

The sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

Saturday, December 8, 2018

FREE

Vol. 16, No. 49

WELCOME TO THE WRECK ZONE

Mammoth Council believes name change for MUF will change outcome

By Gorman

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.

"Council gave direction on [pursuing] A a long time ago (Aug. 1st)," Sauser said, "How did B and C even get on here?"

"Over and over and over again we have put this out to input groups and focus groups, and here it is again... If this council wants to undo the work of previous councils then just

stand up and say it," Sauser said.

"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.

"The location at the school makes sense," Hoff said. "Kids can walk together to the library

see WRECK, page 9

KEEP SQUAW TRUE

Activist filmmakers to screen flick in June Lake

By Benham

The Keep Squaw True movement has decided to take on resort owners KSL Capital Partners and Alterra Mountain Company.

The battle plan includes a movie, titled "The Movie to Keep Squaw True." Brothers Robb and Scott Gaffney wrote and directed.

They hardly need introduction.

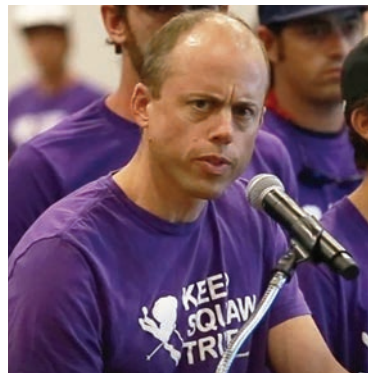
Robb wrote "Squallywood," the guide to Squaw Valley Resort. Both directed and starred in the ski cult classic "G.N.A.R. the Movie."

Scott writes, directs, films and edits ski movies for Matchstick Productions.

At the beginning of the movie, the narrator, in a deep voice, asks, "What type of movie is this?... comedy?, drama?, horror?, mystery?..."

He answers 'yes' to every question. Then, he says, "But above all this is a romance. A love story."

The story is a love triangle. Ugly and beautiful. Keep Squaw



Robb Gaffney

True and Alterra are fighting over the same lover, Squaw Valley.

The Keep Squaw True movement loves Squaw's history and culture, its mountains and streams, Lake Tahoe, the sky and their children's futures.

Private equity firm KSL Capital Partners, which was acquired by Alterra, also says it's fighting for the community. It loves the mountain, too. It also loves the snow, the lift ticket sales and the potential for retail and hospitality expansion at the base of the resort.

The community and the owners seemed to get along until 2014, when KSL released plans to overhaul the resort base: 1,493 new bedrooms, luxury homes, expanded retail space, an indoor waterpark, and an on-mountain roller coaster.

Estimated time to complete this wish list: 25 years.

Sierra Watch, a Tahoe-based conservation organization, then started the Keep Squaw True movement to stop the development.

The film balances shots of skiers, mountain bikers, anglers, hikers and nature with interviews of Squaw Valley residents, naturalists, attorneys, scientists and Keep Squaw True activists.

The Gaffneys' inflect the

see SQUAW page 6

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.

Going stag

/p. 3/

Madagascar!

/p. 12-13/

Charles unwelcome

/p. 4/

Thinly veiled quiz

/p. 5/

AA-

/p. 8/

ACCENTUR-ATE THE POSITIVE

The two front page stories bring a sense of deja vu this week.

The “Keep Squaw True” film ... reminds me of the “Lost People of Mountain Village” film from about 15 years ago - a mockumentary about trying to find signs of actual life in Mountain Village - the posh development which sits above and neighbors Telluride.

The joke being there were no actual residents of Mountain Village - just second homeowners who were never around.

This was during the “Downhill Slide” era - Downhill Slide being Hal Clifford’s 2004 book about ski towns being systematically devoured by opportunistic real estate interests - amid Clifford’s general fretting about the loss of community and character.

And, of course, we’re still talking about the same things 15 years later; about locals being priced out of housing, about environmental degradation, etc.

The same way we will stop talking about them as soon as the next economic downturn hits and we’re all too busy bailing our own boats to worry too much about the more philosophical issues we otherwise debate in the free time we no longer have.

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.

Locally, Jim Demetriades initially pitched his proposed development along Old Mammoth Road as “Clearwater.”

Which I always thought was a lousy name - too evocative of Whitewater, the Clintons debacle in Arkansas which nearly derailed their political careers. Sure enough, the name Clearwater was ultimately scrapped in favor of “Old Mammoth Place.”

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:

“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.

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

“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

JACK LUNCH

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Fortunately, for the horses, the saddle club is finally getting some much-needed and long-overdue improvements in new street lighting and perimeter fencing, both courtesy of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and its ratepayers.

The terribly disturbing incident at the Saddle Club back in early July in which several horses were slashed and stabbed, created an understandable uproar, resulting in offers of help. Donations were made to pay for veterinarian treatment of the injured horses, a substantial reward of \$18,000 was established to find the person or persons responsible, and a GoFundMe.com account collected \$7,965. Other donations, according to the club’s treasurer, have increased the total to \$8,500 to be used for facility improvements.

Three weeks ago, The Sheet reported on another incident, far less disturbing than the horse ripping in July, but notable, nonetheless. Someone had cut the tail off a horse boarded at the facility. Saddle Club President, Shelly Snoderly, and the owner of the horse in the most recent tail cutting incident, objected to the story. There was an attempt to speak with both prior to publication of the article. They did not respond to the voicemails left for them.

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 fencing and added a new street light across 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 is 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/>.

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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.

Looney 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!

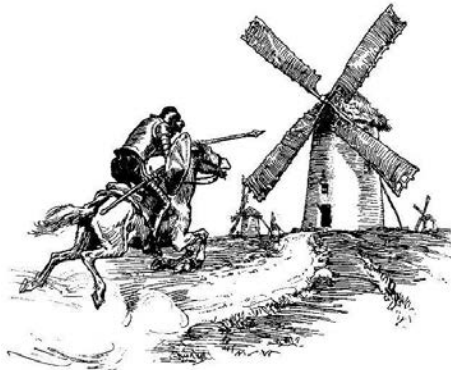
I am concerned that the matter excerpted below from Opioid Overuse Orders may not have been reported as a separate news item. The local rumor mill has been grinding that County first responders were seen removing a deceased individual from Curly's Motel in the Long Valley area about a month ago.

"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 Sigmunds 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 won five Tony Awards including Best



Not a stag, Mr. Benham!

Musical. Don Quixote 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

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 DWP 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 water 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; 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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LETTERS

continued from page 3

IWVWD distribution system is about 6 miles.

- LADWP would exchange water from Mono or Inyo County with water that arrives to Southern California from some other region such as the Delta or the Colorado River.

- The Kern County Board of Supervisors should apply its influence to initiate a regional interagency effort to plan and implement a water importation project. This process will certainly involve LADWP and probably involve the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a regional water wholesaler, the State Water Project, Central Valley Project and state-level elected officials, in addition to a local team consisting of the Planning & Community Development Department, Kern County Water Agency and Indian Wells Valley CGMG.

2. Indian Wells Valley's critically overdrafted aquifers currently supply water for: Municipal uses - primarily the city of Ridgecrest (which boasts about twice the population of Mono County), the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, and the rapidly expanding agricultural sector.

Pistachio orchards have become quite popular in Kern County, contributing to its rise to the top agricultural county in the USA, and enhancing its considerable influence in California agricultural water distribution.

The money LADWP would receive from selling its aqueduct water to 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.

1. Groundwater Resource Sustainability: Modeling Evaluation for the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, California Desert Research Institute Nevada System of Higher Education - Reno, Nevada, September 2016

2. Indian Wells Valley Resource Opportunity Plan - Water Availability and Conservation Report, Jan. 2014. Todd Engineers - 2490 Mariner Square Loop, Suite 215 Alameda, Ca 94501-1080 510-747-6920, www.toddengineers.com

Gary Nelson
Mono City

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 do in 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.

Amy Motroni
Swall Meadows

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 on the incident. With your coverage and other media coverage we were able to get awareness to the public and 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 horse hair can earn a person up to \$75 per pound of hair online, now you have opened our horses up to more threats.

For your information, we do 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.

Sincerely,
Shelly Snoderly

*For Charles' perspective, please see page 2.



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LOCAL NEWS

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 dewatering 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 dewatering 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 the goal of the focus groups was. Johnson replied, "as LADWP looks to continue and strengthen our partnerships with

these communities, the focus groups were conducted to provide key LADWP staff with a better understanding of the issues the communities care about as well as their knowledge and views of LADWP's operations in Mono and Inyo counties."

Johnson also confirmed that 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 Stacy 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 background 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 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.

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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.

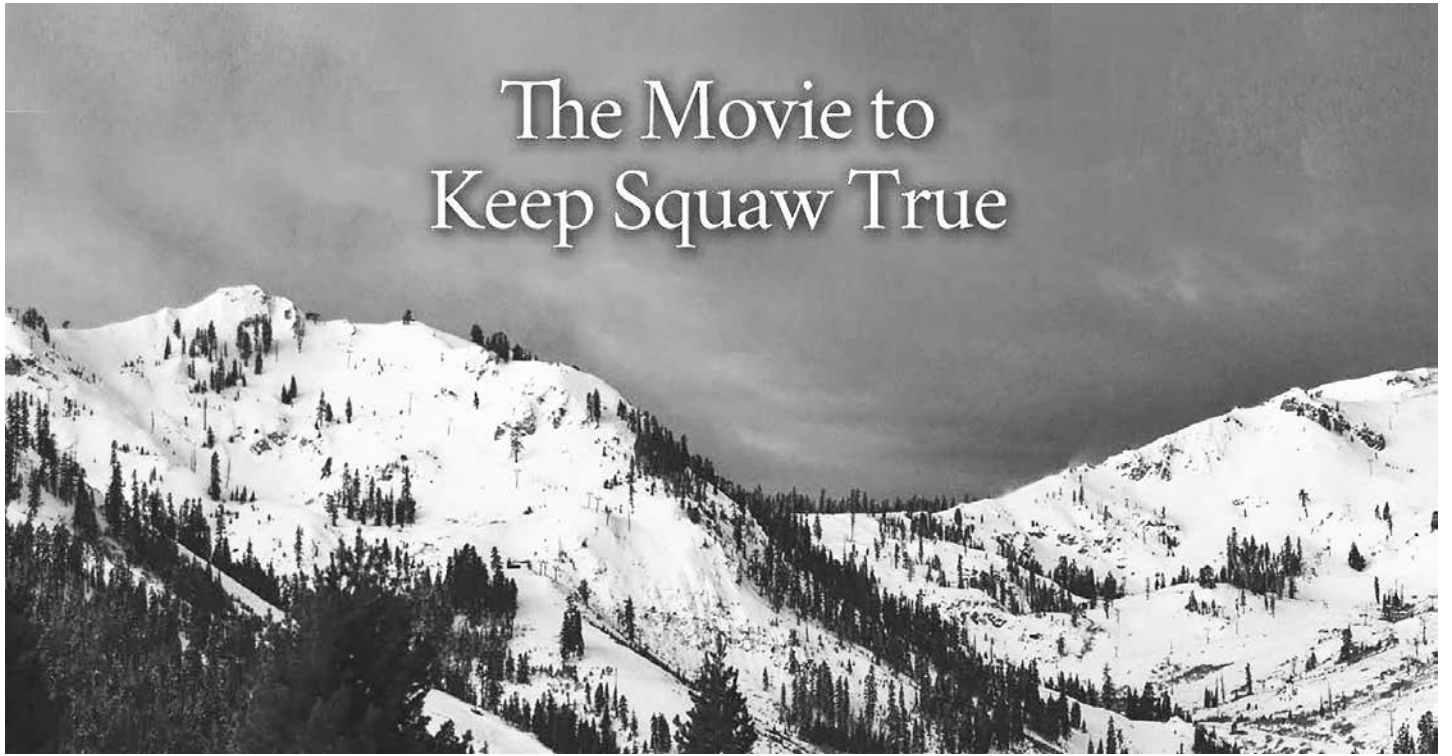
**Kinda derivative, since Mammoth has already been introduced to Darth Rusty t-shirts.*

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



One of the film's posters

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

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.

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is the same at every
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-Robb Gaffney

”

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“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 punted into the future a few times," MLH Director Patricia Robertson said.

Later in the week, Robertson added, "I would like to see MLH afforded 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 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 backed her up, "I recommend that you spend extra time and money to consider deed restrictions."

“

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

-Patricia Robertson

”

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.

Mono County Supervisor Stacy Corless 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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COUNTY EARNS AA-

By Benham

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 S&P 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 Lakes 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.

"No more. Period," Supervisor Bob Gardner said.

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 maximizes energy efficiency and instead 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

By Benham

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, said 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."

That could 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.

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.

“There is an institutional commitment to it.”

-Dr. Stephen Swisher



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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 Hoff 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, restrooms, and a comfortable place to gather," she said.

"I have a responsibility to be a good steward of town funds... I think that taking 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 regarding 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 concrete," 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 look at the price difference of a full-sized facility between the Mammoth Creek Park site and the school site, and part two would ask the school board to vote on a lease agreement and terms.

Sausser was not happy with this.

"That's not enough. We need a whole pro forma. How many more or less people will we expect at Mammoth Creek Park versus the school? We need a full profile on the income of both based on walkability, proximity to people, the snow removal contracts."

Sausser did not agree with Stapp and Hoff that the school site would be better for kids. "More students live near Mammoth Creek Park than do near the school."

Lynda Salcido said that asking the school to vote on a lease agreement with so little information was an unrealistic ask.

Local resident Sandy Hogan also became perturbed at Wentworth's motion.

She said the town already made a similar offer to the school district years ago. "Look at the last time the town made a proposal for a lease, and the district's response."

Wentworth amended his agreement somewhat. The new first part is to approach the school district with lease terms that Dan Holler and Town Attorney Andrew 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 Sausser saying, "In respect of all that has been done over 20 years, No."

In order to appease Sausser, who feared that this motion would indicate that the town had abandoned option A, the Council then unanimously approved a motion to, "continue to comparatively consider option A."

LADWP POSTPONES WELL TEST

Press Release

(November 30, 2018) – The Los Angeles 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 pumping 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 Understanding between the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the County of Inyo, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California State Lands Commission, the Sierra Club, the Owens Valley Committee, and Carla Scheidlinger ("1997 MOU") settled 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 mitigation plans for many areas of the valley adversely affected by LADWP land and water management activities during the period from 1970-1991.

In 1999, LADWP accepted a mitigation plan prepared by the Inyo/LA Technical Group, which called for Well 385 and the nearby Well 386 to be permanently shut down because of damage dewatering from these wells had caused in the late 1980s to vegetation in a large area near Owens River.

In 2014, LADWP modified both wells. Subsequently, LADWP gave the wells

new designations, argued the permanent shutdown no longer applied, circulated an Initial Study/ Negative Declaration, and scheduled a pump test.

Claiming LADWP had failed to comply with mitigation obligations at Five Bridges and with the California Environmental Quality Act, two lawsuits were filed in 2017, one by the County of Inyo and the other by the Owens Valley Committee and Sierra Club.

On June 19, 2018, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors settled the County's lawsuit, and the resulting agreement said the parties would, "temporarily suspend the [1999 Mitigation Plan] 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 Technical Group.

As LADWP and Inyo County planned to begin the pump test on December 3, Owens Valley Committee filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction to halt the testing pending the outcome of the litigation.

Shortly afterwards, the City of Los Angeles' attorney informed the Owens Valley Committee and Sierra Club's attorneys that the pump test would not begin December 3, 2018, as planned and City has agreed to suspend the pumping pending the outcome of the litigation.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

By Gorman and Benham

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.

Currently the Old Shady Loop is groomed, but the east side of the park needs another storm.

"The forest service needs an 18 inch base before it can run its CAT over the trails. Then we can groom," Joel said.

Joel also told the commission that a "polygon" of land in Shady Rest has been demarcated for a potential disc golf course. The Forest Service will run an archaeological analysis of the polygon after the snow melts in the spring, and then a design for the course will be submitted.

"It should be shovel ready in late spring," Joel said.

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

Chris Orr from the International Mountain Bicycling Association gave a presentation to the council on why Mammoth Lakes should build a bike park.

The commission was enthusiastic about the concept, believing that it will fill a need in the community for terrain aimed at youth riders.

The commission consented to have Orr come back next year to discuss next steps on the bike park concept.

The commission also announced for the benefit of the public that Mammoth Lakes Tourism will stop accepting 2019 Special Event Funding applications on December 14th at 5pm.

-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.

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.

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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, Ashlynn 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.



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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 zebras 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 punches. 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 this reporter's mother. The group is here to experience the culture and see the wildlife.

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



A boy and his boogie board in Anjajavy

fever or ebola, it's just a weak Western stomach. A neat whiskey 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 fit 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



A Coquerel's sifaka lemur

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 campaign spending and it's a race between two wealthy men.

Three Horses Beer

Three Horses Beer ('THB') is Mada-

gascar'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

see MADAGASCAR, page 13



Fishing and boogieboarding in the Mozambique Channel

MADAGASCAR

continued from page 12

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-scream 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.

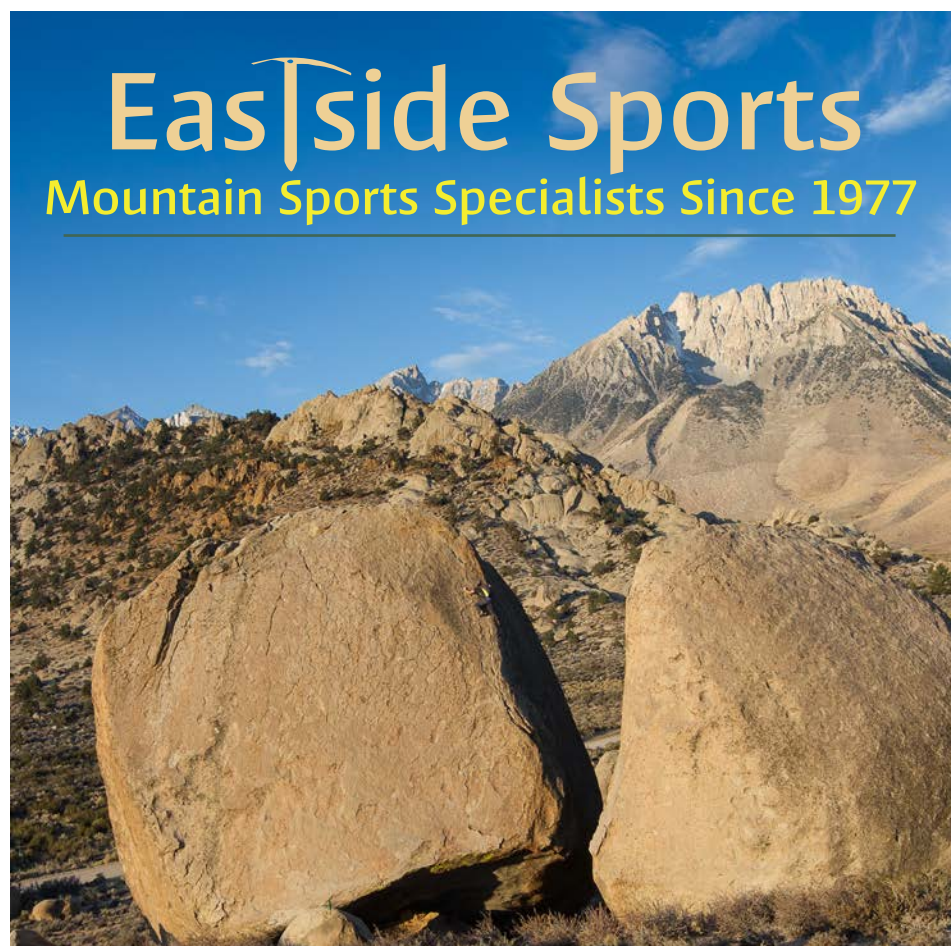
Rhum

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.

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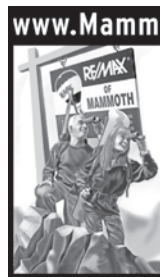
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day, happy hour wine from 3 p.m.-
close) *See ad, p. 15.*

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

Morrison's Happy Hour Daily, 5-7 p.m.
The Mogul All Night Happy Hour
during NFL games Sun., Mon., Thurs. In
the bar only.

Mammoth Rock 'N' Bowl Friday and
Saturday: Cosmic Bowling 9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: Kids bowl free 4-7
p.m.

Petra's Bistro & Wine Bar Daily, 5-7
p.m. \$5-10 menu items and drink
specials. *See ad, p. 7.*

Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour: 4:30-7
p.m. daily. \$5 dollar menu items, drink
specials. Sunday: open at 10 a.m. for
football. *See ad, p. 7.*

Roberto's Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily.
Sunday: open at 10 a.m. for football.

Mammoth's famous Slocums Happy Hour
Tues.-Fri 4-6 p.m.; Saturdays,
4-5:30 p.m. Closed Sun./Mon. *See ad, p. 3.*

Social T-Bar Live music, comedy,
screenings. *See below.*

Giovanni's Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m.
Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets
you free wings. *See ad on this page.*

Shelter Distilling Happy Hour 3 p.m. -
5pm everyday/half off all drinks
Free Spirit Tasting Flight 2 p.m.-3 p.m.
everyday. *See ad, p. 9.*

December 7-8/
Crooked Eye Tommy plays Liberty
Sports Bar to celebrate the birthday of
guitarist Tommy Marsh. Time: 9 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/
Tatatanka plays T-Bar Social Club, June
Lake. Reggae/Dub. Time: 9 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:
760.873.5991.

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: \$7.

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.

TOWN STUFF

Friday, December 7/
Friends of the Inyo hosts the Back-country Film Festival. Final chance to
see it! Location: Mammoth's USFS Au-
ditorium. 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. Fea-
turing the art of Francis Cholewa, Tom
Meyers, Karen Nielsen Licher, Bonnie
Jay, Bruce Licher and Lynn Marit Pe-
tersen. Times: Friday, 6-9 p.m. Satur-
day, 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
(book 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, hillyary-
behr@yahoo.com.

Railroad Express @ Laws Museum.
Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Trains rides, 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.*

Round Table 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:
760.873.3735.

Ducks Unlimited fundraiser dinner @ Tri-County Fairgrounds. Time: 5
p.m. Info: John Wooley, 760.872.3239 or
www.ducks.org.

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra White-out Extravaganza. Time: 6-10 p.m.
Location: Mountainside Conference
Center. Dinner, dancing, live music,
silent auction. Info: 760.934.0791.

Owens Valley Booster Club's Ugly Sweater Bingo. Food, drinks, prizes.
Adults only. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location:
151 E Line St., Bishop. Cost: \$25 gets you
10 bingo cards, 1 dauber, snacks and 2
drinks.

Sunday, December 9/
Scotty Castle grounds tours offered by DVNHA (Death Valley Natural History Assn.) and the National Park Service.
Tours will take place twice daily, Sun-
days only, at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tix:
\$25/person, plus ticketing fee; space
limited to 13 people/tour. Info: www.
dvnha.org.

Eastern Sierra Jewish Community Hanukkah Party. Location: Snowcreek
Athletic Club. Time: 6-9 p.m. Suggested
donation: \$20/adult, \$12/child. RSVP:
Eastern Sierra Jewish Community Face-
book page or mlesjc@gmail.com.

Tannenbaum Classic @ Tamarack Cross-Country Ski Center. Race starts 10
a.m. *Info: See sidebar column next page*

Monday, December 10/
Bishop City Council meets. Time: 6
p.m. Location: City Council Chambers,
City Hall.]

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calendar of events

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, Telemann and José Feliciano. *The program will repeat in Bishop @ Cerro Coso College at 4 p.m. Sunday.* Soloists will include Alexis Molina, violin; Liam Bassler, violin; Ari Schuldt, piano; Arianna Pope, violin; John Wehausen, oboe; Carolyn Tiernan, clarinet; Stephen Thiroux, bassoon; Mike Hammers, horn. Showtime: 7 p.m.

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 clanging of flatware 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.

Christmas Jinglescope Workshop

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

Barefoot in the Park

Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre presents Neil Simon’s “Barefoot in the Park” from December 20-January 6 at the Edison Theatre. Synopsis: “Paul and Corie Bratter are newlyweds 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-

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, December 11/ Mono County Board of Supervisors meets. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Mono County Courthouse, Bridgeport. **Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets.** Time: 10 a.m. Location: County Administrative Center, 224 N Edwards St, Independence. **Mammoth Lakes Friends of the Library meet.** Time: 11 a.m. Location: Ellie Randol Reading Room.

Wednesday, December 12/ Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission meets. Time: 2 p.m. Location: Suite Z. Minaret Mall. **Not Your Grandma’s Bingo hosted by Volunteer Eastern Sierra.** Time: 7 p.m. Location: Mammoth Brewing Co. *More info: see sidebar column this page.* **Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee meets.** Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Location: Lee Vining Community Center, Mattly Ave., Lee Vining. **The Eastern Sierra Audubon and California Native Plant Society will host a holiday potluck at the White Mountain Research Center.** Location: 3000 East Line St., Bishop. Bring your own place setting, drinks, and an item to share-main dish, salad, or dessert. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. Followed by Bartshé Miller’s (Mono Lake Committee) 7 p.m. program, titled “Mono Lake and the Saline Lake Sisterhood: Surviving the Anthropocene.”

December 12-13/ Mono Arts Council hosts a pair pf festive art and wine classes to celebrate the holiday. Subject: Festive Mosaic Shapes. Instructor: Kristin Schipke. Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m. each night. Location: MAC Gallery and Art Center in the Minaret Mall. RSVP to Caroline at 760.914.2909. Cost: \$65 buys you the class, materials and a glass of wine.

Thursday, December 13/ Old Mammoth Road Beautification

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.



TOWN STUFF

Discussion. Time: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Suite Z, Minaret Mall. *More info: see sidebar column this page.* **Mammoth Lakes Tourism meets.** Time: 1 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall. **Friday, December 14/ Holiday Concert by Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Music Unbound Students.** Location: St. Joseph’s Church, 58 Ranch Rd., Mammoth. Time: 7 p.m. Free. *More info: see sidebar column this page.* **Concert repeats December 16 @ 4 p.m. at Bishop’s Cerro Coso campus.**

December 15-16/ Unbound Series Slalom, Giant Slalom, Rail Jam. Open to all ages. Medals and prizes for every competition. Merch giveaways. Times: slalom, giant slalom on Saturday. Rail jam on Sunday. Must be member of usasa.com. Cost: \$45. Register: mammothmountain.com. Info: Ben Wisner, 760.934.2571 x3144 or bwisner@mammothresorts.com.

Saturday, December 15/ Historian Arthur A. Hansen Discusses his new book “Barbed Voices” about Manzanar. Location: Manzanar Historic Site, 5001 Hwy-395, Independence. Time: 1 p.m. Info: 760.878.2194. **MMSA’s Night of Lights wows at Canyon Lodge.** Light show, fireworks, activities, music by DJ Mash-up with DJ Zeuz and DJ Rodney O. Free ice-cream cones from Hugs Ice-Cream. Time: 5-9:30 p.m. Info: www.mammothmountain.com. **Cardinal Village Resort Holiday Festival.** Location: Cardinal Village Resort, 321 Cardinal Rd., Aspendell. Time: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 760.873.4789. **ICARE Shopping Day @ Spellbinder Books.** *Info: See sidebar column this page.* **Meet Santa @ High Country Lumber.** Enjoy crafts, bake sale, product sales, deals, music. *More info: See ad p. 11*

er during a dinner with their neighbor-in-the-attic Velasco, where everything that can go wrong, does.” Tickets online at edisontheatre.org for \$20/adult, \$18/senior and student, \$10/child. At door for \$22. Showtimes: Thurs.-Sat. 7 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m. Location: 100 College Pkwy, Mammoth Info: edisontheatre.org

Tannenbaum Classic

This traditional, season-opening cross-country ski race takes place this Sunday, December 9 at Tamarack Cross-Country Ski Center. Race start time: 10 a.m. Registration: At the Yurt, Saturday during business hours and Sunday 8-9 a.m. Race distances: 10K or 5K open to juniors and adults (recommending U16 and up for juniors for these distances). 3K for U14 and under.

ICA Holiday Craft Fair

Get holiday gifts at the Inyo Council for the Arts Holiday craft fairs. At the on the three Saturday’s leading up to Christmas, December 8, 15, 22. The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location: 137 S Main St., Bishop.

Bishop 3 on 3 Basketball

The City of Bishop is looking to restructure it’s basketball program into a 3 on 3 league. There will be two open gym practice nights December 13 and 20 from 7:40-9:30 p.m. in the west gym of the high school. If interested please attend the open gyms. 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.

Not Your Grandma's Bingo Night

Volunteer Eastern Sierra Hosts Not Your Grandma's Bingo Night Fund-raiser on Wednesday, December 12 at Mammoth Brewing Co. Door 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. \$20 buys 3 cards per game. \$30 buys 6 cards per game. An extra card costs \$3. Info: Kathleen Taylor, 760.815.9950.

ICARE Shopping Day

Spellbinder Books and ICARE invite you to the 19th Annual ICARE Shopping Day on Saturday, December 15. Purchase a \$5 ICARE Donation Ticket at the store from 10 am to 5 pm and receive 20% off a wonderful selection of books, calendars, greeting cards and assorted gifts. There will also be a drawing for prizes. Your \$5 donation goes directly to ICARE and 100% of the proceeds go directly to ICARE’s Stitch Fund, which provides veterinary care for ill or injured "special needs" Inyo County Shelter cats and dogs. Spellbinder Books is located at 124 South Main Street in Bishop. If you have questions about this event, please call Lynne at 760.873.4511.

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



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

Cashier M/B \$11 - \$14
Front Desk Representative M \$12-\$15
Housekeeper M \$15-\$17
General Laborer M/B \$13-\$20
Apprentice Plumber M \$15-\$22
Class A/B Driver (Hazmat) LV/B \$19-\$28
Medical Assistant B SDOE
Journeyman Carpenter M/B \$25-\$35
Information Systems Specialist M \$32.46-\$42.20

Call 760.924.0523 or 760.873.8599
See our full job list online
www.SierraEmployment.com



Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasserie has the following positions available. Bowling Desk Employees, Server, Bartender, Brasserie Hostess. Contact Stephan 760.709.0559, or Ann Ward ext. 221.



Holiday Haus Motel and Hostel Now Hiring for year round permanent position for a Front Desk. Excellent pay DOE. Please contact Todd Roberts at 760.934.2414 or stop by and see us in person at 3905 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes.



Registered Dietician sought. Full time, oversees kitchen and nutrition service for skilled nursing facility. Salaried position with benefits, 401K, fully staffed kitchen and a fantastic clinical team. Join us in serving Bishop's post-acute and long term care needs. Give us a call at 760-872-1000, or drop in to see us at Bishop Care Center 151 Pioneer Lane. EOE

Entry Level Housekeeping / Laundry Aide We have full time entry level positions for, Housekeeping and Laundry Aides for our skilled nursing facility which offers, benefits and 401k. Give us a call at 760-872-1000, or drop in to see us at Bishop Care Center 151 Pioneer Lane. EOE

Entry Level Dietary Aide We have full time entry level positions for, Dietary Aide for our skilled nursing facility which offers, benefits and 401k. Give us a call at 760-872-1000, or drop in to see us at Bishop Care Center 151 Pioneer Lane. EOE interested in joining our team.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for office help for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-914-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com.

Austria Hof Lodge is seeking full time and part time housekeepers. Day shifts available, must be able to work weekends. Starting salary at 15.00 per hour. Apply in person at 924 Canyon Blvd or call 760-934-2764



Cannabis Retail Store Now Hiring. Retail Sales Agents. Hiring immediately
Email resume: info@ascent-cannabis.com or call 760.709.5801

Help Wanted



Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for winter employment. We are looking for full and part time team members for year round and seasonal positions. Applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. Day, evening and night shifts are available. Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd, Mammoth



Mammoth/Bishop Domino's Hiring! Come work in a fun, fast paced environment! We are looking for Pizza Makers, Shift Managers, and Drivers! Hours are typically from noon through closing depending on the position. This is a high-energy environment and we need people who are coachable, who can multitask, and who can handle pressure. When the RUSH comes, we need employees who are prepared to serve the customers in the best and most efficient way. All applicants must be able to pass a background check. And Drivers must have a good Motor Vehicle Record with three or less tickets in the last 3 years. Apply in store at 1339 Rocking W Dr. In the Bishop Plaza, same building as RiteAid, or Mammoth 1394 Meridian across from Vons. We are the newest restaurant in town and everybody is hungry! If you think you can handle the excitement, **WE WANT YOU!**

Mammoth Spa Creations has an FT position in spa maintenance. Position offers vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience preferred. Some heavy lifting, a clean background and clean DMV is required. Call 760.924.3091 or stop by the store at 1401 Tavern Rd. in Mammoth

Stellar Brew is hiring! Kitchen staff, baristas, and a baker are needed. Be an integral part of the community while working with an energetic crew of awesome individuals. Pay is competitive, we offer many benefits and we will love you and treat you with respect. We are hiring for year round and seasonal positions. Email stellarbrew@gmail.com for all the details!

Assistant manager needed at La Residence 4 and 5 condos in Mammoth. 2 days a week maybe more. Work includes: lawn care, pool/spa care, snow blowing/removal on walkways. Pick up application at entry to pool/spa on Azimuth St. between Sierra Nevada and Meridian. Call 760-934-4990 for more details and to submit application.

For Rent

Season Rental: Beautiful "Chateau Blanc" 3 bed/2 bath remodeled condo for seasonal rental. Furnished, sleeps 6, washer & dryer, close to town and the "Red Line." Flexible on the start and end dates, but must be a minimum "5 month" lease. Rent is \$2800 per month and utilities are tenant's responsibility. Please call Pam Mowat, Agent, at 530-386-4462 for more details.

4BR/2BA fully furnished Town House in Mammoth. \$2400/month. Contact michael@mdubin.com

2BD/1BA 900 sq. ft. duplex located on Aspen Rd. in June Lake. W/D, woodstove, recently remodeled. On county maintained road. \$1,300/mo. N/S, NO PETS. Info: 805.459.7485.

2 bedroom, 1 bath unfurnished condo. Just remodeled. No garage. One-year lease. \$1,600/mo. 760.937.7569



Help Wanted



Restaurant Skadi is seeking a pastry cook, line cook & a dishwasher. Applicants should be passionate, humble, quick and detail-oriented. Call/text Ian 760.914.0962 or email info.skadi@gmail.com. skadirestaurant.com

Subway of Mammoth is looking for talented and motivated people to join our team. We are accepting applications for FT/PT Sandwich Artists and Management positions. Apply in-store or at Subway.com.



We are taking applications for all departments, both PT and FT. Retail, Repair, Boot, Demo, Rental. Apply online or in-store.

IT Support Technician
Range 50 \$3,843-\$4,911 monthly
For more details and application log onto www.edjoin.org

Mammoth Spa Creations seeks Office/Sales Associate position, which incl. vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience preferred. Some heavy lifting, a clean background and clean DMV is required. Call 760.924.3091 or stop by the store at 1401 Tavern Rd. in Mammoth.

Account Manager - Needed for local established bookkeeping office. Competitive pay. Accounting/bookkeeping experience preferred. Email resume to info@butnerhoaservices.com or mail to Butner Homeowner Assoc. Services, P.O. Box 1999, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Eastern Sierra Transit Hiring Mammoth Drivers for Winter Season \$500.00 sign on bonus-Free Ski Pass- Paid Training Provided Full time and Part Time Training Starts Soon. Interested? Go to estransit.com/jobs Or call 760.872.1901 ext 11

First chair food truck Experienced line cooks only Am shift, flexible schedule. Simple menu Fun work environment Competitive pay plus tips Applicant must be a strong line cook and be able to help customers too. Call Dan 530 207 9012

Job Opening: Senior Maintenance Technician for Resort located in Mammoth Lakes. Troubleshooting & repairs for plumbing, hardware, electrical, mechanical and CATV. Wheel loader certification - snow removal. Class A License preferred but not required. Year-round position. \$18.75 hour + OT + health insurance + retirement + bonus. Call S. Hills at 760-934-3800 ext. 1 for more information.

Samurai Restaurant and Bar seek Hostess, Kitchen staff, servers, Bartender. Apply in person, bring resume, 3-5 p.m., ask for Hide (Hee-dey).

Second Chance Thrift Shop seeks bright, energetic sales associate. Must be able to lift at least 40 lbs. and have some experience in a busy retail environment. Apply within. Bring resume. 501 Old Mammoth Rd. Info: clepre@disablesportsseasternsierra.org.

Elixir Superfood & Juice is hiring Kitchen Team members and early morning Cold Press Juice Operators. We're looking for hard-working individuals with a passion for good food & healthy living. Benefits include great wages and a fun and energetic work environment. Apply in person or online at www.enjoyelixir.com/jobs



PART TIME HOSPITALITY POSITION
Seeking responsible, outgoing hospitality/reservation agent for local management company. Excellent phone/customer service skills required. Previous reservation experience preferred. Must be able to work Friday evening and weekends. 15-20 hours per week starting immediately. Competitive pay. Please email resume to sarah@mammothreservations.com

Help Wanted

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, prioritize and manage multiple tasks, 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 aptitude to provide "solutions." Competitive pay with benefits package.

Statement Of Abandonment
Of Use of Fictitious Business Name
Statement:

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 statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on Oct. 30, 2018.
2018-0207 (11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15)

JOB OPENINGS

Crossing Guard

\$18.62 - \$21.55/hour
+ competitive benefits package
Reliable work during the school season!
Application deadline: Jan 7

Assistant Clerk

\$42,625 - \$59,978
+ competitive benefits package
Application deadline: Jan 3

Senior Planner

\$77,737 - \$104,176
+ competitive benefits package
Application deadline: Dec 17

Assistant Planner

\$50,482 - \$71,033
+ competitive benefits package
Application deadline: Dec 17

Temp Snow Removal Operator

\$23.76 - \$27.5/hr
Commercial license required.
Full-time hours for winter months.

For more information and to apply, visit
www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov,
or contact Cassandra Mance at (760) 965-3604

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road the Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission will hear an application request for the following:

Application Request: 121 College Parkway Lot Split (Tentative Parcel Map (TPM) 18-001), which will create two parcels, a vacant parcel 2.076 acres in size and a parcel on which the existing student housing project is located, 8.854 acres in size.

CEQA Determination: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this project is exempt from further review per Categorical Exemption Section 15315 – Minor Land Divisions.

Location: 121 College Parkway (APN: 035-010-051-000) Zoning: Public Quasi-Public (P-QP)

Proponent: Kenyon Sandvigen (Applicant) / Mammoth Lakes Foundation and the Southern Mono Healthcare District (Property Owners)

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than December 7, 2018, contact Ruth Traxler, Senior Planner, at (760) 965-3637. Facsimiles may be sent to (760) 934-7493 or email at: rtraxler@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission, P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

TS #2018-0211

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mono County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing Dec. 20, 2018, at Board of Supervisors Chambers, Mono County Courthouse, Bridgeport, CA, to consider the following:

10:10 a.m. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 18-004/ Tilth Farms: Proposal for cultivation of cannabis on Agriculture (AG-10) parcel located at 108432 Hwy 395, Coleville (APN 002-450-024). Cultivation will occur on six-acre area within the 166-acre property and will not exceed two acres of total canopy area. Canopy area will be divided between a medium outdoor grow and two smaller mixed light cultivation areas.

A CEQA 15183 exemption is proposed. The project files are available for public review at the Community Development Department offices in Bridgeport and Mammoth Lakes.

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 #2018-0218

Notice of Right to Claim

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CLAIM EXCESS PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTY Made pursuant to Section 4676, Revenue and Taxation Code

Excess proceeds have resulted from the sale of tax-defaulted property on November 5, 2018, listed below. Parties of interest, as defined by California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 4675, are entitled to claim the excess proceeds.

All claims must be in writing and must contain sufficient information and proof to establish a claimant's right to all or any part of the excess proceeds. Claims filed with the county more than one year after recordation of the tax collector's deed to the purchaser listed below for each parcel, cannot be considered.

Assessor's Parcel Number	011-294-007-000
Property Address	
Parties of Interest	Garside Stanley Staiger & Simpson Sally G.
Date Deeded	11/13/2018

For your convenience, claim forms and information regarding filing procedures may be obtained at the Mono County Tax Collector's Office, 25 Bryant Street, Bridgeport, Ca. 93517, or by calling (760) 932-5480 between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

I certify or (declare), under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Janet Dutcher
Mono County Director of Finance
Executed at Bridgeport, Mono County, California, on November 15, 2018
TS #2018-0215

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and continuing until finished, at Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road the Mammoth Lakes Town Council will hear the following:

A public hearing to discuss the close out of the Community Development Block Grant (14-CDBG-9903) for first-time homebuyer assistance and electrical rehabilitation of the Glass Mountain Apartments. The published staff report will include a report summarizing the expenditures and accomplishments of the grant activities. The purpose of this public hearing is to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known regarding the grant.

All persons having an interest in the proposed item may appear before the Town Council either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Town Clerk written correspondence pertaining thereto.

If you require special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact Jamie Gray, Town Clerk, Town of Mammoth Lakes at (760) 965-3602. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing.

For additional information, to review the proposed guidelines, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than December 14, 2018, contact Sandra Moberly, Community and Economic Development Director, Town of Mammoth Lakes at (760) 965-3633. Facsimiles may be sent to (760) 934-7493, or email at: smoberly@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes promotes fair housing and makes all its programs available to low and moderate income families regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual preference, marital status or handicap.

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

TS #2018-0216

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road the Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission will hear an application request for the following:

Application Request: Use Permit (UPA) 18-004: A use permit application for an Adult-Use and Medicinal Cannabis Retailer located at 101 Old Mammoth Road.

CEQA Determination: The proposed project is considered exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facilities.

Location: 101 Old Mammoth Road (APN: 035-140-017-000)
Zoning: Downtown (D)
Proponent: Doug Gans – TD Enterprise, LLC

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than December 7, 2018, contact Nolan Bobroff, Associate Planner, at (760) 965-3631. Facsimiles may be sent to (760) 934-7493 or email at: nbobroff@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission
P.O. Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

TS #2018-0212

PERSONALS

I hope to see you ... at the Whiteout Extravaganza. Let's party like it's the '80s!

I hope to see you ... at Mammoth Lakes Rep's upcoming production of Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park." Maybe at intermission we'll get inspired and we can reenact a scene from my latest script: "Bareback in the Parking Lot."

Notice of Public Hearing Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA 18-003)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z in the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road the Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission will hear a request for the following:

Application: Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA) 18-003 — Amend the sections of the Town's Municipal Code (Title 17) related to the allowance of physical wellness and rehabilitation facilities to: (1) add a service use classification in Table 17.32.100 for physical wellness and rehabilitation facilities in the Public Quasi-Public zoning district; (2) create a maximum floor area ratio of 0.5 for the proposed use in Section 17.32.100.C; and (3) add a definition for the proposed use in Section 17.144.050.

CEQA Determination: Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

Location: Public Quasi-Public zoning districts

Proponent: Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra and Mammoth Lakes Foundation

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than December 7, 2018, contact Ruth Traxler, Senior Planner, at (760) 965-3637. Facsimiles may be sent to (760) 934-7493 or email at: rtraxler@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission
P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

TS #2018-0210

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

California Healthcare Initiative Project

Julian Marx
574 Sierra Springs Dr.
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 Nov. 30,2018 File Number 18-194 2018-0214 (12/8, 12/15, 12/22,12/29)

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing at 9:30 AM, Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 437 Old Mammoth Rd, Suite Z Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, on a proposed extension of an ordinance titled, "An interim Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mono, State of California

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65858 Prohibiting Cultivation of Industrial Hemp and Declaring the Urgency Thereof.

The proposed ordinance extends a temporary moratorium on the cultivation of industrial hemp while County staff determines the impacts of such cultivation and reasonable regulations to mitigate such impacts.

Written comments may be filed with the Mono County Board of Supervisors by mailing to Clerk of the Board, PO Box 715, Bridgeport, CA or by e-mail to skendall@mono.ca.gov.

If you wish to challenge any finding, determination or decision made regarding this project in court, you may be limited to raising only the issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered prior to the hearing. For more information, contact the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (760) 873-7860

TS #2018-0217

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION MEETING

By Gorman

The Mammoth Lakes Climate Change Action Team (CCAT) held its second-ever 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 it's 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 Vulnerabilities Assessment that PlaceWorks created. The assessment plots "sensitivities" such as drought, wildfire, and flooding on an X axis against assets and resources like the golf course, public land, lakes, 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, and then colorizes that vulnerability from green to red.

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 public outreach and education. "We need a 21st century Smoky the Bear," John Wentworth said.

The group felt that the public needed more education around controlled burning, the value that ecosystems add, and on staying on-trail in sensitive environments.

The "people" group talked about the preventative power outages that energy companies are likely to implement more often. They urged adoption of micro-grids, especially around hospitalities 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 rehab our water system to improve water storage and infrastructure. They also discussed expanding the town's solar and biomass capabilities.

The next 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.

HORRORSCOPES

By Clouds McCloud

Sagittarius: 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, smacking your faith in the fanny and being 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 more calmly 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 fart, it's no big deal. You are human after all.

Pisces: It looks like this magical last month of the year should be the dawn of a happy era for most of you. That's why you should make your new motto: "Here's to life, liberty and the pursuit of happy hour." Sorry, that's the Liberty Bar motto. Yours comes from something Comrade-in-Chief Trump has obviously never read, the Declaration of Independence: To "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Aries: Did you know that 1 minute of anger can weaken your immune system for up to 5 hours? Did you know that 1 minute of laughter can boost your immune system for up to 24 hours? Well, you do now. Nice work. Use this information wisely as the last month of the year gives way to a better one to come and spend more time finding things to laugh at, like silly cat videos.

Taurus: Firefighters in Scotland recently had to rescue a rambunctious young rhinoceros named Qabid who got stuck in his tire swing at a zoo in Edinburgh. Please keep this in mind if you find yourself having a tough moment. It too will pass, even if it may require professionals having to sedate you and pull your butt out of a sticky situation.

Gemini: A pair of beavers recently wandered into a convenience store in Massachusetts. They were shooed out before having a chance to pick up any root beer or Slim Jims. Please make these brave and very environmen-

tally important furballs your new role models. Just like them, be sure to take 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 them, just remember these three 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 person opening the fridge? Shut the door I'm dressing."

Libra: Most of the Libras Clouds knows (like Lunch) are not big fans of social media. You tend to like real so-

cial occasions and prefer your media to be newsworthy. But The Stars say you should get into it more—the catch is you can't just use things like Instagram only to be social, you have to use it as a way to build a living dreamboard, or at least a reason to laugh. Liking memes like this will help, "I don't always roll joints, but when I do it's usually my ankle."

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.

PERSONALS

In search of ... the Elf on the Shelf? Found it! In my pants!

I saw you ... were searching for an Elf on the Shelf. Any chance I can hide mine in your shelf?

I saw your ... Elf last night. Wow, I was hoping you'd have a Will Ferrell-sized Elf - not Hermie-the-dentist sized.

I saw you ... broke the internet just like Ralph. I warned you about surfing porn.

I see ... Friday is Pearl Necklace Day. Excuse me. Pearl Harbor Day. Never mind.

SHELTER DISTILLING

Small Batch Craft Distillery, Brewery & Kitchen



MADE IN MAMMOTH LAKES, CA
Free Spirit Tasting 2-3 & Happy Hour 3-5 Monday - Thursday
11am - Close / 100 Canyon Blvd In The Village At Mammoth
shelterdistilling.com



COME SEE OUR FRESH NEW CHANGES AT STELLAR BREW

After November 5th we will no longer be serving our complete menu. Don't worry—you can still get our Breakfast Menu made to order, but the rest of our menu will be moving to fresh-made Grab & Go wraps, salads, burritos & soups—prepared fresh throughout the day!

STELLAR BREW IS GOING GRATEFUL ON-THE-GO

FRESH-MADE BURRITOS, WRAPS, SALADS & SOUPS READY WHEN YOU ARE
 Our breakfast items will still be available for order 6am-1pm

BREAKFAST BURRITOS / LUNCH WRAPS / SALADS GRAB-N-GO ITEMS
 KITCHEN OPEN 6AM-1PM DAILY BREAKFAST
 COFFEE & TEA
 FRESH-MADE BAKED GOODS
 SMOOTHIES & PROTEIN SHAKES
 COLD KOMBUCHA, SODAS, CIDERS, BEERS & WINE

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS & PRACTICES
 LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
 VEGAN & GLUTEN-FREE ITEMS

menu

NOV 2018 | LOOK FOR CHANGES!!

3280 MAIN ST • 5:30AM-6PM DAILY
FREE WIFI • 760.924.3559
SUN DECK W/MOUNTAIN VIEWS

NATIONAL

GETTING OUR ATTENTION

By Casselman

With so many presumably credible, but no frontrunning, candidates for president in 2020, the Democratic Party has a lot of sorting out 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 major eastern city in the north (whom he knew would record it in shorthand --- a skill every reporter had to have in that era before recording devices). He also knew

those reporters would then transmit his speech via telegraph, and that it would appear in print the next day all over the North.

He not only guessed correctly, but the reaction to his speech thus circulated was a sensation, and he went literally overnight from being the least likely nominee to being the frontrunner.

His name? Abraham Lincoln.

There are many other examples. In 1896, William Jennings Bryan won the Democratic presidential nomination with his famous "Cross of Gold" speech while William McKinley won the Republican nomination by speaking from his porch to crowds who came to his home in Ohio. 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 made him the nominee to succeed Coolidge.

Harry Truman's leadership of a war-time 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.

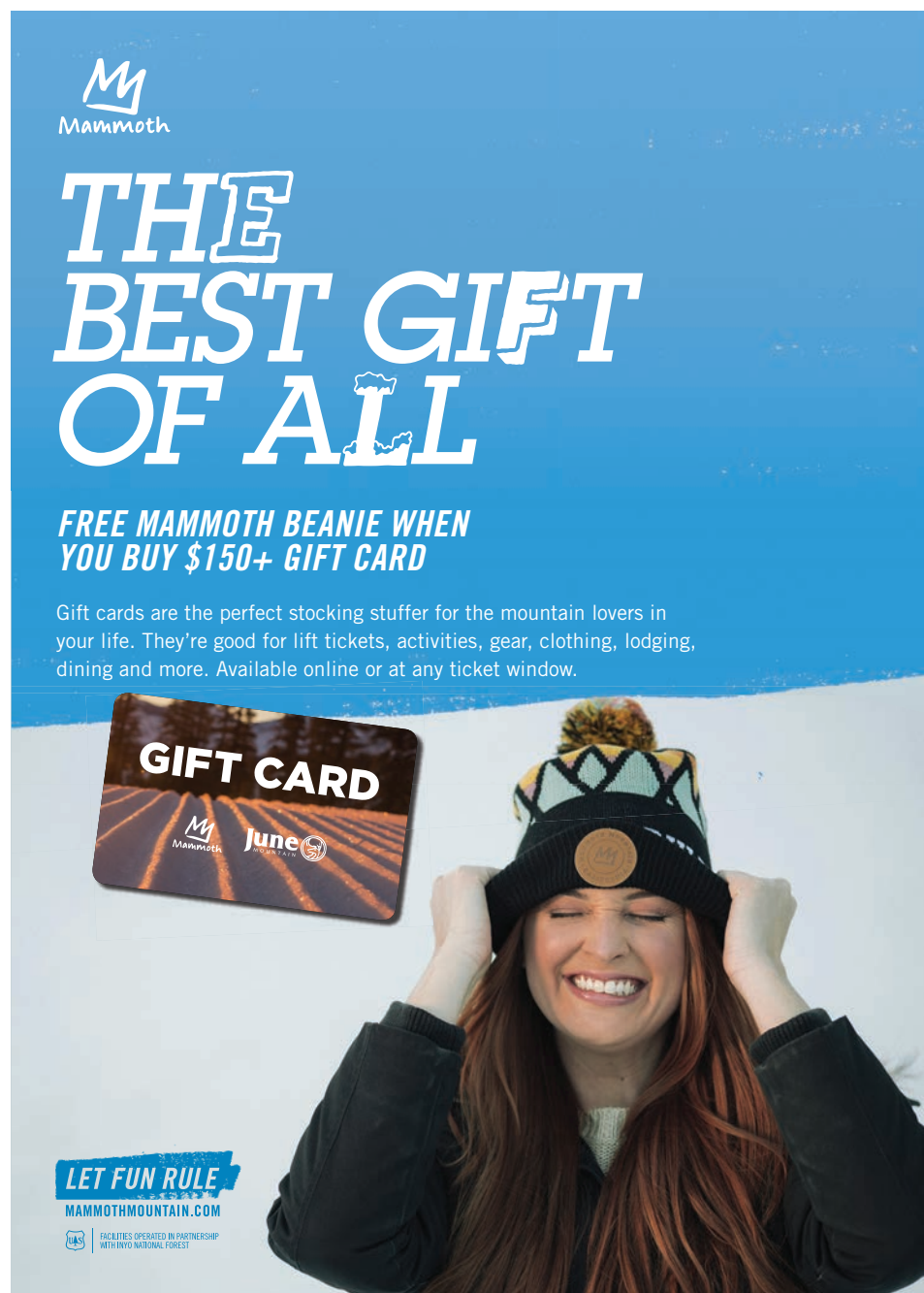
In 2020, it will likely include the internet grass roots fundraising so successfully used by the Democrats in the 2018 midterms (ActBlue), but will then be employed by both parties.

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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