LESSTHANROSY
Change of ownership leads to Primrose Apartment eviction notices
By Maddux
A
my Duke, a resident of Primrose Lane Apartments in Bishop, was served a 60-day eviction notice on Monday, September 16. The notice came certified mail from the property manager, Bishop Real Estate Rasmussen & Associates—she wasn’t given a reason for the eviction, she said.
Duke is one of many residents who’ve received eviction notices and one of many residents The Sheet has spoken to over the past few weeks. Duke, however, was the only tenant willing to speak on the record.
“There was no reason stated on the notice and when I asked, they refused to give me one. My rent is paid up, so that’s not it. I was never given any notices regarding the dogs, so that can’t be it. It’s very shady,” said Duke about the eviction notice.
The Primrose Lane Apartments are located at 2230 North Sierra Highway, within the County of Inyo, on the outskirts of the city. According to Duke, a 17-year resident, the complex was built in the 1970s. Currently, eight of the apartments are empty and some are red-tagged.

ONSECONDTHOUGHT,
DON’TBILLME LATER
Trails, Town tussle over snow removal bill
By Hite
The information from the bill is there for the Council. Frankly, at this point it would be more of a policy question to the council if you believe there is adequate value in paying a portion, or all, or none of the bill as presented from the Trails HOA,” said Town Manager Dan Holler to open up agenda item number 15 at Wednesday night’s Mammoth Lakes town council meeting.
The issue: a water-on-snow event that occurred about three years ago.
As E.L. Smoogen, President of The Trails Homeowners Association said “I have lived here for 19 years and never had an issue with water on the easement.”
The easement being a piece of land owned by the town.
It all started when a snow berm gave way, and drainage from town-owned property leaked towards homes in the Trails neighborhood, threatening severe damage.
The threat was mitigated when affected neighbors, members of ski patrol, and members of the fire department came together and created a bypass for the flooding.
see COUNCIL, page 10

“A YUGO WITH THREE WHEELS”
Mono County seeks to overhaul dispatch service
By Page
Experiencing a dropped cellphone call in the Sierra is commonplace given the geography and rural nature of the community. No big deal, right? But it’s a bigger deal when the calls in question are on the county radio system, a system that helps 911, EMS, Police, Fire, and other services coordinate amongst themselves. If something occurs, like the house fire in Paradise on Saturday afternoon, and the response effort can’t be coordinated due to coverage issues between Bridgeport and Paradise, what began as a single home fire could rapidly escalate out of control.
In a presentation given to Mono County Supervisors on Tuesday morning and Mammoth Lakes Town Council Wednesday evening, Nate Greenberg, Mono County IT (Information Technology) Director, outlined the initial steps of a plan to overhaul a county dispatch system that features some glaring holes in its coverage and efficiency.
The estimated price tag: Anywhere from $8 to $12 million.
As outlined both in Greenberg’s written staff report and presentation, the IT department took over the responsibility of handling the county’s dispatch system in 2015, prior to which dispatch services had been handled by the Mono County Sheriff’s department.
“Since that time”, Greenberg wrote in his report, “The IT department has been working to identify, plan for, and resolve a variety of maintenance issues which had developed over the years. Through this work, it has become increasingly clear to staff that the need to replace the entire system is imminent.”
see YUGO, page 8

Browns roll p. 12/
Standing for Solorio p. 4/
Wound-licking time p. 5/
Heat for Ray p. 6/
Electric sheep p. 19/
Before we get started, late-breaking news. Haven't received an official recap from the California Highway Patrol, but Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun confirmed one man is dead following a traffic accident which occurred at about 12:30 p.m. today in Lee Vining.

A truck apparently jumped the curb at the Mono Cone, and plowed into a patron or patrons. A 70-year-old man, not from the area, was killed. The driver, whose name has not been released, is from Mammoth.

Press release just came in. Here it is:

On 10/03/2019, at approximately 1150 hours, a 1999 Ford F-250 extra cab pickup was traveling in the northbound number two lane of US 395, just south of First Street, in the town of Lee Vining.

For reasons unknown, the driver allowed the Ford to veer to the right. The Ford traveled in a northeasterly direction across a raised concrete curb and sidewalk and into the parking lot/outdoor dining area of the Mono Cone restaurant.

The Ford collided into four patrons seated at an outdoor table and several patrons standing at the ordering/pick-up windows. Four patrons sustained minor injuries and declined medical aid on scene. One patron was pinned underneath the Ford and sustained major injuries. During transport to the care flight helipad, the patron succumbed to his injuries.

The California Highway Patrol is continuing to investigate this collision.

The names of the involved parties are withheld pending official notification of next of kin.

In reference to the headline above, turns out the Little Nell Hotel Group paid $8.25 million for the seven-acre site located next to the Westin Monache.

In appraising both sites, Hillside is zoned for more density, has a better location next to the most successful hotel in town with the highest ADR (average daily room rate). And it comes with a development agreement and entitlements and a grant to aim more marketing at prospective visitors in Texas and Illinois. In February, 2019, Capstone Hotels paid $6.4 million for the Woodsite. As Karen Pesko says in her letter which appears on page five, the $8.25 million for the seven-acre site located next to the Westin Monache.

Another question is: how does this deal affect Dirk Winter’s current escrow. The price for Winter’s piece was said to be $5.9 million for his four acres. In appraising both sites, Winter’s parcel is involved in the same escrow.

So the larger question is, how does this deal affect Dirk Winter’s current escrow for the Woodsite. As Karen Pesko says in her letter which appears on page five, the $8.25 million for the seven-acre site located next to the Westin Monache.

In reference to the headline above, turns out the Little Nell Hotel Group paid $8.25 million for the seven-acre site located next to the Westin Monache.

The Rotary Club of Mammoth Lakes invites you to the annual

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760.937.3967 / juneatthesheet@gmail.com

Zachary Hite ............ Writer  
zjhit@gmail.com

Owen Page ................. Writer  
epag@thesheet@gmail.com

Melissa Maddux ........ Writer  
melissamaddux@gmail.com

Charles James ............ Contributor  
760.614.0546

Clouds McClendon .... Ass-trologer

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OCTOBER 10-13

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Ms. McLaren read the following letter at Monday’s BUSD Board meeting.

In support of Heni Solorio
To the Superintendent and School Board,

I wanted to take this time to write and read this letter in support of Heni Solorio. I am a third-grade teacher on the same team as Heni. I have worked with him for the last 4 years. We meet weekly at our professional learning community meetings. I have observed in his classroom, and he has provided support to me personally.

Heni is a professional and dedicated educator. He is well-liked by staff, students, and parents. As a dual language teacher, he works hard to make sure his students are meeting grade-level standards in both English and Spanish. He is very collegial and would share resources and time with us, his team members.

During my first two years in third grade, he would walk over to my classroom to check in with me every couple of weeks to make sure I was comfortable with the math curriculum. He is our resident math expert and we knew we could ask him at any time for help with a math question. His door was always open for us to pop in at any time.

Heni is a kind, generous, and thoughtful person. When we introduced a book about the dance form Capoeira from our reading curriculum, Heni would generously teach each of our classes Capoeira each year.

I believe Heni to be a person of great character. As the charges against him were unfounded by the police and D.A., I ask that the superintendent and the board take into consideration his full tenure with the district in making any decision regarding his employment. I would ask that he be allowed to return to his teaching position.

Respectfully,
Katherine McLaren
This letter was written to the MLT Board of Directors by Karen Pesko, an owner of the Oetiker parcel which is located adjacent to Sam’s Woodsite. Pesko read the letter at MLT’s Board meeting Wednesday.

Lick your wounds and move on
Re: Fallout from MLT V Dirk Winter Litigation

Dear Board Members:

Several partners and I own the three acres of raw land adjacent to Dirk Winter’s four acres of land on Minaret Road. Our families have owned this undeveloped parcel for over 50 years. Our property was purchased as an investment property, and the land was always zoned as a commercial property.

Our property, along with Mr. Winter’s property is currently in escrow, but the sale is on hold due to the litigation that you currently have with Mr. Winter and the buyer will only buy if it can acquire both parcels.

We have always had a great relationship with the business owners and townpeople of Mammoth. Throughout the years, we have often allowed the Mono Arts Council and the Shakespeare Festival to use our property for free for their events. In addition, we have maintained a great relationship with Sean Turner for the Bluesapalooza, and for years allowed use of our property for small sums.

For all these public events, including Bluesapalooza, our property has always been used along with Mr. Walker, formerly Sam Walker’s, property. Sean Turner has always made it clear that he needs both our properties to have the Bluesapalooza at that location. Even though we own over 40% of the contiguous properties when used for these events, no one from either the City nor MLT has ever approached us or talked to us about this issue. In addition, my efforts once to initiate such a discussion over the phone several years ago with [Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director] Mr. John Urdi were futile.

We understand that since Mr. Winter ran into many obstacles that frustrated his efforts to develop the property, he has stated his intent to pay back the $300,000 plus interest to MLT.

We urge that MLT lick its wounds, cease its action which punishes my partners and me, we will be forced to consider our options. Those options would include (a) no longer renting our property for events, including Bluesapalooza and (b) looking into bringing our own suit, including for interference with contract.

We strongly urge that MLT reconsider its litigation strategy and bear in mind that development of these parcels could bring in much needed revenue to the City of Mammoth. However, should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Karen Pesko and Jens Oetiker, Oetiker Partners, LP
Lisa Bruhwiler, LHB Asset Management, LLC
Mike Bruhwiler, EMB Asset Management, LLC

Keeping the pathway clear
Dear Editor:

Regarding the Dick Noles Wounded Warrior Pathway at June Lake... The accessible path to the shoreline at June Lake beach is once again open, providing access to Wounded Warriors, mothers with strollers and so many more who might not otherwise be able to dip a toe in the water easily and/or conveniently.

I would like to express my thanks to John Atkins, Vietnam Combat Veteran, who did some very heavy lifting last weekend.

John spent one entire day shoveling and hauling many wheelbarrow loads up the hill to make the pathway as good as new.

The next day, as part of National Public Lands Day, Maureen and John McVicker (John a Marine vet) came over and both worked very hard finishing the last part of the pathway.

It’s hard to adequately express how important the access is to so many that are unable to make the trip across the sand or down a steep bank to one of our lakes.

I had the opportunity to hear Brigid Salamon address the California Boating and Waterways Commission (of which I am member) meeting a couple of years ago.

Brigid is wheelchair-bound and wanted to let the Commission understand the importance of that access. She said “when I heard that this pathway was built at June Lake beach, I took the bus up there, wheeled down to the edge of the lake and sat there and cried. This is the first time I have had access to any of the lakes in the Eastern Sierra.”

We need to provide more of these accessible opportunities and thanks to John, Maureen and John we have kept the first pathway functioning.

Randy Short
Bishop
Ray feels heat
Bishop Superintendent unloved by staff - at least for now
By Lunch
A
other Bishop Unified School District Board meeting. Another 300 pissed off parents and teachers venting their frustration.

“Doesn’t anyone know the words to Kanabaya? I mean, there aren’t very many.”

Monday’s special meeting featured a light agenda; one item on graduation requirements and another on “communication” between the Board and its Superintendent, Jon Ray, who was hired just two months ago.

So perhaps the real purpose of the meeting was to allow members of the community to continue to let off steam. In the back of the room, those with gallow’s humor were suggesting over/under bets as to how long he’ll last. But on a positive note for Superintendent Ray - he has nowhere to go but up, under bets as to how long he’ll last.

And a plurality of teachers have no confidence in Ray’s leadership. And a plurality of teachers have no confidence in Ray’s leadership.

Stacy Van Nest of the Bishop Teachers Association said 84% of the teachers she surveyed have no confidence in Ray’s leadership.

At past stops, BUSD Superintendent Jon Ray has had his fans R A Y O F L I G H T
At past stops, BUSD Superintendent Jon Ray has had his fans
By James
A
mid the furor created by the introduction of changes at the start of the new school year in the Bishop Unified School District involving scheduling and MAP (standardized) testing, what most angered parents, teachers and students the lack of transparency and communication demonstrated by new school district superintendent, Jon Ray, and the District’s Board of Trustees.

The complaint of a “lack of transparency and communication” has been pointed out by some of Ray’s critics as being similar to language used in news reports on the Klamath Trinity Joint Unified School District during the approval process for the 2018-2019 Local Control and Accountability Plan.

Klamath was Ray’s last stop. He served as Superintendent of Klamath Trinity for five years.

LCPA is a tool for local educational agencies to set goals, plan actions, and leverage resources to meet those goals to improve student outcomes. It can be a complicated process.

Was the criticism at Ray’s last stop justified? Was he “forced out of his job” as some have claimed?

Ray’s former employer, the KTJUSD Board of Trustees, along with several of his coworkers had high praise for his work performance when contacted by The Sheet. We also interviewed Superintendent Ray for over an hour-and-a-half to discuss some of the various allegations leveled against him and the BUSD board.

The meeting with Superintendent Ray at his office was wide-ranging. He was relaxed, confident, and did not appear to be especially defensive or evasive in answering questions. Asked about his reaction to the preliminary Teachers’ Survey from the Bishop Teachers Association that “84% have no confidence in him “to make decisions in the best interest of our students,” and how is he planning to address it, Ray said he first wants to look at what is happening and why, and then develop an action plan. He would also like to sit down with the teachers to ask them, “what do you suggest” and “what do you think isn’t happening,” to better work together. Asked what he felt was the main problem, he replied “clearly a lack of communication.”

Other issues were discussed, such as student enrollment in schools and the McKinney-Vento Act involving students that might be homeless and lack a permanent address, as well as parental consent and authority issues involving biological parents, which can become very confusing, especially after a divorce.

The state recognizes the authority of both biological parents of a student, unless that authority is taken away from one or the other by the court. For some frustrated step-parents, it is an issue they would like better addressed. Asked about Edgenuity, Ray’s response was that new technology (software) makes some teachers fearful of being replaced by technology. He mentioned other software from other companies and the competitiveness of the business which is growing rapidly. He suspects that business model is unlikely to change because of the large amounts of money involved and states’ continuing budget cuts.

Ray hopes the programs can be viewed as supplementing the teacher’s work by giving individual assessments, that with that information only shared between the student and the teacher to help each individual student. He says it’s a tool that potentially can help save teachers valuable time in class and after class.

LCAP was discussed, along with criticism made in one article that during the 2018-2019 school year, that he and the KTJUSD board did not provide transparency and opportunities for parents and teachers to participate. He said that was “categorically untrue,” and referred The Sheet to California Department of Education and school see RAY, page 11
I’M DOING FINE - JUST ASK ME
MLT conducts annual performance review for Executive Director
By Owen Page

The Mammoth Lakes Tourism meeting on October 2 kicked off with a letter from Karen Pesko, co-owner of three undeveloped acres on Minaret next to Sam’s Woodsite. Pesko’s property, along with Wood- sote owner Dirk Winter’s adjacent parcel, is in escrow.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism (now famously) gave Winter $300,000 to close escrow on the property in 2017. The goal was to retain the Woodsite as an events site. Winter has since decided to flip the property for about $2 million more than he paid for it. MLT has sued Winter because it says he used their $300,000 for site improvements but as a down payment.

To date, Winter has prevailed in court, but MLT hasn’t stood down - yet. Which is what Pesko wants, as sale proceedings have been halted by the ongoing spat. Pesko, representing her fellow co-owners, urged MLT to back off, with potential ramifications including no longer renting the property at all and bringing a lawsuit against MLT for interference (the full letter can be found on pg. 4).

After Pesko concluded reading her letter and distributed copies to the board, who thanked her for her time, the board moved forward to the next agenda item with no further discussion on the topic.

Mammoth’s largest summer event, the Festival of Beers and Bluesapalooza, relies upon the rental of Pesko’s three acres to stage it in its current form.

Urdi review

Wednesday also saw John Urdi’s performance review brought before the board for scrutiny. Urdi, offered opening remarks by Chair John Morris, deferred to the board, simply stating “I don’t think there’s anything in comparing the numbers I had and the numbers the board had ... the comments were pretty valid.”

Urdi’s strengths, as assessed by himself, lay in using funding to driving marketing efforts, increasing TOT receipts, and his organization skills (staff recruitment, development and team building). His stated focus for next year includes sustainable tourism, maintaining a strong revenue stream and expanding overall growth, with a desire to see more proactive board in representing MLT and increased attendance at relevant public meetings.

The Board’s assessment of Urdi’s performance was consistent with the director’s views in some areas and divergent in others.

While the board agreed that Urdi had done well with increasing TOT receipt numbers, they ranked Urdi’s work on awareness and usage of air service at 3.1 out of 5, with a comment stating “We continue to see low load factors out of SF ... branching out to Denver is the right long-term solution but we need to have MLT continue to help markets and fill planes.”

Urdi’s lowest score from the board came in at a 2.3 under “Other Business” for outreach and interaction. Comments under “What has the board done well, what needs improvement” included “The fact that it took 8-10 months to finalize [Urdi’s] contract is appalling, We should not be at a July Board meeting and the ED is not under contract. Completely inappropriate.”

And: “Certain board members have brought up topics of conversations randomly that don’t seem to apply to the topic of discussion ... let’s work together as a team and not try to blind side each other and be confrontational.”

One board member stated a belief that MLT should be involved in town planning, writing that MLT “should have more of a voice and say in what is happening with the infrastructure in the town.”

Board Chair John Morris said infrastructure can be a slippery slope, and directed attention to projects that would help with guest retention.

Progress on air service continues to march along with much discussion around strategies for paying the subsidy for air service. According to Urdi, subsidy may be covered by TBID revenue, with Inyo County willing to pick up some of the slack in anticipation of routing more flights through Bishop. Board members relayed their own experiences flying out of Mammoth Yosemite, with Urdi describing flights he’d taken out of the airport as “nail-biters,” with Vice-Chair Scott McGuire stating that he’d made seven round trips up to Reno in the past two months “because I won’t fly out of Mammoth.”

There was fear among board members that the recent power shutoffs would affect tourism, with Morris saying “Word is getting out that Mammoth is an unreliable place to come to” and Communications Director Lara Kay lor admitting a feeling of helplessness when tourists came by the powerless visitor center looking for guidance on food and activities.

Matt Hammer, retail representative on the board, expressed his displeasure with the power outages and their effect on local business, stating “The power outage was not communicated to me by anybody ... I was roasting coffee with the machine at 400 degrees...I could’ve lost my roaster.”

At a meeting between SCE and the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, October 3, Eric Wasserman, Senior Financial Advisor at Wells Fargo in Mammoth Lakes, captured the business community’s feelings, saying “The ‘new norm’ thing is unacceptable” and pushing SCE representatives to make public their threshold criteria for a power shutoff.

“If this is the new norm, we might as well pack up and leave town now ... it’s going to kill my business and kill business in this town”.

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Alternative 2B would bump the cost up $11.7 million and is based on a new system design, P25, that supports digital encryption. Nevertheless, the same issue of channel selection for Admin and EMS operators would persist as the extra cost stems from licensing the P25 technology.

All alternatives include new equipment, additional sites, and improved coverage; the difference lies in the level of technology employed.

“We recognize that a $12 million price tag is … it’s a tough nut to crack,” said Greenberg, who expressed a need to explore creative solutions for the financing aspect of the project.

One way of going about this, according to Greenberg was to employ a “vendor-agnostic approach” which would determine best standards and practices and then bring in vendors to see how they would address the needs.

This approach would give Mono County “a single throat to choke in terms of vendors,” said Greenberg.

Supervisor Fred Stump, who noted that four of the most poorly funded fire districts are in his district, asked Greenberg about replacing an out-of-date and varied system. Greenberg responded by stating “Yes, we’re budgeting $3.5 million to replace subscriber units”. Greenberg also explained that some of the units may not need the P25 encryption, which would reduce some costs and also noted that some entities, like Mammoth Fire, are able to handle their own equipment costs.

“They’re replacing their own units,” said Greenberg. “They’ve budget for that.”

At the Mammoth Lakes Town Council meeting on Wednesday evening, Greenberg was questioned about how this plan factors into a previous presentation he had made about a regional dispatch system. For now, “It’s just Mono,” said Greenberg, who admitted that there is “clearly a nexus or overlap between the two topics. If we moved to a regional model, it would all be operated out of the same facility” but noted that “it would still be disparate radio networks.”

Councilmember Cleland Hoff questioned how this plan came prior to the Federal Engineering presentation he had made about a regional dispatch system. For now, “It’s just Mono,” said Greenberg, who explained “In my own assessment of the current system, which would reduce some costs and also noted that some entities, like Mammoth Fire, are able to handle their own equipment costs.”

Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Salcido spoke in support of Greenberg, referencing her own experiences with the system. “It’s amazing they’re able to do what they do with the system they have”, said Salcido.

She explained that in North county, “They do a radio check in the morning to see if they can talk to the hospital that day,” and concluded by stating that “It’s amazing we patched it together as long as we have.”

Mayor Bill Sauser asked for assurance that “What we’re building isn’t a Cadillac” as opposed to a Yugo, which Greenberg responding that “We have a Yugo with three wheels right now.”

Mammoth Lakes Police Chief Al Davis stepped to the podium in support of Greenberg’s plan and efforts, and gave his own assessment of the current system.

“If it weren’t for Nate’s crew, our Yugo would’ve died about nine months ago. Four different times.”

“... what they’re working.” said Al Davis, “Our Yugo would’ve died about nine months ago. Four different times.”
The complex has a total of 28 units. The property changed ownership on July 24, 2019. Before the ownership change, Duke said she was paying $800 per month. After new ownership took over, she received a notice to increase her rent to $1,200 per month beginning on December 1, 2019—a 50% increase. The rental increase notices were issued on September 3.

According to a grant deed document from Inyo-Mono Title Company, the new owners of Primrose Apartments, LLC, are a Wyoming-based limited liability company. Individual names of the owners were not listed. According to the grant deed, the Primrose Apartments were sold by The Gerard J. Brown and Leona E. Monozon Brown Trust. PRICE?

After three phone calls to Bishop Real Estate - the first call on Friday, September 20, the second call on Tuesday, September 24 and the third call on Wednesday, September 25 - a press release was issued by the property manager.

The owners of Primrose Apartments, LLC stated in the press release that they had plans to initiate a $500,000 remodel. “It [the property] had a lot of deferred maintenance, and in general did not meet our standards for quality of living. We have been working closely with the relevant departments in the county to bring back the building up to date and completely remodel it.”

Among the improvements contemplated:

- Access control to the building by installing a new electric gate
- Pedestrian gate with keypad access
- Add lighting to the parking lot
- Build a new trash enclosure
- Install a new roof on the entire building
- Completely remodel all units with granite counter tops, recessed lighting, fans, AC, new waterproof vinyl plank floor, new bathrooms with new vanities and showers, new stainless-steel appliances
- Install new windows
- Change all electrical panels in all apartment units and bring them up to current code
- We have reopened the pool, so residents can enjoy it
- Replumb the entire building with new copper lines
- Get the second well, functioning

The press release did not reference the eviction notices, nor did it mention the current infestation of mice and roaches and how that would be addressed.

The prospect of future improvements is of little consolation to Ms. Duke, who doesn’t know what the future holds. “I don’t know...I’m a single mom with a son that lives with me,” said Amy Duke, while referring to her 16-year old son, Andrew. Amy also has two dogs, which “are my certified emotional support animals for my anxiety and severe depression,” she said. “There is no-where to go—no places to rent in town. My son and I both have jobs in town, and he goes to Bishop High School. Our life is here, we can’t just move elsewhere,” said Amy Duke. She believes the main goal of the owners is to potentially have the whole apartment building evicted, because they “want to remodel and raise the prices,” said Duke.

While Ms. Duke believes the recent passage of Assembly Bill 1482, the Tenant Protection Act of 2019, gives her some protections in regard to tenancy and rent stability, fact is, those protections are largely irrelevant if and when properties change hands, particularly if there is no long-term lease in place.

But the fact is, if there’s no rental agreement in place, new owners can evict tenants on month-to-month leases within 30- to 60 days. Duke said it hasn’t always been like this.

“When I moved in, it was a nice place to live,” she said. At that time, Sam Walker was the owner, and the on-site managers were a couple who did routine maintenance. At that time, the apartments “had BBQs on the lawn and a family environment,” and they [owners] “changed [the] carpet when someone moved out,” said Duke.

However, the property has gone downhill in the past decade since Gerard Brown purchased it. Duke said Brown “refused to do repairs or put money into the budget,” said Duke. If tenants wanted something fixed, they’d do so out of their own pockets.

The main issues that are faced at the Primrose Lane Apartments are “the disrepair, the complaining and how we are getting retaliation, and the way they are evicting people—there is nowhere to go,” said Duke.

In Duke’s apartment, the carpet is way older than her son, there are problems with the oven, garbage disposal, exhaust fan in bathroom (all do not work), dangerous wall heaters in all rooms that are a fire hazard and a breaker box that is critically out of date, said Duke.

Have we mentioned the mold? Duke said a fellow tenant recently had raw sewage spewing out from a broken pipe in the floor. When the water stopped, the tenant received a text message from Bishop Real Estate that “the leak must have fixed itself.”

Duke maintains a plumber from Dean’s Plumbing and Heating called the apartments “a ticking time bomb,” when referring to the entire plumbing system.

Then there are the rodent and pest problems. At one point, Duke said an exterminator came (once-in-a-while) for a month, but possibly didn’t get paid, she said. His advice: Buy traps.

“The pool? There was “black stuff” in it. When people recently came to clean it out, they wore hazmat suits.

So ultimately, there are two Primrose Apartment scenarios. Neither work for the current tenants.

Live in a dump at a price one can afford, or have the dump cleaned up so you can’t afford to live there.

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(choose one)

* Baby Greens
* Cherry Tomatoes, Feta, Pecans, Truffled Vinaigrette in House Vinaigrette

Soup of the Day

Made fresh Daily

Entree’s

* Carne Asada
  Grilled Marinated Flank Steak with Cilantro Mashed Potatoes, Charred Onion, Broccolini and Cilantro Chimichurri

* Crispy Skin Barramundi Fillet
  Asian Sea Bass in Garlic Orange Alioli, with Basmati Rice, Seasonal Vegetables & Charred Lemon

* Pistachio Pasta with Chicken Fettuccini, Red Bell Pepper, Squash, Slow Roasted Tomatoes in a Pistachio Pesto Cream Sauce

Dessert

Choice of any of our Homemade Desserts!

* Excludes Sales tax and Gratuity, Monday through Thursday 5:00pm to close.

760-934-7427

@morrisonsmammoth
COUNCIL continued from page 1

That is when Smoogen first went to the town council and said there was a problem and it needed a solution. At the time, Town Manager Dan Holler simply asked, “What do you want?” To which Smoogen replied, “To keep the water on your easement.” The Town did nothing.

Two years ago, Smoogen and the Trails HOA made its second appearance before Council and Smoogen described the encounter at the meeting on Wednesday. “We said we could save the town some money [undertaking a mitigation proj- ect] because we [as a non-government entity] wouldn’t have to pay prevailing wage. Nobody on the council, not the town lawyer, not Dan (Holler), not Grady (Dutton), no one said ‘you can’t do that, you gotta pay a prevailing wage.’” The town’s easement had a drainage issue that was contentious. “We said we could save the town some money.” Fast forward one more year and the Trails HOA was back at a town council meeting that Smoogen described as contentious. Former Mayor Cleland said that the HOA used, Mammoth King, was scared of any liability associated with a prevailing wage. “We said we could save the town some money,” Smoogen said.

Town attorney Andrew Morris said that the prevailing wage requires a roughly $35 minimum wage and an extra $22.54 to be applied in specific ways defined by the prevailing wage. The contractor that the HOA used, Mammoth King, appeared to lump these two numbers together and used a $60 minimum wage for all hours worked. According to Mor- ris, they likely did not follow prevailing wage laws as the invoice was not that detailed.

This is important because the town would be liable to pay the difference in prevailing wage if the wage was not met.

Morris and Holler figured this number to be about $4,327.68 more. Town Council got even more scared as the $4,327 added to the invoice of $11,640 presented to Council on Wednesday roughly a number above $15,000. State law mandates any govern- ment payment over $15,000 requires a contractor that is registered to pay prev- aling wage, and Mammoth King is not one of these contractors. Holler asked for a 10 minute break and Mayor Bill Sauser accepted. Holler then had a private discussion with Smoogen and basically told him that he could take the $5,000, as that was the limit to which Holler can authorize, or he could go home with nothing.

The Trails HOA went home with $5,000 and felt like they were skimped by Coun- cil. The final tally appeared to be around $16,000, but Council members were scared of any liability associated with a number above 15,000, so they went with $5,000.

In a bit of irony, 15 minutes before the easement issue, Council approved a $33,209 expenditure for Dekra-Lite Industries, Inc. to put up a total of 27 illuminated snowflakes around the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

*Glitz trumps meat and potatoes every time.*

This time, the HOA bore the brunt of it. “If we paid the invoice in full, it would knock out over half of our budget,” said Smoogen. For the town, it is just another agenda item ticked off the list.

A PhD thesis on acronyms

In other Council news, John Wentworth sounded off on representatives of SCE (Southern California Edison) who came筹备 a town council cooperation. “This is all important work that you’re talking about, but I am profoundly disappointed by what we are talking about this evening because when the council considered this item, we did not have a PhD thesis on acronyms.” He concluded his rant with “I’m frustrated because we need to address the citizens we represent, and we need to start repre- senting their needs.”

Wentworth wanted practical, granular pieces of information that would help locals in the event of a public safety power shutoff (a PSPS). Government Af- fairs officer Cal Rossi incited part of the frustration when he had the floor, as he used it to thank all parties involved (for what?) before displaying excellent politi- cal rhetoric such as “We are committed to processing improvement with the county to make sure we get this right and your phone is answered.”

Which means nothing.

Bob Stein, a Senior project manager and government affairs officer, said “We encourage people to sign up for the SCE outage updates through our website.” This is the only way to get all of the infor- mation, but Councilmembers Hoff and Wentworth recollected all of the annoying messages blowing up their phones. Stein also helped explain what factors go into deciding if a PSPS is necessary. “The ultimate decision is made by our in- side based commander on the ground.” In addition to this person, SCE utilizes meteorological data to inform its deci- sion.

MLPD chief Al Davis was one of the people the SCE reached out to in order to confirm the severity of weather. “They called me and asked what are you seeing out there?” And said, “One of the real benefits of this event is that we have this chatting developed way to stress test ourselves.”

He then joked that someone was going to roll him in the alley due to processing improvement with the public to do the same.

Council also discussed its approach to the October 9 joint meeting with the Planning Commission. The meeting marks the next step in the arduous process of planning the parcel. The goal is to narrow their choices to one parcel plan, but as councilman Stapp always exclaims when it comes to the Parcel, “What about the financials?”

Answer: In the 15-point analysis published in Wednesday’s Council agenda, funding and costs are listed as items #11 and #12 behind such worrisome impera- tives as “transit hub,” “open space” and “building height.”
continued from page 6

board members in the district.

The Sheet reached out to several people, including a critic who, in an article, leveled charges that Ray and the school board lacked transparency and communication, but we did not receive a response. Other calls were made to co-workers and trustees at KTJUSD as well.

The following are comments from Board Trustee, Laura Lee George. She was one of four Native-American board members who served on a board of seven during Ray’s five years as one of its longest serving superintendents. All four board members had college degrees. She is a current board member along with two other Native Americans. A retired college professor who taught Native American education history, and served for a short period of time as an interim superintendent for the district years ago, she’s an unabashed fan of Jon Ray.

George told The Sheet that “no one has attempted to contact her or any other school board member” to her knowledge over allegations being made in Bishop about the ACLU involvement in the LCAP lawsuit, or any lack of transparency and communication, or that Ray was “forced out of the district.” She insisted the board “supported him one-hundred percent,” insisting that none of those allegations were simply true.

“We were sick over losing him (Ray) and begged him to stay, but he had another opportunity, and he took it,” said George.

George also feels that most of the negative comments about Ray have been largely coming from one person. As for the ACLU, “they were looking for a district with a high population of Native-Americans as part of their agenda to force the state of California to change its allowing school districts to create their own budgets and decide their own spending priorities.

“I give him (Ray) a lot of credit. When he first arrived, he did not know we had a serious district-wide black mold problem which eventually resulted in our literally gutting almost all of many of our school buildings,” said George. “Jon traveled back and forth to Sacramento to find the money to fix the problem. He pulled in something like $90 million and it is thanks to him that our school district now has state-of-the-art schools with new technology and are safe for our students.”

George expressed her amazement and admiration for Ray’s ability to “keep so many plates spinning in the air.” His accomplishments in improving the district academically, can be seen on the state’s CDE Dashboard website that reviews each school’s success (or lack thereof) by comparison to the minimum standards set by the state. The school district greatly improved under Ray’s guidance and she hopes the community of Bishop will give him the opportunity to prove himself.

continued from page 2

LUNCH

And a detail from the story sure to con-
found Mammoth’s community develop-
ment department and its array of housing
consultants:

“The Moab Adventure Center finished
construction on a $1 million dormitory
building for 64 employees.”

I made reference last week to how Gov.
Newsom and the California State Assem-
by is trying to kill business.

Let me introduce you to AB 5.

The law tightens the rules on those classified as independent contractors versus employees.

“The court set a new, three-prong test
for companies to use when determining how to classify their workers. To be la-
beled a contractor, a worker must be free from control of the company; performing work “outside the usual course of the hir-
ing entity’s business,” and engaged in an independently established trade, occupa-
tion or business of the same nature as the work they are performing,” explains the Associated Press.

So much for freelance writers.

Not quite. Here’s the exemption, ac-
cording to AP. “It also exempts freelance journalists if they contribute 35 articles or less to a single publication within a year.”

So say I hire a writer for a starter job at $30,000 a year. And that obviously varies depending upon background, skill, etc. But for argument’s sake, let’s just say I pay $30,000.

And I tell you, the new hires. They don’t know anything. Anything.

Under current rules, if he’s a declared contractor, I pay the person $2,500/month.He/she writes off all expenses: travel, computer purchases, supplies, phone, internet. Which more than compensates for whatever social security taxes or income taxes they may owe. It’s a win for the contractor.

And it’s a win for me. I put more in the contractor’s pocket, which allows them to pay off onerous student loans. The sched-
ule is flexible, so they can take a second job if they’d like. And I’m not stuck pay-
ing all the damn worker’s comp (which is a joke. As if a 22-year old kid is gonna get hurt using a pad and pencil), the social security match and the like.

But now, one way or the other, the state is going to soak this little last remaining zit of a bright light of the 4th Estate for $13,000 a year minimum begin-
ing January 1, 2020. The staff will have to conform to regular hours in a business that has no regular hours. And forget any write-offs.

What’s funny is that the people AB 5 is most concerned about helping, gig driv-
ers for Lyft, Uber and the like, aren’t too crazy about it because full-time employ-
ee status would prompt assigned shifts and mandated hours.

And according to the WSJ, “Morgan Stanley estimates the employer-status law could increase California driver costs by 35%.

Which all means, dear reader, that prices for services (particularly food delivery) will have to increase.

And is it only a matter of time before I have to charge for this rag? Hmm. Maybe we’ll call it the “BUCKet of Sheet?”
SPORTS

BRONCOS ROLL 19-7
By Sheet Staff

Bishop made it harder than it needed to be, but ultimately, the better team prevailed in the Bronco 19-7 victory over Burroughs (Ridgecrest) last Friday night under the lights at John Schwab Field.

The Broncos turned the ball over twice on fumbles in the first three minutes of the contest and even fell behind in the 4th quarter before rallying.

Clay Omohundro connected with Braithwaite on a 82-yard touchdown on the first play after Burroughs took a 7-6 4th quarter lead. Darren Dondero then intercepted a Burroughs pass setting up Luke McLean’s 35-yard rushing touchdown giving the Broncos a 19-7 lead.

At the outset, it looked like it might be easier. On the Broncos opening drive, Senior Joey Molina (photographed, 8 carries, 54 yards) busted loose on a 34-yard run where he literally sought out defenders to run over, but alas, Molina had the ball stripped inside the five.

After the Bronco defense held however, the Broncos mishandled the ensuing punt - the coaching staff didn’t let anyone come close to fielding a punt for the rest of the half.

Darren Dondero was named defensive player of the game with a quarterback sack, 6 solo tackles, and the 4th quarter interception.

Luke McLean was the overall player of the game with 93 rushing yards and 85 yards receiving. Braithwaite was named offensive player of the game with 149-yards receiving. Sophomore Walker Rost-Kruger was named special teams player of the game.

Junior Clay Omohundro had a big night completing 14 of 21 pass attempts for 262-yards and two scores.

Above: Walker makes a play at the net in Tuesday’s win over Kern. Below: Witherill serving

HUSKIES CRUSH KERN

It was no contest on Tuesday as Mammoth Volleyball crushed Kern in straight sets: 25-5, 25-11, 25-8.

Mammoth is currently ranked #1 in the CIF Central Section, Division V.

The stats from Wednesday’s blowout:

- Ella Thompson: 10 kills
- Drew Presson: 5 kills
- Sara Mueller: 4 kills
- Adi Witherill: 3 kills, 6 assists
- Ruby Walker: 2 kills, 4 aces
- Sam Jones: 16 assists, 8 aces
- Erica Lynch: 5 aces
- Kendall Lach: 2 kills
- Makenna Kumlue: 4 aces

Mammoth was set to host Bishop on Senior Night Thursday, Oct. 3.

MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM PRESENTS

FALL EVENTS WORKSHOP

Mammoth Lakes Tourism is pleased to announce a free Events Workshop for the Event Producers of Mammoth Lakes. All event producers and their staff are encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, October 8

The Westin Monache Resort, Mammoth (Foxfir Room)

10 am: Doors Open/Coffee/Welcome

10:30 - 11:45 am:
Tips & Tricks for Social Media Advertising for Your Event
Mike Opera, Power Digital Marketing

12pm- 12:30pm: Complimentary Lunch

12:45 - 2 pm:
The Permitting Process
Stuart Brown: Town of Mammoth Lakes, Natalie Morrow: Mammoth Lakes Fire, Matt Paruolo: Eastern Sierra Recreation Coordinator, Al Davis: Mammoth Lakes Police Department

2:15 - 3:30 pm:
Creating a 2020 Marketing Vision
Benjamin Hoefling, Eventbrite

3:45-5 pm:
Leveraging Community for a Record-Breaking Event: A Case Study from The Great Cut
Chris Healy, Co-Founder & CEO, The Longhairs

5 pm:
Social Hour with the Presenters

Please RSVP to Caroline Casey @ ccasey@visitmammoth.com
Mammoth High School’s cross country running team traveled to the Bell-Jeff meet held in Griffith Park, Los Angeles this past Saturday. This was the team’s third race of the season, and the Boys brought home yet another trophy.

While the course is a brutal one, 2.94 miles of all hills with sand and dirt, the weather was perfect for these mountain kids: Overcast and drizzling on and off. The Varsity Boys team was in its element, taking 2nd place among the 28 teams competing in their division. Three races, three trophies this year for the Husky boys!

Due to illness, the Girls’ Varsity team only had four runners. You must have five runners on a team score in order to qualify for a team trophy at any given race.

Individually, however, those who participated excelled. Rhona McChesney came in 3rd place out of 133 runners with a time of 20:07.6.

Despite almost getting mowed down by a bus driver not paying attention to the traffic directors, (Welcome to running in the big city) Lizzetta Dardenne-Ankgrinka snugged the 5th place spot with a time of 20:32.8. Her sister Emma came in 17th place.

Laurel Wight was our final lady finisher. Mammoth probably would have taken home a team trophy if captain Jordyn Harper hadn’t fallen ill. Next time!

Finishing first for Mammoth’s Varsity Boys was Ryan Furness. He flew across the finish line in 3rd place out of 203 runners in the division with a time of 16:18.0. Placing 7th with a 16:26.4 was Iain Ferguson. Aidan LeFrancois came in 16th place with a time of 16:51.3. Mammoth’s last two point earners were Kazuki Okamoto and Devan Tenedora in 36th and 39th place, followed 1 second later by Cardiff Smith in 40th place. Petr Zastoupil finished in 55th place for Mammoth.

Next up for both teams is a 3 mile race held at Castaic Lake on Saturday, October 12th.

Above: LeFrancois and Ferguson. Top right: Okamoto at the wire

MHS BOYS 2ND OF 28 IN L.A.

Mammoth High School’s Sophomore receiver Daniel Hildebrand scoring in last week’s loss to Lone Pine. The undefeated Eagles (5-0), however, dominated the contest, rushing for 325 yards. Senior John Shepherd led Lone Pine with 196 yards. He also scored twice. Lone Pine has outscored its opponents by an average of 30 points per contest. The Eagles are home this Friday v. Calvary Baptist (La Verne).
**BARS & MUSIC**

**Happy Hour** / Austria Hof, Happy Hour 5-7:30 p.m. Daily. Taco Tuesdays and Poki Taco Thursdays. More info: See ad p. 8. The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Happy hour 3-6 p.m. 1/2 off wings on Monday. More info: See ad p. 7. Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Mon-Fri., Happy Hour from 4-6 p.m. Mountain Man's Happy Hour 5-7 p.m. all summer Sunday through Thursday in the bar. The Mogul Happy Hour Sun.-Thurs. from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar with food and drink specials. Mammoth Rock 'N Bowl Mon. 9:45 p.m. Thurs. DJ 10 p.m. Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour: 4-7 p.m. daily. $6 dollar menu items, drink specials. Info: See ad p. 7. Petra's Bistro. Happy hour 5-7 p.m. Signature cocktails. Wine by the glass. Info: See ad p. 7. Roberto's Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily. The Public House Local Mondays (all local beers are $5 a pint). Karaoke Tuesdays @ 8:00. 1/2 Priced Wine on Wednesdays, Open Mic night Thursdays.

**Famous Slocums Happy Hour** Happy Hour: Mon-Fri 4-6 p.m; Sat 4-5:30 p.m. Dining at 5:30 p.m. Closed Sundays. “No Reservations, just come on in.” More info: See ad p. 5.

**T-Bar Social Club** in June Lake. Entertainment virtually every night. More info: www.tbarsocialclub.com. Giovanni's Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.

**Shelter Distilling Open** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Daily Happy Hour: 5-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Location: Industrial Park, 1223 Commerce Dr. Info: 760.793.0131. 53 Kitchen & Cocktails happy hour Friday-Sunday. Time: 2-4 p.m. Black Meteor happy hour 4-6. Wine tastings on Wednesdays. Rafter’s happy hour 4:30-6 p.m. all night happy hour on Thursday.

**Lakanuki** happy hour 3-6 p.m. daily. Mammoth Tavern happy hour 4-5:30 p.m. Half off draft beer, well drinks, and glass specials. Presented by appetizers.

**Saturday, October 5** / Outcall plays the T-Bar social club. Starts 8 p.m. Info: www.tbarsocialclub.com

**Sunday, October 6** / Catch all the NFL action @ Liberty. Clocktower in Mammoth and the Paiute Palace (see ad p. 19) in Bishop.

**Tuesday, October 8** / Team trivia at Mammoth Brewing Co. Time: 7 p.m. Free. Karaoke @ Public House. 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 9** / In the Biz Wednesdays @ Mammoth Rock ‘N Bowl. $1 games and $1 shoes after 9 p.m.

**Thursday, October 10** / Open Mic Night @ Public House. 8 p.m.

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**TOWN STUFF**

**October 4-6** / Mammoth Lakes Repertory’s production of “The Glass Menagerie” continues @ the Edison in Mammoth. Thursday-Saturday: 7 p.m. Sunday: 4 p.m. Info: See ad p. 2.

**October 4-5** / Visit Mammoth Fall Instameet. Join Visit Mammoth on a scavenger hunt around town. Where: Pokonobe Marina in the Lakes Basin. Time: Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 7 a.m.

**Friday, October 4** / First Friday Night Market @ Academy Street between Main and Warren in Bishop. Live music, local artisans, food, beer and more. Time: 6-9 p.m.

**Saturday, October 5** / Authors and Artist Series: Fall Photography w/G. Dan Mitchell @ the USFS Auditorium in Mammoth. Mitchell will share advice and photography tips for capturing fall colors. Time: 7-8:30 p.m.

**Choo-Choo Swap Meet** @ Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop. Check out the Eastern Sierra’s biggest annual yard sale at the Fairgrounds! Admission $3, seller spaces start at $10. All proceeds go to the Laws Museum. Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Info at http://www.lawsmuseum.org or call 760.872.3952.

**Bishop Elks Lodge 1603 Charity Golf Tournament** @ Bishop Country Club. Prizes, raffles, golf. Sign up sheets available @ RCC. Info: Ron at 760.920.2939.

**Alabama Hills Cancer Benefit Run** @ Alabama Hills. Run or hike dirt roads and winding trails with views of iconic Mt. Whitney. Proceeds go to John Wayne Cancer Foundation. Time: Starts 7 a.m. Info at https://johnwayne.org/jwcs-alabama-hills.

**3rd Annual Halloween Wine Spooktacular** @ FFA Farm, Bishop. The biggest Halloween event in Bishop, featuring wine and beer tastings, a raffle, and small plates. Time: 4:30-7 p.m. Info and tickets at https://ffebishop.com/buy-tickets or call Trish at 760.872.4065.

**Alabama Hills National Scenic Area Celebration** @ Museum of Western Film History. In March 2019, the heart of the Alabama Hills was designated a National Scenic Area after more than a decade of hard work. Swing by the museum for a public reception to recognize this accomplishment. For info, call Sherri at 760-872-5000.

**Alturas Art Sale and Fall Crafts Show**. @ Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop. Info see sidebar pg. 15 or call Trish @ 760.872.4065.

**Sunday, October 6** / Mammoth Middle School annual ski and sports swap meet. Time: 11 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. More info: See sidebar column next page.

**Crowley Lake 10k and 5k Trail Run** @ Crowley Lake Marina. Spend your Sunday out on the trails for a good cause. All proceeds and donations go towards Crowley Lake community improvement projects. Time: 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Info and registration at https://crowleylake10krun.com.

The SheeT | Saturday, October 5, 2019

www.thesheetnews.com

I 15

calendar of events

Altrusa Art Sale & Fall Colors Craft Show

Date: Saturday, October 5
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Heritage Arts Building (former Home Ec Building), Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop

Join the members of Altrusa International of Eastern Sierra as they host artists from Inyo and Mono Counties in the northern half of the building.

Laura Diko is this year’s featured artist. Her watercolor of the “Slim Pickin’s” was voted Best of Show in 2018.

Laura has been an Eastern Sierra resident since 2013. She escaped the city after 25 years as a medical transcriptionist in San Diego where she was a member of the San Diego Watercolor society.

Altrusa International of the Eastern Sierra is a group of civic minded people committed to making our community better through leadership, partnership, and service.

Fall Colors Craft Show: Get an early start on your Christmas shopping! Crafters from throughout the Eastern Sierra will be selling their wares in the southern half of the building. There will also be coffee and baked goods available for purchase.

More info: Trish @ 760.872.4066.

Fall Colors Cruise and Car Show

Hosted by the Owens Valley Cruisers on the weekend of October 4-6, the annual Fall Colors Cruise combines classic cars with fall foliage, for a full weekend of activities and vehicular fun for all ages at The Tri-County Fairground in Bishop.

Events include a Show and Shine followed by a parade on Saturday morning, live music, an arts and crafts show, and a pancake breakfast. The premier event, the “Poker Run”, takes place on Sunday morning and promises to give you “a breathtaking view of the Fall Colors in the high country”.

Early registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon in the Vons parking lot on North Main in Bishop. In terms of vehicles, the event is open to all models 1974 and older, including customs, trucks, hot rods, and special interest vehicles.


Skii and Sports Swap

Mammoth Middle School Organization’s PTO hosts its annual ski and sports swap on Sunday, October 6 from 11 a.m. till 4 p.m.

Come and shop for deals on skis, snowboards, skates, soccer gear and more.

Admission: $5 per family. Proceeds benefit MMSO.

If you’re a seller, rent a table for either $25 or $50 and get rid of all that gear you’ve either outgrown or don’t use.

Contact Elise Howell @ 760.920.2495/ embrowell@outlook.com for more information or to book space.

The UCCE Inyo and Mono Counties Master Food Preservers invite you to attend “Preserve the Fall Harvest” workshop covering apples, pears, pumpkins and other winter squashes. Take advantage of the fall harvest, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jill Kimpton Booth School, 166 Grandview Road in Bishop.

Come learn how to preserve and enjoy the fall harvest all winter long by steam, water bath and pressure canning pie filling, sauces, pears and butternut squash. You will also learn how to make and freeze puree, pie filling and apple slices as well as dehydrating apples, pears and fruit leathers. You will also learn tips and tricks on other things we teach you how to prepare.

The fee for this workshop is $25 to cover the cost of materials and is by paid reservation only. To register please contact Melissa at 760.873.7854 or mel.eyaeger@ucanr.edu

Edison Scholars Program

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Oct. 1, 2019 — High school seniors whose dreams are to power the future and make a difference through the study of science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) are invited to apply for Edison International’s $1.2 million Edison Scholars Program.

Each year, Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, awards $40,000 scholarships, paid over four years, to 30 high school students who plan to major in designated STEM fields at a four-year accredited U.S. college or university. See the list of eligible STEM majors.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted through Dec. 16. To apply and obtain additional eligibility information, visit: edisonscholars.com. Applicants must live in SCE’s service area and plan to be a full-time undergraduate student majoring in a STEM field. Eligible students also must be a high school senior, have at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. Students from under-represented communities and ethnic minorities are encouraged to apply. Dependants of Edison International and SCE employees and retirees are not eligible for the Edison Scholars Program.

TOWN STUFF

Monday, October 7/
Mammoth Lakes Housing Board
meets. 5:30 p.m. Suite Z. Minaret Mall.

Tuesday, October 8/
Mono County Board of Supervisors.
Meets. 9 a.m. Bridgeport Courthouse.

Wednesday, October 9/
June Lake Chamber of Commerce
General Membership Meeting and
 Mixer @ Mid Chaleet, June Lake. Open
to the public. 2020 Board elections will
take place. Time: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
For info and questions, email janetj@
JuneLakevb.org.
Mammoth Lakes Town Council
special meeting. Workshop with the
Planning and Economic Development
Commission regarding Parcel development alternatives. Time: 1 p.m.
Suite Z. Minaret Mall.

October 10-13/
30th Annual Lone Pine Film Festival.
@ Museum of Western Film History.
The festival features film screenings,
celebrity guests, a parade and a
sunday night campfire. Time: 8:00 a.m.
- 1:00 p.m. Info at https://www.
museumofwesternfilmhistory.org or 760-876-9103.
Mammoth Photo Festival, @ The Village At Mammoth. Some of photography’s greatest names will descend upon one of the most beautiful locations on the planet to lead a celebration of creativity.

IF IMAAGED THAT I SN'T
THAT FEAR-
MONGERING?

Comedy Night in Lone Pine

Lone Pine locals and Film Festival visitors are invited to laugh with the “Cumrdudgeon in a Cowboy Hat” cowboy comedy crooner Buffalo Bryan Marr. Tickets are $5.00 at the door. The Mt. Whitney Restaurant is located at 227 South Main St. Food, drink, and dessert service will be available.

Preserve the Harvest

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COWBOY COMEDY NIGHT in Lone Pine

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Come learn how to preserve and enjoy the fall harvest all winter long by steam, water bath and pressure canning pie fillings, sauces, pears and butter-nut squash. You will also learn how to make and freeze puree, pie filling and apple slices as well as dehydrating apples, pears and fruit leathers. You will also learn tips and tricks on other things we teach you how to prepare.

The fee for this workshop is $25 to cover the cost of materials and is by paid reservation only. To register please contact Melissa at 760.873.7854 or mel.eyaeger@ucanr.edu

Edison Scholars Program

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Oct. 1, 2019 — High school seniors whose dreams are to power the future and make a difference through the study of science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) are invited to apply for Edison International’s $1.2 million Edison Scholars Program.

Each year, Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, awards $40,000 scholarships, paid over four years, to 30 high school students who plan to major in designated STEM fields at a four-year accredited U.S. college or university. See the list of eligible STEM majors.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted through Dec. 16. To apply and obtain additional eligibility information, visit: edisonscholars.com. Applicants must live in SCE’s service area and plan to be a full-time undergraduate student majoring in a STEM field. Eligible students also must be a high school senior, have at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. Students from under-represented communities and ethnic minorities are encouraged to apply. Dependants of Edison International and SCE employees and retirees are not eligible for the Edison Scholars Program.

COWBOY COMEDY NIGHT in Lone Pine

Comedy Night in Lone Pine

Lone Pine locals and Film Festival visitors are invited to laugh with the “Cumrdudgeon in a Cowboy Hat” cowboy comedy crooner Buffalo Bryan Marr. Tickets are $5.00 at the door. The Mt. Whitney Restaurant is located at 227 South Main St. Food, drink, and dessert service will be available.

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Mammoth Rock N Bowl has immediate openings for 2 Assistant Pinsetter Mechanic positions. $16.00-18.00/hour. is a part time, hourly position with flexible openings for 2 Assistant Pinsetter Mechanic, Winnedumah Hotel. Do any of the rooms rent by the hour? We have linen strippers to do heavy lifting ($20/h) and housekeepers (great piece rate, $40.00 - $56.00/shift)

Vacasa is now hiring full and part time housekeepers in June Lake with pay starting at $18 per hour. Apply online at vacasa.com/careers and please apply online at mammoth-greatbasin.com.

Bleu Handcrafted Foods seeks food passionate individuals to join our BAKING team. You must be an AMF Expert, with a head for numbers and a desire to be part of the Mammoth Rock N Bowl family. Paying depending on experience.

Now Hiring Cafe Team Member Join our Team! Great Basin Bakery is seeking energetic, outgoing people for part- or full-time cafe shifts. Excellent customer service, strong work ethic and enjoyment of working in a fun environment required. Duties include basic food/beverage prep, POS operation, and cleaning/stocking the Cafe. Both early and afternoon shifts are available, may work weekends and holidays. We offer excellent benefits, competitive pay and great free food! Apply online at mammoth-greatbasin.com, 275 South Main Street in Bishop.

Vacasa is hiring full and part time housekeepers in Lake June with pay starting at $18 per hour. Apply online at vacasa.com/careers and please apply online at mammoth-greatbasin.com.

Blues Tie Ski Rentals is now hiring for both Full Time and Part Time seasonal positions for the 2019-20 ski season. Seeking proactive and energetic individuals who share our love of the mountains and possess an entrepreneurial spirit. I deal candidates enjoy working in a great team atmosphere and are passionate about providing impeccable customer service to our guests. Flexible scheduling is available but MUST be able to work weekends and holidays. Comfortable with handling cash and carrying heavy, full bags of rental skis and snowboards. You’ll love working with guests of all ages who share our passion for skiing. Full time positions will be paid time and a half. Part-time employees are available, may work weekends and holidays. We offer excellent benefits, competitive pay and great free food! Apply online at mammoth-greatbasin.com, 275 South Main Street in Bishop.

Seasons 4 Condominiums Rentals - Front desk position. FT reservation/guest service position open. POS training required. Seasonal. Duties include guest service, + general office. We are looking for a team player with a positive attitude. Email: reservations@seasons4.com.

Fictitious Business Name Statement The Following Person Is Doing Business As: SK Consulting

Steven Kent
492 Sierra Springs Drive
Crawley Lake, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on August 23, 2019 File Number 19-185 2019-0177 (9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5)

Fictitious Business Name Statement The Following Person Is Doing Business As: GT Holdings

Green Team Holdings, LLC.
4747 & 4750 Main Street
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on August 23, 2019 File Number 19-185 2019-0178 (9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5)
Notice of Current Property Tax Due

I, Janet Dutcher, Director of Finance, Mono County Tax Collector, hereby announce that the 2019 Current Property Tax Bills will be mailed on or before November 1, 2019, to all owners of taxable property. The addresses shown on the tax roll, if you own property in Mono, the county listed in the taxing jurisdiction where the property is located. All tax bills must be paid in full by the due date. If you have any questions regarding the tax bill, please contact the tax office at 760-935-4565 or visit the County website at http://www.monocounty.ca.gov.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility to make timely payments. The SECOND INSTALLMENT is due on February 1, 2020, and will be delinquent if not paid by 4:00 P.M. on the close of business on or before February 10, 2020; thereafter a 10% penalty with interest will be added. Both Installments may be paid when the first installment is due.

Payments may be made by mail to P.O. Box 493, Bridgeport, CA 93517 or at the tax collector’s office at 215 West Main Street, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Mailed payments must be postmarked by the delinquent date to avoid late penalties. Payments may also be made in person at the tax collector’s office, 215 West Main Street, Bridgeport, CA 93517 or at the county offices in the Mono County Courthouse (2nd Floor), 278 Main St., Bridgeport, CA 93517. For further information, contact the Mono County Tax Collector at 760-935-1653 or visit the County website at http://www.monocounty.ca.gov.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Oct. 17, 2019, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Mono County Courthouse, Bridgeport, CA, to consider the following:

11:25 a.m. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 19-03/Housing Element Update. The Housing Element is a required element of the General Plan and provides an analysis of the county’s housing needs for future annual plans and strategies to meet those needs. It is subject to detailed statutory requirements regarding content and must be updated on an eight-year cycle, meaning the proposed element would apply until 2027. The Housing Element contains three sections: (1) Goals and Policies, which identifies programs that promote the production of housing; (2) Technical Appendix, which provides background information, including demographics and a detailed site inventory; and (3) Progress Report providing updates on programs from the prior Housing Element. The Housing Element Update was originally recommended for approval by the Planning Commission as part of GPA 19-02 at the July 30, 2019, meeting, The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has since provided feedback that required corrections and a re-approval of the Housing Element.

These corrections include the monitoring of four unit complexes to determine if permitting procedures are a constraint on housing production and the addition of a program aimed at creating written procedures for providing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

Project materials are available for public review at the Community Development Department offices in Bridgeport and Mammoth Lakes. For more information call 760.924.1800.

INTERESTED 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 limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to Secretary to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

TS #2019-0168
The historic Winnedumah hotel along Highway 395 in Independence is under new ownership and management. The hotel was built in 1927 as a favor to the town by a businessman named Walter Dow. Four years earlier, Dow had built the ‘Dow Villa’ hotel in Lone Pine as a luxury getaway and destination stay for film crews working in the area.

The people of Independence believed their town, just 16 miles down the road, deserved the same. Citizens banded together and purchased the land for Dow to create the Winnedumah (meaning stay right where you are) which has served Independence ever since.

Ownership and management of the property is well documented in the Eastern California Museum in Independence. A man named Fred Tll managed the hotel with his wife for about four months after the hotel’s opening. Then a couple, Fred and Hattie Schaefer, took over and managed the hotel for 52 years from the period 1927-1979. The Schaefers managed the Winnedumah during the heyday of the famed hotel as the access to the scenery in the Owens Valley led to a slew of western movies shot in the area inevitably making the Winnedumah home base to many film crews.

There is the John Wayne room which was always requested by Wayne due to its back window providing the perfect view of the Eastern Sierra. Bing Crosby was reportedly given the room above the managers unit so they could hear him sing in the shower. Other famous guests included Roy Rogers, Gary Cooper and even photographer Ansel Adams.

In 1979 the hotel changed to a country inn, and since then it has gone through multiple owners. It even closed down for five years after the roof caved in late 2010. As of June 2019, the Winnedumah is under new ownership and as one of the new managers Cindy (along with husband Derek) Abrahams explained, “The owners have been great for the Hotel. Most of the time people think new owners mean new renovations but that is not the case. The owners have been researching the history and architecture of the area.” This was the reason the Abrahams came on; they dug the goal of retaining the hotel’s historical character.

“We don’t have televisions or coffee makers in the rooms.” Said Cindy, “We try to make it like it was, but there is Wi-fi and if that is not enough, there is Mother Nature just outside the door.”

As one walks through the halls, the wood beneath your feet creaks at every step. The walkway is illuminated by electric lamps that were originally gas-lamps when the Winnedumah opened. The rooms are quaint and have the old-time western aesthetic characterized by small vanities outside the bathroom, old-school radiators, and an original late ‘20s desk in every room.

Not that there won’t be some renovations. Cindy explained there will be minor changes like draperies, or the wood/amber smelling amenities. “The town and the hotel are quintessential America. The people here have really embraced us.”

The main lobby is accessed through big glass doors that are nearly the same as they were almost a hundred years ago. The lobby itself has a grand fireplace as its centerpiece, constructed with different ores from the area. Original 1927 (re-upholstered obviously) furniture adds a certain element of nostalgia. Old country music from the time period subtly plays in the background from a playlist that Cindy and Derek created specifically for their lobby.

The Abrahams want their hotel to be the beginning of a journey. “The Owens Valley is such an underexplored region.” Said Cindy, “We want to provide a good experience. There is no rack of brochures in the lobby; we act as concierges to help people get the resources they need.”

Both Cindy and Derek have ‘award winning’ hospitality backgrounds and recently came off revitalizing a hotel in Tucson, Arizona. They are both from small towns and feel like they are the people to bring the Winnedumah Hotel back to its roots.

There are 25 active rooms with 33 beds. There are single bed rooms as well as a “Jack-and-Jill” style accommodation that sleeps five people.

For reservations, you can email Cindy and Derek at Management@Winnedumah.com
By Hite

“Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?” the dystopian science fiction novel by Philip K. Dick set in 2021 (he wrote it in 1968) was used as the inspiration for the movie “Blade Runner.” The book juggles humanity and intelligence while focusing on a specific human trait: empathy.

The story escalates in a world where a majority of the population has fled to Mars hoping to avoid the fallout of a radioactive war. Emigrants to Mars are promised their own personal Androids to ease the stress of switching planets.

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? primarily follows the story of Rick Deckard; a bounty hunter tasked to kill (retire) androids who escape Mars and flee to Earth.

The world Deckard occupies is a stripped down version of the Earth we inhabit. Owning an animal is a status symbol as most species have gone extinct, humans utilize machines which allow the user to pick their emotional state by dialing a specific number, and there exists a post-war religion designed to unite humanity through the life and teachings of a man named Wilbur Mercer.

Deck fleshes out his ideas of consciousness, intelligence, and empathy for anything, including other androids. Deckard retires the humanoid robots with ease until he meets one of the Nexus-6 androids named Racheal. Racheal is a part of the Rosen family who manufactures and distributes the androids. Her supposed uncle, Eldon Rosen, explains that the goal of the family is to make these robots as realistic as possible. When Racheal nearly passes the empathy test, Deckard becomes aware of how real the androids can feel to a human.

Despite his emotional reaction, Deckard becomes aware of how the androids can feel to a human. Despite his emotional reaction, Deckard is assigned to kill six Nexus-6’s that are on Earth. One of the escaped Nexus 6’s, Luba Luft, shares her view on the differences between humans and androids. She believes what her brain calculates leads to an opinion that ranks life forms, and she believes what her brain has reasoned. It brings up the idea that maybe these androids have some sense of will even if it is not free.

The androids are intelligent beings but it is easy to imagine them without souls, and therefore they are disposable. Humans take care of animals with a dutiful pleasure but will only use androids as servants or kill them. The androids are arguably as smart as the humans they emulate yet without the touch of nature (evolution) they become a human creation that gives us permission to do as we please. In regard to sex between androids and humans, Racheal says to Deckard, “Remember, though; don’t think about it, just do it. Don’t pause and be philosophical because from a philosophical standpoint, it’s dreary. For us both.”

Dick fleshes out his ideas of consciousness, intelligence, and empathy in a psychological descent into his main character Rick Deckard. It becomes an unraveling of the ideas that Deckard used to define who and what he was, leading to a near psychotic (possibly clairvoyant) hallucination of Wilbur Mercer, the religious icon of humanity.

This descent of psyche is a foreshadowing of what might happen to humans as the machines we create become more and more like us. Artificial intelligence already has profound impacts on our society including improvements to automation leading to millions of workers losing their jobs, or even a company like Cambridge Analytica using A.I. to target ads to voters susceptible to those ideas. Using online profiles, the firm ostensibly had a hand in the Trump election and Brexit.

As these tools become better and better at identifying us and reading patterns we didn’t know existed, humans will have to wrestle with ideas of their own intelligence as a proxy to consciousness. Artificial intelligence will surpass our smartest scientists but what happens then is a complete mystery. What we’re seeing now is just a hint of what’s around the corner.

Philip Dick died in 1982 at the age of 53. Too bad he’s not around to tell us.
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