WELCOME TO THE WRECK ZONE
Mammoth Council believes name change for MUF will change outcome

Nominative determinism is a theory which says that the name that you are given determines the path that your life will take.

Mammoth Lakes Town Council must consist of a group of nominative determinists; because at Wednesday night’s regular meeting, council decided to rename the Multi-Use Facility the “Rec Zone,” in the hopes that it would be the first step in a new direction for the proposed facility.

The name change was about the only thing that council could agree on regarding the project, and even that was shaky.

Councilman Kirk Stapp asked if it was, “Wreck with a W?”

Council was presented with three funding/design alternatives to consider:

A. $13 million budget for a “Rink and Roof,” to be expanded into a community center later. Located at Mammoth Creek Park West.

B. $10 million budget for a smaller facility at Mammoth Creek Park West. Will have reduced scope and programming from alternative A.

C. Unknown budget. Consider putting facility on the current site of the ice rink, on land owned by Mammoth Unified School District, through an extended lease.

Councilman Sauser was livid that these alternatives were even presented.


“Let’s not look at all the things we’ve looked at for 20 years.”

Town Manager Dan Holler responded by saying that he included alternatives B and C on the agenda because the town does not have the money for option A.

“It would not be good management for me to go to the council with a project that we do not have the funding for,” he said.

The town has about $9.1 million in funds allocated for the project, and another ~$2.9 million in additional unrestricted funds that could supplement it.

That still leaves the town a million short of the needed $13 million.

“Over two years we will find money for this,” Sauser said. “Housing is the priority, but it is not the only thing that General Fund money should be used for.”

Councilman John Wentworth also supported alternative A, but not just because of council’s past support for it.

“I looked at every one of these with an open mind,” Wentworth said. “It was relatively simple for me… It comes down to why we have recommending bodies. We have the Recreation Commission and MLR [Mammoth Lakes Recreation] for a reason.”

The Recreation Commission and MLR discussed these alternatives at their most recent meetings, and both groups decided that alternative A was their preference. MLR Executive Director Matt McClain and Rec Commission Chair Betsy Truax both spoke at the meeting to explain their boards’ decisions.

Mayor Cleland Hoff, and council members Salcido and Stapp were not as quick to dismiss alternatives B and C.

“Remakes are not necessary,” Hoff said. “Kids will walk together to the library. Kids will get involved.”

Recreation Commission and MLR discussed these alternatives at their most recent meetings, and both groups decided that alternative A was their preference. MLR Executive Director Matt McClain and Rec Commission Chair Betsy Truax both spoke at the meeting to explain their boards’ decisions.

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The location at the school makes sense,” Hoff said. “Kids can walk together to the library. It is not the only thing that General Fund money should be used for.”

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Councilman John Wentworth

TOWN HONORS MHS VOLLEYBALL

Mammoth Town Council celebrated the achievement of this year’s MHS Girls Volleyball team at its meeting Wednesday. The team posted its best season in three decades according to Coach John Morris.
I want to ride to the ridge where the west commences/And gaze at the moon till I lose my senses/And I can't look at hovels and I can't stand fences/Don't fence me in.”

- Porter & Fletcher

Don’t Fence Me In.” is a popular American song written in 1934, with music by Cole Porter and lyrics by Porter and Robert Fletcher. It’s considered one of the Top 100 Western songs of all time. It’s also an apt description of the past default policy of the Big Pine Saddle Club boards, which have for many years ignored the terrible condition of the perimeter fencing along the Baker Creek Road side of the facility.

As to renaming the MUF in honor of Wreck-It Ralph, well, renaming or rebranding things that carry a negative connotation is fairly commonplace. Get found guilty of peddling cancer? Change your name from Philip Morris to Altria. Get caught up in the Enron scandal? Change your name from Arthur Andersen to Accenture.

I don’t understand why Town staffers ever get it in their heads to name anything. This is not what they’re good at. Mammoth Lakes Tourism isn’t good at it, either, but at least MLT is smart enough to contract the creative out.

And from Charles’s desk, dovetailing with the letter from Ms. Snoderly which appears on page four:

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There are literally thousands of news articles online about the topic horse hair/ tail theft coupled with information “why?” It is a well-documented problem in midwestern and western states. The story at the saddle club was news, especially on the heels of the prior July incident, and the interest shown by the public. It is also of interest to people who donated money to the saddle club who want to know what the club has or has not done in the past 5 months since the incident in July to immediately improve the safety of the horses and its future plans.

According to several saddle club members, the issue of the terrible condition of the perimeter fencing has been known for years—even discussed—but no action was ever taken, even after the July incident; well, that is, until now. LADWP, which owns and leases the property to the saddle club, made improvements to the property a top priority and it is a welcome community service project. In just the past couple of weeks, the department has replaced some sections of the barbed-wire fence, and added a new street light access from the main gate to the saddle club. They also installed several poles on the property for the addition of lighting and surveillance cameras to be installed by the club, using donations. All these measures are long overdue.

All these improvements represent a considerable investment by LADWP, especially considering the very favorable lease terms given to the saddle club, so much so that a few club members are worried the cost of the lease might be considerably raised in the future. There is a one-time member fee of $100. The corral rental fee is only $15 a month. That’s an incredible bargain. It’s a great incentive to move to Big Pine if you are a horse owner.

Added to the saddle club’s monthly rental fee are costs borne by the horse owners. Water costs, feed, veterinary care, and all the equipment and supply costs that come with owning and upkeep to maintain a healthy horse. It can add up to thousands of dollars a year. While owning a horse can be expensive, horse owners will tell you, it’s worth it. The relationship and companionship that horse owners have with their horses are very special. As the late-President Ronald Reagan is famously noted for saying, “…there’s nothing better for the inside of a man (or a woman) than the outside of a horse.”

While the new four-foot-high, 5-line-barbed-wire fencing installed along a part of the property is a welcome improvement and make it at least nominally more difficult to access the property illegally with bad intent, it is not security fencing, which would be prohibitively expensive even for LADWP. The newly added sections of fencing, added to other measures such as providing electrical power to the property, added lighting and security cameras, will all add to the security and safety of the horses. Even so, with all these changes, there are no guarantees that incidents will not occur again. The club should talk to other equestrian facilities for more ideas, which might include, for example, a neighborhood watch program. If you’d like to donate to the club’s improvement fund or find out more information on the Big Pine Saddle Club, visit their website at: http://www.bpsaddleclub.com/.
**LETTERS**

**Freud loves The Mogul!**

**Dear Editor:**

I truly enjoy reading The Sheet. Every week, I believe that the resident populations of Inyo and Mono Counties, visitors and me consistently benefit from keeping up on all things Eastern Sierra by reading The Sheet. Since the Comstock Lode days even before Samuel Clemens was a staff writer for the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise, readers have loved to respond to the opinions, points of view and facts expressed by newspaper writers. Here are just a few reactions of my own to The Sheet’s Dec. 1 issue.

Loomey for the Bean, an otherwise thorough report by Maddox, did not include the actual physical address or reference location. Readers may need it to clearly place the store in Bishop or to avoid confusion with the Mammoth location.

I enjoy the connection to historical references in stories by Benham and Gorman. In line with the traditional style of The Sheet, they have witty and thoughtful ways of creating reader interest. Gorman’s story last week on gathering the Christmas tree was not only replete with useful and accurate info but humorous and Christmas-y!

I am concerned that the matter excerpted below from Opioid Overuse Orders may not have been reported as a separate news item. The local rumor mill has been grinding that County first responders were seen removing a deceased individual from Curly’s Motel in the Long Valley area about a month ago. “Boo and Robin Roberts, Director of Mono County Behavioral Health, noted that there has been one fatal overdose in the last month. That is the lone opioid-related fatality of the year thus far.”

The interview with the snowboarder John J made reference to the Sigmund’s and Benham’s report of the Mogul instead of the Sigmens.

By far the best unintentional laugh came from Tackling the Don by Benham. Referring to Don Quixote’s famed steed Rocinante as a stag tickled my funny bone more than once. Auto correct is doubtless to blame!

Although a definite improvement on Lunch’s recent report on traditional children’s stories, I think Benham’s book report may not have been allotted enough column inches to express that Don Quixote is considered a founding work of modern Western literature (novels) and arguably one of the greatest works of fiction ever published. The modern adaptation Man of La Mancha is considered a foundering work of modern Western literature. Don Quixote is the Bible and the Bible are the two most-translated books in history.

All credit to Benham’s report for focus on Cervantes’ perfect description of the eternal paradox of romantic love. While only one of the many universal themes considered in the 16th century in Don Quixote, it remains sadly undeniable today.

“In one of his many delusions, Quixote imagines a knight meeting a lady: “She will fix her eyes upon the knight and he will gaze into hers... and without understanding how it has happened they will find themselves caught and enmeshed in the tight-knit nets of love and with great anguish in their hearts, not knowing how they can contrive to speak and make their feelings and desires known to each other.”

Keep up the entertaining writing and accurate reporting.

**Charles Scatolini**

Mammoth Lakes

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**Crestfallen over water**

**Dear Editor:**

On September 26 I attended a meeting in Mammoth where LADWP began the scoping process concerning renewal of grazing leases in Long Valley. Several comments were put forth that LADWP was extracting more water from Long Valley so that it could sell it to Ridgecrest, a town in the Indian Wells Valley in eastern Kern County.

At first I thought that this was just another Eastern Sierra water rumor. Boy was I wrong! Following are excerpts from the two Reports on the Indian Wells Valley wastewater supply referenced at the end of this letter:

- The Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin is in overdraft and has been since the 1960s, and the severity meets the definition of a “critical condition of overdraft.”
- Groundwater pumping is now three to five times greater than basin yield.
- Municipal and agricultural water use accounts for 70 to 80 percent of total groundwater pumping.

Recent agricultural expansion has increased alfalfa fields from 870 acres to 990 acres and pistachio orchards from 300 to 2,500 acres (Todd Engineers, 2014). Water use by pistachio crops is projected to increase agricultural water demand by approximately 70 percent by 2025, when these orchards reach maturity (Todd Engineers, 2014).

- Agricultural water demand will increase as newly planted trees mature. If in addition, new acreage may be planted, representing a potential substantial increase in pumping.
- The magnitude of the overdraft indicates that recovery cannot be achieved with conservation or water recycling alone without jeopardizing beneficial uses; importation of supplemental water is needed.
- The imported water would need to be delivered from the Los Angeles Aqueduct to Ridgecrest. The shortest distance between the aqueduct and the

see LETTERS, page 4
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Indian Wells Valley would enable them to purchase replacement water from the agencies mentioned above. However Indian Wells Valley would be solely dependent on Inyo and Mono counties for its imported water. The addition of power players such as the Department of Defense and Kern County Agriculture into our water politics pipeline would likely increase demand and cause the eyes of Southern California to cast ever more covetous eyes northward.


Underground the lines

Dear Mr. Lunch,

Re “Utilities May Be Held Responsible for Woolsey, Camp Fires,” November 17, 2018. Southern California Edison (SCE) is a business. Its main goal is to maximize profits for its shareholders. SCE’s business is providing power; it has to deal with things that affect its ability to provide power, including wildfires. SCE has various ways to mitigate the risks of its power lines causing fires; presumably it uses cost/benefit analyses to determine what it will or will not do given situations. To the extent that SCE can shut off power and make customers bear the costs and inconvenience — rather than undergrounding power lines — its profits will be higher.

Undergrounding all of SCE’s many miles of above ground power lines may be prohibitively expensive and difficult, but undergrounding should be seriously considered where there are residences and extreme weather events before assuming that power shutoffs are necessary to reduce the chance that SCE equipment will cause wildfires.

Gary Nelson
Mono City

Unhappy with Charles

Dear Charles James,

Your coverage on the horrific incident in July at the Big Pine Saddle Club was good. You published the facts along with the members feelings and other media coverage we were able to get awareness to the public on the incident. With your coverage we were able to raise money to help make our club a safer place for our members and our horses. With that being said since July we have diligently been working with numerous parties to make the club safer. Unfortunately it takes time to get it all done.

Recently, you have published another article about an incident at the Big Pine Saddle Club; unfortunately, as we are shocked an article was printed on an incident that the impacted member was not contacted to find out if they thought it needed to be broadcast.

In addition, the information you published was false and you have put our horses at risk once again. We do not appreciate what you have done with this article. You published a picture of the horse and then state where the horse is located in the Saddle Club and it is approachable even after the trauma this horse suffered in July.

Then you proceed on to notify everyone how one horse can earn a person up to $75 per pound of hair online, now you have opened our horses up to more risks.

For your information, we currently have some surveillance cameras throughout the club to catch those unwanted visitors. We also have posted signs all around the outer perimeter of the club stating “Warning 24 Hour Surveillance Trespassers will be prosecuted.” With that being said you have trespassed into our club without our permission, and then took pictures of a horse you didn’t have permission to from the owner. The outer fence is currently being replaced. We are hoping to have it completed within the next couple of weeks. We also have some lighting throughout and are continuing to get more. The money that was donated has been used for improvements and will continue to be used for more improvements.

The owner of the horse has filed a complaint with the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department against you for trespassing. We would appreciate it very much if you would stay off our premises unless you are with a member and have permission to be on the property.

Amy Motroni
Swall Meadows

*For Charles’ perspective, please see page 2.
LADWP COMMISSIONED LOCAL FOCUS GROUPS

What did they want to know? Who knows? But they now know many of us know very little.

By Ben Trefry

Two months ago, about a dozen community members were gathered at the Memorial Hall in Bridgeport to participate in a focus-group style study for Nichols Research, enigmatically titled ‘County Concerns’ - which, as it turned out, was commissioned by none other than the LADWP.

The discussion focused on Mono County residents’ opinions of the LADWP, especially in light of the de-watering of Long Valley in southern Mono County, which the LADWP is responsible for. A similar survey took place on October 10, in Bishop.

Participants were compensated with $125 in cash, a killer deal for two hours of time. According to Dion Agee, who participated in the study in Bridgeport, “they were trying to ascertain what our knowledge was of the DWP - [and] to understand what people thought about them - was there goodwill [towards the LADWP]?”

Agee says that of the participants, only two (including himself) were educated about the LADWP and the past issues it’s been involved in - a lack of awareness that frustrates him. “If that’s the ratio of educated people to uneducated people in our community with regards to the DWP, we need to do some community education,” he said.

The leaders of the focus group mentioned some of the positive things that the LADWP has done, such as allowing Diaz Lake (in Inyo County) to be used for recreation, and the group was also shown and asked to respond to what appeared to be possible PR statements and campaigns that the LADWP might consider using in Mono County to improve public opinion.

Agee, who is opposed to the de-watering of Long Valley, was having none of it. “Most of it was laughable - and I told them that,” he said.

The Sheet also reached out to Jessica Johnson of the LADWP, to ask what they thought of the results, Johnson replied, “as LADWP looks to continue to understand what people thought about them - was there goodwill [towards the LADWP]?”

Johnson said that often the focus groups were intended in part to check the viability of different outreach approaches towards residents and stakeholders in the Eastern Sierra. Although the focus groups were ultimately very small, with few of those who signed up actually being invited to participate, many residents of Mono County were contacted by Nichols Research via email and encouraged to apply.

According to Mono County supervisor Diana Corless, several of those who received this email contacted the County asking if they were behind it, probably due to the suggestive title ‘County Concerns’. “I also had a constituent reach out to me because she was selected to participate, and thought [correctly] that LADWP was behind it,” said Corless in an email to The Sheet. “She asked for some back-ground on the Long Valley de-watering issue, and we talked about it,” but this constituent was dropped from the list and did not participate in the focus group.

Based on the information she received from those who did participate, Corless believes that the effort was “in part at least, a classic push poll conducted in order to get their message across to locals ... Other motives could be to test their messages, and to plant seeds of doubt in the minds of residents to sow mistrust in their local government.”

According to Johnson, the focus groups were intended only to inform the LADWP about the opinions of residents, and not the other way around. However, Agee said that the questions and discussion appeared to be designed specifically to paint the LADWP in a positive light, which might not be the case if the company was simply trying to inform itself about what people really think.

Agee also said that at the beginning of the discussion, the leaders of the focus group in Bridgeport stated that they would tell everyone who it was they were working for once the discussion was over, but when that time came, they refused to say - even though there were LADWP personnel present to view the results, Johnson said.

Despite his frustration with the LADWP’s tactics and the lack of education on the part of his peers, Agee says, “I felt fortunate that I was picked [to participate], from the standpoint that 8 out of those 10 people there didn’t have a clue about the history of the DWP!”

Supervisor Corless agrees that while the motives of the LADWP in hiring Nichols Research to conduct these focus groups were suspicious, some good could come out of the outreach. “Instead of communicating openly with stakeholders and giving complete project descriptions... they tried spoon-feeding their version of the story to see how much of it people would believe. I hope the survey/focus group results inspired them to try a new and different strategy - one that seeks sustainable solutions for the health of a watershed that we all depend on,” said Corless.
SQUAW continued from page 1

story with their self-aware, absurdist humor. Alterra's development is represented by a construction worker who throws water in the faces of tailgaters, bangs a trash can lid during a conversation with residents, and blocks views with cardboard cutouts made to look like buildings. In one scene, KSL and Alterra are portrayed as Darth Vader. *Kinda derivative, since Mammoth has already been introduced to Darth Rusty t-shirts.*

The film attacks the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) performed to merely comply with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and not much more. 97% percent of the comment letters to the EIR were against the development. Public opposition didn’t influence local government to vote against the proposal. Keep Squaw True pressed Placer County’s Planning Commission, but the Planning Commission approved Alterra’s plans. Keep Squaw True pressed Placer County Supervisors, but the supervisors similarly approved the plans. Now, Sierra Watch is challenging the decision in court. *The Sheet interviewed Sierra Watch’s Executive Director Tom Mooers and “The Movie to Keep Squaw True” director Robb Gaffney.*

Mooers’ favorite part of the movie is seeing his kids. He admitted his bias, shamelessly, but played fair and gave another answer:

“There’s something about the scenery, the landscape footage and some of the action shots. That have nothing to do with people like me talking. They’re just reminders of what an awesome place Squaw Valley is, how beautiful Tahoe is, and the incredible experiences people have in the great outdoors. I could probably watch the movie without sound and like it just as much because the images are amazing.”

Mooers called Alterra/KSL Capital Partners “a distant private equity Goliath.” Alterra says that it will maintain the uniqueness of each mountain town it acquires. They call them “Ikon” passes for a reason. Mooers is cautious. Gaffney compared Alterra’s resort strategy to McDonald’s burgers. “Like every Big Mac tastes the same in every McDonald’s.”

The change in ownership of the resort hasn’t changed much. Mooers said that Alterra has maintained the same “steamroller approach in litigation” that KSL had formerly applied to build a water park or roller coaster. “When you bring it up in the meetings,” he said referring to fire danger, “they don’t acknowledge or understand it.”

The reason the Keep Squaw True logo is purple is because Alex Kushing, who founded of Squaw Valley Resort in 1949, used the color. Mooers called it “Squaw purple” and if The Sheet wanted more explanation it would have to “exhume Alex Kushing.” Mooers recalled being told by a KSL employee that the original color was mauve. Mooers didn’t balk and Keep Squaw True’s true colors remain.

Mooers gets pessimistic when “people think bad development is inevitable” and “when people elected to make decisions, make decisions not in the public’s interest but in private developers’ interests.”

He couldn’t explain Alterra’s plans to build a water park or roller coaster. “The only reason he could think of was that KSL did market research and found that it could make money. The people did not demand a water park or a roller coaster.

Mooers offered a picture of Placer County politics. The county seat isn’t in the High Sierra, it’s in Auburn, in the foothills. The different geographies breed different cultures, separate societies. It limits the decision-makers' understanding of the High Sierra, he said.

Robb Gaffney said of the county meetings, “It was like being in an SNL skit and watching democracy fail … It was almost like a joke.”

Gaffney emphasized the disconnect between representatives and constituents. Alterra’s proposal would add 3,000 car trips per day going to and from Squaw Valley. Squaw Valley Road is the only way into Olympic Valley (name of the unincorporated community at the base of the resort) and the only way out.

“When you bring it up in the meetings,” he said referring to fire danger, “They don’t acknowledge or understand it.”

The Sheet asked Gaffney what the ‘True’ in Keep Squaw True means.

“It’s the connection they [the people] have that they know intuitively is right. And they know when it’s wrong. When you hear the clacking of the roller coaster, you know it’s wrong.”

“Everyone wants to get away from the stink,” Gaffney said.

Sierra Watch’s goal isn’t to eviscerate Alterra. “Our goal isn’t to win a lawsuit; our goal is to get Alterra to the table,” Mooers said.

He hopes the movement has “increased awareness and inspired people to get involved.”

The movie premiered in Truckee on September 18. The screening tour starts this weekend at the Truckee Art Haus and comes to June Lake’s T-Bar Social Club on Tuesday, December 11. The doors open at 6 p.m. The screening starts at 7 p.m. and is followed by a Q&A with Tom Mooers and Robb Gaffney. Tickets cost $7 and can be purchased at the door.
**THE SHEET | Saturday, December 8, 2018  | www.thesheetnews.com | LOCAL NEWS |**

**“SOMETHING’S HAPPENING HERE...”**

**MLH approves home-buyer assistance program and another action plan**

By Benham

Mammoth Lakes Housing’s (MLH) Board met on December 3 in Suite Z and approved a Home Buyer Assistance Program (HBAP) by a vote of 6-1.

Board member Richard Plaisted voted “no,” over concern that there could be short sales if the market tanks. Plaisted was also concerned about such a large amount of money being devoted to a small number of households.

The large amount of money he’s referring to is $110,000. The small number of households is two. MLH will ask Town Council to withdraw the $110,000 from the joint housing reserve either at Council’s next meeting on December 19 or in January.

Tom Hodges, MMSA’s Vice President of Mountain Development, called the number of households “nominal.”

“I assume it’ll be a slam dunk,” he said, referring to the program.

According to the CHAP (Community Housing Action Plan), the HBAP was supposed to be implemented within a year. A year has passed, the HBAP hasn’t been implemented.

“This program has been put on the future a few times,” MLH Director Patricia Robertson said.

Later in the week, Robertson added, “I would like to see MLH afford the same process that MLT had.”

She was referring to the Town granting MLT’s request for $250,000 from the tourism joint reserve to fund Operation Winter Blitz.

“It’s important that we have consistency.”

This is the plan. HBAP will loan $100,000 to the households that will go towards the down payment on the houses. The loans help the households to pay 20% of the down payment and avoid mortgage insurance (if they didn’t meet the 20% threshold) of 1% of the purchase price per month. The loans won’t cover the entire payment. They’ll provide 10% of the purchase price or $50,000 dollars, whichever is less.

Of the remaining $10,000, $9,000 will pay MLH staff time and $1,000 will be used for marketing. HBAP provides financial help to households earning 81%-120% of area median income. The two households are considered to be HBAP’s pilot program. Initially, the program did not include deed restrictions. But Mono County Supervisor and former MLH Director Jennifer Halferty raised the issue during public comment.

Sandy Hogan hacked her up, “I recommend that you spend extra time and money to consider deed restrictions.”

After discussion, the board amended the motion to include deed restriction on the properties.

Loan repayment has been set at 30 years or upon sale of the unit. HBAP will help with 20% of the buyer’s downpayment. Plaisted expressed concern of a short sale if the market tanks. “That’s considerable risk to consider,” he said.

Mon County Supervisor Stacy Cornell said, “It’s important we honor the work that went into the CHAP — it’s great for this board to demonstrate that we try something they [the public] ask for.”

The board moved onto a vote to apply for the California Coalition for Rural Housing West Internship program. Under this program, an intern would work for MLH at no financial obligation to MLH.

The internship is for undergraduates or recent graduates. It would be an opportunity to train someone in the housing industry and possibly gain a future MLH employee.

Town Council member and MLH Board Member John Wentworth urged MLH to hire someone from the area and avoid hiring from out of town. As he reasoned, if the housing intern cannot find housing, this will ironically exacerbate the housing crisis.

The motion passed unanimously. A cheery mood continued when Ken Brengle, Executive Director the Chamber of Commerce, presented a new Chamber of Commerce Housing Action Plan (CoCHAP). To enact the CoCHAP, the Chamber has created a Chamber of Commerce Housing Steering Committee (Steering Committee).

“Our board has said, ‘We aren’t waiting any longer,’” Brengle said.

The Chamber will reach into its budget for $25,000 to fund the Steering Committee. Brengle asked the board if it supported asking Town Council for $100,000 from the joint housing reserve to fund the steering committee. The MLH board unanimously supported the proposal.

The CoCHAP will focus on getting funding from businesses and working with businesses to house employees.

“For more complex housing issues we’d leave that to the experts, which would be Mammoth Lakes Housing,” Brengle said.

Two new MLH members, Zoraya Cruz and Agnes Vianzon, volunteered to join the steering committee.

MLH will ask Town Council for the $100,000 at Council’s meeting on December 19.

Note: At MLH’s meeting in January, board members will discuss creating a Latino Housing Coalition.

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**“I would like to see MLH afforded the same process that MLT had. It’s important that we have consistency.”**

- Patricia Robertson

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**TICKETS $95 | VIP TABLE $1,500 (SEATS 10)**

Purchase tickets online at disabledsportseasternsierra.org or at the DSES Office, Second Chance Thrift Shop, or Booky’s. Joint. Call 760.934.0791 for tickets and information!
COUNTY EARNS AA-
By Beahm

For the purpose of borrowing money for the development South County Civic Center, Mono County sought an updated credit rating and the results are in. Leslie Chapman, County Administrative Officer, and Janet Dutcher, Director of Finance reported at Tuesday’s Mono County Supervisors meeting that SkP has issued a “AA” rating.

An “AA” rating “indicates strong capacity to meet financial commitments but some susceptibility to long-term risks is present,” according to a memo issued by Dutcher’s department.

The memo admitted, “A credit weakness noted is Mono County’s large pension and OPEB obligations. The funding ratio of the CalPERS plans are a specific concern with the Miscellaneous Plan at 69% and the Safety Plan at 75%.” While the OPEB and pension liabilities are mentioned as credit weaknesses, it is acknowledged that the County’s actions since 2008 to prefund an OPEB irrevocable trust to an unprecedented amount of $19.5 million is a mitigating factor favorable towards the County’s finances.”

While Public Works Director Tony Dublino reported that the county is still waiting on various documentation before it can launch its project, workers have cleared vegetation and trees and rough-leveled the site during the past few weeks, which will make it easier to clear snow in the spring.

Supervisor Fred Stump asked if the Town of Mammoth’s building would be attached to the county building (even though the Town of Mammoth hasn’t formally committed to anything). In 2017, HMC’s architectural design conceived that county and town offices would be attached. There will be a plaza between the buildings, Dublino said. Supervisor Jennifer Halferty asked where the Town’s building would be in relation to the county’s. “It’ll be west of the property, and therefore block views of the mountain and sunset from the county building.”

Concerned about temperature regulation and energy efficiency, Supervisor Stump asked about shades for the large windows on the west side of the building. Dublino assured him that window coverings were being taken into consideration.

The project is on schedule. “One of the primary components of this design was to have a broad south facing roof pitch that we could put photovoltaic panels on.” The panels are being put off for now. “That remains kind of part of the design moving forward. And just something that we’re interested in implementing in the future when resources permit,” Dublino said.

“I just don’t want to forget about the energy side,” said Supervisor Stump.

The projects’ budget is $20.5 million.


Compared to other states California has strict building efficiency standards set by Title 24. On advice from consultants, the county will not seek a Savings By Design program that would ensure the project will meet Title 24’s minimum guidelines and stick to its budget.

NEGOTIATING WITH INTEGRITY, SUPPORTING MERCY
Mono County Behavioral Health marches forward with supportive housing and addiction treatment plans

The Mono County Behavioral Health Advisory Board met on Monday. The county’s Department of Behavioral Health runs on three year planning cycles updated annually.

Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor and board member, encouraged putting more money to housing. Currently, the department has $100,000 devoted to housing. But the county doesn’t have any temporary or permanent supportive housing. So when the hospital releases a patient and they don’t have a home, the county doesn’t have housing to compensate. The county can buy the patient a sleeping bag - that’s about it.

But the county is addressing the dearth of housing with plans to build a 35-45 unit permanent supportive affordable housing development. 10-15 of the units will be dedicated to people with mental health needs. The rest will be affordable housing.

The county received a proposal from Integrity Housing, a company based in Irvine, CA. Integrity specializes in building affordable housing. It doesn’t do supportive housing. That’s why the county is contracting with Mercy Housing, a non-profit affordable housing developer, to help out with the supportive aspect of the development.

On January 7, Integrity will visit Mammoth to scout sites and meet stakeholders. The department is targeting sites within a half-mile of the hospital, library and schools. The development could acquire and rehabilitate an existing building or buy land, raze it and build from the ground up. Mental Health Services Act Coordinator Amanda Greenberg, the decision will be made once the developers visit.

Mono County’s health department has a low reimbursement rate. Employees under-bill for services. Director of the Department of Behavioral Health Robin Roberts said that, “The e-record is cumbersome. It’s hard to enter into the system. We need to remind people they need to record on time.”

The house at 71 Davison Street looms. It was the last permanent supportive housing that was open. It closed in 2011 and the county has been trying to sell it for the seven years.

Roberts called it, “The house that will not be sold.”

“Could that change. The county has received three affordable housing bids and currently Behavioral Health is making sure those bids meet government requirements for affordable housing. Once the bids are vetted, then the county can choose and sell the property.

Medically Assisted Treatment
Mammoth Hospital’s Stephen Swisher will join the Mono County Opioid Task Force. Recently, he became licensed to provide medically assisted treatment (MAT). It is a DEA license. With it, he can administer medicines like naltrexone, which reduces alcohol cravings, or suboxone, which does the same but for opioids.

He can’t provide MAT until the hospital builds the treatment into its systems. Dr. Swisher is an emergency room physician. He said he’d need to have a place outside the ER to administer MAT, where he could meet with patients.

The hospital is in transition. CEO Gary Myers will retire at the end of the month and be replaced by Tom Parker. Parker comes from Snoqualmie Hospital outside of Tacoma, Washington, which didn’t have a MAT program.

But Parker told The Sheet, that the Mammoth Hospital is currently seeking a grant to fund MAT. If the hospital applies for the grant and receives it, a MAT program wouldn’t be implemented until the first quarter of next year that the program.

Dr. Swisher said, “There is an institutional commitment to it [MAT].”

He doesn’t know how much demand there is for MAT at the hospital. He won’t know until the program is running.
WRECK continued from page 1
or the rink after school.”
“[I] would like to get information on
keeping it where it is and putting a roof on
it... An ice rink with a roof is my goal. The
community center can come later,” Mayor Huff said.
“That’s where I stand, and I am proud
of it.”
Councilmember Lynda Salcido said that she is not quite an A or B person. “My
non-negotiables are a big rink, a roof,
and a comfortable place to
gather,” she said.
“I have a responsibility to be a good
steward of town funds… I think that tak-
ging money from the general fund is a bad
idea.”
“I cannot face the public unless I can
fairly look at all the costs,” she said re-
garding the possibility of a lease with the
school.
Councilman Stapp also showed some
support for locating the Rec Zone on
school property.
Town Engineer Grady Dutton said that the
current ice rink is showing signs of
wear, and may only last a few years longer.
“When we put the first layer of ice down
and drive over it, we hit patches of con-
crete,” Dutton said. “The slab is uneven.”
Dutton told council that an analysis of the
school site alternative would take between
90-120 days to complete.
Councilman Wentworth proposed a
two-part motion: part one was to ap-
proach the school district with lease terms
that Dan Holler and Town Attorney An-
drew Morris would craft, and the second
part is to do an assessment of the current
site with new concrete and a new chiller
for the ice, etc.
The motion passed 4-1, with Sauser say-
ing, “In respect of all that has been done
over 20 years, No.”
In order to appease Sauser, who feared
that this motion would indicate that the
town had abandoned option A, the Coun-
cill then unanimously approved a motion
to, “continue to comparatively consider
option A.”

LAGDWP POSTPONES WELL TEST
Press Release (November 30, 2018) – The Los Ange-
les Department of Water and Power (LADWP) informed the Owens Valley
Committee of its decision to postpone the
testing of Well 385, a LADWP well
located north of Bishop, CA, in an area
known as Five Bridges.
LADWP had scheduled the pump-
ing to begin on December 3, 2018, but
agreed to postpone operation pending
conclusion of litigation and in light of
dry conditions this fall.
The 1997 Memorandum of Under-
standing between the City of Los Ange-
les Department of Water and Power, the
County of Inyo, the California Depart-
ment of Fish and Game, the California
State Lands Commission, the Sierra Club,
the Owens Valley Committee, and
Carla Scheidlinger (“1997 MOU”) set-
tled twenty-five years of litigation over
groundwater pumping to fill the second
barrel of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.
The 1997 MOU called for the Inyo/
LA Technical Group to prepare mitiga-
tion plans for many areas of the valley
adversely affected by LADWP land and
water management activities during the
In 1999, LADWP accepted a mitiga-
tion plan prepared by the Inyo/LA Techni-
cal Group, which called for Well
385 and the nearby Well 386 to be per-
manently shut down. “Thus
provision requiring Wells 385 and 386
be ‘permanently shut down.’” Thus
the testing of Wells 385 and 386 could
proceed pending final agreement on a
monitoring plan by the Inyo/LA Techni-
cal Group.
As LADWP and Inyo County planned
to begin the pump test on December 3,
Owens Valley Committee filed a Mo-
tion for Preliminary Injunction to halt
the testing pending the outcome of the
litigation.
Shortly afterwards, the City of Los
Angelenos’ attorney informed the Owens
Valley Committee and Sierra Club’s
attorneys that the pump test would not
begin December 3, 2018, as planned.
City and County had agreed to suspend the
pumping pending the outcome of the
litigation.
LOCAL NEWS

Trails Flooding

Several homeowners from The Trails neighborhood in Mammoth Lakes spoke to the town council on Wednesday about a flooding problem that has been created in The Trails.

Neighborhood homeowner E.L. Smoogen said that the flooding problem was created when the Mammoth Elementary School parking lot was renovated a few years ago.

The renovation has created an issue wherein rain water in the spring cannot drain properly due to snow on the ground, and the water from Meridian is diverted to The Trails. The community members who lived there had to shovel snow and hire snow removers in order to ensure their houses would not see significant flooding.

The homeowners association of The Trails requested that council put an action item on its agenda as soon as possible to fix the drainage issue.

Local sports

The Mammoth High School Volleyball team was honored at the Town Council meeting for its outstanding 2018 season. The team, led by 2-time All-CIF Athlete Ella Thompson, had their best finish in the state tournament in about 30 years, said coach John Morris.

The Winter Classic Youth Hockey Tournament takes place this weekend, December 7th-9th at the Mammoth Ice Rink.

Recreation Commission

Trails Coordinator Joel Rathje told the Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission on Tuesday that Shady Rest needs about 5 more inches of snow before it can be groomed for nordic skiing.

“Shady Rest needs about 5 more inches of snow before it can be groomed for nordic skiing.”

Joel Rathje

Lodges open

On Saturday, December 8th, Canyon Lodge, the Village Gondola and Eagle Lodge are set to open, thereby opening all base lodges on Mammoth Mountain.

The lodges were originally slated to open on December 11th, but the date was moved up on account of good snow conditions.

PRE-ORDER NOW

PRIME RIB
Spiral Cut Ham
Rack of Lamb
Artisan Breads

PRIME RIB OF BEEF
HARRIS RANCH
Seasoned, tied, bone-in or boneless

SPIRAL CUT HAM
KNUESKE’S Halv or whole

RACK OF LAMB
COLORADO
2.5-3.0 lb ea., marinated & frenched

ARTISAN BREADS
HOUSE MADE
Soft Rolls & Loaves

DON’T FORGET TO PICK UP:
Artisan Cheeses & Meat Platters
Holiday Salads & Sides
Holiday Cookies & Pastries

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY NOW!

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

HAPPY HOUR
4–7PM SUN–THUR
4–6PM FRI & SAT

OPEN AT 5PM FOR DINNER - 7 DAYS A WEEK
760.934.2764 | 924 CANYON BLVD | NEXT TO CANYON LODGE

New Cannabis Retailer

Another cannabis retailer is coming to town. Doug Gans has applied for a use permit to sell adult use and medicinal cannabis at 101 Old Mammoth Rd.

His application will go before Mammoth Lakes Planning Commission next week on Wednesday, December 12th. Gans, along with partner Tom Hall—both of San Diego, California—bought the building, which currently houses Century 21 Real Estate amongst other businesses, from the Verueck Estate.

If the planning commission approves the permit, it’ll go before Town Council on December 19. Gans said construction won’t start until current leases end in July, 2019. Currently, the building is completely occupied. On Tuesday afternoon, The Sheet knocked on doors in the building and learned that only one tenant was aware that the building was being sold. Gans said he hadn’t talked to the tenants. He didn’t want to reach out before the sale closed on Wednesday, Dec. 5.

For a cannabis store to move in, someone has to move out. “We’ll probably have to remove one tenant,” Gans said.

By Gorman and Benham

LOCAL BRIEFS

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LOCAL BRIEFS
RETURN OF THE CLAYMAKER: MULTIVERSE

Sierra Classic Theatre’s 7th Annual Children’s Theatre production “Return of the Claymaker: Multiverse,” written by Mammoth Elementary school students, directed by Allison McDonell Page, played at the Edison last weekend. It featured 3rd-8th graders. This is the fourth year of the playwriting program and seventh consecutive children’s theatre production. Page, in partnership with MAC, is starting an after-school playwriting class for middle/high-school students in January.

Clockwise from top right: cast photo, Jenna Lynch and Gavin Turner; (“Snickers” photo, left-right) Eric McConnell, Max Clark, Komal DeFelice, Maya Johnson, Ashlyn Parsons, McKenna Smith; Kendall Spieler (arms crossed) with Lila Creasy, Emily Sugimura, Bodil Clark; (l-r) Rider Pearce, McKenna Smith, Katie Bernard; (l-r) Addison Koenig, Jasper Page, Lucy Perry.
**MADAGASCAR ... WITHOUT BEN STILLER OR CHRIS ROCK**

**Benham goes on tour ... with his mother**

By Benham

Disney Pixar’s “Madagascar” was inaccurate. There are no giraffes, no lions, no tigers, no hippos, no rhinos on the island.

There are tourists. I was one of them.

My mother booked a trip to Madagascar with a friend. The friend canceled. I was the only one she knew who could free up the time on a moment’s notice to go. Why? It was mid-November. Lunch was delighted by my taking unpaid time off.

**Indagare**

The travel company that organized the trip is called Indagare - which is Latin for ‘wisdom.’

There were nine in the group. Rich and Donna, a couple from Toronto that’ve been around the world about ten times over. Leslie, a former Miss Ole Miss. Rumor has it she makes spiked punch. Unfortunately, she was Miss Ole Miss thirty years ago. Melissa, founder and CEO of Indagare, former editor of Town and Country Magazine. Like Rich and Donna, she has also been around the world and back again. Marina crafted tiki lamp costumes for herself and her husband for this year’s Halloween. She came with a Canon Powershot. Alex, lives in Houston and is in charge of uniforms for her sons’ Little League. Mary produces movies and fears snakes.

Jennifer is also afraid of snakes and is a side of fries for the table. Plan outfits have a drink before dinner. Laugh. Order Never miss a meal. Drink at lunch. Then this reporter’s mother. The group is here over. Leslie, a former Miss Ole Miss.

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The wisdom of this trip was expansive. Never miss a meal. Drink at lunch. Then have a drink before dinner. Laugh. Order a side of fries for the table. Plan outfits the night before. Watch the lemurs leap. Those bugs are termites. It’s not yellow fever or ebola, it’s just a weak Western stomach. A neat whisky at breakfast does not stop diarrhea. Charge the camera the night before. Watch the sunset every day.

**Antananarivo ...**

is the capital.

The Malagasy, the people of Madagascar, call it “Tana,” relieving tourists of the terror of pronouncing the full name. It’s located in the middle of the island on a 4,000 foot plateau, wrapped over eleven hills, rising out of flood plains. It looks like a suburb, not a city.

The buildings are huts made of sticks, branches and corrugated metal. The big buildings are cement. They do not scrape the sky. The roads are built for one-way traffic. They fill two-way traffic. Traffic includes trucks, cars, bicycle taxis, zebu carts (zebu is a cow with a hump of fat between its shoulders), and pedestrians.

As in Mammoth, sidewalks are sparse. On the sides of the roads, there are fruit stands, vegetable stands, shoes hanging from strings, dresses, spices in sacks, box televisions, chickens and ducks tied-up lying on the ground. There are piles of eggs and cuts of zebu and whole chickens hanging from hooks. Flies swarm. People nap on straw mats and patches of grass. Plastic piles in the gutters. A dumpster has become the center of a trash heap. A young guy pees on a wall. It’s the rainy season. It pours in bursts.

Jacaranda trees bloom purple leaves. The Malagasy speak Malagasy (‘salamah’ equals ‘hello’) and French.

**A presidential election**

By Saturday, November 17, the first round of a presidential election had been called. Voters chose between 36 candidates. The front runners were incumbent Hery Rajaonarimampianina and former presidents Andry Rajoelina and Marc Ravalomanana.

Ravalomanana was elected in 2002. In that election, his opponent was the incumbent Ratsiraka, founder of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar. Ravalomanana won in a run-off, but the Malagasy, the people of Madagascar, call it “Tana,” relieving tourists of the terror of pronouncing the full name. It’s located in the middle of the island on a 4,000 foot plateau, wrapped over eleven hills, rising out of flood plains. It looks like a suburb, not a city.

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Jacaranda trees bloom purple leaves. The Malagasy speak Malagasy (‘salamah’ equals ‘hello’) and French.

**Three Horses Beer**

Three Horses Beer (‘THB’) is Madagascar’s unofficial national beer. It’s a pilsener that tastes warm even when served cold. THB is malty and it’s usually all the bar has.

**Ratsiraka refused to concede. They set up separate governments, giving Madagascar two presidents in two capitals. After seven months, Ratsiraka fled to France and Ravalomanana became the only president.**

In 2009, Rajoelina, then the mayor of Tana, led a coup d’etat against Ravalomanana. The coup succeeded. Rajoelina is known as ‘a bad president,’ as it’s put to American tourists. From 2009 to 2014, during his presidency, Madagascar’s economy tanked and poverty became rampant again.

Back to the 2018, Rajoelina received 39% of the vote. Ravalomanana received 35%. Incumbent Rajaonarimampianina got 9%. All three accuse the process of corruption and are expected to file appeals. The two involved in the coup and upheaval in 2009 are back. Because no candidate received 50% of the vote a run-off between the top two vote-getters, Rajoelina and Ravalomanana, is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19.

Like the US, there’s no cap to campaigning and it’s a race between two wealthy men.

**Ravalomanana**

Three Horses Beer (‘THB’) is Madagascar’s unofficial national beer. It’s a pilsener that tastes warm even when served cold. THB is malty and it’s usually all the bar has.

**Anjajavy**

Anjajavy is a village in the sand on the west coast. The people fish and farm and forage for subsistence or work at Anjajavy Lodge, an eco-hotel with a 17,792 acre land reserve.

The huts are wood with thatch roofs. One building has satellite television.

The people fish from dhows, wooden hulled boats with single triangular sails and outriggers. Children ride mild shore-break on slabs of tree bark and swim out to incoming boats.

There is a school. It has three rooms: two classrooms and a library. Tuition per child is $1 per month. The dollar does not include lunch. Families in countryside tend to have more children, so tuition piles up and becomes unfeasible for subsistence fishers and farmers. If they have to choose, families tend to send boys to school instead of girls.

The government stopped paying teacher salaries in 2009 when Rajoelina took over. It costs $82 per month per school.

see MADAGASCAR, page 13
teacher

The bays are lined with mangroves. At low tide, the roots show and the islands look like mushrooms, bases narrower than tops. Egrets, plovers, the Madagascar yellow-billed kite and the Madagascar fish hawk live here. The fish-hawk is ‘the rarest hawk in the world.’ There are approximately one-hundred left in the wild. Fish populations dwindle from overfishing and habitat loss. Habitat loss means coral death. Rising ocean temperatures acidify coral. The coral turns white and piles like bones on the ocean floor.

The villages struggle to balance sustenance with conservation. Chinese fishing companies also struggle. Word around the village was that Madagascar’s federal government approved a contract with a Chinese company to allow 106 boats to fish Madagascar’s waters. They trawl line fish, raking everything in the boats’ path. Conservation groups have delayed the contract’s implementation on the grounds that the government couldn’t approve the deal during an election. Most people they can’t delay forever. And even if they could delay, Madagascar’s Coast Guard has two boats. 106 versus 2. The ocean will lose. Then, the people.

Andasibe

Andasibe is a town in the eastern highlands bordered by regional and national forests. A defunct train station—built for a now defunct nickel mine—serves as a bus stop.

The business of Andasibe is tourism and the business of tourism is lemurs, chameleons, birds and lemurs. On a night walk, five flashlights interrupted a juvenile Parson’s chameleon on a branch. Those flashlights also found mouse lemurs, palm-sized with pointed faces and large ears.

There were stick-bugs. Their scientific name: achrioptera fallax. They are brown and don’t disguise on the green stems and leaves that they frequent. They’d be impossible to find on the ground.

Woolly lemurs napped in a palm. They have thick coats. Brown lemurs with tails longer than their bodies hopped down for bananas from a guide. One morning, three Indri lemurs spooned on a branch. Indri are black and white and the largest species of lemur about when standing an Indri is the same height as a seven-year-old child. They travel in families with one monogamous mating pair. The families howl-screech to mark their territory.

Eucalyptus trees, non-native, have invaded and outgrown the old growth trees. Reptiles, lemurs, and birds eschew them. The eucalyptus burns easily and acidifies the soil, making it untenable for understory plants like the elephant palm and vakona.

A dhow off the coast of Nosy Kumba

Nosy Kumba

Nosy Kumba is an island of the northwest coast. It has steep mountains that rise right out of the ocean. It is covered in rain forest. There are no roads. Trails connect villages. Children commute on beaches to school. At peak low tide, there’s enough room on the beach for a 12 on 12 soccer match. Cacao, vanilla, mango, papaya, pineapple, bananas, cassava, jack fruit, coconuts, clove, chiles, pepper, bamboo and lang lang grow under the canopy. Lang-lang is the scent used in Chanel No. 5.

Rhum

The Malagasy spell it with an ‘h’ because they were colonized by the French. The ‘h’ invokes rheumatoid arthritis. They infuse rhum with papaya or mango or tamarind or baobab or passionfruit or vanilla. Put it in a punch. Add ice and a bendy straw. After dinner, they serve spiced rhum straight. The Sheet didn’t know if it was supposed to be sipped. After dinner, they serve spiced rhum straight. Didn’t hear the sipping instruction. Don’t remember much else.
**BARS & MUSIC**

**Happy Hour / The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill**

- **Mondays**, Open mic plus trivia!
- **Tuesdays**, Open mic and $2 tacos.
- **Wednesdays**, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.: Live music.
- **Thursdays**, Open mic plus trivia!
- **Fridays**, Open mic.
- **Saturdays** and **Sundays**, Open mic.

**Mammoth Rock 'N' Bowl**

- **Fridays**, Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co.
- **Saturdays**, Open mic at Blockchain Brewing Co.
- **Sundays**, Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co.

**Clocktower Cellar**

- **Tuesdays**, Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily.
- **Wednesdays**, Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co.
- **Thursdays**, Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co.
- **Fridays**, Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co.
- **Saturdays**, Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co.
- **Sundays**, Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co.

**Shelter Distilling**

- **Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.,** Happy Hour from 4-6 p.m. daily.
- **Sat., Sun.,** Happy Hour from 4:30-7 p.m. daily.
- **Mondays, Tuesdays,** Free spirit tasting flight 2 p.m.-3 p.m.
- **Wedges, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays,** $5-10 menu items and drink specials. See ad. p. 7.

** Petra's Bistro & Wine Bar**

- **Saturdays** and **Sundays**, Open mic at Blockchain Brewing Co.
- **Sundays**, Open mic at Blockchain Brewing Co.

**Mammoth's famous Slocken Happy Hour**

- **Tuesdays**, 4-6 p.m.
- **Saturdays**, 4-5:30 p.m.
- **Sundays**, 4-6 p.m.

**Social T-Bar**

- Live music, comedy, screenings. See below.

**Giovanni's Happy Hour**

- **Daily**, 4-6 p.m.
- **Lunch**, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Dinner**, 4:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Free Spirit Tasting Flight**, 2 p.m.-3 p.m.

**Sweater Bingo**

- **Adults only.** Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Mountainside Conference Room. Time: 6-10 p.m. Info: 760.937.4655.

**Jinglescope Workshop**

- **Saturday - Sunday: Kids bowl free 4-7 p.m.**
- **Saturday-Sunday: Kids bowl free 4-7 p.m.**
- **Saturday-Sunday: Kids bowl free 4-7 p.m.**

**The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill**

- **slider**, Monday, December 10/ Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co. Time: 6-9 p.m.
- **June Lake Laughs Comedy Show** at T-Bar Social Club, June Lake. Time: 7 p.m. Tix: $5.

**Tuesday, December 11/ Screening of “The Movie to Keep Squaw True”** Location: T-Bar Social Club, June Lake. Time: 7 p.m. More info: see sidebar column next page.

**Team Trivia at Mammoth Brewing Co.**

- **7 p.m.**

**Ducks Unlimited fundraiser dinner at Tri-County Fairgrounds.** Location: 900 West Line St., Bishop. Time: 5:30 p.m. Info: 760.935.3755.

**Round Table Community Christmas Concert**

- **Bishop’s Nazarene Church.** Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. More info: see sidebar column this page.

**Round Table Community Christmas Concert**

- **Bishop's Nazarene Church.** Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. More info: see sidebar column this page.

**Squaw True Movie Screening**

- **7 p.m.**
- **December 7-8/ Crooked Eye Tommy plays Liberty Sports Bar to celebrate the birthday of guitarist Tommy Marshall.** Time: 7 p.m.

**Saturday, December 8/ Mammoth Brewing Co. Comedy Night featuring Becky Robinson.** Time: 8:30-10:30 p.m. Tix: $10 advance or $15 at the door.

**Sunday, December 9/ Tamarack plays T-Bar Social Club, June Lake.** Party/Drink from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Tix: $10 adv./$13 door.

**Bishop Community Concerts Association presents Take 3.** A classic music trio. Time: 3 p.m. Location: Bishop High School Auditorium, 301 N Fowler St, Bishop. Musicians: Lindsay Deutsch, violin; Susan Boettger, piano; Lila Yang, cello. Info: Info/Tix: 760.873.3735.

**Catch all the NFL action @ Clocktower Cellar, Liberty Bar, Outlaw Saloon, Roberto’s.**

**Monday, December 10/ Open mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co. Time: 6-9 p.m.**

**June Lake Laughs Comedy Show at T-Bar Social Club, June Lake.** Time: 7 p.m. Tix: $5.

**Tuesday, December 11/ Screening of “The Movie to Keep Squaw True”, Location: T-Bar Social Club, June Lake.** Time: 7 p.m. More info: see sidebar column next page.

**Team Trivia at Mammoth Brewing Co.**

- **7 p.m.**

**Friday, December 7/ Friends of the Inyo hosts the Backcountry Film Festival.** Final chance to see it! Location: Mammoth’s DFS Au-
iditorium. Doors @ 6 p.m; film @ 7 p.m. Purchase tix @ door. $15.

**December 7-9/ Open Studio and Holiday Art Sale at 373 Mount Tom Road in Bishop.** Featuring the art of Francis Cholewa, Tom Meyers, Karen Nielsen Licher, Bonnie Jay, Bruce Licher and Lynn Marit Petersen. Times: Friday, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday 10-3. Info: 760.937.4655.

**Cardinal Village Resort Holiday Festival.** Gifts, caroling, snow maze, ice skating, sledding, Christmas trees (sold through Dec. 16), Santa, Wagon rides (hook ahead), mulled wine and hot chocolate. Location: Cardinal Village Resort, 321 Cardinal Rd., Aspendell. Time: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 760.873.4789.

**Saturday, December 8/ Monthly Bishop Paiute Tribe COSA, bird walk and census dates.** Time: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Location: Meet @ BLM/Forest Service Building on West Line Street in Bishop. For birders of all levels. More info: Hillary Behr, hillary-behr@yahoo.com.

**Railroad Express @ Laws Museum.** Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Trains, crafts, activities, Santa. Admission: $15/adult, $7/child (3-12), free for under 3. Inyo Council for the Arts Christmas Jinglescope Workshop. Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. More info: see sidebar column this page.

**Tower Community Christmas Concert @ Bishop’s Nazarene Church.** Two performances at 4 and 6:30 p.m. Location: 900 West Line St., Bishop. Tix: $6. Proceeds benefit BUHS Choir. Info: 760.873.3755.

**Bishop City Hall.** Time: 6 a.m. - 8 a.m. Info: 760.934.6260. Main St. Next to Rick's MAMMOTH LIQUOR

**Beer lovers’ candy store Selection of more than 300 beers when the Saints go marching in,** THE FIRST THING THEY NEED IS BEER 934.6260
**Free holiday Chamber program**

On Friday, December 14, the Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Music Unbound’s music students perform a free program of classical and holiday favorites at St. Joseph’s Church in Mammoth Lakes.

The program will feature music by Mozart, Tchaikovsky and José Feliciano. The program will repeat in Bishop at Cerro Coso College at 4 p.m. Sunday. Soloists will include Alexis Molina, violin, Liam Bassler, violin, Ari Schuldt, piano; Arturo Pope, violin; John Wehausen, oboe; Carolyn Tiernan, clarinet; Stephen Thiroux, bassoon; Mike Hammers, horn.

Showtime: 7 p.m.

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**Fruitcake Festival**

The 14th Annual Fruitcake Festival takes place on Saturday, December 15 at the American Legion Hall in Independence.

This year’s theme is a ‘When You Wish Upon A Fruitcake.’

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with the festival convocation by way of clang-o-lings and the introduction of distinguished guests.

There will be egg nog and dancing. Fruitcake and costumes will be judged and prizes awarded. The fourteen year old ‘Archival Civil Defense’ fruitcake will be unearthed and tasted. It is said that fruitcake improves with age.

The event is free and devoted to all things fruitcake. Bring your own fruitcake to be judged as well as egg nog, spiked or not.

More info: Violette Cerise, 760.878.8084 or nancymas@qnet.com.

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**Christmas Jinglescope Workshop**

On Saturday, December 8, learn the basics of kaleidoscope making with Inyo Council for the Arts at a kaleidoscope workshop.

Kaleidoscopes will be made out of found & recycled materials: a packing tube, a Christmas bauble, and Christmas wrappings, ribbons and bling.

Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own items. The style of kaleidoscope allows for objects that are opaque. Items should be smaller than .5 inches in diameter or pliable to fit in the kaleidoscope, like fake flowers or feathers. We will be using shattered proof mirrors.

Workshop fee: $25 per person plus a materials fee of $15 per kaleidoscope.

Kids 7-13 years of age free with paying adult.

Workshop will run from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Inyo Council for the Arts Gallery, 137 S Main St., Bishop. Class size limited. To sign-up call Inyo Council for the Arts at 760.873.8014.

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**Barefoot in the Park**


Synopsis: “Paul and Corie Bratter are newweeds in every sense of the word. After a six day honeymoon, they get a surprise visit from Corie’s loopy mother and decide to play matchmak-

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**ICARE Shopping Day**

Special Holiday Sale: Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Spellbinder Books, 124 South Main Street, Bishop. Open to all. Registration: At the Yurt, Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. Info: Kathleen Taylor, 760.815.9950. The league is scheduled for Monday and Thursday nights at 7:40 p.m. and will begin on January 7, 2019 and end March 20.

Info: City Hall, 760.873.5863.

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**At the movies**

**Minaret Cinemas**

*Creed II (PG-13):* A critically-acclaimed tale of sons, fathers and more Rocky Balboa!

*Widows (R):* Thriller about women who avenge their husbands’ deaths & debts.

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

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**Not Your Grandma’s Bingo Night**

Volunteer Eastern Sierra Hosts Not Your Grandma’s Bingo Night Fundraiser on Wednesday, December 12 at Manzanar Historical Society. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for check-in.

The first game starts at 5:30. There will be 10 games of bingo with cash and other prizes for each game. $15 buys 1 bingo card per game. $29 buys 3 cards per game. $30 buys 6 cards per game. An extra card costs $3.

Info: Kathleen Taylor, 760.815.9950.
Mammoths Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasserie has the following positions available: Bowling Desk Employees, Server, Bartender, Hostess. Please contact Todd Roberts at 760.934.2414 or stop by and see us in person at 3905 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes.

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Mammoth Wealth Management is a local affiliate of Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network and is looking for a Client Service Associate. Responsibilities will include but not be limited to, phone coverage, greeting clients, office organization, filing, keeping calendars, organizing events, compliance, data entry, inventory, interacting with custodian broker/dealers, outside money managers, mutual funds, insurance and annuity companies.

Your skills should include, handling sensitive and confidential information with maximum discretion, excellent communication skills, attention to detail, proficiency in Windows-based programs, organization, prior experience in financial services, excellent verbal and written communication skills, professional attitude and demeanor, work independently with minimal direction, exercise good judgment/decision making when necessary, anticipate problems and possess a “can do” attitude with the ability to provide “solutions.” Competitive pay with benefits package.

Statement Of Abandonment Of Use Of Fictitious Business Name

Maid in Mammoth

The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name:

Holly Orr
253 Sierra Manor Dr., P.O. Box 850
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
This business is conducted by an Individual.
The fictitious business name was filed in Mono County on April 30, 2014.
File Number 14-091.
This was filed for the County Clerk of Mono County on Oct. 13, 2018.
2018-0207 (11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15)
The Mammoth Lakes Climate Change Action Team (CCAT) held its final meeting on Wednesday, December 5th.

A dozen or so concerned citizens came to Suite Z to take part in the meeting, which was facilitated by Aaron Pfannenstiel of PlaceWorks Consulting.

The Sheet reported on the CCAT in its December 1st issue. Its intention is to create a climate change Vulnerabilities Assessment, which will inform an Adaptation Strategies Draft. Both of those documents will then be used to create an amendment to the Town General Plan that deals with the effects of climate change, which will be adopted next year.

Wednesday’s meeting began with a recap of the Vulnerability Assessment that PlaceWorks created.

The assessment plots “sensitivities” such as drought, wildfire, and flooding on an X-axis against assets and resources along an Y-axis. The result is a map of the town and the ski resort on the Y-axis. It then grades the vulnerability of each point where those assets and sensitivities overlap on the graph using a rating from 1 to 5.

After going over the vulnerabilities and the methods used to quantify them, the team broke up into three groups for discussions on adaptation and mitigation strategies.

One group discussed people, another, the natural environment, and the third discussed the built environment.

The groups reassembled after their discussions to share their ideas.

The “natural environment” group found that most of their ideas revolved around re-wilding the land. They “need a 21st century Smoky the Bear,” John Wentworth said.

The group felt that the public needed more education around controlled burns. It made recommendations on what to add, and on staying on-trail in sensitive environments.

The “people” group talked about the preventative power outputs of energy companies are likely to implement more often. They urged adoption of micro-grids, especially around hospitals and cellular service providers.

They also talked about allowing private residents to reduce the fuel (trees) on their property to prevent forest fires.

The built environment group said that we need to rebuild our water system to improve water storage and infrastructure. They also discussed expanding the town’s solar and biomasses capabilities.

The final meeting will be January 16th at 1:30 P.M. in Suite Z. There the PlaceWorks Consulting team will walk through the adaptation strategies that they will have concocted.
HOROSCOPES
By Clouds McCloud

Aquarius: Since this sign is usually optimistic, driven and outgoing, you’re going to love this next year of your life, especially how it starts. That’s why you should start betraying your fears, falling in love with your dreams, and feeling thankful that over 70% of people who start a plan quit before accomplishing it—but you ain’t one of ’em!

Capricorn: December is the dawn of a new and more positive era for most people. Old wounds should stop scabbing up and new opportunities will abound. To help you make the most of it for yourself and others, never forget that the reason the windshield is much bigger than the rearview mirror is because where you’re headed is much more important than where you’ve been—unless you’ve just been to Chipotle, in which case you may want to head towards the pharmacy.

Aquarius: Police officers in Canada begin their shifts by meditating to help them deal with chaos and crisis. It wouldn’t hurt for you—and everyone else—to do the same thing before going to work. So you should try doing so. It’s easy. As Lisa Dewey Hypnotherapy says, all you’ve got to do is set aside several minutes to sit quietly and comfortably, to close your eyes and focus on your heart and your breathing. If your mind wanders or you feel a bit of a break from the daily grind and go to places you don’t visit enough, like your happy place.

Cancer: While forgiveness is important, so is forgetting and moving on. To help you accept this, please remember that karma is real and that making excuses for people who do bad things is like shoving a flower up your butt and calling it a vase—it just doesn’t work.

Leo: The Stars are happy to report that this rough patch and the Mercury retrograde it passed through are just about over. All you’ve got to do now is keep your cool, stay positive, visualize what you want to attract and remember that whenever you feel like you’re down to nothing, the Universe is always up to something.

Virgo: December is going to be a big month for lots of folks. As the month progresses it will feel like more and more magic and miracles are happening. If you have trouble believing any of these things: A) Miracle Whip wasn’t invented until 1933. B) They could have called it “Slightly-Enhanced Mayonnaise.” C) Some people will laugh at this one: “What did the Miracle Whip say to the Shelf? Any chance I can hide mine in my pants?”

Scorpio: A recent study has shown that people with bad memories tend to be more intelligent. Of course, this finding really hits the nail on the head for many of you smarty-pants Scorpios. But Clouds isn’t worried this information will go to your head, since you’ll probably forget about it soon anyway. Please, however, let this go to your head: now is the perfect time to use your lack of memory and big brain for good. There’s enough evil in the world already.
GETTING OUR ATTENTION
By Casselman

With so many presumably credible, but non-frontrunning, candidates for president in 2020, the Democratic Party has a lot of sorting to do in the next 18 months as it prepares to challenge and attempt to defeat a sitting president.

It can be done, and was done as recently as 1980 and 1992 --- when Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, and George H.W. Bush, a Republican, learned that incumbency does not automatically bring re-election.

Presidential elections and their nominating environments have changed significantly in recent decades, but one basic factor has not altered in that time --- the critical need for non-incumbent presidential aspirants to draw attention to themselves.

This attention-getting takes many forms, old and new, and almost always involves the media.

Perhaps the origin of this goes back to the Republican nomination campaign in 1860 when the least likely candidate among a dozen in the field gave a provocative speech at a New York City auditorium after inviting reporters from every state to hear him speak. Calvin Coolidge stood down a public strike when he was governor of Massachusetts, and its news eventually made him president. By 1928, Herbert Hoover's management of the Great Flood of 1927 had made him the nominee to succeed Coolidge.

Harry Truman's leadership of a wartime U.S. senate committee led to his being chosen President Roosevelt's vice president in 1944. Upon FDR's death a few months later, Truman was president. Richard Nixon led an anti-communist investigative committee in the senate in the 1950's, leading to his being chosen vice president by President Eisenhower.

Barack Obama made a notable keynote speech to a Democratic convention, and became a media favorite. And then, of course, there is Donald Trump ...

Using the new technology of the telegraph, Lincoln had catapulted himself into public attention. Today, there are cable television, talk radio and social media using the internet. When there are large numbers of candidates, one or two usually emerge --- and most of the time the few successful nominees find a special issue or an innovative way to get the vital public attention they need to win.

The 2020 U.S. presidential election will be significantly different from not only 2016, but also likely any other modern political campaign.

Of course, every presidential election has its own characteristics --- with its own usage of new technology, sometimes new electoral rules, and almost always, different personalities. (The latter had only one 20th century exception --- Eisenhower vs. Stevenson in both 1952 and 1956.) But these elections are not always so significantly different, especially in all three areas just mentioned.

For example, in terms of technology, presidential elections did not change much between 1900 and 1932 (when radio appeared), and then it was not until 1960 that television made a difference. It was not until 2004 (with new techniques of voter I.D.) and 2008 (with major use of social media) that the computer had real impact.

In 2020, it will likely include the internet grass roots fundraising so successfully used by the Democrats in the 2018 midterms (ActBlue), but will then be employed by both parties.

In terms of electoral rules, the first 20th century change came in 1920 with the constitutional amendment that gave women the right to vote.

In 1965, the Voters Rights Act removed barriers to minority voters nationwide. The first presidential primary was created in 1901, but it wasn't until 1972 that the primary system effectively replaced the importance of the national party conventions.

In 2016, the Democrats used the concept of convention superdelegates to modify the results of the primaries and caucuses. In 2020, the impact of superdelegates will be drastically reduced, and by moving up the California, Texas and several other state primaries to only a month after Iowa and New Hampshire, Democrats have significantly altered most nomination strategies.
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