HEARTACHE! COMPROMISE!
HI FI ROCK & ROLL!

Winter Blossom visit scheduled for June Lake

By Lunch

The Eastern Sierra will receive an early Christmas present next Thursday when Robin Wilson plays a special acoustic show at the T-Bar Social Club in June Lake.

Wilson, the lead singer of the Gin Blossoms, whose 1992 album “New Miserable Experience” went quadruple platinum, is playing two California shows next week.

As he says, the perfect way to finance a ski trip! from his home in Long Island.

He’ll play Gin Blossoms hits and covers from the likes of Sam Cooke, New Order and Madonna.

The Gin Blossoms released their most recent album, "Mixed Reality," last year -- the band’s first studio album in nearly a decade. Wilson describes it as almost a sequel to New Miserable Experience, some 26 years later, akin to Meatloaf’s "Miserable Experience," a companion album to New Miserable Experience.

So, what’s the connection? Wilson, 24-year old Robin would have done, I looked at it and thought it was the "brainchild" of former band founder who wrote a lot of the younger self, " said Wilson, "I’m just angry that he’s gone."

In an interview with the Mono County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday by Beth Cohen, a clinical psychologist hired to assess the County’s organizational functioning and employee well-being.

The Workforce Health Project was the "brainchild" of former County Administrative Officer (CAO) Leslie Chapman, who resigned from that position earlier this year. Cohen conducted a series of individual and group conversations with County employees ranging from the county Supervisors to department workers and everyone in between. Cohen spoke with roughly 47% of county employees, which includes the five Supervisors, all three CAOs who’ve been in office this year, and fifteen out of eighteen department heads. She noted that the participation rate was the highest she’d seen, adding "I know how committed you are not only to your work, but also to your health and well-being."

In speaking with county employees, Cohen identified six key themes affecting employee well-being:

1. Organizational Foundations and Strengths
2. Organizational Culture of Urgency and Reactivity
3. Change Exhaustion/Uncertainty
4. Department Heads
5. Clarification of Board and CAO Responsibilities
6. Health Promotion and Prevention

Cohen chose to present the good news first: 80% of county employees saw the lifestyle that Mono County offers as a strength while 68% viewed staff commitment and customer service as positives of the job. Other strengths listed by employees included board responsiveness and commitment to staff, the civil service mindset, and a drive towards excellence.

Then came the bad news:

Cohen said that Mono County employees cited workload demands as a challenge, with Cohen explaining a feeling of "exceeding their capacities at times," 66% reported facing exhaustion and burnout while

see BUMMED, page 7

STILL DEPRESSED - THE SEQUEL

Mono County employees are generally bummed out about everything

T

he initial findings of a nine-month Workforce Health and Well-Being Project for Mono County employees revealed exhaustion, frustration, and anxiety within the ranks, painting a picture of a workforce struggling to cope with the demands laid upon them. Those findings were presented to the Mono County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday by Beth Cohen, a clinical and organizational psychologist hired to assess the County’s organizational functioning and employee well-being.

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see BUMMED, page 7

Favorite Xmas films
Send in the Browns
Fast walker
Cage match
Freeze the inmates!

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SEND IN THE BROWNS

In response to last week’s editorial, I heard through the grapevine something along these lines, “There he goes again - suggesting that Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) should operate with less money. He doesn’t like MLT. He doesn’t think MLT does a good job.”

Wwouldn’t it be great if you could mandate that people not skim things looking for words or phrases that support a preconceived idea?

The problem isn’t with MLT not doing a good enough job. The problem is that we’ve done too good a job, and have thrown so many resources at marketing that it’s created auxiliary problems (housing, et. al.).

So I’d like to make a sports analogy.

We are the Cleveland Browns of ski towns.

The Cleveland Browns, after years of mediocrity, came into the 2019-2020 season as a popular, contrarian pick to win the Super Bowl. They had a young, brash quarterback named Baker Mayfield who seemed to spend the entire offseason making advertisements. They traded for Odell Beckham Jr., the most talented wide receiver in the league. They had a #1 overall draft pick anchoring the defensive line, a stud running back, ... 

They had talent. Particularly talent at high-visibility “skill” positions.

They were rated in the preseason as tied for the 8th most likely to win the Super Bowl at 20-1. Same odds as the Seattle Seahawks, Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Vikings.

But... the team’s current record is 6-7. They’re not going to the playoffs. Beckham Jr. wants to be traded. The stud defensive lineman swung a helmet at the bare head of an opposing quarterback and has been suspended indefinitely. And the quarterback throws interceptions around like a teenager.

If you decide you don’t like the cap limit. So team management requires different financial choices.

In Mammoth, we spend heavily on our marketing department, particularly on the advertising agency hired by the marketing department. Those are our flashy “skill position” players.

But the “team” is in disarray. No one knows who the hell’s in charge.

We’re not being penalized for having too many people in the huddle, we’re being penalized for delay of game, since not one of the 17 people in the huddle (you’re only supposed to have 11) seems to know what play to call, or have the authority to call it.

We also seem to have some trouble understanding the rule book. When you see LUNCH, page 3.
Nothing says “grassroots” more than a cardboard sign with “Recall Newsom” (aka, “Calif. Governor Newsom”) written on it in permanent marker, which was the case last Saturday, Dec. 7 at Mendenhall Park in Big Pine. Despite rainy weather Jodi Lubin and Robinn Sparks of Big Pine collected 25 petitions from Big Pine voters unhappy with the governor. They are looking for more.

Two efforts toward a notice-of-intent-to-recall petitions on California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) were launched in August 2019. Both recalls were approved for circulation by Secretary of State Alex Padilla (D).

Supporters of the first recall effort have until February 13, 2020, to collect 1,495,709 signatures to force a recall election. It alleges that Newsom mismanaged the state and caused poor schools, deteriorating infrastructure, high costs for gas and utilities, and increased homelessness and debt. The petition also questions Newsom’s support of certain policies, which included Medicare for All and laws that aid immigrants living in the country illegally.

The second recall effort was submitted on August 6, 2019 and has until March 5, 2020, to collect 1,495,709 signatures to force a recall election -James
Greetings!

In support of Stapp

I support Kirk Stapp’s suggestion of the town imposing a lift tax to fund affordable housing.

I hope you’ll think about giving the idea some coverage. I’ve heard so many comments about the Mountain doing nothing about workforce housing that this seems like a practical and pragmatic way to raise money for housing. Why should the town not gain some benefit from all the people who come here to ski and ride… other than TOT and TBID? A lift tax that is solely for housing makes sense.

Diane Eagle Kataoka
Mammoth Lakes

Beware of mandate

Dear Editor,

I am a volunteer with AARP/IRS Tax-aide here in Mammoth Lakes. We offer free tax preparation and e-filing in Mammoth Lakes and Bishop during tax season.

While in Gilroy at the annual state training, we learned that the state of California has implemented a health insurance mandate for residents effective January 1, 2020. It doesn’t appear that this new mandate has been well-publicized.

The new law has penalties like those that were in effect at the federal level ($695 for adults or 2% of income, whichever is greater; and $347.50 for minor children).

There will also be exemptions, although those were not finalized at the end of November.

Residents should be aware of this new impact to their state taxes beginning January 2020. The state marketplace (www.coveredca.com) will be open for enrollment through March 31, 2020, should anyone like to explore that option.

Jean Holden
Mammoth Lakes

Be civil

Dear Editor,

Early this year the Mono County Board of Supervisors approved the attached Civility Proclamation in an effort to encourage more civil discourse in our county, state and nation. I have been reminded recently of the continuing need for this through unfortunate examples at all levels of government, whether in newspaper articles, TV and videos, or person to person conversations at our local meetings. I am asking that you publish this Proclamation to encourage better discourse not only during the holidays but in the year ahead. As one participant put it at a recent June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, we can be tough on the issues, but we should never be tough on each other.

Bob Gardner
Mono County Supervisor

MONO COUNTY CIVILITY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our country, including members of Congress and the President, are engaged in constant conflict, frequently resorting to insults and personal attacks, and demonstrating little ability or willingness to compromise; and

WHEREAS, in contrast, civil discourse is the free and respectful exchange of different ideas in a way that respects and affirms all persons, while hearing their perspectives; and

WHEREAS, civility reduces stress, rudeness, ridicule, and lack of respect for the open exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS, civility assists in the process of working together to create lasting solutions through discussion and compromise for our most pressing challenges while fostering respect among opposing groups; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mono County Board of Supervisors proclaims February 2019 and every succeeding month to be Civility Month, and we call upon the people of Mono County, the State of California, and the United States to exercise and model civility and respect towards each other now and in the future, avoiding insulting and derogatory language, and supporting efforts to work together across ideological and political lines.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of February, 2019, by the Mono County Board of Supervisors.

OBITUARY

BONNIE GROSSBLATT TODD 1956-2019

Bonnie Grossblatt Todd, 63, passed away peacefully November 8, 2019 from Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer. She was born September 19, 1956 in Los Angeles, California to Moe and Gloria Grossblatt. Bonnie grew up in Tarzana, California where she attended Taft High School and then went on to graduate from Stanford University.

After working several years in corporate finance in the movie industry, she decided to move to Mammoth Lakes, where she could enjoy her passion for skiing, hiking, biking, and backpacking. Bonnie and her husband Randy both shared a love for the outdoors and the mountains, they traveled the world together making many trips to Canada to go Heli and Cat skiing.

One of her favorite things to do with friends was making several trips to the Pacific Northwest to climb Mt. Rainier. Bonnie cherished her family and spending time with them skiing, hiking and backpacking in the Eastern Sierra.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her brother Michael Grossblatt and father Moe Grossblatt. She is survived by her husband Randy Todd; mother Gloria Grossblatt; sisters Julie Etherington and Lynn Burt; nephews, Jeff, Alex, Joe and David; sister-in-law Jane Grossblatt; sister-in-law Linda Hambey and husband Mark; brother-in-law Spike Todd and wife Deb; brother-in-law Bob Todd and many family and friends, all whom she loved and touched deeply.

Please consider contributing to the Thyroid Cancer & Parathyroid Research Foundation in memory of Bonnie Grossblatt Todd, https://thyroidcancerfoundation.org/donate or Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology www.cancer.ucla.edu/BonnieGrossblattTodd

Bonnie Grossblatt Todd
The team ultimately created a conceptual use plan that offered a parking per unit ratio of 1.36, which is less than current developments at Aspen Village (1.5), the Jeffrey's (2.0), and Manzanita (1.5).

Daughey explained that adding more parking leads to a "cycle of automobile dependency." The argument, as fickle as it may be, is a generous supply of park space, which is a community benefit on their vehicles. This leads to more demand for parking and thus the cycle continues. Daughey told Council a lack of parking is an option because the Parcel is abnormally "walkable," due to its proximity to key areas in town.

Councilman Kirk Stapp did not believe Lisa Wise Consulting would free Mammoth from being too reliant on automobiles. "Based on the units, we will need 866 parking spaces (443 units x 2) plus about 500. I understand there are some parking solutions but how are we going to deal with this? People can walk, but there are only so many people employed at Schat's Bakery," he said.

During public comment, proponents of the plan claimed that the town pursuing its walk/bike/ride policy goal was a commendable effort properly executed by the consultants.

37-year resident Mark Davis de- murred. "In my time here, we have come a long way as a pedestrian-friendly town ... but it is just not that [pedestrian-friendly] in the winter. The key to get people to use public transportation is to leave them a space at home. To tax that might be inequitable." Jennifer Kreitz, Mammoth-based Mono County Supervisor, reiterated the inequity, "I agree with everyone’s comments of ‘let's be feet first, let's ride bikes, let's not waste resources on parking.' But one of the things as an elected official is how to make policy decisions equitable. You are asking this local group to have less because you are championing this foot first policy. But you are not asking wealthy people to do that. So there is a disparity ... ."

Councilmembers Wentworth, Stapp and Cleland Hoff agreed a realizable concept that added multiple modifications to the proposed action items. Cage stormed out the room, telling Council, "It’s going to be six years before you finish this!

Wentworth clapped back, "See you, Tom.

Cage exited, saying "See you, good luck."

The Sheet followed Cage outside and asked him why he disagreed. "[Went- worth] is willing to hold up this whole thing for transportation issues and a trail system/plan."

Cage told the Sheet that housing is the number one issue facing the community. He explained the difficulties of hiring employees anecdotally, referencing certain employers who offer employees 25% raises to leave their present job.

The end result of the meeting. Wentworth’s motion that Town Council "accept the Parcel conceptual land use plan as presented and that Council further direct Staff to come back with proposals and financing to mitigate the parking transportation and mobility and connectivity needs of future residents in the Parcel to the rest of the community of Mammoth Lakes." The motion passed 4-0.

The motion passed 4-0.
**LOCAL BRIEFS**

**Canyon Renovations complete**

Mammoth Resorts has completed the second phase of its planned $30 million renovation of Canyon Lodge.

The first phase, completed last summer, “included two flights of escalators, an expanded entryway, fully remodeled restrooms, enhancements to the parking areas, and a complete remodel of the 3rd floor guest services area,” according to Lauren Burke, Director of Communications for Mammoth Mountain.

The second phase, unveiled this week, included “multiple improvements with the addition of a new bar, restaurant, 2,500 square feet of interior space and more than 200 new seats,” said Burke.

Reviews of the Lodge show how the first phase changed the overall perception with pre-renovation reviews reading, “This place is getting a little bit old,” or “Styled after Soviet Union apartment buildings apparently, Just a giant concrete box. “

But people started to notice the upgrades as newer reviews read, “Aesthetically, the result is a night and day difference! As I spent more time on the mountain vs inside of the lodge this trip, I didn’t have much of an opportunity to appreciate the new Canyon Lodge. Of note and of use were the recently installed escalators. They really take things to the next level.”

“Pun intended?”

**Ban The Bottle**

Local businesses around Mammoth Lakes are partnering with PathWater, a sustainable water company, in an effort to rid of single-use plastic bottles in Mammoth Lakes.

PathWater offers aluminum screw-top bottles that can be washed and reused multiple times, and then recycled easily when the bottle reaches the end of its lifespan.

Part of PathWater’s angle is that they install a filling station in any business that agrees to sell their bottles, free of charge, which also can help a business obtain a Green Business certification.

In addition, each new filling station will be listed on the “Tap” app, which displays every filling station in a given location, potentially driving foot traffic to businesses.

According to Pam Bold, Executive Director at High Sierra Energy Foundation, “Our planet is in a global plastic crisis that can no longer be ignored.”

“We could have a significant impact if we choose to ban plastic and support the ban.”

“As people who recreate outdoors and love the mountains, we all see the effects single-use plastics have on the Mammoth Lakes area—abandoned bottles by the side of the trail or floating in a lake.”

-Press Release

**Espitia sentenced**

On December 10, 2019, Mammoth Lakes resident Jorge Espitia was sentenced to 25 years in the state prison after being convicted of 12 felonies.

Most of convictions were for sexual abuse of children and providing methamphetamine to children.

The Mono County District Attorney’s Office, in conjunction with the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, had been investigating Mr. Espitia for nearly two years before his arrest. There were rampant rumors that Mr. Espitia would, “invite children to his home, provide them methamphetamine, and ultimately sexually abuse them. However, there was no corroborating evidence available at the time.”

Early this year, one brave victim came forward to the District Attorney’s Office and detailed the abuse he had suffered for years beginning at the age of 12 by Mr. Espitia. The investigation intensified and ultimately five victims were identified, two of whom were sexually abused, and all five minor victims were provided methamphetamine, most on multiple occasions. The investigation revealed likely additional victims, though there was not enough evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt.

Justice could not have been received for these victims without the bravery of the victims and the help of the community. One of the top priorities of the District Attorney is protecting children, especially from sexual abuse. If you know of sexual abuse against children, it is imperative you contact law enforcement immediately.

This case was investigated by the Mono County District Attorney and Mammoth Lakes Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David Anderson.

-Press Release
51% reported experiencing priority confusion.

Cohen explained, “We go into public service work … because we want to make a difference … and when you have urgency issues and when you have these kinds of work demands, quite often that moves into mediocrity.”

She also referenced “silos” (departmental self-isolation) as a barrier, created by excessive workload, that prohibits coordination and execution. According to Cohen, intradepartmental relations came as a “significant theme” throughout the project; she pointed to communications, “factions” forming within departments, and a perceived lack of team cohesion as common issues.

Cohen also reported that a “number of staff talked about how issues going on with senior leaders affected their ability to interface and get work done.”

To fix these issues, Cohen laid out recommendations, the majority of which focused on top-down direction: prioritization and defining expectations of workflow. She also singled out human resources, finance, and the CAO’s office as needing to address staffing issues.

In terms of solving intra-departmental tensions, Cohen recommended building relationships between departments and addressing the executive leadership team process.

Another topic of concern, reported by nearly 50% of the individuals that Cohen spoke with, was the new Civic Center physical space needs. Cohen advocated dealing with that anxiety quickly, citing a “correlation between addressing anxiety before the move and a more positive experience with the move.”

The Civic Center fell under the “Change Exhaustion and Uncertainty” theme, along with CAO turnover and the ongoing county salary survey/labor negotiations.

Cohen also reported issues with the Board of Supervisors, pointing to a perception of favoritism and a need to clarify the policymaker and executive roles that they play. In terms of communication, Cohen explained that, “Anytime you are a leader, people assign the ‘parent’ to you … When you carry parental power don’t always tell you the truth.”

Sigmund Freud would be delighted.

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POWER SHUT-OFFS GENERATE HOT AIR
Mono Supes stall on generating emergency power solutions

By Page

It’s been nearly three months since Mono County experienced its first Public Safety Power Shutoff back in September and county officials are still dealing with setbacks and issues related to the blackouts.

Although the following weeks and days featured conversation about generator issues throughout the county, Tuesday’s Board of Supervisors meeting represented the first presentation and request for funds by staff to fix emergency power problems.

Joe Blanchard, Parks and Facilities Superintendent for Mono County, gave the Supervisors a rundown of the current generator situation and subsequent needs to be addressed that arose from the PSPS events.

In all, Mono County is responsible for 20 generators that power county buildings in the event of a power outage. According to Blanchard, these generators were installed on “an ad hoc basis,” resulting in a varied array of generators which come with different maintenance and repair needs.

During the PSPS event in September, most of the generators were triggered or started manually. Blanchard explained that “Some didn’t do what they were supposed to do ... others suffered mechanical problems.”

That means no heat or cooling in the event of a PSPS event during extreme temperatures.

In addition, the county oversees a number of diesel generators, which require constant monitoring and refueling in order to continue operation.

The Civic Center plan already includes a 150KW generator that will also handle the Mammoth Lakes Police Department as well as a future Town office building. Blanchard explained that the Civic Center generator “cannot be upsized ... the only option would be to get another one at significant cost.”

Blanchard’s request to the board came out to a total of $47,500, to be added into the Capital Improvement budget.

A new generator for the jail would swallow over half that amount, or $25,000. Other proposed generators included a $12,000 expense to handle Annex I and II in Bridgeport, which house the county tax collector and finance departments, as well as $8,000 to cover the Bridgeport probation office.

The Bridgeport medic facilities also need an upgrade, as the current on-site generator doesn’t operate the garage or the garage door. In the event of a power outage, paramedics rushing to answer a 911 call wouldn’t be able to get their vehicles out of the garage.

Blanchard also put forth the possibility of using funds given to Mono County by the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES), which total $153,512. While there are restrictions on using that money, a letter from CAL OES director Mark Ghilarducci to County Administrative Officer Steve Barwick indicates equipment such as a generator is on the list of acceptable uses.

Finance Director Janet Dutcher stressed an understanding of conditional uses for CAL OES’s money before making any choices, noting that conditions also require the county to collaborate with Mammoth to support “critical infrastructure” and to coordinate with a CEQA-compliant planning agency.

Supervisor Fred Stump advocated for ensuring generator coverage, noting that in the event of a power outage, many government facilities double as shelters. He also expressed an interest in purchasing a 150KW ($50,000 expense) generator for the jail to get as much coverage as possible within the building. Supervisor Stacy Corless pointed out California mandates that inmates be moved out of a detention facility within a certain amount of time after a power outage begins.

Corless also advocated caution, stating, “I’m a little uncomfortable mov-
BLOSSOM
continued from page 1

turntables and running a needle over the grooves on the disc. The music was generally grouped 5-6 songs and 20-25 minutes per side. If you put a record on and found yourself in the rare position of getting lucky on a date, the recording would invariably end at the most inopportune times.

Legendary music producers Don Dixon and Mitch Easter co-produced REM’s first three albums. And it was a chance meeting at a Gin Blossoms concert date in Ohio a few years ago which led the Gin Blossoms to recruit Dixon to produce “Mixed Reality.”

Physics

According to a 2007 Mesa Community College Alumni Magazine article, Wilson was … a physics major. His original plan was to be an academic, studying planetary science.

But while in school, the band was a local favorite in Tempe, Ariz. They were playing all the time. And when they got signed by A & M Records, Wilson quit school. As he observed in the Alumni magazine story, Wilson was the “Blutarsky” (a reference to John Belushi’s Animal House character) of Junior College. Spent five years at Mesa and never got a degree.

On the flip side, “It was a cool thing to tell my physics professors [that he was leaving because the band had gotten signed].”

As a tribute to his celestial curiosity, Wilson says he has a boat named “Cosmos.”

Math

Wilson’s father taught accounting at Mesa, so he knows something (actually, he knows too much) about bread-but-tering within the music industry.

“It’s incredibly hard to push out new music,” he said. “Random girls dressing up in superhero costumes can have 200,000 Instagram followers overnight. We’re a recognized, reputable band. We sell as many concert tickets as we ever did. And we have nowhere near [200,000 followers]. People don’t buy records like they used to. And the internet has an ocean of content.

Looking Ahead

Wilson is now the lead singer of two very recognizable bands. He’s also part of the Smithereens now, as its former lead singer, Pat DiNizio, has passed away.

Don Dixon also produces the Smithereens.

Wilson says he and Smithereens guitarist Jim Babjak plan to go into the studio soon with the idea of possibly putting together an album in the near future.

But as for next summer, the Gin Blossoms will be back out on tour, and as it says on their most recent album cover, “Heartache! Compromise! Hi Fi Rock & Roll!”

Wilson plays the T-Bar on Thursday, December 19 @ 8 p.m. Tix are just $17. For more information, visit www.balancedrocksaloon.com/t-bar-social-club.

The album cover of the Gin Blossoms’ latest.

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The Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra & Young Musicians of Chamber Music Unbound

present a free program of classical and holiday favorites

Friday, Dec. 13
7:00 pm
St. Joseph’s Church
Mammoth Lakes

Sunday, Dec. 15
4:00 pm
Cerro Coso College
Bishop

With selections by Schubert and Haydn, plus beloved holiday tunes and music from “Frozen”

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WALKING THE WALK
Olympic racewalker cribbing in Mammoth

Mathieu Bilodeau’s journey to the 2016 Olympics in Rio began with a chance encounter. He had recently moved to Alberta, Canada to take a job in the energy industry and was considering retiring from triathlon competition when one day during training, an older woman tapped him on the shoulder and asked: “Have you ever heard of race walking?”

Her name was Janine McCaffrey, and she was a three-time Canadian Olympian in the sport that would eventually take Bilodeau to Rio. At the time, he wasn’t committed, but after three months, he called McCaffrey back with a simple proposal on his mind: “Let’s try this.”

Two years of ups and downs, bad coaching experiences, personal bests and subpar performance followed. Seven months into his career, he was at the IAAF Championships in 2015 where, in his words, he “got destroyed.” Yet in the Olympic Village as “times 25” and noted the atmosphere around the games. Even the majority of his attention to the French national team. While the race itself wasn’t great for Bilodeau, “the experience is amazing,” he says. “I would recommend it to anybody.”

Elite race walkers like Bilodeau can do a mile in under five minutes and forty-five seconds, with the world record at 5 minutes, 28 seconds. He explained that it can be frustrating to hear criticism of the sport, noting that in some places like the U.S., “People don’t want to like it.”

Bilodeau describes the training as very similar to that of marathoners, only with greater volume. “If I qualify,” said Bilodeau, “I will enjoy the process way more.”

After Rio, things took a downturn for Bilodeau. He moved to Vancouver to enjoy the process way more. “If I qualify,” said Bilodeau, “I will enjoy the process way more.”

Bilodeau’s Olympic experience sums up to a mixed-bag. During the lead-up, “the focus wasn’t there anymore …the relationship with the coach was different,” said Bilodeau. He was working with a French coach at the time who gave the majority of his attention to the French national team.

Off the race course, Bilodeau has a full-time job as a CPA at Deloitte to keep him busy between training sessions and races. Cross-country skiing serves as his second passion, something he’s been able to capitalize on with the close proximity of Tamarack.

Bilodeau is staying at the Crib, a luxury condo run and funded by Mammoth Lakes Tourism to promote the benefits of high-altitude training in Mammoth Lakes.

He will be in Mammoth through the end of December, training to qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. As to how much he’s enjoying himself? “I’d like to bring Mammoth to Canada,” says Bilodeau, “Everyone is laid back, no stress … I enjoy seeing all the snow.”
By Hite

Mammoth Girls Basketball trailed in its first tournament game on Thursday against Sage Ridge.

Thirty seconds to go. Down three.

Nicole Escobar pulls up for a jumper

The Huskies stripped the ball from the Scorpions and put it in the hands of Center Ella Thompson, who got fouled on a missed layup. With 10 seconds to go, Thompson made the first shot and missed the second one.

The Scorpions grabbed the rebound and, in a frenzy, one of their players was called for traveling, giving the Huskies the ball back down 38-40 with six seconds to play in the game.

The inbound pass came in to Maggie Raya who passed it to Sam Jones with four seconds left. Jones then heaved the ball to Thompson near the three point line with 2 seconds left. Thompson took a dribble and proceeded to throw up a desperation shot as time expired. The shot banked in. The Husky bench erupted as Sage Ridge players could be seen with their heads in their hands.

Sage Ridge’s head coach stormed onto the court to protest the shot. He claimed it was released late. Sage Ridge boys basketball players in the stands were screaming that Thompson had her feet inside the line.

The refs huddled up for about thirty seconds before walking over to the Huskies bench to tell them that Thompson’s shot counted and it was a three pointer. The Huskies won the game 41-40.

The Girls continued their tournament through Friday morning, and then the Mammoth High School Boys will host their ‘Mammoth Winter Classic’ basketball tournament Friday and Saturday.

The Boys team enters its tournament with a 2-5 record after playing in the Sierra Pacific tournament last weekend.

Head Coach Robbie Presson told the Sheet, “It was a tough one for us and we played a lot of big schools. Division four and three. We went 0-4 but the boys played hard, competed, and improved a lot over the weekend.”

The losses came to Madera South (60-28), Coalinga (67-24), Santa Maria (81-55), and Orosi (79-41).

After their tough weekend, the Huskies hosted Boron on Tuesday night at home. The boys beat the Bobcats 48-45 led by 14 points from Trent Presson and 13 points from Ryder Radcliffe. The tournament schedule for this weekend can be found on page 15.

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Invest In The Adventure
MIRACLE ON... SNOW
Mammoth Youth Hockey hosted its outdoor tournament in the midst of a December snowstorm

By Hite

Mammoth Lakes Youth Hockey hosted its Fifth Annual Outdoor Winter Classic last weekend from December 6-8.

There were nine total teams at the tournament spread throughout three age groups: Mites (Under 8), Squirts (8-10), and Peeewees (10-12).

In the Mites division, the Jr Gulls from Escondido, CA took the title as they beat the Bay Harbor Red Wings from Harbor City, CA by a score of 9-2.

The Tahoe Grizzlies beat the Valencia Flyers 6-0 to win the Squirts division.

And finally in the Peeewee Division, the Tahoe Grizzlies beat the Mammoth Stars 6-1 to capture the title.

According to Mammoth Lakes Youth Hockey president, Patrick Bernard, there was no high school division this year as the Bishop team was playing elsewhere in a tournament hosted by the LA Kings.

The real story of the tournament was the weather conditions as Bernard told the Sheet, “There was pretty gnarly snow coming in. Between Town Staff and our staff we were shoveling a lot of snow.”

MLYH bought nine shovels for the event and even got the kids involved in the action, “Parents were shoveling but the kids were all about it. When they were shoveling they were fired up,” said Bernard before adding a contingency, “as long as they didn’t have to do it longer than an hour.”

Bernard gave a shout out to Vons and Giovanni’s for providing donuts and pizza ensuring positive attitudes and excellent dietary fulfillment for all participants and their families.

The nine teams had an average of 12-16 players each adding up to between 108-144 players in the tournament.

MLYH ran a survey to get attendance numbers at their fifth instalment of this outdoor tournament.

There were a total of 307 people in attendance including players and their families. Bernard told the Sheet, “People don’t want to miss the Mammoth trip.”

Which is what made this tournament a unique venture specific to the Eastern Sierra. Hockey becomes slow and extremely difficult as snow accumulates past half an inch. This weekend, hockey was being played on more than an inch and a half before the tournament was put on pause allowing proper snow removal.

“We ran a successful event even with the snow. We tried to push the fun factor of it and we had kids playing, sled-ding, and most of the families got up to the mountain to ski,” said Bernard.

Mammoth Youth Hockey teams, known as the Mammoth Stars, have players from June Lake, Crowley, Bishop, Mammoth, and nearly every town in the Eastern Sierra that has children between the ages of 5-12.

“Thankfully we didn’t get any major gusts of wind (above 20 mph). The weather wasn’t ideal but we made it happen. I think everybody had a good experience,” said Bernard.

MLYH plays host to another tournament set for Presidents weekend next year, February 14-17.

Bernard told the Sheet that the tournament is already sold out which is an impressive feat because it is competing with 9 other tournaments the same weekend, most of which are hosted by NHL affiliates.

The Presidents Weekend tournament will be an even bigger outdoor hockey tournament with 16 teams set to participate in the action. Bernard was likely right when he said, “People don’t want to miss the Mammoth trip.”

The Mammoth Stars (in white) taking on Valencia.

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The Mammoth Stars (in white) taking on Valencia.
MRI MACHINE ADDED TO MAMMOTH HOSPITAL

Mammoth Hospital to unveil new machine on Monday

If your recent foray onto the slopes left you a little worse for wear and in need of an MRI, have no fear. Mammoth Hospital has installed a brand new Canon MRI machine over the past two weeks, just in time for the ski season.

Some background: an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is an imaging technique that uses strong magnetic fields, magnetic field gradients, and radio waves to create images of internal organs and tissues. An MRI differs from other imaging methods such as X-rays or CT scans in that the latter two employ ionizing radiation to obtain images whereas an MRI does not. MRI machines work using two magnets; one aligns the water molecules in the body in one direction while the other pulses on and off to change the alignment of hydrogen atoms in the water.

Mammoth Hospital has had a less than optimal experience with MRI machines dating back to the early 2000s. When the hospital was building a new section between ten and fifteen years ago, it added a 1.5 Tesla machine that, according to Mel Cherne, a radiologist at Mammoth since 1989, worked well for a few years before it broke, or “quenched,” requiring a 3-4 month repair. After the third, fourth time, said Cherne, “we decided we’re not going to use that anymore.”

Cherne also explained that emerg-encies dating back to the early 2000s, when the hospital was building a new section between ten and fifteen years ago, it added a 1.5 Tesla machine that, according to Mel Cherne, a radiologist at Mammoth since 1989, worked well for a few years before it broke, or “quenched,” requiring a 3-4 month repair. After the third, fourth time, said Cherne, “we decided we’re not going to use that anymore.”

The size of an MRI machine means that you can’t just wheel it out through the door. Removing the old one from the hospital meant taking off the roof and lifting it out, a no-go given the essential utilities on the roof. The solution was to put the MRI in a trailer in the hospital parking lot, which meant hospital staff had to roll patients outdoors and back inside, snow and other inclement weather be damned.

These machines are famously claustrophobic, as scanning particular parts of the body may require a person to be entirely inside the machine’s bore, often 55-60 cm (less than two feet) wide. However, claustrophobic patients needing a scan can rest a bit easier, as Mammoth’s new machine has a 71 cm width bore in addition to a shorter tube so as to reduce the sensation of entering a tunnel.

And that’s only the beginning of what this machine, one of the first of its kind in the country, can do.

In addition to its claustrophobia-friendly design, the new machine also comes with a “quiet package” that makes the MRI experience, normally an ear-splitting din, more bearable for patients. The machine also comes with a “coils,” plastic molds for specific body parts that act as “antennae” to capture the radiofrequency signal from a person, which “makes images crisper,” according to Cherne.

An additional “aftermarket” software package from Olea allows for in-depth artificial intelligence MRI tech-nology will allow for even shorter sequence times within the machine, making for a clearer image. This new MRI machine can be updated automatically as that technology becomes available.

There will be an open house at Mammoth Hospital on December 16 from 5-7 p.m. to allow the public to come in and check out the new MRI machine, complete with tours and refreshment. For more information, see the advertisement on page two.

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTIES

EAST COAST COUNTDOWN & PARTY
MOUNTAIN SIDE BAR & GRILL • 6:30PM

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THE SHEET | Saturday, December 14, 2019
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LOCAL NEWS | 13
calendar of events

**BARS & MUSIC**

Happy Hour /

The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill.

Happy hour 3-6 p.m. 1/2 off wings on Monday.

Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Mon-Fri., Happy Hour from 4-6 p.m.

Morrison’s Happy Hour 5-6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday in the bar.

More info: See ad p. 18.

Mammoth Rock ‘N Bowl

Mon. DJ 9:30 p.m. Thurs. DJ 10 p.m.

Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour: 4-7 p.m. daily. $6 dollar menu items, drink specials. Info: See ad p. 11.

Petra’s happy hour. 5-7 p.m. Signature cocktails, special menu. See ad p. 11.

Roberto’s Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily.

The Public House Local Mondays (all local beers $5 a pint). Karaoke Tuesdays @ 4. 1/2 Priced Wine Wednesdays, Open Mic Thursdays.

Famous Slocums Happy Hour

Weekdays: 4-6 p.m. Saturday 4-5:30 p.m

More info: See ad p. 5.

T-Bar Social Club in June Lake.

Entertainment virtually every night.

More info: www.tbarsocialclub.com

**GIOVANNI’S HAPPY HOUR**

Daily happy hour 4-6 p.m. Lg. pizza & pitcher of beer $5 - free wings.

Shelter Distilling Open 11am - 11pm

Daily Happy Hour: 3-5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday/Half Off All Drinks.

Info: See ad p. 11.

**SIDE DOOR CAFE & WINE BAR**

Happy Hour: 3-4 p.m. daily

Sunday Football - Happy Hour all day.

**THE MOGLI HAPPY HOUR**

Happy hour happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar with food and drink specials.

**BLEU DAILY HAPPY HOUR**

5-6 p.m. $5 Beer, Wine and Small Plates.

**DEVILS CREEK CELTERY**

Tasting room hours. 3-6 p.m. weekends.

Location: Industrial Park, 123 Commerce Dr.

**53 KITCHEN & COCKTAILS happy hour**

Friday-Sunday. Time: 2-4 p.m.

Black Velvet Coffee happy hour 4-6. Wine tastings on Wednesdays.

Rafters daily happy hour 4-6 p.m. All night happy hour on Thursday.

**JIMMY’S TAVERNA happy hour 4-6.**

Wine select bottles on Wine Wednesday. 4-6 p.m. Happy hour menu.

**LAKANUKI happy hour 3-6 p.m. daily.**

Mammoth Tavern Happy hour 4-5:30. Half off draft beer, well drinks and wine. App specials

December 13-14/ Mammoth’s finest DJs spin @ Rafters.

10 p.m. ‘til close.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15/ ON SNOW NIGHT OF LIGHTS after-party**

Canyon Lodge starts 7:30 p.m. Live music.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15/ CATCH ALL THE NFL ACTION @ LIBERTY, CLOCKTOWER, GOMEZ IN MAMMOTH AND THE PUTATE PALACE IN BISHOP**

Open Mic Night @ T-Bar. Time: 7 p.m.

**MONDAY DECEMBER 16/ MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL AT LIBERTY BAR 1/2 OFF WINGS AND EXTENDED HAPPY HOUR 3-8 P.M.**

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 17/ TEAM TRIVIA AT MAMMOTH BREWING CO.**

Time: 7 p.m. Free

Karaoke @ Public House. 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18/ IN THE BIZ WEDNESDAYS AT MAMMOTH ROCK ‘N BOWL.**

$1 games and $1 shoes after 9 p.m.

**TOWN STUFF**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19/ OPEN MIC NIGHT @ PUBLIC HOUSE. 8 P.M. JAM SESSIONS WITH LOS NAUTICAIS @ RAFTERS IN MAMMOTH. Ska & Punk. STARTS 10 P.M.**

**ROBIN WILSON OF THE GIN BLOSSOMS PLAYS THE T-BAR SOCIAL CLUB IN JUNE LAKE. TIME: 8 P.M. COST: $17. INFO: WWW.TBARSOCIALCLUB.COM**

**FRI. DECEMBER 13/ MHS BOOSTERS CLUB “REINDEER CRAWL” FUNDRAISER IN THE VILLAGE AT MAMMOTH. 5-6 P.M. FOUR LOCATIONS: LAKANUKI, GOMEZ, SHelter, CLOCKTOWER. $40 BUYS YOU THREE COCKTAILS & FOOD. WESTERN SIERRA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY CONCERT @ ST. JOSEPH’S CHURCH IN MAMMOTH. TIME: 7 P.M. ENJOY A FREE PROGUS AND CLASSICAL AND HOLIDAY FAVORITES, INCLUDING CHAMBER MUSIC. UNBOUND STUDENTS PERFORMING MUSIC FROM THE MOVIE, “FROZEN.” MONO ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY RECEPTION 5-7 P.M. JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION FOR THE TALENTED ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN OUR SEASONAL SHOW, SMALL WORKS AND OUR CURRENT FEATURED ARTIST, DEBB CAMPBELL.”

**FREE FRIDAY SKATE NIGHTS @ MAMMOTH ICE RINK. TIME: 8-10 P.M. DECEMBER 13-14/ BACKCOUNTRY FILM FESTIVAL SCREENS IN BISHOP AT THE INYO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS ON FRIDAY, 137 SOUTH MAIN ST. TIME: 6-9 P.M. AND THEN SCREENS AT THE LONE PINE MUSEUM OF WESTERN HISTORY SATURDAY 6-9 P.M. COST: $15. SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF THE INYO. WWW.FRIENDSOFTHEINYO.ORG**

**DECEMBER 13-15/ CARDINAL VILLAGE TREE SALE AND CHRISTMAS FUN @ CARDINAL VILLAGE. FESTIVE KICKOFF TO THE 2019-2020 SKI SEASON. MORE INFO: AD PAGE 3. SIDE BAR COLUMN PAGE 15. JUNE MOUNTAIN SKI AREA OPENING DAY WITH AN 11 A.M. ‘TOAST TO THE SEASON’ AT MID-CHALET. RAILROAD EXPRESS AT LAWS MUSEUM IN BISHOP, JUST EAST OF TOWN OFF HIGHWAY 6. TIME: 10 A.M. ‘TIL 3 P.M. A MAGICAL FAMILY DAY WITH TRAIN RIDES, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES, REFRESHMENTS AND VISITS WITH SANTA. ALABAMA HILLS NATURAL HISTORY INTERPRETIVE HIKE: “THE ALABAMA HILLS UNDER OUR FEET” MEET AT EASTERN SIERRA VISITOR CENTER. EXPLORE THE MYSTERY HIDDEN WITHIN THE HILLS. MODERATELY STRENUOUS HIKE WITH OCCASIONAL STEEP SECTIONS OF TRAIL. TIME: 10 A.M.-1 P.M. INFO: CALL DAVE KIRK AT 760.872.5000 OR MOLLY TRANSCHT AT 760.872.1200. ICARE BENEFIT SHOPPING DAY @ LAWS MUSEUM.”

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14/ MMSA’S “NIGHT OF LIGHTS” AT CANYON LODGE. 5-10 P.M. TORCHLIGHT PARADE. FIREWORKS. FESTIVE KICKOFF TO THE 2019-2020 SKI SEASON. MORE INFO: AD PAGE 3. SIDEBAR COLUMN PAGE 15.**

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Cardinal Village Christmas Festival

Cardinal Village is hosting its 5th annual Christmas Festival this holiday season. The festival kicks off Thanks-giving Weekend and is open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. every Friday through Sunday until December 22. The festival features freshly cut Christmas trees, sledding, a snow maze, caroling and plenty of holiday shopping. The Gingerbread Café will have hot drinks and snacks for all ages. This is one holiday celebration you should be sure not to miss!

Champagne and Classics

The Felici Piano Trio’s annual fund-raising party, Champagne & Classics, will take place this year on Saturday, December 28th.

Always a treat, Champagne & Classics will be extra special this year as violinist Tereza Stanislav and violinist Robert Brophy of the L.A. Chamber Orchestra are joining us for some enchanting string quartets.

There will also be a new format - a 6 p.m. concert at Mammoth Lakes Lutheran Church followed by a champagne reception with jazzy piano tunes, courtesy of Ari Schudt at the Schuldt residence. There will be plenty of fine finger foods, buckets of bubbly beverages, charming company, and of course, marvelous music! To make your reservation, please visit: https://felicitrio.com/concert-calendar.html

Cost is $125 for concert & reception, $50 for concert only.

If you cannot attend, but would like to make a year-end gift to CMU, All proceeds of Champagne & Classics will be given, but it’s pretty much guaranteed that Mr. Hallinan will know more than you do about astronomy! Friday, December 20

A Christmas Carol: The One Man Play

8 p.m. Doors open 8:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Gifts, music, raffle, food sale, craft booths and a visit from Santa. Saturday: native ornament contest at 10 a.m. and ugly Christmas Contest at 2 p.m. Sunday: Family games & crafts. Info: Call Cultural Center 760-873-8844

Sunday, December 15

Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra holiday concert @ St. Joseph’s Church in Mammoth. Time: 7 p.m. Enjoy a free program of classical and holiday favorites, including Chamber Music Unbound students performing music from the movie, “Frozen.”

Tannenbaum Classic @ Tamarack XC Ski Center. 1-10k races and a family fun race. 10 a.m. start time weather permitting. Info: call Tamarack XC Ski Center 760-934-2442 x8

Inyo Associates holds its monthly dinner/meeting @ Astoraga Restaurant in Bishop. 5:30 p.m. social hour; 6:30 p.m. dinner $20/person. RSVP to the Bishop Chamber @ 760.873.8405

Climber Coffee @ Happy’s Trailhead where you can meet the new Bishop Climbing Rangers. Fix Stickers. Bring mug for free coffee. Time: 8-10 a.m.

Monday, December 16

Mammoth High Soccer. MHS boys and girls host McFarland. Girls @ 1:00 p.m. Boys @ 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17

Mono County Board of Supervisors @ Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes. Time: 9 a.m.

Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets @ Board Hearing room, 224 No. Edwards in Independence. *Note: Special 10 a.m. workshop on proposed short-term rental ordinance. More info: 760.878.0263/www.inyoplanning.org. Intro to Italian Wines at Bleu

TOWN STUFF

December 14-15:
HOLIDAY MARKET. Doors open 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Gifts, music, raffle, food sale, craft booths and a visit from Santa. Saturday: native ornament contest at 10 a.m. and ugly Christmas Contest at 2 p.m. Sunday: family games & crafts. Info: Call Cultural Center 760-873-8844

Wednesday, December 18:
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. 4:30 p.m. workshop. 6 p.m. regular meeting. Suite Z, Minaret Mall.

The Northern Inyo Health Board meets. 5:30 p.m. Location: 2957 Birch St.

Thursday, December 19:
Mono County/Town of Mammoth Lakes Liaison Committee meets. 2 p.m. Town/County conference room. Minaret Mall.

Skate with Santa and Kettle Curling. 5-7 p.m. @ Mammoth Ice Rink. Skating. Games. Photo-op. Kettle Curling. Santa gets there at 5:30 and leaves for North Pole at 7:30.

Final lecture of the Astronomy Fall Lecture series sponsored by the Owens Valley Radio Observatory will take place @ the Cerro Coso College campus in Bishop. Time: 6 p.m. Speaker: Gregg Hallinan of Caltech. No topic given, but it’s pretty much guaranteed that Mr. Hallinan will know more than you do about astronomy!

Friday, December 20

A Christmas Carol: The One Man Play opens @ Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. More info: see sidebar this page

December 20-23:
Santaville @ Mammoth Sports in the Village. Pictures with Santa and Wooly. Time: 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. every day.

December 20-31:
Mono Arts Council Holiday Marketplace @ Minaret Mall. Time: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. every day. More info: see sidebar this page

MAC Holiday Marketplace

The Holiday Marketplace has been a Mammoth Lakes tradition for over 20 years. Located in the Minaret Village Shopping Center by our Mono Arts Council Gallery & Art Center and Vons, this indoor art festival is the perfect place to find that one-of-a-kind work of art you have been looking for. Featuring 10-15 local and regional artists, the festival is small enough that you will have the perfect opportunity to get to know the artists and large enough that you want to come back day after day to continue shopping. The show spans the Christmas and New Years holidays with enough time to shop for gifts and for yourself.

Night Of Lights

A Mammoth Mountain signature event featuring live music, a torchlight parade, kids activities, snowmobile rides and a fireworks spectacular that lights up the Sierra sky. Limited parking: public transportation encouraged. MHS and Eagle Lodge will have shuttles running to Canyon Lodge. The Village Gondola will operate until 10 p.m.

Highlights:

6-10 p.m. Night of Lights fireworks spectacular show

7:15 p.m. Premiere of Chris Benchetler’s “Fire on the Mountain” movie

7:30 p.m. On-snow after party and live music on the outdoor stage. Photos with Santa + Woolly on the indoor stage (4th Floor)

MAC Holiday Marketplace

The Holiday Marketplace has been a Mammoth Lakes tradition for over 20 years. Located in the Minaret Village Shopping Center by our Mono Arts Council Gallery & Art Center and Vons, this indoor art festival is the perfect place to find that one-of-a-kind work of art you have been looking for. Featuring 10-15 local and regional artists, the festival is small enough that you will have the perfect opportunity to get to know the artists and large enough that you want to come back day after day to continue shopping. The show spans the Christmas and New Years holidays with enough time to shop for gifts and for yourself.

Night Of Lights

A Mammoth Mountain signature event featuring live music, a torchlight parade, kids activities, snowmobile rides and a fireworks spectacular that lights up the Sierra sky. Limited parking: public transportation encouraged. MHS and Eagle Lodge will have shuttles running to Canyon Lodge. The Village Gondola will operate until 10 p.m.

Highlights:

6-10 p.m. Night of Lights fireworks spectacular show

7:15 p.m. Premiere of Chris Benchetler’s “Fire on the Mountain” movie

7:30 p.m. On-snow after party and live music on the outdoor stage. Photos with Santa + Woolly on the indoor stage (4th Floor)

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**MAMMOTH ROCK N’ BOWL**

Mammoth Rock N Bowl has immediate openings for 2 Assistant Pinsetter Mechanic, who will perform maintenance and repairs of Qubica/AMF Bowling Equipment. We are searching for cooks, dishwashers, and other kitchen staff. We offer a Full Time Position (Monday through Friday) - Full-time and part-time hours available for the winter months. For more information on how to apply, visit www.mammothlakes.ca.gov, or call (760) 965-3604. Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for PT/FT help. Fun place to work, especially if you’re into clothes and fashion. Stop by the store on Old Mammoth Road for more information and to pick up an application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothspa@aol.com.

**VACATION RENTAL COMPANY SEeks**

Vacation Rental company seeks (FT/ benefits) PT local maintenance techs ($20/h) and housekeepers (great piece rate, local maintenance techs currently have an immediate opening for a spa cleaner, $13.89 - $16.08/hr). We are looking for friendly, service-oriented people to join our team. Please apply in person or email resume to footloose@footloose-sports.com. Mammoth Rock N Bowl is hiring for seasonal PT/FT help. We are accepting applications for a Full Time Position (Monday through Friday) - Full-time and part-time hours available for the winter months. For more information on how to apply, visit www.mammothlakes.ca.gov, or call (760) 965-3604. Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for PT/FT help. Fun place to work, especially if you’re into clothes and fashion. Stop by the store on Old Mammoth Road for more information and to pick up an application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothspa@aol.com.

**MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT’S General Manager’s Office is currently recruiting for one permanent Information Systems Administrator position in the Information Services Department. See above for application information.**

**FOR RENT**

Christmas rental in West Bishop. 2 BDR, 2 BA in the midst of goat haven. Fresh goat milk/yogurt available. Great View, No pets. Call Lunch @ 760.937.4613.

**FOR SALE**

For sale: 2 snowmobiles with trailer, 2006 RMK 600 144 track, 2009 RMK 600 155 track. Diesel fuel injection. Trailer that holds 2 sleds Very low mileage good condition. Call John 714-698-2447.

**FOR SALE**

16’ Airflyte, old school. Collector’s Good cndns. $3,500 OBO. Call 760.709.1889.
The Cincinnati Bengals are the least penalized team in the league. How can you commit penalties when you aren’t trying? Makes sense.

LSU Quarterback Joe Burrows. I think they think that drafts him is going to get burned. He was awful for his first three of the players, what can you say? But he’s a one-year wonder this year, Heisman Trophy short-list and probably the 2nd pick in the draft after that DL at Ohio State. Hartley forecast: BUM ALERT.

I am sick of the New Orleans Saints. They bitch all the time about officiating and the NFL letting them get screwed. Stop it. I watch their games and they shoot themselves in both feet with horrible game management.

They were up on the Niners last late week and scored too fast, giving San Francisco too much time for their last drive.

Then, the same dumbass DB who let Case Keenum complete that miracle pass to put them out of the playoffs a couple years ago, doesn’t tackle, letting Niner TE George Kittle run 14 more yards and on top of that, grabs a face mask while Kittle drags him another 14 yards so you kicked him out of the game last week against the Chiefs. They have won six Super Bowls in the past two decades. The team had a 10-2 record, but went into halftime on the short end of the score, so … their own fans booed them off the field. Entitled babies.

49er QB Jimmy Garoppolo. I don’t like the way he plays. He is too streaky. I don’t think his loaf is fully baked. He can make three great plays in a row but then make three more that make you shake your head. Is he all there upstairs? He takes too many sacks and throws to the wrong-color jerseys. I think Coach Kyle Shanahan makes him look better than he really is.

Panthers CB Donte Jackson got beat for a 93 yard TD pass last week by some guy who works at Subway at night to make ends meet. Jackson also dropped a coverage earlier in the game that gave the Falcons another TD.

After the game, Jackson ripped the coaching staff for making two horrible calls leaving the CBs isolated man-to-man on bliters … saying you can’t do that with a guy like Matt Ryan at QB for the other team. You can’t make this 6s/4s up. CBs who are self-proclaimed ISLANDS and SHUTDOWN CORNERS bitching about having to play man to man with no help over the top when covering some guy named - let me get this guy’s name - Olamide Zaccueus. Is this someone from a Marvel film or an NFL roster? Olamide who? Jackson can’t cover him. Cut this punk tomorrow. I don’t care if he was a high draft choice. I blame the coach for not covering that guy.

The Dallas Cowboys remind me of singers on American Idol or The Voice. You watch the Cowboys play a particular team and you are like … they’ve got talent and they are good. Like these singers who pick that ONE song that fits them and you say - WOW, THAT PERSON CAN SING.

Then you make them sing something different. And they suck. They sound like dolphins being slaughtered.

That’s the Cowboys. Something changes from that ONE TEAM they beat (Giants) or that one game plan that worked, and … they can’t sing.

Odell Beckham Jr. is the Kyrie Irving of the NFL. Never happy. It’s always the team or the city or the front office that’s the problem and he needs a new team every few years. Can’t get along with people. Complete nutcase. Now he is telling other players and coaches before and during games, “COME GET ME.” He is not stupid.

Sometimes you luck out when the crazy train decides to leave your stop. It’s true in relationships, for sure.

The Celts must be so damn happy he moved on.

Antonio Brown. You need to keep a separate blog just for AB to keep up with his emotional rollercoaster.

That dumbass posted a lengthy apology last week to everyone. First thing I thought was: BANK ACCOUNT EMPTY. NEED JOB. Within days, he was back on Twitter blasting away, throwing everyone and during games, “COME GET ME.” He is not stupid.

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**HORRORSCOPES**

By Clouds McCloud

**Sagittarius:** This promises to be a very healthy and healing year for you. If you feel like something has been holding you back, like some baggage you should have checked years ago, this is the year to say "Sayonara!" Of course, you could always go with Spanish "Adiós," Italian "Arrivederci," Canadian "Take off, Hosier" or good old English, "Screw you and the horse you rode in on!"

**Capricorn:** To help you make the most out of this hectic holiday season, please be sure to know when to shut your piehole! "Since you know everything, it's shocking you don't know when to shut your mouth. Whatever you do, don't say anything outside rejuvenating yourself, please."

**Aquarius:** This festive season is usually the favorite time of year for most of you. So the Stars are saying you should make the most out of any social opportunities, as the next year of your life will focus as you're going to want to spend more time working on your own spirit soon.

**Pisces:** The recent full moon should have flushed out something that needed flushing, like negative people, useless habits, a deceased goldfish or two. That's why your new mission is to welcome some newness in your life. The Universe is going send along some new friends, new opportunities and even some new goldfish, if that's what you'd like. Just don't give them the same names. They don't need that kind of karma, they're only goldfish for crying out loud!

**Aries:** A study by the Happiness Research Institute (Yes, there is such a thing!) found that 73% of people who are happy at home are happy in life. The keys, the study said, as far as homes are concerned are that you need to be proud of your home and find it comfortable. Sure, "Pride and Comfort" does sound like an underwear company, but you must admit there is something to be said for great underwear. And that something is, "Yes, please."

**Taurus:** The recent full moon should have flushed out something that needed flushing, like negative people, useless habits, a deceased goldfish or two. That's why your new mission is to welcome some newness in your life. The Universe is going send along some new friends, new opportunities and even some new goldfish, if that's what you'd like. Just don't give them the same names. They don't need that kind of karma, they're only goldfish for crying out loud!

**Gemini:** Here are your great questions of enlightenment as we get close to the shortest day of the year. A) Do dyslexic Stan worshippers worship Santa? B) Is a hot dog a sandwich? C) Why don't you simply decide now is the right time to go for it? E) If you could create a new holiday what would it be called and when would it happen? F) If your new holiday involves donuts, please pat yourself on the back.

**Cancer:** There is an actual diet called the "Taco Cleanse." Sure, this is what may happened to you already whenever you enjoy some Taco Bell, but the Taco Cleanse tries to do so in an easier manner. Using the simple ingredient as tortillas for your base, you can eat lots of fresh and healthy meals and clean out some of your innards in a manner that won't have you running for the border and/or toilet. Please use this to remind you that real health food is whatever makes you feel good when you eat it.

**Leo:** Always remember that God only gives us what we can handle—which makes you a bad ass. Now that we've cleared that up, this new year of your life is looking very promising, so since you've been kicking butt taking names and occasionally getting your own butt kicked, please give your butt and the rest of you some much needed down and time during the holiday season. If mistletoe is part of your downtime, all the better.

**Virgo:** Some folks say that Virgo really stands for priVate, kind, pRecise, Gentle and mOdest. Of course, these people simply may not know how to type very well. Virgos also have sly but very strong senses of humor as well, which is why you can relate to this line: "I'm not complicated, it's just that the people who get on my nerves tend to be morons."

**Libra:** To help you survive the holiday chaos, here are a few bumper stickers for you to choose from. 1) I do yoga because punching people is frowned upon. B) Be brave enough to suck at something new! C) Sometimes you wine, sometimes you booze. Z) Why does everyone want to change the world, but no one wants to change the toilet paper roll?!

**Scorpio:** Sex!!!! Now that I have your attention, please remember to eat healthy, spend some time in nature, be kind to yourself and more forgiving of others, read more books, hug more often, allow yourself some treats and get plenty of regular exercise—with or without your clothes on.
SHEET SURVEY

With the Christmas season in full swing ...

*By the way, there is only one answer. Beckstrom got it - Lunch

The Sheet asked people on the street: What’s your favorite Christmas movie?

“Home Alone...great example for anyone trying to get away with mischief”
- Ben Willett, Claremont

“Jingle All The Way”
- Steven Rose, L.A.

“Die Hard. I love Bruce Willis”
- Peter Danner, Mammoth

“National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.”
- Kirsten Beckstrom, Valencia

“It’s a Wonderful Life because I’m a grandmother”
- Nora Fascenelli, Phoenix

“It’s a Wonderful Life because I like black and white movies and I love Jimmy Stewart”
- Susan Remy, Stevenson Ranch

“National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.”
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