chamber get it done for just $.28 a click.

Included in Thomson’s report was an update on occupancy rates, as that is what fuels the BTID. There was a 7.3 percent increase in average occupancy rate from 60.33 percent in 2014-15 to 67.67 percent in 2017-18, or approximately 22,000 more nights a year.

Total revenue for the 2017-18 season was $445,708 and expenditures reached $653,439. The balance was paid for through Inyo County, the City of Bishop, donations and sales at the Chamber.

None of the BTID goes toward subsidizing an airport.

- Bodine

HAND-HEWN LOG

$1,899,000

ARTISTIC DETAIL

$1,249,000

BY EAGLE

$859,000

BY CANYON

$450,000

NEAR VILLAGE

$319,000

Exquisite attention to detail: an open living, gourmet kitchen, dining area floor plan, a whimsical large wine room with sink in a wine barrel and a table set to entertain inside or outside on a deck with views facing a meadow. Hardwood floors from a cookie factory of old restored yet reminiscent of its original purpose, metal art basketry weave atop a wall full length in the living area. Master suite with separate office, two walk-in 11 foot closets, Master bath with steam shower and Jacuzzi tub, an abundance of light with the first floor at a 9 foot height and the second floor at an 11 foot height. This 3 bed / 2.5 bath has hydronic heat and a family room with a full seating area, card game and foosball set.

Bigwood Opportunity to be in the area between the Village and Little Eagle. 1 loft / 2 bath with Hardwood Floor, Carpet, Stainless Steel Appliances, Bunkbeds and a King. Garage and close to the pool.

- Bodine

IN VILLAGE

$440,000

One bed / one bath near Ski Lift trail in The Village with access to shops, dining, and the gondola to Canyon.

Cheryl Wood, MBA
Broker Associate
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DRE # 01376729
www.cheryljwood.com
SUMMIT SUNSET PARTY

Ride the gondola to the top to watch the sun set behind the Minarets and get down with plenty of family fun after dark, including food and drinks, fresh beats and those picturesque Sierra views.

SEPTEMBER 2 • 6:30PM

BUY YOUR PARTY TICKETS ONLINE
MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM

SAVE UP TO 70%
ON PRIOR YEAR’S SKI BOOTS & ACCESSORIES

NEW THIS YEAR!
SUREFOOT MOUNTAIN CLUB
Join Surefoot Mountain Club today and leave your boots and skis with us! This is an exclusive invitation for our valued Surefoot customers. Say goodbye to hauling your gear through the airport, welcome to Surefoot Mountain Club.
MORE INFO: surefoot.com/mountain-club

LABOR DAY SALE
AUG 31-SEP 3 • 9AM-6PM
In The Village at Mammoth Mountain • 760-924-8333
On Tuesday, August 28, Inyo National Forest (INF) released a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a land exchange between INF and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA).

INF traded 35.6 acres valued at $11,561,000 to MMSA for 1,296.7 acres valued at $7,601,000. The difference will be made up by cash equalization payments from MMSA to INF. The payments begin once the deal is finalized.

MMSA currently leases the 35.6 acres at its Main Lodge base area from INF under a special-use permit. Two parcels make up MMSA’s acquisition. Parcel A consists of Main Lodge and all the buildings on the North side of 203. Parcel B contains sewage ponds located in the woods to the North.

INF parted with the land because it had been developed and no longer fit the vision or mission of the agency. Also, the Main Lodge area serves the town and county’s needs more than it does the forest’s.

The undeveloped land that INF acquired came in ten parcels spread across Inyo, Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Plumas counties.

The 1.4 acre parcel adjacent to its current supervisor office is vacant. Deb Schweizer, INF Public Affairs Officer, said that at the moment there are no plans to develop that parcel. For future administrative expansion, which might be another six years away.

INF also received 118.1 acres in West Mono Lake, 10 acres on Pine Creek, 80 at Moran Springs, 3.8 in the form of the Madden Property, which is a slice of land between MMSA and Lake Mary Road. As well as 920 acres scattered around the Clacey River in Tuolumne County and 80 around Taylor Lake in Plumas County.

Acquisition of the Dexter Canyon Parcel II in the Glass Mountains fell through, because the owners and INF couldn’t agree on the terms of a trade. In total: Mono County gained 201.9 acres of new federal land; Inyo gained 11.4.

“I don’t want to love one chunk of land more than another,” said Deb Schweizer when The Sheet asked her to pick a favorite. “We are excited about all the different parcels,” INF Winter Sports Specialist Janelle Walker added.

All parcels adjacent to water were considered high priority. Other characteristics of high priority land include, “lands with game or endangered/threatened species,” “lands that need reduced fire risk,” with unique historical/cultural significance, with easements onto federal land, where soil erosion prevention is needed…lands where outlaws roam.

The EIS was clean for the MMSA Main Lodge area. “The proposed land exchange would not result in any irretrievable or irreversible effects to access and traffic.” Besides traffic and access, there’s a long list of other unaffected things: wildlife, water rights, geology and minerals, vegetation, noise, hazardous or solid wastes, etc.

Tom Hodges, MMSA Vice President of Mountain Development, told The Sheet that MMSA has contemplated the exchange since 2004, though the actual process started in 2010.

In 2014, the trade required President Obama’s signature on land exchange bill, HR1241, which landed on the president’s desk as a rider to the National Defense Authorization Act. The deal is not quite complete. Once the EIS is certified, then the title changes on the parcel’s become official. The deal will be done by the late spring of next year, Hodges said.

MMSA plans to redevelop the parcels, but doesn’t have a specific plan right now.

“It’s going to be three to five years before a shovel is in the ground,” said Hodges.

The EIS warns that increased development on MMSA Main Lodge parcel could increase stress on the sewage ponds, which could lead to a seepage into surrounding lands. The surrounding lands are public. The report suggests MMSA phase out use of the sewage ponds and connect to the town and county’s water system.

Although the concepts are concepts—“Nothing’s definitive,” said Hodges—they involve increasing user capacity in the area, which could affect a number of the categories analyzed in the EIS.

A PDF of the final EIS is available at usda.gov.

An objection period has started and lasts for forty-five days from Tuesday, August 25.
Happy Hour
4-6 Mon-Fri
4-5:30 Sat & Sun
Happy Hour

Slocums
GRILL & BAR

Happy Hour
4-6 Mon-Fri
4-5:30 Sat & Sun
Dining at 5:00
no reservations
“just come on in”

*steaks * ribs * seafood*
*pasta * burgers*
*appetizers & snacks*

*classic cocktails*
*craft beers on tap * wines priced to drink*
*free private parking lot*

“Mammoth’s Favorite Happy Hour for 35 years!”

*www.slocums.com for all menus*
3221 main st. mammoth lakes * 760-934-7647

MAMMOTH LAKES LIBRARY
Corner of Meridian & Sierra Park Road

Mammoth Lakes Friends of the Library

All proceeds go to support the Library and its programs

When one person smokes, the whole building smokes

There is no safe level of secondhand smoke!
51 California cities and counties have 100% smoke free condo & apartments complex policies for both public and private housing.

Your Homeowners Association can legally create smoke free policy that includes no smoking in units, on balconies and 20 feet or more from the building OR create a smoke free campus for your complex. Talk to your HOA or management today.

For help to make your apartment or complex smoke free, call the Health Department at 760-924-1830
A message from the Mono County and California Public Health Departments
E L. Smoogen has a complaint with Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD), the California Water Board and, possibly, federal law. He doesn’t understand why MCWD requires the backflow valve installed on his property be inspected annually.

The annual inspections cost $70. Smoogen and his wife Pat live at 124 Wagon Wheel Road in the Mammoth Trails neighborhood. MCWD installed the backflow valve in 2003. From 2003 to 2016, the valve was not inspected and there were no problems with backflow.

In 2015, MCWD conducted an in house survey. In June 2016, the district sent Smoogen a notice, informing him that it was time to have his backflow valve inspected. He complied. In 2017, he received another notice for an annual inspection.

This time, he didn’t immediately have his device inspected. To his logic, if the device hadn’t needed an inspection for thirteen years (from 2003 to 2016), then why did it need inspection two years in a row.

Patrick Hayes, General Manager of MCWD, provided this explanation in an email to The Sheet as to the sudden uptick in inspections: “Likely in an email to The Sheet as to the second inspection in two years. Hannon referred him to the district’s code book.

MCWD Code Book Chapter 12 Section 3.34 states, “Backflow preventers, which may be subjected to back pressure or back siphonage that have been fully tested and have been granted a Certificate of Approval by said qualified laboratory and are listed on the laboratory’s current list of ‘Approved Backflow Prevention Assemblies’ may be used without further test or qualification.”

Once the device has been tested and approved it doesn’t need further testing. Therefore the 2016, test should have been sufficient, making the 2017 test gratuitous.

Yet Section 3.34 of the MCWD codebook states that non-compliance leads to losing access to public water. If he doesn’t have the device inspected, he’ll lose his water.

On July 17, 2017, after a month of not having the device inspected, the district sent Smoogen notice that if he did not complete the inspection, they would cut off his water.

Not wanting to forfeit his home’s water, Smoogen called Phil Watts, a certified inspector to do the inspection.

But Smoogen wasn’t done investigating. He still wanted to know why his residence needed a backflow device and why it needed to be inspected every year.

Hannon and Hayes at MCWD cited Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Section 7584 of the CCR states, “The water supplier shall protect the public water supply from contamination with cross-connections that cannot be inspected, premises where cross-connections are frequently created.

Smoogen’s property doesn’t qualify for any of these.

In March 2018, Smoogen filed a complaint with the Mono County Grand Jury. He wrote, “After reviewing the ordinance [sic], I felt that it didn’t apply in my case since I have nothing on the premises that could be cross-connected with the water supply. As to backflow, our entire lot slopes in such a way that there is no possibility of standing water. In addition, the sprinkler heads at the low side of the property are at least six inches above ground.”

You’re going to die in an airplane crash before I contaminate your drinking water.

-EL Smoogen
TRU
continued from page 1

particularly when Federal Aviation Administration grants typically pay for 90% of terminal construction projects.

Mr. Demetriades says he will not pursue any redevelopment plans until construction begins at Mammoth Airport. Period.

Mr. Demetriades is Mr. Truax’s longtime boss. Mr. Truax was present at Thursday’s meeting. Mr. Wentworth contends that Mr. Truax is his employer’s #1 cheerleader.

Which is fine. So long as you’re speaking for yourself, or nodding your head in agreement with your employer.

But as Wentworth contends, “Brent Truax and his employer Jim Demetriades clearly articulated in a public setting that they have direct financial interest in decisions being made by a variety of public agencies with regard to the establishment of reliable regional air service in the Eastern Sierra, including both the Mammoth and Bishop Airports.

Brent Truax has participated in a number of meetings with public agency partners over the previous months in relation to … regional air service … stating that he was representing the interests of Mammoth Lakes Tourism.

Based on the representations made by Demetriades and Truax at the event on Thursday, it is my conclusion that Brent Truax should have recused himself from these meetings and not participated in them. I’m sure we don’t need to remind anybody in this town of the serious and ongoing burden that the citizens of Mammoth Lakes, the taxpayers, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes have had to bear due to poor judgment and sloppy decision-making in matters regarding the interests of private real estate developers and our local airports.”

At Wednesday’s meeting, the tension was thick, and the talk was heated and fast.

There aren’t two people in town who speak faster than McGuire and Truax.

McGuire asked Truax a whole slew of questions. Truax basically said he would only respond to questions submitted in writing.

McGuire formally submitted the questions last night.

Truax also said MLT has no conflict-of-interest policy. He contends there can be no conflict-of-interest until you have a conflict-of-interest policy.

Formal policy or no, McGuire noted that Colin Fernie and Eric Clark recused themselves from joining MLT’s air service committee citing conflicts-of-interest.

Truax did not.

In a meeting between the two men which preceded Wednesday’s tilt, McGuire alerted Truax to the fact that there were questions surrounding several items related to Truax’s conduct on the Board, and that the questions had to be asked and answered and would not be protected by closed session.

McGuire said Truax replied with something to the effect that if you’re going to look at me, then I’m going to make it uncomfortable for everybody [on the Board] - the implication being he will raise ethical questions regarding other Board members.

“When I joined the Board,” said McGuire by telephone on Thursday, “I was committed to both fairness and transparency [in how we conduct business]. We will operate, above-board, all the time.”

Mammoth Lakes Tourism’s regular monthly board meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, but the board is not expected to have a quorum and the meeting will likely be postponed.

There was no time limit set as to when Truax is supposed to submit responses to written questions.
DON’T WORRY. WE’RE HERE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, AND...

By Oster

Q: You are always bringing the local government aspects into your real estate discussions. Do most property owners, including the second homeowners and the real estate buyers, really care about what the local government is doing?

A: Based on the feedback I receive, they do. And the answer is simple; they should, and if they don’t they are truly naive and may end up regretting it.

The problem is that most people’s lives are so busy that it is difficult to pay attention or do anything beyond being minimally informed. And many simply don’t like politics, especially in this day and age.

There has long existed a direct intersection between real estate and our local government. Many real estate brokers have occupied Town Council seats and the various commission seats and even County Supervisor seats. But they have always been a minority.

They don’t do it for the money. It is a giant time-suck that displaces work and recreation time. And more than one has walked away frustrated (or worse). Besides the real estate industry (and our clients) needing representation in public matters, these people do care about the community. The decisions made at these various levels of local government can affect the whole gamut of property owners, from major developers to small condo owners. And the Town staff doesn’t always (or often) see things the way we see them.

Us real estate brokers are also business owners (as well as property owners). The property owners and business owners are the ones who are truly invested in the community. People who are invested in the community need to pay attention. We can win or lose based on decisions that are made. And over the years not all of the public officials have been truly invested in the community. The same with Town staff. Being truly invested in the community rather than just trying to enhance one’s resume can make a big difference.

On the other hand, second home-owners typically can’t vote or have the time and presence to influence public officials or staff. But some do pay attention and try to express their opinions or share their wisdom. The fact they can’t vote locally is classic “taxation without representation.” They rely heavily on news outlets like The Sheet and miscellaneous newsletters for information. I can’t imagine many of them have the time to watch the meetings online unless there is something very specific they are interested in. The real estate industry needs to look out for their interests.

So how does this equate to anything with real impact? The classic example of cause and effect in our little corner of the world is what I call the “BK Effect.” The Mammoth Lakes “bankruptcy” circa 2012 occurred while many California real estate markets were rebounding. Yes, there were still plenty of foreclosures/REOs and short sales going on, but the overall economy was picking up. Those who could purchase were out gathering up real estate bargains and there were synergies showing in the markets; buying, improving, financing, selling, more buying, more improving, and so on.

Today, many California real estate market values meet or exceed the peak values of 2006. But Mammoth hasn’t rebounded to those 2006 peak values. We run roughly 70-80%. This is quietly profound. There are still transactions today here in Mammoth where owners are selling for six-figure losses (I just closed one). Their purchases were at those peak market values and they have held on for a long time hoping not to take the financial and emotional loss. But the real question is; Why haven’t the values rebounded?

Some would argue that the drought of 2012-2016 was to blame, that snow is the ultimate driver of Mammoth’s real estate. But other recovered markets have had their serious challenges too, whether it be fires, earthquakes, crime, water shortages, etc.

In the current age of information overload and Google searching, the Mammoth Lakes bankruptcy still looms large. We were front page news all over the place back then, and even today, legal scholars and city...
OSTER
continued from page 10
government works are still writing papers about it. It was a textbook municipal catastrophe. It was and remains a black eye. I get questions about it to this day. Many outsiders think the Town actually gobbled up the bankruptcy process. Ultimately, it raises big questions about the competency of the Town’s ability to govern, both from the public officials and Town staff. And I have no doubt it has turned away potential buyers and compromised a variety of investments in the community. Just like the media hysteria, property owners need real estate values and usage in many decisions come out of bad times. So again, property owners need to pay attention. They continually promote new taxes and bonds that increase the cost of ownership. They affect usage and create more expense in the name of health and safety. They have little concern for “quiet enjoyment.” The overreach can be incredible. None of us who are invested can be “too busy” not to pay attention.

Here in Mammoth, better and good economic times have put our local government agencies on a continual tax and spend trajectory. From Measures R and U to TBID to the recent $100 million school bond interest included. Now we have a proposal to increase the bed tax to pay for the new Ice Rink/Summer Day Care Center (aka MUF). What other “bold” actions will be necessary to prove Mammoth is common sense becoming a real destination resort. Subsidized airports at Mammoth and Bishop? Meanwhile the local real estate continues generating the precious bed tax (TOT) that keeps the Town afloat. And right now, fat and happy. You would think the owners of local real estate would command some respect. But good economic times often produce bad decisions. And good economic times cycle with bad economic times. We’ve seen it so many times, the egos, the friction points of conflicts, the personal biases, the public positions are creating failure miserably.

Meanwhile the local real estate continues generating the precious bed tax (TOT) that keeps the Town afloat. And right now, fat and happy. You would think the owners of local real estate would command some respect. But good economic times often produce bad decisions. And good economic times cycle with bad economic times. We’ve seen it so many times. And conversely, many good decisions come out of bad times.

I often think back to the early 1990s when the North Village Specific Plans continue generating the precious bed tax (TOT) that keeps the Town afloat. And right now, fat and happy. You would think the owners of local real estate would command some respect. But good economic times often produce bad decisions. And good economic times cycle with bad economic times. We’ve seen it so many times. And conversely, many good decisions come out of bad times.

I often think back to the early 1990s when the North Village Specific Plans were being sorted out. We were trying to merge 38 different property owners into one new zoning area and vision. Rusty Gregory was leading the charge back then, too. These were some very invested property owners and business owners. And some really dyed-in-the-wool Mammoth old-timers. I was often told that it could never happen because of all the personalities, the egos, the friction points of the past, etc. it made for some very long public hearings.

But the local and state economy was so bad from years of drought and military base closings and recession that all the parties had no choice but to come together. And it ultimately proved to be very well for most of those owners. At the time, many in the community doubted whether a unified village could ever rise out of those properties. But it did. And it has proven to be a good decision.

In hindsight though, the bad decisions of the Village came about in the very good times (2000-2005). And the “risk” in the Village development was spread out over hundreds of small investors (the condo hotel owners). For many, it didn’t work out so well, resulting in foreclosures, short sales and six-figure loses.

The fractional real estate projects (80/50 and Tallus) brought forward in the mid-2000s were more bad decisions made in good times. And if you really want to reel the history clock back, so was the Sierra Center Mall (1981). Imagine developing a 60,000-square foot mall and opening your own three restaurants and various retail stores all at the same time. All as the local Goldilocks economy was about to crash. Nearly 40 years later they are still trying to figure out how to make it work.

Investment in the community should make you pay attention. It is often why we see those that are heavily invested in the community attending meetings and standing at the podium. And the longer you have been invested in Mammoth, the more you make light of those who find the need to be “bold” for the sake of justifying outrageous, never-seen-before public expenditures. Mammoth’s history is littered with bold moves that have failed miserably.

One notable other concern about our local government; increasingly, these public positions are creating conflicts of interest and they can’t be ignored. California law is rather clear on conflicts of interest. Mammoth doesn’t have a good history of self-policing these conflicts of interest. It is rather unfortunate. Every public see OSTER, page 12
MAMMOTH MARKET CONDITIONS

As with all real estate professionals in Mammoth Lakes, I'm frequently asked about the real estate market and what is on tap for the future.

My responses address factors traditionally having an influence on pricing. Some key factors for our area include interest rates, building costs, availability of land, inventory, and even changes at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

Things to keep an eye on:
- **Interest Rates:** The Fed recently announced an interest rate hike and they are anticipating two additional hikes this year. An increase in interest rates often, but not always, convert to a pullbacks in sale prices. This is because most buyers are qualified for a mortgage payment based on their income and debt. As interest rates rise, prices typically adjust downward.
- **Building Costs:** I’ve observed building cost increases over the past 12 months. These costs include material, local labor, financing, and increases in governmental regulations such as those imposed by Cal Fire or local permitting. As costs of development increase, so will the price of homes … if built.
- **Availability of Land:** Mammoth Lakes is unique in that our community does not have the ability to simply expand beyond our existing boundaries as a means of accommodating housing needs. Land outside Mammoth Lakes is largely owned by the federal government and City of Los Angeles. Because of this unique geographic condition, land is limited and becoming increasingly so as we approach buildout.
- **Inventory:** Available inventory in Mammoth is currently at about historical average. In other cities, inventory is up.

Changes at Mammoth Mountain:
- ‘Are real estate prices increasing as a result of the Mammoth Mountains partnership and the formation of Alterra?’ This is a common question and one that is hard to decipher as prices were increasing rapidly prior to the announcement in 2017. However, in my experience many buyers purchase in Mammoth for the quality of life and recreation. Mammoth Mountain plays a significant role in these areas and most buyers are very interested in what Mammoth Mountain is doing next. Questions I get revolve around the next significant capital improvements to take place at Mammoth Mountain.

Looking to trends of the past can also be very helpful in understanding what is going to happen next, as real estate tends to run in general cycles. Past is prologue.

In Mammoth Lakes, the median price of housing and condominiums hit a low point in mid-2011 and has experienced steady increases since. Today the median price of a condominium ($390,000) is up 61% since 2011 ($242,000) and has experienced increases of 11.5% this year alone over last year's median price. Interestingly enough, today’s median condominium price is still 30% below the peak of the market in 2006 ($560,000). Single family homes are performing well in 2018 with Year-to-Date median prices up 17.5% over 2017 figures. The median price of a single family home in Mammoth Lakes is currently $910,000.
In celebration of September as Mammoth Lakes Bike Month, join the Caltrans District 9 Director and the Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Works Director on a... Monday, September 10 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. The 4.5 mile tour will visit different Caltrans’ and Town projects and will depart and return from the Minaret Village Mall Parking Lot: 437 Old Mammoth Road (in front of Giovanni’s) Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Space is limited! Please RSVP to: smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

What to Bring? Bicycle, Helmet, Water, Sneakers, and a Bicycle (E-Bikes welcome)
SMOGEN continued from page 8

ground level.”

The Grand Jury investigation, released on April 25, found that MCWD was legally allowed to require annual inspections on a backflow device. “The slope of your lot, and or location of sprinkler heads are immaterial in this circumstance,” the response said.

Smoogen told The Sheet that he is willing to accept the backflow device. Although he did hypothesize that for backflow from his irrigation lines to contaminate the public water supply a bear would have to crap on a sprinkler head the moment the sprinklers were turned on, and there would have to be a simultaneous malfunction in MCWD pipes. “You’re going to die in an airplane crash before I contaminate your drinking water,” Smoogen said.

He tried to get around the annual inspection through installation of an atmospheric vacuum breaker (AVB). AVB’s do not require annual inspection.

In 2017, Hannon came to his residence and told him that an AVB wouldn’t work, according to Smoogen without explanation or inspection. The Sheet asked Hannon about AVB’s.

“They don’t fit into the district’s approved devices, he explained. Though, he did not disqualify them as potential backflow preventors. The Grand Jury also addressed AVB’s. “Regarding AVB’s, MCWD does not consider them to be suitable backflow prevention devices because they A) only prevent against back-siphonage and not backpressure backflow, B) make use of air which could become a pathway for contaminants to the water supply in the event of a pressure drop, and C) would fail under continuous pressure.”

Still not satisfied, Smoogen contacted the State Resource Water Board (SRWB). Andrés Aguirre, Associate Sanitary Engineer at the SRWB, cited CCR Section 7605(c), “If a testable device is installed, it must be tested at least annually to assure it works…”

James Gray of Grasshopper Inc. is a certified backflow device inspector. He said that annual checks might seem like a lot, but that’s the law. Gray finds that the devices require new washers or rubber grommets every five to six years.

He inspects devices for $75. There are 1,700 backflow devices within the district. At $75 per inspection, there is a $127,500 inspection market in the district.

Hannon told The Sheet that MCWD has required annual inspections for as long as he’s been at the district, which is 23 years. He also said, “Nothing’s going to change.”

MHS VOLLEYBALL OPENS IN YERINGTON

The Mammoth Huskies Girl’s Volleyball team began the 2018 season last weekend in Yerington. Pictured: Drew Presson with the spike. Mammoth comes off its best season ever, having finished undefeated in league play, reaching the CIF semi-finals and making the state tournament. The Huskies played posted wins over Pahrump Valley and Spring Creek on Friday, qualifying for the “gold” bracket in Saturday’s tournament. Mammoth faced tough opposition from Fernley, Wooster and McQueen, losing close matches in each case, to schools which have 3 to 6 times the enrollment of MHS. “Yerington is always our first experience on the season,” Said Coach John Morris. “We face much larger and tougher schools than we see during our league play. It’s a great chance for our new team to bond and to see how of the best teams in Nevada play. It really gives us something to strive for. The team played well for their first time out and we were able to identify plenty of things to work on!”

Mammoth plays its first home matches against Bishop (9/4), Rancho Christian (9/6) and then hosts the Mammoth Volleyball Invitational Tournament on September 7 and 8.
The Bishop Broncos sustained what Coach Arnie Palu described as the “toughest loss of my career” last Friday night at home in a non-conference tilt versus Yerington. Bishop lost 13-7 in triple overtime. The first score of the game didn’t occur until the 4th quarter, when QB Luke McClean (125 yards total offense) scored on a designed QB run.

Yerington tied it up a couple minutes later on a defensive touchdown, scooping up a Bishop fumble and taking it the distance.

Bishop’s final possession of triple overtime ended with a turnover on 4th down. Yerington then got a score on its third possession of overtime to win it.

The Broncos sustained several injuries during the gam, including Wes Pettet (concussion), Cal Omohundro (dislocated elbow) and Joe Weaver (broken collarbone).

The Bronco defense held Yerington to less than 80 total yards in regulation. Senior Patrick Flanigan had a huge game, registering a couple of sacks and a couple of tackles for losses.

Overall, Bishop outgained Yerington 201-129.

Offensively, said Palu, “We really struggled with drops. Clay Omohundro threw the ball well. We just didn’t catch it well at all.”

The Broncos had a few chances at field goals during the contest, but Sophomore Christian Morales (who has a great leg) just missed a try in the mid-30 yard range in the 2nd quarter.

He had another attempt blocked in overtime.

Bishop has a bye week for Labor Day, before hosting Rim of the World on Friday, September 7.

Desert 32 Mammoth 28

Mammoth also lost to Desert last Friday by a score of 32-28.

Trailing by eighteen after three quarters, Mammoth scored two unanswered touchdowns in the fourth but couldn’t find the lucky third to overcome the deficit.

Mammoth quarterback Ricky Apodaca ran for three touchdowns.

Mammoth’s running back Nick Hildebrand rushed for one touchdown on 16 carries and totaled 93 yards. Jared Mahler caught three of Apodaca’s four completions for 90 yards receiving.

On defense, Seth Gacho posted twenty tackle and one fumble recovery. Billy McDaniel added 17 tackles. But Mammoth couldn’t stop Desert’s running back Marquis Morris. He ran for 245 yards and two touchdowns.

Both teams moved the ball on offense, but Desert’s two defensive touchdowns, one on a fumble recovering and one on a pick six, proved to be the difference.

Mammoth travels to Tonapah for a non-league game on Friday, August 31.
INYO SUPES TO FILE FOREST PLAN OBJECTIONS

By James

In a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound? And if that tree fell within the Inyo National Forest, would the Inyo County Board of Supervisors hear it, but not the regional federal forest planners finalizing the long-running Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan that covers 1.1-million-acres? At its August 28 meeting, County Supervisors appeared to feel that they are not being heard, so they plan to file formal objections to several aspects of the forest plan now being presented for final comments.

After a presentation by the Team Leader for the Inyo Forest Plan, Leeann Murphy, Supervisors began by expressing their concerns over how the plan failed to adequately address their “first-time ever in county history” recommendations on expanding Wilderness Areas, which Supervisor Matt Kingsley described as “common sense based on conditions on the ground.”

Supervisor Jeff Griffiths would later comment that there are disputed roads, really “little spurs” leading to camping areas, in the plan that they had recommended having the proposed Wilderness Area boundary for Piper Mountain adjusted. The recommendation was ignored.

Supervisor Rick Pucci expressed concern that “recommended Wilderness Areas are managed nearly the same as officially designated Wilderness Areas,” a concern shared by all the supervisors, and that the opportunity to clarify the status of the disputed roads will be delayed for years, if not decades, before Congress gets around to making a final decision on whether to officially designate a new Wilderness Area.

The county supervisors also wanted clarification of recommendation to add segments of several local streams that are being added to the Wild Scenic River system. The plan did not include the county’s comments on the several streams and creeks mentioned in the plan. The County does not understand the rationale behind the additions. They also asked for a better response and explanation to their concerns over the permit process used by the Forest Service, concerns that were originally expressed during the initial planning process by the supervisors back in 2016.

There are four parcels totaling 37,000 acres being recommended for Wilderness Areas in the plan. They include what is called the South Sierra Addition west of Olancha, the Piper Mountain Addition southeast of Westgard Pass; the White Mountains Addition-West; and the White Mountains Addition-East.

INF Supervisor, Tammy Randall Parker, told the county supervisors that “We welcome your objections.” She went on to say that “There are things that we likely missed or areas where we haven’t had a robust conversation about issues and concerns.” Pucci also strongly pushed for the board to press for a better explanation and response to their concerns over a “convoluted permit process” for grazing and other uses on the forest land, joking that, “cows can be dead” by the time the grazing permit process is completed.”

Griffiths added that he had similar complaints from local packers and that it has become equally cumbersome for film companies who are opting out of working on Forest land and are turning to the Bureau of Land Management. INS Supervisor, Randall-Parker, responded that the comments were dropped from the plan because the land use document does not address such administrative processes. Nevertheless, the board members decided that they will still file an objection to the permit process to “keep the issue in front of the forest service decision-makers.”

INYO County Planning Director Planning Director Richards will take the supervisors’ objections and bring back a comments (objections) letter listing them for final approval in the coming weeks. The final deadline for “objections” is October 4 and can only be filed by commenters that have already been involved in the process and have offered comments.

More information on the Final Draft of the Inyo Forest Plan can be found by contacting Leeann Murphy at (760) 873-2404.
CROWLEY STORE UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

By Bodine

Greg Harris said the locals, the bread and butter of the Crowley Lake Store, have been coming in trying to judge how genuine he is, or if his being nice is just a front, a trick he might have learned from his years as a resident of Southern California.

Harris along with his wife Lori and her brother, silent partner Brad Mols, are the new owners and operators of the Crowley Lake Store. Mols is an accountant in Southern California.

He said the locals have been gracious and generous and welcoming. The couple have made their way into the tight-knit inner circle of the Crowley Lake neighborhood.

Locals have invited the couple to go wakeboarding, four-wheeling and fishing. Lori and Greg haven’t had a full day off since they bought the place on June 21. They then endured a two-week, non-stop impromptu training session with outgoing owners, Dan and Cleo Haakana.

Greg said he can appreciate the method to Dan’s madness and intensity; everything is done for a reason. The couple admitted to working 12 to 15 hour days for many weeks. The former hardwood flooring specialist and hair stylist from Ventura both dropped what they were doing and bought the store when they learned of the opportunity.

Greg told The Sheet on August 28 that the couple has been coming to Mammoth Lakes for years to ski and always had their eye out for a business to buy, or something that would let them settle where their hearts have been for awhile. Mols told the couple about the store being for sale and the couple stopped by and talked to Dan in February. The two made the decision in 24 hours to buy.

“If I don’t do this, I’ll regret it the rest of my life,” Greg said.

Their kids had grown up and moved out, so there was not much holding them back. The Harris’s had no experience with running a store. Luckily, Lori explained, they have a great core crew to help them through, including Cindy, Andrea, David, Daniel, Terry and Josie.

The Harris’s are putting their fun – bicycling, skiing, hiking and tennis – on the back burner for now while they get the store figured out. The two do a little fishing, but they’re bound to get schooled come next Fishmas.

No changes are planned for the store, built in 1958, Lori said. She said they’re in no position to make changes, they barely know the store or what the customers want. The two talked about getting a barbecue night rolling next summer. Maybe live music, but that’s a winter away. The clientele have been asking for items like dog food, specific brands of wine or tobacco and the Harris’s are delivering.

“We’ve had lots of positive response from the locals, and it’s great to see so many smiling faces,” Greg said.

He admits he is amazing himself at the sheer number of names and faces he can remember. He said he was getting burnt out with his flooring business and even a little jaded.

“This is allowing me to be the nice guy I really am.”

Go by and see for yourself. The store is open seven-days a week and the new owners will most likely be there with their smiles on.

ENDURO, eDURO, KIDS ENDURO, PRO GRT DOWNHILL, MEGAKAMI, BOOGALOO, EXPO & MUCH MORE

FOR MORE INFO AND LODGING DEALS, GO TO KAMIKAZEBIKEGAMES.COM

Get up here for the bike bash of the year at this multi-disciplined event featuring some of the best enduro courses in the world, plus the brand new Megakami and eDURO races. With music, great food, drinks and a kids enduro, there’s off-road fun for all.
MUIR MADNESS
By Bodine
Mark Raddatz has combed libraries and museums searching for the words of John Muir. He wanted to present the words of Muir to audiences and not just from a book or two but from the dozens of speeches Muir gave in his life and the many letters he had written.

He will present his one-man show, “John Muir: Watch, Pray, Fight” at the Edison Theater in Mammoth Lakes this weekend. There will be three shows; Friday, August 31 and Saturday, September 1 at 7 p.m. with the final show on Sunday, September 2 at 4 p.m.

Raddatz told The Sheet he went looking for words, only to find a scant three speeches that were transcribed. However, there were many letters and editorials to newspapers Muir had written.

Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of the Century Magazine, had sent a scribe to follow Muir around and take notes, but those notes are lost, Raddatz explained. Muir traveled a lot and spoke in many a random town.

Muir has been an inspiration to Raddatz since his first trip to Yosemite at the age of 7.

Raddatz, an actor, figured that playing a popular historical figure would be a steady gig and he could be rid of auditions or having to go back to school just to stay in the dorms. Raddatz’ love of the outdoors grew and so did his knowledge of Muir — which also complicated things.

He said he’d bring Muir’s books into the backcountry, only to read Muir’s words. “The mountains are no place for books.” Luckily actors are used to being confused and Raddatz persevered.

Raddatz said he came across a letter from one of John’s seven brothers to John that read, “When are you going to do something with your life?”

Raddatz said it was inspirational for him. “I’m never a big hit at career day,” he said. “I’m never a big hit at career day, do something with your life?”

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Raddatz said it was inspirational for him. “I’m never a big hit at career day," said Raddatz. “Get a career! Nah!”

GO TO JARED
Don’t worry. No jewelry involved
By Benham
For Jared and The Mill, Mammoth’s Rock ‘n’ Rye Festival this weekend is the last stop on a month long tour.

The band headlines on Friday night.
It’s the band’s first time in Mammoth. When they arrived, they got drinks at Clocktower Cellar as they tried to finalize a proper tourist schedule — when to hike to Duck Lake, what’s the best hot spring, et. al.

They met in college seven years ago. They started out as a string band with a folk feel.

“We played any little club we could get in,” said Michael Carter, the band’s banjo player.

The band busked a lot, playing on sidewalks and squares.

“When we got to a city, we would stand on a street corner and play for hours,” lead vocalist and singer Jared Kolesar said.

Performing without amplification allowed the band to listen to each other. They learned how to draw people in, which has translated to a “looseness” in their shows.

“There’s not a ton of mystery to us when we’re on stage,” Carter said.

“We’re not this cool, not look-at-you, leather jackets and cigarettes, look at our shoes type of band,” he added.

Jared Kolesar, lead vocalist and songwriter said, “As time has gone on, we’ve embraced rock and roll a little bit harder.”

Their philosophy: play well and play often.

“Rather than wait for the perfect shows and the cool venues, we’d play where rock bands normally wouldn’t,” said Kolesar.

“We’re like the kid in high school who’s friends with all the different cliques,” Carter said.

They market themselves as western indie rock, but otherwise don’t think much about genre.

They have an album coming out later this year. “It’s got a lot more of the southwestern desert rock thing going on,” said Kolesar.

Chuck Morris, the band’s bassist, has been experimenting with synthesizers and guitarist Larry Gast has been dabbling in soundscapes.

The shows are rowdy. A promoter once said that their fans “drink like mothaf***as.” At Rough Trade, a venue in New York City, the manager told them that they attracted a third of a normal audience, but the bar tab was twice the amount of a full crowd.

“Our crowd is pretty diverse. There’s a wide age range and people from all different walks of life. They’re all getting really turned up,” said Morris.

Robert and Heather Schaumbayer are the minds and hands behind Rock n’ Rye. They are excited about the fifth edition of this years festival.

Local and titled Haters returns this year, along with Cashed Out and Reverend Tall Yale.

Robert said Saturday night is the night of big, powerful voices. Sunday’s headliner is a ska band from Tijuana, Los Kung Fu Monkeys. It will be the first time ska is featured in the lineup.

Also on Saturday, a reserve tasting in which each participating distillery will create a signature craft cocktail. There is no official judging, just enjoying. Mammoth’s own Shelter distilling will be there. It’s the first local distillery to pour at the event.

A mechanical bull riding competition that benefits the Mammoth Track Club takes place Saturday and Sunday. Andrew Kastor has emerged as the pre-competition favorite.

The Schaumbayers are grateful to the town, The Village, their sponsors and all the local support that makes the event possible.

More info, see ad p. 2
Sierra Employment Services, Inc. is hiring for the following positions:

- **Cashier B $12**
- **Baker A/B $12**
- **Class A/B Driver $19-25**
- **Front Desk Assistant M $13**
- **Administrative Assistant B $15-20**

Maintenance Personnel

- Full-Time Maintenance available for busy rental management company. Previous experience preferred, training provided. Must be reliable, responsible, hard-working candidates with positive work ethic. Competitive pay. Email resume to sarah@mammothsierraelcline.com, call 760-934-8372 or stop by 1914 Meridian Blvd in Mammoth.

**Help Wanted**

The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for winter employment. We are looking for full and part time team members. Apply in person at 6080 Main Rd. Mammoth.

- **DOMINO’S NOW HIRING!** Looking for THREE delivery drivers. Must have a good driving record and good customer service skills. Minimum wage plus tips, the more hours you work the more you make! Come be a part of a fun, fast-paced team that strives for top quality and service in Mammoth! Candidates must have their own vehicle, over 18 and have over two years driving experience. Apply in store at 1934 Meridian Blvd, Across from Vons.

- **Mammoth Chevron Auto, Truck and RV repair seeking a full time and part time mechanic for its busy shop. Your round positions available. Very competitive wage and commission is commensurate with knowledge and experience.** Call Karl at 760.934.8111 or email at karl@mammothchevron.com, submit application.

- **Elixir Superfood and Juice** is now hiring for all positions on its opening team. Seeking cooks, prep cooks, service staff and team leaders. To apply visit workatelixir.com/jobs or drop off your resume at 3325 Main St. in Mammoth.

- **Golf and Door Person:** June Lake’s newest gathering place is seeking responsible and hospitable professionals to work at least 4 hours per day, up to 5 shifts per week, beginning in late October. Duties will include checking IDs, receiving/selling tickets and controlling the parking lot after the show. Apply online at www.theblacksaloon.com or elr@doubleeagle.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Full Time Hospitality Agent Needed! Seeking a full-time, capable, and detail oriented Hospitality / Reservation Agent for local management company. Excellent phone/customer service skills required. Previous reservation experience preferred. Flexible 32-40 hours per week. Must be able to work nights and weekends. Competitive pay. Please email resume to sarah@mammothsierraelcline.com, or stop by the store to fill out an application.

- **Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc.** supports workforce housing for a viable economy and sustainable community. Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. (MLH) seeks two new directors for the Board. MLH is a CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization) and an affordable housing provider. Applicants must meet the following Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) requirements:

  - Be a low-income resident;
  - Be a member of the low-income community; and
  - Serve low-income community members.

There are many personal and professional benefits that come from serving on a local Board of Directors, such as:

- the development of leadership skills,
- a chance to change working opportunities,
- the chance to give back to the community, an understanding of non-profit management, and experience with big picture thinking.

If you are interested, please contact Patricia Robertson for an application, or submit your resume/CV, or letter of interest to mammothsierraonline.com or karl@mammothchevron.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

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calendar of events

BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/ The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill Every Monday (3 mini burgers for $6) and Wine Wednesdays (live jazz on the patio from 4-7 and happy hour wine from 5-3 close) See ad, p. 26.

Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday: All Night Happy Hour (4 p.m.-close), Tues-Friday, Happy Hour from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday: $2.50 Tacos 4-9 p.m; Wing Wednesday 50% off all wings 8-9 p.m. Thursday: Burger & Beer specials 4-9 p.m. See ad, p. 9.

Morrison’s Happy Hour Daily, 5-7 p.m.

Mammoth Rock ‘N Bowl Monday: $4 games @ 9 p.m. Tuesday: $2 street tacos, $2 games and $2 shoes. Wednesday: $10 large cheese or single topping pizza and 2 for 1 bowling. Thursday: Ladies Night, ladies bowl $2 free games, plus shoes. Friday and Saturday: Cosmic Bowling 9 p.m. Saturday-Sunday: Kids bowl free 4-7 p.m. See ad, p. 10.

Petra’s Bistro & Wine Bar Happy hour 5-7 p.m. daily. $5-10 menu items and drink specials. See ad, p. 16.

Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily. $3 dollar menu items, drink specials. See ad, p. 16.


Roberto’s 4-6 p.m. daily.


Samurai Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m.-close. 26% off all alcohol in bar. Karaoke Night every Fri. & Sat. 9-11:30 p.m.

Whitebark Restaurant Bar & Lounge Unwind with daily drink and food specials 4-6 p.m. See ad, p. 13.

Mammoth's famous Slocums Happy Hour Mon-Fri, 4-6 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 4-5:30 p.m. See ad, p. 7.

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

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

Side Door Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m. Giovanni’s Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.

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

Black Velvet Coffee’s Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m.

Shelter Distilling (Village at Mammoth) free tasting hour 3-4 p.m. See ad, p. 6.

August 31-Sept. 1 Andrew Webber Blues Band plays Rafter’s. 10 p.m. Free.

August 31-Sept. 2 Mammoth Rock N Bye. This rock and whiskey festival returns to The Village with a mechanical bullridding competition. More info: see sidebar column next page, story p. 18 and ad p. 2.

Saturday, Sept. 1 Western Night with Fishin’ Mission in Bridgeport. Concert, raffle, BBQ. More info: see sidebar column on p. 21.

The Bodleys play the dinner hour @ East Side Bake Shop. 6 p.m. Free. See ad, p. 9.

BARS & MUSIC

Sunday, Sept. 2 Good Livin and Friends play the lunch hour @ East Side Bake Shop. Time: 1-3 p.m. Free. See ad, p. 8.

Good Medicine plays The Mobil Mart in Lee Vining. Time: 4-7 p.m. See ad, p. 18.

Summit Sunset Party at Mammoth Mountain. Time: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tix: Info: mammothmountain.com

Monday, Sept. 3 Bishop City Band plays Bishop City Park Gazebo. Time: 8 p.m. Free.

Salsa and Cumbia dance class at Mammoth Brewing Co. Time: 7-9 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

August 31-Sept. 3 Bishop City Band plays Bishop City Park Gazebo. Time: 8 p.m. Free.

Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre presents “John Muir: Watch, Pray Fight.” One-man show starring Mark Raddatz, Times: Fri., Sat. 7 p.m.; Sun. 4 p.m. Location: Edison Theatre, 100 College Parkway, Mammoth. Tix: edisontheatre.org, $20/adult, $10/child, $18/seniors & students. For more, see story p. 18.


Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fair. Location: Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop. More info: see sidebar column on p. 21.

Unwind with daily drink and food specials.

Mammoth Rock ‘N Bowl

Happy hour 5-7 p.m. daily. $5-10 menu items and drink specials. See ad, p. 16.

Clocktower Cellar

Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m. daily. $3 dollar menu items, drink specials. See ad, p. 16.

East Side Bake Shop


Roberto’s 4-6 p.m. daily.

Austria Hof


Samurai

Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m.-close. 26% off all alcohol in bar. Karaoke Night every Fri. & Sat. 9-11:30 p.m.

Whitebark Restaurant Bar & Lounge

Unwind with daily drink and food specials 4-6 p.m. See ad, p. 13.

Mammoth’s famous Slocums Happy Hour

Mon-Fri, 4-6 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 4-5:30 p.m. See ad, p. 7.

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Salsa and Cumbia dance class at Mammoth Brewing Co. Time: 7-9 p.m.
TOWN STUFF
Park Rd. Info: Didi, 760.934.0031 x100.
Bishop Tribe Comittee meets. 1-2 p.m. Executive Conference Room, City Hall.
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. 6 p.m. Suite Z. Minaret Mall.

Thursday, Sept. 6/ Bishop Paiute Community Market.
Time: 5-8 p.m. Location: OVPSS Cultural Center. 2300W Line St. Bishop.

MHS Girls Volleyball hosts Rancho Christian. Time: 5 p.m.

Sept. 7-9/ Granite Man Challenge. Three day triathlon challenge. Register/Info: highsierraradofi.org or 760.717.0176.

Friday, Sept. 7/ granite to granite swim. 2.4 mile and 1.2 mile swims in June Lake. Time: 8 a.m. check-in, 9 start. Register/Info: highsiرارadofi.org or 770.717.0176.

First (Friday) of the month. Markets, craft, produce, music. Time: 6-9 p.m. Location: Academy St., Bishop. Info: 760.937.2942.

Sept. 7-8/ MHS Girls Volleyball multi-team tourney. Start times each day: Friday @ 2 p.m. and Saturday @ 9 a.m.

Sept. 8-9/ June Lake Jam Fest. 102 mile bike race. More info: see sidebar column on this page and ad p. 3.

Saturday, Sept. 8/ Mammoth Gran Fondo. 102 mile bike race. Register/Info: fallcentury.org or 760.914.0301.

Coors Golf Tournament. Time Location: Bishop Country Club. Time: 9 a.m. start. Info: steve@bishopcountryclub.com or 760.873.3826.

N-Loaded. The grand raffle prize is a Treager Texas Elite Grill/Smoker. Tix: $40/person @ fishin-missionfoundation.org. Info: 775.545.7003.

Crowley Lake Library Fundraiser
The Crowley Lake Library Friends of the Library are having their biannual Book Sale & Silent Auction fundraiser on Saturday, September 2 at the Crowley Lake Community Center.
The sale will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The silent auction will feature gift certificates and items from over 40 restaurants, pack stations, marinas and other businesses from Bishop to Mammoth Lakes to Lee Vining. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help the Crowley Lake Library by providing additional funds for programs and services. More info see ad p. 3.

Gran Fondo
The Mammoth Community Foundation and Eastside Velo present the Mammoth Gran Fondo on Saturday, September 8. There are 102, 70 and 42 mile race options. Six feed stations. 75 miles of closed road racing. Socks, t-shirt for finishers. After party music and food.
Register/Info: fallcentury.org or 760.914.0301.

Reds Meadow Road closes Oct. 9
The Inyo National Forest and Devils Postpile National Monument are planning for winter on the Reds Meadow Road. The road will close at the Minaret Vista Gate on October 9, 2018 at noon.
The road historically closes sometime between October 15 and the end of October due to winter storms.
“Over the past several years, we have seen more severe damage on the road due to the instability of the substructure. Our staff is committed to maintaining this road for our visitors’ access and enjoyment,” said Nora Gamino, Forest Engineer. “This work must be completed prior to the first winter weather. We appreciate your patience while important maintenance is done.”
While the road is closed, visitors may still access destinations along the road using nearby trail networks
Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing Sept. 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at Board Chambers, Second Floor, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, CA, to consider the following:

10:00 a.m. SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACTIVITY PERMIT 18-001/Dudley for a non-owner–occupied (Type III) short-term rental use in a 4-BD single-family residential unit at 92 Nevada St. (APN 015-270-033) in Mammoth Lakes, and the Land Use Designation (LUD) is Single-Family Residential (SR). Maximum occupancy of 10 persons and six vehicles.
11:00 a.m. SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACTIVITY PERMIT 18-004/Smith for a non-owner–occupied (Type III) short-term rental use in a 2-BD single-family residential unit at 67 Mammoth Park Dr. (APN 015-270-005) in Mammoth Lakes, and the LUD is SR. Maximum occupancy of six persons and six vehicles.
11:30 a.m. SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACTIVITY PERMIT 18-005/Stephanian for a non-owner–occupied (Type III) short-term rental use in a 4-BD single-family residential unit at 70 Leonard Ave. (APN 015-270-011) in Lake, and the LUD is SR. Maximum occupancy of 10 persons and three vehicles.
12:00 a.m. SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACTIVITY PERMIT 18-006/Stephanian for a non-owner–occupied (Type III) short-term rental use in a 4-BD single-family residential unit at 27 Canyon View Dr. Leonard Ave. neighborhood, APN 015-270-005, in Lake. Maximum occupancy of 10 persons and four vehicles.

These properties may be redeemed in the same manner as other tax-defaulted properties. Information concerning the parcel numbering system are available in the county assessor’s office.

ADDENDA TO PUBLISHED TAX-DEFAULT (DELINQUENT) LIST
The properties listed below were legally assessed and the taxes and/or assessments duly levied for the fiscal year 2014-15. A list of the total annual due for the taxes, assessments, and other charges levied in fiscal year 2014-15 that were a lien on the listed real property.

All these properties will be sold, or a redemption of said defaulted property will be furnished, upon request, by the Mono County Tax Collector, PO Box 495, Bridgeport, CA 93517, (760) 932-5480.

PARCEL NUMBERING SYSTEM EXPLANATION
The parcel number on each postcard mailed to each property owner is the assessor’s parcel number. Taxpayers can verify the accuracy of the parcel number by referring to the assessor’s map book, the map book, the block on the map (if applicable), and the individual parcel on the map or in the mailed postcard.

These maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available in the county assessor’s office.

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Eric W. Olson/Alicia M. Olson
1310 Main St, P.O.Box 1369
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a husband and wife. The fictitious business name was filed in Mono County on May 25, 2016. File Number 2016-080. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on August 27, 2018. 2018-0165 (9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22)


The final budget will be adopted at the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting, to be held at Fire Station 3, 3150 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, on Thursday, September 18, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. A short public meeting will be held to allow public input.

A copy of the budget can be obtained during regular business hours at the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District administrative offices, 3150 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes.

TS#2018-0161

Notice of Property Tax Default (Delinquent) List

I, Janet Dutcher, Mono County Tax Collector, State of California, certify that:

‘The listed parcel below is delinquent for tax year 2018-19. On July 1, 2015, by operation of law pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 8436, the declaration of default was due to non-payment of the total annual due for the taxes, assessments, and other charges levied in fiscal year 2014-15 that were a lien on the listed real property.

Tax-defaulted real property may be redeemed by payment of all unpaid taxes and assessments, together with all additional penalties and fees, as prescribed by law, or it may be redeemed under an installment plan of redemption.

The assessor’s maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available in the county assessor’s office.

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Statement of Abandonment Of Use of Fictitious Business Name Statement
Blazing Shears
The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: Judy Olson
148 Mountain Blvd. P.O. Box 3923
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by a husband and wife. The fictitious business name was filed in Mono County on July 15, 2005. File Number 2005-089. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on August 27, 2018. 2018-0165 (9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The following Person is Doing Business As: Mammoth Insurance
Eric W. Olson/Alicia M. Olson
1310 Main St, P.O.Box 1369
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This business was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on August 27, 2018 File Number Declared 8-23-2018 0165 (9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The following Person is Doing Business As: Mammoth Insurance
Eric W. Olson/Alicia M. Olson
1310 Main St, P.O.Box 1369
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This business was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on August 27, 2018 File Number Declared 8-23-2018 0165 (9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22)

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I heard you ... want to take everyone down with you. Why not? You can never spend too much time in Prison City. I hope to see you ... at the Tri-County Fair. Because there’s no one I’d prefer to rule the Zipper with.

In search of ... a couple to swing with at the Fair. Because we both believe in Fair Trade.

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mono County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing Sept. 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at Board Chambers, Second Floor, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, CA, to consider the following:

10:00 a.m. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 18-005/De. Center, Mammoth Lakes, CA, to consider the following:

Phase I of the project uses a portion of the current building layout as a storefront for Phase II. It will include a display of the retail area and an entrance to a bathroom facility within the existing structure. No expansion of the building footprint is proposed. An avalanche study has been completed for the site and CEQA exemption is proposed. Land use designation is commercial (C).

INTERESTED PERSONS may appear before the Planning Commission to present testimony or, prior to or at the hearing, file written correspondence with: Secretary to the Planning Commission, PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. If you challenge the proposed action(s) in court, you may be required to pay for those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to Secretary to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

TS#2018-0167

Notice of Budget Adoption


The final budget will be adopted at the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting, to be held at Fire Station 3, 3150 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, on Thursday, September 18, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. A short public meeting will be held to allow public input.

A copy of the budget can be obtained during regular business hours at the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District administrative offices, 3150 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes.

TS#2018-0168

Notice of Notice of Public Hearing
continued from page 1

The neighborhood is zoned commercial and the Chacons are required to have a CUP for their building. Ironically, a commercial business like a 7-11 convenience store and gas station would not require a CUP and there would be no chance for the public to comment.

Public comment ranged from jovial to nostalgic to tearful.

Hank Truxillo, the lone Planning Commissioner who voted in favor of the CUP, explained that the issue with the project has been the aesthetics. "There's nothing obnoxious or unusual about the project and the zoning should allow for the project. "God bless them for buying that crappy piece of dirt," said Kenny Lloyd, owner of Eastern Sierra Oil Company located on East Line. He said the Chacons are trying to better the community. "This is their dirt. Let them do something with it."

Robert Sharp, East Line Street resident, said he was against a lot of the work being done on that side of town, with so many historic buildings being converted into businesses. He said the council needs to consider the long-term impacts of decisions concerning aesthetics.

If Bishop Airport begins accepting commercial flights, he warned, East Line Street will be the first impression of Bishop for those passengers.

Cheryl and Gordon Adams are neighbors of the property and staunch critics of the project. Gordon's family first arrived in Bishop in the 1860s in a covered wagon. He explained how much Bishop meant to him and that the last of the pioneer homes in Bishop are located on the East side of town.

"We have invested a lot into our home, and I'm asking you to respect that," Gordon pleaded. "I'm 71, I can't do this again."

Cheryl expressed concern for the safety of the neighborhood as the property is frequently tagged with graffiti.

Beula said the graffiti is not her problem.

The office of Certified Public Accountant Greg Lippincott is located on East Line. He said the Chacons should be able to do what they want with their property. He later added he thought the design for the project looked "grotesque."

"It's a shame to see valuable property used for storage when housing is so scarce," said Bishop resident Chris Taylor.

Heather Lind of the Bishop Planning Commission, who did not specify if she was representing herself or the commission, said she did not like the idea of emptying out a building on Main Street just to fill another building somewhere else in town.

Councilmember Costello said, more at thinking out loud, that the building does not conform with the General Plan, but does fit the zoning. He added that the only reason the other storage buildings going up in town, such as the metal building at the corner of South Main Street and South Street to be used as storage and viewing case for the vintage cars of Frank Stamey, is because there was no public opposition.

"Our job is to listen to the people," Councilmember Laura Smith said.

The Council voted unanimously to deny the appeal.

In an interview after the decision, Beula told The Sheet that the fence is going back up at the property, the weeds will continue to grow and the Crafter's Mall will remain unavailable.

What follows are the opening two paragraphs of a letter submitted by Realtor Stan Smith on Thursday:

"Hopefully putting politics and pressure to one side, the Bishop City Council voted 5-0 Monday evening to deny the Chacon appeal. The Chacons proposed building an industrial warehouse on East Line Street, so they could gussy up their buildings on Main Street and Warren Street, which have been obvious warehouses for years. Without a doubt the Chacon properties mentioned have been cause for commercial-retail neighbors to call city hall and complain about the warehousing in a downtown retail district, which is technically a violation of city zoning and business-use codes and could have earned the Chacons a cease-and-desist notice. Absent code enforcement in the City of Bishop, the Chacons have been apparently sliding for some time.

What's really at play here is the fact that the Chacons and the old K-Mart building on North Main Street have apparently been primary reasons for vacancy and zoning and use violation complaints received at City Hall, which have in some part been the raison d'etre for a proposed vacant building ordinance working its way through community workshops - the latest ironically held earlier Monday.

One of the major tenets of the ordinance under consideration is a registry of downtown commercial building owners and/or property managers, who could be contacted by the city and then listed for building size, rents being sought, and other terms and conditions. It was pointed out to the council Monday that they already have a building ownership registry of sorts, with the list maintained for emergency contact purposes in the event the police or fire department is called."

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Adult Education, Mono County Office of Education
Adult Education Center, Mammoth Lakes Library
(760) 914-4131
Shana Stopp, Coordinator
Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Closed for lunch. Drop-Ins Welcome or call to make an Appointment.

- **ITALIAN LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED BEGINNERS**
  - Wednesday: Sept 12 through Nov 14, 5:30pm to 7:30pm
  - Increase your employment opportunity in Mammoth Lakes which is visited by many Europeans each year, prepare for your European vacation.

- **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**
  - Tuesdays/Thursdays: Sept 4 through Nov 15, 5:30pm to 7:30pm
  - Increase your employment opportunity. Learn English to better serve your employer and customers. Learn with our experienced and friendly teachers!

- **High School Diploma or GED Preparation**
  - Monday through Friday, 10am-12pm, 1pm-5pm
  - Drop-Ins Welcome or make an appointment by calling (760) 914-4131
  - Increase your employment opportunity. Prepare for college. High school classes can be taken online or paper and pencil, GED prep classes are online only.

*Online devices available for rent-$75 refundable ** Some non-refundable materials or textbook fees may apply

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"It's a shame to see valuable prop-
Clockwise from top left: Orion Casas, Bexton Nash, Jani Lange (at bottom of photo holding board) and kids, Ted Raud, Zeia Rose (left) and Tyler Brooking-Kleinertz (right) during the tandem competition, Willie Willis
SKATE CONTEST RESULTS:

**Micro Grom Girls Street**
1. Savina White
2. Evie Kramer
3. Natalie Kramer

**Micro Grom Boys Street**
1. Bexton Nash
2. Cam Bretz
3. Ziggy Lee Wegand

**Mid Grom Girls Street**
1. Sara Tomaier
2. Edyn Neale
3. Kenzie Schaubmayer

**Mid Grom Boys Street**
1. Orion Casas
2. TJ Wegand
3. Tora Komiyama

**Grom Boys Street**
1. Ewen Tomaier
2. Kaden Klassen
3. Jimmy Zipp

**Super Grom Girls Street**
1. Sonny Alba
2. Kate Grey
3. Hana Rakicevic

**Super Grom Boys Street**
1. Jake McConnell
2. Jackson Oakley
3. Jason Zipp

**Shredders Street**
1. Haelyn Nash
2. Ruby Hodges
3. Lou Neale

**Micro Grom Boys Bowl**
1. Cam Bretz
2. Bexton Nash

**Mid Grom Girls Bowl**
1. Kedra McTernan
2. Kenzie Schaubmayer
3. Kinsley Klassen

**Mid Grom Boys Bowl**
1. Orion Casas
2. TJ Wegand
3. Liam Hodges

**Grom Boys Bowl**
1. Jimmy Zipp
2. Kaden Klassen
3. Ewen Tomaier

**Super Grom Girls Bowl**
1. Sonny Alba
2. Hana Rakicevic
3. Kate Gray

**Super Grom Boys Bowl**
1. Liam Knight
2. Jason Zipp
3. Preston Hammer

**Tandem Bowl**
1. Zeia Rose/Tyler Brooking-Kleinertz
2. Joey Zipp/Dillon Henricksen
3. Kinsley Klassen/Steve Klassen

**Shredders Boys Bowl**
1. Dillon Henricksen
2. Joey Zipp
3. Zenon Foster

**Women’s Open Bowl**
1. Alex Carlson
2. Devin Tubbs
3. Patrick Reddy

**Masters Bowl**
1. Willie Willis
2. Scotty Goodman
3. Ryan Carey

**Grand Masters Bowl**
1. Mike Lary
2. Teddy Bush
3. Frank Uchalik

**Legends Bowl**
1. Steve Klassen
2. Mark Kleinertz
3. Bev Bihler

**Horoscopes**

**Virgo:** During the Reagan era, Boston Harbor became so dirty and covered in trash that Bostonians joked that you could walk across the whole thing without getting wet. Earlier this week, half a dozen humpback whales were spotted frolicking around these now-clean waters. Please repeat this story often during this next year of your life, as both an inspiration of how things can change for the better and as a good excuse to say hump in public.

**Libra:** To make the most out of the rest of the summer, please do the following: Accept that choosing to not respond is actually a response—and often the most powerful one. Change your personal definition of what “T.G.I.F.” means to “Thank God I’m Fabulous.” Take long drives and sing along to the Eagles, “Lighten up while you still can.”

**Scorpio:** A man from Illinois was recently arrested for dumping more than 20,000 tons of cow manure on his former boss’ s lawn. Brian Morris was laughing when he was arrested and even when his mugshot was taken. On a related note, Brian has recently won the lottery. Brian Morris is 26.

**Capricorn:** A recent study found that people who have more sex tend to live longer. Of course, enjoying a healthy love life tends to make you want to live longer in the first place. If you’re looking for other things to help with your longevity, try eating more fruits and veggies and giving up any grudges or revenge fantasies you may be holding. Try focusing on other fantasies instead.

**Aquarius:** In case you’ve been questioning a relationship in your life, here are few ideas that might help. Poet Rainer Marie Rilke recommends “We trust in what is impossible.”

**Pisces:** It will come in handy to keep the words of Benjamin Franklin in mind as September rolls on through. “He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.” Be sure that these words don’t apply to you and be wary of anyone they may ring a bell with, unless of course, they’re ringing the dinner bell.

**Aries:** Aries are at your best when plugging into your happy-go-lucky mode. That’s why the following information should come in handy for you: Sometimes what you’re most afraid of is what will really set you free. Also: Sometimes you can’t be the sharpest tool in the shed, but you can always be the hoe.

**Taurus:** Before we had emoticons, we had to make cute little faces with actual punctuation. We texted or emailed stuff like :) or :( or (-,-) or even (*o*). Now such things seem simple and rather silly. Please use this as a reminder that good communication is always evolving and, when done well, can lead to some enjoyable and sweaty non-verbal communication.

**Gemini:** There comes a point in every person’s life when he or she must make a choice: Stay or go? Give up or fight on? Fries or salad? Briefs or commando? The real key is to remember that the biggest regrets usually involve that which we didn’t do, which sometimes means the right thing. Be sure to choose wisely this month, especially involving the commando decision.

**Cancer:** This much we know is true: St. Ambrose was right when he wrote “No one heals himself by hurting others.” Picasso was right when he said, “Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” And Clouds was right when writing, “Nothing says, I mean business’ like filling your shopping cart up with only wine and beer.”

**Leo:** Your life should be starting to hit a nice groove. To help you groove along as the days grow shorter, remember that a Leo’s power always resides in two places: your attitude and your dreams. That’s why you should treat yourself to more well-earned treats and remember that a cupcake is just a muffin that believed in miracles.

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**PERSONALS**

I hope to see you ... at the Demolition Derby this weekend. Because I’m hoping to place into your backside and lift you halfway over the fence. And I don’t mind if a crowd watches!

I saw you ... dropping your kids off at school. If you’d like to drop anything else this week, swing by on for a meat burrito.

I hope to watch you ... ride the mechanical bull at the Rock ’n Rue festival. Because drinking and riding is what you do best.
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