TPEF nearly approves final design review for the MUF sheet

Wye Shell Station on North Main Street

Saturday, January 11, 2020

This week, on Tuesday January 7, 2017, the Bishop Police Department’s Dispatch Center received a multi-agency tactical team on scene quickly followed by medical help.

Law enforcement officers from nearby agencies also responded.

BPD Officers located an adult male on the ground in the parking lot with multiple gunshot wounds. He was unable to speak. A handgun was nearby. Medics attempted to save the male adult but he died shortly after they arrived.

The name of the deceased is being withheld to confirm identity and to notify next of kin. A Mammoth Police Officer indicated he was from Bakersfield.

BPD quickly learned from witnesses that the deceased had arrived in a vehicle with a female driver.

The female driver fled immediately after the shooting. BPD Radioed the suspect vehicle description and likely direction of travel requesting all law enforcement officers in Mono and Inyo Counties to begin a search.

The suspect’s vehicle was found crashed and unoccupied just off of Jean Blanc Road in the Chalfant area.

A multi-agency tactical team and other law enforcement officers began hours of searching on foot. A CHP helicopter assisted along with the K9 unit from Bishop area.

The female suspect has been identified as Brandee Sue Trujillo, 46, of Oildale, CA. She was booked on fugitive charges related to running away from police.

The investigation thus far indicates that the deceased attempted to rob one of our local residents shortly after he parked and exited his vehicle at the Shell.

It is likely the deceased had been looking to target someone in the parking lot. The deceased shot the victim more than once.

However, The Sheet has learned that two of the shots merely grazed the victim. The third, however, hit the femur. The victim, who had a concealed carry permit and was armed, returned fire.

He then managed to enter his vehicle and move to a better location. The victim received serious wounds but was able to provide BPD with good details.

He is currently undergoing treatment and has been moved to a hospital in Reno.

Clerks at the Shell station said an extra employee has been added for swing shifts. They lament that business has been slow.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with possible relevant information about this incident or those involved is encouraged to contact the BPD as soon as possible.

Press Release

The Sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

Saturday, January 11, 2020

Vol. 18, No. 2

FREE

PITCH THE TENT!!!
PEDC nearly approves final design review for the MUF

By Hite

The Multi-use-facility (or MUF) appears to be gaining traction.

This week, on Tuesday January 7, both Mammoth Lakes Recreation and the Recreation Commission received an update on the progress made by Town staff designated to the project.

At the Recreation Commission meeting Stuart Brown, the Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Director, explained where they are in the process, “Staff have made a recommendation that the PEDC adopt the resolution. With that action it does not need to go to Town Council. So once that has been finalized through the PEDC that takes care of the environmental review, it opens the door for the public bid process, and hopefully we can get into construction right away.”

Brown then gave a tentative timeline for the project,

“So far we have completed a look at summer 2021. We are proposing Memorial weekend right now (of 2021) and then the first winter would be November (of 2021).”

Both of the previously mentioned organizations have been receiving updates and giving design advice to the team as to how they want the final product to look.

On January 8, the Planning and Economic Development Commission received a more in-depth presentation of the project to review and possibly accept as the project nears the bid stage.

Sandra Moberly, the Community and Economic Director for the Town, gave some background to the project. On October 11, 2017, PEDC approved a design review to allow MUF construction at 686 Old Mammoth Road.

Town Council then directed staff to find a design that could be constructed for a total cost of $13 million as the previous design was thought to be too expensive.

On June 5, 2019, Town Council voted 3-2 authorizing staff to design and develop the MUF as a fabric tensile structure otherwise known as a “Sprung Structure.” For anyone who doesn’t know what this is, a “Sprung Structure” is essentially a big tent similar to the structure next to Eagle Lodge.

Moberly then explained what the current project was proposing:

-40,300 sq. ft. Sprung Structure located on SW corner of the Mammoth Creek park site.

-The structure will be 56 feet tall.

-The first floor is a 26,000 sq. ft. Olympic-sized Ice rink that converts into a 3-court gymnasium in the summer. Additional, there will be a 2,150 sq. ft. MUF, page 8

Mammoth High Girls Basketball was jumping for joy in their overtime victory Thursday over Lone Pine by a score of 35-34

SHOOTOUT IN BISHOP

I injured, I killed in attempted robbery at Bishop Shell Station

On January 6, 2020, at approximately 5:14 p.m., the Bishop Police Department’s Dispatch Center began receiving “911” calls regarding a shooting with multiple victims at the Shell Gas Station, 1290 N. Main St.

Three BPD Officers were on scene quickly followed by medical help.

The female suspect has been identified as Brandee Sue Trujillo, 46, of Oildale, CA. She was booked on fugitive charges related to running away from police.

The investigation thus far indicates that the deceased attempted to rob one of our local residents shortly after he parked and exited his vehicle at the Shell.

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However, The Sheet has learned that two of the shots merely grazed the victim. The third, however, hit the femur. The victim, who had a concealed carry permit and was armed, returned fire.

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This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with possible relevant information about this incident or those involved is encouraged to contact the BPD as soon as possible.

M بصورة لالة في الإبادة tậpي العيد

Pressure drop

No Fight Club

Trump train

Mixology

Catch and Kill

p. 7/

p. 12/

p. 13/

p. 2/

p. 3/
A COCKTAIL TO AVOID

In no particular order ...

I’ve been catching up with some reading this week. One headline from the Dec. 18 Wall Journal that caught my attention: “Pittsburgh Airport Ramps Up Side Gig as Land Developer.”

“Go: Alterra’s real estate development has been one part of the airport’s plan to find new revenue after struggling for many years.” This after certain airlines abandoned Pittsburgh as a hub.

“Airports throughout Asia, Europe and the Middle East often create mini-cities around their core facilities including office buildings, apartments, exhibition spaces and other businesses.”

Meanwhile, Mammoth will shift commercial air service to Bishop while continuing to pay off airport litigation (related to proposed development) until 2035.

If FAA regulations for commercial air service related to airport design (private development at Mammoth Airport was forbidden) were the reason Mammoth had to scuttle its development agreement with Terry Ballas, maybe it’s time to call Terry back - and make him prove he really would have made $30 million out there.

But seriously, what’s the plan out there now? Housing?

Speaking of which ... from the October 23 issue of the Journal. Headline: “Facebook Tackles Lack of Housing.” Deck: “Tech giant earmarks $1 billion to address Silicon Valley’s shortage of homes.”

Facebook’s market capitalization is $622 billion. Vail Resorts’ market capitalization is $10 billion. Say Alterra is two-thirds the value of Vail (I’m just guessing. I have no idea) or 1/100th of Facebook.

A comparative earmark toward housing by Alterra would be $10 million. Maybe Mammoth Resorts would see $1.5 million of that (as a percentage of corporate business).

It would be a nice gesture, make up for the lost tax revenue on sea-

The most ominous headline, which appeared above the fold of the December 30 issue, read, “Homeowners Opt to Refinance at Higher Rates to Get Cash.”

“After about a decade of rising home prices, homeowners are flush with record amounts of home equity they can tap. But many people remain short on cash and are increasingly relying on debt to fund their lives.”

“Speaking to a cocktail like to avoid and reminiscent of 2008. Human nature being what it is, I imagine there will be a line out the door at that bar ...

From page seven of this week’s Sheet ... I need to see a copy of this contract the town has with JetSuiteX because it doesn’t make any sense to me that a flight subsidy doesn’t come with a provision that allows Mammoth Lakes Tourism some influence in the setting of prices.

Consider ... using the numbers from the story, if I sell 30 seats at $300, I gross $9,000.

But if I fill just 10 seats at $850, that equates to $8,500 ... and then I get paid another $1,800 by Mammoth Lakes Tourism as a subsidy for all the empty seats.

So while JetSuiteX maximizes profit and taxpayer subsidy, the town gets ... fewer air passengers upon whose heads we calculate massive multiplier effects. “Air passengers spend on average X amount of dollars more per day than drive-to resort visitors.”

There’s got to be a way to negotiate some leverage into this agreement. Can someone have Tom Cage sit in the room during the next negotiation?

On a side note, I had to give Page a little grief for allowing Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi to get away with a little fuzzy math.

That, or Page’s liberal arts background has addled him.

The story says, “Orange County saw a 26% decrease in load factor, down to 44% from 70%.”

This sounds like a cocktail to avoid and reminiscent of 2008. Human nature being what it is, I imagine there will be a line out the door at that bar ...

So when JetSuiteX maximizes profit and taxpayer subsidy, the town gets ...

... fewer air passengers upon whose heads we calculate massive multiplier effects. “Air passengers spend on average X amount of dollars more per day than drive-to resort visitors.”

That’s the standard justification we get from the consultants to launch air subsidy programs in the first place.

There’s got to be a way to negotiate some leverage into this agreement. Can someone have Tom Cage sit in the room during the next negotiation?

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That, or Page’s liberal arts background has addled him.

The story says, “Orange County saw a 26% decrease in load factor, down to 44% from 70%.”

If your load factor goes from 70% to 44%, you’ve experienced a 37% decline in load factor.

The following comment came in regarding Page’s coverage of the snow removal issue at the Peterson Tract in June Lake:

“Here’s what’s missing from the conversation ... The county can’t retain snowplow drivers because the county thinks they can get away with paying sub-standard wages ... As a result these underpaid workers quit and go to work for the TOML or Caltrans where pay and equipment is better ... The county can’t find anyone to fill their mechanic positions for the same sub-standard wages ... As a result these underpaid workers quit and go to work for the TOML or Caltrans where pay and equipment is better ... The county can’t find anyone to fill their mechanic positions for the same...

January is typically a time where I get to catch up on some reading, and Santa serendipitously brought me a copy of Ronan Farrow’s “Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators” on the eve of the Harvey.
Weinstein sex crimes trial.

The book chronicles Farrow’s efforts to gather and ultimately publish the Weinstein exposé in the New Yorker magazine, which he did in the fall of 2017.

And what we learn is that the New Yorker published the piece because NBC News passed on it. And the reason NBC News passed on it is because Harvey Weinstein leaned on NBC executives to quash the story.

Further, we learn that key NBC executives who quashed the story had been involved in sexual harassment incidents of their own.

And that doesn’t even count Matt Lauer.

Farrow had been an employee at NBC. His pursuit of the story ultimately led to his dismissal.

But there wouldn’t have been justice without the women who came forward to tell their stories (and risk their careers).

And the pattern of Weinstein’s behavior was so...rote, so streamlined.

He would set up a meeting, and then there’d be a “honeypot” there, another woman, perhaps a casting director, to make it all seem normal and comfortable.

And then he’d invent some excuse (usually, that he had to retrieve some source material, a book) to make a detour to a hotel room.

And then he would either assault his prey, or make a strong suggestion about assaulting his prey - each story was a little different - and some women escaped, and some did not.

And the ones who did not would blame themselves and/or be shamed into silence.

As actress Rosanna Arquette told Farrow while he was researching the story, “They’re gonna discredit every woman who comes forward. They’ll go after the girls. And suddenly the victims will be perpetrators.”

And all the while, Weinstein’s influence is so wide and his donations to politicians and causes so pervasive that those unfamiliar with his shadow life were shocked about the investigation.

When Farrow told Meryl Streep he was investigating Weinstein, Streep’s reported reaction was, “But he supports such good causes.”

I juxtapose this experience reading about the monstrous Harvey Weinstein with Peggy Noonan’s column in the Journal last week where she predicts the story of the 2020s will be, in essence, the backlash to #metoo.

“The past decade saw the rise of the woke progressives who dictate what words can be said and ideas held, thus poisoning and paralyzing American humor, drama, entertainment, culture and journalism. In the coming ten years someone will effectively stand up to them. They are the most hated people in America, and their entire program is accusation: you are racist, sexist, homophbic, transphobic; you are a bigot, a villain, a white male, a patriarchal misogynist, your day is over. Bow to them, as most do, and they’ll accuse you even more of newly imagined sins. They claim to be vulnerable victims, and moral. Actually they’re not. They’re mean and seek to kill, and like all bullies are cowards.”

And I know that Noonan wouldn’t defend Harvey Weinstein, but... Weinstein got away with it for 20 years, and almost got away with it this time if the New Yorker hadn’t stepped in and taken on his attorneys.

And if he wasn’t sitting there in court this week using his walker (because all defendants are seemingly advised by their lawyers to appear helpless and sympathetic), and had gotten away with it (again), would he be held up by Noonan as merely a woebegone and generally harmless patriarchal misogynist?

It’s just so hard to paint this stuff black-and-white. You have to treat it case by case, and there’s so much noise... I mean, I find PC culture incredibly annoying, but there’s a reason why it exists.
Dear Council,

I’m writing you today to share some of my experiences and thoughts with regard housing in Mammoth Lakes. I drove to the ATT store on the corner of Old Mammoth and Meridian (a property I own with my business partner) only find that it was closed with a note on the door stating “closed until February”. Out of curiosity I called the number on the door to find out why the tenant had allowed their space to “go dark” and the response was “we can’t find labor to keep the store open”.

I continue to hear this from a variety of local business owners experiencing the same situation. In some cases I’ve heard of restaurants having to close down short term due to the lack of labor, or at a minimum put their focus on labor issues instead of running their stores.

On the development front, I’ve spoken to a number of builders and labor is the ongoing issue pushing them away with a poor experience? Perhaps you should use these funds for incentive programs.

It’s my understanding the Council is putting the tin cup out to the business community.

On the “secure border” issue, Trumpers are getting an exclusive funding focus on a wall, when less than 50 percent of illegal crossings originate to the south, and almost all contraband is smuggled through legal border crossings and via plane or boats. No credible expert on border security believes this approach is effective, while our current family separation policies draw international condemnation.

It’s also verifiable that our “America First” policies are pleasing Trump supporters, along with Vladimir Putin, Bashar al-Assad, and the House of Saud. You are in good company here.

The writer also objects to those who brand Mr. Trump as a racist. Has he forgotten, among numerous other missteps and actions, that Mr. Trump gained attention by demanding Mr. Obama show his long-form birth certificate? Case closed.

I do hope that the letter writer and I will agree on two things. First, Mr. Trump’s daily discourse so cheapens the presidency would not be tolerated in American school and university classrooms. I taught for almost 40 years and I can assure you of this fact.

Some alternative suggestions to solve our housing crisis may be lighten your focus on obtaining government handouts (grants), deed restricted solutions, and regulations. Instead consider offering incentives to the private sector, such as property owners and builders. Perhaps consider an incentive program to permit additional density in Multi-Family areas and get rid of all fees for anyone increasing the supply of needed housing in town over the next 2-5 years (or until things stabilize). Let the market takes its course.

Another consideration would be to incentivize (not create more hurdles for) all construction related to new or renovated housing and lodging. The proposal of another 1% tax will create another hinderance for the construction of much needed nightly rental product. Councilmember Wentworth asked at a recent community meeting, why the Council should consider incentives if a developer overpays for land, the government is simply over regulating and over taxing. In many cases the land could be free and the project would not pencil to do over-regulation.

In my opinion, we don’t have a housing problem. We have a government regulation problem. I appreciate your efforts thus far, but we need more immediate action.

Matthew T. Lehman
Mammoth Lakes

Get over yourself, yourself

Dear Editor,

Respecting to a letter submitted last week “Get over yourself” by Gary Guenther...

Mr. Guenther characterized those who oppose Mr. Trump’s policies as baseless opposition in the face of supporting quantitative data. He begins by citing the record low unemployment rate. While Mr. Trump deserves credit, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, more jobs were created during the last 36 months of the Obama Administration than during the first 36 months of the current one. Thus Mr. Trump’s low employment rate continues that equaled and often exceeded by Mr. Obama. While both deserve credit, the current rate is not the sole doing of Mr. Trump.

In outing the economy the writer fails to mention how the federal deficit has ballooned by 50 percent in just three years due to spending increases and tax cuts heavily skewed to benefit the richest among us—and to penalize those living in high population states such as California.

He has a point that Trump voters “got what they wanted on policy issues.” Take regulations for example, where coal miners can now flush measurably toxic chemicals and sluice downstream. At least 42 endangered species, from the green sea turtle to the yellow-billed cuckoo, are no longer protected from developers. And farmers can again spray numerous banned pesticides proven to cause long-term health problems.

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And secondly, regarding impeachment, I’m sure we agree that Mr. Trump and his inner circle should testify under oath and provide the requested documents which will undoubtedly exonerate him.

Stephen Cunha
Mammoth Lakes

Mr. Cunha is a Professor Emeritus of Geography from Humboldt State University.
**LOCAL BRIEFS**

**Fair(grounds) game**

Governor Gavin Newsom took aim at the homelessness issue in California on January 8, signing an executive order and announcing a plan to ask lawmakers for $1.4 billion to pay for rent, build shelters, and provide treatment for homeless individuals.

Newsom directed state agencies to identify state lands and facilities that could be used as short term housing, including the Mammoth Lakes land adjacent to highways. He asked that the Department of Food and Agriculture, in conjunction with other agencies, do an initial survey of fairgrounds in areas where a shelter crisis is in effect, and determine the population capacity for short-term usage as a shelter.

All counties, cities, special districts, school districts, transit agencies, non-governmental actors and tribal governments are asked to examine their own ability to provide shelter for homeless individuals on a short-term emergency basis.

A member of the Tri-County Fair Board told The Sheet the fairgrounds is concerned about what impact Newsom’s directive may have - because it’s not just a matter of throwing open the doors. It also has to be staffed. And can pose conflicts with other users and longstanding events.

**Supes to discuss groundwater**

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors is ready to discuss the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) at its regular meeting Tuesday, January 14. Specifically, the Board will receive a presentation by staff and an update from Supervisor Kingsley, Inyo County’s representative on the IWVGA. The GSP is scheduled for consideration by the IWVGA on Thursday, January 16, 2020. One of the components of the GSP is inclusion of a project seeking to import water into the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin via the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Inyo County is one of five members of the IWVGA, which also includes Kern and San Bernardino counties, the City of Ridgecrest, and the Indian Wells Valley Water District. The joint powers authority was created for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin, which the state determined is "critical overdraft" due to decades of over-pumping. SGMA is requiring development of a GSP as part of the mandate to halt the overdraft and bring the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin into balanced levels of pumping and recharge by 2040. The GSP is due this month.

"Although Inyo County’s constituency is a relatively small portion of the groundwater users in that basin (i.e., Pearsonville), Inyo County has outsized concerns regarding the future of the basin’s water use due to the intention of our fellow JPA members to import water into the basin via the LADWP Aqueduct," said Assistant County Counsel John-Carl Vallesjo, who serves as Inyo County’s alternate on the IWVGA board.

The meeting will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administrative Center, 224 N. Edwards St., Independence.

*Press Release*

**Making The Case**

Caroline Casey, Special Events director at Mammoth Lakes Tourism, gave a presentation at Tuesday’s MLT board meeting detailing special events funding for 2020 and requesting an additional $50,000 funding request from MLT’s Measure A reserves.

The funding would be used to bring "one-time special events" to Mammoth Lakes and increase the 2020 Special Event funding to a total of $210,000.

Funding for 2019 came in at $125,000. Casey focused the events funding process around events that would drive TBID (Tourism Business Improvement District) and TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) revenues, with application questions that included time of year, marketing outside of Mammoth Lakes, ticketing/upside options, etc. The special events team uses a point system to aid in determining priority of events.

Events were given more points if they occurred during a shoulder period as opposed to an already busy time. Additionally, ticketed events were given precedence over free ones.

MLT received a total of 27 applications ultimately decided not to go through with their event. The final count: 25 applications seeking $334,000 in funding.

Those 25 applicants will each have a 30-minute interview with the special events committee to determine individual allocations and answer additional questions that the committee may have.

Casey and the allocation committee also asked that 20% of any MLT funding go to marketing, with the goal of driving visitation to the town.

New events for 2020 include:

- Eastern Sierra Dark Sky Festival in mid-October with an estimated 250 attendees that pair favorably with fall visitor demographics (aged 55-plus with median incomes in excess of $100,000).
- Mammoth Tuff, a gravel bike race in late September that would bring an estimated $200,000 and 600-800 guests to the area and would overlap with Oktoberfest.
- Mammoth Ultra Marathon, taking place during the last weekend of September and would bring approximately 500 attendees to the area.
- Giddy Up, a country music festival in the Village in early August that partners with the Oak Heart music festival and would bring 1,500-2000 attendees to Mammoth Lakes.
- A Keller Williams concert on June 25 to be hosted in the parking lot at Snowcreek.

MLT Board Chairman John Morris asked whether he would have to abstain from voting as he also serves as the general manager of Snowcreek. This led a number of board members to realize that they would also have a conflict of interest by that standard.

A quick scan of the applicant interview list revealed that MLT board member Michael Ledesma will be making the case for funding for the Mammoth Margarita Festival and Giddy Up music festival.

Treasurer Rhonda Duggan then pointed out that the board wouldn’t be able to form a quorum if every board member with a conflict abstained from voting on the funding request. The matter was dropped and the board voted to approve the additional $50,000 for Special Events funding.

Funding allocations will be made public at MLT’s February 5 board meeting, with a follow-up presentation at the February 19 Mammoth Town Council meeting.

*Page*

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NHID CEO Dr. Kevin Flanigan responds to criticism amid physician defections

By James

Earlier this week, The Sheet sat down with Northern Inyo Hospital CEO, Dr. Flanigan, to discuss a wide range of issues. It was an opportunity for Flanigan to respond to criticisms directed at him and the Healthcare District Board at the December 18 board meeting by several citizens. Because the criticisms were made during public comment and not part of an agendized item, the Board and CEO were not free to respond.

The criticism mostly revolved around recent departures and resignations of several doctors and other medical staff. But the speakers also questioned whether the hospital board and administration could be relied upon to “act in good faith” and in the best interest of patients.

Often, doctors are not employees of a hospital, but rather independent contractors with negotiated contracts. The contracts may or may not be renewed, or the terms and conditions of a contract may be renegotiated.

It was alleged that the way several doctors were treated under the renegotiated contracts was unfair, or at least poorly handled. Doctors were treated under the renewed, or the terms and conditions of a contract may be renegotiated.

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It was alleged that the way several doctors were treated under the renegotiated contracts was unfair, or at least poorly handled.

One speaker, Denny Renick, complained about hospital’s use of a piece of technology software, along with a concern about the pending acquisition of housing rumored to be “only for use by doctors, and not other medical staff such as nurses.” And then there was concern over the “budget deficit.”

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Among the topics discussed was the Southern Mammoth Hospital District’s (SMHD) encroachment into the Northern Inyo Hospital’s district boundaries without legal authority to do so by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) under state law. It is currently being litigated.

Flanigan said that while he personally and professionally has no quails with Mammoth Orthopedics offering clinical services in NIHD’s service area, he does have a problem with their forcing patients to drive 45 miles north and another 4,000 feet elevation to get all their labs, x-rays, MRIs, and procedures.

It’s more than just an inconvenience to patients living in the Northern Inyo Hospital District; it results in a loss of revenue which otherwise would be coming into NIHD, which offers the same services.

Flanigan believes in partnering with others to provide better services and care. He noted that the NIHD has partnerships with the Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Southern Inyo Hospital, and the Independence school district, all of which must be approved by LAFCO. He believes SMHD should be playing by the same rulebook and respect for the law.

About complaints of poor management and a burgeoning budget deficit, Flanigan responded that since he became the CEO at NIHD in 2016 and established the existing leadership team, hospital revenues have gone from $72 million in 2016 to $90 million today. As for the complaint about the deficit, he noted that it is a deficit only in the sense that it is “a deficit against the projected budget.”

Generally, any projected deficit is addressed by applying savings during the fiscal year resulting from not filling some staff vacancies, deferring some non-essential equipment purchases, and other cost savings measures.

Restructuring program

In January, 2019, Flanigan and the hospital board announced a three-phase restructuring program to bring hospital costs and revenues into alignment. Included were changes in departments, services, and included a reduction in workforce.

Asked if the loss of Dr. Robinson was part of the workforce reduction efforts, Flanigan said “Absolutely not. As a contract employee, she is not a part of the hospital personnel budget. She was a private, contract physician.”

Flanigan said that every two years the hospital must go out to make a Fair Market Value Physician Compensation Assessment Tool of the contracts they have with the doctors (sort of like a “Salary Survey”) which gives the hospital some idea of what range—from low to high—a physician should be paid. Where Flanigan admits that he made a mistake with Dr. Robinson (and two other physicians) was in misreading the assessment report when putting together her contract, necessitating renegotiating her contract. The assessment tool recommendation for compensation was based on 1,900 hours of work, while her contract had only called for 1,300 hours. As a result, Robinson was being “overpaid” based on the Assessment tool recommendations. It led to bad feelings compounded by the doctor being out of town and on medical leave when it all went down.

“Blame me for the mistake, not the district or the board. Don’t drag others into the mud for my mistake,” Flanigan says. “I truly regret the misunderstanding, I hold Dr. Robinson in very high regard both personally and professionally.”

On workforce reduction, Flanigan said that only five administrative people—just 1% of the workforce (not care providers)—were laid off or moved into a reorganized position last January. And some additional jobs were reorganized. “A plan to offer early retirements for further savings did not work out. It made a substantive difference in savings.”

As for another charge made against Flanigan, that he holds a grudge against some of the members of a credentialing board that denied his request to work as a doctor at the hospital as well as being its CEO, he denies that it has affected his feelings towards anyone on the board.

Flanigan said, “First off, I don’t really know who was on the board that made the decision. I accept their decision. My thinking was that it might be helpful if a regularly scheduled doctor was not available to come into work due to an emergency or illness, I could step in until a replacement could be made.”

According to those making the charge, his request for hospital privileges were denied by the credentialing board fearing a conflict of interest that might arise between him—being both a doctor and the CEO—and a subordinate hospital employee, who might have a disagreement over a case issue.

As to other criticisms, some questioning Flanigan’s and the board’s trustworthiness, along with other seemingly personal attacks on his management, competence and character, Flanigan simply says that he gets that he is a lightning rod for others’ frustrations and that people often jump to foregone conclusions that may not be accurate. As for taking the heat, he says simply, “It’s a part of the job.”
NOT QUITE TAKING FLIGHT

Commercial air service sees an uneven December, price hikes

By Page

While businesses in town may have seen an uptick in customers and sales during the holiday season, dismal passenger enplanement numbers served as a reminder to Mammoth Lakes Tourism and the town’s marketing arm, of the importance to rethink air service to the Eastside.

Over the course of what Mammoth Lakes Tourism Director John Urdi referred to as “a tough December,” Mammoth Yosemite Airport saw eight out of a total thirty-one flights from Los Angeles cancelled.

“That’s 26%, that’s terrible,” said Urdi. “We lost roughly 500 passengers.”

“I think I was on every one of those flights,” MLT Board Vice-Chair Scott McGuire quipped.

While load factor (percentage of the plane filled) was at 65%, up 2% from the year before, December as a whole was down 557 total passengers from the previous year. Urdi chalked the decrease in passengers up to those cancellations.

Those 557 passengers contributed to decreased overall business of nearly 1,000 passengers for the entire season to date. Urdi noted that the pacing was “not as bad as it looks but that month of December really hurt us.”

McGuire said that in his experience with the canceled flights in December, some groups chose to rent a car and drive up to Mammoth instead of waiting out of a total thirty-one flights from Los Angeles cancelled.

“That’s 26%, that’s terrible,” said Urdi. “We lost roughly 500 passengers.”

“We needed to rethink air service to the Eastside,” explained Urdi, “and they swung it the wrong way or they swung it way too far.”

By pendulum Urdi was referring to pricing.

Price gouging

Post-meeting, The Sheet contacted MLT to see if there was any written language that prevented the airlines from hiking rates two to three times what they previously were.

The answer: “No. They have a cap on how much subsidy they can receive but not on price increases,” said MLT communications director Lara Kaylor.

She also explained that the airlines are following a revenue guarantee model “which actually has nothing to do with empty seats and everything to do with... profit margins being covered.”

The subsidy cap that MLT could pay for Burbank and OC flights is $375,000. As JetSuiteX offers a season total of 4,080 seats (as calculated by crack Sheet Page), the subsidy per seat “if no passengers flew at all” = $92/seat.

Is there any incentive for JetSuite X or United to lower prices?

“The airlines want to make money and balance the supply and demand as well as the competition for pricing. The goal is to cover costs and make a profit,” said Kaylor.

The companies can make the same amount selling half the seats on a plane that they would filling the plane completely. If you have the cash to spring for an $800 dollar seat, you may as well; you could even have an entire section to yourself.

Analyzing the numbers

Service between San Francisco and Mammoth Lakes began on December 19, with 2 cancellations during the final days of the month.

Urdi explained load factor out of SFO was at 63%, up from 57% the previous year. Nevertheless, those flights were behind 136 passengers for the year.

“What’s really interesting is it’s literally like thirty passengers a month, every month, and we’re behind where we were last year,” said Urdi. “There’s no huge chunk, no month that’s either way behind or way ahead.”

He referred to service from Burbank and Orange County as “interesting,” explaining that delays in the contract process with JetSuite X pushed back the booking window by close to a month. While there has been a rebound since, Urdi explained that missing a month of flight booking “hurt us.”

Load factor out of Burbank was “exceptional,” landing at 72%.

Orange County saw a 26% decrease in load factor, down to 44% from 70%. According to Urdi, price increases played a role in the decrease in passengers, something that MLT would have to stay on top of in order to make those flights financially viable.

Burbank and Orange County saw one cancelled flight each, explained by the fact that a single plane would fly to Mammoth-Yosemite from Burbank, then to Orange County, back to Mammoth and finally return to Burbank.

If a plane can’t make one of the flights, then the rest have to be cancelled. Those cancellations resulted in a total of 33 lost passengers.

While flights out of California performed near or slightly below expectations, the air service out of Denver, a program still in relative infancy, was “the huge winner” for December.

Flights out of Denver tracked 1,016 passengers ahead of last year, with a load factor of 55%, up from 44% in 2018. Looking ahead, bookings out of Denver for February are up by 445.

Urdi attributed this increase to a focus on East Coast marketing, noting that those efforts “were really getting that Burbank to Orange County saw a 26% decrease in load factor, down to 44% from 70%. According to Urdi, price increases played a role in the decrease in passengers, something that MLT would have to stay on top of in order to make those flights financially viable.

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Urdi attributed this increase to a focus on East Coast marketing, noting that those efforts “were really getting that Denver flight to pop,” with an increase between 185-445 passengers per month. 
Digital renderings done by the HMC architect team. This is what the Planning Commission saw when they put on the virtual reality goggles.

The PEDC then got its turn to question Town Staff.

PEDC Chairman Michael Vanderhurst asked, “For clarification for someone watching at home, is there any plans to relocate or eliminate the playground?”

Vanderhurst continued, “Is the bike path network in that area doesn’t change at all?”

Hayes fielded this one, “No, if anything we will be adding to it.”

Then there was a long conversation regarding the amount of white on the structure. The concern was that someone in the mountains, or the Sherwins, would look down on the Town and it would be an eyesore.

But then Vanderhurst asked what was next for the MUF. “Sandra maybe you can enlighten us a little bit on the future pathway for this project. If the design review is approved today, what are the next steps? Does it go to Town Council before committing the hard cash.”

Moberly responded, “That is true.”

Vanderhurst continued, “The bike path network in that area doesn’t change at all?”

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“We don’t like that we are building this project to a number and not a design,” Vanderhurst asked, “For clarification for someone watching at home, is there any plan to move the park?”

Moberly responded, “That is true.”

Vanderhurst continued, “The bike path network in that area doesn’t change at all?”

Hayes fielded this one, “No, if anything we will be adding to it.”

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But then Vanderhurst asked what was next for the MUF. “Sandra maybe you can enlighten us a little bit on the future pathway for this project. If the design review is approved today, what are the next steps? Does it go to Town Council after this?”

“No the PEDC is the final decision maker for the design review. We are going to present an update to Town Council next week but they won’t be making any decision, or any action about design review.”

Moberly said before explaining that they could approve the design as is or bring it back one more time if the colors/logos were a lingering issue.

Before PEDC had its final word, Betsy Truax of the Recreation Commission and Matt McClain of Mammoth Lakes Recreation endorsed the project during public comment.

PEDC member Jessica Kennedy endorsed the project while praising the color scheme, including the white.

Vice Chair of the PEDC Jennifer Burrows wrote a statement on the project which essentially endorsed the project with a warning that the Town not rush the project and time should be spent picking colors that are appropriate.

Additionally, Burrows emphasized that the project should be self-sustaining and should not rely solely on the Town for monetary support.

Commissioner Greg Eckert said, “I don’t like that we are building this project to a number and not a design,” and ended with “If we are going to build a Sprung Structure then this is fine, but I just don’t like the Sprung Structure.”

Commissioner Paul Chang concluded his comments by stating, “With the constraints we have, I think this is an overall good project.”

And finally Vanderhurst supported the project but said he would like to see a TOML logo on the top of the Sprung Structure and was interested in the cost analysis of doing so.

The design review passed 4-1, with the modification that it comes back to the design committee one more time.

Commissioner Eckert was the lone no vote.

Town Staff will look into alternatives to the amount of white on the tent and the cost of a TOML logo on top and bring it back for review of just those two items prior to the issuance of a building permit.

This won’t slow the process down as Staff still needs approval from Town Council before committing the hard cash.
Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) is hosting its fifth annual Adventure Series highlighting outdoor enthusiasts who have a presentation and/or film screening of their activities.

The Sheet talked to ESIA’s Molly Trauscht, an operation manager for the organization, who helped find the people to fill the Adventure Series docket. “We tried to focus on locals but there are people from all over. This year we have so many awesome athletes, photographers, and filmmakers,” said Trauscht.

The first presentation will be given by Katie Rutherford, a local professional climber, on Thursday, January 16 and will continue every subsequent Thursday until February 20, when Ryan Salm presents his film screening of “Surf the Ganges,” a story of Salm and a few of his friends paddleboarding up and down the Ganges river during one of India’s largest holy festivals.

The presentations take place at Mammoth’s USFS Welcome Center starting at 7 p.m.

Trauscht found the speakers/films through many different channels. Salm, for example, was a speaker last year but unforeseen circumstances caused ESIA to reschedule his screening and the turnout, according to Trauscht, was “very low.” This year, Trauscht hopes that with increased exposure and a static date, the attendance will increase.

“I actually grew up with Johnny (John Carlson) and he skis big mountains all over the world. He was the youngest person to climb the seven summits (at age 17),” said Trauscht. She used the connection to book the 27-year old freeskier and mountaineer who will be showing ‘La Grave’ a film by Teton Gravity which describes itself as a film “to freeride skiing as jaws is to big-wave surfing. Filled with history, it’s also one of the biggest, baddest places in the world to hone your big-mountain skills.”

The February 13 screening of La Grave will be the only ski-related event at the adventure series.

There will be other impressive films, such as ‘Rotpunkt’, which details the art of the redpoint (english to german translation of Rotpunkt), a term used to describe a climbing route as being accomplished through free climbing (no ropes). ‘Rotpunkt’ shows the climbing of professional climber Alex Megos but the film’s directors, Ken Etzel and Chelsea Jolly, will be at the adventure series for the screening. In an interview with rockandice.com, Megos was asked how the film came about and he responded, “It was definitely Ken Etzel’s idea to make the movie.” Etzel and Jolly will be there to showcase historical German climbing routes and legends that help progressed the sport.

The first installment of the Adventure Series, by Katie Rutherford on January 16, will have pictures and stories of her free climbing adventures. The next talk will also feature a local climber named Katie Lambert from Louisiana, who will detail how instrumental climbing has been in her life.

And on February 6, ESIA will host Noppadol Paonthong, a sage-grouse photographer who authored a book titled “Save the Last Dance” that tells the story of Paonthong’s 17 years of documenting sage grouse, and other birds, courtship dances that are equally as impressive as they are bizarre.

Hopefully there is something for everyone as Trauscht told the Sheet, “It is a fun way to be a part of the community, and to get stoked.”

Doors open at 6 and the events begin at 7 so there is an hour to hang out at the Mammoth Lakes welcome center before the show. All shows will be in the US Forest Service Auditorium in Mammoth Lakes. Tickets are $15 and come with a free beer courtesy of June Lake Brewing. Bring your own mug or purchase one from ESIA for $8.
HUSKIES BEAT UP LONE PINE

Girls

The Mammoth high girls basketball team got a clutch overtime win against Lone Pine by a score of 35-34.

The game started off slow with the Huskies trailing 5-6 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter Lone Pine came out with a full court press and got out to a 16-10 lead before Ella Thompson hit a 3-pointer to end the half.

With a score of 24-24 going into the fourth, the game turned into a rock fight. The score was 28-28 with 9.8 seconds left. Lone Pine had a chance to win the game as the clock hit zero but the shot rimmed out.

Overtime started off slow but the huskies clawed ahead to a 33-30 lead. Two clutch free throws by Kelly Alvarado appeared to end the game 35-30 but on the ensuing possession Lone Pine hit a three pointer to bring it back to a one score game, 35-33.

With less than 10 seconds left in the game, The huskies threw the ball down the court and missed a layup, lone pine then grabbed the rebound and the huskies fouled them with 1.2 seconds left to go.

Lone Pine had a 1-and-1 opportunity to send the game into a double overtime.

The gym was tense but then the students started to rattle the bleachers. Lone Pine hit the first free throw but missed the second, ending the game with a final score of 35-34.

Boys

The boys basketball team got off to a hot start leading the eagles of Lone Pine 16-4 after one quarter.

They never looked back. 28-10 at half. 38-21 going into the 4th.

And a final score of 56-37.

The boys team was led by impressive play from Trent Presson and Ryder Radcliffe.
**BUSINESS**

**ARE BLACKOUTS A BAD THING?**

Assessing the impact of the Ikon Pass

By Hite

The holiday season is wrapping up and even though most colleges have one more week of winter break left, Mammoth is noticeably slower this week.

Giving us time to reflect upon the impact of the Ikon pass, now in its second season.

The Sheet visited local businesses this week and asked a) how was business over the holidays and b) what effect, if any, did the Ikon pass (and its blackout dates of December 26-31) have on the amount of business?

Kittredge rental manager Chris Platero responded with, “It sucked.” The Sheet: “Really?”

Platero (laughing) “No, it was good... just not as good as last year... People were prepared for the blackout dates and they weren’t renting as much during the dates,” said Platero.

Terry Lucian, General Manager of Kittredge, agreed. “Business was fine, it was pretty on par with the last two years but it did dip a little that last week of December.”

Lucian explained that he didn’t look at any real numbers and was just going on feel, “The lines were chiller and it seemed that people who paid for lift tickets (during blackout dates) didn’t rent as much gear. They came prepared.”

According to Lucian, there might be a silver lining to all of this, “I think it was a good thing. I had ten more employees we could have handled the extra crowd but I don’t because there aren’t enough workers because they have no place to live,” said Lucian.

His point: businesses experienced a lull after Christmas which is a positive thing for a town that is consistently understaffed.

Robbie Kellett, a bootfitter at Footloose who also worked for the mountain as a ski instructor last year, made a similar observation to the Kittredge crew, “It spread the crowd out more than previous seasons.”

He continued, “I think it was pretty similar to last season overall but you could tell in the post-blackout days, our shop got way busier.”

The Town likely has a carrying capacity to the amount of business it can handle. That equation factors in parking, workers, and a literal housing/hotel maximum limit. Kellett thought it was a good thing, “I don’t think it hurt the town, it just spread the holiday season out thinner.”

Even stores not directly related to Ikon pass tourism experienced some effects as Mike Munson, owner of Mammoth Pet Shop, told the Sheet, “It was nice, I felt the town was a little slower and easier to navigate (during December).”

On his business, Munson said, “It was a slow month. We were a bit down but I’m not sure how much of that was tourism.”

Munson says his business experiences a near 50/50 split between tourists and locals.

Munson also had some thoughts on the Ikon pass, “I think during the blackout days most people stayed in the LA area and went to Big Bear or something. Also the Ikon passholders that were here likely were second homeowners and probably aren’t as active on commerce.”

Just being here, the town seemed busy but not packed. If the situation ever gets out of hand and Alterra experiences backlash, they’ll have to come up with another way of mitigating the problem.

For now, expect to keep blacking out until that starts to lose some of its charm.
THE DOCTOR IS IN
Daniel O’Connell offers an alternative to litigation: talk it out
By Page

Litigation is like cancer.
You wake up at night thinking about it

-Daniel O’Connell

The legal process can be extensive, arduous, and immensely tricky to navigate for anyone who’s not a lawyer. Legal disputes can go on for months and even years, with significant costs incurred and no guaranteed positive outcome.

For those seeking to avoid the headache of settling a dispute or disagreement in court, Daniel O’Connell of Alpine Dispute Resolution offers an alternative: save time, money, and sanity by settling before things even reach the point where court dates are set.

O’Connell’s background in law was a driving factor in his decision to become a mediator and dispute resolution expert. Before coming to Mammoth Lakes in 2009, O’Connell worked for a civil litigation practice in Los Angeles from 1989 until 2003. The practice handled a wide variety of cases including commercial, breach of contract, and personal injury.

After leaving the LA practice, he branched out into real estate investment, which led to the project that would bring him to the Eastern Sierra permanently, Mammoth Rock ‘n Bowl, where he spent eight and a half years as developer and owner until selling his interest in April, 2019.

At that point, he began looking into other things that he could with one caveat: “I didn’t want to go back to practicing law,” said O’Connell.

In talking with people around town, O’Connell repeatedly heard others express a need for a mediator and when he researched nearby mediators, the closest one he was able to find was in Fresno.

The reason O’Connell prefers mediation to litigation in regard to resolving disputes, he’d rather be a neutral third party in helping settle disagreements as opposed to taking a side.

He took classes at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University this past summer while developing the idea for a business he had in mind for the Eastside.

“The role of a mediator, he says is “to facilitate communication between parties and disputants … to reach a mutually beneficial resolution.” According to O’Connell, there are two strategies for mediating disputes: facilitative mediation in which a mediator facilitates the conversations and serves as a guide towards resolution, and evaluative mediation, where a mediator looks at the dispute and provides his/her own point of view on the case.

In the latter approach, a mediator can give their stance on each party’s argument and advise them how to proceed accordingly.

O’Connell describes the mediator’s role as working “towards the middle ground” and helping each party understand the strengths and weaknesses of their position.

Litigation is to be avoided, he says, “is like cancer. You wake up at night thinking about it.” He explained that court can have serious downsides: juries can behave unpredictably, witnesses take sides, and lawyers.

Some advantages of mediation as described by O’Connell: reduced cost from legal fees, significant time reduction, tailored control over the process and outcome, complete

see O’CONNELL, page 16

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The divisional playoffs

This game could put you to sleep. Ravens to have 19-minute pound-the-rock drives.

sessions each half when both teams want of points when each team only has 3 pos-

feel like it will be hard to score a bunch one. Baltimore is 9 points better but I

think they can both score.

Chiefs -0.5 v. Texans. The Texans won a playoff game ... because Deshaun Wat-

son made a tremendous play in crunch time. I still feel that guy should leave if he
doesn’t get a better coach. They are shortening his career daily with that aw-
ful scheme and awful line. He should sue the organization for creating a hostile

work environment playing behind that offensive line. Take the Texans plus the

points. I think they can both score.

Packers -4 v. Seabitches. Lay the points. The Seabitches took out the

Eagles. And you know where I am go-
ing. Sick of Eagle QB Carson Wentz. I

heard people saying the Eagles didn’t have a chance after Wentz left the game

because the offense stalled. They had a total of 3 points when Wentz left the

game. Stop it. Wentz hurt again. Gets another pass. Still ain’t done a thing in the

playoffs. Yeah Philly, eat that $128 million contract.

Coaching carousel

Mike McCarthy hired by the Cowboys. Bad hire ... on the surface. If McCarthy

changed his approach to offense, he could be a good hire. But consider ... he

never ran the ball in Green Bay. Dallas is about running the football. They have a

QB suited for a great running game, line

built for running the ball and the highest
paid RB in the league.

The Cowboys offense has been stale

and boring. McCarthy was fired for his

offense getting stale and boring.

Something’s gotta change or this is a

HORRIBLE move.

Giants hired Joe Judge (And Jury). I
can’t say a thing about Joe Judge because I have NEVER HEARD of him. He was the

Special Teams/Wide Receivers coach for the Patriots. Yeah, stop laughing. You

saw what I wrote about Pats receivers.

All I hear is that WRs cannot pick up

the playbook and can’t gel with Brady. And the WR coach ... gets a head coach-
ing job with Giants. Belichick assistants trend as BAD head coaches. This guy

hasn’t even run an offense or defense.

I’m gonna go out and say this was an

AWFUL hire NOW. This will blow up the

Giants’ problem is the GM is a moron

and wanted another patsy to blame and
control. Dumbass.

Panthers hired Matt Rhule from Baylor.

Gotta give them credit for doing some-

ting he is a college coach. But at least they

are doing something different.

Note: He is now the 5th highest paid
couch in the world. And the only coach in

the top ten who hasn’t been to a Super

Bowl.

Browns. Can’t even get people to fly in

for an interview.

Trump Train

I am back on the Trump Train. He is

pushing now to make it harder to collect
disability for a lot of people. They are
gonna change what qualifies and make

people prove they are still disabled every
certain number of years.

I agree absolutely. Too many people get away with it. And I see people crying

that it isn’t fair and we should leave it alone. Why?? If you are disabled then

you have proof and doctors verify it ... then that’s fine. But to receive disability

because you have an addiction to eating pizza and drinking monster drinks and

gain 300 pounds ... screw that. To claim disability because you can’t relate to

people and can’t stay assimilated to human beings enough to keep a job but

you can play FORTNITE online all day ...
screw you. Get your ass to work. I am back on the Trump Train again ...

Well, the whole IRAN thing. That is
disturbing. Okay, my trip on the Trump

Train was short. I’m Off again. I don’t

want to get hit in the crossfire on that

mess ...

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Michael Karch, MD co-founded Mammoth Orthopedic Institute and has been in practice at Mammoth Hospital since 2003. He is board certified in Orthopedic Surgery and specializes in total joint replacement of the knee and hip. He has a specialty clinical interest in computer navigated anterior hip replacement, total knee replacement and complex orthopedic fracture care.

Dr. Karch has been recognized by the President of the United States for his efforts at Ground Zero on 9-11 and by the United Nations and several third world governments for his humanitarian work in disaster and conflict zones.

He is an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is a Co-inventor of SMARTDrill technologies and holds multiple patents and trademarks in medical devices. Dr. Karch has been a team physician for the United States Ski and Snowboard Team since 2002 covering the Nordic Combined and Ski Jumping World Cup competitions.

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TRUMP TRAIN

By Hartley

The football world is ablaze with talk of how the Patriots are out of the

playoffs. And it was predict-
able. The Titans were going in there able to control the clock and the Pats couldn’t score. You had to know it was over for the Pats ... this year. But you also have to tip your hat to them and say well done. This is the first year since 2015 the Pats aren’t in the Super Bowl. Phenomenal.

The divisional playoffs

Vikings -7 at Niners. The Vikes beat the Saints last weekend. Don’t buy into Cousins He made a couple good throws. But ANY team and ANY QB, if you give them enough chances, will win a big game eventually. Niners -7 and lay those points. I don’t think this game will be close. Cousins was celebrating after the game like they won the Super Bowl. Which means he didn’t think they would win either.

Ravens -9 v. Titans. This is a tough one. Baltimore is 9 points better but I feel like it will be hard to score a bunch of points when each team only has 3 pos-
sessions each half when both teams want to have 19-minute pound-the-rock drives. This game could put you to sleep. Ravens win but don’t cover. Take Titans plus the points.

Chiefs - 0.5 v. Texans. The Texans won a playoff game ... because Deshaun Wat-
som made a tremendous play in crunch time. I still feel that guy should leave if he doesn’t get a better coach. They are shortening his career daily with that awful scheme and awful line. He should sue the organization for creating a hostile

work environment playing behind that offensive line. Take the Texans plus the

points. I think they can both score.

Panthers hired Matt Rhule from Baylor. Gotta give them credit for doing some-
thing new. They offered him a ton of money and years which is odd consider-
ing he is a college coach. But at least they

are doing something different.

Note: He is now the 5th highest paid coach in the world. And the only coach in

the top ten who hasn’t been to a Super

Bowl.

Browns. Can’t even get people to fly in

for an interview.
calendar of events

BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour / The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Happy hour 3-6 p.m. More info, see ad page 9.

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

Morrison's Happy Hour 5-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday in the bar.

Mammoth Rock 'N Bowl Mon. 12-2 p.m. Thurs. DJ 10 p.m.

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

Petra's happy hour. 5-7 p.m. Signature cocktails, special menu. Info:

Roberto's Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily.

The Public House Local Mondays (all local beers $5 a pint).

Famous Slocuma Happy Hour Weekdays: 4-6 p.m. Saturday 4:30-5:30 p.m. More info: See ad p. 5.


Gianni's Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m. Lg. pizza & pitcher of beer = free wings. Show at 9:30 PM. "Open 11 am - 11pm"

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

Side Door Café & Wine Bar. Happy Hour: 3-6 p.m. daily. 20+ wines by the glass.

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

Bleu Handcrafted Foods. Daily Happy Hour: 3-6 p.m. $5 Beer, Wine and Small Plates.

Devils Creek Distillery tasting room hours. 3-6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

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.

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

Jimmy’s Taverna 1/2 off select bottles on Wine Wednesday. Time: 4-6 p.m. Happy hour every day 4-6 p.m. with special menu at the bar.

Lakanuki happy hour 3-6 p.m. daily.

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

January 10-11 /

Plasty plays Liberty Bar. Info see ad page 9

Friday, January 10 /

Jelly Bread plays Mountain Rambler Brewery in Bishop. Time: 9 p.m.

Jessy Covets plays Rafters in Mammoth. Time: 10 p.m. - close.

Apres Ski with Darren Senn @ T-Bar Social Club in June Lake. Free. 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 11/

Catch all the NFL playoff action @ Liberty. Clocktower, Gomez in Mammoth and the Paiute Palace in Bishop.

Sambada plays the T-Bar in June Lake. Brazilian Party Band. 8 p.m. Tix @ balancedrocksaloon.com

Andrew Webber Blues Band plays Rafters in Mammoth. 10 p.m. - close.

Sunday, January 12/

Catch all the NFL playoff action @ Liberty, Clocktower, Gomez in Mammoth and the Paiute Palace in Bishop.

Saturday, January 11 / Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center season kickoff event @ Canyon Lodge hosted by Nick Russell. Entry: $20. Doors open 5:30 p.m. Show at 7 p.m. Huge raffle & silent auction. Free daytime avy seminars from 9-3 @ the Emerald Room, Village at Mammoth. Meet Inyo County Judicial candidate Susanne Rizo @ the Patio Bldg., Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. Time: 3-5 p.m.

Stretching and Story Time @ Mammoth Lakes Library for ages 2-10. Time: 10 a.m.

ART & WINE: ACRYLIC SERIES WITH MIGUEL FLORES - CACTUS. Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Location: Bishop Library & Art Center. Miguel will provide step by step instruction while you enjoy a fun evening at MAC Gallery & Art Center. $45, includes all materials & a glass of wine. Info: 760.914.2909

Owens Valley Arts is hosting a Portrait Workshop @ the Legion Hall in Independence. Two sessions (10-1 and 1:30-4:30). $50/session or $80 for two. Live model and materials included. Info: registration@owensvalleyarts@gmail.com/626.394.1454.

Wooly’s Saturday Parade @ the Village Time: 3:45-5:30 p.m. Face painting. Dance Party. Parade. All ages welcome. Cookies and Coca Cola with Bucky @ June Mountain. Join Bucky, June Mountain’s mascot, for cookies, cocoa, and a dance party around the bonfire. Time: 2 p.m.

Sunday, January 12 /


Tuesday, January 14 / Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets. Time: 8:30 a.m. Location: 224 North Edwards in Independence. Mono County Board of Supervisors meets. Bridgeport Courthouse. Time: 9 a.m.

Sierra Club Inyo Craters XC Ski. Explore the Inyo Craters area on and off groomed trails. 5-6 miles of skiing for a three hour round trip with a lunch break. Advanced/beginner ski level, dogs are welcome, dress appropriately for a day outside. Meet at Union Bank Parking Lot in Mammoth Lakes at 10 a.m.

**calendar of events**

**Operation Mountain Freedom**

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES), in partnership with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and the Inyo National Forest Service will welcome more than 50 active and veteran military personnel and their families for Operation Mountain Freedom, to be held January 13-17.

Beginning with a welcome dinner hosted by Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, the community of Mammoth Lakes will gather together to support our wounded warriors for a week of therapeutic recreation.

This event, which has been growing each year since 2007, was created in an effort to help our wounded war-riors reintegrate into civilian life within the beauty, safety, and joy of the Sierra mountainous. This year, athletes will participate in sessions geared toward assimilating to civilian life.

On Thursday, January 16, the Mammoth Lakes community is invited to come together to recognize all particip-ants with a ceremonial Arch of Honor at 8:45 am at the Gondola Building at Main Lodge.

For a complete schedule of events and more information about Opera-tion Mountain Freedom, please contact Amanda Carlson at 760.934.0791 or email acarlson@disabledsportsexternalseierra.org.

**Snowboard and Freeski Grand Prix**

Plan a return trip to Mammoth for the Land Rover U.S. Snowboard and Freeski Grand Prix. World-class skiers and snowboarders will compete in the Unbound Main Park and 22-foot halfpipe in slopestyle and halfpipe events. Check out this nationally televised contest and enjoy a prime viewing from Main Lodge.

The Grand Prix runs from January 26 to February 1.

**Winter Adventure Series**

ESIA is hosting the fifth annual Winter Adventure Series in Mammoth Lakes, January through February 2020. The Winter Adventure Series seeks to educate, motivate, and inspire at-tendees to explore the Eastern Sierra through presentations and films by professional athletes, photographers, filmmakers, scientists, and outdoor adventurers. The first talk will be held on January 16 and will feature local Eastern Sierra resident Kate Rutherford, a professional climber, who will discuss her career and how she got started climbing in Yosemite. Tickets are $15 and children under 18 get in free. Rutherford will be speaking at the USFS auditorium in Mammoth Lakes. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

**Southern Inyo County Sustainable Recreation Workshop**

**TOWN STUFF**

**Tuesday, January 14 (cont.)/Women In Business @ The Fort, Mammoth Lakes. Featured speakers: Alisa Harper Mosier and Sandra DiDionzio on "What We've Learned and How It Can Help You." Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Bishop Chamber of Commerce meets at Alta One Federal Credit Union in Bishop. Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m.**


**January 15-18/California Hawking meets at Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. The meet features a weekend full of workshops, competitions, and guest speakers, live music, and vendors. Info: https://www.calhawkingclub.org**

**Wednesday, January 15/"Shelter" Movie Premiere @ Wave Rave. Catch a free screening of the new film "Shelter," which follows five adventurers boarding the best peaks while practicing sustainability. Starring Jeremy Jones, Mat Schaar, Leo Tallifier, Levi Luggen and Thomas Delfino. Time: 7 p.m.**

**"Lunch and Learn" with Bishop Chamber of Commerce @ Astorga's in Bishop. Enjoy great food, get to know fellow business owners and share ideas! This month's special program will be presented by Wils Cain of Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association. Learn how ESIA is educating and inspiring people about Eastern Sierra Public Lands. Price: $15. Time: Noon-2 p.m. Mammoth Town Council meets. 6 p.m. Suite Z, Minaret Mall.**

**UPCOMING**

**Thursday, January 16/Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association's Thursday night Winter Adventure Series starts. Location: USFS Auditorium in Mammoth. Time: 7 p.m. Tix: $15. Leadoff presenter on the 16th - Local professional climber Kate Rutherford. Southern Inyo County Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Workshop @ Statham Hall in Lone Pine. Time: 6 p.m. Info: www.esseract.org or see sidebar this page.**

**January 17-19/A Night of Broadway @ Edison Theater in Mammoth. Spend an evening with some of the best Broadway tunes in history. Showtimes 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets online: $20/$18/$10. Tickets at the door: $22 No discounts. More info: see sidebar this page.**

**Saturday, January 18/Felici Trio Presents: "Viva Vienna" Join the Felici Piano Trio for a concert celebrating "The City of Music." The program features piano trios by Beethoven, Anton Arensky and a violin sonata by Mozart, performed by Rebecca Hang and Steven Vanhauwaert. Tickets: $25 Adult, $20 Senior, $7 Students. Available online at www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org, at the Box Office, the Inyo Council for the Arts, or at the door.**

**Tuesday, January 21/Volunteer Eastern Sierra’s Not Your Grandma’s Bingo returns to the Warming Hut. All proceeds benefit Rhiannon’s Kids. Doors 5 p.m. First game 6 p.m. Add'l parking available at Eastern Sierra Community Bank and Mammoth Mountaineering.**

**AT THE MOVIES**

**Movies Playing This Week 01/10 to 01/16**

- **Friday 4:30pm 7:15pm**
  - Sat- Mon 1:30pm 4:30pm 7:15pm
  - Tuesday- Thursday 4pm 7pm

- **Thursday 10:30am 1:30pm 4:30pm 7:15pm**

**Special Funding Meetings**

The Mammoth Lakes Tourism Special Funding Committee will be interviewing applicants from January 13-16. The purpose of this meeting is to allow committee members to ask questions of the applicants and for applicants to provide additional information not provided in their application. Times: January 10, 16, 8-11 a.m. January 13, 18, 1:30 p.m. January 14: 4-7 p.m. All meetings are at the Mammoth Lakes Library.
Capricorn: The Stars are reporting this should be an excellent year for you, especially when you put your heart and back into things. So whether you want a Brinks truck to back into your life or you just want to find someone you like to back into, this is the year to make it happen. To help, write this is on your morning coffee mug. “Note to self: You’re freakin’ awesome!”

Aquarius: Since Aquarians tend to be pretty hip and stylish people, you often move to the beat of your own drummer. That’s why your lucky quote comes from Thoreau. “Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.” And your new motto: “Thou shalt not let any sketchy-ass energy penetrate thy aura.”

Pisces: This is an important time for you to be nicer to other people. That’s why your words of wisdom come from fellow Pisces, Fred Rogers of Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood, “There are three ways to ultimate success: The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.” And your other words come from Mister Robinson’s Neighborhood, “This is how you answer a door in my neighborhood. "WHO IS IT?"

Aries: The Stars are reporting that lots of good things are happening to good people right now. Better yet, they say that this trend should continue for quite awhile. Since Aries are good people who deserve good things to happen, your magic spell comes from Charles Bukowski, “I believe in earning one’s own way, but I also believe in the unexpected gift.”

Taurus: Studies have shown that grounding, or the act of touching the earth, can help people in a variety of ways. Earthing therapy, as its also called, has shown to decrease fatigue, inflammation, pain and depression, it’s pretty simple. You can walk barefoot, lay down on the ground where skin can touch the earth or even go wading in a river, lake or the sea. Of course, grounding can be tough to do during winter in the mountains. That’s why Clouds always recommends intermixing naked hot tubbing.

Gemini: In Shakespeare’s “King Lear,” the mighty king is undone because he believes flattering lies instead of the honest truth. While lies may help you look cool or innocent, the truth will set you free. And that’s all we, and William Wallace, really want anyway, freedom. Therefore, your words of wisdom come from old Willy Shakespeare himself, “Many a true word has been spoken in jest.”

Cancer: To help you make it through any midwinter doldrums, be sure to get out more, and not just to the barstool at Liberty. Adopting a new motto might help. Here are a couple: 1) “Don’t be upset-ti, just have some spaghetti.” 2) “Roses are red ... Screw this, I’m going to bed.”

Leo: Hopefully, you’re starting to feel a new groove in your life. The Stars say it should get smoother every week at this point. All you’ve got to do is stay cool, kind and positive. To help get you grooving, your new theme song comes from cusp Leo, Dua Lipa, “If you wanna believe that anything could stop me … Don’t show up. Don’t come out. Don’t start caring about me now.”

Virgo: This much we know is true: People who sneeze a lot are blessed the most. Nothing is perfect in life, even if Virgos think things should be. Virgos should never be surprised to hear a Virgo say something like, “All I know is that only one of us is right and the other one is you.”

Libra: As a family-focused sign, the post-holiday period can be challenging for you. It will probably help to remember that if you scumble up the letters for “Depression” you get “I Pressed On.” And that’s exactly what you need to do to the coffee maker each morning as you get after life like it owes you a group hug and maybe even a happy ending.

Scorpio: While Scorpios feel most comfortable when you’re in control, what you really enjoy is being along for the ride. Luckily, this is the year to go with the flow, which is why you can relate to this statement: “I really don’t care what you think, unless you think I’m smart and sexy. In that case, I think you’re onto something and if you play your cards right, that could be me.”

Sagittarius: Here are your self-help questions for the week, A) What part of “I don’t want to spend anymore money” don’t I understand? B) Why don’t I just decide to forgive myself—and others—more easily? L) Who’s the knob that decided to spell “lisp” with an s?! Z) Why not just accept that I can be smoother than the cream cheese on a bagel?!
1. Who is completing this needs assessment?  
   - Self  
   - Caregiver  
   - Service Provider  
   - Other

2. Please check the box next to the town/community where this older adult (60+) lives:  
   - Walker/Coaler  
   - Chalfant Valley  
   - Independence  
   - Aberdeen  
   - Big Pine  
   - Bridgeport  
   - Round Valley/Mustang Mesa  
   - Lone Pine  
   - Charleston View  
   - Crowley Lake/Sunny Slopes  
   - Lee Vining  
   - Aspenell/Bishop Creek/Starlite  
   - June Lake  
   - Keeler/Darwin  
   - Swall Meadow/Paradise  
   - Mammoth Lakes  
   - Walker/Keoughs  
   - Furnace Creek  
   - Tecopa/Shoshone

3. What Senior Center do you frequent, if any?  
   - Walker  
   - Bishop  
   - Big Pine  
   - Independence  
   - Lone Pine  
   - Tecopa

4. Listed below are issues that could affect the quality of life for older adults (60+) in the above communities.  
   - No Need  
   - Need Being Met  
   - Need Not Being Met  
   - General Question/Help Needed  
   - Have a Legal Question

**Nutrition/Daily Care/Daily Activities**
- Getting adequate food and nutrition.  
- Getting help with activities of daily living: dressing, eating, bathing, mobility and medication.  
- Help with housekeeping activities like cleaning and laundry.  
- Availability of social or recreational activities.

**Income**
- Having enough money to live on.  
- Getting help with managing money, credit cards, debt or taxes.

**Housing/Utilities/Work**
- Getting adequate housing.  
- Ability to get a job or continue working.

**Healthcare/Long-Term Care**
- Information about Medicare, long-term care insurance or other health insurance matters.  
- Dealing with grief, loss, feeling isolated or depressed.

**Transportation**
- Access to local transportation to do shopping and access local services or the local senior center.  
- Access to health care services due to lack of transportation.  
- Access to mental health services.  
- Access to substance abuse services.  
- Access to transportation out of the area for medical or other needs.

**Protective Services/Elder Abuse/Conservatorship/Legal**
- Getting information about services or benefits for seniors.  
- Getting legal assistance for matters such as contracts, wills, estate planning or other legal issues.

5. If you found out that you were eligible to receive CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps), would you be interested in receiving a CalFresh card for purchasing groceries?  
   - Yes  
   - Maybe  
   - No  
   - Already Have  
   - No Answer

6. Your age:  
   - 55 and under  
   - 60-64 years  
   - 65-74 years  
   - 75-84 years  
   - 85-94 years  
   - 95 and over

7. Are you a veteran?  
   - Yes  
   - No  
   - No Response

8. Ethnicity (Please choose only one)  
   - Caucasian/White  
   - African American  
   - American Indian or Alaska Native  
   - Asian  
   - Hispanic/Latino  
   - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  
   - Multiracial  
   - Other

9. What was your sex assigned at birth?  
   - Female  
   - Male  
   - Decline to State

10. What best describes your gender identity?  
    - Female  
    - Male  
    - Non-binary  
    - Transgender  
    - Other  
    - Decline to State

11. What do you identify as your sexual orientation?  
    - Straight or heterosexual  
    - Gay or lesbian  
    - Bisexual  
    - Queer  
    - Unknown  
    - Decline to State

12. What is your highest education level completed?  
    - 8th grade  
    - 9-12th grade  
    - Some college  
    - College graduate  
    - Post graduate degree

13. What is the primary language spoken in your household?  
    - English  
    - Spanish  
    - Other

14. Do you experience any language barriers when seeking services?  
    - Yes  
    - No

15. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?  
    - Decline to Answer

16. Estimated total household income last year (2018)  
    - Under $12,990  
    - $12,990-$16,910  
    - $16,910-$21,330  
    - $21,330-$25,750  
    - $25,750-$30,170  
    - $30,170-$34,590  
    - Over $34,590  
    - Decline to Answer

17. What is your current living situation?  
    - Living in my own home (own or rent)  
    - Living in a long-term care facility such as a board and care home, Assisted living or nursing facility
    - Living in a hotel, motel or other location  
    - No Stable residence at this time  
    - Living in the home of a child or other relative
ESAAA SURVEY
continued from page 18

18. Do you feel isolated (not by choice) in your current living situation?  Yes  No
19. Do you feel personal isolation in any of the following areas?  Cultural  Social  Geographical  No
20. What form of transportation do you use most often? [please check only one]:
   - My own vehicle
   - Public Transit
   - Relatives
   - Friends
   - No transportation available
   - Other
21. If you currently provide regular care or support for a person age 60 or older in Inyo or Mono County continue the survey. If NO, proceed to question 29
   - Age: <60  60-64  65-74  75-84  >84
   - Not a Provider
22. What is the relationship of the person you provided care for in the past 6 months?
   - Spouse/Partner
   - Child(ren)
   - Grandchild(ren)
   - Parent
   - Other:
23. What is the relationship of the person you provided care for in the past 6 months?
   - Grandparent
   - Friend/neighbor
   - Not a provider
   - Other:
24. What County does the person you provide care for live in?  Inyo  Mono  Not a provider
25. What kind of assistance do you provide? Please check all that apply:
   - Cooking, laundry, house cleaning
   - Feeding, bathing, toileting, dressing, or grooming
   - Assistance with transferring to chair/bed
   - Meal preparation
   - Transportation
   - Managing financial affairs
   - Providing emotional support
   - Direct financial support
   - Not a provider

26. Which of these concerns have you experienced as a result of your caregiving responsibilities? Please rate each item listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Not Concerned</th>
<th>Somewhat Concerned</th>
<th>Very Concerned</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providing trained and reliable home care providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicating with healthcare professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having enough money to pay for care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensuring the recipient’s safety</td>
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<td>Understanding government programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, or SSI</td>
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<td>Receiving cooperation and assistance from other family members and friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of legal options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finding transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning for end of life care</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balancing other family responsibilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dealing with difficult behaviors of the recipient</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modifying home to meet care requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting my personal needs such as exercise, work schedule, social activities, sleep</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

27. Which of the following resources/services do you currently use or would you find useful? Please respond to all items listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource/Service</th>
<th>Currently Use</th>
<th>Would Use</th>
<th>Would NOT Use</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshops/seminars on older adult care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshops/seminars on taking care of yourself</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caregiver support group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet References about Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance with Medicare, Medicaid, SSI</td>
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<td>Assistance in determining long term care options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Money management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home adaptation (grab bar, ramp, handrails, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal emergency response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respite Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chore/Housekeeping services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home care provided by an agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home delivered meals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

28. If any of the above were checked “would use”, why do you currently not use them? Please check all that apply:
   - Not available in my area
   - Recipient will not allow or not interested
   - Not convenient
   - Unable to access because of transportation
   - Cost
   - Not a care provider
   - Other (please specify):  

29. If you live with a child under the age of 18, are you the primary caregiver?  Yes  No  Not living with a child under 18
30. If yes, are you the parent of this child?  Yes  Na  Not living with a child under 18

Thank you for taking the time to help us by completing this needs assessment!
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