HOUSING CRISIS CRACKDOWN

Is Mammoth meeting its state housing requirements?

By Benham

The state of California is suing the city of Huntington Beach on the premise that Huntington Beach failed to meet housing requirements under State Bill 35 (SB 35). Now, Huntington Beach is counter-suing the state, claiming that SB 35 is unconstitutional on the premise the state is not allowed to meddle in municipal affairs. SB 35 expedites the approval process for projects that meet affordable housing needs.

According to Huntington Beach’s lawyer, there are 50 other cities in the state that have not met requirements under SB 35. Is Mammoth Lakes one of those cities?

Maybe.

Councilman John Wentworth told The Sheet that he isn’t aware of whether the state is inquiring into the town’s housing situation. Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing Patricia Robertson believes that the town complies with SB 35. Town of Mammoth Lakes Community and Economic Development Director Sandra Moberly said that Mammoth is in compliance with SB 35. She believes that the reason the state is suing Huntington Beach is specific to Huntington Beach, and is not necessarily shared by Mammoth. (When The Sheet went to press, the causes of action for the Huntington Beach case were not public.)

SB 35 was passed in 2017. It requires municipalities to “streamline” affordable housing projects. The state determines a city’s affordable housing needs through a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), which happens every 5-8 years. Those needs become affordable housing requirements. RHNA aren’t new, but the requirement to streamline is.

“By ‘streamline,’ the state effectively means, ‘Don’t just talk about it, do it.’”

SB 35 mandates that municipalities streamline housing projects with a certain percentage of affordable housing. For Mammoth, any project with 50% affordable housing must be streamlined.

The SB 35 Statewide Determination Summary says, “Once the need is determined, cities and counties must show they have zoned enough land for housing to accommodate families and individuals at all income levels. These plans known as housing elements, must be submitted to HCD [California’s Department of Housing and Community Development] for approval, and then incorporated into the city’s or county’s general plan. SB 35 looks beyond planning to see if cities/counties actually have permitted housing in line with their need. When they don’t, they are subject to state intervention.”

see HOUSING, page 7

MTC IS O-U-T

MMSA reclaims track club’s loaned condos

After six years in donated housing, Mammoth Track Club (MTC) athletes will be removed from their condos by the end of April, 2019.

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) has allowed elite athletes from MTC to live in two condos that it owns on Chateau Road free of charge for the last six years. Now housing concerns have led the mountain not to renew its donation.

Mammoth Resorts President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Mark Brownlie gave this explanation for the change: “The short term housing agreement with Mammoth Mountain and Mammoth Track Club has ended and Mammoth is reallocating the two donated condos back into the MMSA employee housing pool. Andrew Kastor and I had productive discussions about ways MMSA, Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation and the Mammoth Track Club can work together moving forward to support youth running and athletics within the community. We look forward to continuing our support of MTC and developing programs that support the youth track community in Mammoth Lakes.”

MTC Board President Deena Rudder expressed her appreciation for the mountain’s backing.

“We are so grateful for Mammoth Mountain and the support they have given the club since its inception in 2001. With the housing crisis, it is no surprise that the Mountain is in need of reacquiring the two condos it has generously given our professional runners so it may house its employees,” Rudder said. The loss of free housing represents a serious blow for many of the athletes in the track club.

“This upcoming change has forced our athletes to reconsider their careers, their ideal housing possibilities, and has forced us all to get creative,” Kastor said.

According to a survey of 312 athletes at the 2013 USA Track and Field National Championships, the majority of elite distance runners make less than $20,000 annually. In a sport where much of the revenue is consolidated with the top few athletes, charitable support is necessary for developing the world-beaters of the future.

Many MTC athletes, even those who have represented their nation on the world stage, have had to work part-time jobs in order to continue to compete.

Sarah Attar has been with the MTC for 4 years. In 2012, she became the first female athlete to represent Saudi Arabia at the Olympic Games when she qualified to run the 800 meters. At the 2016 Olympics, she represented Saudi Arabia in the see MTC, page 3

McCONKEY VISITS MAMMOTH MIDDLE

This past Monday Sherry McConkey visited Mr. Campos’ Mammoth Middle School class. McConkey spoke at T-Bar Social Club on Sunday as part of its Inspirational Speaker series Front row, left to right: Pam Bold, Ava Lazac, Nicole Morales, Sam Bonich, Lucy Perry, Mario Gutierrez, Gustavo Vea, Alan Lagona. Back Row, left to right: Mia Williams, Alondra Yanez, Mr. Campos, Elias Heinsch, Max Erickson, Bryce Baldwin, Taj Gray, Sherry McConkey.
IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

By Charles James

Last week’s story about a 14-year-old on Mammoth Mountain who suffered a heart attack while on a ski lift with friends in December and then went into sudden cardiac arrest was well-received by the public, and why not? After all, it was a success story on many levels. From the prompt response of Mammoth Mountain’s well-trained Ski Patrol team to the more advanced care provided at the Mammoth Hospital Emergency Room, to the Reach Air Medical Flight to Renown Children’s Hospital ICU, and the Children’s Hospital, Los Angeles, it was an impressive show.

For the public, young Cassidy Seitz’s recovery was a “feel good story,” if not a miracle of sorts. But for those familiar with CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators, and those that are a part of the Emergency Medical Services and Response teams, it was a reminder that proper training, prompt treatment and especially timing, is everything when responding to a heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest.

The Chain of Survival for Cardiac Emergencies

Keys for the successful outcome of a cardiac event are:

1) Early Recognition of the signs of a heart attack and calling 9-1-1 immediately.
2) If the victim is unconscious or unresponsive, is not breathing or has no pulse, start CPR.
   a. Chest compressions should be given at a rate of 100 compressions per minute.
   b. Give 30 chest compressions, followed by 2 breaths of air.
   c. Continue CPR until trained rescuers arrive.
3) Early defibrillation—If an automated external defibrillator (AED) is available, use it immediately.
   a. Many victims of a cardiac emergency become unconscious because of an irregular heartbeat, which an AED will recognize and treat with a shock. The shock will hopefully stop the irregular heartbeat and the heart, which has its own built in electrical system, will reset to a normal heart rhythm. The sooner an AED is used, the more likely it will be to successfully restore a normal heartbeat.
   b. Follow the instructions of the AED unit. It will tell you what to do as soon as you turn it on.

4) Continue giving CPR until more advanced medical providers arrive (EMTs and Paramedics) and take over.
5) The victim will be transported to the hospital for advanced medical care and treatment.

Signs of a Heart Attack

1) Persistent pressure, discomfort or tightness in the chest is the most common in both men and women.
2) Nausea, vomiting, dizziness, sweating, and difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
3) Arms may feel heavy.
4) Unconsciousness/unresponsiveness—Some victims show no signs of a heart attack or the signs come and go. Others just collapse suddenly.

Many people talk about the importance, if not the need, to be able to perform CPR. Unfortunately, very few will bother to learn…until it is too late. Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a strong predictor of survival in sudden cardiac arrest. Studies suggest that bystanders in the US only do CPR in 15 to 30 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. In many communities the number is closer to 15 percent.

Starting CPR or applying an AED as soon as possible is critical. The odds of survival drop significantly after four to six minutes without CPR in witnessed cardiac arrests. The problem is that it takes EMS providers six to eight minutes to arrive (EMTs and Paramedics) and take over.

What are the lessons to be learned from the Cassidy Seitz’s cardiac event? Learn CPR. Take a community class or see if your employer will be willing to sponsor a course in your workplace. Contact your local hospital, medical care provider, local EMS or fire department or your local American Red Cross or American Heart Association to see if, and when a course is available.

Finally, take a page from the athletic shoe manufacturer Nike advertising slogan: “Just do it!”

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In last week’s story, James reported, “Heart attacks are very rare for a girl [Cassidy’s] age.” She is fourteen.

Exactly how rare?

The Mayo Clinic says that 1 in 50,000 young people is at risk of dying from cardiac arrest. Around 6,238 people under the age of eighteen have heart attacks in the United States every year.

Heart abnormalities are the cause of most heart attacks. Specific abnormalities include hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), in which walls of the heart thicken disrupting its beating. There are also coronary artery abnormalities that cause irregular blood flow, and long QT syndrome, which is an irregular beat.

-Ten Benham
Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District

MLFD 2019 FIRE ACADEMY
Mammoth Lakes Fire Department is recruiting for its 2019 Fire Academy. If you are interested in an opportunity to serve the community with one of the finest groups in the Eastern Sierras, please come talk to us.

Orientation and Dinner:
February 14th or 21st, 2019  6:15 p.m.
Fire Station #1, 3150 Main Street

Benefits
- Opportunity to Serve Your Community
- Part-Time Paid and Paid-Per-Call: Positions Upon Completion of Academy
- Join a Department with a Long Standing History of Camaraderie and Ability
- Learn the Skills of an All-Risk Firefighter

Requirements
- Minimum of 1 Year Residency in Mammoth Lakes, CA
- Must be at least 18 Years Old
- Pass a Background Check, Physical Ability Check, Oral Interview
- Other Requirements Per Application

For More Information and Applications
Go to: www.mlfd.ca.gov
Email: ales@mlfd.ca.gov

MTC
continued from page 1

Marathon.
Attar moved to Mammoth to be a part of the Mammoth Track Club.
"Mammoth is the best place I can imagine for my running," she said.
"Being able to live in the condo has been such a gift, I'm grateful we were able to even have that opportunity."
Attar has held part-time jobs at the Hayden Cabin Museum, the Twin Lakes Art Gallery, Stellar Brew, and she now works at InTouch Spa.
Attar doesn't know where she will be living after April. "We're talking to people and creatively brainstorming for the next step."
Margo Malone first came to Mammoth on a training trip here with the Boston Athletic Association, another pro club. She fell in love with the location, and left her old group in Boston to join MTC.
"With the endless trails and a short drive to 4000 feet, it's a runner's playground," Malone said. "It's the best running environment in the world."
Like Attar, Malone works a part-time job and relies on the subsidized housing to continue her competitive career.
"I couldn't have moved here without the condo option," Malone said.
"I feel more grateful that we had the condo than upset that it will be taken away."

Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) has branded Mammoth as, "California's Endurance Playground. "The Eastern Sierras will host 35 unique endurance events between February 2019 and January 2020, from Nordic ski races to marathons to triathlons.
Since 2011, MLT has also sponsored, "the Crib," housing for, "elite athletes interested in coming to town to tap into the perks of high-altitude training." The Crib is just for visiting athletes and not available for MTC athletes.
MLT began supporting the MTC in 2001, just before locals Meb Keflezighi, Ryan Hall, and Deena Kastor have all based their training in Mammoth and are the town's geography.
At roughly 8,000 feet above sea level, the thin air of Mammoth causes the bodies of athletes who live here to produce more red blood cells, thereby allowing their blood to carry more oxygen to their muscles. This high altitude alone is not what makes Mammoth special, however. Mammoth's draw for elite distance runners is its high altitude combined with its proximity to low altitude.
Athletes from MTC travel to Bishop for their runs in the winter to get out of the cold and to be able to train in the thinner air. "Live high, train low," is a common adage among endurance athletes. Athletes need to perform their hard sessions in an environment with more oxygen so that they can push their bodies to the extremes that replicate competition scenarios.
Few locations in the U.S. have this desirable combination. Athletes in Park City Utah can live at 7,000 feet and drive 40 minutes to be at 4,200 feet in Salt Lake City. Similarly, Flagstaff, Arizona at 40 minutes to be at 4,200 feet in Salt Lake City. Similarly, Flagstaff, Arizona at 4,800 feet is a 45 minute drive from Sedona at 4,350.
Flagstaff and Park City are popular destinations for the elite endurance athlete, but Mammoth leads the pack with the highest highs in proximity to the lowest lows.

I

(Left) Sarah Attar, (right) Margo Malone in the living room they will soon vacate.
MLT’s Defense

Dear Editor:

Last week’s editorial by Ted Carleton assigning blame for the MLT v Winter lawsuit on MLT. In Ted’s view, MLT did not handle the matter properly. What became obscured in Ted’s piece was the fact that MLT is going all out to preserve the only local, outdoor entertainment venue we have in Mammoth Lakes. It would be so much easier to remain under the radar and do nothing, but that isn’t the choice the MLT Board made.

Instead, two years ago, when Sam’s Woodsite came up for sale for condo development, MLT offered to assist Dirk Winter, a former Mammoth local, in making the Woodsite a real entertainment venue. Dirk Winter, a former Mammoth local, in making the Woodsite a real entertainment venue. MLT ponied up $300,000 in making the Woodsite a real entertainment venue. Lawsuits are never easy to remain under the radar and do nothing, but that isn’t the choice the MLT Board made.

The choice the MLT Board made.

MLT, instead of just depending on Dirk’s honoring the contract he signed. Dirk’s honoring the contract he signed. Well, in real life, a written contract is a contract. What someone wanted and knew Dirk wanted to use the money for the down payment on the Woodsite, and that by placing the money in the escrow for the property, MLT was acquiescing in that use of it. Dirk then goes on to quote Dirk’s attorney, David Poole, extensively. Mr. Poole feels that since “everyone” knew Dirk wanted to use the money for the down payment, that MLT was at fault for not sequestering the money in some fashion, instead of just depending on Dirk’s honoring the contract he signed. Well, in real life, a written contract is a contract. What someone wanted and knew “everyone” knew isn’t sufficient to change the terms of a written agreement. That’s why people write agreements and sign them. Otherwise, the terms would never hold still. If people could vary the terms of an agreement by simply complaining, no contract would be safe.

Furthermore, although MLT knew that Dirk preferred to use money for the down payment, at no time did MLT do anything to indicate its agreement to this down payment. The agreement between Dirk and MLT only took place when Dirk gave up the idea of using the money for the down payment and instead agreed (in writing) to only use the money for improvements at the site. The bottom-line is that MLT is doing everything it can to keep the Woodsite as an outdoor entertainment venue. Lawsuits are never pretty, but when you make a commitment to do something, that commitment doesn’t stop at the courthouse door.

Paul Rudder

MLT Board Member

Money suck?

Dear Editor:

In my opinion, with the exception of “warehouse, industrial center, ice hockey league rinks”, I believe there are very few ice rinks of the type proposed in Mammoth that actually turn a profit anywhere in the US. I will acknowledge that the “MUF” has a few other uses proposed. My primary concern is fiscal responsibility for our town. I really feel our town doesn’t need another money sucking hole along the lines of the airport judgement, (40 something million). In addition, IMO, I’m not sure the tax paying town population buys into this project. My unscientific conversations with Mammoth locals reveals few that want to expose our town to this debt and the costs of operating this facility. I’m increasingly concerned with a liberal town counsel that seems comfortable with spending other people’s money until it’s gone and worry about the consequences later. Am I a voice in the wilderness or do others share my concern?

Alan Brown

Mammoth Lakes
Local News

IT’S A BIRD, IT’S A TAX BREAK, IT’S AN OPPORTUNITY ZONE
Bishop, Lone Pine, and southern Inyo receive IRS designation

By Benham

The federal government’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 designated Bishop and areas in southern Inyo County as opportunity zones. Opportunity zones are areas deemed in need of economic stimulus. The designation is supposed to prime poor areas for growth by giving tax breaks to developers.

Developers can defer tax on unrealized capital gains that they reinvest in an opportunity zone fund. If the developer holds the reinvestment of capital gains for seven years, she receives a 15% write-off on the original capital gains liability. If the developer holds the reinvestment for 10 years, the capital gains tax is waived.

An article in the November 17th, 2018 edition of The Economist entitled “Boondocks and Boondoggles: A New Place-Based Policy Takes Shape” warned that the opportunity in these opportunity zones might be for wealthy investors.

“One concern is that investors will pocket tax rewards for investments that they would have made anyway. The benefit to locals may not be worth the cost of the forgone federal tax revenue, which could otherwise be used for different things. Then there is the matter of creating a new open-ended tax break for investors, who are usually the wealthiest Americans,” states the article.

According to Peter Grant of the Wall Street Journal, the recent federal government shutdown (December 22, 2018-January 25, 2019) has delayed investment.

“There were 58% more deals on the zones in the third quarter of 2018, compared with the year-earlier quarter. The increase was only 11% for the rest of the U.S., according to Real Capital Analytics.”

Every person The Sheet talked to for this article was unaware of any investor setting up an opportunity zone fund or investing in the area because of the tax breaks.

Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, whose district includes Bishop, isn’t aware of any investment in his district that’s directly the result of the capital gains tax break. “It could be beneficial, but there’s not a huge role for local government in helping guide the process,” Griffiths said.

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and Rural Counties-Representatives of California (RCRC) discussed opportunity zones, but couldn’t define a county’s role with regards to the law, according to Griffiths. He has discussed the opportunity zones in his board reports at Inyo Supervisors meetings.

He’s met with the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Bishop City Council to try to figure out how local government can play a role in promoting Bishop’s new opportunity.

The Internal Revenue Service released guidance on the law in October of last year. The law does not stipulate that investments have to benefit the community in which they are made.

Griffiths is hopeful that the tax break will spur investment from local and out-of-town investors and not merely pad the pockets of developers.

Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley does not know of any investment in Lone Pine, which was also designated as an opportunity zone.

“The program is interesting and if we could match-up businesses with the right investors it could be really helpful,” Kingsley said.

The challenge of taking advantage of the opportunity zone in a rural county is finding investors. He hasn’t heard anything from his constituents in southern Inyo about taking advantage of the tax breaks.

Kingsley is excited that the state of California, which designated the zones, is trying to stimulate economic growth in rural areas. “The recognition that we need to make opportunity zones in rural parts of the state is really important,” Kingsley said. Regardless of the opportunity zone designation, a major challenge of developing in Inyo is getting enough capital to invest. He hopes future programs will make it easier to funnel capital into the remote parts of the state.

Bishop Councilwoman Laura Smith is hopeful about this new opportunity. She thinks the primary challenge in Bishop is the city’s lack of available land, but land might be opening up.

Currently, the city is negotiating a deal with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in which LADWP would put approximately 27 properties in Inyo County on the market. Businesses or families who occupy the land would be given the opportunity to own the property on which they operate and live. Councilwoman Smith said the Bishop Veterinary Hospital has wanted to build a new building for years, but because it doesn’t own the land that it sits on it has struggled to find funding. After the deal, a new hospital could be possible.

There isn’t a lot of open space to develop, but there are 20 vacant buildings in downtown Bishop.

Bishop’s Mayor Jim Ellis thinks the tax breaks will incentive investors to buy properties in downtown Bishop that require an almost prohibitive amount of money to meet modern building code.

He sees the opportunity zone designation as another funding source and called it “a great opportunity.”

He plans on gathering a meeting of Bishop City officials to develop a strategy to take advantage of the designation. “It’s another funding source more readily available to people,” he said.

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COUNTIN’ IN THE COUNTY

Point in Time Count finds people living at Snowcreek Athletic Club

By Gorman

The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] mandates that communities count their homeless populations every year on the same day. That day was Thursday, January 24, 2019. Volunteers in every municipality in the United States went out in the night and interviewed those living without a home.

In Mono, Inyo, and Alpine counties, this “Point-In-Time Count”, as it’s called, was hosted by the Eastern Sierra Continuum of Care [ESCOC], a subsidiary of Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action [IMACA], Inc.

The results of the count will not be finalized for another two to three weeks, according to IMACA Housing and Planning Director Larry Emerson.

“I am not sure how this year is going to pan out,” Emerson said. “I’ve heard people say there are more.”

The volunteers of the ESCOC used a HUD issued form to interview homeless people. They asked their interviewees for demographic information, information on how long they have been homeless, personal information regarding risk factors, and a host of other questions.

“Are you HIV positive,” or “Do you drink alcohol or use drugs?”

County Supervisor Jennifer Halferty, who volunteered for the count, said that the people she interviewed were all approachable.

“Everybody wants to tell their story,” she said. “If for whatever reason a person does not want to tell their story, or if they are asleep or unreachable, the volunteers can fill out an observational report where they infer what they can about a person.”

In addition to the one night count on January 24, ESCOC conducts a “service based count” for the following seven days, ending on Thursday, January 31. This process asks any person who might come in for social services provided by IMACA or one of its partners if they were homeless on January 24. The ESCOC asks people for their initials in an attempt to prevent duplicate counting. The partners include organizations like Mono County Behavioral Health, Mammoth Lakes Housing, and Mammoth Mountain Staff Accommodations.

In 2017, the ESCOC counted 121 people: 0 in Alpine County, 120 in Inyo, and 1 in Mono. In 2018, the total was 157: 0 in Alpine, 110 in Inyo, and 47 in Mono.

The reason for the dramatic increase in Mono County from 2017 to 2018 was simply improved counting efficiency. Two years ago we didn’t do a good count,” Halferty said. “The weather was bad and we weren’t well organized.”

The majority of homeless people in Mono County live in their cars, according to Emerson. Halferty said that last year they discovered that many people were living in their cars near Snowcreek Athletic Club and use the club to shower and change. This was true for the 2019 count as well.

“One of the people who we interviewed who lives out of their car said that 40-60 people who live in their cars use Snowcreek’s facilities,” said Halferty. Halferty also said that there were noticeably more people this year living in their cars on the Mammoth Scenic Loop and around Ormat’s geothermal plant than last year.

“I haven’t seen the figures but I would assume they are up,” she said.

In order to incentivize people to take part in the survey, the volunteers gave out gift bags. These bags included essentials like deodorant, toothpaste, a beanie or a blanket, and a gift card to the nearest supermarket.

Halferty thinks that this count is a crucial step towards alleviating a statewide crisis.

“California has a problem with homelessness,” Halferty said. “Governor Newsom’s draft budget allocated a lot of money for homelessness.”

As for Mono County’s homeless population, Halferty believes that the high price of housing has everything to do with it.

“People think a car is more economical, but I think if they could find a place that is reasonably priced, they would rather have indoor plumbing.”

MTC continued from page 3

The discontinuation of Mammoth Mountain’s donation shows how the housing crisis affects Mammoth Lakes viability as a training location for elite endurance athletes. More welcoming housing markets give towns like Flagstaff a leg up on Mammoth.

The average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in Flagstaff is $1,129 per month according to Arizona Housing Coalition report from 2018. According to the Mammoth Lakes Community Housing Action Plan of 2017 [CHAP], the average rent for a two bedroom in Mammoth Lakes was $1,300, approximately 15% higher than in Flagstaff.

Blaise Ferro, a distance runner at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, said that the Flagstaff housing is affordable. Northern Arizona has won the last three consecutive NCAA team titles in cross-country, and has produced some of the best distance runners in the United States.

Ferro said that he and his teammates live off-campus, and each pay between $300-$500 a month in rent.

MTC Coach Andrew Kastor doesn’t know what his athletes will do once they lose their housing in April.

“Right now, Deena and I, along with the Mammoth Track Club Board of Directors are looking into housing options for each of our athletes. Ideally, we’d like to keep each team member in Mammoth Lakes and in a supportive training environment. We’ll be reaching out to our Mammoth Track Club Adult membership shortly to inquire about any opportunities that may exist in opening up their homes to a well-behaved and driven elite distance runner,” Kastor said.

Coach Kastor has asked that anyone reading this article with a passion for elite athletics and a desire to help the club reach out to him and Deena at https://www.mammothtrackclub.com.
The town’s most recent RHNA happened in August of last year. It is being finalized and will be released this spring. The new RHNA will cover Mammoth’s housing needs from 2019 to 2024.

In six years, we haven’t done anything.

-Kirk Stapp

The maximum development allowed by the state on The Parcel (344 according to The Shady Rest Parcel master plan) falls 251 units short of the community’s housing need. The Community Housing Action Plan (CHAP) plans to build 200-300 units in the next five years to make up the difference, if the Parcel is developed to its maximum unit potential.

In 2015, the town cut its housing mitigation fees. The current plan is very developer friendly. If the state Department of Housing and Community Development felt like Mammoth wasn’t complying with SB 35, it’s first act wouldn’t be a lawsuit. It’d review the situation in Mammoth and work with local government to correct the situation. Most of the inquiries have to do with a municipalities failure to zone in accordance with an RHNA. If the municipality corrects the action, HCD moves on. If it doesn’t, then the state might hunt them down.
Kathleen Bernasconi, registered nurse, mother of four, member of the Fort Independence Tribe and a mainstay in the Mammoth Hospital Emergency Room for two decades, died on December 29, 2018 after a brief illness. She would have turned 63 on January 18, 2019.

Kathleen was married for 41 years to Peter Bernasconi, whom she met in the 6th grade when Kathleen’s family moved from Lone Pine to Independence. As Peter’s sister Jayne recalled this week, once they met, “They never left each other’s side.”

Jayne said that when her brother and Kathleen were at band camp in 6th grade, her father, who was Superintendent of Schools of Inyo County at the time, caught the pair heading out to a distant field on a “walk.”

“When we got there, Kathleen said, ‘We’re going to talk about getting married.’ We were going to pick a spot and hand four kids.”

Which is exactly what happened.

She was born Kathleen Cooney on Jan. 18, 1955 in Seattle, Washington, the daughter of two military lifers, Ida Mae and William Cooney.

As Ida Mae was a member of the Fort independence Tribe, that was the impetus for the family to ultimately return to the Sierra.

And future husband Peter were outdoors types. They enjoyed the beach, the mountains, and other outdoor activities, particularly backpacking together in the summers. Cutting wood on Saturdays was one of their favorite things to do together.

Post-high school, Kathleen was accepted at Stanford but ended up attending Fresno State for nursing.

She graduated from Columbia College in Washington state (near Yakima) because, well, college was a circuitous path for the couple. In 1976, Peter and Kathleen had their first child, daughter Katrina. Kathleen took some time off while Pete attended college and worked in San Luis Obispo. Katrina was followed in 1978 by Peter, then Brian in 1983, and Louis in 1986.

After getting her degree, Kathleen’s first job was in Prosser, Wash. The job tested her because it’s a relatively rural area. She delivered a baby on her own because the doctor couldn’t get there in time.

Kathleen was self-reliant and confident, and it inspired those who worked with her.

Kathleen was a mentor to Sue Gribsby, whom she met at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura.

“We worked on an oncology floor,” recalled Gribsby. “She was a great leader. She took the stress out of things, and made it fun when she could.”

The nursing staff was close and hung out socially, celebrating birthdays and baby showers and the like.

“She had a great sense of humor,” said Gribsby. “A great little giggle … she always looked at the bright side of life,” said Gribsby, “A great little giggle … she always looked at the bright side of life,” said Gribsby.

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Kathleen with her brother Daniel Cooney.

Kathleen and Peter had been looking forward to retirement together.

Alas, Kathleen, though being “or perhaps, because of being in the medical profession, never went to see the doctor and didn’t have a primary care physician.”

She knew something was off as much as 6-8 months before her passing but decided she would rather not know what it was.

Eventually, her state of illness progressed to the point where her husband took her to Renown Medical Center in Reno on December 15, 2018. She died in the hospital two weeks later.

In addition to her four children, Kathleen is survived by her husband Peter, son-in-law Travis, daughters-in-law Kristin, Coreena, and Meryl. She will be dearly missed by her seven grandchildren Kyle, Kiera, Kayla, Evan, Ava, Aubrey Rose and Leo, as well as her brother Daniel and nephew Reese.

A Celebration of Life service is forthcoming.

Favored charities one can donate to on Kathleen’s behalf include the Mammoth Lakes Foundation, Wounded Warriors and the Mono Lake Committee.
LOCAL BRIEFS

Mt. Whitney lottery postponed

The Mt. Whitney Lottery, the process which awards both day and overnight hiking permits of the tallest mountain in the contiguous United States, has been postponed.

Typically, the lottery begins February 1st through www.recreation.gov. However, the recently awarded contractor for this site was working with the Inyo National Forest to develop the online protocol for the lottery. This work was delayed during the shutdown.

The forest and recreation.gov are working to get the lottery functional and anticipate that it will start sometime in mid to late February. The new date will be announced when the details are finalized.

Inyo National Forest opens

The federal government shutdown ended January 25 and Inyo National Forest (INF) opened again.

“We’re happy to be back,” said Deb Schweitzer, Public Affairs Officer for INF.

During the shutdown, federal employees continued to work, including some forest supervisors, district rang
ployees continued to work, including INF.

Schweitzer said that the early season should set its sights on in the future.

Of course, the amount of time depends on the firefighter’s experience.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) burned burn piles in the Inyo National Forest around Mammoth and throughout Mono before the shutdown. Schweitzer said that the early season snows created safe conditions to burn and allowed crews to burn in November and December.

MLH Talks Strategy

On Thursday, January 31, Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH) held the first of what will be two strategic planning meetings. These meetings have the potential to change the mission statement of MLH at a time of great flux for the non-profit.

The strategic planning meeting was facilitated by Seana Doherty of Fresh Tracks, a consultancy based in Truckee, California that specializes in non-profit strategy.

With the Town of Mammoth Lakes in the process of hiring a housing coordinator, and the Chamber of Commerce of Mammoth Lakes hiring a workforce housing director, the housing scene in town is becoming more crowded, and MLH’s role is becoming less clear.

It is still uncertain whether the town’s housing arm will even play a role in the development of The Parcel. MLH applied to be the design consultant on the project through a Request For Qualifications last month, but the town has not made its choice on a consultant yet.

So the purpose of this first meeting was to establish what exactly MLH has accomplished in its 16 years of existence and thereby find out what it should set its sights on in the future.

Doherty pointed out that MLH has raised approximately $49 million in grant funding, tax credits, and housing bonds in its history. It has also produced 265 units of housing.

Tom Hodges, a board member of MLH and Vice President of Development at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, pointed out that 265 units is not much of a dent considering the needs of the town.

The town’s community housing ac-
tion plan says that we need 595 units by 2022. Hodges said, “We’ve produced 265 in the last 16 years. The need is greater than our production.”

Board Member Kirk Stapp said that most of the units that have been pro-
duced were developed in the first 10 years of MLH’s tenure, then the liability from the airport litigation slowed fund-
ing to a trickle.

A self-assessment performed by board members revealed a troubling lack of faith. Members said that they do not think that their colleagues on the board are particularly well versed in the bylaws of the non-profit, and that meet-
ings do not currently offer a space where all the members’ voices are heard.

MLH Executive Director Patricia Robertson said that she believes MLH’s greatest aptitudes are in deed restriction stewardship and grant writing. Doherty thinks that MLH can play a role as a fundraiser, as this is not something that public entities like the town are able to take on.

The board’s discussion on Thursday will inform its next meeting on Febru-
ary 1, where the board members will discuss what it hopes to accomplish in the next five years, and how it hopes to accomplish it.

-Press Release

-Local Briefs

JAKE THOMPSON FUNDRAISER DINNER

Our dear friend and local bartender Jake Thompson has been in the hospital fighting a severe case of pneumonia. After a week in the hospital, Jake is home recovering. The Tiger Bar staff invites everyone to join us for a fundraiser dinner to help compensate for some of Jake’s time off. The event is CASH ONLY, as this is the fastest way to get funds to Jake. A set menu will be 2 ground beef tacos with rice and beans, $2 well margaritas and To-go plates will be available.

Thank you all for your support!
CURLERS HIT BUTTON IN LOCAL BONSPIEL

By Gorman & Benham

I n Mammoth Adult Curling League action on Tuesday, January 29, defending champion Crowley Curlers beat Short and Curly. Forgive Short and Curly. It’s their inaugural season. They’re figuring out the proper lemon to honey ratio in their Hot Toddies.

The Crowley Curler’s wore beanies adorned with pink hair curlers (see page 12 for photo). An investigation lead by the league’s commissioner Lauren Plum determined that the curlers on the beanies did not enhance telepathy nor transmit mind altering radio waves to opponents.

The score was tied 1-1 after a few ends. (An end is one round of throwing stones. The stones are 42 pounds.) The Crowley Curlers took a 2-1 lead. After two more ends, it was 4-1.

Crowley Curler’s Jeff Byberg implored teammate and wife Lesley to “sweep it hard.” Lesley explained the condition of the ice, which is called the sheet: “The sides are smooth and fast. The middle is bumpy.” The Crowley Curler’s called the sides the “fast lanes.” Short and Curly’s comeback strategy was to hope. They lost, 1-8.

Marcus Deack throws a stone

Curley’s Mike Wong said. “We’re the Dolphins.” Crowley Curlers and Short and Curly have 3-2 records on the season and are part of a three-way tie for first, along with Jheri Curl in the Blue Division. Crowley owns the tiebreaker, having scored more points than the other two teams.

The sport is like giant shuffleboard on ice. The goal is to score the most points. Points are scored by throwing a stone closest to the center of the house, which is called the button. The team with a stone closest to the button scores. They add up all of their stones that are closer than their opponents closest stone, and that is their score for the end.

The house is four concentric circles at the opposite end of the sheet. To throw, a player holds the stone in a low lunge, imagine trying to stretch a hip flexor. They then push off a "hack" with their back foot. The lead foot on a "slider" slides forward. The player slides with their stine up to the hog line and releases. Once the stone is released, teammates with brushes can sweep the ice in front of the stone to speed it up or change its direction.

“It’s hard like darts is hard,” Short and Curly’s Ryan Carey said.

On the other sheet, the Jheri Curls took on I Think I’m Going To Curl. The Jheri Curls consisted of employees from June Lake Brewing and Green Mammoth. I Think I’m Going To Curl consisted of stuff from Mammoth Hospital. It was the doctors verse the bartenders, care versus corruption, virtue versus vice. Like an old western, good and bad were starkly defined and were wrapped in a cosmic struggle representative of our human condition.

Dr. Craig Burrows, the Chief Medical Officer for Mammoth Hospital, brought the members of I Think I’m Going To Curl together out of necessity. He heard there was curling at the Mammoth rink and went to try it out, but when he showed up at registration they said, where’s your team?

“It was easy to get a team together,” Burrows said. "I told them that this is

see CURLING, page 11
CURLING continued from page 10

our ticket to the Olympics.”

One might think the steady-handed surgeons should have been favored against the boozy bon vivants at this game of finesse. Not so. I think I’m Going To Curl came into the match with a record of 1-3 to the Jheri Curls 2-2.

After a mediocre first two ends, the Jheri Curls found their stride when a well placed heavy from Kevin “The Ringer” Gain netted them two points and the lead.

While the hospital team was meticulous, the Jheri Curls had a secret weapon: the JLB hooch they kept pouring into their insulated water bottles. The juice had them loose, and it showed.

Skipper Alex Kirkpatrick began cracking the whip in the fourth end to motivate his brushers, “Sweep you stoner,” Kirkpatrick shouted at teammate Jon Thayer.

The Jheri Curls did not relinquish the lead and finished the match with a victory 5 points to 3. Vice won out again over virtue. Health is nice, but beer is better.

Kirkpatrick had this to say about the outing, “Conditions were fast tonight. Required more finesse.”

Kirkpatrick said he is happy that Mammoth has decided to put this tournament on.

“It’s something to do on Tuesdays and Sundays to get out of the Loop. There’s nothing like this in June. Everything closes at nine.”

There is one more regular season game in the tournament, and then the double-elimination tournament begins on February 10.
MAMMOTH GIRLS WIN, BOYS LOSE

On Tuesday, the Mammoth Varsity Basketball program played two make-up games versus Mojave. The games had been scheduled for Friday January 18, but were cancelled due to a storm.

The girls beat Mojave, 42-11. Mammoth kept the visitors scoreless in the first quarter and scored 12 of their own. They entered the fourth with a 25 point lead.

Head Coach Andrew Jones said, "The scoring was much more consistent tonight." Ella Thompson lead all scorers with 13. Maggie Roya Cruz scored 10. Nicole Escobar scored 8, and Julie Esquivel and Tina Orrick each scored 4. Sam Jones had 3.

Tuesday’s win was the team’s fourth in a row. They are 4-1 in league play and face Lone Pine at home on Thursday. The winner of that game wins the Desert Mountain League title.

The boys lost 58-64. They led by three at the end of the first quarter, but couldn’t stop Mojave’s drives and couldn’t secure defensive rebounds. Mojave scored on second chance points and pushed the lead to 12. Mammoth kept it close thanks to timely shooting from Trent Presson and Joel Guillen, but turnovers felled their comeback. The Huskies ended the game with 18 turnovers and 10 steals.

Liam Bassler scored 19, Guillen had 11, Presson had 10. Dylan Eastridge added 8. The loss on Tuesday was Mammoth’s third in row. On January 23, they lost at Mojave, 56-42. Two days later they lost at Desert Christian, 76-40. Mammoth is 1-4 in the Desert Mountain League, but has a 13-9 overall record. They cannot win the league but will put in a wild card bid to try to make the playoffs. They play rival Lone Pine on Thursday, January 31.

(Above) Joel Guillen’s fourth quarter three-pointer is about to drop. (Right) Trent Presson trying to avoid the block with a left-handed lay-up.

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NOV 2018
 LOOK FOR CHANGES!!
Mammoth soccer v. Mojave

By Benham

Mammoth Varsity soccer teams faced off against the Mojave Mustangs on Wednesday afternoon in Bishop City Park. These were make-up matches.

The boys game was close. Mammoth and Mojave traded lackluster chances. Most shots came from outside the eighteen and were easily scooped up by the keepers or sailed over the goals.

A scoreless tie was broken by Mojave’s Pedro Rico. With a little less than fifteen minutes to play, he hit a low, hard shot from a couple yards outside the eighteen. Mammoth’s keeper Tyler Goodwin got his hands on the ball, but he could not stop it. The ball trickled in. It was Mammoth’s second 1-0 loss to Mojave in a week. The Huskies are 3-4 overall and 1-2 in the Desert Mountain League.

The Mammoth girls fared better, winning 3-1. Mojave scored first. Then Mammoth tied it on a penalty shot from Melissa Cook. Vanessa Laguna gave Mammoth the lead on a rolling shot off a counter attack and Hallie Clute sealed it when Mojave’s keeper came out of the seven yard box to grab the ball and missed the ball, leaving the net open.

The Mammoth girls improved to 3-0 in league play and 4-5 overall. They play Desert Christian on Thursday, January 31.

Counter clockwise from below: Jose Alejandro takes a shot. Catherine Gaucho fights for the ball. Tyler Goodwin (blue), Gerardo Morales (red 7), and Mojave’s Samuel Capetillo jostle for position on a Mojave corner kick. Andrea Cuellar about to boot the ball.
BARS & MUSIC
Happy Hour/
Austria Hof. 4-7 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 4-6 p.m. Friday & Saturday. See ad. p. 17.
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill slider Mondays. Monday’s @ 9 p.m. Taco Tuesday 2 homemade tacos for $8. Wine Wednesday is 1/2 off the entire menu all day, happy hour wine from 3 p.m.-clock off. See ad. p. 17.
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Mon-Fri., Happy Hour from 4-6 p.m.
Morrison’s Happy Hour Daily. 5-7 p.m.
The Mogul Happy Hour Sun.-Thurs. from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.in the bar with food and drink specials.
Mammoth Rock ‘N Bowl Mon. DJ 9:00 p.m. Bowling & Beats. Thurs. DJ 10 p.m. Latin Night. Saturday DJ 9 p.m.
Petra’s Bistro & Wine Bar Daily, 5-7 p.m. $5-10 menu items and drink specials. Sunday open at 10 a.m. for football. See ad. p. 2.
Roberto’s Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily. Sunday: open at 10 a.m. for football.
Famous Slocums Happy Hour Mon.- Fri 4-6 p.m.; Sat./Sun.4-5:30 p.m. Dining at 5pm, daily, “No Reservations, just come on in!” See ad. p. 5.
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 3-5 p.m. daily: half off all drinks. Free Spirit tasting flight 2-3 p.m. daily. See ad. p. 4.
Bleu Daily Happy Hour 5-6 p.m. $5 Beer, Wine and Small Plates.
Devils Creek Distillery tasting room hours. 2:30-5:30 p.m. every day (except New Year’s Day). Location: Industrial Park (off of Meridian). 123 Commerce Dr. Info: 760.793.7131.
Carson Peak Inn in June Lake. Special after-ski menu 4-6 menu. See ad. p. 9.

BARS & MUSIC
Saturday, February 2 (cont.)/ Darren Sens and Mike McGuire play T-Bar Social Club in June Lake. Time: 9 p.m. Tix: $5 @ balancedrocksaloon.com or at the door.
Sunday, February 3/
Super Bowl Party @ Mammoth Brewing Co. Doors open 2:30 p.m. kickoff 3:30. Quarterly raffles with a grand prize of two VIP Bluesapalooza tickets. $1 off beer and wine. Tickets $10 @ nightout.com/events/super-bowl. Live tickets
Super Bowl Party @ Rafters w/ two projector screens. Doors open 1 p.m. Info: rafters.com. No cover.
Super Bowl Party @ Liberty Bar. Doors open 3 p.m. Food and drink specials. No cover.

Monday, February 4/
Open House at Black Doubt Brewing Co. Time: 6-10 p.m.

Tuesday, February 5/
Team trivia at Mammoth Brewing Co. Time: 7 p.m. Free. Prizes.

Wednesday, February 6/
Open Mic at T-Bar Social Club. Hosted by Mike McGuire. Time: 7-11 p.m. Free. Local bands at Rafters every Wednesday. 52 drafts. DJs.

Thursday, February 7/
DJ ONEzie plays T-Bar Social Club’s Electric Loop Night, a monthly dance party. Time: 9 p.m. Tix: $5 @ balancedrocksaloon.com or at the door. Genre: Americana.
Ryan Hiller plays 53 Kitchen and Cocktails in The Village. Genre: Funk rock. Time: 3-80-4-30 p.m.

Friday, February 8/

TOWN STUFF
Friday, February 1/
Lee Vining HS Basketball vs. Baker HS. Location: Lee Vining gym. Time: 6:30 p.m.
End of Shutdown Hoedown for federal employees, contractors, and their families. A free evening of food, drink and music hosted by the Sierra Club’s Range of Light Group. Time: Food & drink 4:30 p.m. Taco bar 5-7 p.m. Location: Tallman Pavilion at the Tri-Country Fairgrounds, Bishop. Info: fran.hunt@sierracub.org.
February 2-3/
Unbound Series Ski & Snowboard Cross @ Chair 1. Open to all ages. Check in time: 7:30-8:30 a.m. day of competition. More info: see sidebar column next page.
Saturday, February 2/
Bucky (June Mtn. mascot) hosts a bonfire. Cookies, hot drinks and dancing. Time: 2-3 p.m. Location: June Mountain Chalet.
Woolly’s Saturday Parade through The Village. Face painting, live music, and a parade with Woolly and friends from Mammoth Mountain Ski School. Time: 3-4:30 p.m. Location: meet at The Plaza in The Village.
Sierra Club Outings

On Sunday, February 3, the Sierra Club will host a snowshoe outing in Mammoth Knolls. Meet at the Union Bank parking lot in Minaret Mall at 10 a.m. Dogs are welcome. For more info: Melissa Swan, melissas1@verizon.net

On Thursday, February 7, the Sierra Club will ski the Blue and Diamond Nordic ski route, which is 2-4 miles over rolling terrain. Meet in the Union Bank parking lot in Mammoth Lakes at 10 a.m. snowshoeing is also welcome. For more info: marymukeshore@gmail.com or 805.217.5563

On Sunday, February 10, the Sierra Club will ski in the lake basin. Meet at the Union Bank parking lot at 9 a.m. The group will ski to Horseshoe Lake, then to Lake George (lunch spot), before returning to and around Bishop Damme’s new film showcases their products. For more info: mammothfilmfestival.org

**TOWN STUFF**

**Saturday, February 2 (cont.)/ IKON Pass Early-Ups.** IKON Pass holders are offered an hour of exclusive early lift access on select Mammoth trails starting at 7:30 a.m., followed by a complimentary hot breakfast at McCoy Station at 8. Open chairs include 1, 2, 15, 16.

**Bishop Little League Baseball sign-ups.** Location: Pizza Factory, 970 N. Main Street, Bishop. Time: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Playing evaluations will be held Feb. 9, 16, 23 on Field 3. Evaluation times: 7-10 year-olds 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 11-12 year-olds 12-1 p.m.

**Sunday, February 3/ Mammoth Knolls Snowshoe with the Sierra Club. More info: see sidebar column this page.**


**Tuesday, February 5/ Mono County Board of Supervisors meets.** Time: 9 a.m. Location: Mono County Courthouse, Bridgeport. Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission meets. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall.

**Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets.** Time: 10 a.m. Location: County Administrative Building, Independence. Bishop varsity High School Basketball v. Frazier Mountain. Senior night. Time: girls at 5 p.m., boys at 7:30. Location: Bishop’s Gus Kekas Gym, 301 N Fowler St.

**Wednesday, February 6/ Mono County Fish & Wildlife Commission meetings.** Time: 10 a.m.

**UPCOMING**

Location: June Lake Community Center, 90 Granite Ave. **Poetry Out Loud.** Inyo County poetry recitation competition. Location: Inyo Council for the Arts on Main St., Bishop. Time: 6 p.m. More info: see sidebar column this page. Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meets. Time: 1 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall.

**Thursday, February 7/ Bishop Chamber of Commerce mixer.** Appetizers, no-host bar, and raffles. Time: 6-8 p.m. Location: Bishop Elks Lodge, 151 East Line St. Info: 760.873.8405.

Opening night of Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre’s “Suite Surrender”. Time: 7 p.m. Location: Edison Theatre, 100 College Parkway. Tic: $20/adult, $18/senior or student, $10/child (14 & under). edisontheatre.org. Mammoth Film Festival opens with a premiere Jean Clad Van Damme’s “We Die Young”. Time: 7:45 p.m. More info: see sidebar column this page.

**Saturday, February 9/ International Feast Fundraiser hosted by the Bishop Sunrise rotary.** Time: 12 p.m. Location: Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop. Info: Tom Hardy, 760.920.0109, tlhardy66@gmail.com

**Inyo Sage to Summit Mountain Running Series 5K.** All proceeds benefit Inyo County Search & Rescue Registration: 8 a.m. $10 suggested donation. Info: sagetosummit.com. Eastern Sierra Audubon Monthly Bird Walk. Identify birds and observe behavior in order to make bird lists for the Audubon Open Space Area. For birders of all levels. Extra binoculars and field guides will be brought. Time: 8:30 a.m. Location: parking lot of the BLM/Forest Service building located on West Line Street, Bishop. Info: esaudubon.org

**Snowboard Team (MMSST) Headquarter locations slopedside at the bottom of Broadway Express (Chair 1).** Entry fee: $45/event. Lift ticket/season pass required. Discounted lift tickets can be purchased on-site before the start of each event. Competitors must have a USAASA membership in order to compete. Age categories from 7 yrs. and up. Info: Ben Wisner at 760.934.2571 (Ext 3114) or bwisner@mammothreorts.com

**Mono County Food Schedule**

Inyo County Advocates for Community, Inc. (IMACA) has posted a schedule of food pick-ups for people who qualify for CalFresh (formerly known as food stamps.)

**Community Commodity Schedule:**

**BRIDGEPORT:** 129 E migrant St., 10-11 a.m. 2nd Mondays.

**LAMINATE: 760 Lake Ave., 1-2 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays.

**Mono/ June Lake, 625 Old Mammoth Rd., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays.

**Walker, 442 Mule Deer Rd., 1-2 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays.

**Mammoth/ June Lake, 625 Old Mammoth Rd., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays.

**Benton, 12:30-1:30 p.m., 58869 Hwy 120, 2nd Wednesdays.**

**MOBILE HARVEST FOOD TRUCK:**

**Bishop, 129 Emigrant St., 12-1 p.m., 4th Thursdays.**

**Bridgeport, 129 Emigrant St., 12-1 p.m., 4th Thursdays.**

**Benton, 58869 Hwy 120-1, 2-2 p.m., 4th Fridays.**

**Lee Vining, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 2nd Tuesdays.**

**Bridgeport, 100 College Parkway. Tix: $20/adult, $18/senior or student, $10/child (14 & under). edisontheatre.org. Mammoth Film Festival opens with a premiere Jean Clad Van Damme’s “We Die Young”. Time: 7:45 p.m. More info: see sidebar column this page.**

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**Mammoth/ June Lake, 625 Old Mammoth Rd., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays.**

**Sole Trio**

The classical trio O Sole Trio will be performing at Bishop Union High School on February 10th at 3 p.m. This New York-based group consists of a soprano vocalist, a baritone vocalist, and a violin/PIano player. Their show at BUHS is titled “Bravis-simo Broadway.” It invites the audi- ence to, “Sing along with classic tunes from magical Broadway shows.”

The show is sponsored by Bishop Community Concerts Association. Tickets cost $25 and are available at the door. Info: http://www.bishopcva.org

**Poetry Out Loud**

Inyo County high school students from Bishop Union High School, Keith Bright School, Owens Valley High School, and Palisade Glacier High School will compete in a spoken word poetry recitation competition on Wednesday, February 6. The winner will move on to the state finals in Sac-ramento on March 10-11.

This event is free. Time: 6-8 p.m. Location: Inyo Council For the Arts, 137 South Main Street, Bishop. Info: nyo.org, 760.873.8014

**AT THE MOVIES**

**Minaret Cinemas**

A Dog’s Way Home (PG): A lost puppy travels 400 miles to find its owner.

The Uspide (PG-13): A wealthy quadriplegic (Bryan Cranston) makes friends with a caretaker (Kevin Hart).

For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com.
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**Sierra Employment Services, Inc.**

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- **Construction General Laborer M/B $15 to $20**
- **Snow Shovelers M $20 to $.38 per hour**
- **MCW Driver M $18.41 to $.35 per hour**
- **Class A/B Driver (Local) M $19 to $.28 per hour**
- **Master/Journey Carpenter M/B $32+ per hour**

Call 760.924.0523 or 760.873.8599 for a full job listing online at www.sierremployment.com

**Mammoth Rock & Bowl/Mammoth Rock Brasserie**

Has the following positions available:

- **Press Juice Operators M/B $15.00 per hour.** Email inquiries to employ@snowcreekradio.com.

- **Tavern Rd. in Mammoth**

  - **Assistant Manager needed**
  - **Canyon Blvd or call 760-934-2764**
  - **Apply in person at 924 Old Mammoth Rd., Mammoth**
  - **For all positions. If you have a clean background and clean DMV is not a problem.**

**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 St., Mammoth Lakes.

**Mammoth Taxi**

Is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also accepting resume 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 Hollodge**

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

**Alpengold Lodge**

Is accepting applications for winter employment. We are looking for full and part time team members for year round seasonal positions. Applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. Inquire and nights and starting salary is 6800 available. Please apply in person at 6081 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 3pm through closing depending on the position. This is a high energy environment, we need people who are coachable, who can multitask, and who can handle pressure. When the RUSH comes, we need motivated people to prepare 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. Please call 1339 Rocking W Dr. In the Bishop Plaza, same building as Rite Aid, or Mammoth 1394 Meridian across from Vons. We are the new restaurant in town and everybody is hungry! If you think you can handle the excitement, WE WANT YOU!

**Mammoth Spa Creations**

Has FT position open. We are looking for experienced, motivated individuals to join our team! We are looking for a Fitness Assistant to provide support for our clients. Mammoth Creations Celebrates the Arts Festival, Labor Day Festival and the June Festival, and the June Festival. Applications should be submitted to the spa director, 760-924.0011 or stop by the store at 1401 Tavern Rd. in Mammoth.

**Steril Brew**

Is hiring kitchen staff, bartenders, and a baker are needed. Be an integral part of the community while working with an energetic crew of awesome individuals. Pay competitive, many benefits. Hiring for year round and seasonal positions. Apply in person or online at sterillbrew@gmail.com for all the details!

**Norco 76**

Is hiring a Full time mini-mart clerk, with fast food experience.

**Mono Arts Council**

Is seeking an energetic, responsible, and self-motivated individual to join our team! We are looking for a Festival Assistant to provide support for our upcoming 10th annual festival, Mammoth Celebrates the Arts Festival. Applications should be submitted to the staff director, sternullbrew@gmail.com for all the details! Applicants must be able to lift up to 30lbs. and stand and walk for long periods. A detailed job description is available upon request. Send any inquiries and resumes to kristin@monoarts.org.

**Samurai Restaurant and Bar seek Hostess, Kitchen staff, servers, Bartender, and we are looking for a F&B Manager**

**Drummer Wanted**

Putting together a killer blues & funk band. Maybe you’ve haven’t played in a while and have been thinking about getting back into it. Here ya go. Get those chops back up. Call Mike. 760-920-8271

**For Sale**

**Tavern Rd. in Mammoth**

- **PT Sandwich Artists and Management position open**

- **We are taking applications for both departments, FT and PT. Retail, Repair, Boot, Demo, Rental. Apply online or in-store. Full time, year round position working five, eight hour shifts per week, including weekends and holidays. This position has a starting wage of $17.00 an hour; with a vehicle, tools and equipment provided.**

**Subway of Mammoth**

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

**IMACA Community Connection for Children (CCO) office in Mammoth Lakes is looking for a Family Services Assistant (Bilingual)**

Located in the beautiful Eastern Sierra's Position Closes Friday February 15th Please go to our Website for a Job Description and Application at www.imaca.net or call Human Resources office at 760-873-8557 ext.111 or the main IMACA office: 137 E. South Street, Bishop, Ca. 93514

Applications must complete an IMACA application form. Inyo Mono A Advocates for Community Action,Inc,EOE

**For Sale in June Lake**

*Hotel business for sale*.

- 5000 sf, 13 rooms, 4 rental units.
- 3250’ from water’s edge, across the street from June Lake next door to the June Lake Marina.
- Includes approved building plans for a new owners residence with full views of June Lake.
- Call Dick Lopez, Lodging Brokers Network (707) 483-8134 www.lodgingbrokersnetwork.com

**Drummer Wanted**

**“BI” THE WAYSIDE**

**Bishop Market to reopen summer 2019 by Maddux**

A remodel sign and ripped white paper hang in the windows of Bishop Market formerly Joseph’s Bi Bistro & Deli. Friday night after the past weeks of bugs and packaged dried food are visible. Retired Bishop resident Renata B., said that she used to shop at the Market, before it closed, and was happy to see it, “It was comfortable...local and personable.” “I wish they would do something with it, instead of it sitting there vacant,” she said.

Dale Schmidt, of Swall Meadows said, “It would be great if there was competition, instead of the big chain stores.”

Bishop retiree Melinda [last name not given] said that “they need to do something...”

The complaints about Bishop Market have been on the rise. The Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) and Solid Waste Program Manager of Inyo County Jerry Oser said that an environmental inspection was made in March 2018, during “the last days of the old ownership.”

The report listed a few corrective actions and other considerations. They found raw ground beef on the top shelf of a deli prep fridge above ready-to-eat foods, a violation county code.

“Raw meats shall be below ready-to-eat foods to prevent cross contamination,” the code states.

In addition, the county found that the market had not corrected codes related to County Mandates for retail food facilities.

There was also no dedicated sink for handwashing in the butcher’s area, there was food on the floor and raw meats in a rusted with ready-to-eat food.

All code violations.

In Oser’s notes, he said that “Joseph’s Bi-Bite is an old building and facilities could give it that run down look for decades. The food code has changed, however, and a change in ownership is the time to make code-compliant improvements.”

Oser made unannounced inspections after the market sold in March in response to complaints about a nasty odor emanating from the store and reports of a rodent infestation.

The complaint of odor was verified by the Inyo County Department of Environmental Health. Food was rotting inside the store and in a dumpster out back.

The county did not find a rodent infestation, according to Oser. “As far as we could tell, [that rumour] was driven by the suspicions of local residents and nearby businesses fearing the worst,” Oser said.

Bishop Market’s Manager Jack Elian plans to remodel the store.

“Everyting is going to be new,” he said. He plans to build a new deli and offer fresh made foods.

The Sheet asked Elian if there was any food still inside building. He said there is no food in the right now.

Bishop Elian explained that he donated edible food that was left in the store to a church in Lone Pine. He threw away the bad stuff. There are still some non-perishables inside the building. “Toilet paper, laundry soap [and] a few cans are...”

see MARKET, page 19
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will receive sealed bids for the following Project:

MUNICIPAL WENDING PROJECT

To the Town of Mammoth Lakes for the Purchase of Wending Project

Bids will be received at the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, California, until 5:00 PM on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at which time the Bids will be opened.

Proposed Forms and Contract Documents for this work are available from the Town Clerk, 605 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, California.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This Project will provide directional guidance to various public and private destin- tations, businesses and institutions in the Town. It shall include pedestrian sidewalks, parking facilties, etc. and includes a hierarchy of signage components (directional monuments, signage, pedestrian signage, parking and facility signage) to effectively guide visitors to their desired destinations.

The engineer’s estimate for this project is between $1,500,000 and $2,000,000. The work includes the installation and compli- ance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. The work shall be completed within the time set forth in the Contract.

Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the Town Clerk. Bids will be received during normal business hours at the Town Clerk’s office at 605 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, California.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier’s check or cashier’s demand draft made payable to the Town of Mammoth Lakes in an amount equal to 5% of the bid price or $25,000, whichever is greater. Such bid security shall be held by the Town to ensure performance under the Contract. The Contractor shall demonstrate his/her ability to provide performance bond and fidelity bond and to maintain all required licenses throughout the duration of the Contract. The Contractor shall be required to submit complete and approved insurance certificates in accordance with the requirements of the Contract. In the event a bond is not submitted, the Bidder’s list shall be sent to the Engineer for rejection.

The successful bidder at the job site shall be responsible for the employment of apprentices, journeymen and all subcontractor(s) under him, shall comply with all relevant statutes and regulations including project name, affiliation, phone number, fax number, telephone number, and electronic mail address.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the conference room at the Town Offices on February 13, 2019 at 10:30 AM.

To order the plans and specifications by telephone call (760) 965-3650, plans and specifications are also avail- able on the Town of Mammoth Lakes website at http://www.mammothlakes.ca.us. To obtain a hard copy of the plans, the Bidder’s list should complete the form below and submit it to the Town Clerk for processing.

Planned and Specifications may be obtained for a NON- REFUNDABLE FEE as listed below:

- Plans and Specifications (1-33 sets) $200.00
- Plans and Specifications (1 set) $75.00
- Shipping/Courier $25.00
- Shipping/UPS, FedEx, or US Mail $75.00

To inspect the plans and specifications call (760) 965-3650. Contact the Town Clerk at (760) 965-3650 for the shipping policies.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on a regular basis. The Town of Mammoth Lakes reserves the right to waive any ineligibility withheld by the Town to ensure performance under the Contract.

In bidding on this project, it shall be the Bidder’s sole responsibility to comply with all prevailing state and local laws, and regulations of all governmental units that may apply including project name, affiliation, phone number, fax number, telephone number, and electronic mail address.

In order to inspect plans and specifications, contact the Clerk of the Board by telephone at (760) 972-8821, in person, or by mail at 175 North Main Street, Bishop, California 93514, or at the District’s website, www.greatbasinupad.com under the Town’s New Projects section regarding this request for bids should be directed to Fshine@clerk.ca.gov in the above address and phone number.

The Mono County Board of Education will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Mono County Office of Education, 617 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA. The subject of the public hearing is the review of Board Policy 4054 & 41.1, “Indian Polices and Procedures”.

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WHO IS HARRIS?

The Junior Senator from California won the popular vote in the Eastern Sierra. Can she win over the Country?

By Gorman

Since being elected in November of 2016 to represent California in the United States Senate, Kamala Harris has consistently positioned herself in staunch opposition to President Trump. Last Sunday, on the steps of the Alameda County Courthouse where she worked for years as a prosecutor, Senator Harris announced that her opposition would take the form of a bid for the presidential election in 2020.

Two messages permeated her announcement speech.

1) She is a “public interest attorney.” “My whole life I have only had one client, the people,” Harris said at the speech in Oakland.
2) President Trump does not reflect the values of the American people. “America, we are better than this,” she said.

In an effort to elucidate Harris as a presidential hopeful to her constituents, The Sheet has created a brief political biography of the California Senator:

Harris was born in Oakland in 1964 to a Jamaican immigrant father and an Indian immigrant mother. She received her B.A. from Howard University and her J.D. from Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco.

D.A. of SF

Harris held the office of District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco from 2004 to 2011. Her tenure as A.D., saw a sharp rise in felony conviction rates in San Francisco County, which was historically known for low conviction rates. From 2003 to 2006, felony convictions rose from 52% to 67%, the highest in a decade, with drug dealer convictions rising from 56% to 72%.

At the same time, Harris created a program to reduce recidivism for non-violent offenders. The Back On Track initiative deferred sentencing for first time drug offenders if they could work toward receiving a high-school-equivalent diploma and maintain steady employment. The initiative was turned into a state-wide program by Governor Schwarzenegger.

She also created a special hate crimes unit at the District Attorney’s office.

A.G. of CA

In 2010, Harris won a tight race against incumbent Steve Cooley for the office of Attorney General of the State of California.

She was the first woman, African American, and South Asian American to hold the role.

In her first year as Attorney General, Harris won a battle against five of the largest banks in the United States, for improper foreclosure practices during the 2008 financial crisis. The settlement netted California homeowners $18.4 billion in mortgage relief and $2 billion in reinforcement assistance.

One controversy of her tenure was her office’s failure to swiftly confiscate guns from citizens of California who were deemed by a court to be too dangerous to possess them. California State law prohibits gun owners who commit a violent crime or are diagnosed with severe mental illness from continuing to own their guns. Harris’s office was criticized by a state auditor in 2013 and again 18 months later for failing to promptly implement the state law. In 2015, 33,000 people on the prohibited list had still not been investigated.

While attorney general, Harris refused to defend Proposition 8, a ballot measure approved by the voters of California that banned gay marriage. She claimed that the measure was unconstitutional. Her claim was later corroborated by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Harris’ office created the “Open Justice” website in order to increase transparency around police activity in the wake of police brutality accusations in cities like Baltimore, Cleveland, Ferguson and others. The website “provides public access to data on arrest rates, in-custody and arrest-related deaths and law enforcement officers killed or assaulted — breaking the numbers down by race and ethnicity, cause of death and other factors.”

United States Senate

Harris carried all but four counties in the 2016 Senate race against Loretta Sanchez. She won the primary in Inyo County with 1,420 votes. Republican Phil Wyman came second with 1,211 votes. She won the primary in Mono county with 947 votes. Democrat Loretta Sanchez finished second with 508 votes.

The General Election was between Sanchez and Harris, two democrats. Harris carried Mono County with 62.1% of the vote and Inyo County with 63.1%.

As a leader of “the resistance,” and facing republican held legislative and executive branches, Harris voted Nay on every bill that came before her (except for those that she sponsored) for the first four months of her tenure. This includes Nay votes on every one of President Trump’s cabinet and judiciary nominations. She broke the streak by voting Yea on an appropriations bill to pass the national budget in May of 2017.

As a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Harris took part in the questioning of President Trump’s nominees for cabinet positions. The Senator drew national attention by bringing a fast-paced questioning style more commonly seen in courtrooms to the hearings. Harris was rebuked multiple times by Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and John McCain (R-AZ), who said that she was interrupting the witness. Burr and McCain were accused by some of sexism for criticizing Harris’s aggressive questioning style.

Her voting record in the Senate has shown her to be:

- Pro Choice
- Against Mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent offenders
- For increased federal spending on infrastructure
- For increasing the minimum wage
- For federal investment in renewable energy
- For a carbon tax or cap-and-trade system
- For increased gun control
- For increased American intervention in the middle east

Harris has been most vocal as a Senator about reforming the cash bail system, making higher education tuition-free for a majority of Americans, protecting the legal rights of immigrants and refugees, and making healthcare a universal right.

Many of her positions would have been considered somewhat radical a decade ago, but are now a part of the mainstream Democratic platform.

Political Baggage

Harris’s greatest political baggage, according to Politico reporter Chris Cate-lago, is her upholding of California’s death penalty as the state’s attorney general. Though personally against the death penalty, Harris’s office argued in a controversial Orange County case that the death penalty is the law of the land in California and should be abided. This is seen by some as a missed opportunity for Harris to take a stand against the practice.

Another issue that could work against Harris in the eyes of Democrats is her failure to prosecute current Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in 2013.

During Mnuchin’s tenure as attorney general, the California Department of Justice found that Mnuchin’s bank OneWest conducted predatory lending. The DOJ recommended that Harris file a civil enforcement action against OneWest. She did not.

Harris has said that she did not prosecute Mnuchin because the law was on OneWest’s side, and as a federal bank it could not be subpoenaed by her office. However, Harris was the only candidate in the race that received donations from Mnuchin in the 2016 senate election, and some claim that she is in the pocket of Wall Street executives.

Harris’ current senatorial term ends January 3, 2023.
INDEPENDENT CANDIDACY?

By Barry Casselman

The announcement by Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz that he is seriously considering running for president as an independent has set off alarm bells for many Democratic Party strategists who see a Schultz candidacy as a threat to the success of their party’s challenge to the re-election of Republican President Donald Trump next year.

Billionaire Schultz won’t like be dissuaded by such arguments. Ross Perot ignored similar warnings from Republicans in 1992 and 1996 when he ran as an independent. In fact, for a brief time in 1992 he even led incumbent GOP President George H.W. Bush and Democratic nominee Bill Clinton in the national polls, finally getting almost twenty million votes and arguably enabling Clinton to win.

Since 1948, major independent presidential candidates have won millions of votes, and sometimes altered the outcomes. Former Democrats, Henry Wallace and Strom Thurmond tried to defeat Harry Truman in 1948 (Thurmond even won a number of electoral votes), but Truman won anyway. George Wallace ran as an independent in 1968, and might have cost Hubert Humphrey the election against Richard Nixon. John Anderson got more than five million votes in 1980, but did not affect Ronald Reagan’s election that year. Ralph Nader ran as an independent in 1968, and won races for mayor of New York as a Republican, but is now running for president as a Democrat. Bloomberg, Perot, Donald Trump, and Schultz have the resources to run without asking anyone for money, and can qualify for places on state ballots on their own.

In 2020, the Democrats seem bent on nominating Bill Clinton in 2020, or any other major party nominee, nor is he comfortable with any such likely Democratic nominee, nor is he comfortable with President Trump. As a political centrist, Schultz seeks to tap into the historically large number of centrist U.S. voters who often determine elections.

Schultz says he is running because he wants to bully Howard Schultz out of the 2020 presidential race, the more he is likely to remain in it, especially if he feels his presidential race, the more he is likely to remain in it, especially if he feels his candidacy begins to resonate with voters. What does he have to lose?

This is only one of the early political dramas that will now play out as the curtain rises on the 2020 presidential cycle.

When Ross Perot ran in 1992, he was a businessman with no elective experience, nor was he particularly charismatic, but he successfully appealed to millions of voters with his centrist approach to issues, even at one point, leading the two major party nominees in the national polls.

I suspect that the more Democrats try to bully Howard Schultz out of the 2020 presidential race, the more he is likely to remain in it, especially if he feels his candidacy begins to resonate with voters. What does he have to lose?

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Howard Schultz

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This is only one of the early political dramas that will now play out as the curtain rises on the 2020 presidential cycle.
A NEW HOME FOR FAMILY FUN

CREEKHOUSE WELCOMES 14 NEW FAMILIES TO THIS YEAR’S WINTER SEASON.

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New Luxury Residences Minutes from Mammoth Mountain.

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