THE REAL McCoy

Dave McCoy, founder of Mammoth Mountain, the one degree of separation literally binding generations of skiers and residents together, died last Saturday at his home in Bishop. He was 104.


And really, that was enough for him. One more happy face. And one more person refilling the till to finance the next adventure. The next project.

He plowed every penny back into the resort. Seeking to win over that next smile.

As a close friend who knew Dave for 50 years observed, “Money didn’t buy Dave a $100,000 Mercedes Benz. Money bought him a flannel shirt.”

And you joined him in his endeavors because he looked like you, sounded like you, bled like you. And he didn’t care about your background or your pedigree. He just cared about your ideas, your heart or your pedigree. He just cared about your background or your pedigree. He just cared about your background.

Dave McCoy was soaring off hand-shoveled jumps by the end of his first day, having heard it was a great way to impress the girls. Memo-
sories of a summer trip, in which he’d fished in pristine alpine lakes ringed by snowfields, left an indelible impression and he pledged then to return.

The stresses of the Great Depression led to Edna and Mac’s divorce in 1930. Distraught, his Mom reluctantly sent Dave to live with his paternal grandparents, Bob and Katie Cox, in Wilkeson, Washington. Here Dave thrived in a settled home, making his mark in high school athletics. But, his wandering nature led him to hitchhike seasonally back to sunny California to escape the Northwest weather. A naturally gifted athlete, he would earn letters in football, baseball, basketball and track at high schools in both states.

In 1931, before he’d even tried skiing, Dave made his first pair of skis in woodshop and was soaring off hand-shoveled jumps by the end of his first day, having heard it was a great way to impress the girls. Memories of a summer trip, in which he’d fished in pristine alpine lakes ringed by snowfields, left an indelible impression and he pledged then to return. The day after graduating from high school in Washington, he kept his promise, and rode his motorcycle to Independence, California, where he worked as a soda jerk, did odd jobs and started studying hydrography with an eye on High Sierra fieldwork for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

This was when the massive expanse of Mammoth Mountain first caught his eye: so, too, a young Bishop girl named Roma Carriere. Their courtship revolved around hiking, fishing in alpine lakes, skiing and dancing. They married on May 10, 1941, in Yuma, California, settled in Bishop and started a family the next year.

Rope tows were just being conceived then and were mostly jerry-rigged, do-it-yourself jobs with pulleys and ropes attached to a vehicle. Dave’s mechanical skills, learned from watching and helping his Dad as a child, were perfectly suited to the era, and Dave and Roma started carrying a portable tow in the back of their car, setting it up wherever the snow was best, encouraging friends to join them.

Dave operated portable tows for years on the North slopes of Mammoth and on McGee Mountain, thirty miles south, for those times when Mammoth was inaccessible due to heavy snows.

Dave was the 1937 California State Slalom Champion at age 22, while coaching the Bishop High Ski Team, and eventually coached a number of future stars on the international skiracing scene. A horrific injury, at a downhill race in Sugar Bowl, California in 1942, nearly resulted in amputation of his left leg. Only multiple

see McCoy, page 2
experimental surgeries saved his leg and it took years to recover.

In 1953, the Forest Service ceased looking elsewhere for big-money investors to develop Mammoth Mountain and awarded the permit to Dave, who had a reputation for hard work and passionate devotion to the mountain. The Forest Service trusted that Dave, who could fix any mechanical problem with ingenuity and a smile, would get the job done. The permit stipulated that Dave improve runs, add food service, provide first aid and build a chairlift. Dave began construction of Mammoth's first base lodge that summer. Chair One, the Eastern Sierra's first chairlift, was up and running two years later.

**Editor's note:** Robin Morning, who wrote “Tracks of Passion,” a history of Eastern Sierra skiing and Mammoth Mountain (published in 2008), comes out with a second book this spring which traces the first forty years of Dave McCoy’s life and is titled, “For The Love of It.”

Filmmaker Tim Ford spent two years working on a project about Dave (2013-2014) and interviewed more than forty people during that time. As an outsider and a third party who spent much of his time listening during that period, Ford has unique insight into both Dave (whom he interviewed on multiple occasions) and the people who worked for him.

One thing that really stood out for Ford was Dave's curiosity. As Carl Sagan once said, “When we are children, our curiosity and passion for science is beaten out of us. But some beat the system.”

Dave beat the system. “He was a lightning rod for absorbing ideas,” said Ford. “And he was fascinated by so many mechanical things.”

In particular, he delighted in the concept of solar power generation and turning meters backwards. “Have you seen then price of gas these days?” he would exclaim.

And the ironic part, of course, was that he might spend hundreds of thousands of dollars reconfiguring an off-road Rhino into a solar vehicle in order to save a few dollars in gas. But for Dave, it was truly about the joy of discovery, and the journey as opposed to the destination.

This, of course, maddened and perplexed the bean-counters in his life, particularly the latter versions trained and versed in the gospel of ROI (Return on Investment).

Fortunately for Dave, he had two people in his corner who were his check and balance - wife Roma and longtime CFO Nick Gunter. Well, Nick was the check-and-balance. Roma was his partner, his champion, his everything.

From a 2007 profile in The Sheet, where McCoy took Matthew Lehman and others on a Rhino trip that Lehman won in a silent auction:

“Chris Pyle’s documentary on McCoy, Mammoth Dreams … effectively depicts the scale of McCoy’s accomplishments and his sheer capacity for work. As a hydrographer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, McCoy would slog up 4,000-5,000 feet to take snow samples and be gone from home for 3-4 days at a stretch.

And then on the weekends, he’d run rope tows for visiting skiers.

To finance the motor for his first rope tow, McCoy approached a Bishop bank looking for an $86 loan.

The banker turned him down.

The banker's secretary threatened to quit unless McCoy got the loan. Her boss relented.

That was just one of the first of many things Roma McCoy did for Dave. Even now on our Rhino trip, there was Roma in the driveway, bringing out a warmer coat for Dave and lovingly putting his arms in the sleeves.

And then when we stopped for lunch, it wasn’t hired help that had made the sandwiches. It was Roma.
Mammoth’s most experienced boot fitters and sales staff.

40 years IN MAMMOTH

MAMMOTH’S LARGEST SELECTION OF DEMO BOOTS & SKIS

make some turns for Tony this weekend...

HAPPY PRESIDENTS’ DAY!

Footloose SPORTS
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FOOTLOOSESPORTS.COM | 760-934-2400
F is for Firefighters

Dear Editor:

Many residents are surprised to learn that Mammoth Lakes Fire Dept. is a Fire District and receives no funding from the State, County or the town of Mammoth Lakes (No TOT money).

Our funding comes from property taxes collected in the town of Mammoth Lakes. We receive less than 5 cents out of every dollar of property tax collected in the Town of Mammoth Lakes! With this money, we must:

1. Purchase the property for our Fire Stations
2. Pay for the Fire Station to be built
3. Purchase all the Fire Engines and Ambulance Trucks
4. Purchase all firefighting and medical equipment carried on the Fire Trucks
5. Pay for all the repairs and maintenance of the Fire Apparatus and Fire Stations.
6. Pay for propane, electricity, water, etc. (the same as you and I do)
7. Pay for salaries of our full time personnel and part-time volunteers as well as their individual pension costs

You get the idea!

During the last recession, as property values fell and so did property tax revenues, the Fire District was faced with reduced funding while demand for Fire and Medical services continued to grow. As a result, we were forced to:

1. Make cuts in 24/7 staffing
2. Extend Fire Apparatus replacement from 20 years to 25 years
3. Delay indefinitely all cost of living raises for our Firefighters
4. Delay replacing Fire personnel that either retired or left for a better paying job

As a retired Firefighter, Mammoth Lakes Fire Commissioner and member of the District’s Finance Oversight Committee, I am keenly aware of the dangers our town and its citizens face, as well as the resources needed to confront these dangers head on.

Now is the time we must increase, not reduce our Fire and Medical services. For just $7/month, it’s the biggest bang for your buck you’ll ever get! Please join me in voting YES on MEASURE F. Do it for our town, do it for our Firefighters, and do it for all of us!

Roger Curry
Mammoth Lakes Fire Commissioner

$1.64/week

Dear Editor:

If I asked you if you could afford to pay $1.64 per week to help more adequately fund our Mammoth Lakes District, which in turn provides fire protection for your home or business, what would you say?

Well I’m writing to ask you to do that by voting YES on Measure F on the March 3, 2020 Ballot.

In my opinion, this is a very important measure, and provides a great opportunity for our citizenry to take some control over their own safety. Unlike a tax that’s decided by our elected officials, and put to us, the funds collected by passage of this measure stay in this town, and fund our Fire District.

Yes, Mammoth Lakes is serviced by a Fire District. Many people are unaware of the difference between a Fire Department and a Fire District. A Fire Department is directly funded by the town or county to which it’s assigned. Whereas a Fire District is funded by a portion of property tax collected in the town or county to which it’s assigned. Unfortunately the slice of the monopoly pie that funds the Mammoth Lakes Fire District is woefully small.

Because the District is independent from the Town of Mammoth Lakes, it does not receive any funding from the Town, the Tourism Occupancy Tax (TOT), or local sales taxes.

All revenue from Measure F can only be used for local fire protection and emergency medical response services. The Town, the County, and the State cannot appropriate this money for any other purpose.

If passed, Measure F funds will be used to retain and recruit experienced firefighters. Presently, the Fire District is having trouble recruiting to fill its ranks. That is because the District lacks sufficient monies to pay a competitive wage. Our Volunteer Firefighters are as qualified as any major County Fire Department, but haven’t had an increase in their hourly wage in nine years!

The measure will also be used to restore twenty four hour per day coverage to ensure rapid response times. Who wouldn’t want our Fire District to be manned 24 hours per day?

As you can imagine, the equipment of a Fire District is subject to harsh environments. It’s costly to maintain. Measure F will help to provide the necessary funds to maintain and upgrade the equipment.

Recently our Fire District has had to lengthen the time it retains equipment from the standard 20 years to 25 years due to a lack of funds.

In summary, I believe this measure acts (metaphorically speaking) as an inexpensive insurance policy. The proposed rate: $85 annually per residential dwelling unit. A smaller rate is apportioned for unimproved parcels, commercial, industrial, office or other improved parcels.

That $85 annual cost is a mere $7.00 per month or $1.64 per week to help ensure we have a better funded Fire District. To me that’s a very modest price for protection.

Dave Easterby
Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council

Why am I running for District 2 Supervisor?

Because not enough has changed since I moved here in 1976.

Some goals we can aspire to:

* Development of more housing/commercial real estate
* 24/7 Paramedic and Sheriff coverage in the south county
* Improve / expand infrastructure (Fire Stations, bike trails/widening roads)
* Cooperation with the Town on joint needs (affordable housing to name just one need)
* Consider how to benefit economically from the new Green economy
* Explore a recreation tax for the county
* Increase visitor amenities and experience
* To Make A Difference

Eric Olson
Meet the Candidate Saturday, February 22
Tom’s Place 3-5pm
Refreshments will be provided

*MHS Class of 1981/Whittier College B.A.
*Successful local independent businessman for more than three decades
*Active community volunteer, and past president of the Mammoth Lakes Lions Club

To vote for Eric Olson:

Write in on Ballot

NONPARTISAN OFFICES
COUNTY
SUPERVISOR - 2ND DISTRICT

O JOSHUA G. RHODES
Road Maintenance Supervisor

O RHONDA DUGGAN
Small Business Owner

Elect Eric Olson
with the strength to stand on her own

Elect Eric Olson... an update on my campaign

Eric Olson
Mammoth Lakes
February 9, 2020

Dear Mammoth Lakes Residents,

I am writing to update you on the progress of my campaign for District 2 Supervisor. As of today, I have been endorsed by several community leaders and organizations.

1. The Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council has endorsed me, recognizing my commitment to ensuring our community is protected from wildfires.

2. The Mammoth Lakes Lions Club has endorsed me, appreciating my involvement in local events and community service.

3. The Mammoth Lakes Business Improvement District has endorsed me, valuing my experience in business and local development.

I am running for District 2 Supervisor because I believe that we need a leader who is dedicated to finding innovative solutions to the challenges facing our community. I am committed to working with all members of the community to find creative and sustainable solutions to our problems.

Please join me in voting YES on Measure F on the March 3, 2020 Ballot.

Sincerely,

Eric Olson
Mammoth Lakes Fire Commissioner

$1.64/week
**LOCAL NEWS**

**COURTING A NEW COURT**
Bishop City Council weighs options for new courthouse in downtown Bishop

By Page

Bishop City Council held a special meeting on Monday, February 10 to hear a presentation on plans for a new court building in downtown Bishop.

Court Executive Officer Pam Foster and presiding judge Brian Lamb spoke before city council, detailing the Superior Court’s past attempts at getting a courthouse built in Bishop.

The process for building a new courthouse began twelve years ago, when the new Inyo County court was put on a state to do list and then subsequently removed in November of the following year. In early 2011, Bishop was determined to be the location of the new courthouse.

By 2013, the pieces were falling into place for the new court house. Two parcels were still being considered as sites, the MacVyer Parcel and the parking lot parcel on Church Street, with work projected to begin in 2014 and construction to follow in 2017.

That plan never materialized.

Foster noted that 2013 brought “tough times for the court,” delaying the process, and in 2015, Bishop City Council opted not to move forward with selling the parcel on Church street, which forced the Superior Court to begin their search for a suitable location all over again.

A further blow came in 2018, when then Governor Jerry Brown, who as Foster noted, “wasn’t particularly friendly to the courts,” passed a bill that forced all the courts “back to the drawing board.”

Foster told an anecdote of a court that “was literally 2 weeks away from a groundbreaking ceremony and [Brown] pulled the funding for the project.”

According to Foster, Governor Gavin Newsom’s latest budget, from January 2020, includes $2 billion in funding spread over the next five years that will cover five projects per year.

Around the same time, the Judicial Council of California approved a plan that will provide $5.34 billion over the same time period for 33 projects.

That new funding means that those projects that Gov. Brown had previously ordered to start over are now scrambling to have their plans ready when money becomes available.

Foster reported that Inyo County currently sits at #28 on the priority list with a projected cost of $50 million. Compared to other projects that Foster mentioned, including a proposed $900 million building Los Angeles and a 40-room courthouse in Fresno, the Inyo project is quite small.

The relative ease and quickness of completion that comes with that size is what Foster believes will make Inyo’s project desirable to the funding bodies: it’s an easy box to check off if the timelines work out.

Judge Lamb lobbied the council to seriously consider the central location that City Council rejected in 2015. “The idea of having the new courthouse in the city core, I think, is really the best outcome.”

He continued, “It’s not just sentiment...
**How Dense Can You Get?**

By Hite

This week, Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH), and the Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC) watched and commented on a presentation from Town staff regarding a proposed zoning code amendment that would allow developers to double the density on a parcel as long as the excess units are designated for workforce housing.

Nolan Bobroff, the Town’s housing director, said at Monday’s MLH meeting, “The last private development to use [the density bonus] was 2004 and it has only been government subsidized projects that have used it since then.”

In 2007, the Town adopted a new Town Density Bonus Program to incentivize developers to build workforce housing rather than just market rate units but, according to Bobroff, it didn’t really work.

There is a statewide density bonus, up to 35%, that has concessions, waivers, or reductions to applicable fees associated with it. However, the Town has no ability to make amendments to this program. The program that the Town wants would allow them more flexibility in regards to implementation.

All of which leads to the updated density bonus program, which essentially allows up to double density as long as a percentage of the additional units on a parcel are designated to workforce housing.

**The Program**

Here is a broken-down version of the density bonus program:

Mammoth Lakes is zoned for parcels with 12 units per acre. If a developer wants more units on that parcel, up to 24 units an acre, they can get the added density if a certain percentage of houses are designated to local workforce within a certain area median income (AMI).

Why is it confusing? To determine what percentage of units need to be deed-restricted to certain AMI’s, the Town uses an equation which calculates a percentage of usable density requested to come up with a system of eligibility points.

In order to get eligibility points developers need to designate some units to workforces within AMI’s.

For example: If a developer has a one acre parcel designated for 12 units and wants to build 18 total units then they are requesting six additional units. Six additional units divided by 12 total possible units the developer could request due to double density is 0.5, which leads to 50 eligibility points. According to the eligibility points system in order to get 50 points a developer can deed restrict their units in four different ways, 30% to low income (41-80% AMI), 40% to moderate-income (81-120% AMI), 50% to middle-income (121-150% AMI), or 60% occupancy restricted (no income limit).

The percentage of deed-restricted units comes from the additional units requested.

In the example above, a developer wanted six units and realized they needed 50 eligibility points, so they could choose one of the above four options.

- Low-income (30%) = 1.8 units rounded up to 2
- Moderate-income (40%) = 2.4 units rounded up to 3
- Middle-income (50%) = 3 units
- Occupancy restricted (60%) = 3.6 units rounded up to 4

So the developer requested six additional units on a parcel designated for 12 units meaning 18 total units. They would have to deed restrict 2 units to low-income, 3 units to moderate-income, 3 units to middle-income, or 4 units being occupancy restricted. The developer would only need to pick one of those options and they can build 18 units on the parcel.

There are concessions and incentives associated with the density for developers. They are eligible for one concession and can request more. The concessions are as follows: increase in lot coverage, up to 20% reduction in setbacks, up to 25% reduction in guest parking services, up to 10% increase in maximum permitted structure height, reduction in one of the multi-family residential development and operational standards, approval of mixed-use zoning in an area not otherwise allowed, and projects granted a town density bonus are permitted to haul snow off site.

**The Meetings**

The MLH board was mostly receptive to the idea and wrote a letter to PEDC with a few minor changes to the code amendment. They supported the points system and the reduction of the program to developers with a minimum of 2 zoned units (the 2007 code required at least 5 zoned units). The board did, however, want the parking reduction to be for all units and the reduction of guest parking to be a maximum of 1 space per unit. Parking often becomes an inequitable policy, and District 1 Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz desired the parking ratio to be across all AMI’s and not just the deed restricted ones.

The board also supported the prohibition on nightly rentals and liked the need for a use-permit as it could deter developers from applying for the density program.

They recommended developers only need a use permit if they have more than one concession.

Lastly, they supported the 1-year review period of the program, telling staff they wanted to see processes laid out showing the monitoring of the additional units.

When the PEDC saw MLH’s amendments, they mostly agreed besides a couple minor changes. Bobroff summarized, “The changes that were just discussed and agreed to by the commission were to keep the use-permit requirement, no reduction in parking, include the liveability standard for unit-size and distribution. And then add into the policy language and/or process for monitoring of the deed-restricted units.”

PEDC unanimously voted in favor of the amendment, 4-0, with Board Chair Michael Vanderhurst absent.

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**ALL IT TAKES IS ONE SPIN!**

Second largest jackpot win ever at Paiute Palace on February 3

The winner with his prize on display, which he hit on his first spin of the day

**Press Release**

A round 6:30pm on February 3, 2020 a local Bishop resident and Paiute Palace guest visited the casino to enjoy some exciting gaming action. The customer walked into the casino with $20 in their pocket, sat and played the James Bond 007 Diamonds Are Forever wide area progressive slot machine and on the 1st spin hit the big one for $640, 995.69.

The casino was thrilled to have another huge win like this at the property. This was not the first time someone has won over a half-a-million dollars playing at this local’s favorite casino. Paiute Palace Casino congratulates the recent large jackpot winner and looks forward to more big winners. Big plans are ahead for the casino and big dreams will continue to come true for guests at Paiute Palace.

The casino recently opened its new expanded 395 Bar & Grill to include delicious quick serve items for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Customers can now enjoy a variety breakfast favorites, sandwiches, burgers, pizza and Mexican food. This will replace the old Tu-KaNovie Restaurant area. The new and improved Tu-KaNovie Restaurant will reopen with the completion of the new casino expansion project, estimated to be completed around September of this year. The new casino expansion will include a brand new gaming floor, restaurant, bar & grill, gift & smoke shop, and will have a large mixed-use event and convention space.

The 395 Bar & Grill also has a huge selection of your favorite drinks & cocktails and happy hour from 5pm to 7pm Monday thru Friday.

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**Providing financial solutions for all aspects of your life.**

Eric P. Wasserman
Senior Financial Advisor
549 Old Mammoth Rd. Ste 12
Bishop, CA 93514
760-954-2400
www.wafnet.com

The Sheet I Saturday, February 15, 2020

Providing financial solutions for all aspects of your life.
**VETERANS OF LOCAL WARS**

Controversy arises over the handling of the Inyo County Veterans Services Office

By James

At the January 21 Inyo County District Supervisor Candidates Forum held in Big Pine, the topic of supporting veterans through the Inyo-Mono County Veterans Services Office (ICVSO) was brought up in questioning of the candidates. The ICVSO is currently situated under the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office. The VSO Officer is Sheriff Jeff Hollowell, who has over 12 years of service experience. Jessica Allmon is the Assistant County Veteran Service Officer, who has held the position for 10 years and is the single staff position. She claims many veterans are "uncomfortable" around law enforcement as some have had negative encounters with them, and that many suffer Post-Traumatic Stress (PTSD) or other mental issues that make them wary of law enforcement.

Some interviewed said that they felt there was possibly a "political" element involved in the poor relationship between Hollowell and Allmon as a result of her vocal and public support of Hollowell’s opponent in the 2018 election, a charge that Hollowell vehemently denies. His primary concern, he says, is that, as Sheriff, his employees need to respect the chain of command as in all county departments. He feels there is no problem with an employee disagreeing with a county policy, but it should be done respectfully and appropriately. Citing employee confidentiality, Hollowell was mostly circumstantial about discussing Allmon. "As a county employee," he says, "she has a right to expect confidentiality with respect to her employment" and he respects that, so there are things he simply will not discuss with the public or press."

The total Inyo County Recommended Budget Expenditure for the CVSO for 2019-2020 is listed at $155,949 on Total Revenues of $91,249. Expenses for Salaries and Benefits are listed as $126,494. Everyone contacted on this story admits there is and has been a long-time issue with the program and that it should be addressed by the county, Most, unfortunately—while candid in their assessments and comments—would not agree to be quoted for this article. In most cases, this was because they prefer to see a solution worked out that possibly moves the CVSO either to another county department, such as Health and Human Services, or have it as a stand-alone office within the county. If nothing else, they would like Hollowell to appoint another veteran from within his ranks to be the CVSO Officer. Others did not feel comfortable in publicly criticizing a department with an elected official, fearing it would be interpreted as "interference."

A few expressed surprise that Hollowell, as an elected official, did not give up the Officer’s position with the CVSO and felt it was "inappropriate" for him to receive the salary bonus (approximately $10,000 annually) from the position.

According to Inyo County CAO Clint Quilter, it would likely take a ballot measure approved by the voters for any changes to be made. That is because a long time ago, a "Measure A" was passed that essentially prohibited the county from restructuring a department without voter approval. He also felt that there might be other things that might be looked at such as the county assisting the VSO by forwarding calls made to the office to be answered by another county employee, etc., when Allmon was not available.

Allmon, who has great pride in her military service, also admits that her "biggest weakness" is in dealing with "civilians" after being used to military culture. "I just want to get things done," she says. As to whether she is "difficult," she doesn’t deny it. She said that it is because she puts her clients first. She is highly trained and certified to do her job. She also has many veterans that support her and appreciate the things she has done for them. In fact, every veteran The Sheet spoke with held her in high regard.

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FLANI-CANNED?

Northern Inyo Hospital (NIH) CEO Dr. Kevin Flanigan has been placed on paid administrative leave, pending an investigation.

The action was taken by unanimous vote at a special NIH Board meeting on Thursday night.

The following statement out of closed session was made at approximately 9 p.m.

"Number 1: The Board has authorized our outside labor council to contract with outside investigators regarding district finances and operations by 5-0 vote. Second action: Dr. Flanigan is to be immediately placed on paid administrative leave pending the conclusion of this investigation by 5-0 vote. Thirdly, we will be appointing Kelly Davis, our chief operating officer as interim CEO, effective immediately pending completion of this investigation.

And that is the end of our report out... Thank you all for coming tonight and your interest in the district’s business, we really appreciate it.

While the Sheet knows no details of as to what has prompted the board’s action, there has been a fair bit of smoke surrounding Flanigan of late. The Sheet has spoken to various hospital doctors and staff in recent weeks and learned of multiple workplace harassment complaints filed against Dr. Flanigan by at least two individuals.

Further, one member of the IT department claimed that Dr. Flanigan made misrepresentations to the NIH Board in order to convince the Board to change medical records providers. This same employee added, "The IT Director [Robin Cassidy] doesn’t know anything about IT. She has no experience. No one’s ever figured out how she got her job."

The Sheet also ran a story in the January 11 issue addressing a recent spate of physician detections from NIH, most notably Dr. Allison Robinson.

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Be a Mountain

Streamin' down 395 on his Harley, he had his side, his fishing pole, a red bandana round his head, he didn't wear a shirt, independence was on his mind.

Enchanted by the Eastern Sierra, the wide open spaces, high mountain lakes, that boy was madly in love with the land.

Came a winter, six kids, the war, in the forties the money was low.

He got himself a job with the city, traversing valley peaks, through all the moods of the seasons for sixteen years he was measuring the depths of the snow.

And there was something about him, his reputation started to grow.

In the evening down at Penny's Tavern, as he comes in you ask, "Hey, did you know?"

That man on the mountain, I believe he's a legend, reminds me of a legend. He seems to thrive on Sierra sun, Sierra snow, Sierra wind.

The kind of guy who made things happen, he'd get an idea all stuck in his head, he squared up his jaw, took a ride, took a chance in his hard.

Built a lodge and some rope lows, skiing first just for fun, but then to keep things running, he worked through the nights, the storms, it was the mountain and the man.

He never got softish or cancelled as he became a success.

A magnet for adventure, if someone was willing to be part of his team, Roma set another place, they made room in their nest.

And there was something about him that made you want to perform.

Just knowing that he believed in you, you gave all that you had and then more.

Cause he was the mountain, yes he was the true friend. He was becoming a legend, thriving on Sierra sun, Sierra snow, Sierra wind.

And I was part of the golden age, one of the kids he kept under his wing.

We were his son, his daughter I know, he was our coach, our hero, the kids had a king.

Now he's pushing eighty years old and that soft wavy hair has turned to shades of gray, that's the cover, definitely not the book.

And if you want to walk along beside him, I'm going to warn you right now, you'd better be strong, you've got to work very hard just to keep up.

He still doesn't use many words even with something important to say.

Still has that same old twinkle in his eye, a quick nod of his head, then he drawls out a smile and says, "Don't you think today is an exceptional day?"

And there is something about him, that continues to inspire.

And if you're out building dreams, you will find him throwing the kindling on the fire.

Cause that man is a mountain, that man is a true friend, already a legend, he thrives on Sierra sun, Sierra snow, Sierra wind.

So many lives he has touched, do we recognize all he has done? How can we give him the honor he's earned, how can I capture the man in a song?

Cause he is a mountain. He is a true friend. Much more than a legend, he embraces Sierra sun, Sierra snow, Sierra wind.

That man is a mountain. That man is a true friend. With the grace of a tall pine, he thrives on Sierra sun, Sierra snow, Sierra wind.

A tribute to Dave McCoy words and music by Robin Morning © 1995

Lyrics to Robin Morning's musical tribute to Dave from 1995
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ARE STRs COMPROMISING FUTURE HOTEL DEVELOPMENT?

By Paul Oster

Q: We found your last column about short term rental (STRs) condos quite interesting. What are you seeing as the best locations in Mammoth for the most successful STR units and the owner’s rental businesses?

A: This is a question with no definitive answer. Success can come in many locations, shapes and sizes. And the term “best” is subjective when it comes to Mammoth condos. I’m sure there are local STR owners, Airbnb superhosts and a variety of rental managers who have strong opinions. But with the substantial variety of condominium units in Mammoth, picking one specific location or even unit size to be “the best” is a complicated task. And I’ve observed sophisticated investor-types study it and struggle with it.

Before I get to the bigger discussion about where is “best”, there is a very recent year-end (2019) review and report of the STR and hotel industry by AirDNA and CBRE (the Coldwell Banker commercial real estate division) with some enlightening information. Short term rentals were a $115 billion industry in 2019. The success of the “alternative lodging market” has the hotel industry taking note. The commercial real estate industry has acknowledged “given the undeniable change underway in the lodging sector, historical hotel valuation underwriting practices will no longer suffice.” That is a serious admission. This recognition of the impact of STRs on the hotel industry is profound and may indeed be significant for the future of Mammoth. Especially in light of Mammoth’s existing condominium inventory, the longstanding zoning overlays which permit nightly rental, and the Town’s unquenchable thirst for tourist tax dollars.

The hotel industry also recognizes that public companies (like Vacasa), venture capitalists and traditional real estate investors are fueling this trend. And online platform companies like Airbnb, Bookings.com and Expedia (HomeAway/VRBO) have evolved and are directly competing with hotels. Locally, even Alterra, through their Mammoth Hospitality arm, is making aggressive moves to further participate in the STR business. All of this has the traditional hotel industry in a tenuous position. The two key hotel industry metrics are ADR (average daily rate) and RevPAR (revenue per available room). According to the report, the new supply of STR units grew by 26% in 2019, down from 39% in 2018. The rising star of growth in the STR industry were the resort and rural marketplaces. STRs are apparently more “complementary” to these resort locations. There is more differentiated product too. And a large percentage (57%) of these STRs do not have a hotel within one mile of their location. In many of these areas, an STR can have better occupancy rates than a hotel. And interestingly, many of these STR properties have been in existence for decades. The growth and market penetration is now being driven by the popularity of online booking platforms.

The report highlighted that while the guests to these resort and rural markets are looking for affordability and location, they are also looking for local experiences (“localism”), home-like amenities (including kitchens and laundry), and uniqueness. “Unusual” experiences are popular, too. This reporting also shows how vast the market really is; there are close to 2 million STR units in the United States listed on Airbnb and VRBO. The guest capacity of those STRs is more than 10% of hotel/motel capacity in the country. Interestingly, for the past two years, Los Angeles has the largest number of STRs of any major metropolitan area, including New York City. That’s close to home. With such broad market penetration of STRs, specific locations that will outperform others is difficult to assess. And if there is such an obvious choice, it is likely to come with a big price tag.

That said, back to the theme of what is “best” in Mammoth. The Westin Monache is a condo hotel and is an extremely popular place for visitors to stay. All of the rooms are individually owned. The occupancy rates and gross revenues are

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impressive. The Studio units perform at an occupancy level rarely seen in a mountain resort community. Many are occupied at or above 80% of available nights. Within the last year, its two-bedroom units are also performing at higher levels of occupancy relative to the past. The Westin has a strong brand following. But not everybody wants to stay at the Westin. There isn’t much localism. Or uniqueness. The property is an upscale corporate environment and will only become more so after the upcoming renovation and “refresh.” It doesn’t feel much like a home except for a true Westin devotee or the well-seasoned business traveler. It certainly can’t be considered unusual.

This is what makes the STR market so interesting. While the Westin is super popular, many guests to Mammoth are looking for a completely different experience. Some are strictly price sensitive and are looking for a nightly rate better than Motel 6 and the utility of a full kitchen. The proverbial crashpad. Others are looking for. One of the variables that is often covered by both owners and guests is a view. Many Mammoth condos offer incredible and unique (there is that word again) views and settings. But they too can be quite varied. One of the more interesting comments I have received from the rental industry is that an increasing number of winter guests aren’t coming for skiing and snowboarding. They just want to hang out, go for a walk in the snowy cold, build a fire, etc.. Maybe their friends and relatives came for runs on the slopes, but they just want to take-in some winter of winter guests aren’t coming for skiing. That includes size and location. The best rental properties need to be clean, comfortable, and operate efficiently. And durable. But they don’t have to reflect a little of the owner’s personal- ity and style. Again, some local vibe and uniqueness is what many guests are looking for.

What dog doesn’t like to play in the fresh snow?

-Oster

One thing owners can do to “juice” their revenue is make their properties pet-friendly. It is part of the Westin Monache’s (dog friendly) success. Spend any amount of time there and you will likely see some “trophy” dogs. Guests pay extra to bring their pets along, in part because it can be cheaper than leaving them behind. And what dog doesn’t like to play in fresh snow? Security deposits can protect the owners. The key is to make the interior of the property pet friendly and easy to keep clean.

As this modern STR trend matures, specific locations are becoming less important. Owners are taking different positions on the economics. Some want as much revenue as possible. They compete on price and their units get turned over constantly. The dynamic pricing apps, algorithms, and data helps them compete on this level. These units are likely to be booked even when town is quiet. Other owners are reevaluating and strategizing for quality not quantity. STRs and the online platforms can be incredibly flexible. And CPAs can be quite creative.

The AirDNA/CBRE report shows us that the STR industry is here to stay and will have an increasingly large market position in resort lodging. How all of this will impact future traditional hotel and condo hotel development in Mammoth is yet to be seen. It certainly makes the development pro forms more pre-cari-ous.

The Ski Area’s consultant Hart How- erton said just a few years ago the com-munity was 1,000 beds short. Maybe some of that shortage is being consumed by new STR units. Or maybe some of the excess demand is now alleviated by the IRON blackout (or made worse for the following week). But for now Mammoth is along for this new STR ride. And the far-reaching ties between our com-munity and the local real estate market only becomes tighter.

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of RE/ MAX of Mammoth (celebrating 30 years). For other timely real estate information you can go to www.MammothRealEstate-Blog.com.

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OSTER
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From The Sheet, May, 2015

...Now I don’t know if Dave is a religious man, but when I think about him, the passage that comes to mind is Luke 16:10. “He who is faithful in little is faithful in much.”

Which I interpret as the little things matter, and how you handle the little things really does answer the Big Questions.

My friend Scott McGuire told me a great Dave story the other day. It was 1997, and Scott was working on the hill as a supervisor in some capacity. It was during one of those storm cycles where it just snows and snows and the Mountain was lucky to have one lift open that day – Scott can’t recall if it was Chair 20 or 21.

So Scott troops into the lodge to fill up a thermos of hot chocolate to bring to the lifties and the few hearty skiers braving the elements. He runs into Dave, who asks him what he’s doing. When Scott tells him, and Dave realizes that Scott was actually paying for the hot chocolate out of his own pocket, he says, “Hold on a second.”

Next thing Scott knows, Dave’s got his snow gear on and he’s filling a veritable barrel of hot chocolate and personally taking Scott out to the lift on his snowmobile.

This was when Dave was a spring chicken – like 82.

On one level, Dave’s time is infinitely precious – far more valuable than any consultant’s time, or lawyer’s time, or therapist’s time. That’s the elephant in the room. Even being the miracle he is, it can’t go on forever. So, you’re sitting there thinking, “I’m nothing but a waste of this guy’s time. He has done more, seen more, knows more than I’ll ever know.”

But I realize, Dave absolutely cares nothing about what he knows. He wants to know what you know, because that might be new.

...Mike Wiegele and his wife Bonnie walk in. They operate one of, if not the longest-running heliski operation in North America out of Blue River, British Columbia (Banff area).

The developmental arc of Wiegele’s business was similar to Dave’s. He started running heli trips in 1970 but it was a full decade before he and his wife started building a full resort.

With Dave, according to biographer/historian Robin Morning, it was a little more than a decade from charging for his first lift to building Chair 1 and Main Lodge.

Wiegele and McCoy were also similar because they were both backed by awesome wives and partners. As Bonnie Wiegele told me, she owned and ran retail shops in Banff for many years. At the end of the year, her husband would raid the kitty to continue building the resort. She was, essentially, his bank and his cash flow.

Soon, Mike Wiegele is huddled with...
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A crowd of 200+ showed up to watch a CIF playoff girls soccer game between the Mammoth Huskies and the Bishop Broncos. The huge crowd was split between the sidelines with Mammoth fans on one side and Bishop opposite them.

The eight-seeded Broncos (11-6-2) and the nine-seeded Huskies (8-7-1) split the season series between them. Bishop won the first match 7-0 on November 19 and the Huskies won 2-0 on January 3.

This Eastern Sierra rivalry match did not disappoint. The Broncos started the game playing through ball after through ball over Mammoth’s defense, testing the speed of the backs. For the most part the Huskies held up but, after a throw-in took a bounce over a Mammoth defender’s head, Gisell Mora, of Bishop, managed to corral the ball out of the air and slotted a left-footed shot into the Bishop goalie’s head, tying the game 1-1 at 34 minutes into the game.

The half ended 1-1.

The second half, unlike the first, started all Mammoth. Need dominated possession while Catherine Gacho provided a down field option on the right wing. Eleven minutes in, Sami Sokol of Mammoth was fouled in the box and awarded a penalty kick.

The crowd went completely silent with anticipation. Eva Howell stepped up to take the PK for Mammoth. She remained calm and placed the ball in the bottom right corner of the goal to put Mammoth up 2-1.

Mammoth had a few chances in the next 29 minutes but, ultimately, Bishop controlled possession of the ball.

The Broncos attacked and attacked while Mammoth attempted to just hang on. The Broncos had 4-5 real chances while Mammoth attempted to just hang on. Mammoth’s Lainey Need attacked Bishop’s center backs and got fouled 25 yards outside the box. She lined up to take the free kick and placed the ball in the upper left corner just over the Bishop goalie’s head, tying the game 1-1 at 34 minutes into the game.

The half ended 1-1.
MHS BASKETBALL WINS BIG ON SENIOR NIGHT

The Mammoth girls and boys had their senior night on Monday, February 10. Both teams won their respective games.

The Mammoth girls head coach Andrew Jones recapped the game for the Sheet, “We came out in the third quarter, against a very competitive Lee Vining Team, down 23-20 and outscored them 21-5 in third quarter and 33-17 in the second half to win 53-40. All my seniors played well lead by Senior Ella Thompson with 27 points 22 Rebounds, Senior Nicole Escobar with 7 points 4 Assists and 5 steals, senior Drew Presson with 6 points and 4 rebounds and senior Kelly Alvarado with 2 points and 7 rebounds”

The boys dominated the Lee Vining Tigers 29-11 in the first half and won the game 60-26. Trent Presson led the way with 31 points 10 rebounds and 3 assists while hitting four three pointers. Cardiff Smith also added a double-double chipping in 15 points 16 rebounds 5 assists and an impressive 9 steals and 4 blocks.

Both the boys and girls need to be ranked in the top 16 of the Division 5 Central section in order to qualify for the playoffs as they are freelancing and can’t receive an automatic bid. They have one more game on Thursday, February 13 where they travel to Kern Valley. Both teams will find out if they qualify for playoffs this Saturday, February 15.

-Hite
OBITUARY

LAVON “BUSTER” NORTON 1932-2020

LaVon Mayne Norton, 87, aka “Buster” a long-time Mammoth Lakes resident, passed away peacefully with family at his side on January 21 in Arroyo Grande. Buster and his wife Gay had been visiting family in nearby Pismo Beach when he became ill.

Mr. Norton was born in Taft, Calif. in 1932, to his parents LaVance and Ruth (Jones) Norton. He had two older sisters, Betty (Nowlin) and Billie (Pettit). Mr. Norton graduated from Bakersfield High School and later attended Bakersfield College and Southern Oregon College in Ashland.

In 1954, he married Evelyn Gay Reed at the First Baptist Church in Bakersfield. They have four sons.

After they moved to Phoenix, Ore., where Buster worked with his father in the grocery business, in 1965, he took possession of the biggest risk of his life, moving his family to the small community of Mammoth Lakes, Calif. to open a grocery store. After years of hard work, “Buster’s Market” became a successful business.

Buster later developed other business successes including two additional grocery stores, one in Bridgeport, Calif. and one in Rancho Murieta, Calif. He also opened Mammoth’s first FTD Floral delivery and gift shop where he developed his own film.

Lavon “Buster” Norton, 87, aka “Buster” a long-time Mammoth Lakes resident, passed away peacefully with family at his side on January 21 in Arroyo Grande.

Mr. Norton became a successful business owner by himself. In 1965, he took possession of the biggest risk of his life, moving his family to the small community of Mammoth Lakes, Calif. to open a grocery store. After years of hard work, “Buster’s Market” became a successful business.

Buster later developed other business successes including two additional grocery stores, one in Bridgeport, Calif. and one in Rancho Murieta, Calif. He also opened Mammoth’s first FTD Floral delivery and gift shop where he developed his own film.

For example, he was a licensed private pilot and owned his own plane for many years. He was also a very accomplished and passionate photographer. He travelled much of the world taking thousands of photographs. He was very knowledgeable and well read about Africa and took one of his favorite trips there in 1982 for a six-week photo safari by himself.

However, his favorite subject matter was the Eastern Sierra, and especially Bodie and Mono Lake. He shot a lot of black and white photographs and developed his own film. He was always working to improve his skills and attended many workshops. Some of his favorites were with famed photographer Ansel Adams.

Mr. Norton was also a very serious martial artist. He earned his black belt in Dan Zan Ryu Ju-jitsu in the late 1950s, and after moving to Mammoth Lakes, Mr. Norton opened the Mammoth Lakes Judo and Ju-jitsu Academy, which was in business for 20 years. He introduced many people to martial arts, and never charged anyone for their training.

Mr. Norton was a hunting and shooting enthusiast. He enjoyed all aspects of shooting and was an excellent marksman with rifles and handguns. He was well versed in the science of shooting and the ballistics of various firearms and ammunition.

And he was also very civic-minded and made many contributions to the community. He served as a Mono County Reserve Deputy and member of the Search and Rescue Team. He served on the Mammoth Lakes School Board for many years. During her tenure, Mammoth finally passed the school bond that funded the building of the first high school in Mammoth Lakes - still in use. He also served for many years on the Mammoth Lakes Hospital Board and was influential, along with many others, in building the first hospital in Mammoth Lakes.

Mr. Norton was a renaissance man in the truest sense of the term. He had numerous passions and interests and developed real expertise in many of his pursuits.

For example, he was a licensed private pilot and owned his own plane for many years. He was also a very accomplished and passionate photographer. He travelled much of the world taking thousands of photographs. He was very knowledgeable and well read about Africa and took one of his favorite trips there in 1982 for a six-week photo safari by himself.

Mr. Norton was predeceased by his sister Betty. Mr. Norton was survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Evelyn “Gay” Norton; his four sons: Russ (Debbie) Norton of Bishop, Calif., Wes (Cindy) Norton of Ashland, Ore., Jeff (Kitty) Norton of Pismo Beach, Calif., and Lee (Gina) Norton of Oceanside, Calif.; six grandchildren: Hannah (Sean) Muschamp of Salt Lake City, Utah, Nikita Norton of Bozeman, Mont., Katie Norton of Dallas, Tex., Hunter (Jillian) Norton of Ashland, Va., Callie Norton, presently serving in the USAF, and Remington Norton of Pismo Beach, Calif.; sister Billie Pettit of Torrance, Calif., and many nieces and nephews. Mr. Norton was predeceased by his sister Betty.

Funeral arrangements are being handled through Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel in Grover Beach, Calif. A private family burial service is planned on the family’s ranch in Ashland, Ore. The Norton family would like to thank all of Mr. Norton’s health care providers in the Mammoth Lakes and Bishop areas for the loving care he received over the years. Donations can be made in Mr. Norton’s name to Hospice of the Owens’ Valley, 363 Academy Avenue, Bishop, Calif. 93514.
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Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We currently have an immediate opening for a spa maintenance/ technician position. This is a Full Time Position (Monday through Friday). This position offers vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required. Please call 760-924-3091 or stop by the store to pick up position information. mammothspas@aol.com

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Manager Trainee, La Residence con

Clerk. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!

Bishop. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!

Aplophon Lodge is accepting applications for winter employment. We are looking for full and part time team members for year round and seasonal positions. Applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. Day and evening front desk shifts, housekeeping shifts are available. Please apply at 6800 Mammoth Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Onsite Condo Management Position Available: Requires hands-on organized individual/couple experienced in seeing and doing what needs to be done, including providing friendly and helpful customer service for renters and owners, lawn and landscape maintenance, snow removal, snow blowing, pool & spa cleaning, cleaning restrooms, general repairs, obtaining project bids, computer, website & office skills. Must be a team player, self-starter & dependable. Salary plus housing, utilities & medical insurance. Email reservations@mammothlakes.com or Fax 760-924-6495.

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

Hiring now.
Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for winter employment. We are looking for full and part time team members for year round and seasonal positions. Applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. Day and evening front desk shifts, housekeeping shifts are available. Please apply at 6800 Mammoth Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

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

Mammoth Taxic is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also hiring an Office staff person for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-914-7433, www.mammoth-taxi.com.

Vacasa is hiring full and part time housekeepers in June Lake with pay starting at $18/hour. Apply at vacasa.com/careers. 

CRAWDADS is a community of researchers who are interested in supporting and improving Rural EMS Needs through training, mentoring, and research. This position is available immediately.

East Side Bake Shop is hiring for our 2020 season, beginning April 9th! Accepting resumes for Baker/Prep Cook/Customer Service positions. Email: eastsidemammoth@gmail.com or call 760.914.2866.

Mono County Superior Court is seeking a qualified attorney to serve as Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help Center Program Coordinator assisting self-represented litigants in Mono County in a variety of family law matters including child and spousal support. This is a part-time, independent contractor, position with an annual salary of $85,828. Visit www monojustice org for more info and to apply. Please email resume to mammothspas@usa.net. 

Mammoth Rocks Motorcycle Rally

Vacasa

Vacasca is hiring full and part time housekeepers in June Lake with pay starting at $18/hour. Apply at vacasa.com/careers.

For Rent
Seeking Lodgers for my spare bedrooms in Mammoth Lakes. Upland Village neighborhood located three-tenths of a mile uphill from the Village. 31 day or longer contracts preferred. Possible master bedroom upgrade during holidays. Inquire at bowerendj@jybh.com for photos, rates and calendar possibilities.

3BDR, 2BA unit located in Lee Vining w/ garage, W/D, stove, fridge, 5,100 sq ft. Call Dennis @ 760.914.0492

2BD home in Bishop available for rent. Creek, trees, views. Largest on premises so no dogs please. Call Lunch to inquire 760-934-5702.

House For Rent/SkiHaus 3BDR, 3BA in Mammoth $330,000 ($1,212 per month. Station 81 offices. may be a new shared office space in Mammoth offering monthly rentals. Close to town, with beautiful southern views and are available immediately. See our website at www.station81.net and email info@station81.net for details.

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The following Person Is Doing Business As:

For Hire
An office space in Mammoth is looking to reorganize building in furniture and fixes and add keycards and locks. Contact info@station81.net for details.

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Range of Light Home Services

Paul Billard
111 Snowcrest Road, P.O. Box 9133
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a natural person. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 28, 2020. File Number 20-0022 (2/15, 2/22, 2/29). 

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Mammoth Rocks Motorcycle Rally

Thomas S. Parker
1935 Meridan Blvd, P.O. Box 343
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 22, 2020. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 22, 2020. File Number 20-0023 (2/15, 2/22, 2/29, 3/7).

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I hope to see you ... at Edison Theater this weekend for Sylvia. Because if it’s a dog-eat-dog world, I’d like to eat you first. 

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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour / The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Happy hour 3-6 p.m. Sundays – Locals Appreciation Night with all night happy hour. More info: See ad p. 2.

Austria Hof Happy Hour 4-6:30 p.m. Sun.-Thurs./4-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. See ad p. 12.

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

Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour: 4 p.m. daily. $6 dollar menu items, drink specials. More info: see ad p. 21

Roberto’s Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily. The Public House Local Mondays (all local beers $5 a pint).

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


Giovanni’s Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m. e.g. pizza & pitcher of beer – free wings.

Shelter Distilling Open 11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily. Happy Hour - Half off all drinks Mon.-Thurs. 2-4 p.m. Taco Tuesday 50% off Blue Agave Cocktails + $3 Tacos. More info: see ad p. 16

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

Devils Creek Distillery tasting room hours. 4-6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Location: Industrial Park, 123 Commerce Dr. See ad p. 9.

53 Kitchen & Cocktails happy hour daily from 4-5 p.m. $4-8 eats, $3-6 drink specials

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

Bakers Happy hour 4-6 p.m. Half off draft beer, well drinks and wine. App specials

Friday, February 14/ Friday Nights with DJ Bill Nye @ Shelter Distilling.

February 14-15/ Collectively plays Liberty in Mammoth. Bay Area funk! Time: 9 p.m.

February 14-16/ The Cassie B Project plays 53 Kitchen and Cocktails in the Village at Mammoth. Time: 9-12 p.m. Friday- Saturday and 8-11 p.m. Sunday.

Sunday, February 16/ Afternoons plays Rafters in Mammoth. Time: 10 p.m. Tickets: $20 advance, $25 @ door. Info and tix: http://raffman.com/mammoth/ The Story of Dave McCoy. Location: June Lake Brewing. Time: 5 p.m.
It’s that time of year again. The AARP Foundation Tax Aide programs in Bishop and Mammoth using IRS-certified volunteers prepare federal and state tax returns online without charge to low and moderate income residents. In Bishop at the NIH Birch Street Annex, appointments are available Tuesday afternoons, Friday afternoons and Saturdays. To schedule an appointment, call 760.934.397.

In Mammoth at the Mammoth Lakes Library, appointments are available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. To schedule an appointment, call 760.934.5674. Spanish speaking assistance is available and walk-ins are welcome. We encourage all taxpayers to file early even if they potentially owe money as those payments are not due until April 15th, regardless of when they file their tax return.

TOWN STUFF

Monday, February 17 cont./
After School Art with artist Kelly Turner. Children will be working on their drawing skills. Smocks available. Please send child with water and snacks. Time: after school until 5 p.m. Location: Mammoth Lakes Community Center. Ages: Elementary–High School. Cost: $30, materials provided. Register: turnerinteriors@yahoo.com (866) 225-2901.

Inyo Associates meet this month at the Legion Hall in Independence. Social hour 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Cost: $20. RSVP to execdir@bishopvisitor.com /760.873.8405

Tuesday, February 18/
Mono County Board of Supervisors meets in Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Time: 9 a.m.

Inyo County Board of Supervisors meet at the Council Chambers in Independence. Time: 8:30 a.m.

Joint Town Council/Mono County Board of Supervisors Meeting at Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Time: 1 p.m.

Paws on Patrol @ McCoy’s in the Village at Mammoth. Come meet Mammoth’s four highly trained canine employees and learn about their jobs. Time: 5 p.m. Not Your Grandma’s Bingo hosted by VES. Time: 5 p.m. Place: Warming Hut

Wednesday, February 19/
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets in Suite Z, Minaret Mall. Time: 4:30 p.m.

Women’s Politics presented by Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce @ Black Velvet Coffee. Hear from the women who sit on boards, commissions, and councils in the Eastern Sierra. Time: 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Meet Mono District 2 candidate Rhonda Duggan @ Jimmy’s Tavern in Mammoth. 5-7 p.m. Info: 760.935.3802

When: February 15
What: Slalom/ Giant Slalom
Step up your on-hill game with some friendly competition or enter for a chance to qualify for the USASA National Championships. Open to all ages and skill levels, each event will feature a medal ceremony and a chance to win tons of sweet stuff.

Bodie Reopens

Caltrans is reopening State Route 270 from its winter closure allowing for the rare opportunity to visit Bodie State Historic Park, California’s official ghost town, in winter. Once a bustling town with more than 10,000 residents, today memories of Cali-ifornia’s gold mining days come alive on Bodie’s long-abandoned streets. Thanks to ongoing preservation ef-forts, about 200 of the town’s relic buildings are still standing, offering visitors a taste of authentic Wild West history. Peek into the church, schoolhouse, barber shop and saloon; where bottles, desks and other relics remain.

Before you go: Although Bodie is open year-round, SR 270 typically closes in winter due to snow. A mild January has made reopening the road possible, but please note the road may close again with significant snow. Before visiting, check weather and road conditions on the Mono County website, and be prepared with the same as well as winter travel tips from Caltrans.

Warren Miller’s “Timeless”

From the mountains of British Columbia, across the steeples of the Colorado Rockies, to the rooftop of the European Alps, Timeless explores winter stoke around the globe. Minaret Cinemas is D’Place to see this amazing film in comfort. Special screening February 1 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available on the theater’s website at DPlaceEntertainment.com

TOWN STUFF

Thursday, February 20/
Inyo350 and Cerro Coso Community College host a candidate forum for Inyo BOS District 2 (Griffiths and Lind) and Superior Court Judge (Lamb, Rizo and Ashworth) @ 6 p.m. at the college campus on West Line Street.

Instructional Basketball. Free program for children in first and second grade to introduce basketball fundamentals. Time: 5:15-6 p.m. on Thursdays. Location: Mammoth Middle School Gym.


Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours @ The Warming Hut. Hosted by Friends of the Inyo. Free for Chamber members, $10 non-Chamber members. Time: 5-7 p.m

Friday, February 21/
Meet and Greet with Joshua Rhodes, candidate for Mono County District 2 Supervisor @ Tom’s Place. Time: 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, February 22/
Friends of the Inyo hosts photographer and author Andy Selters, and arctic guide and advocate Brennan Lagasse for an evening portrayal of an area in the northeast corner of Alaska making headlines for both grandeur and proposed oil development. Time: 6-9 p.m. Location: Inyo Council for the Arts, 137 So. Main St. Tickets $15. Info: friendsoftheinyo.org/760.873.6500.

Mono District 2 Candidate Eric Olson hosts a campaign event at Tom’s Place. 3-5 p.m. Refreshments provided.

The Inyo Democratic Central Committee will host a pizza party and ballot discussion at The Pizza Factory in Bishop in the front banquet room. Date: Friday, Feb 18 at 6:00 p.m. Topics will include candidates, ballot measures, current issues, and help on filling out the ballot. All are welcome.

Following the meeting, the IDCDC will lead a walk to the post office to mail completed ballots.

The first-ever early California primary will be held on March 3rd. Mail-in ballots have been sent to registered voters, and can be dropped off at any US Post Office up to and including on Election Day. Ballots will be counted as long as it is postmarked by March 3, 2020 and received by three days after the election. The deadline to register to vote is Feb 18.

Time: 6 p.m. Location: Pizza Factory, 970 N. Main St.

Unbound Series Continues

AT THE MOVIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Movies Playing This Week 02/14/02 to 02/24

The Inigo Montoya Cocktail

437 Old Mammoth Rd
Movie Info Line (760) 934 3131
Buy Tickets Online DPlaceEntertainment.com

Saturday, February 22/23
The Warming Hut. Hosted by Friends of the Inyo. Free for Chamber members, $10 non-Chamber members. Time: 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, February 22/23
Sundance Institute presents “European Alps, Timeless.” Film focusing on the European Alps, Timeless explores winter stoke around the globe. Minaret Cinemas is D’Place to see this amazing film in comfort. Special screening February 1 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available on the theater’s website at DPlaceEntertainment.com

Not your Grandma’s Bingo

When: Opens February 6 and runs for three weekends. Thursday through Saturday afternoons. To schedule an appointment, call 760.934.397.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit MammothLakesReperatory-theatre.org

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NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: ALEX KASPAR, an individual, and all persons claiming, through, or under such person, any title thereto, with all such persons being included in the persons named as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive.

NOTICE is hereby given that four terms of office will expire at the expiration of the term of the current office holders, unless re-elected for another term.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mammoth Lakes Town Council will hold a public hearing on the following topic:

Public comment on the State of the Neighborhood report

The project would address human health and safety concerns around the Red Rock Mine and address discrepancies between the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) and conditions of the land use permit.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: ALEX KASPAR, an individual, and all persons claiming, through, or under such person, any title thereto, with all such persons being included in the persons named as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive.

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ON AND OFF THE SLOPES

Zach Yates, Footloose co-owner, on his career, working skis, and his favorite runs

By Hans Ludwig

At Kirkwood he got his first chance to ski more technical terrain, and ski with heroes of the time like Glen Plake and Darren Johnson. But it was short lived: “Basically, we got kicked out of Kirkwood for partying too hard in the employee housing, “ he says, laughing, “so we went to Mammoth. ”

A few decades later and those skis

......

“70s-era freestyle tricks executed at 40 mph on the 215 DH skis that we thought were mandatory. And it all happened with total composure and perfect form, hands low and forward, eyes up. Even his recoveries were pretty. Skiing with Zach was a little embarrassing for everyone else, but it was better than watching a ski movie.

And even though Zach was by far the best at the cliff hucking/high speed skiing that everyone was focused on, he saw a bigger picture: “I always aspired to be a diverse skier, somebody who could step into different roles—racing, bumps, powder, steep, slopes—that’s what sets the great skiers apart.”

After successful trips to Alaska for scary early-era heli skiing and Chamonix for scary steep skiing, things were crystallizing for Zach. “I didn’t have the personality for it—I’m not good at selling myself—but I wanted to make a career out of being a pro skier.”

Armed with a gear sponsorship from Atomic, with the support of Footloose’s owners “who let me travel and looked out for me,” Yates went on his first big ski media trips, scoring the opening spread shot in Freeze Magazine—a backflip off 720’s in the backcountry. Straightlining the entire upper mountain. Obscure
YATES continued from page 21

Yates shredding in his youth. This photo appeared in Martin Forstenzer’s 2005 book, “Mammoth: The Sierra Legend.”

...which he doesn’t apply to his own skis, a pair of ten year-old Volkl GS boards that could be had at the thrift store for $50. “They’re awesome.” Why doesn’t he tune his own skis? “ ’Cause I do it for a living (laughing). I have some good new skis, a pair of Rossi Black Ops, but mostly I’m skiing with my daughter Dakota, so they work great for that.” Growing up skiing in the rain at Mt. Hood is probably good for keeping things in perspective.

For the future, Zach’s ready for a new backcountry skiing chapter. “I can’t wait to go for our first skin together with my daughter. To share that passion with her—she doesn’t even know yet…” He might even tune his own skis for the occasion.

Best run ever?
Snowboarding Mt. Tom (a 13,000’ peak above Bishop) with the late Scott Sederstrom and Sierra backcountry snowboard pioneer and former Footloose employee Martin Kuhn. “I used to think of Tom as an old man’s ski, but it’s incredible. Dropping into the Elderberry Headwall at dawn with alpenglow and knee-deep powder for eight thousand feet. No wind. I’ve skied Mt. Williamson and other rad peaks, but Mt. Tom is so big and sustained to the valley floor, the terrain is so amazing.”

Why has he stayed at Footloose for more than twenty years?
“What’s really kept me here is the owners, Tony, Andi, and Corty. They gave me the flexibility to pursue my skiing and still work here. They looked out for me.”

Best ski trip?
“I skied Alaska, all over the western U.S., Europe, but no joke one, of the best ski trips I ever had was to Wisconsin. I was on a trip for Freeze magazine and they sent us to Tyrol Basin in Wisconsin. The locals there would ski bell to bell, all day on a little ice mogul. Some of the nicest people and just hardcore frickin’ skiers. Kind of put things in perspective for me.”
HORROSCOPES

By Clouds McCloud

Aquarius: It seems only fitting that the Daytona 500 happens during your astrological time of year. This is especially the case this year for your social and love lives. So while last year may have felt like a game of bumper cars in these areas, this year will feel much more like you’re driving a Maserati along the PCH. That’s why your words of wisdom come from the late, legendary race car driver Dale Earnhardt. “The winner ain’t the one with the fastest car. It’s the one who refuses to lose.”

Pisces: Pisces is the sign of karma and creativity. With your season soon to begin, both of these elements should be on the upswing. This may cause confusion for some and inspiration for others, so kindness will be the key to navigating it all. It will also help to remember that there are no menus at the Karma Café since they only serve what we deserve.

Aries: As a sign that tends to like to observe things before speaking or taking action, Aries usually can avoid the pitfalls others signs run into. Of course, this doesn’t mean you always avoid falling, or pits for that matter. Therefore, please be sure to avoid the most common pitfalls in life: procrastination, trusting a-holes, and giving into fear. Common pitfalls other signs run into. Of course, this can work well for snacks and candy, it doesn’t always work well for people. That’s why it’s best to try to keep things in check, or at least keep your salty side classy by only saying things like, “Go intercourse yourself.”

Cancer: It can be tough to stay positive during February’s dreary winter days. That’s why you should adopt one of these mottos at least until spring arrives. A) “Surround yourself with tacos, not negativity.” B) “I can only make one person happy today and I choose me.” F) “You may find this surprising, but I don’t give a crap.”

Leo: Kobe Bryant was technically a Virgo, but his birthday fell on the cusp of Leo. That’s why so many of you in this sign, whether you loved or hated him, respected and could connect with the driven, thoughtful and multi-talented Black Mamba. It’s also why you can relate to this quote of his, “I have nothing in common with lazy people who blame others for their lack of success. Great things come from hard work and perseverance. No excuses.”

Virgo: Your words of wisdom for the week will come from the late former Laker and fellow Virgo, Kobe Bryant. 1) “Everything negative—pressure, challenges—is all an opportunity for me to rise.” 2) “We all have self-doubt. You don’t deny it, but you also don’t capitulate to it. You embrace it.” 24) “These young guys are playing checkers. I’m out there playing chess.”

Libra: Perhaps this would be the perfect time for you to embrace this Tibetan saying, “The secret to living well is to eat half, walk double, laugh triple and love without measure.” Although you may be better off following the Clouds version, “The secret to living well is to eat when you’re hungry, walk when you need to think, laugh as much as possible and make love like you just got out of prison.”

Scorpio: Scorpios tend to be straight shooters, which can really come in handy, but can also be a pain in the derrière. That’s why the Stars are reminding you that your words have power, especially the negative ones. So your new assignment is to try to tone down your words for the next few weeks, especially if you feel like saying anything like this to a co-worker or family member. “I’m certainly not a cactus expert, but I know a prick when I see one.”

Sagittarius: Hollywood icon and fellow Sag, Kirk Douglas, passed away recently. Like most folks born under this sign, he lived a full life that balanced both family and career exceptionally well. That’s why your words of wisdom come from Kirk. “Sometimes the thing that ties you down sets you free.”

Capricorn: Caps like to lead private lives. And while it’s good to keep some things secret, it isn’t good to bottle everything up. That’s because whenever you try bottle things up like a liter of soda, life likes to start throwing Mentos at you. So you’re new assignment is to find ways to share or release things in healthy ways, ways that won’t take an eye out or give you cavities.

LOCALS’ FLIGHT DISCOUNT

Residents of Mono and Inyo counties save up to 20% on flights originating from Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH).

Go online for full details about obtaining a discount code and how to book.

Save 10% when you fly to or connect through Los Angeles, San Francisco or Denver

Save 20% when you fly to Burbank or Orange County

Learn more at VisitMammoth.com/flylocal
NEW CREEKHOUSE RESIDENCES ARE AVAILABLE!
Luxury Mountain Retreats with Alpine Golf Course and Athletic Club at Mammoth Mountain.

UP TO 3 BEDS & FLEX ROOM. UP TO 2,152 SQ. FT. • SALES 877-766-9275 • LIVECREEKHOUSE.COM