Just when you’d think you’re fully out of the weeds, you can get pulled right back in.

The conversation around the proposed Colitas Farms project in Walker came before the Board of Supervisors again on Tuesday, with the opportunity for the Supervisors to approve findings by county staff from the February 4 meeting in Walker and deny Colitas Farms cultivation and manufacturing permits.

Jeni Pearsons, representing Colitas Farms, took the podium to read a letter written by attorney Nicole Laggner on her behalf. The letter asked the Board not to deny the permits, to reschedule the item on the board agenda, and follow staff recommendations to approve it.

Laggner’s reasons for asking for reconsideration: a) Supervisors Peters and Gardner’s reasoning for denial fell outside the discretion afforded in the ordinance b) Supervisor Stump’s assessments were inaccurate and contradictory, and c) the permit applications meet all the requirements asked of them.

The letter asserts that Supervisor Peters’ determinations ‘did not cite a single ‘articulable impact’ but rather stated that he ‘know[s] the community pretty well’; in addition, Laggner further alleges that Supervisor Peters had been aware of the project since June 2018 and had, in fact, encouraged Colitas Farms to proceed at every step of the way.

Supervisor Gardner was not spared, as he faced similar criticism for not adhering to the criteria of the ordinance, and both he and Supervisor Peters were accused of abusing their discretion as a Supervisor.

Laggner took issue with Supervisor Stump for claiming that had Colitas committed in writing to maintain North River Lane, as opposed to an oral commitment, his decision would have been different.

Laggner and Colitas asserted that Colitas had followed all of the procedures that they’d been asked to and acted as transparently as possible from the project’s inception; they shouldn’t be punished for adhering to the rules. Accordingly, in their view, there was no sound reason for denying the permits.

Additionally, Laggner ripped the Board for allowing “a small, vocal minority to intimidate, harass, and bully the applicants, the community and the Board meeting process.”

After Pearsons concluded reading the letter, a woman viewed the meeting from Bridgeport stood up to note that she and the others gathered in Bridgeport were supportive of the county’s findings to deny the permits and stated, “I would just like to note based on what was just presented, we are not a small majority.”

Supervisor Peters was the first on the Board to respond to the letter, and he began by noting that he is not a lawyer and doesn’t speak with “legal” terminology.

“I appreciate the passion, the drive of the applicants. I don’t agree with everything with what was characterized with what I said and what I did,” Peters said. “I wholly agree with inconsistencies with residential character...[it] was not compatible with the community in Antelope Valley for this particular project site.”

Supervisor Kreitz maintained see WALKER, page 4

Pearsons bringing in an attacker if there was a word to sum up Southern California Edison’s new approach to power shutoffs, it would be granular.

Per Merriam-Webster: Granular ( adjective): -consisting of or appearing to consist of granules -finely detailed At least that’s the word that the seven SCE representatives that appeared before a joint meeting of Mammoth Lakes Town Council and Mono County Supervisors seemed to return to as the most fitting descriptor of their new and improved methods.

Leading the SCE committee was Government Affairs Representative Cal Rossi, no stranger to the Eastside since the first Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) in mid-September. In a preamb to Rossi described the meeting as “an opportunity to hear first hand the concerns of stake holders” as well as “to hear from SCE leadership about wildfire mitigation process improvements that have been implemented since we last met.”

Rossi then ceded the floor to allow for the rest of SCE’s cohort to fill in the elected officials on those improvements. The team included corporate higher-ups as well as advisors and specialists that SCE had brought on board to manage specific aspects of wildfire mitigation.

Chris Thompson, Vice President of Local Public Affairs for Edison, echoed Rossi’s words, noting that SCE had experienced “growing pains” with PSPS events.

“In a large part, we want to hear from you,” Thompson said, “hear how we can do better, let you know how we can better serve you this year...and years to come.

Thompson also referenced the combination of factors that make Mono County’s environment unique within Edison’s grids, noting that they were unable to identify another area that presented as many challenges as Mono County does.

VP of Transmission, Substations, and Operations Erik Takayevu laid out the ground see EDISON, page 11
I URD—GE YOU TO RECONSIDER

So a few things that have crystallized (and not) for me this week.

On Measure F ... I see an argument on both sides.

On the Fire District’s side, how do you protect a community if your employees and volunteers have an increasingly difficult time being able to make ends meet financially? Firefighters aren’t like cops. They can’t live somewhere else and commute to fires. In that scenario, we wouldn’t be calling them firefighters. We’d be calling them ash samplers.

The second argument for the passage of Measure F - just look at the sheet economics. Raising an extra million dollars to defend billions and billions of dollars worth of assessed property ... seems like a drop in the bucket. And the million you spend now could save residents multi-millions of dollars every year in reduced premiums - insurers continue to look ever more closely at California fire risk. Pro-actively addressing that risk is ... well, let’s face it. We so rarely pro-actively address anything around here that I appreciate the Fire District’s bid at forward thinking.

On the other side of the ledger ... The District’s revenues have outpaced expenditures by close to $200,000 each of the past two fiscal years according to the “Statement of Activities” from the Independent Auditor’s report.

So critics say, “Hey, if you’re running that kind of surplus, why the heck do you need to soak the taxpayers for more?”

John Mendel is President of the Mammoth Lakes Fire District Board. He said the auditor’s report, taken as an independent snapshot, is misleading. Because the report doesn’t reflect the transfer of that surplus to the capital improvement/vehicle replacement fund.

The Great Recession, followed by drought and a slow recovery in property values, postponed future planning for several years, so the District is playing catch-up.

Another argument against Measure F is more philosophical. And was driven home Wednesday evening when I attended the Council workshop titled, “Town of Mammoth Lakes - Scenario Planning: Community/Destination Strategy Design.”

I know. A mouthful.

In a nutshell, there was another consultant giving another report about the “strategy” (and for that word I am forever grateful Bush 43) The Town should adopt to meet the growing strain on its infrastructure and a perceived decline in local residents quality of life.

Councilman John Wentworth: I see the place becoming “degraded.”

And the consultant chimes in that we need to strive for “destination balance.”

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Councilman John Wentworth: I see the place becoming “degraded.”

And the consultant chimes in that we need to strive for “destination balance.”

The report is full of the usual bromides and flow charts. Nothing in it you’ve never seen before. As Tom Cage quipped, “A consultant is someone who borrows your

Welcome to The Villas. Surrounded by the natural splendor of Mammoth Lakes, The Villas are located along the 10th Fairway of the Sierra Star Golf Course, and just minutes from the Village center. Owners will enjoy the stylish comfort and beauty of these thoughtfully designed homes situated in the ultimate destination for family and friends to come together and enjoy one of California’s most remarkable regions.

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villasatobsidian.com

Discover Mammoth’s New Luxury Villas. Property Brokers: Stephanie Cook, Broker, DRE #01160822; Kathy Richardson, Associate Broker, DRE #01292354
her stance that the project should be approved.
“Residents knew when they bought their homes that ag was permitted on the other side,” Kreitz said, “That could include commercial uses and likely more traffic than imposed by commercial employees.”

Kreitz proposed changing the land use designation for all parcels opposite homes on North River Lane as “This is clearly a problem that’s not going to go away.”

Like Supervisor Peters, Supervisor Stump reiterated his opposition to the project, stating that, “Board members are allowed to consider such things as private roads” when voting and that “Staff did advise proponent that there was community opposition [to the project].”

Stump also took issue Pearsons bringing in an attorney, telling her, “You made a lot of statements about wanting to be a good member of the community. Attorneys stop conversations more than they start them.”

The Board voted the same way that they had on February 4, with Peters, Gardner, and Stump in favor of accepting staff findings and rejecting the permits while Kreitz and Chair Corless voted in favor of approving the permits.

Speaking with Pearsons after the meeting, she told the Sheet, “This was our life dream to build the second half of our lives on a rural foundation, start a small farm in a small-town community where we could retire. We have been pursuing this dream since early 2018, investing our hearts, time, and savings.”

When asked whether or not Pearsons and Colitas would continue to push for permit approval, Pearsons responded, “We believe in what we are doing too much to give up now.”

The Sheet asked Pearsons whether or not they would’ve continued had the project been accepted, given public outcry.

“Yes,” Pearsons said, “because, if given the chance, we would operate our farm with the least amount of impact and pursuant to the rigorous regulatory requirements imposed on the project that are in the interest of public health and safety. We want to be a part of this community, and we respect everyone’s right to the quiet enjoyment of their properties and would like the same respect in return.”

“When the Planning Commission - the experts on land use and impacts, unanimously grants a use permit on AG land pursuant to the laws that were enacted based on the popular vote,” Pearsons told the Sheet, “the project should be allowed to move forward.”

Below is the letter from Laggner:

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors

We request that the Board:
1. Reschedule the item on the Board’s agenda and review the staff recommendations that urged the Board to approve the Permits; and
2. Follow Staff and Planning Department recommendations to approve the Colitas Farm Permits for the following reasons:
1. Supervisor Peters and Gardner’s determinations were outside the scope of the statutory discretion provided by the County’s ordinance.
   - The code provides six criteria by which the Supervisors are to evaluate an application when approving or denying a Cannabis Operations Permit:
     1. The experience and qualifications of the applicant and any persons

see WALKER, page 8

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
olson4monodistrict2@gmail.com

* 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
PROPOSITION 13

WHY VOTE NO?
✓ If passed Property Taxes will increase...
  Increased property taxes will increase rents!
✓ Current taxes are already allocated for schools...
  Don’t let Government use schools and our children to get taxes passed!
✓ Don’t be fooled that these funds will benefit our kids,
  government rarely sends funds to schools as promised!

MEASURE F

WHY VOTE NO?
✓ Another vote to increase taxes!
✓ Another tax increase that will lead to higher rents!
✓ Our fire districts are already funded, government needs to budget better!
✓ Tell Government to use the funds already allocated for fire protection!

1% TOT TAX INCREASE

WHY VOTE NO?
✓ A potential tax being discussed to increase TOT Tax to 15%.
✓ This Tax will put added stress on Mammoth guests and businesses.
✓ This Tax will increase all of our costs (not just the tourists costs)!
✓ Tell your Town Council to pay for housing NOW with Measure A funds
  currently allocated to Mammoth Lakes Tourism.
  (Roughly an $8,000,000 + Marketing budget)
✓ Proposed tax would have no sunset after housing is built!

Citizens for Responsible Government.
Tell Government to control their spending!!
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
TAXEATERS CHEER PROPOSED HIKE
Mono Supervisors on board with Town’s idea to soak visitors

By Hite

At a joint meeting between Mammoth Lakes Town Council and Mono County Board of Supervisors, Town Staff explained the pertinent issues of the current housing crisis.

Sandra Moberly, the Town’s Community and Economic Development Director, started off by presenting the current housing need in Mammoth Lakes. The County’s Housing Element update calls for a need of 240 units, 155 in Mammoth Lakes and 85 in Unincorporated Mono county, to be delivered by 2027. The Town’s Housing needs assessment, which is much more ambitious, totals 595 units needed by the community.

The cited reasons for the need were: employers losing housing, the current 0% vacancy rate for apartment buildings in Mammoth Lakes Housing waiting list of over 80 families, and Mammoth Mountain renting properties in Bishop for its employees.

Moberly then described the steps taken in the past two years with the Community Action Housing Plan. The key items were the Parcel, different partnerships taken on by the Town, and the contemplation of a 1 point increase to TOT dedicated to future housing needs.

In regards to the Parcel $7+ million has already been committed to the future housing market. Entitlements and 2023-2024 are scheduled to be completed in 2021 with site preparation to be done by 2022. The end goal is occupancy in 2023-2024.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has dedicated $2 million for housing partnerships according to Moberly’s presentation. This comes in many forms, such as the Mammoth Lakes Housing grants, the double density bonus, and other local endeavors like the Mammoth Lakes Chamber funding, grants, the double density bonus, restricted to employee housing. The parcel $7+ million has already been committed to the future housing market. Entitlements and 2023-2024 are scheduled to be completed in 2021 with site preparation to be done by 2022. The end goal is occupancy in 2023-2024.

The Mammoth Lakes TOT increase was high-lighted. A 1 point increase to TOT to be on the ballot for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This would bring in an estimated revenue of $1.3 million a year. In order for the TOT increase to pass as a ballot measure, it would need a two-thirds majority vote.

Board reacts to TOT increase

The TOT conundrum was the most robust part of the discussion between Council and the Supervisors.

Supervisor Stacy Corless posed the question to her fellow Supervisors as Council listened, “It would be great to hear from Board members on future items. Could we look at formally supporting the TOT increase or is that something we want to bring back to our board for discussion?”

This past month, Town staff representatives went to Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT), Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH), and the Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC) to see what the initial reaction to a TOT increase was. In short, MLT said it wanted more information before making a real decision. MLH and the PEDC relayed soft support for the increase, but members of both entities desired more details before fully pledging to support the increase.

Now it was the Board of Supervisors turn to react.

Supervisor Bob Gardner started, “As far as the increase is concerned, I am supportive of it. We need to talk about it more, perhaps,” said Gardner, “We are not going to deal with the housing situation unless we deal with revenue. We keep saying that, and kudos to y’all for putting it on the table. I think we need to put something on the table. But to think we can get out of the housing problem and not find some revenue to do it.”

According to Gardner, Mono County’s TOT is at 12% and Gardner supported a possible increase to not only the Town’s TOT but to start having a County-wide uniform TOT. Ad-ditionally, Gardner praised the Town of Mammoth Lakes for the diversity of sources when it comes to collecting TBID (i.e. Lodging 1%, 1.5% on general sales, etc.).

Supervisor John Peters agreed, “When you look at TOT regionally, from a competitive standpoint, when we are aligned in the Eastern Sierra in TOT... We should be getting a broad base of support for increases or aligning ourselves with other competitive markets.”

Supervisor Kreitz sits on the MLH board as a representative of Mono County and already voiced her opinion a week ago.

Kreitz claimed the “devil is in the details” at MLH and reiterated her opinions at Tuesday’s meeting. Kreitz also wanted to see how resilient the TOT was when it comes to an increase and how well a rollout of TOT into projects such as the Parcel worked.

Supervisor Fred Stump also weighed in, “I concur with Supervisor Kreitz in regards to the TOT. I think having the same TOT in the Town and the County is advantageous. He then Stump changed his rhetoric slightly, “I have to speak for District 2, particularly the disadvantaged communities; they’re not going to support this. They are already disadvantaged communities, they are already some of the most affordable places in the County to live, and they are already some of the most poorly served areas of the County to live. I am going to represent those folks and say you need to be careful when you are talking about county-wide (policies).”

The Mammoth Lakes TOT increase would need a two-thirds vote in Mammoth Lakes only. The conversa-tion strayed due to suggestions of a uniform TOT in Mono County and Town of Mammoth Lakes. The uniformity of TOT is a possibility but neither the Board nor Council took any action towards making that a reality.

The ballot measure is being worked on by Town Staff and stress-tested on people in the community. The official ballot wording needs to be submitted by July 1 in order to be on the ballot come November.
By HITE

**Mammoth Lakes Town Council seeks direction from SMG consultants regarding tourism management**

On Wednesday, February 19, Mammoth Lakes Town Council met early for a workshop regarding “Scenario Planning and Community Destination Management.”

An abstract name for a workshop attempting to solve problems facing the Town of Mammoth Lakes due to the combination of tourism and business, things such as housing, employee management, upkeep of natural resources, and tourism carrying capacity.

Carl Ribaudo, president of SMG consulting, gave Town staff a presentation that ended with three solutions: Maintain the status quo, destination management, and destination balance.

Destination management would entail upkeep of our natural resources in a way that better balances the tourists with the local community. For example, Bend, Oregon has a ‘Bend pledge’ that is a list of rules that businesses should follow. They are directed to preserve the beauty of the area to a sustainable level.

Destination balance is a plan that would work to protect the natural areas where Mammoth Lakes received the correct amount of visitors at a given point in time. The idea is tourism in any area is driven by supply and demand. If the demand is too high, prices can be raised, until the supply levels out to a point locals are happy with.

Ribaudo said to Council, “You are not unlike other tourist destinations around the globe,” and asked the question, “How do you want visitation to occur?”

During public comment, members of the community got up and asked the question of the validity of the design workshop. The Managing Director of Sierra Nevada Resort, Brent Truax, started off with, “Do we need a different consultant? We have had plans from SMG for the last 25-30 years... I am not really seeing a plan that gets into the details that we discussed before.”

Truax was referring to a meeting that prompted the consultant’s contract.

John Urdi, the Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes’ Tourism, told the consultant and staff, “What you have asked for and what we are getting starting point. There are a whole lot of other steps, I understand this plan isn’t complete but I don’t think it was meant to be complete. This is the basis and we have to put meat on the bones.”

Urdi said that the tourism problem in the town is real, citing TOT revenue in January 2019 being $3 million while July revenue was $7.2 million. He said, “I thought more people were in town during July... so something was off.”

Finally Tom Cage, owner of Kittridge sports, disagreed with a lot of the presentation claiming, “Business, even though our snow has been very lean, has not been off that much.”

“It is 4% down off of a record year. This is a plan you put together when your MLT has failed you. Your MLT has not failed you,” Cage said, eventually telling Council, “This is a nice clean presentation, this is what consultants do all the time. Other than taking your watch and telling you what time it is.”

Council listened but still felt like a coordinated plan was necessary. Councilmember Cleland Hoff said, “We need to educate the visitors. We haven’t been doing it and it’s getting worse. We have got to let people know how they are going to treat us and what we expect as a community,” before saying, “Also, I have never had a business owner tell me ‘gee I have too many employees.”

Councilmember Lynda Salcido agreed there was a problem, “You are asking the question ‘we are ok with where we are now? No, I don’t think we are ok with where we are now. We’ve got housing issues, sustainability issues, Forest Service issues, overcrowding, we have too many people in the Lakes Basin and we can’t keep the bathrooms clean. So to stick to your question, no what we are doing now is not enough.”

Maintaining the status quo was not an option.

Mayor Bill Sauser questioned the transition to high-end clientele as the Town of Mammoth Lakes has built the tourism industry by being a destination to people of all socio-economic backgrounds. Once this market segment is lost it would be hard to get it back. Towards the end of the workshop Councilmember Kirk Stapp asked Ribaudo, “What is the first step?”

Ribaudo answered, “The first step, if we are centering around option two then, I would come back at another meeting really fleshed out in detail what the next steps are.”

Stapp responded, “Can’t the [Town Manager do that rather than a consultant?”

Ribaudo immediately responded, “It’s already in the contract. I’ll do it anyways.”

“Alright,” said Stapp.

Eventually Mr. Ribaudo will be back at Town Council displaying the fleshed out details of how Mammoth Lakes is going to balance tourism with the residents that live here.

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**WALKER continued from page 1**

...involved in the management of the proposed cannabis business;

2. Whether there are specific and articulable positive or negative impacts on the surrounding community, or adjacent properties from the proposed cannabis facility;

3. The adequacy and feasibility of business, operations, security, waste management, odor control, and other plans or measures submitted by the applicant;

4. Whether granting the permit will result in an undesirable overconcentration of the cannabis industry in a limited number persons or in a limited geographic area within the county;

5. Environmental impacts/benefits of the cannabis such as waste handling, recycling, water treatment and supply, use of renewable energy or other resources, etc.

6. Economic impacts to the community and the county such as the number and quality of jobs created and/or other economic contributions.

Supervisor Peters determinations did not cite a single “articulable negative impact” but rather stated that he “knows” the community pretty well, and that, ultimately, “it’s not about who the people are, necessarily, but about the character of the community.” As noted by Supervisor Kreitz, the task of the reviewers is not to subjectively evaluate the “character” of their community, but rather, to evaluate the appropriateness of a business permit pursuant to specific criteria. Moreover, Supervisor Peters has been aware of the details of this project since June 2018; at no point did he ever suggest to Colitas Farms that their business was contrary to the “character” of his district; rather, he encouraged them to proceed at every stage and urged them “to be pioneers.”

Supervisor Peters’ findings are not supported by the directives of the ordinance and unless remedied as requested here, would amount to an abuse of his discretion.

Similarly, Supervisor Gardner’s comments also do not provide a single credible negative impact. He stated that “it would hurt the community character [...]” and the project is “too close to the residential area.” The Planning Commission unanimously approved the project as it is within the current setback requirements of the ordinance. “Community character” is not one of the criteria that the Supervisors are permitted to rely upon in evaluating the business permit. This too, if left unremedied, represents an abuse of discretion of Supervisor Gardner’s authority.

2. Supervisor Stump’s determinations were inaccurate and in direct contradiction to the written plans provided to the Board for review. Supervisor Stump incorrectly summarized that, had Colitas Farms provided written documentation of its intent to maintain the private road, rather than only oral commitments to do so, then that would have affected his decision; however, the written pack specifically addresses the maintenance of the private road. Either Supervisor Stump did not review the plans submitted by Colitas Farms, or mistakenly made this determination. In either case, this false statement cannot be relied upon to deny the applicant’s permit.

3. Fundamental fairness and due process requires the Colitas Farms Permits to be approved: Colitas Farms’ Permit Application meets all statutory criteria and has been approved by the Planning Department as suitable use for the location under the County Code.

Colitas Farms has acted prudently and transparently with the County from the inception of their project in early 2018, meeting frequently with their resident Supervisor (Supervisor Peters) and the planning department. They were instructed to include all possible iterations of the project and “paint” with a broad stroke because they could always scale back. On several occasions, they were encouraged by Supervisor Peters to proceed with their project. The owners of Colitas Farms have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars based on the direction and recommendations of the County, including the purchase of land, substantial cleanup of the land, a CEQA analysis, and professional surveys and evaluations regarding building, land, and water.

Colitas Farms’ Use Permit was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission. Accordingly, staff recommended to the Board to approve Colitas Farms’ Cannabis Business Operations Permits. In tentatively denying approval, the Board has abused its discretion in citing reasons outside of the scope of the ordinance for denying the Permits and has allowed a small, vocal minority to intimidate, harass, and bully the applicants, community and the Board meeting process.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that the Board not approve and adopt the findings that would deny Colitas Farms Permits, and that the Board uphold its procedural and administrative duties in appropriately evaluating the project on the criteria required by the ordinance.

Very truly yours,

Nicole Laggner (Clark-Neubert LLP)

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*Photo from the February 4 Supervisors meeting in Walker where approval of Colitas Farms permits was up for debate.*
**LOCAL BRIEFS**

**Benton Crossing Landfill update**

With the Benton Crossing Landfill closing 2022 the joint meeting between Mammoth Lakes Town Council and the Mono County Board of Supervisors had one agenda item updating the community of the new solid waste program. The current landfill needs $5 million to close and funding appears to be in place according to Justin Nalder, the Solid Waste Superintendent for Mono County.

There are a variety of solutions available to Council and the Board of Supervisors but they have two agreements that necessitate coordination in this endeavor. There is a flow agreement and a parcel fee agreement. Nalder told the room of Council members and Supervisors that, “There is some creative opportunities that we could consider. And I think those will get fleshed out as we get responses back from this RFP (Request for Proposal). Internally we are already working on engineer cost estimates and design applications so we will have something to base it (responses from RFP) off of.”

One option, brought up by Town Council member Kirk Stapp, was shipping solid waste to Nevada. “What’s the status of looking at that? And what is the cost in relation to that? Is it just going to be prohibitive or is it something that is going to be viable?”

Holler responded, “Right now, based on preliminary information, the actual trucking cost and tipping fee at the Nevada landfill is a little less than the tipping fee at Benton Crossing.”

Stapp wanted clarification, “So it would be the transportation costs?”

Holler then said, “Transportation and tipping together to Nevada is less than the tipping fee at Benton Crossing.”

Stapp wanted clarity, “It’s not apples to apples, as they would have to completely change the system of disposing of solid waste. Additionally, Mayor Bill Sauser mentioned shipping to Nevada would imply Mono County and Mammoth Lakes giving up control of future tipping fees.

Sauser also had concern for tipping fees in general. “My fear is, I think the tipping fees are going to have to go up, and to cover the costs of all of this, how are we going to deal with the fallout?”

Sauzer said, “One of the things that we haven’t talked about is the potential fallout of higher costs that we are going to have to pass on to the consumers.”

Nalder eventually answered the question with, “Ideally, we would design systems to minimize the impact to the customer. So they’re not seeing so much of a hit up front... The goal, at least on my part, would be to make changes in such a way that most of the residents wouldn’t notice any change. They might see a slight increase in their tipping fees but otherwise they take most of their waste to the same facility and then life is good for them.”

Mammoth Lakes Town Council and Mono County Board of Supervisors will be receiving regular updates on solid waste solutions until the Benton Crossing Landfill officially closes.

**Salcido and WWII**

The last agenda item for Mammoth Lakes Town Council at the Wednesday February 19 meeting asked Council to comment on two letters regarding SB 54 and AB 1080, two bills that would legislate out 75% of single-use plastics/packaging by 2030. Additionally, it provides an incentive system for Calrecycle to manufacture items in state with recycled plastics.

The letters sent to California senators associated with the bills pledge support and give a tentative action plan for said support.

Below is a transcript of how the Council reacted to sending these bills

Bill Sauser: “Any other questions or comments?”

Stapp: “I support Lynda’s comments.”

Holler: “You’re asking Calrecycle to do the work so ten years might be (generous).”

Salcido: “I think it’s sad. I think it’s just pathetic. So, yeah, of course I am in favor of the letter but I think it is ridiculous.”

Bill Sauser: “Any other questions or comments?”

Stapp: “I support Lynda’s comments.”

Sauzer: “Well, when I first heard the change of going to single use containers, I asked Dan if I need to go from buying six-pack containers of beer to buying kegs... [back and forth with other Council Members]... And with that I will ask for a motion.”

Council approved and submitted the letters after a 5-0 vote.

**Graduation Day**

From Thursday, February 13 to Monday, February 17, 2020, six members of MLPD & MCSO Explorer Post 7880 joined their peers from all over the State of California at the Explorer Academy, an abbreviated version of the Law Enforcement Academy. At the Academy, Explorers experienced physical training (including a dab of pepper spray on their eyes), drills and classroom instructions. Classes included ethics, traffic control, preparing for a career in Law Enforcement and numerous other topics. There were also demonstrations from the Bomb Squad, K-9 Teams, Chemical Agents, SWAT and Helicopter Ops. Attending and completing the academy builds confidence and perseverance in these law enforcement officers of the future. MLPD couldn’t be more proud of our Department’s six Explorers that graduated from this year’s OCLEAA Explorer Academy. Explorer Cecena and Explorer German brought home two awards for their excellent work.

-[Press Release]
Pot Convictions Disappearing

Los Angeles’ district attorneys are up to their eyelids in pot convictions. But, with the legalization of cannabis, now the work load is setting aside those convictions.

While Inyo County’s pot cases don’t measure up to Los Angeles County’s, District Attorney Tom Hardy has assigned an assistant DA to what he describes as a rather time consuming process. Nearly 250 locals will end up with no pot convictions on their record.

Los Angeles’ DA is asking the court to set aside those convictions. Inyo’s going a different route, according to Hardy. “What we have been working on is the process set forth in Health & Safety Code, section 11361.9,” he explained in an e-mail.

Under that Code, the California Department of Justice notified Inyo of convictions it knew about which appeared to be eligible, the e-mail goes on. Inyo has until July 1 to notify the Superior Court of any convictions the DA doesn’t want to see erased. Hardy estimated his office may only file objections on two or three of those cases.

In the past, the DA’s office has not objected to petitions to set aside convictions brought by individual defendants, Hardy stated. “Over the years, many, many misdemeanor cannabis convictions have been set aside in Inyo County under the older rules where a defendant was eligible for dismissal on the completion of probation or a drug diversion program.”

So this process is nothing really new, just really large in scope.

Between the Inyo office’s research and the state DOJ, the number of potential cases eligible for relief in Inyo County is around 250, some dating as far back as 1940, Hardy stated. The only ones not eligible are those where the individual also has serious felony convictions.

“The key is whether the defendant ‘poses an unreasonable risk of danger to public safety,’” the DA can look at the extent of injury to victims, prior prison commitments and how old those felony convictions are. The decision will be based on “criminal behavior over and above any underlying cannabis crimes,” Hardy stated.

But, Hardy repeated there are a “very, very limited number of cases” that fall into that category.

-Deb Murphy

Prescribed fires still burn

The Mammoth, Mono Lake, and White Mountain Ranger Districts of the Inyo National Forest will continue to implement prescribed fire projects in the upcoming winter and spring months as conditions permit.

Crews have taken advantage of snow on the ground to complete pile burning in locations throughout the forest. Thinning and pile burning helps to restore the forest to more natural conditions. Crews then focus on these areas for prescribed fires to help return the natural fire cycle.

Prescribed fire plans are made months in advance, are dependent on meeting the prescription parameters for temperature, wind, relative humidity, air quality, fuel moisture, etc. These areas are prepped in advance with fire hose, water, and other equipment to help ensure a higher level of control. The correct level of firefighting staff is in place upon ignition. Fire intensity (flame length) can be controlled through ignition methods.

These projects help to reduce hazardous accumulations of vegetation and fuels, reduce overall fire danger to firefighters and the public, build resilience to future catastrophic wildfires, and produce less smoke than severe wildfires.

Smoke may be visible at times from Highways 395, 158, 167, 120 and 203, as well as the communities of Mono City, Lee Vining, June Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Crowley Lake, Sunny Slopes, and Tom’s Place. All prescribed fire activities will be coordinated with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District in order to provide the best smoke dispersion and to reduce impacts to Eastern Sierra communities.

When you see prescribed fires during the cool times of the year, please understand that we are creating healthier forests and wildfire resilient communities: for today and future generations.

-Press Release
detailed three specific areas within the power grid that SCE was reworking: marking the grid, increasing situational awareness technology, and improving capabilities for managing operations. Takayesu broke the grid into two components, transmission and distribution, explaining that transmission deals with the two 115k volt lines that serve the substation at Casa Diablo. Occasionally, one of those lines experiences an extended outage while the other continues to provide the necessary power. If the other line goes down, Takayesu explained, it creates “a situation like the one we had in October.” The distribution grid is more widespread and balanced, allowing for lines to de-power without threatening the whole system.

As part of overhauling the transmission system, SCE identified 1,500 poles that needed replacement. With 800 already replaced, Takayesu estimated the project would reach completion by the end of April. SCE also has plans to expand their network of weather stations by adding twelve to the existing network of twelve already in place.

"Because we don’t have as many weather stations here, we have to figure out ways to fill in the gaps," said Takayesu, noting that SCE would use a fire potential index to use in determining power shutoffs. According to Takayesu, SCE will have crews working to replace existing infrastructure with covered conductors, which lowers the chance of tangled vegetation sparking fires.

In response to vegetation-sparked fire, SCE hired vegetation expert Brian Sprinkle. Under Sprinkle, SCE is increasing inspection times and processes to "get more eyes on trees and brush around conductors" and "proactively prevent tree + vegetation encroachment." On the customer relations side of power shutoffs, Mike Marelli, VP of Business in the customer division told the officials, “We want you to relay how seriously we take Public Safety Power Shutoffs...when we do re-energize, we know that there’s an impact on customers.”

Marelli explained that SCE is working to expand the programs currently offered to customers, especially in preparation for power outages and coordinating the utility's activities to re-energize areas. Some of the changes that the company is making, Marelli said, are modeled after Mono County's current notification system, which he’d heard was “more accurate than our website.” He detailed that SCE was also expanding its capacity to assist the more vulnerable members of the community (the elderly, those with mobility impairment, non-English speakers) to mitigate the more extreme impacts they may experience from an outage. Many of the officials gave the SCE representatives suggestions for improving their overall system; Supervisor John Peters urged SCE to examine its claims process, noting a number of "communities where economic loss due to PSPS is real and it can be backbreaking.”

To underscore Peters' concern, Jeff Gordon, a Benton resident, took the podium to detail repeated issues he'd experienced with his well system. Gordon reported three separate occasions where he’d filed claims on damage to his well, only to have the claims denied due to damage not being SCE’s fault. "I'm just hoping that you can do something," Gordon said, “I'm really disappointed, but I'm not gonna stop.”

Rossi expressed interest in hosting a town hall meeting between the company and customers to increase dialogue between the two parties moving forward.

I'm just hoping that you can do something... I'm really disappointed, but I'm not gonna stop.

-Jeff Gordon

Help Us Help You...
Let’s Pass Measure F!
The Mammoth Lakes Board of Realtors supports Measure F

Retain & Recruit Firefighters
Restore 24/7 Coverage
Prevent Further Service Cuts
Expand Defensible Space Initiatives

 Election day: March 3, 2020

Mammoth Lakes Firefighters Need Your Vote
Vote YES on Measure F!

This ad was paid for by the Mammoth Lakes Board of Realtors.
The 2020 Presidents Weekend Outdoor Hockey tournament took place from February 14-17 at the Mammoth Ice Rink. Teams from Burbank, Pasadena, San Jose and Panorama City made the trek to Mammoth to take part in the annual tournament, which featured teams in four divisions, ranging from 7-12 years old.

This year’s edition of the annual tournament saw two Mammoth teams make the finals in their respective divisions, a first for the local hockey program. That accomplishment is compounded by the fact that Mammoth youth teams only have about three months of practice and the youth hockey program has only been existence since 2012.

The Mammoth Stars Mite B team took home second place in their bracket, finishing with two wins and two losses, the second of which came in the championship game.

The Mammoth Stars Peewee B team also finished in second place with the same record, losing a close championship game to the Pasadena Maple Leafs.

“The Mites players, coaches & the rink support staff put in a lot of work this season and it paid off,” Coach Mike Coco said of his team, “From losing every game, by a large margin, in our early season tournament, to winning games & gaining a podium, in our last endeavor, I can’t express how proud we are of everyone involved in helping our kids & program grow.”

Jon Thayer, coach for the PeeWee squad, told the Sheet, “This group of kids only play together for two months of the year due to the tough conditions the rink endures throughout the season. The perseverance they displayed throughout this tournament while playing against top tier travel teams from all over the state is astounding. Playing in the championship is a proud accomplishment for this team.”

-Page
The Mammoth Lakes Adult Hockey League concluded play on Tuesday, February 17. The play-in games for the championship saw one-win Just The Tip (JTT) take the one-loss Moose Knuckles, while Feisty topped the June Lake Loopers.

The championship was hotly contested, and threatened to go into overtime before Aaron Ringer scored an end-to-end goal to put JTT on top 5-4 with less than two minutes to go. Despite Feisty’s best efforts, JTT’s goalie, Tim Crall denied a last-minute comeback.

The winners, from L-R: Steven Dempsey, Mike Poisson, Ryan Nicklas, Steve Knecht, Tim Crall, Aaron Ringer, Jeff Meadway, Mike Coco, Duncan Constable, Zach Smithson.
Bob Schotz, long-time resident of Mammoth Lakes who first visited the area in 1939, died on December 10, 2019 in San Luis Obispo. He was 94 years old.

Schotz was the longtime owner of two lodges in the Lakes Basin, a fixture in the local construction trade and a community leader.

In 1940, at the age of 15, he went to work at Tamarack Lodge, where he ran the laundry, providing clean linens, towels, and tablecloths for the 42 cabins, 14 lodge rooms and the dining room. It was the biggest lodge between the San Gabriels and Lake Tahoe.

In an oral history recorded by the late Ken Butner, Schotz said he drove up from Glendale in an old Model A with his dad to take the job, driving at night so the car wouldn’t overheat.

The owner of Tamarack at the time was Lloyd Austin, whom Schotz described as looking just like John Muir. “Doc” and Betty Spencer were crucial to Bob’s Mammoth indoctrination. Betty trained Bob to run the laundry, while Doc taught him the construction trade upon his return post-WW II.

After his third summer at Tamarack, Bob enlisted in the Navy in 1942 at the age of 17. After service in the Pacific arena during World War II, during which he became a lieutenant in the Navy, he used his GI benefits to get a degree in industrial arts at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

During that time he still spent his summers in Mammoth.

After teaching school for a few years down south post-graduation, he returned full-time to Mammoth in 1950, catching a break when the owners of the Woods Lodge, who had three young children, decided they’d had enough. They sold the lodge (described by Bob as “the seven old shacks”) to Schotz in 1951. He owned it for a mere 68 years. Later, he acquired a second property in the Lakes Basin, Wildyrie Lodge. Both lodges are now operated by Bob’s son Stan.

At the same time, with Doc Spencer’s tutelage, Schotz began his own business as a builder. And because he loved to ski, it was inevitable that he’d happen across a man named Dave McCoy, who was developing ski runs and rope tows on Mammoth Mountain.

They became friends as well as business associates: it was Schotz who built the Yodler in 1959 (among other projects he did for McCoy). Later in life, they lived on the same street, Rocking K, in Bishop. Their friendship lasted until Bob’s death.

And McCoy, indirectly, helped Bob find a wife. Bob found the love of his life over Thanksgiving weekend, 1954 on the ski slopes of Mammoth. As he told Peggy at Woods Lodge in the ’50s, it, he saw Peggy Downing with some of her friends waiting for a ski lift. She was beautiful. But, more than her beauty, it was the way she looked out at the mountains and took them in that… just bowled him over. Love at first sight.

Later that evening, he was with ski friends, one of them John Carter, at Old Mammoth Tavern, and had just ordered the house specialty, a T-bone steak, when he looked over at the bar and saw her with a group of young people enjoying after-ski spirits. “There’s someone I want to meet,” he told his friends as he left to join the group from the Whit-tier Ski Club who were staying down at Crowley Lake, where Bob had built Happy Shacks. He was listening to the group talking and found out her name, so when the guy she’d been talking with left his place, Bob moved right in and said, “You’re Peggy Downing.” And she said, “How did you know that?” That opening in the fall of 1954 led to a two-hour conversation, and sowed the seeds of a love that lasted a lifetime.

They wed in 1956 when Peggy moved to Mammoth to become the local school district’s third-ever hire. Peggy and their children, Stan and Andrea—as well as two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews and cousins—survive him. Bob built new homes, remodeled older ones, and constructed commercial buildings in the Mammoth area. He invested in raw land and ranches and rental properties. He owned homes in Mammoth, Bishop, Avila Beach, Lake Havasu and Friday Harbor. He learned to fly and used his plane to travel all over the western United States.

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Call Us Today 760-924-0523 or 760-763-8599
www.SierraEmployment.com

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for it's 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. You will be calling and visiting clients to do house calls for the store located by the 401 Tavern Road Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an applications. Please be allowed to e-mail to mammothspas@aol.com.

Vacancy Rental company needs a FT (w/ benefits) or FT local maintenance techs ($20/h) and housekeepers (great piece rate, we have no location for them to work). Must be a team player and have great attitude. Email recruiting@liveatlodging.com to apply.

Manager Trainee, La Residence condo.
$29,952/year, 4 days/week, 32 hours.
Snow removal, maintenance, Jacuzzi, etc. Must have own living accommodations. Responsible, capable candidates call Scott at (760) 934-3939 Or Wayne at (760) 934-4990

Secretary of the Board/Bookkeeper-
Mammoth Lakes Open Positions
Temporary Snow Removal Operators $23.76, $27.50/hr, CDL required
Recent Grad Coordinator – Soccer & Volleyball $16.20 – $18.75/hr
Recreation Intern - Assistant Gymnastics Coach $13.00 – $13.33/hr
Recreation Supervisor $45,242 – $63,660, plus competitive benefits package
Public Works Maintenance Worker $42.00 – $69,670, plus competitive benefits package

Town of Mammoth Lakes
For more information and to apply, visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov or call (760) 963-3604.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and a desire to succeed. We are also looking for office staff for our office person with great organizational skills and a positive service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-914-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com.

Vacasa is hiring full and part time housekeepers in Mammoth Lakes/Lake June with pay rates up to $18/hour. Apply at vacasa.com/careers.

Chevron
Crowley Lake Fish Camp has jobs available for the upcoming season! We are looking for full-time and part-time Dock Workers, as well as an Outdoor Custodian. Please email your resume to crowleylakefishcamp@gmail.com or write to us to learn more.

CNA/LVN (PART TIME)

CNA/均衡 is looking for CNAs or LVNs that enjoy interacting with patients. This Part-Time position has a flexible schedule, you pick the days you work. Please drop-off your resume or pick up applications from our office located at 607 E. Line St. in Bishop. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!

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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill.
Happy hour 3-6 p.m. Sundays – Locals
Welcome Night with all night happy
hour. More info: See ad p. 19
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. – Fri. 5-9:30 p.m. Thurs. 10 p.m.
Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour: 4
p.m. daily. $6 dollar menu items, drink
specials. More info: see ad p. 6
Peta’s happy hour. 5-6 p.m. Signature
cocktails, special menu. More info: see
ad p. 9
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. 8
T-B Bar Social Club in June Lake.
Giovanni’s Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m.
I.e. 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. 20
Side Door Café & Wine Bar. Happy
Hour: 3:30-6 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. 3-6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.
Location: Industrial Park, 123
Comerce Dr.
53 Kitchen & Cocktails happy hour
daily from 4-5 p.m $4.80s, $3-6 drink
specials
Black Velvet Coffee happy hour 4-6. 
Wings & Mugs on Wednesdays.
Rafter’s daily happy hour 4-6 p.m. All
night happy hour on Thursday.
Jimmy’s Taverna 4-6 p.m. Happy hour
every day 4-6 p.m. with special menu at
the bar.
Lakanni 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
Friday, February 21
Jessy Covets plays Rafter’s in
Mammoth. Tech, House, Electronic
Music. Time 10 p.m.
February 21-22
The Skinny Ties play Tusks in
Mammoth. 2-5 p.m both days.
Saturday, February 22
Kyle Smith plays Rafter’s in Mammoth.
SoCal Reggae/Ska. Time: 10 p.m.
Genius Loc-Mammoth Takeover @
Lakanni. Time: 9 p.m- 2 a.m.
Tickets: $20 Info and join: https://
www.evenbrite.com/e/genius-loc-
mammoth-takeover-tickets
Stand-Up Comedy Night @ Mammoth
Brewing Co. Eastern Sierra Comedy
presents Andy Picarro from All Things
Comedy’s Puck Off podcast. Time: 9
p.m.
Monday, February 24
Bowling n’ Beats @ Mammoth Rock
N’ Bowl. Time: 9:30 p.m. Regular DJs
**TOWN STUFF**

**Mule Deer Migration Corridor Field Trip**
Eastern Sierra Land Trust hosts its annual Mule Deer Migration Corridor Field Trip on Sunday, March 7th from 2-4 p.m. Hear updates on the herd from wildlife biologist and mule deer expert Tim Taylor of California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Enjoy scenic valley views as we watch the deer on their bi-annual journey. Bring your whole family - kids love this outing! Please leave pets at home. For meeting location and to RSVP, contact Marie at marie@eslt.org or 760-873-4554.

**Death Valley Dark Sky Festival**
The Death Valley Dark Sky Festival is this weekend! Come explore the park's unique landscape and dark night skies during this three day event. The goal of the festival is to help participates better understand the wonders beyond our world. Day programs include: guided hikes, ranger talks, family programming, an exploration fair, and many other programs. Evening programs include: night sky photography workshops and a star party. See presentations from NASA, SETI Institute, the International Dark Sky Association, and the National Park Service. This programming is free to the public! Info: https://www.nps.gov/deva/planyourvisit/death-valley-dark-sky-festival

**Sylvia**
The final weekend of shows for A.R. Gurney’s insightful comedy Sylvia will take place at the Edison Theater in Mammoth with Friday and Saturday evening shows and a Sunday matinee. Shira Dubrowner directs and Sylvia is played by Mammoth’s own Leslie Redman, who most recently appeared at MLRT in the Night of Broadway and as Rasa in Summer and Smoke. In addition to Redman, local talent includes Layne Durocher (Playhouse 395’s Mamma Mia) of Bishop as Greg, Victoria Farber (SSTC’s Sweeney Todd) as Mammoth as Kate, and Alex Ertaud of Bishop as Kate, and Alex Ertaud as Mammoth as Kate, and Alex Ertaud played by Mammoth’s own Leslie Redman as Tom, Phyllis and Leslie. When: Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.

**TOWN STUFF**

**College.** A workshop with Leigh Duggan on writing with quotations. 2/26: Mammoth campus, 2/27: Bishop campus. Time: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Thursday, February 27/ Authors and Artist Series: Joe Reidhead** at the Forest Service auditorium, Mammoth Lakes. Joe Reidhead will discuss the history of Yosemite’s Half Dome, focusing on the intersection of the monolith’s story and the stories of the people drawn to it. Reidhead will be available for book signings after the talk. Time: 7-9 p.m.

**Mammoth Lakes Tourism & Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee** @ Black Velvet Coffee. Join MLT and the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce for coffee and conversation. One free entry to the Mammoth Half Marathon will be raffled off. Time: 7:30-9:30 a.m.

**Altrusa February Program:** Phil Ashworth and Brian Lamb @ Astorga’s in Bishop. Hear from the two candidates for Inyo County Superior Court Judge. Meeting is free; lunch is $10. Call Tiffany at 760.937.8173 to RSVP by 2/26.

**Friday, February 28/ "Pretty Strong" Film Screening** @ Inyo Council for the Arts. "Pretty Strong" follows eight of the world’s strongest female climbers as they explore new climbing areas, send hard projects, and push the boundaries of the sport and themselves. $10 at the door, 7-10 p.m.

**Locals Night Out in June Lake** @ June Lake Community Center for a dinner and raffle. Call or text Sarah at 855.668.6349 to RSVP; tickets are $20, limited entrance so move fast.

**February 28-March 1/ 8th Annual JLA Banked Slalom @ Mammoth Mountain.** Honoring the life of Jeff Anderson. See sidebar this page

**Free Tax Help February-April 15th**
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 760.937.1397.

**Blue Ribbon Walk/Run**
NIH will host the 3rd annual Blue Ribbon Walk and Run on March 7 in support of the Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance. Time: Registration 8 a.m., 3K, 5K, 10K walk/run start 9 a.m. Location: Brown’s Town campground at 395/Schober Ln.

**C5 workshop**
Bisky Play and Children - A Workshop with Erin Boehme will take place Saturday February 29 from 9:30 a.m. ’til noon at C5 Studios in Bishop, located on Warren Street in the former JC Penny space. Join this workshop to understand the importance of true free play and how we can shift the children are supported in a healthy, balanced environment.

**June Lake Winter Jam**
… Takes place March 6-7 @ the T-Bar Saloon in June Lake and features a different band each night. Hemphorst Orchestra plays on the 6th and Groove Sessions plays the 7th. Tickets: $20 donation which goes to the Mono Arts Council. Join support this year’s June Lake Jam, which takes place in September, as well as local school music programs. Your donation will also get you some free swag.

Contact 760.914.2909/see ad p. 13.
SCHOTZ continued from page 14

Ross Mather was a longtime business partner of Bob. The following appeared in Ross Mather’s 2015 obit.

Bob was the owner of 10 acre parcel along Mammoth Creek we bought with Tib Lizza, which we split into two five-acre parcels. Both had the same county permit, but they rented rooms at Van Nuys Airport to meet with Tib, because we wanted to develop one of the parcels. We said, “Pick which one you want,” and said this was to keep day. He got suspicious and said there must be something wrong with it, so we took the other one, then. He said okay. Then he got suspicious and said there must be something wrong with it as well. Ross punched out a coin and flipped it. That’s how it got decided.

“Both were both proud that we could meet people years later and it was friendly because we’d treated ’em right,” said Schotz.

“[They] did just about everything on a handshake,” continued Schotz. “There were never any partnerships agreements or anything like that … the first thing a guy does these days when he walks in the building is meet with him. We never had attorneys.”

Bob elaborated on this theme last sum-

mer in a conversation with family mem-

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structure].”

Involvement comes from the heart; In our customers.

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structure].”

Involvement comes from the heart; In our customers.
Josh Rhodes will be running for the District 2 Supervisor position in the upcoming March election. Rhodes would replace current Supervisor Fred Stump and is running against Rhonda Duggan, of Crowley, and Eric Olson, of Crowley.

Rhodes, born in Bishop, currently resides in Chalfant where he has lived since 1991. Before that, he lived in Benton for eight years starting in 1983. He has 21.5 years of experience working for Mono County as a foreman in Lee Vining, Crowley, and Benton.

"I know a lot of people here. I’m open-minded and I listen," said Rhodes, "I am not a politician by any means but I think I have some key insights into issues that affect District 2."

When asked what issues were important to him, Rhodes responded, "Snow removal, being fiscally responsible, and improving the morale in the County offices. There currently is a disconnect between upper management and the employees. Rhodes was especially knowledgeable when it came to snow removal, "The Tri-Valley area is really isolated and there are not very good emergency services in our area. There are a lot of ways it can be improved and things I can do to help."

These improvements are what Rhodes wants most out of District 2, "I would like to see better emergency services in District 2 and better cell service in the Tri-Valley."

Why would you vote for Rhodes? "I am not a politician! I am very approachable and will listen to the people in District 2 and try to make the changes they want."

Rhodes has a meet and greet on Friday February 21, from 5-7 p.m. at Tom’s Place. When asked if what he expected of the election Rhodes told the Sheet, "It is just important for people register to vote and go and vote. Even if they don’t vote for me... I am just trying to help make Mono County a better place."
Mary Pipersky, well-read outdoors-woman, entrepreneur and former Mono County Supervisor died last month at her home in Sunny Slopes following a recurrence of cancer. She was 67.

Mary grew up in Southern California, the middle daughter of seven. She graduated from Lawndale High School and after a few years of junior college, transferred to U.C. Berkeley, where she graduated with a degree in anthropology.

According to her brother Paul, she met her first husband Bill Cox while they were both in junior college, and married him upon graduating from Berkeley. Bill’s grandfather had a Forest Service cabin above Tom’s Place - that’s what initially brought her to the Eastside.

And as elder sister Charma explained, it was her love of the outdoors - watching wildlife (particularly birds) and hiking that kept her here.

Along the way, there was a change of partners.

After her marriage with Bill Cox ended (everyone had a different timeline on this - let’s say seven years), she met Susan Burgett and fell in love and the pair were together for the remainder of Mary’s life - almost four decades.

With Susan, she created Anything Goes, which was both a restaurant and a catering company. And as Byron Walters, owner of the State Farm insurance agency which was located across the hall from the restaurant, observed, “When it [Anything Goes] opened, there was nothing else like it. It was like going into your mom’s kitchen. Ii was that friendly. And it literally pushed Mammoth Lakes [from a culinary standpoint] into the 21st century.

And while this may seem like a far-fetched impossibility to anyone under 40, Craig Schrager noted that Anything Goes was the, “first place in town where you could get a scone and/or a latte.” *How did people survive before the age of scones and lattes? It must’ve been the equivalent of discovering fire.* Mary and Susan were beloved by their staff. As Dana Ellis wrote in her very personal story celebrating Mary, Anything Goes "served as a community hub and magnet for a unique crew of individuals who shared her same work ethic, integrity, honesty and love of food. As the crew of Anything Goes was family, anyone who walked through their doors was a friend. There are many a community member whom Mary, with Susan, quietly, kindly, and generously helped in a time of crisis."

Byron Walters can attest to this. "If they found someone hungry, they’d drag ‘em back to the restaurant to feed ‘em. And often charge very little or not at all. It depended upon a person’s ability to pay."

So in essence, Susan and Mary were the precursors to Mammoth Mountain’s “dynamic pricing.” Except the Mountain’s pricing is only adjusted upward in times of high demand. Susan and Mary’s dynamic pricing only adjusted in the other direction.

When Mary was a young child, her father affectionately called her “My Little Bulldozer.” So from a young age, she was clearly determined, knew what was right, and knew how to manifest it.

As sister Charma said, “I admire her so much. She was so strong and so clear in her decision-making ... she had a kind heart and a brave spirit ... and she was a keen observer of people and knew how to nudge them along.”

Which made her an effective public servant. She not only served as Mono County Supervisor, but also served as a Mono County Planning Commissioner and a board member of the Eastern Sierra Land Trust.

One thing many don’t know about Mary - she was an excellent and well-informed investor. In 1997, the L.A. Times wrote a personal finance column which featured Susan and Mary and gave suggestions as to how to align their portfolio. Susan is quoted in the piece as saying, “Mary reads all about these mutual fund things every night; I read Trollope or Dickens. She buys the IRAs. Left up to me, I’d never buy anything [financial].”
PIPERSKY
continued from page 20

Brother Paul added that this was part of their chemistry. They had a great match of skills. Susan, for example, did a lot of things by handshake. Mary was the type who'd draw things up and sign the leases.

She also designed and built a house to spec with a local contractor while she was battling cancer. Her brother told her it probably wasn’t a great idea to take on such a big project given her state of health. Bulldozer disagreed.

Mary had beaten cancer once. The diagnosis was made just after she lost reelection (by a scant seven votes, and Charma attributes the loss, in part, to Mary’s flagging energy levels at the time). The prognosis wasn’t good, and she had no expectation of beating cancer the first time. But she did.

Problem is, cancer is patient and sneaky. Photos of Mary taken just six months before her death betray nothing. There were only the complaints of some lower back pain, and if you know Mary, you know the complaints were understated.

Her pain threshold, like her beauty and talent and intellect, was on a different scale than the average person’s.

But as Susan said, she did a lot of hiking over September and October on her favorite trails. Ignoring the discomfort for as long as she could. Treasuring the days.

During her hospital stay in L.A., this is the line Charma remembers. Mary’s succinct summation of how to live.

“Everyone has to pick their own path and walk it.”

It was barely two months from the time she walked into the emergency room in November until the final time Susan checked for a pulse that wasn’t there.

Mary is survived by longtime partner Susan Burgett, siblings Charma, Natalie, Paul, Milan, Joanne and Joe, eight nieces and nephews and her dear local friends Maggie and Bill, Caitlin and children, Kim, Phyllis, Mary C. and many more.

Not Anyone Who Says
by Mary Oliver

Not anyone who says, “I’m going to be careful and smart in matters of love,” who says, “I’m going to choose slowly,” but only those lovers who didn’t choose at all but were, as it were, chosen by something invisible and powerful and uncontrollable and beautiful and possibly even unsuitable only those know what I am talking about in this talking about love...
HORRORSCOPES
By Clouds McCloud

Pisces: If you continue to tell the same stories, you will continue to attract the same situations in your life. That’s why it’s always good to mix in some new stories. For inspiration, Clouds suggests reading more, especially authors like fellow Pisces Anaïs Nin. From her writing:
1) “We don’t see things as they are, we see them as we are.”
2) “Passion gives me moments of wholeness.”
3) “Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage.”

Aries: There’s an old saying that goes, “Rumors are carried by haters, spread by fools and accepted by idiots.” That’s why Aries hate rumors and often aren’t much for social gossip. To help you avoid why Aries hate rumors and often aren’t much pointlessness you don’t need for social gossip. To help you avoid

Virgo: Virgos are exceptionally good huggers and inherently understand the power of a good hug. They also tend to like coffee mugs that say things like, “I hate it when I go to hug someone really attractive and I smash my face in the mirror.”

Libra: It would stand to reason that most Libras don’t like Airheads candy. That’s because Air Signs like Libras are actually known for being intellectually gifted. Of course, it takes more than brains and a cute bum to be successful. That’s why your words of wisdom come from fellow Air Sign, Thomas Edison, “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”

Scorpio: Scorpios tend to have great connections with fellow Water Signs, Pisces and Cancer. That’s because they both tap into strong sides of your personality that you usually like to ignore, things like feelings and psychic abilities. To help, here’s your lat-est psychic reading from Clouds. “There are many presents for you in the future. But you just can’t open some of them until your birthday or Christmas.”

Sagittarius: The good folks of your sign are sometimes known for being a bit loud-mouthed. But that’s okay. Studies have shown that people who curse frequently are actually more f-ing intelligent. That’s why one of these two lines should be your new motto. 1) From Mark Twain, “Under certain circumstances, profanity provides a relief denied even to prayer.”
F) "Friday is my second favorite f-word!!"

Capricorn: Caps can sometimes get sucked down into the doldrums in life. This doesn’t make you odd or weak, it simply makes you human. In case you’re feeling stuck in the muck right now please remember that Clouds believes in you, even when you don’t. That’s why your words of wisdom will come from author Stephen King, “Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration; the rest of us just get up and go to work.”

Aquarius: There’s an old saying that goes, “If you don’t pick a day to relax, your body will pick it for you.” To help prevent your body from having to throw a mutiny, or at least a lot of mucus, please take some down time. You can even use this line to help, “I’m sorry, but I can’t make it in because of an eye problem. I just can’t see myself working today.”

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ANOTHER CAUCUS LOOMS ... CAN THE DEMS GET IT RIGHT?

By Andy Geisel

Old friend Andy Geisel (who now lives in Reno) breaks down this Saturday’s Nevada Caucus. And next week will follow up by describing what it was like to participate in his first.

In Congressional parlance, a “caucus” typically refers to “a conference of members of a legislative body who belong to a particular party or faction.” During an election cycle, “caucus” describes an antiquated process used by some states to select presidential nominees.

Iowa, which voted first this year and is still recovering from the widely publicized meltdown of its reporting system, has used caucuses since the 1800s. Nevada’s caucuses, which began in 1981, are relatively new. Since Nevada is still using the caucus process, and now that I’m living in Reno, I thought some of my California (and even Nevada) friends might want to know what a caucus is, especially during this highly charged election season.

Essentially what happens is supporters of the various candidates gather at precinct locations and cluster in groups, each hoping to have the most numbers. Supporters of a candidate can solicit, cajole and otherwise poach supporters from other candidates to join their “caucus.” The idea is to keep their candidate from being eliminated in the culling process that follows, which repeats until a winner is determined in each location ... sort of a political version of Red Rover.

As the third state on the primary calendar and the first with a significant minority population, not to mention the first Western state to cast votes, it’s hard to overstate Nevada’s importance to the Presidential nominating process.

Nevada Republicans have already decided to nominate President Donald Trump for a second term and canceled their caucuses. Democrats will hold their caucus on Saturday, February 22 – around the time many of you are probably reading this – following four days of early voting, held February 15-18. More than 70,000 Democrats cast early votes, many enduring wait times of up to four hours.

How it works …

After all caucuses are registered and in their respective pools, an initial tally is taken. Candidates who receive less than a certain threshold of the vote will be eliminated, freeing their supporters to shift to remaining candidates. To win delegates, a candidate must meet the viability threshold in the precinct, depending on the number of delegates in play for that precinct.

Precinct caucus results will elect delegates to the county conventions. Nevada has 17 counties, and therefore 17 conventions. The county conventions then select delegates to Nevada’s State Convention, which then chooses delegates for the national convention. Candidates need 1,991 delegates to clinch the nomination. If no one secures 1,991 delegates, the nominee will be determined at the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, WI, which opens on July 13.

One major unknown going into Nevada’s caucus is the impact of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who made his prime-time debate debut this week in Las Vegas. The former Republican isn’t even on the ballot in the first four states and has spent upwards of $350 million on advertising and effectively bought his way into second or third in national polling, depending on which one you look at. This puts him neck and neck with Pete Buttigieg, Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren, within striking distance of front runner Bernie Sanders, and bumps Amy Klobuchar to sixth, even though she’s up two percentage points following her third-place finish in New Hampshire.

Scraping the app …

Iowa’s unfortunate caucus reporting delays were attributed to the failure of a new reporting app, developed for Iowa Dems by Shadow, Inc. Nevada Democrats purchased a similar app from Shadow, Inc., but in the wake of the Iowa debacle decided to use iPads with a Google web form “caucus calculator”. In a statement, Nevada party chair William McCurdy II said, “NV Dems can confidently say that what happened in the Iowa caucus ... will not happen in Nevada on February 22. “

And that all sounds great, but with party officials scrambling to get precinct captains and volunteers trained on the new software in time for Saturday, Nevada’s challenge is a big one: prove it can competently pull off a caucus and avoid the pitfalls that befell Iowa Democrats. Can they do it?

Sources: State of Nevada, Nevada Democratic Party, CBS, New Yorker, NY Times
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