All is not (Hollo)well
By Hite

Previous election for Sheriff as simply don’t talk to each other,” as [Hollowell and Allmon] relationship between the two of Local Wars” describes the Representative Jessica Allmon. Hollowell, and Veteran Services Officer (VSO) Jeff. Current Sheriff and Veteran Services Officer (IMCVSO) on February 15. The County Veterans Service Office wrote a story on the Inyo-Mono Sheet Writer Charles James.

It all started when former Sheet Writer Charles James wrote a story on the Inyo-Mono County Veterans Service Office (IMCVSO) on February 15. The piece highlighted a tumultuous relationship between the current Sheriff and Veteran Services Officer (VSO) Jeff Hollowell, and Veteran Service Representative Jessica Allmon.

The story titled “Veterans of Local Wars” describes the relationship between the two as “[Hollowell and Allmon] simply don’t talk to each other,” while possibly pointing to the previous election for Sheriff as the rationale. Allmon publicly supported Hollowell’s opponent in the 2018 election. Hollowell vehemently denies that Allmon’s support of Josh Nicholson, whose employment at the Inyo County Sheriff’s Dept. was terminated last week, has affected his relationship with Allmon one bit.

Allmon agrees the election isn’t the reason for lack of partnership; rather, the lack of partnership is because there is no partnership: the workload falls entirely on her. She calls the IMCVSO an “Office of One.” Hollowell receives an estimated $10,000 bonus each year for his assignment as Veteran Services Officer.

No Whitewash

After James’s story ran, the Sheet was contacted by a former deputy named Billy White who claimed to have information proving that Jeff Hollowell was not a Veteran and that Hollowell was committing ‘stolen valor’ and therefore ‘embezzlement’ when he collected his 7.5% salary bump after year for being the VSO as he was not legally allowed to hold this position.

A serious accusation that requires some background. White’s former department colleagues include former deputies Ruben Bradley and Josh Nicholson.

These three have a complicated history with their former employer, Inyo County, and Jeff Hollowell. Bradley told the Sheet, “I was a deputy from September 2010 to December 2018. Eventually, I worked as a canine handler for the Department. Before see SHERIFF, page 7

MARCH MADNESS
COVID-19 fears accelerate
By Page and Maddux

Over the course of the past week, concern about COVID-19 (coronavirus) has reached fever pitch around the globe. On March 11, a number of major points in the evolution of the coronavirus outbreak took shape: President Trump suspended travel by foreign nationals to the United States from 26 European countries, the World Health Organizations (WHO) declared the coronavirus a pandemic, and the National Basketball Association suspended its season indefinitely after a player tested positive for the virus.

In addition, the attending physician of Congress and the Supreme Court, Brian Monahan, informed Senate staff of his expectation that between 70 and 130 million American would catch the virus. Monahan stated a belief that at least 80% would be fine.

The day before, on March 10, Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York declared a one square-mile containment zone in the city of New Rochelle, just north of New York City, which involves closing all public gathering places with the exception of grocery stores and supermarkets.

Some colleges and universities have cancelled spring operations, while the NCAA has already cancelled its ‘March Madness’ basketball tournament for both men and women.

Abroad, some governments have halted in-person class and closed campuses; Stanford University has three confirmed cases so far.

By Thursday morning, the state had at least 177 confirmed cases, with more than 1,300 nationwide. Santa Clara County has been hit the hardest. Placer County, on the west side of Lake Tahoe, has seven reported cases.

As of Thursday morning, neither Inyo nor Mono County has reported a confirmed case of the virus and health officials continue to advise residents to exercise caution and proper hygiene.

Nevertheless, local events have been canceled as well, including next weekend’s Elevations Mammoth, which typically draws 2,500 skiers.

Mono County Public Health Director Sandra Pearce and Public Health Manager Bryan Wheeler went before the Mono County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday to present an

see CORONA, page 4

Mammoth ski teams won yet more state titles at the CNISSF championships last week. Pictured above is Mammoth ski teams won yet more state titles at the CNISSF championships last week. Pictured above is...
CORONAVIRUS FINDS TIMMY LUPUS

The Bad News Bears (1976) was one of the seminal movies from my childhood, and I think of it this week during the worldwide coronavirus meltdown because it really does prove the old adage that you can’t hide your worst player. Eventually, the ball will be hit to that person. And they’ll have to make a play.

In the Bad News Bears, Timmy Lupus, pint-sized rightfielder and tagged by his teammates as a “booger-eating-slap,” gets to the championship game against the Yankees having not caught a ball all season. In the top of the final inning, a rival from the Yankee team blasts a ball to deep right and all the parents in the stands and Lupus’s teammates cover their eyes. The Bears are clearly doomed. Lupus ducks away, averts his eyes, sticks his glove out … and the ball magically settles in the pocket. Brilliant, dumb Hollywood-contrived luck. Crisis averted.

Three years into his presidency, coronavirus just blasted a very deep drive in Donald J. Trump’s direction. It was inevitable that at some point in his term, Mr. Trump would be asked to stop golfing (booger-digging) and make a difficult play. I am under no illusion that Mr. Trump will catch the ball. Like many of his fellow world leaders, he didn’t get a good read on the ball as it left the bat, and it’s way over his head. But what I am hoping is that he’ll stop looking around for someone to blame, stop pointing fingers, … start hauled ass to the outfield fence to retrieve the ball. Try to mitigate the damage and hold the play to a triple.

I was all set to attend the first lecture in the White Mountain Research Station lecture series on Tuesday, but when I got to the parking lot, I was told the lecture had been cancelled - in fact, the entire spring series had been cancelled. A foreshadowing of things to come within the next 48 hours.

But instead of turning around and going home, I essentially invited myself to an “after-party” (or should it be termed a never-party, since the lecture never took place) at Bill Albright’s house in Bishop and attended by a handful of research scientists, including Dr. Allen Glazner, whose lecture had been cancelled. Glazner has authored several in a popular series of “Geology Underfoot” books, and co-authored Geology Underfoot in Death Valley and the Owens Valley with Robert Sharp.

And as I’m listening to folks trade ideas and observations about geological formations, what was learned by observation and research of the Mt. St. Helens eruption in 1980, et. al., it became pretty apparent why the coronavirus panic wasn’t front-and-center in this setting like it was in every other conversation I had this week.

At one point Dr. Glazner referenced the Toba volcanic eruption in Sumatra which occurred approximately 70,000 years ago and caused a global volcanic winter that almost wiped out humanity. From wikipedia on Toba: “According to the genetic bottlenecks theory, between 50,000 and 100,000 years ago, human populations sharply decreased to 3,000–10,000 surviving individuals. So by comparison, a pandemic which may threaten loss of a small percentage of the total human population just … doesn’t rate.

Big thinkers aren’t much for small talk.

Coronavirus, as you can imagine, inspires its fair share of gallows humor. But as author/pundit Charlie Sykes was quoted as saying this week, “When people start dying, the entertainment value wears off.” Diane Eagle Kataoka was certainly not pleased with Hite for riffling last Thursday, “It only kills old people, so who cares?” Diane, I believe he was being a tad facetious. Another reader urged me to run a blank page this week so that The Sheet could help alleviate the toilet paper shortage (see p. 18).

Sheet for the Sheet. Clever.

And of course, there’s the Outlaw Saloon advertisement on this page featuring a clever bit of marketing.

Old friend Abagael Giles was in town this week. The former Sheet reporter is now working for Vermont Public Radio, and she made a very frank observation when it came to talking about people following protocol and staying home when they’re sick. When she lived here, she went to work no matter how she felt. She couldn’t afford not to.

To the specter of coronavirus will probably not affect individual choices.

And finally, a pretty interesting take in The Economist this week about how the coronavirus outbreak may affect the very nature of work. But I’ll need to back up first. I visited my friend Steve Linde in San Francisco last October for the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival and then joined him on Monday morning as I was leaving town so he could tour me through the spectacular Google offices downtown.

But then, at a recent Bishop City Council meeting, Councilman Stephen Muchovej and Planner Elaine Kabala told me this was dead wrong - that they worked remotely, and knew of many others who worked remotely, and that this was accelerating.

And I visited my friend Steve Linde in San Francisco last October for the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival and then joined him on Monday morning as I was leaving town so he could tour me through the spectacular Google offices downtown.

Steve also made this offhand remark that there was more of a bias about having employees on-site (perhaps this was Steve’s bias). That there was a particular creative energy about having folks physically proximate versus telecommuting or working remotely.

Thus, the next few months are set to be a giant experiment in whether new technologies can allow successful mass remote working for employees, speeding up reinvention of the office,” stated the column, which talked about the ongoing assessment and analysis of the true necessity of travel, conferences, even the office itself. “Big British and American firms pay on average $5,000 per employee in annual rental costs. Just 40–50% of desks are actually used during working hours.*

“Course, I have a few concerns about what the above evolution will bring (never mind the housing component - sounds like a population boom in the making), as we’re already becoming more solitary and disconnected from each other.

For example, I see very little of my mother during the week - until we congregate all day Thursday to put this sucker together. Thursdays (and beer from Spike) is what makes us a tighter editorial unit. Hard to imagine not seeing the crew at least once a week and still being able to retain Sheet culture (or lack thereof).

Or maybe work is work and none cares about the rest.

In regard to compensation, I would think that the more isolated the staff is from the mothership, the harder it would be to gauge one’s value, and properly figure out how much to ask for. Yeah, I’m sure there are online surveys one could read to figure out a suggested number, but the only people who seem to be able to convince someone to pay that suggested number work in local government.
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CORONA
continued from page 1

update on coronavirus to the Supervisors.
Wheeler began with a standard rundown of symptoms and incubation period, noting “It’s a virus so we don’t have great treatments for [it]” while adding that a vaccine would take more than a year to develop.
Wheeler also explained that testing is available at some public and private labs around the state, with more widespread testing availability expected in the coming weeks.
Pearce then took over from Wheeler, acknowledging rumors that a singular case existed in both Mono and Inyo. She cautioned against acting on such rumors, explaining that “If we do have a case, it’ll certainly be pushed out [made public].”
She also detailed a leveled alert system, 0-3, for categorizing the virus’s presence in the area, stating that the county is currently at level one, meaning that they are monitoring potential cases but that none exist as of yet. Level 2, Warning, would constitute a health threat like a possible case in the area, stating that the presence in the area, acknowledging rumors that a singular case existed in both Mono and Inyo.

She explained that Public Health officials had been meeting individually with local stakeholders and were planning weekly meetings with the entire group. In addition, Public Health will be holding community meetings throughout the county on Wednesday and Thursday of next week.
County Administrative Officer Steve Barwick addressed how the county is handling public communication during this time.
“Communication is key in this,” Barwick said, “Every crisis comes with a secondary crisis and that is misinformation.”
He also expressed a desire for “one source of information” in all coronavirus-related matters, reiterating the need for an emergency operations center if the virus does become widespread.
Barwick directed the public to check Public Health’s website for information as things develop.
When it came time for board comment, District 2 Supervisor Fred Stump noted that “websites are great for those with computers” and urged health officials to work with programs like Meals on Wheels to get information out to the more isolated parts of the county. He recommended placing notices in public spaces in those areas, adding “It does mean that someone has to drive out there.”
District 4 Supervisor John Peters expressed concern about the local economy throughout the span of the coronavirus, noting that businesses may simply have to be prepared for a significant downturn. “Hopefully it won’t be catastrophic,” Peters added.
He also encouraged health officials to release information pertaining to locations and movements if someone in the area were to test positive. He referenced the release of information during the Hantavirus case in December, 2019.
For District 1 Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz, the question was about shutting the doors. “When do we start shutting down and trying to contain travel?” Kreitz asked.
“Those conversations are certainly going to be happening once we get to level two,” Pearce said, citing the potential difference between an example of a singular isolated case as opposed to a child in one of the county’s classrooms exposing the entire school to the virus.
In terms of the county’s ability to cancel events and impose travel bans, that power would fall to the county’s health officer, Dr. Tom Boo. According to Counsel Stacey Simon, the health officer has significant powers to force events to cancel, school to close, etc., during a state of emergency.

In The Event Of…

With caution around the coronavirus increasing, local events organizers have been left to handle questions from attendees and debate the pros and cons of continuing their events in light of the outbreak.

The Blake Jones Fishing Derby, held on the Owens River and Pleasant Valley reservoir, announced changes to its programming on Wednesday that include removing the prize ceremony portion of the derby (see full statement on page six).

And what a difference a few hours makes.

Consider Elevation Mammoth, the annual gay ski week that brings 2,500 guests to town. As of Thursday morning, organizer Tom Whitman had no plans to cancel the event but was encouraging attendees to exercise caution.

In an email to The Sheet, Whitman wrote:
“We are moving forward with the event while encouraging participants to take precautions … So far, there are not any cancellations. Our event brings together a much smaller group of people in each space - we bring together hundreds of people in a bar/nightclub size setting, not thousands in a festival or arena style setting.”

He continued: “If health department recommendations change, we will of course reevaluate and respond.”
Mammoth Community meeting

Wednesday night’s community meeting at Mammoth High School gave the public the opportunity to hear information regarding the COVID-19 outbreak from the mouths of public health officials. Bryan Wheeler, County Health Officer Tom Boo, and Mammoth Hospital CEO Tom Parker took turns giving information and answering questions. Before the meeting began, Wheeler took the microphone every few minutes to remind attendees to remain six feet apart from one another.

His admonition was loosely followed. Boo told the sparse crowd of 25 or so community members that “We don’t know how many people in the community are vulnerable [to COVID-19] but we do think that the majority of people will be okay.”

Boo explained that while the county doesn’t currently have coronavirus test kits, it does have the ability to collect samples and have them tested at a lab elsewhere. Boo also related that if someone were to test positive in one of the county’s schools, Public Health would strongly consider shuttering that school for an extended period.

Part of the consequences of closing the schools, Boo said, is that it would force parents to work from home or cease working altogether, an effect that could severely impact other businesses in town, including the hospital.

Parker noted that while the hospital has been following the national Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) guidelines for the coronavirus, staff were planning to meet the next day to discuss altering that course of action.

One community member asked what health officials would be doing to mitigate the impacts of stress or anxiety brought about by the outbreak. She included specific references to ability to pay rent, take care of children, and not being fired or laid off.

Boo emphasized that the overarching task of managing COVID-19 is a “challenging endeavor” and reiterated the fact that children are not at great risk of severe symptoms. “We want to strike a balance,” Boo said in regards to the question.

“In other words, you’re kinda on your own.”

Over in Inyo (Maddux)

During a teleconference call with NIHD on Monday, March 9, NIHD Vice Chief of Staff and Medical Director of the rural health clinic, Dr. Stacey Brown led most of the discussion to give an update on the coronavirus, and the precautions NIHD is currently taking. Dr. Brown stated NIHD currently has two negative pressure rooms to treat patients who have contagious airborne illnesses, such as COVID-19. As compared to a regular patient room, the negative pressure rooms have exhaust systems that are not released into other parts of the hospital and anterooms where the community are vulnerable to COVID-19 but we do think that the majority of people will be okay.”

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LOCAL BRIEFS

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The men and women who, at the sound of a bell, drop everything they are doing to come help you and your loved ones, often at great risk, could use your help.

The Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department recently discovered that 4 Bendix King handheld radios worth $8,800 had been stolen sometime in the last 2-3 months. They’re not sure of the exact time frame because the radios were kept in the trucks and it’s something, they don’t use all the time. Sort of an out of sight; out of mind thing. According to BPVD Fire Chief Damon Carrington, a couple of months were spent having the incident investigated by the Inyo County Sheriff investigators.

Nevertheless, in certain firefighting scenarios, they are an important piece of equipment. They remain ready to go by the Inyo County Sheriff’s Dept. If you perhaps may have bought these radios, and had no idea that these were stolen, BPFD ask that you please return them to the fire department.

-Charles James

No awards ceremony for Blake Jones

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce has announced significant changes for this weekend’s Blake Jones Trout Derby. In light of rapidly evolving concerns regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19, “social distancing” and “mass gatherings,” the Bishop Chamber is taking no measures to reduce risk to derby attendees, staff and volunteers.

“We’ve given careful consideration to the situation including consulting with the Inyo County Public Health Officer,” explains Tawni Thomson of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Richardson stated he feels the Bishop Chamber Event Coordinator April Leson. “Although less than ideal, we believe this plan represents a good balance between preserving the fishing tradition and accommodating current health care concerns,” she added.

If you have already registered and would like participate in the raffle, you do not have to do anything. Have fun fishing and we’ll notify you if you win a raffle prize.

If you have registered, but do not wish to be in the raffle, send an email to execdir@bishopvisitor.com, which will process a refund of your entry fee by 3/31/20.

Constellations

This is a really good show. It’s a play being put on for two nights only by Sierra Classic Theatre. Note the nights: This upcoming Monday and Tuesday, coronavirus willing.

And features a two-person cast:

Owen Page and Cali Linnnastruth.

I saw the staged reading of it several weeks back as part of the Four Plays in Four Nights series. And the two actors were so fresh (I hadn’t seen either one onstage before) and the material so current that I just got ... swept up in it.

As did the rest of the crowd. It helped that Page and Linnnastruth really had the material mostly down cold - it didn’t feel like a reading. It felt like a well-rehearsed production. So turning the reading into this upcoming production must not have felt like too much of a leap for Director Cali Linnnastruth.

Allison McDonell Page.

Constellations, written by Nick Payne, features the two actors meeting again, and again, and again, contemplating different outcomes of that meeting based upon ... chance, a good first line, a horrible first line, an awkward pause. And then follows each line - like one of those “Choose Your Own Adventure” books, or a hipster, updated millennial citified version of Bill Murray’s classic “Groundhog Day.” And you just get drawn in by Page’s deadpan delivery, and Linnnastruth’s quirky energy.

As a staged reading, it merited a standing ovation.

If the actors match that energy this time around, it’s a special show not to be missed.

Showtimes are at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday evening, March 16 & 17 at the Edison Theatre in Mammoth. More info: See p. 3.

-Lunch

Owen Page and Cali Linnnastruth.

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the election, I had [was the subject of] two internal affairs investigations and then the election happened and I was a strong supporter of Josh Nicholson.

After the election, I had 13 internal affairs investigations and was put on administrative leave for a total of five months.

Bradley was fired at the end of 2018 after the Sheriff’s department took his administrative leave since last September for a total of five months.

Nicholson ran against Hollowell in the election and told the Sheet, “It was important for me to run a clean campaign. But anyone that publicly supported me paid a price.”

Nicholson referencing his fellow ex-deputies and possibly Allmon.

“In November 2018, I utilized a Freedom of Information (FOI) act for Hollowell’s confidential employment applications,” Bradley recently provided you with Sheriff Jeff Hollowell’s confidential employment applications. The County had inadvertently released Sheriff Hollowell’s confidential employment applications to Mr. Bradley in response to a California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq., “CPRA”) request. Once the error was discovered, the County immediately contacted Mr. Bradley to ask him to return the confidential documents. Mr. Bradley did not do so, but instead released the confidential documents to several agencies, including your agency.

We are requesting that you immediately return any and all documents regarding Sheriff Hollowell’s confidential employment applications, and not reference or use the information obtained from those records for any purpose. It is well established that the documents provided to you by Mr. Bradley are confidential peace officer personnel files under Penal Code section 832.7, and not subject to release under the CPRA. Further, the California Supreme Court has confirmed that documents inadvertently released pursuant to a CPRA request do not become public records merely because they were inadvertently provided to a requestor. (See Ardon v. City of Los Angeles (2016) 66 Cal.4th 1176.)

Lunch’s reply: I have never received any documents, from Mr. Bradley or anyone else.

Later revelation: Hite tells me now he has received (and deleted) any documents received from Reuben Bradley. Further, whatever information is in those documents is not referenced in this story.

White told The Sheet, “In order to be a veteran, you have to serve two years...”

White claimed Hollowell was active for one year and 23 days.

The time constraint is a tough one to nail down but California Veterans Code does say, “For the purposes of this chapter ‘veteran’ does not include any of the following: A person who was separated from the armed forces under other than honorable conditions.”

White, Bradley, and Nicholson claim that Hollowell’s DD-214 - which identifies a veterans reason for discharge - proves he is not a veteran and therefore should not be holding the VSO position.

Nicholson told the Sheet, “The biggest part of this are the facts. My opinion really means nothing. [Hollowell] accepted money for 15 years.”

As of 2018, Hollowell had accepted $83,000 and that number is likely close to $100,000 now.

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removal? Bradley’s wife, Whitney Lee, posted a video on Facebook of Reuben ‘training’ the dog. The video shows Bady (the dog) attacking an untrained, unarmed civilian as opposed to a trained agitator.

Once the video was posted, people began contacting the Sheriff’s Department and former Inyo County Sheriff Bill Lutze made the difficult decision to remove the dog from Bradley’s house. The surprising thing about the article is that even back then, the contention was apparent, “People posted comments stating that the removal of the Bradley family member from its home is clear retaliation against Bradley for not endorsing Undersheriff Jeff Hollowell, a candidate for Sheriff.

The second story regarding the election paints Nicholson and Bradley as questionable characters. “[Nicholson], along with his very good buddy, fellow patrolman and staunch supporter, Reuben Bradley, were placed on suspension without pay for basically ‘lying,’” reads the story. “The two patrolmen were both suspended for harassing and threatening a woman alone at a campground, very late at night last year in July, in an area without cell phone coverage, and then later lying about it in the incident report narrative filed afterwards.”

James wrote that the incident was recorded from the victim’s cell phone and when Bradley and Nicholson lied about the interaction, they were caught red-handed. When The Sheet contacted Lutze about this story, he said, “They [Bradley and Nicholson] have been mad at Hollowell for all the investigations when it was me who made all of those decisions … These guys have been accusing [Hollowell] for some time and they are hoping something will stick.”

When asked about his veteran status, Hollowell responded, “Inyo County did its due diligence with my paperwork when I applied for the position. I am a veteran.”

James thoughts on the Sheriff’s race at the time: “‘The Sheet reviewed Hollowell’s entire personnel file with the department and his military record which contained his training history in his stint in the Army, as well as his Certificate of Honorable Discharge, which even here, a few of his critics, including Nicholson in an email message, have attempted to discredit.”

Hollowell’s supposed ‘unsatisfactory performance’ discharge could be upgraded at any point if he were to go to the Army Reserves and protest it. The DD-214 that White, Bradley, and Nicholson saw could easily have been an outdated version that was not the paperwork Inyo County saw.

Jessica Allmon

It’s interesting to give this section the header Jessica Allmon, because Allmon told the Sheet, “I don’t want the story to be about me. It should be fact-based.” Allmon’s opinion: “The Veteran Service Office being under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff’s department can be a barrier to providing veterans with help.”

Allmon expressed a desire to have the IMCV-SO be a stand alone office separate from the Sheriff’s department.

This was also the view of former CAO Kevin Carunchio. The big question: Is Hollowell’s annual stipend standing in the way of such a change? He certainly has little incentive to alter the status quo.

Allmon did have strong opinions regarding Hollowell. “There are discrepancies [in how he represents himself].” She questioned his integrity.

Allmon was just gloomy about the whole thing, “I just want veterans to feel safe coming into my office. There should be no barriers to care.”

“I want the community to know how veterans are being failed,” she continued. “I can’t even take a vacation because the office would close down. If I’m sick, the office closes down,” Allmon said.

The Sheet began to ask questions regarding the day to day operations and Allmon responded, “It is a shame that I am an office of one. A real tragedy to a community with a lot of veterans.” Roughly 8,000 veterans live in Mono and Inyo County combined.

 “[Hollowell] has never sat down with a veteran and he doesn’t even know how to file the paperwork required for any of the VSO duties. This would include filing claims to states, filing claims to assist veterans with education benefits, housing benefits, county benefits,” said Allmon.

She said a lot more but I couldn’t write it down fast enough.

Lutze helped explain the VSO position, “As far back as I can remember, the Veteran Service Representative does most of the work. The VSO is there to be the department head. Oversee it, sign the proper forms, and make sure it is running correctly.”

This is important because Hollowell receives the 7.5% bonus for being the VSO.

But let’s do some math. As the Undersheriff in 2018, Hollowell made approximately $130,000 according to Transparent California. 7.5% of that is $9,750. And he’s clearly making more as Sheriff now.

A James piece written on February 15 reads, “[Allmon] 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.”

Conclusion

It’s a fat cat bonus. Hollowell should give the position up and focus on his primary job. Allmon feels the veterans in our county are not being properly represented. Lutze claims the office has always been run this way - if it appears it’s not being run properly or efficiently, why keep running it the same way? Or having the same person run it.

And once Hollowell gives up the title and his bonus, we can all stop talking about it.

Promise.

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colonoscopies Save Lives.

Sarah Sindell, MD, Fru Bahiraei, MD, Jim Bold, PA-C, and Richard Koehler, MD

- Accepting new patients -

Call now to schedule an appointment

760.924.4014

www.mammothhospital.com

Mammoth Hospital

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SPRING CLEANING WEEKEND!
March 14th and 15th
50% OFF SPECIALS, BLOWOUT DEALS
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The Largest Cannabis Retailer in the Eastern Sierra
Recreational 21+
Flowers, Concentrates, Vape Pens, Tinctures,
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www.ascentmammoth.com
(Mammoth Luxury Outlet Mall, Ground Floor, Next to Mountain Sol Yoga)
Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance hosted its annual run to support colon cancer research and treatment on Saturday, March 7. Locals came out in big numbers to exercise and support the cause.

Clockwise from right: The Larson family (Ember, Emily Croasdale, Wayne Croasdale, Derek Arndt, Kenny Arndt, Maggie Larson (stage 4 cancer survivor!), Crystal Bocanegra); Amber Flynn, the swiftest of them all; Kano (fastest junior) and dog Serenity; Below, Front (L-R): Scott Hooker, Barbara Laughon, Michelle Garcia, Sarah Freundt, Chery Underhill and Amy Stang. Back (L-R): Debbie Clarkson, Cory Denault, Rosie Graves, Andrea Shallcross and Margie Neer; Left, Pat Ramirez (L), founder of Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance, with husband Ray.

By Gayla Wolf

**CANCER ALLIANCE WALK/RUN**

**SHELTER DISTILLING**

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Happy Hour 2-4pm Monday - Thursday // Taco Tuesday $2 Off Agave Cocktails // $3 Street Tacos // Wednesday Live Music With $10 Cocktails, $5 Beers // Open 11am - 11pm Every Day

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Dave R Easterby, Agent

Insurance License #: 0H65719

437 Old Mammoth Road Suite J

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Bus: 760-934-7575

*Newsfash!

State Farm is now offering homeowners insurance without restriction in Mammoth Lakes and June Lake. Call today for a quote.

See our new location at 625 Old Mammoth Rd.

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

State Farm Lloyd, Richardson, TX

1708346
A celebration of life for Sierra Wave radio personality Bob Todd was held Saturday, March 7 at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Greg Bretz, above, put together an incredible tribute video which you’ll be able to find online titled “Bobbo Celebration of Life.” It should be up by this weekend. It’s filled with classic outtakes - a joyful reminder of Bob’s wit and talent.

Pictured from bottom left: Keith “Ole” Olsen and Tim “Ears” Snead; Brother-in-law Mark Hambey; close friend and video producer Greg Bretz; brother Spike Todd.
SPORTS

MHS SWEEPS SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Connie Moyer

The Mammoth High School Husky Ski and Snowboard team have returned from the CNISSF State Championships at Northstar. It was a grueling four days of competition March 2-5, with lots of success for our local high school racers and lots of podiums.

We swept all of the possible team banners to win the overall Championships. Our snowboard team is developing but we still secured second place in the combined ski and snowboard team award.

Ten of our ski racers qualified for the upcoming inaugural Western Region US High School Championships here at Mammoth Mountain this Friday and Saturday, March 12-14. The qualifiers include: Kendall Lach, Isla Lackey, Kendall Speiler, Keely Podosin, Laurel Wight, Madison Jayne, Benny Wolfe, Aidan LeFrancois, Mitchell Parsons, Sean Walker and Spencer Reid (from Bishop).

Coaches Corner

Longtime MHS Ski Team Coach, Jimmy Morning (age 75): “The Huskies, self-nicknamed the ‘Dirty Dawgs’ showed fantastic team spirit supporting each other and had tons of fun winning the skiing event.” The kids gave Jimmy the nickname “OG Dirty Dawg.”

MHS Snowboard Coach, Emma Romo Haisten said, “Our Husky snowboarders put all their hard work and training from the season to good work, with several finishes in the top 20 out of 150+ racers. Our rookies from this year can’t wait until next season to build on this experience.”

MHS Ski and Snowboard Team Director, Connie Moyer: “I am so proud and attached to every single one of these student-athletes, it put tears in my eyes seeing them celebrate at the awards. They skied like true champions with incredible poise, not only racing for themselves, but for the entire team.” The kids nicknamed Connie “ConMom” on her shirt.

Results

Men’s Ski Slalom: Benny Wolfe, 1st; Aidan LeFrancois, 2nd and Mitchell Parsons, 3rd.

Women’s Ski Slalom: Kendal Lach, 1st; Isla Lackey, 4th; Keely Podosin, 6th; Laurel Wight, 7th; Madison Jayne 9th and Kendall Speiler 10th.

Men’s Overall Combined GS & Slalom CNISSF All State Ski Team: Benny Wolfe, 1st; Aidan LeFrancois, 3rd; Mitchell Parsons, 4th.

NORDIC SKIERS EXCEL AT STATES

The Mammoth Middle School and Mammoth High School Nordic Ski teams have officially ended their spectacular season. State Championships were held on February 22nd under clear, sunny skies at Auburn Ski Club.

Mammoth High School sophomore Mia Karch skied to an impressive 1st place finish in the Open (JV) Category and 9th place overall at State Championships. She had a quick classic to skate ski transition, and finished both 3.3km loops of the pursuit race in a time of 24:21.7.

The MMS girls team took 2nd place overall for State Championships and 3rd place overall for the league.

The 3.3km skate state championship race was led by Ella Walker (2nd) and Lila Creasy (3rd), who finished within one second of each other. Olivia Karch (19th), CJ Andelman (20th), Lucy Perry (36th), and Parker Andleman (45th) all skied well.

The MMS boys team won both overall league and state championship titles. Dane Karch, who also won the Truckee Sprint race on February 7th, skied to a first place finish and was named the 2020 Middle School State Champion. Other outstanding top ten finishes were turned in by Cabot Godoy (3rd), Davis Wolter (5th), Cyrus Creasy (6th), Wade Perry (8th), and Mason Georgeson (10th). Competition was tough as Jack Leonard (14th), who was only 1:39 behind first, Other impressive finishes included Wyman Fisher (21st), Owen Czeschin (24th), Beckett Page (25th), Martin Walker (45th), and Max Clark (54th).

All the nordic skiers received academic recognition this year, with many being on the Principal’s List. Mammoth coaches, Ben Higgins, Kathi Kirkeby, Jeff Byberg, Nancy Millner, and Chris Thompson are very proud of these athletes and excited to see where the future of Mammoth Nordic goes.

Three Mammoth Nordic racers, Jared Mahler, Mia Karch, and Wade Perry, will be competing at Junior Nationals March 8th-14th in Truckee, California.

-Kirkeby

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FATAL ACCIDENT

On March 5, 2020 at approximately 12:35 PM, Tyler Nollen of Brisbane, CA, was driving a 2013 Honda Civic northbound US 395, north of Lower Rock Creek Road, at approximately 65 mph. For an unknown reason, Nollen allowed his Honda Civic to travel off the roadway. The vehicle continued to travel north across the terrain until it became airborne. The vehicle landed on its roof in a dry creek bed where it came to rest on its wheels. Upon the arrival of first responders, all parties were trapped in the vehicle. One passenger, Zachary Glinski, 32, succumbed to his injuries at the scene. Nollen and his remaining passenger, Claudia Rojas were transported to Mammoth Lakes Hospital with major injuries and then air-flighted to Reno. Personnel from the following agencies responded: Bishop CHP, Bridgeport CHP, Mono County Sheriff, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, Wheeler Crest Volunteer Fire Department, Symons Ambulance, and Cal-Trans. Several off-duty first responders and medical professionals also stopped at the scene to render aid to the injured victims.

-Press Release

TOMAS RULES

Tomas Rodriguez with wife Lee and daughter Audrey Rodriguez after winning the USA Cross Country Championships Masters 8K race in San Diego in January. Tomas generously gives “No Runner Left Behind” scholarships to MHS athletes each year. Interestingly, he doesn’t seem to care much about leaving runners behind when he’s on the course.

LOOKING FOR A FUN JOB THIS SUMMER?

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks & Recreation Department is hiring! We have a number of seasonal positions available, offering competitive pay, flexible hours, and the chance to be part of the growing recreation community in Mammoth Lakes.

- Camp Counselors
- Counselors-in-Training (CIT)
- Senior Camp Counselors
- Umpires/Sports Officials
- Lifeguards/Swim Instructors
- Lifeguards
- Recreation Coordinator
- Temporary Parks Maintenance Workers

If you have a passion for parks and recreation and want to secure a job for the summer, apply now!

Visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov for more information.

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**BARS & MUSIC**

### Happy Hour
- **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. 3
- **Austria Hof Happy Hour** 4-6:30 p.m. Sun-Thurs 4-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. See ad p. 11
- **Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour** Mon-Fri., Happy Hour from 4-5 p.m.
- **Morrison’s Happy Hour** 5-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday in the bar.
- **Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour** 4 p.m. daily. $6 dollar menu items, drink specials. More info: see ad p. 4
- **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. Lag. 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. 18
- **Side Door Cafe & 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. 3-6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.
- **Location:** Industrial Park, 123 Commerce Dr.
- **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.
- **Rafter’s** 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.
- **Lakunuki** 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
- **March 13-14/ Southcentral Skankers** (ska/latin/punk/metal) plays the Liberty Bar in Mammoth. 9 p.m. No cover.
- **Apres ski @ Lincoln Bar** (Canyon Lodge 1-5 p.m. DJ WLDCT, drink specials, giveaways.
- **Saturday, March 14/ Black Sabbath tribute band** plays Rafter’s. Time: 10 p.m.
- **Cuburn Station** (Psychedelic rock) plays the T-Bar in June Lake. Time: 8 p.m. Cost: $5 advance/$8 door. Info: www.balancedrocksaloon.com
- **Tuesday, March 17/ Trivia Tuesday @ Mammoth Brewing Company**. Time: 7 p.m.
- **Wild Mountain Thyme** (traditional Irish tunes) plays Distant Brewery, 568 Old Mammoth Rd. Time: 6 p.m.
- **Will Nye’s @ St. Patty’s Dance Party @ the T-Bar in June Lake. Time: 8 p.m. Cost: $5.
- **St. Patty’s Day celebration @ Liberty Bar** in Mammoth. Drink/food specials all day. See ad p. 3
- **Nacho fun @ Palate Palace Casino. Cash drawings, food specials, more. See ad p. 3
- **St. Patty’s @ the Clocktower in Mammoth. Opens 2 p.m. Commemorative shirts. Corned beef and cabbage. See ad p. 4

### Wednesday, March 18/
- **Local Wednesdays featuring live music @ Shelter Distilling** for cocktails and $5 beers while the music plays. Buy a bottle, Get a cocktail.

### Thursday, March 19/
- **Daughters Rea** play Mammoth Brewing Company. Time: 8 p.m. Free.
- **Friday, March 20**
  - **Andrew Webber Blues Band** (soul/blues/roots) plays the Liberty Bar in Mammoth. 9 p.m.

### TOWN STUFF

**Friday, March 13/ Community Reads Kickoff Dinner** HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

**Saturday, March 14/ Woolly’s Saturday Parade @ the Village at Mammoth. Join Wooly and friends for music, face-painting, a dance party, and parade through The Village Plaza. Time 5-45 p.m.
- **Bucky’s birthday bash @ June Mountain. Time: 1 p.m. Cake, activities, games, fun! etc.**
- **“These Alabama Hills Are Alive”** natural history hike with the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Assn. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. Where: Meet Arch Loop Trail parking lot off Movie Road. Info: John Kelly, 760.872.1220/john@eisianline.org.

**2020 Winter Series** #3 hosted by Sierra Ultra Marathons and Sage to Summit This is the third (and final) race of the series. Race will take place at the Millpond Recreation Area in Bishop. Registration starts at 8 a.m., race starts at 9 a.m. Suggested donation: $10.
- **Friends of the Inyo’s Bodie Hills Winter Outing.** Bring your skins or snowshoes (or borrow ours) for a fun day of trekking. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Meet at the Virginia Creek Settlement in Bridgeport. Come prepared. If you don’t have any, we will have snowshoes for you to borrow. Time: 9 a.m. ’til 3 p.m. RSVP: wendy@friendsoftheinyo.org.
- **Blake Jones Trout Derby** Fish the lower Owens and Pleasant Valley Reservoir on Saturday to land the biggest catch of the day. **Note:** 3 p.m. weigh-in/awards ceremony has been cancelled. $20 for adults, $10 for children. Registration + info: https://www.bishopvisitor.com/blake-jones-trout-derby/. 

**IKON pass holder ‘late ups’**
- **Chairs 1,15,16 and the Village Gondola will be open until 5 p.m. for IKON pass holders.**

**Sunday, March 15/ Wildcare Eastern Sierra volunteer orientation.** Time: 12-2 p.m. Location: The Imagination Lab in Bishop. 621 West Line St., Suite 104. Info: 760.872.1487.
If you have ever wanted a do-over, say, of a job interview, a date, or a marriage, and obsessively replayed the text, “This is a great chance to meet people, and who have the time and willingness to help them accomplish their mission.”

Mono County is looking for volunteers and rescues trapped climbers in the winter months, no attitude. But that mission is on potential disturbance during the prime breeding season for this sensitive species. The closure will be lifted Tuesday, April 21, 2020, prior to Fishing Opener.

If you have ever wanted a do-over, say, of a job interview, a date, or a marriage, and obsessively replayed the text, “This is a great chance to meet people, and who have the time and willingness to help them accomplish their mission.”

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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 receptionist. This is a Full Time Position (Monday through Friday). This position offers vacation accrual, bonus, and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required. Please call 760-924-8001 or stop by the store located at 1401 Tavern Road Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothspas@aol.com.

Vacation Rental company needs PT (w/benefits) or PT local maintenance techs ($20/h) and housekeepers (great piece rate, we have lines stripping and carpet lifting). Must be a team player and have great attitude. Email: recruiting@livestarrlodging.com to apply.

Manager Trainee, La Residence condo... looking for a professional, calm and quiet individual who enjoys working in a professional, calm and quiet atmosphere. Perfect for massage therapist or anyone who enjoys working in a professional, calm and quiet atmosphere. Please apply in person at the front desk. Full or part time availability.

About Us:

Mammoth Community Water District's Operations Department is currently recruiting for one permanent Wastewater Plant Operator position in the Wastewater Treatment Division. FOR APPLICAITON INFORMATION/TO APPLY: Please visit the District website at http://www.mcwd.dst.ca.us/employment.html

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service skills and a clean driving record. We’re also looking for office staff 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 Mammoth Lakes/June Lake with pay starting at $18/hour. Apply at vacasa.com/careers.

Mammoth Chevron Seeking experienced cashier/customer service associate. Must be honest, personable and enjoy making customers smile! Day and evening shifts available. $17.50/hour plus great vacation benefits for qualified individuals. Apply in person.

White Mountain Fire Protection District is in need of a Grant Writer!! WMFPD is currently seeking an individual with desire and experience that can focus on several upcoming grant opportunities for our district and community. USA Round 1, utility funding Grant, Assistance to Firefighters Grant and Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) Grant but are a few we would like to pursue. If you have any interest or just want to talk to us about how you could help, please contact us, facebook page “White Mountain Fire Department” or call 760-933-2252

Mammoth Lakes Business Essentials. Located across the street from Vons next to Dominos. Full-Time Help wanted for Retail Mineral and Gem Sales at new business. Tragedy forces change in business plans. Knowledge of Lapidary/Fossils/Retail sales preferred but not mandatory. Compensation DOE. Email resume to paleominersala@gmail.com.

Maintenance Personnel Needed Full-time position available in the maintenance management department. Looking for a responsible, reliable person with past property maintenance experience. Flexible hours, year round. Inquire to TJ@mammothmortsportmanagement.com

For Rent

Seeking Loggers for my spare bedrooms in Mammoth Knolls. Upscale home and neighborhood located near town. Great for the people that work a mile up from the Village. 31 day or longer contract required by zoning. Possible master bedroom available during off season. Inquire at bowesavid@yahoo.com for photos, rates and calendar possibilities.

For Rent/Ski Haus 3BDR, 3BA 49 Old Mammoth $3300.00 (310) 283-3833 Treatment room available for rent in Bishop. Professional, calm and quiet atmosphere. Perfect for massage therapist or other holistic healer. Help build your practice with potential client referrals from this busy office. Full or part time availability. Please call or text 760-914-1639.

For Sale

Mammoth For Rent/ Ski Haus 3BDR, 3BA In Mammoth $3300.00 (310) 283-3833 Treatment room available for rent in Bishop. Professional, calm and quiet atmosphere. Perfect for massage therapist or other holistic healer. Help build your practice with potential client referrals from this busy office. Full or part time availability. Please call or text 760-914-1639.

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The Town of Mammoth Lakes will receive sealed bids for the work shown on the plans entitled: TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES COMMUNITY CENTER MANUAL PLACED 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546. Bids will be publicly opened and read at 4:00 PM on March 26, 2020 at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

Notice Inviting Bids cont.

The engineer’s estimate to complete the base bid is between $7,000,000 and $7,300,000. The work includes full compliance with all applicable laws, codes, and regulations. The work shall be completed within the time set forth in the Contract.

A non-provisional pre-bid meeting will be held at the main conference room at the Town Offices on March 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, California.

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Proposed Forms and Contract Documents for this work are included in the specifications.

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Proposed Forms and Contract Documents for this work are included in the specifications.
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0037

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION INVOLVING AN UPDATE TO SLUDGE Hauling OPERATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mammoth Lakes Community Water District has prepared an Initial Study and prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration to evaluate potential environmental impacts of an update to sludge hauling operations.

A copy of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study may be obtained from the District’s水 at 1315 Meridian Boulevard in Mammoth Lakes, California.

Questions regarding this bid must be in writing and directed to Angela DeLisle, Assistant Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. All questions should be submitted via email at angela.delsile@mammothlakesca.gov.

All questions should be submitted via email at angela.delsile@mammothlakesca.gov. The Town of Mammoth Lakes allows overnight parking for candidates preparing for the upcoming Community Water District Board of Directors’ election. The Town of Mammoth Lakes encourages all interested community members to participate in the election process. For more information, visit www.mammothlakesca.gov/board.

SierraCon, Inc. is requesting subcontractor bids for the MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT’S MAMMOTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT.

SierraCon, Inc. is requesting subcontractor bids for the MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT’S MAMMOTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT. SierraCon, Inc. will award the subcontractor(s) at no award, based on the criteria permitted under Education Code Section 17700."
SHE SPEAKS FOR THE TREES

By Hite

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n the midst of a week of COVID-19 news tearing down every establishment from international travel to the stock market and even the NBA being suspended, sometimes it is nice to get your mind off of all the noise. For this reason, The Sheet decided to attend a mellow talk put on by the Eastern Audubon Society. The presentation was titled, “Trees of life: exploring our ancient connections and dependence on forests.”

Guest speaker Deanna Dulen, Superintendent of Devils Postpile National Monument moonlighting as the avid Lorax she is, opened up the presentation by saying, “We are going all the way back to the beginning of earth. The atmosphere was made up of primarily carbon-dioxide at this time ...” Coronavirus thoughts disappear when thinking about the origins of our planet.

In the midst of the carbon-dioxide rich world, trees emerged and created an oxygen-filled world capable of sustaining life.

Some cool tree facts Dulen mentioned were:

-40% of all rainfall comes from forests around the world.
-Coastal forests act as bio-pumps sucking the hot water from the ocean into the cool forests due to the pressure change creating winds that bring rain into these forests.
-The first cultivated plant is believed to be the fig (12,000 years ago). Then grains (9,000 years ago), and finally olives (8,000 years ago).

Then Dulen got into the climate change facts:
-The loss of 100 million trees in California has led to temperature rises in the midwest and on the east coast.
-In the last century, 1/3 of forests have been deforested
Which led to the point of the talk: we can help protect our remaining intact forest communities to mitigate a warming climate.

“Trees feed birds, birds plant trees,” said Dulen referencing a quote she felt encapsulated the synopsis of the presentation.

Humans can replant trees all we want. Birds will still have us beat. Centuries pass and trees co-evolve with birds to increase chances of survival for both.

Take the Corvid (crow family) as an example. After the last Ice Age, the Corvid is believed to have “accelerated the spread of North American Beech and Oak northward on the tails of retreating glaciers,” according to Dulen.

The Corvid is a scatter-hoarder, meaning it takes seeds and buries them for future use, which leads to the bird being known as a “feathered cultivator” or an “eco-gardener.”

The birds cache between 4,000-20,000 seeds per year for future food usage. But they can only remember where they put 20% of the seeds. This leads to trees being planted in places where the Corvid already migrates. The cycle repeats and the Corvid becomes the most efficient way for the tree, as a species, to survive.

This evolutionary pathway for trees to be the fig (12,000 years ago). Then grains (9,000 years ago), and finally olives (8,000 years ago).

... “Corvid becomes the most efficient way for the tree, as a species, to survive. Corvids, including the Pinyon Jay, similar to the Nutcracker migrates, hoping the bird will spread the trees even further. A multi-century restoration effort, with the heavy-lifting being done by a bird.

Trees feed birds, birds plant trees. In the Channel Islands in the 1800s, foreign-introduced livestock changed the flora and fauna on the island. When the acorn-eating pigs and other livestock were removed, the Santa Cruz Scrub Oak experienced a 50% increase while the population of Jays on the island increased a respectable 20-30%.

Then a wildfire burned down many of the Scrub Oakes. Researchers knew the trees survival was correlated with the Jays and thought they could utilize the Jays to enhance the recovery process of the Scrub Oak. These researchers set up stations where food was available to the birds. Eventually they started putting Scrub Oak acorns in the feeders and when the Jays dispersed the seeds it helped recover the Scrub Oak faster than normal. “Restoration bird-feeders,” Dulen called it.

This knowledge is being used to restore forests around the world. Blackhawk Pines are currently being decimated by a disease called ‘blister rust.’ Scientists have been taking the seeds and screening them for blister

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