DON’T HIT THE ROAD, JACK
INF plans road closures until at least June
By Hite

The Inyo National Forest will potentially (all but likely) close certain roads in Mono and Inyo Counties to public access until at least June.

The proposed roads/areas of closure are: Minaret Vista, Red’s Meadow, Mammoth Lakes Basin Roads, Pine Creek Road, Buttermilk Road and Mt. Whitney Area Trails.

According to a letter from Tammy Randall-Parker, Inyo National Forest Supervisor, “This decision was based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as state and local health authorities.”

What may have prompted the action was Forest Service concern about lack of staffing in the coming months. Due to COVID-19, seasonal staff allocated to these areas will not arrive to the Eastern Sierra until May 24. If they are from another area (most of them are) then they will have to quarantine two weeks before becoming eligible to work, pushing their availability date to Sunday, June 7.

There were two meetings this week discussing the proposed closures. First, there was a two hour Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) meeting on Monday, followed by nearly three hours dedicated to the topic at Wednesday’s joint Mammoth Lakes Town Council meeting with the Mono County Board of Supervisors.

Five hours of discussion. On what is essentially a foregone conclusion. Randall-Parker’s letter of April 14 suggested it’s a fait de accompli roads will be closed until June 30 (although Town Council asked that closures be reconsidered on June 5 - see Council’s letter to Parker reprinted on page 4).

Council and Supervisors spent much of Wednesday tinkering with the wording of proposed letters to be sent to the Forest Service, knowing full well the Forest Service would likely only make marginal changes to policy.

The five hours of discussion, however, did provide a lens into what decision-makers are currently thinking.

For one, the closures themselves are, well, weird. They are road closures. Not trail closures ... except all the trails near the Whitney Portal, District Ranger for the area, David Andersen told ESSRP meeting attendees, “At Whitney Portal, I won’t have anyone until June 15. This has a huge effect on our resources.”

Then there’s the disconnect between the Forest Service wanting people to recreate while social distancing, while closing certain areas to ensure the remaining open areas will be crowded, making social distancing impossible.

see CLOSED, page 4

A RUN ON THE BANKS
Local food banks meet challenge in feeding thousands as demand spikes
By Lunch

As the COVID-19 pandemic settles in, the demand for basic necessities only grows.

Bob Hughes, Executive Director of Inyo-Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA), said demand for food distribution has tripled since the pandemic began.

IMACA is now delivering food to one thousand families in Inyo and Mono counties, from Tecopa to Walker.

Pre-corona shutdowns, it might serve 300 families out of its warehouse on East South Street in Bishop.

Sherry O’Connell of the Salvation Army says demand for the Army’s food pantry has doubled from 250 to 500 patrons per month.

And Michael Ledesma, a board member for Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) who does all the ordering for MLT’s food bank (which started operating March 23) says they’re seeing 400 cars per day, three days per week.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism is spending between $7,000 and $10,000 per service day on food.

All three organizations accept donations of food, cash ...

O’Connell says folks have donated masks for Salvation Army volunteers.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism has reported receiving $78,000 in private donations. A single donor gave $25,000.

IMACA recently received a massive donation from the LDS Church, which sent a 53’ semi-tractor trailer from Salt Lake City with enough food to feed 1,400 people a day for five days.

That truck arrived this past Monday. Another truck is scheduled to arrive in the coming week.

Volunteerism has also been very strong. MLT has had more than 120 volunteers donate 1,200 hours. The Salvation Army has seen its volunteer roster swell from five or six to about 20, critical because many of the army’s regular volunteers are senior citizens who can’t do so right now because they are an at-risk population.

see BANKS, page 10

Front row from left, Mammoth Community Food Bank volunteers Jess Karell, Erica Ruiz, Judith Jimenez and Caroline Casey. Back row: Tiffany Noel and Kathy Lucien

The lessons of ‘18

King Kong p. 2/
Caged retailer p. 15/
Ikon edit p. 3/
MLTreading water p. 8/
THE LESSONS OF ‘18

Collette Gaal was nice enough to forward me a link to a recent story in the L.A. Times by James Rainey and Rong-Gong Lin called “Heed the Lessons of 1918” about the Spanish Flu which killed 50 million people worldwide, including 675,000 Americans.

The article states: “The really important lesson of 1918 is to keep interventions in place as long as possible,” said Alex Navarro, assistant director of the Center for the History of Medicine at the University of Michigan. “Because once the controls are removed, it’s very difficult to reinstate them.”

The Michigan center, along with the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, compiled and analyzed historical accounts of the 1918 plague. Their research found “a strong association between early, sustained and layered use of [non-pharmaceutical interventions] and mitigating the consequences of the epidemic.”

It then talks about how San Francisco and Los Angeles each responded. The first signs of the pandemic became apparent in mid-September 1918. San Francisco quarantined from October 18- November 16. L.A. quarantined about three weeks longer, from October 11-December 2.

The article suggests that quarantining longer and social distancing was more effective than wearing masks (San Francisco “obsessed on a singular response to the disease: face masks.”)

Both cities suffered a second wave of infections. San Francisco’s was more severe. Overall, CDC research estimated that L.A.’s “excess” death rate (the number who died of influenza above the normal yearly expectation) was 494 per 100,000 residents. San Francisco’s rate was 673 per 100,000.

With that as a backdrop ...

California’s stay-at-home order was issued March 19. To match L.A.’s response a century ago, our current order would be lifted May 10.

To heed Navarro’s advice and “keep interventions in place for as long as possible,” perhaps the current orders remain in place until May 31. That would literally keep orders in place 40% longer than they were in place a century ago.

And on June 1, you open. Because honestly, that’s as long as possible - though not long enough, perhaps, for those who are still collecting a paycheck or maybe don’t need one - and you have a summer. The general idea of distancing is a good one. You don’t have large events. Maybe relax the rules so restaurateurs can seat more people outside when the weather is nice.

But we need to have a summer. And people need to work and feel useful. And we ants need to replenish our stores. As Alterra Resorts CEO Rusty Gregory is fond of saying, “Don’t let perfect get in the way of good.”

Like it’s gotten in the way of workforce housing development and placing roofs on ice rinks.

There’s no perfect, risk-free plan. Life is not risk free. It’s about playing the percentages. If we dicker and dawdle and have no summer and then get a second wave in November, Mammoth may wake up and realize Bridgeport is the rightful county seat because it has a larger population.

And from Page’s desk ...

At Wednesday’s joint Mammoth Council/Mono Supervisors meeting, significant time was devoted to the local economy, as a dependency on tourists and visitors has left many businesses high and dry during these lean times.

“We need to have this work its way through [the region] ... at a rate that doesn’t overwhelm our community,” Frievalt said, “and recognize that long-term economic impacts are significant.”

“Lunch aside: Nice of the Chief to think long-term. But you can’t have a long-term without a short term and a medium term. Long-term is a luxury right now. Mono County Economic Development Director Alicia Vennos has been working with a newly-formed economic recovery task force for the area and reiterated the importance of feedback from local business owners.

“Travel is our lifeblood,” Vennos said, “and we’re literally in need of a desperate transfusion.”

To highlight that need, Vennos reported out the results of a local business survey that found only 7% of county businesses are able to operate as normal, with 45% stating that they are not able to operate at all. Businesses cited cash flow and the return (reopen) process as key concerns moving forward, as very few have received state or federal loans.

According to the survey, five businesses have already closed their doors for good, with 38% of responding businesses saying that they have a month or less before they would have to do the same.

As part of the reopening process, Acting County Administrative Officer (CAO) Bob Lawton explained that safe interactions need to become second nature and that businesses would have to change practices to ensure employee and customer safety. He cited changes undertaken by Vons in Mammoth Lakes, as an example for others to follow.

Supervisor Fred Stump was impressed with the consistent evolution of both town and county agencies to get information out and adapt to circumstances.

“Since we’ve never been thrown in a bathtub like this before,” Stump said, “we are sharing the rubber duck quite well.”

Mammoth Councilmember Cleland Hoff expressed dismay that residents were not complying with messaging about wearing masks in public and asked that messaging and social pressure to that end be ramped up.

Dr. Burrows jumped in, saying “public shaming doesn’t work...the message has gotta be louder than noise.”

Hoff responded, telling Burrows “I’m kind of surprised that you aren’t more interested in getting people to comply and your messaging is not working.”

Mayor Bill Sauser stepped in before things escalated. Later, Hoff told Burrows as he was signing off the call to “Get the **** off, then” before later apologizing and leaving the meeting.

The spat serves as a reminder of the stress and anxiety that the pandemic has brought upon many.

Hoff later told The Sheet she thought her mic was muted.

But she also said it was inappropriate for a Councilmember’s remarks to be interrupted by a non-elected official.

For a subscription, contact Lunch at his above e-mail address, or call the office. Issues are mailed out bi-weekly. Cost is $75/year.
Looking ahead

Tom Cage addressed the following letter to various local leaders and later released it for print.

Dear Editor:

As we are all happy that positive cases seem to have plateaued and all but one have recovered from their own C-19 sickness, it is now time to plan without haste towards re-opening of our resort community and how best to do that.

I have met with my staff and with many in our business community to discuss this. Some of the ideas that have come out of clear, thoughtful and sensible deduction are things that we have all heard.

If we reopen on May 15 we could institute a 50% lodging, 50% restaurant occupancy, retail stores with cash register shields, sanitizer dispensers around the stores, facemasks for staff made available, gloves for staff made available and proper signage at all locations that state what health officials want us to say. Please keep in mind that if this can be accomplished by May 15 it will be a sensible ramp-up for business to get used to new operating guidelines. Keep in mind, with fishing and ski seasons not open our ramp-up will be slow at best so the reason to wait any longer than the 15th to reopen (unless we see some spike in positive cases) and I believe it is vital to give our community the ability to work towards a date and ramp-up with safety in mind.

I further believe that we need to state as soon as possible that we will have a 4th of July Parade, fireworks, art shows, kids festivals, Footloose Freedom Mile and some of the normal festivities. People are at their wits’ end staying at home both financially and emotionally, both in Mammoth as well as in cities to the south.

Phase 2 could be a week later on the 22nd of May and allow us to possibly achieve a holiday weekend (Memorial). Perhaps it would make sense to reach out to MMMSA and see if there is any chance the resort may consider opening the mountain with Ch. 1, 3, 23 and limiting skier visits to a number and putting 2 people on the quads (Chairs 1 & 3 and 1 on 23) as an example. This to me would be a great success and give all positive press. As for hotels and restaurants, I would push them to 75% max occupancy that weekend as well.

Phase 3 I would call reopening with safety in place for all business and by June 12; the reason for this date is it will be 18 days after the Memorial weekend and what would have been some influx of visitors to our area. If there is no spike in C-19 at that time then the community could begin to reestablish operations as normal for the balance of summer with safety precautions in place as mentioned above. We have to start somewhere and if we have a problem after May 25 then its better to know on June 12 rather than July 1 about potentially closing for the entire summer.

I understand the concerns of our medical community but let’s face the facts. There has not been a flood into our Hospital, we must form consensus to getting back to somewhat of a normal life, we must tell people what they need to plan for, and we must give hope to all that we will return to the resort community we are and that people want us to be. Now is the time to list some of the protective items needed and recommended by the health community and put them in place for all business in preparation for re-opening.

If these discussions are not happening, I implore you to get them started asap. If they are happening, I hope that all parties are represented and that the health part of the equation is challenged to accept that we must plan for re-opening and there is some risk just as there is risk in not re-opening.

Thank you for your time and consideration to the above.

Tom Cage
Mammoth Lakes

Grasping at straws

Paul Rudder penned this reply in response to Cage’s letter.

Dear Editor:

I would like to see the Town re-open. But, of course, it’s a scary business. I read Tom Cage’s letter and thought it was as good an idea as any when you are grasping at straws, as we all are. However, I also thought it was a little light on the “what comes next if things go wrong” part. Here are my thoughts.

The only thing I would add to Tom Cage’s input is that we need clear guidelines on what to do if there is a spike in cases. How many, of what severity, and what exactly will we do if the number of cases hits some threshold that says we have to close down again. I think figuring out the downsides is just as important as implementing the upsides. Without clear guidelines and thresholds in place beforehand, we could be in a situation where there is a spike in cases, but no consensus about what to do under the circumstances.

Assuming Mammoth’s Town Council decides to implement some sort of re-opening, then figuring out what to do in the worst-case scenario beforehand will be critical to avoiding an unintentional disaster. We don’t want to be California poster boys for “they did too much too soon” any more than we want to be too slow.”

see LETTERS, page 5
Canada closed up for a summer hoops tourney. Played go? Palm Springs? McKenna and I did scientist to recognize that people are go staying-at-home order, officials said.

Where the hell else are they going to walk to the buttermilks. Our ability to walk to the buttermilks. Our ability to recreate. The golden goose is there's 4.5 hours work. How many pens and staff are working their regular jobs and are struggling, " said Karen Schwartz, a member of the Bishop City Council, "We’re facing an existential pandemic, it is in the interests of all parties that access to these recreation areas be maintained for the larger good of the public’s health, consistent with new social realities being imposed by the pandemic.

The Town has historically under invested in local public parks because 75% of the landscape within the Town are public lands managed by the US Forest Service. It is important to consider that for residents of Mammoth Lakes, the federal public lands and trails that lie within the municipal boundary of the Town are, in fact, the local public park and trail system. In the face of this existential pandemic, it is in the interests of all parties that access to these recreation areas be maintained for the larger good of the public’s health, consistent with new social realities being imposed by the pandemic.

In an effort to meet the needs of the US Forest Service you strive to comply with California’s Stay At Home Order, to continue to protect our community from COVID-19 while still permit ming the use of federal public lands consistent with directives of the Federal Government and the Regional Forester that “...the general Forest area that for residents of Mammoth Lakes, the federal public lands and trails that lie within the municipal boundary of the Town are, in fact, the local public park and trail system.

Corless told The Sheet later that her biggest issue is that the default (if nothing changes) is a closure through June. The default in her mind should be a June 1 open. Council did vote 4-1 (Sausser against) asking that the Forest Service change the June 1 date to June 5 to ‘decide to rescind or modify the Forest Closure Order for areas... and reconsider maintaining the closures staying in effect through June 30, 2020.’

For now, the roads are closed.

Dear Forest Supervisor,

Mammoth Lakes Town Council and the Mono County Board of Supervisors agreed that the Forest Service in support of the closures. The Board of Supervisors did not send a letter as Corless stated, “We don’t sup port the proposed closure.”

Council agreed to send the letter to the Forest Service in support of the closures. The Board of Supervisors did not send a letter as Corless stated, “We don’t sup port the proposed closure.”

Corless told The Sheet later that her biggest issue is that the default (if nothing changes) is a closure through June. The default in her mind should be a June 1 open. Council did vote 4-1 (Sausser against) asking that the Forest Service change the June 1 date to June 5 to ‘decide to rescind or modify the Forest Closure Order for areas... and reconsider maintaining the closures staying in effect through June 30, 2020.’

For now, the roads are closed.

THE DRAFT LETTER APPROVED BY COUNCIL (BUT NOT MONO COUNTY)

The Mammoth Lakes Town Council and the Mono County Board of Supervisors met on April 22, 2020 and considered the proposed Forest Order to close designated roads within the immediate vicinity of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, including landscapes that lie within the Town’s municipal boundary on Federal public lands.

Specifically, the closures include roads in the Mammoth Lakes Basin and the roads extending from the Minaret Vista (Red’s Meadow and Joaquin Ridge) down into the Red’s Meadow Valley. The areas are defined in the proposed Order.

The Town and County understand the expressed concerns for the safety of our personnel and visitors to national forest recreational sites given the COVID-19 pandemic. We are aware of the staffing challenges faced by the Inyo National Forest to adequately open and manage high-use areas prior to bringing on seasonal staff. The Town and County in partnership with the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District and Mono County Health Officer are managing a coordinated response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are following state and federal public health guidance as well as the executive orders issued by Governor Newsom including the Stay At Home Order for all Californians. We have also issued local Public Health Orders to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

Our community has responded well to these mitigation orders and we are “flattening the curve” in Mono County. We believe that the next several weeks will be pivotal in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with our hospital and Public Health Officer, we have taken steps to limit the actual population in Mono County, both to protect the capacity of our health care system, which is limited to and to reduce the spread of the disease from people traveling to Mono County and Mammoth Lakes from outside the region. We appreciate the respect and collaboration we have received from our federal land managers in these efforts.

As we continue to look forward and desire to work together, we understand the driving factors behind the proposed closure order. However, it is not without reservations that we support these efforts. With spring and summer upon us, the desire of our local populace to be out and enjoying our local landscape will be strong. The beauty and enjoyment offered by our public lands is a primary motivating factor for our residents to live here; federal public lands are the compelling attraction that supports our visitor-based economy.

The Town has historically under invested in local public parks because 75% of the landscape within the Town are public lands managed by the US Forest Service. It is important to consider that for residents of Mammoth Lakes, the federal public lands and trails that lie within the municipal boundary of the Town are, in fact, the local public park and trail system. In the face of this existential pandemic, it is in the interests of all parties that access to these recreation areas be maintained for the larger good of the public’s health, consistent with new social realities being imposed by the pandemic.

In an effort to meet the needs of the US Forest Service you strive to comply with California’s Stay At Home Order, to continue to protect our community from COVID-19 while still permitting the use of federal public lands consistent with directives of the Federal Government and the Regional Forester that “...the general Forest area...” we ask you to consider the inclusion of the following in the closure order related to the Mammoth Lakes Basin and Red’s Meadow areas: 1. Allow foot and bicycle use, on closed roads, to the extent legally allowable. 2. By June 5th, decide to rescind or modify the Forest Closure Order for areas defined in Exhibit A and B of the proposed Order and reconsider maintaining the closures staying in effect through June 30th, 2020.3. Any decision to rescind or retain the Forest Closure Order will be made with consideration of local capability to support on the ground conditions, the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community at the time of the Order’s review, and consistent with relevant Local, State and Federal direction.

Corless stated, “We don’t support the proposed closure order.”

Council did vote 4-1 (Sausser against) asking that the Forest Service change the June 1 date to June 5 to ‘decide to rescind or modify the Forest Closure Order for areas... and reconsider maintaining the closures staying in effect through June 30, 2020.’

For now, the roads are closed.

**THE DRAFT LETTER APPROVED BY COUNCIL (BUT NOT MONO COUNTY)**

Mount Baldy ski resort located in the San Gabriel Mountains reopened this week, the first in Northern California to do so. Mt. Baldy had closed on March 20th. As golf courses are reopening in southern California, the Town of Mammoth Lakes announced yesterday they would be reopening their golf courses. While golf courses weren’t specifically included in lists of nonessential business during the pandemic, about 90% of them had curtailed operations in accordance with Gov. Gavin Newsom’s stay-at-home order, officials said.

What else ... I did find Urdu’s presentation at Council on Wednesday a bit perplexing. It doesn’t take a survey or a rocket scientist to recognize that people are going to want to travel after restrictions are lifted, and because they won’t be flying and might be going to theme parks, they’re likely coming here.

Where the hell else are they going to go? Palm Springs? McKenna and I did that – playing ‘cross country’ to round up for a summer hoops tourney. Played every game in an un-air conditioned gym so all the games had to be scheduled at midnight, when the gym had cooled to 90-degrees. And I’ll apologize now (statute of limitations having expired) for sneaking under age kids into R-rated Clerks II. Horrible movie. Great A.C. So if they’re coming here, why do we need to spend more than three nickels urging them to do something they’re gonna do already?

It was a self-defeating argument. We shouldn’t be spending anything on marketing right now. Nor enlisting an expensive ad agency to come up with a “reengagement” message. Think of it this way. When you’re 20 year old and you’ve spent three months apart from your girlfriend, is a reengagement message required? Hell, no. Sex first. Talk second. Scratch that. Sex first, sex second, Talk third.

And the suggestion that all the Food Bank hours were volunteer, and that he and staff are working their regular jobs above and beyond that ... come on. No one’s working 60 hours a week. Maybe there’s 4.5 hours work. How many pens can a person sharpener in 4.5 hours? It is admirable for a boss to want to protect his employees. I get it. But the world has changed. The golden goose is dead. And the Alice’s Restaurant charts and road razzle dazzle just doesn’t cut it right now.

Recalibrate.

LUNCH/LOCAL NEWS
COUNCIL APPROVES 200K IN RENTAL ASSISTANCE

By Mike

Mammoth Lakes Town Council approved a $200,000 rental assistance program to be administered through Mammoth Lakes Housing at its virtual meeting Wednesday.

Two weeks ago Council allocated $1 million towards COVID-19 relief. The $1 million came from a $2 million pot that Council previously put towards future housing projects. $200,000 was set aside for this program but Council wanted clarity in terms of who gets the funds/how it will be allocated.

On Wednesday, Sandra Moherly, the Town’s Community and Economic Development Director, briefed Council on the program.

“The current idea is to allocate $200,000 with the intent of sustaining tenants. Mammoth Lakes Housing will serve as the administrator. The amount of rental assistance available to any one individual is 30% of a tenant’s rent not to exceed $500. No applicant may apply more than twice, so a $1,000 maximum.

Councilmembers asked clarifying questions. Councilman John Wentworth wanted to make sure the process was thought out and these dollars would be efficiently used. Councilman Kirk Stapp and Mayor Bill Sauser discussed the forms people would have to fill out suggesting minor changes such as, “what can your household afford rather than what can you afford,” and “adding a ‘provide a statement of need’ section for employers to fill out for their employees.”

Sauser and Stapp’s suggestions were added as modifications to the agenda item.

Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Salcido inquired about whether people could donate to the fund. Moherly responded, “The community has heard about this rental program and I think there is some support for it. So, [Patricia Robertson, the Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing] has received a number of donations already … And additionally, the County has set aside, I think, $10,000 for this program.”

The County money is restricted by a clause stating that it needs to help households with children under the age of six. Mammoth Town Manager Dan Holler mentioned he has had people approach him asking if they can donate to the fund. Holler turned them away for the time being, but it appears the Town can accept any donations to this rental assistance fund starting now.

The program is first come, first serve and applications are available through Mammoth Lakes Housing, 760.934.4740.
MONO COUNTY, Calif. – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Director Charlton Bonham has issued an emergency order to temporarily postpone the Mono County Fishing Opener until May 31, in an effort to protect public health from the immediate threat posed by COVID-19. The announcement that Eastern Sierra locals refer to as “Fishingmas” - a celebration of opening day of the fishing season - was originally scheduled for April 25. Earlier this month, the Mono County Board of Supervisors, along with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Mono County Sheriff, and the Mono County Public Health Officer sent a joint letter to CDFW Director Charlton Bonham, requesting postponement of the opening of trout fishing season in Mono, Inyo and Alpine Counties.

“I want to thank Governor Newsom, members of the California Fish and Game Commission, and CDFW Director Bonham for honoring Mono County’s request to postpone the opening of fishing season in Mono County as we continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Stacy Corless, Chair of the Mono County Board of Supervisors. “Decisions like these are never easy, and we appreciate the state’s support in addressing issues unique and critical to the Eastern Sierra. We look forward to welcoming anglers to Mono County when it is safe to do so.”

According to the Department of Fish and Game: “It shall be the responsibility of the angler to call the telephone number provided below or to check the department’s website at www.wildlife.ca.gov/ Regulations to obtain the current status of any water and restriction on the taking of a fish species. The number to call for information is (916) 445-7607.”

For more information, please go to wildlife.ca.gov. Full details from the Department of Fish and Game here: https://wildlife.ca.gov/regulations. Read the full press release here.

**SCE lowers bills**

Southern California Edison customers experiencing financial difficulty because of the COVID-19 crisis can expect to receive a credit on their electric bills a few months early, according to a new California Public Utilities Commission decision. SCE wants customers to know it’s here for them with programs and services that can help during this difficult period.

Because of the pandemic, the October climate dividend credit of about $37 per residential customer will be paid early and split evenly between bills starting as early as May 12-June 10 and June 23-July 23. The credit will reduce electric bills by about $18.50 each month. This is in addition to the $37 credit residential customers are already receiving in April.

Several other programs available to help customers include:

- The Energy Assistance Fund California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) or Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) programs.
- Suspension of service disconnections for nonpayment, waiving late fees. For more information about customer programs, visit: sce.com/billhelp.
- Rate Comparison Tool - SCE offers several Time-of-Use rates that offer lower rates during daytime hours when people are home. sce.com/rateplanto.
- Budget Assistance - You can also sign up for alerts if your next projected bill is expected to exceed your spending goal using SCE’s free Budget Assistant tool. sce.com/budgetassistant.

**Protests over sacked pharmacists**

Two small protests were held, one on Friday, April 17 and the second on Tuesday, April 21, to protest the dismissals of two employees from the THP (Tiyaabe Indian Health Project) clinic.

According to Joe Saulque, a former THP Board Member, at the March board meeting, THP CEO Dr. Kori Novak warned that the facility is seriously in the red.

So there’s a hunt for ways to either generate revenue and/or trim costs. One protester, who wished not to be named, claimed that THP administration wish to turn the pharmacy into a “retail” pharmacy like Dwayne’s, and charge Native American community members money for over-the-counter prescriptions which are currently free for tribal members.

Then there is an allegation, shared by Saulque, that THP administration examined patient files to determine if some patients could be billed via MediCal.

Saulque says this allegation, if true, would constitute a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) violation.

He says two pharmacists were dismissed for complaining about the privacy violations, and two more pharmacists walked off the job in protest of their colleagues’ dismissal. Five protestors carrying signs and a bullhorn came out to protest Tuesday. Three Inyo County Sheriff’s Deputies arrived to break up the peaceful demonstration (two of the five protestors were children), saying the protest was a violation of the health order banning non-essential gatherings.

The Sheet will follow up on this story next week.

**Tioga project public hearing scheduled for June**

For those who didn’t have the good fortune of tuning into the Mono County Planning Commission’s special meeting on April 16 regarding the Tioga Inn, a quick rundown: the meeting as a whole lasted 7.5 hours, five of which were devoted to public comment. Maximum attendance was 130 people and in spite of some technical glitches, was deemed an “operational success” by county staff.

The Board will tentatively hold a public hearing on the matter in June, subject to change due to easing or reinforcing of stay-at-home orders that would affect in-person meetings. Supervisors agreed that the meeting would be a special meeting devoted to the issue, with Supervisor Bob Gardner pushing for both in-person and online participation.

Supervisor Fred Stump noted that with social distancing practices in effect, the amount of space in the Bridgeport chambers/court house would reduce the amount of people able to participate in person.

Never mind the breaks in between speakers while the podium and microphone are cleaned.

Mono County Community Development Director Wendy Sugimura told the board that she would check back with them come the end of May/beginning of June to discuss the particulars for that special meeting.

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**Ikon rethink**

Alterra Resorts made a few changes this week in regard to sales and refund policy regarding Ikon pass holders. Principally, Alterra will no longer offer “Adventure Assurance,” providing flexibility for the 2020-2021 season by offering customers to defer pass activation until 2021/2022.

This will continue to be available even for those who decide to purchase after prices go up on May 27, 2020.

**What You Need to Know:**

To take advantage of the lowest prices and discounts on child passes, purchase your 2020/2021 Ikon Pass before May 27, 2020.

Regarding when you purchase, contact Alterra between September 10 - December 10, 2020 to defer your pass to the following season.

There is no fee to defer your pass.

**Community Gratitude:**

To provide some value back to passholders for the shortened 2019/2020 winter season, Alterra is now doubling your renewal discount - save up to $200 when you renew before May 27, 2020.

In addition, they’re offering a payment plan - lock in your pass for just $199 down with 0% interest.

**Ikon rethink**

**Tip of the Week**

If you renew before May 27, 2020, you renew before May 27, 2020.

**Ikon rethink**

**FashionableFish**

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

**The Following Person Is Doing Business As:**

**One Dish Bistro**

Tina Fortune
588 Old Mammoth Road,
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on March 23, 2020. File Number 20-078-2020-0062 (4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9)

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

**The Following Person Is Doing Business As:**

Dish
Tina Fortune
588 Old Mammoth Road,
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on March 23, 2020. File Number 20-078-2020-0063 (4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9)

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

**The Following Person Is Doing Business As:**

Dish Potineurie
Tina Fortune
588 Old Mammoth Road,
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on March 23, 2020. File Number 20-078-2020-0064 (4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9)

**Order To Show Cause For Change of Name**

**Present Name:** Norman Bruce Keeler

**Proposed Name:** Bruce Keeler

Pettison: Norman Bruce Keeler
107 Pinion Dr.
Swall Meadows, CA 93514

Notice of Hearing: May 14, 2020, 9:30 a.m., Superior Court of California, County of Mono, 100 Compass Way, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This statement was filed with the Superior Court of California, Mono County on March 30, 2020. Case Number CV200031 2020-0060 (4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2)
LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR

PLACE YOUR ORDER BEFORE MAY 30TH
and request delivery NO LATER than SEPT 15TH

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY!
ONLINE: GCFORESTPRODUCTS.COM CALL: (760)934-7392

G.C. Forest Products
Mammoth Firewood

We are Covid 19 compliant with online ordering
and no contact delivery when possible.

Thank you for your business - we appreciate it very much.
By Hite

John Urdi, the Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT), gave an update on the department’s current activity at the tail end of Wednesday’s five-and-a-half hour Mammoth Town Council meeting.

Marketing’s a tough game to be in when the world’s closed, and MLT has had to go into a forced hibernation of sorts since Governor Gavin Newsom issued his stay-at-home order last month. There’s been a lot of cost-cutting. First, salaried employees have been turned into hourly employees and limited to 32 hours a week. This effectively amounts to a pay cut of 20%, which could be tilted higher if workers start getting less than 32 hours.

According to Urdi, MLT also reduced its payments to secondary contractors while pausing all marketing, sales, and outreach efforts. MLT is partnered with multiple contractors and in an email to The Sheet Urdi said, “Yes [we are still paying them] but we have reduced all. For example Lyman [P.R.] was $7,000 paying them but we have reduced all. The Sheet Urdi said, “Yes [we are still paying them] but we have reduced all.”

MLT is still paying Mering, its ad agency, as Mering is working on a recovery campaign, but the dollar amount and workload has been greatly reduced. The agency retainer fee is $15,000/month.

Urdi told The Sheet the current burn rate at MLT is about $100,000. Last year’s burn rate, based upon $8 million budgeted expenses, was approximately $125,000 with the goal of $200,000 by the end of June.”

MLT put $50,000 in TBID as seed money towards the food bank. There are between 375-400 cars/day that drive through to utilize this service.

Going Forward

In a conversation with The Sheet, Urdi said he’s “optimistic,” and that studies conducted by MLT and other tourism agencies have, “reinforced what we thought. ‘There is a desire to travel as soon as this ends and a lot of that travel will be by car on shorter road trips.’”

Within six hours of Mammoth Lakes, there are 30 million potential customers itching to get out of quarantine. When that happens, Urdi said, “We will listen to what the EOC (Emergency Operations Command) comes up with in terms of guidelines. Then it will be our job to spread information to those who [may wish to] come here.”

People will come. How many people we can support and the protocols to be enforced are the question marks.

By Casselman

L
tlike the restaurant industry recently discussed in this space (see “Revision Of Dining Out”), the vast U.S. print industry (books, newspapers, magazines, paper documents) was already undergoing profound changes before the current global medical emergency suddenly appeared.

In the case of the print industry, the cause was an epic and sudden innovation of technology — the internet. Enabled by the microchip, the nation (and most of the world) has gone online for much of its reading.

This transformation of reading venues is particularly true for the younger American generations, many of whose members were born after the internet age had begun.

Among the first industries to feel its impact was the newspaper. Virtually all daily and weekly newspapers developed online proprietary editions to go with print editions, but the latter have been in steady decline. Some newspapers no longer have print editions. Newspapers also have faced serious competition for their principal source of revenue, advertising, from a myriad of online services. With automation, newspaper employment, both technical and journalistic, has been in steady decline, and controversial recent political bias by many major urban daily newspapers has, according to most polls, has shaken public confidence in the industry, both print and online.

The magazine industry is more diverse with numerous special interest publications doing better than some long-time larger circulation periodicals which, like print newspapers, are seeing fewer subscribers and less advertising. Most formerly successful news magazines and political journals are being subsidized by affluent owners. Otherwise, most could not survive. Exclusively online magazines are reportedly experiencing less advertising, a critical element in their long-term survival. The book publishing industry has been struggling to adapt and revile for years as print publishing costs have risen sharply.

The introduction of online e-books and print copy-on-demand services has further undercut the ability of many established book publishers to make a profit. But like the daily newspaper, the obit for the printed book was premature. Whether the new technologies, current emergency, and aging of readers who buy printed books will combine to drastically change the industry is yet unclear, but time and book reader habits do not appear to be on the mass market printed book’s side.

Similarly, the use of printed documents of all kinds, from tax returns, payments by check or cash, paper correspondence of most types, and other general printing seems on the way to obsolescence — replaced by electronic technology. This long-term development seems intensified in the current emergency during which so much is taking place and being communicated online.

Other industries such as the cruise ship industry were growing and booming before the emergency shutdown. Several new and large cruise ships had recently been built. But the international passenger sailing season has now recently been suspended, and its effect is likely to be more severe than the impact of shutdowns in the printing industry.

Ironically, the emergency shutdowns have given many Americans of all ages who are “sheltered-in-place” suddenly a lot more time to occupy themselves by reading. This includes reading not only the news and sharing correspondence online, but also reading and re-reading print books already in existing personal libraries.

Like so much about this current crisis, predictions about its lasting impact are now only guesswork.

Barry Casselman is a syndicated columnist who has been reporting on national affairs since 1972. You can find more of his work at www.barrycasselman.com.
*New flash! 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.
BANKS
continued from page 1

As the Salvation Army has temporarily shut down its operations in Mammoth, the MLT food bank has picked up the slack in a hospitality-focused community whose unemployment rate must be 75% or higher.

MLT has kept a few stats (it quizzes its clients on the honor system) regarding size of households and the occupations of the people it is serving.

37% are self-described employees of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. 33% work in housekeeping - the largest labor subset. Another 25% say they work in restaurants.

MLT has announced tentative plans to run its food bank until June 1.

Ledesma, who owns Gomez Restaurant and Tequileria in the Village at Mammoth, praised the many partners who’ve made MLT’s food bank possible, from US Foods, which has supplied food at cost, to Vons, which has provided certain items at cost which US Foods cannot, to Barbara Bartlett of Barbwire Beef, who’s donated 600 pounds of grass-fed beef, and Primal Kitchen Foods (whose parent company is Kraft-Heinz), which donated two pallets ($20,000).

*Primal’s Chief Operating Officer (COO) Rick Wallace is a former business partner of Ledesma’s. Connections help! And don’t forget Paul and Kathleen Ruddery, who are donating the bank’s 2,000-feet of commercial space at The Promenade. The overarching goal of the food bank is elegantly simple: keep people in town so Mammoth has the workforce it needs on-hand when the economy reboots.

IMACA’s Bob Hughes never imagined that operating a food bank would consume his life the way it has since he assumed the Directorship in December.

He was a longtime bank executive (three decades) before taking a “gap year” last year to work for Americorps.

His permanent residence is in Springville, California on Highway 190 along the Tule River. He commutes home on the weekends.

During the week, he literally lives at the Cottonwood Plaza.

As the immediate crisis has morphed into a general slog, Hughes says he’s encouraging the families he’s serving to apply for CalFresh (the state version of Food Stamps).

That way, folks will be issued a debit card and can buy what they want versus simply getting what they get.

In addition to food, housing (homelessness) remain a big focus of IMACA.

O’Connell has run the local branch of the Salvation Army for the past four years.

She attended the Salvation Army College for Officer Training in Rancho Palos Verdes before getting her first assignment in Bishop.

It appears Bishop will be her first and last assignment.

It’s a complicated story.

When one attends Salvation Army College, one of the perks/benefits/results is that you become an ordained minister.

She gets to Bishop and meets her husband at church. He was a traveling nurse working at NIH at the time.

The Salvation Army mandates that an officer can only stay an officer if the officer marries a fellow officer.

O’Connell had to step down as a Salvation Army officer (Lieutenant) to marry husband Michael, who now works as a Nursing Supervisor at Mammoth Hospital. Her job title is now Service Center Coordinator.

While the Salvation Army has suspend- ed operations in Mammoth for now, it has stepped in for the Methodist Church, which can no longer operate its soup kitchen. The Salvation Army has been handing out bag lunches to whomever wants one on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

As Ledesma has observed, getting Mammoth’s food bank up-and-running has brought out the best in the community. “I’ve made so many new friends,” he said. “And I’ve seen so many incredible gestures. One hispanic lady gave us $5 ... young people living in their cars expressing gratitude ... and as we get into this, we’re seeing more and different people. Last Friday, 35-40% of the cars - we hadn’t seen them before.”
Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd, available to work weekends and holidays. Applicants must be 18 years old or older. The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applicants for seasonal positions. Applicants preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required. We are seeking experienced drivers with great customer service skills. Mammoth Taxi is hiring for the following positions:

- **Class A CDL Driver**
- **General Laborers ML/B**
- **Staffing Manager ML**

We are also looking for summer employees for non-payment of rent if the tenant, in accordance with any extensions.
The recitals above are incorporated herein. If any provision of this ordinance of the application are severable. If any provision of this ordinance, in order to protect the public peace, health, welfare, and safety, and welfare of its residents in light of the... The remedies provided by this ordinance are cumulative and in any additional remedies available at law or in equity. The remedies provided by this ordinance, and any enforcement measures authorized by the Mammoth Lakes City Council, or any other ordinance or... The remedies provided by this ordinance are cumulative and in any additional remedies available at law or in equity. The remedies provided by this ordinance are cumulative and in any additional remedies available at law or in equity. The remedies provided by this ordinance are cumulative and in any additional remedies available at law or in equity. The remedies provided by this ordinance are cumulative and in any additional remedies available at law or in equity. The remedies provided by this ordinance are cumulative and in any additional remedies available at law or in equity.

**For Rent**

28DR home in Bishop available for nightly rental. Creek, trees, views. Livestock on premises so no dogs, please. Locals/healthcare workers welcome. Call to inquire. 760.917.4613.

**For Hire**

**TOWN STUFF**

**Sunday, April 26/**
**Felici Trio (minus one) Porch Concert #2. Time: 5 p.m.**
Live-stream: https://www.twitch.tv/themammothchannel. For Mammoth Locals: Mammoth Channel 12. Brian and Rebecca play duos of Gliere and Beethoven for you, plus a few fiddle tunes...

**Monday, April 27/**
**Bishop City Council meets. 6 p.m.**
For agenda: http://www.cityofbishop.com/government/city-council. The meeting can be watched live via the City’s website at: http://www.cityofbishop.com/government/city-council. Go to the top of the page and hit “click here to view virtual city council meeting” (view meeting via Zoom/YouTube)

**Wednesday, April 29/**
**Mono County Behavioral Health hosts Storytime on Facebook Live at 10 a.m.**

**Special Mammoth Lakes Town Council Meeting @ 1 p.m.**
Visit the Town website @ www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to attend via granicus.

**Thursday, April 30/**
**Mono County Virtual Community meeting every Thursday. 5:30 p.m.**
Find out more about the COVID-19 response effort and ask questions. Join through the portal at: https://coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov. or download the Zoom app on your mobile device and use Meeting ID 901.775.658

**Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday/**
**Community food bank open from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. sponsored by Mammoth Lakes Tourism for anyone financially affected by COVID-19**

**Vons grocery store is reserving two hours in the morning, Monday-Friday from 7-9 a.m., for vulnerable shoppers, including senior citizens, pregnant women or those with compromised immune systems.**

**Mammoth Taxi Delivery**
**Bringing you Mammoth Taxi Meals FREE Mammoth Restaurant Deliveries! Licensed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Currently available from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily**

**TOWN STUFF**

1. Call Mammoth Taxi for availability 760-937-8294
2. Place your order and make the payment to the restaurant of your choice.
3. Let them know you are using Mammoth Taxi Meals! Mammoth Taxi will pick up your order and deliver it to your address! We are waiving all delivery fees until further notice!

**Spellbinder Books is offering free delivery within a ten-mile radius. For more info: call 760.873.4511 or email spellbinderbooks@verizon.net.**

**The Booky Joint can help you by appointment. 760.914.1924.**

**Closed Until Further Notice: Mono County Superior Court.**
However, emergency matters, such as Ex-parte Temporary Restraining Orders: Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment and Requests for Gun Violence Restraining Orders; and self-represented litigants (in cases such as divorce, parentage, custody, child support, probate guardianship, domestic violence, limited civil cases) can contact Mary Dinius White, Mono County Family Law Facilitator and Self Help Program Coordinator, either by email at Flf@mono.courts.ca.gov, or by phone at 760-923-2314 (leave a message and your call will be returned.

**ALL TOML PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, SKATEPARKS AND FACILITIES CLOSED, EXCEPT FOR WHITMORE RECREATION AREA.**

**FISHING OPENER FOR INYO AND MONO COUNTIES DELAYED UNTIL JUNE 1.**

*Mono County has a coronavirus relief website you can scour for all manner of services and to know which business are/are not open. Visit coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov, click community and then local resources.*
PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS: The final contractor’s qualifications must be in accordance with Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 667.2, for DBEs to be eligible for a contract award.

CONTRACT TIME: Uniform Time for the Value of the Work Provided:

BIDDER’S BOND: A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in the Airport Manager’s Office at the Mammoth Yosemite Airport, 1300 Airport Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546 on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

REJECTION FROM PAYMENTS: Monthly progress payments shall be made to the Contractor in accordance with the terms of the contract and as the work is completed and accepted by the Town. The Town reserves the right to deduct any amount for penalties for any amount due to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, or any other party.

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
AIP NO. 3-06-418-0

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed proposals for the work shown on the plans and specifications (AIP NO. 3-06-418-0) shall be received at the Public Works Department, Town of Mammoth Lakes, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546 until 2:00 PM on April 30, 2020 at which time they shall be publicly opened and read.

The work to be done is financing in whole or in part by means of a grant made by the United States of America to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Federal Aviation Administration’s “ requirements for the submission of proposals for Federal assistance in construction projects.”

BIDDER’S BOND: Each bidder must submit a bond or certified cashier’s check for the total amount of the bid, as a guarantee of the performance of the work to be done. Any bonds or certificates of deposit shall be made payable to the order of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California.

A non-refundable fee of $250 will be charged for each set of plans and specifications obtained. A refund of the fee will be made only if plans and specifications are returned in good condition within 2 business days from the date of purchase.

Bonding requirements must be submitted with the bid. The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California has included Buy American Waivers Issued list. A bidder or offeror must complete and submit the Buy America certification included herein with their bid or offer. The Town reserves the sole and exclusive right to waive any informalities, or irregularities in a bid. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in the Airport Manager’s Office at the Mammoth Yosemite Airport, 1300 Airport Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546 on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

The work to be done is financing in whole or in part by means of a grant made by the United States of America to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Federal Aviation Administration’s “ Buy American Act.” This procurement is subject to the “Buy American” preferences of the Aviation Authority.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California has included Buy American Waivers Issued list. A bidder or offeror must complete and submit the Buy America certification included herein with their bid or offer. The Town reserves the sole and exclusive right to waive any informalities, or irregularities in a bid. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in the Airport Manager’s Office at the Mammoth Yosemite Airport, 1300 Airport Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546 on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

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The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California has included Buy American Waivers Issued list. A bidder or offeror must complete and submit the Buy America certification included herein with their bid or offer. The Town reserves the sole and exclusive right to waive any informalities, or irregularities in a bid.
TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

MAMMOTH YOSEMITE SECURITY GATES AND TERMINAL AREA FENCING

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

TS #2020-0056
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

MAMMOTH YOSEMITE SECURITY GATES AND TERMINAL AREA FENCING

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS
It’s inevitable there will be a whole slew of quarantine-inspired fiction when the world finally kicks COVID-19. And with the derivative nature of the way things are today, I imagine that’s ALL that will be produced over the next few years.

Which means it’ll [the derivative part] irritate me into reading even less fiction than I normally do, which is sad, because fiction was all I ever used to read.

Is that what it means to get old - when you don’t read it for fear of overload?

But then … sometimes all it takes to recharge that button is a new author, with a whole new (at least to you) library of work you’ve never read.

That new author for me is James McBride. He’s 62 years old. He won the National Book Award for “Good Lord Bird” in 2013. He’s published six novels in total.

But I hadn’t heard of him until two weeks ago, when Lisa Casper (one is always enriched by cultivating friendships with librarians and booksellers. I’ve known Lisa since my days as a city/police beat reporter in Elko, Nevada) recommended McBride’s latest, “Deacon King Kong.”

“I’m just one of protagonist Cuffy Lambkin’s nicknames – because he’s a deacon of a small church located adjacent to a Brooklyn housing project. The other is “Sportcoat,” often shortened to “Sport” by Deacon’s best friend, Hot Sausage.

The King Kong part of the title is derived from Deacon’s drink of choice, “white lightning” distilled/produced by his friend Rufus. The “Kong” used to be referred to as “Sonny Liston” … until the Ali fight.

The Deacon, described on the very first page as having “coughed, wheezed, hacked, guffawed and drank” his way through the first 71 years of this life, makes for an unlikely hero, but as 2nd generation grifter Tommy The Elephant observes, “A lot of saints don’t start off that way. They don’t play by the rules like the old crooks did. There’s no handshake or silent agreements, no looking the other way. Nobody’s safe. Nothing’s sacred. There’s too much money involved.”

But the great part about this story … just when you think there’s no redemption, no second act. That the old-timers are done - that their influence has waned. That there are no more lessons to be imparted. Well, faith and wisdom are a powerful one-two, King Kong punch.

A particular treat: the language McBride uses - there’s a line on every page that’ll have your copy dog-eared.

“He was deader than yesterday’s spaghetti.”

“The way he drinks, solid food makes a splash in his stomach.”

“Better to be a fat man in a graveyard than a thin man in a stew.”

That there are no more lessons to be imparted. Well, faith and wisdom are a powerful one-two, King Kong punch.

The best part - McBride doesn’t recommend McBride’s latest, “Deacon King Kong” as just another plot bailout. Nope. Good to the last word. And good to the last Word - McBride doesn’t use - there’s a line on every page that’ll have your copy dog-eared.

“The way he drinks, solid food makes a splash in his stomach.”

The best part - McBride doesn’t let you down two-thirds of the way through. He doesn’t run out of steam or get tired and extricate himself with a cheap plot bailout. No. Good to the last word. And good to the last Word - he leaves you with things to think about, ways to separate the wheat in your life from the chaff.

1. “A person who trusts can be trusted.”
2. “Do he do? … Is he the type that’s good for his word? Is he the type who do stuff and don’t talk about it to nobody later? Do he talk or do he do?”

And finally … “A blessing favors them that needs it. Don’t matter how it comes. It just matters that it does.”

Coronavirus be damned. There are small blessings every day. And not many blessings can top a good story penned by a master.
A NEW HOME FOR FAMILY FUN

WINTER RELEASE NEARLY 50% SOLD!

CreekHouse
AT SNOWCREEK RESORT

HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW FLOORPLANS & ARCHITECTURAL STYLES NOW AVAILABLE!
Luxury Mountain Retreats with Alpine Golf Course and Athletic Club at Mammoth Mountain.

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

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