SWEET 16

By Hite

Lupita and Luis from Mammoth’s Grocery Outlet with just a few of the many donations the Outlet’s made to Mammoth’s Food Bank.

‘WORKS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE
Bishop and Bridgeport still plan on 4th of July fireworks. Mammoth has canceled

By Hite

Last week the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) officially cancelled most of its Fourth of July festivities. This means no parade, fireworks, Pops in the Park, the Footloose Freedom Mile, the MAC Arts Festival in the Footloose parking lot or any gathering of more than 50 people.

“There are too many significant unknowns,” said Stuart Brown, the Town’s Parks and Recreation Director wrote in an email to the Sheet. “The Town is 100% supportive of Covid-friendly events this summer, particularly the Fourth of July but it will be a daunting challenge to keep our community and visitors safe with the many mitigation measures.”

TOML Town Manager Dan Holler explained the decision to cancel this way. “Rather than impose a large number of restrictions that we would not be able to manage without substantial staffing and less than enjoyable interactions with the public, the decision was made to cancel the fireworks. Difficult, but to cancel closer to the event would also upset people who, if allowed to travel, would be counting on the fireworks as part of their vacation and to not have them would be disappointing.”

The Sheet also reached out to Bishop and Bridgeport to see how stay-at-home orders have affected the planning process for their 4th of July celebrations.

“We are still planning on having it. Hopefully we can have it but we are currently still planning ours,” said Linda Pemberton, a member of both the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce and Fourth of July Planning Committee.

The Fourth of July celebration in Bridgeport is one of the Town’s biggest annual gatherings.

“This little Town depends on the Fourth of July celebration. It brings in about 6,000-8,000 people a year,” said Pemberton, acknowledging that this year’s celebration will be different.

Traditionally there are vendors all the way down Main Street. “This will not be happening this year. Pemberton noted, “We are going to have dispersed events all around town instead of in one place.”

Regarding Mammoth’s decision, Pemberton simply noted, “Seemed kinda early,” and left it at that.

Chris Costello, a member of Bishop Town Council and the Bishop volunteer fire

SIGN OF THE TIMES?
Five Star Lodging appeals late remittance fees

By Hite

On May 6, Mammoth Lakes Town Council experienced, in literary terms, a foreshadowing.

Five Star Lodging, owned by Megan and Jason Herbst, appeared in front of Town Council, over zoom, to appeal TOT/TBID penalties and interest during the month of March. February TOT was due on Friday, March 20. In light of the pandemic the Town extended the grace period to pay February TOT to March 26, meaning late fees and interest began accruing on March 27.

Jason and Megan Herbst wrote the Town a letter pleading their case, “Unfortunately the timing of the TOT filing deadline (March 20) coincided with the closure of Mammoth Mountain ski resort (March 14), the Governor’s Stay Home order (March 19), and the county Health Department’s initial order to shut down (March 20) which was rescinded and replaced (March 21) ... During the period from March 14 –April 1, our organization was beset with challenges we had no preparation for: a confusing series of contradictory orders to cease operations, hundreds and hundreds of calls from angry/fractured guests as well as worried property owners; the heartbreaking need to layoff most of our team, a total loss of revenue and also a technical problem accessing the XPressBillPay website.”

Five Star finally contacted Ben Manning, the Revenue Specialist for TOML, and paid

see ‘WORKS, page 7
see COUNCIL, page 11

Epic maneuver
Pedro was dynamite
Not Al-for(d) Novak
Don’t be so testy
United we spend

p. 2/
p. 8-9/
p. 3/
p. 2/
p. 13/
EPIC MANEUVER

Those folks at Vail are pretty tricky. And they’re making rival resort aggregator Alterra seem a bit flat-footed.

The latest ... Vail has differentiated itself in two distinct ways from Alterra in how it’s handling the pandemic – particularly from a customer relations vantage point.

1. Vail is offering 20% to 80% credits for 2020-2021 Epic passes depending upon how much passholders skied in 2019-2020. 20% discount for next year (same as Ikon) if you skied 5 days or more. But 80% if you had never used your pass before the shutdown.

2. New for the 2020/21 season, Epic Coverage is included FREE for all passholders, and provides refunds associated with certain personal events, including illness, job loss, and injury. It also expands coverage to protect you from certain resort closures, such as any due to COVID-19. If any of the following happens over the course of the next season, you will get a full or prorated refund. We are giving you the protection FREE because it allows you to look past today’s uncertainty and toward a new season. By contrast, Alterra pass insurance costs extra.

Further, one reader pointed out this fine print regarding Alterra’s Ikon offer which states that a buyer can defer a 2020-2021 pass for any reason between Sept. 10 and December 10 for use in 2021-2022.

"If there is a price difference between the credit amount issued for the 20/21 Ikon Pass product and the Ikon Pass product purchased for the 21/22 winter season for whatever reason, including price increases, passholder age or eligibility for certain discounts, the purchaser will be required to pay the price difference."

Translation: Even though you might pay in 2020 dollars and defer the pass for a year, the deferral won’t work like one of those USPS ‘Forever’ stamps. They’ll hold your money, and it’s virtually guaranteed that while they hold your money, it will lose value - in the form of potential price increases that dilute your initial investment.

Onto the coronavirus thoughts of the week.

What has struck me this week … Frank Bruni’s column in the New York Times on Monday where he interviewed Laurie Garrett, who wrote the 1994 bestseller “The Coming Plague” and has been predicting a pandemic like the current one for the past quarter century.

A few of her observations:

36 months is her best-case scenario in terms of event horizon. She can’t see a vaccine coming anytime in the next year.

“Paradigm is there will be a whole ‘new normal’ will be created. ‘Did we go ‘back to normal’ after 9/11? No. We created a whole new normal. We securitized the United States. We turned into an anti-terror state. And it affected everything. We couldn’t go into a building without showing ID and walking through a metal detector, and couldn’t get on airplanes the same way ever again. That’s what’s going to happen with this."

That if the wealthy come through this just as wealthy, if not more, while the vast majority struggle, massive political disruption is possible. “Just as we come out of our holes and see what 25% unemployment looks like,” she said, “we may also see what collective rage looks like.”

And what America needs most right now, she said, isn’t this drumbeat of testing, testing, testing, because there will never be enough super-fast, super-reliable tests to determine on the spot who can safely enter a crowded workplace or venue. America needs good information, from many rigorously designed studies, about the prevalence and deadliness of coronavirus infections in given subsets of people so that governors and mayors can develop rules for social distancing and reopening that are sensible, sustainable and tailored to the situation at hand.

A second article that intrigued me appeared in the latest issue of the Economist and talked about China’s public policy approach.

Notably, China is hard-core in initiating lockdowns and restrictions at any hint of outbreak. China has a student who flew back from America in March. The lockdown is notable because China’s public policy approach.

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Small Batch Craft Distillery, Brewery & Kitchen

Free Local Delivery In Mammoth Lakes On Bottles, Canned Cocktails & Canned Beer.

Place An Order Online Before 2pm & We will Deliver Between 3pm-5pm Everyday!

SHELTERDISTILLING.COM
You’re not the only ones

Dear Editor:

My name is Mark Alford, the previous COO at Toiyabe. Though I’m not from a local tribe, I’m Choctaw from Oklahoma. I moved to Bishop to continue advocacy for the Native community in this region. I’d like to shed further light on current Toiyabe Indian Health Project CEO Kori Novak. I’m writing this letter to provide a letter of support for the Pharmacy staff who were recently terminated.

I began having concerns at Toiyabe when I and other members of the administration observed lies that Kori told amongst the administration and to the Board of Directors. I would hear her in meetings lie about employees, providers, locums, and belittle the tribal community, the board members, and staff. I filed a grievance against Kori Novak.

Almost immediately, when Kori Novak found out that I filed a grievance against her, she began a retaliatory process. As part of the retaliation, Kori Novak filed a false HIPAA allegation against me and reported that I accessed her medical records. This was proven to be unfounded and the HIPAA allegation was unsubstantiated, despite the coercion of Dr. Matt Earhart, her boyfriend who collaborated with her on the false HIPAA allegation. She also attempted to coerce other staff to file complaints against me but they refused because they stated there was nothing to make a complaint about. There are statements from staff that support this. She ultimately terminated me much like she did the Pharmacy staff and many other employees, many whom are tribal members.

I filed a TERO case and the determination letter from Bishop TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office) in the grievance ordered Kori Novak and Toiyabe Administration to back-pay damages in lost wages and reinstate my position as COO at Toiyabe. TERO gave a deadline of January. She ignored TERO and showed no respect for TERO or employee rights. The day after the deadline, she appointed a non-native in the COO position who was already authorized (but unbuilt) hotel and restaurant at near the intersection of U.S. 395 and Hwy. 120 West just south of Lee Vining.

The process now heads to Mono’s Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors have a lot to consider. Despite the fact that the item sailed through the Planning Commission by a vote of 4-0, the Tioga Inn housing plan is rife with problems that deserve serious consideration.

According to the required “Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report” prepared for the County, the project has five “significant, unavoidable adverse impacts,” including on traffic, deer migration, and the aesthetics and visibility of the project. (A summary of these impacts is available on pgs. 103-4 of the FSEIR, which can be downloaded from the County’s website.)

Among the most serious of the project’s “adverse impacts” comes not from what the project does, but rather what it does not do. The Tioga Inn housing plan includes no measures to provide for safe pedestrian connectivity between this housing and Lee Vining. In the language of the FSEIR, this means that there will be “exposure of pedestrians and cyclists to unsafe travel conditions.”

Cars used to be built without seat belts. As a result of this designed-in danger, people died, regardless of their driving skills or good intentions. The “adverse impact” of the Tioga Inn project’s lack of pedestrian connectivity represents similar category of design flaw. Bicyclists, joggers, and walkers will be vulnerable just by commuting to work, exercising, or going to the market.

Yes, the county needs housing. But because we need housing does not mean we can be held hostage to thoughtless—and dangerous—design.

Sincerely,
Mark Alford, M.A.
Inn project design = no keeper

Dear Editor:

On April 16, Mono County’s Planning Commission approved the addition of 100 “community housing” units to an already authorized (but unbuilt) hotel and restaurant near the intersection of U.S. 395 and Hwy. 120 West just south of Lee Vining.

The process now heads to Mono’s Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors have a lot to consider. Despite the fact that the item sailed through the Planning Commission by a vote of 4-0, the Tioga Inn housing plan is rife with problems that deserve serious consideration.

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Yes, the county needs housing. But because we need housing does not mean we can be held hostage to thoughtless—and dangerous—design.

Kevin C. Brown
Lee Vining

WHAT CAN I USE TO COVER MY FACE?

Handmade face cover Thick scarf

FACIAL COVERINGS ARE NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

• Always wash your hands after touching your face covering or placing it on your face.
• Never touch the inside of your face covering.
• When not in use, store your face covering in a paper bag. Do not store on your forehead or around your neck.
• Wash homemade cloth face coverings with hot water and soap daily to kill infectious material.

IN ADDITION, PLEASE NOTE:

• Persons working outdoors shall wear face coverings when within six feet of any other person, or in any situation where the individual could contaminate a surface or object with which other persons come in contact. In all other circumstances, persons working outdoors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.
• Retail and other businesses open to the public shall require customers or patrons to wear face coverings. All staff interacting with the public are required to wear face coverings.
• Employees at restaurants and other establishments providing for on-site food consumption (upon authorization to open) shall wear face coverings. Patrons at those establishments are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while not eating or drinking.

Distance. Wash. Stay Home and #CoverUpMono
MONO SUPES TALK NEXT STAGES ON REOPENING

By Page

As the statewide lockdown extends into May, the ramifications of the pandemic have become starker. Beyond the clear and present danger that the Covid-19 virus represents, the economic impact of shuttering businesses for close to two months are beginning to take shape.

Friday, May 8, marks the first modification to Governor Gavin Newsom’s stay-at-home order, as some “non-essential” businesses will be allowed to resume serving customers, albeit with new protective measures in place.

The new rules going into effect Friday will impact so-called “low risk” businesses, which include bookstores, clothing stores, florists, and sporting good stores. These stores may open for curbside pickup operations while maintaining proper social distancing and sanitation precautions.

Additionally, supply and manufacturing operations related to an increase in retail business may also resume.

On Tuesday, May 5, Mammoth Lakes Fire Chief Frank Frievalt outlined what these changes will look like to the Mono County Board of Supervisors. According to Frievalt, there will be an online portal by Friday morning that will ask business owners to provide plans for meeting public health requirements. If the plan is satisfactory, owners will be able to print and place a certificate that serves as an indicator that the business has been approved.

But for some, the slow re-opening process may not be enough to stave off permanent closure of a business. Supervisor John Peters noted that for North County, generating revenue for businesses rests on the “ability to welcome guests to come and actually spend a night in our community.”

Peters asked specifically about potentially moving up the fishing season opener as “there are dates that would be detrimental to have pass for economies that rely on seasonal businesses.” A pointed reference to Memorial Day weekend.

“We’ve done everything that we can do,” said Peters. “I think we need to start asking for a date to welcome our guests.” Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz echoed Peters’ sentiment, noting that “we just need to provide assurance and check these boxes … the six indicators, which I think we have done.”

Mono County Public Health Officer Tom Boo explained that some of the proposed criteria for reopening counties, such as a guarantee of less than 1% case of Covid-19 for every 10,000 residents, are difficult to agree upon in such a small county. Boo expressed hope that he would be able to attest to the county’s readiness by next week.

Some counties and cities have opted to move ahead on or even outright defy the governor’s criteria for reopening. Huntington Beach and Dana Point will be allowed to reopen their beaches for an order from Newsom earlier this week, which came after protests and lawsuits from those jurisdictions.

On a county level, Yuba and Sutter counties have allowed businesses to reopen in a manner that exceeds the governor’s guidelines; in response, state regulators from the Alcohol Beverage Control Board visited the area to tell restaurants to shut down or risk losing their licenses.

County Counsel Stacey Simon warned that this sort of approach to shutting down businesses in violation of state orders could extend beyond alcohol and into other state-licensed businesses.

Frievalt expressed similar worries about backlash at the state level. “We’ve worked very hard to be positioned well to take maximum advantage of whatever room we get with the governor,” he said, “one of the things I’d be worried about is they [the state] can just as easily pull back from this.”

While making the decision to remain closed might be an easy decision for some, others may not be able to sit by, said Supervisor Fred Stump, stating, “Everybody on this screen does not have to worry about their livelihood, feeding their kids, their businesses … When you have people stuck worrying about those things, they’re not going to be able to move on to what’s best for all of us.”

Those who are not concerned about such things are not taking into account those who are concerned about such things,” Stump added.

Community members were able to weigh in during a public comment section prior to board deliberation, with many asking the board to consider petitioning the governor for an expanded reopening.

Sierra Strange’s (a boutique located in Bridgeport) Megan Well explained in writing that her business has been preparing with protective equipment and increased sanitation measures but “not enough for another season will seriously hurt us financially … the emotional weight of the virus is heavy on our minds and we can’t even enjoy our area right now.”

“Please attempt to lead us out of this disaster,” wrote Erinne Wells. “I know you are all afraid to make the wrong decision, so you make quasi-decisions based on Dr. Boo. He is a doctor, not an economist.”

The Supervisors ultimately elected to postpone a decision to make an appeal to the state government, and will await new guidelines and criteria for reopening which are expected Friday.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONO

IMPROVE MONO COUNTY GOVERNMENT! APPLY FOR THE 2020-2021 GRAND JURY TODAY

The Superior Court of California, County of Mono, is recruiting applicants interested in serving on the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury is composed of citizens from Mono County seated from July to June, annually. Grand Jurors are charged with local government oversight through investigations, addressing concerns, and making suggestions for improvements.

Mono County needs your participation.

Members are reimbursed for trainings, meetings, and travel. The group decides amongst itself the best meeting times and locations. Committees operate the same way. The Court is equipped to facilitate virtual meetings. The time commitment is not huge, but the responsibilities are serious.

“The honor of being selected and serving on the 2018 - 2019 Mono County Grand Jury has been just that, an honor,” stated Richard Sanfilippo, former Mono County Grand Jury Member.

“Step up and say yes to serving on our Grand Jury! You have my word you will see it as an honor too!”

The Court is requesting all applications to be submitted by June 12th, 2020.

For more information on the Mono County Civil Grand Jury, including past final reports, and an application to serve, please visit:

http://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/generalinfo/jury-grandjury.html or Call Danielle Bauman, Executive Assistant at (760) 923-2321

SUPES URGE MOVEMENT ON WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Two years ago, Los Angeles Department of Water Power (LADWP) announced plans to take water from Long Valley and Little Round Valley that would have severe repercussions on the environmental, scenic, recreational and fire management value of these lands.

LADWP has been in negotiations with the Mono County for years to issue a new Lunch for the comprehensive land and water management plan. To date, neither of these actions have occurred.

Matt Kemp, a ranching leasee in the area, told the board that LADWP has informed ranchers this year that initially they would receive 11,000 acre feet of water, 5,000 acre feet below what the ranchers deemed “normal.” LADWP later bumped that figure to 16,000 acre feet of water, which, as Kemp put it, is “something leasess can work with to maintain integrity of everything up there.”

Wendy Schneider, Executive Director of Friends of the Inyo and a representative of Keep Long Valley Green, expressed satisfaction with the amount of water that LADWP would provide for 2020. She also noted that it was “very discourting that in the end, DWP has no obligation to provide any amount of water on any given date.”

The Supervisors unanimously passed a motion to send the letter.
We are Covid 19 compliant with online ordering and no contact delivery when possible. Thank you for your business - we appreciate it very much.

SPRING SALE

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.
Most developed rec sites closed through this week

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, announced that most developed recreation sites will remain closed through May 15. However, the concessionaires who manage most campgrounds on the forest are reporting that opening dates of the campgrounds will be delayed while essential work to open the campgrounds is completed.

Typically, it takes approximately two to three weeks to open a campground. Concessionaires’ employees have not been able to travel to start this work during the state’s shelter in place order, so this work has yet to commence.

Both Recreation Resource Management (RRM) and California Land Management (CLM) have begun canceling reservations on recreation.gov through the month of May. Additionally, some group campsites may be closed for a longer duration or may not open at all while the concessionaires determine how to manage social distancing at a group site.

The Inyo National Forest has extended the cancellation of Wilderness permits, including Mt. Whitney day and overnight permits, through May 31.

Bishop Climbers Digital Benefit Series

On Tuesday evening, the Bishop Climbers Coalition launched a Digital Benefit Series to support Inyo-Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) - raising more than $450. IMACA has taken a strong leadership role in supporting our Eastern Sierra communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. While many members of the community have supported IMACA’s effort by directly volunteering time and resources, the Bishop Climbers Coalition has sought to find additional ways to further IMACA’s impact by helping to raise funds.

The Digital Benefit Series event on Tuesday was the first of three to be held and hosted by the Bishop Climbers Coalition via the online platform, Zoom. The kick-off featured a presentation by local climber Eric Bissell. Eric spoke about his evolution as a climber - from learning how to climb years ago to becoming an elite-level climber. He shared some of the challenges he’s faced as well as sharing several accomplishments. Mentorship is the main reason why Eric believes he has grown stronger in climbing and in life.

More than 40 attendees from coast to coast attended the event to support the Bishop community.

The next two events in the Digital Benefit Series will be held on May 12, featuring climbing duo Mark Hudan and Jordan Cannon, and on May 19, featuring Shelma Jun. Events begin at 7 pm and require advanced registration.

COVID-19 Relief Grants

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a new grant program to benefit small businesses in Bishop that have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to a generous private donor, an emergency fund has been established with $20,000 available to provide immediate financial assistance.

All businesses with a physical location inside Bishop City limits are eligible to apply online at www.bishopchamberofcommerce.com. All applications will be reviewed and scored by a committee utilizing a two-stage process to ensure equality and fairness.

It is important to note that unlike the SBA programs, this is not a first-come, first-served application process. Applications will open on May 6th and close on May 17, 2020. All applications will be reviewed after the close date and funds will be awarded by the end of this month.

“We know $20,000 won’t be able to help everyone; however, we are very grateful to the private donor that allowed us to establish this program,” states Tawni Thomson, Executive Director of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. “If there are individuals or businesses that would like to contribute to grow the fund, donations in any amount would be welcome.”

Questions regarding the application or additional contributions should be directed to the Bishop Chamber of Commerce via email - execdir@bishopvisitor.com.

Corona stats

As of Thursday evening, Mono County had 28 positive COVID-19 cases, with 270 negative tests and 1 death. 298 people have been tested in the county. Inyo County has had 19 confirmed COVID-19 cases | 1 deaths | 15 recovered. 352 tests have been administered. Nine tests are pending.

LOCAL BRIEFS

The Paiute Palace’s renovation/expansion is underway in Bishop. The project will nearly triple the size of the casino (~15,000 square feet to ~43,000-square feet), adding slot machines, tables and more. The project is scheduled for completion this fall.

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce via email - execdir@bishopvisitor.com.

Questions regarding the application or additional contributions should be directed to the Bishop Chamber of Commerce via email - execdir@bishopvisitor.com.

LOCAL NEWS

THE SHEET | Saturday, May 9, 2020

www.thesheetnews.com

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‘WORKS continued from page 1

department, has a similar mindset to his neighbors in Bridgeport.
The Bishop Chamber of Commerce puts on most of the festivities but the volunteer fire department handles the fireworks.

“We [the Fire Department] had a meeting on Tuesday [May 5] and we are pushing ahead to try and make that happen,” said Costello, “We don’t know what it will look like but we are preparing to have fireworks.”

Costello mentioned that the main hurdle that needs to be overcome is where to host the fireworks display. The State is currently not allowing it to happen at the fairgrounds. The airport is not a viable option as construction improvements are scheduled through July. The city park is an option as well as a drive-in movie type of fireworks display. But despite discussion, nothing concrete has been put in place.

These things can be resolved, “If we are going to adhere to social distancing we might just have to make the fireworks go high enough so everyone can see them,” said Costello.

“Note: Where I am from (Bend, Oregon), the fireworks are set off on a butte in the middle of the Town and everyone watches from their homes. -ZH

“We want it to happen. With everything that is unknown it is hard to say it will, but we are planning it as if it is happening,” said Costello.

Tawni Thompson, Director of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, told The Sheet, “The City of Bishop appears to be going forward with plans in hopes there will be a celebration.”

Thompson mentioned that the Chamber does not put on any festivities; it is simply a part of the planning process and promote the event to the community.

During these meetings between representatives from all over Bishop, the committee is pushing forward until someone higher up the totem pole shuts it down.

Both Bridgeport and Bishop representatives acknowledged that this could happen. All of the current plans could be halted at a moment’s notice. Mammoth chose not to wait for a ‘no’ answer.

It appears Sierra Star Golf Course will experience more than just coronavirus as an obstacle to reopening. The tree did fare worse than the clubhouse in this encounter.
Pedro Escobar of Mammoth Lakes, passed away on March 31 from COVID-19 related illness. He was 63.

Pedro was the sort of person who would help others unconditionally, who loved the world around him and those in it. He lived, as his daughter Silvia put it, "one day at a time."

He was born in Valparaiso, Chile, the fourth child of Luis Ernesto Escobar and Silvia del Carmen Rojas. He came of age during a tumultuous time; the dictator Augusto Pinochet assumed power in 1975. With Pinochet in charge, Pedro was unable to pursue journalism in school but he was able to follow his brother Jorge into media, becoming a cameraman for a television station in Valparaiso and traveling the country with Jorge on a wide-range of assignments.

He left Chile for Los Angeles in 1983. In LA, he was able to continue working as a cameraman, this time for Univesion and Telemundo.

After injuries from being hit by a drunk driver left him unable to travel home to Chile, a friend suggested Pedro spend the season working in Mammoth Lakes as a nice diversion.

Like so many people who come up here for a season, he never truly left. It was in Mammoth that he met his future wife, Socorro Garcia, from Ixtlahuacan del Rio in Mexico. They were introduced by Pedro’s roommates, who just so happened to be Soroco’s brothers. Over time, he began to write her short love notes, in English, and they just so happened to be Socorro’s brother-introduced by Pedro’s roommates, who

They were polar opposites: Pedro was outgoing and social while Soroco was outgoing and social while Soroco

was more quiet and content to stay home. He always wanted to take her out and explore with her, and “I didn’t like going out,” Socorro said.

They dated for six months before getting married. According to Socorro, Pedro wasn’t too keen on the idea of marriage but when she asked him what the point of dating her was if he didn’t want to marry her, “he turned around and proposed” on the spot.

They were married on November 23, 1987.

Socorro described their relationship as “like soulmates.” What’s especially notable: they were the only two from their respective families to marry outside of their nationalities.

They had three children, Silvia, Aracelli (Shelly), and Alonso, and the family moved to LA for a brief period in 1993, before ultimately moving back to Mammoth within a year.

In Mammoth, they often played host to guests from all over, people working in Mammoth who Pedro had met and offered to put up.

“I remember walking up and there’s seven Argentines laying on our floor,” Alonso recalled. When asked why they were there, Pedro simply said, “They had nowhere to go."

It got to the point where new seasonal employees would show up at the Domino’s in town asking about a Chilean who worked there and helps people.

Pedro was a longtime delivery driver for Dominos and later Doorstep Delivery, with a stint as an Uber driver in Los Angeles, and at one point owned a Mexican restaurant in Mammoth Lakes. It was through his job as a delivery driver that so many people came to know him, to the point some may have even thought he owned the place.

Daughter Shelly described him as altruistic. “He always wanted to help and didn’t ever expect anything back.” And he would go out of his way to help people. Sometimes that meant driving someone to Los Angeles or Tijuana at a moment’s notice; other times that meant offering to help translate for someone or help pay a bill.

Marcelo Escobar added, “Whenever people were struggling, Pedro was there.”

He was active in the recovery community, checking in with people, keeping them on track. Jesse Lynch, a friend for nearly eight years, described him as “a shining example of what it means to be a good father, a good community member, a good friend.” Lynch related how personal Pedro’s outreach could be, whether it involved taking people to appointments or picking them up. “The whole time he would be sharing what’s going on in your life and his life,” Lynch said.

In Mammoth, Pedro served as a bridge between communities. He volunteered with Mono County Behavioral Health and Social Services, and was someone that the hospital or Behavioral Health could call to help out.

“He talked to everyone,” said Shelly.

"It didn’t matter if there was a language barrier. He would try."

“He was part of the whole community,” said Kevin Green. “He was a guy who earned your respect by who he was and what he said ... I never heard Pedro say a mean word about anybody or do an unkind thing.”

Pedro loved to travel, “He wanted to go everywhere” said Alonso, and would embark on a trip at moment’s notice. He would take the kids from an early age to Chile on his yearly trip to visit his mother. Shelly recalled a memorable time when Pedro pulled her out of bed at midnight “to take a bus to the beach and go running through the sand. He was whimsical - ‘did everything without thinking twice about it.’ “ In Chile, there’s a word, Patiperro, that means wanderer, someone who doesn’t like to sit still. For those who knew Pedro, it was a nickname.

He held Chile, and its national soccer team, close to his heart; he rented a van to follow the Chilean national team around Brazil during the 2014 World Cup, sleeping on a mattress in the back of the van for nearly a month. And in 2015, he flew to New Jersey at the last minute to watch Chile defeat Argentina in the 2015 Copa Centenario. He was likewise enamored with Mexico, routinely taking trips to Ixtlahuacan del Rio, and later planning a trip to Oaxaca for the whole family. He and Socorro had planned to retire to Mexico and Pedro was especially excited about the possibility of opening a food truck there.

Pedro was a fan of all music, be it Pink Floyd, Rascal Flatts, or Andean political songs. He would write down particular lyrics that he loved and instilled that same love in those around him.

Pedro began to display Covid-19 symptoms on the weekend of March 15 and his family took him to the hospital the following Saturday when his symptoms began to worsen. By Sunday, he was at Renown Hospital in Reno.

During his last days in Reno, the Escobars were able to make video calls to the hospital to see him; they were able to be present, via Zoom, during the final minutes.

A celebration of life will be planned in Mammoth Lakes when circumstances allow.

-Owen Page
Pedro Escobar de Mammoth Lakes falleció el 31 de marzo de compli-
caciones relacionadas con CO-
VID-19. Tenía 63 años.

Pedro era una persona que ayudaba a las personas incondicionalmente, amaba el mundo alrededor y a las per-
sonas en él, él vivía, como su hija Silvia dijo, “un día a la vez.”

El nació en Valparaíso, Chile, el 28 de en-
ero 1957, era el cuarto hijo de Luis Er-
esto Escobar García y Silvia Elena Rojas. El creció durante un tiempo tumultuoso en Chile; Augusto Pinochet tomó el poder del país en 1975. Con Pinochet en poder, Pedro no tuvo la oportunidad de seguir su sueño de periodismo en la universidad, pero sí pudo seguir a su hermano, Jorge, en los medios de comu-
nicación, convirtiéndose en un camaró-
graf para una estación de televisión en Valparaíso y viajando el país con Jorge para cubrir historias sobre la dictadura.

Dejó Chile para irse a Los Angeles en 1983. En Los Ángeles pudo seguir su trabajo como camarógrafo. Esta vez por Univision y Telemundo. Después de sufrir un accidente debido a un conduc-
tor tomado y sin poder regresar a Chile, un amigo sugirió que fuera a trabajar a Mammoth Lakes por la temporada para levantar los ánimos.

Como tantas personas que vienen por una temporada, él nunca realmente se fue. Fue en Mammoth donde conoció a su futura esposa, Socorro García, de Ixtlahuacan del Río en México. Fueron introducidos por sus compañeros de casa, quien resultaban ser los hermanos de Socorro. Eran amigos al principio, pero después le empezó a escribir notas cortas de amor, en inglés, y empezaron salir.

Eran totalmente opuestos: a Pedro le encantaba salir y era muy social mien-
tras Socorro era más callada y contenta encantaba salir y era muy social mien-
tras Pedro era más activo; siempre quería contarle a la gente algo que había sucedido. Eran amigos al principio, pero cuando ellos estuvieron casados, Pedro simplemente respondió, “No tenían donde ir.” Llegó al punto que trabajadores que venían por lo tempo-
rada llegaban a Domini’s preguntado por el chileno que trabajaba ahí y ayudaba a la gente.

Pedro trabajo como conductor de Domini’s por mucho tiempo y después por Doorstep Delivery, con un tiempo en Los Ángeles manejando por Uber. A un punto fue dueño de un restaurante en Mammoth Lakes. Era a través de su trabajo como conductor que tanta gente lo conocía, que a veces la gente hasta pensaba qué él era el dueño del lugar.

Shelly lo describió como altruista, “siempre quería ayudar y nunca espe-
raba nada de regreso” y el elabó su camino para ayudar a la gente. A veces eso significaba manejar hasta Los Ange-
les o Tijuana en un instante, otras veces ayudaba traducir o pagar una cuenta.

Marcelo Escobar, el sobrino de Pedro, lo describió, “un ángel” “Lo hacía todo el tiempo, ayudaba a las personas,” Marcelo dijo. “Cuando alguien estaba en problemas, lo ayudaba.”

Era un miembro activo de la comu-
nidad en recuperación de alcohol, siempre hablando con los que esta-
ban batallando. Jesse Lynch, un amigo por casi ocho años, lo describió como, “un ejemplo brillante de lo que es un hombre que lucha en la recuperación de alcohol, un buen miembro de la comunidad, y un buen amigo.” Lynch habló sobre que personas como Pedro ayudando, se llevaba personas a sus citas u ofrecía aventones. “Todo el tiempo compartía que estaba pasando en su vida y su vida.” Lynch dijo.

En Mammoth, Pedro fue un puent para las comunidades. Era voluntario con Mono County Behavioral Health and los servicios sociales, y era una persona que el hospital o salud mental sabía que podría llamar.

En Mammoth, “hablaba con todos,” dijo Shelly. “No importaba si había dife-
rencia de idioma, el siempre intentaba.”

Para esos en la comunidad sobria, “el de verdad hacía un paciente, asegurán-
dose que los Latinos, Chicanos, se pudi-
eran sentir incluidos y tener esperanza que ellos podrían parar de tomar y ser sobrios,” dijo Lynch. “Era parte de toda la comunidad,” dijo Kevin Green. “Era una persona que ganaba el respeto por lo que hacía y lo que decía.”

Green que conocía a Pedro por más de una década, relacionaba con la amabi-
lidad de Pedro y lo que lo sorprendió fue que, “Yo nunca vi a Pedro decir algo malo de nadie o hacer algo que no fuera amable.” Pedro amaba viajar, “Quería ir a todas partes,” dijo Alonso, y se iba a un viaje casi instantáneamente. Se llevaba a sus hijos a Chile desde una edad muy joven durante sus viajes anuales a ver a su madre. Shelly se acuerda de un momento inolvidable cuando su papá le despetó en la madrugada para ll
ería a correr en la arena del mar. Él era jujetero, “hacía todo sin pensar dos veces,” dice Shelly. En Chile hay una pa-
labra, Patippero, que significa vagabun-
do/vivir libremente, alguien que nunca para. Para esos que lo conocían, era su apodo.

El tenía a Chile, y el equipo nacional de fútbol, cerca de su corazón; hasta rento un van y puso un colchón atrás para seguir el equipo de Chile en Brasil durante la Copa mundial en 2014 y viajó a Nueva Jersey a último minuto para ver Chile ganarle a Argentina durante la Copa Centenario en 2015. El también le tenía mucho amor a México, viajando regularmente a Ixtla-
huacan del Río, y después planeando un viaje a Oaxaca con toda la familia. El y Socorro tenían planeado retirarse en México y Pedro estaba especialmente emocionado de la posibilidad de abrir un camión de tacos ahí.

“El tenía tres nacionalidades,” dijo Marcelo, y siempre le daba porras al equipo de fútbol de México y Estados Unidos, igual que a Chile. En los parti-
dos entre cualquier de los dos equipos, el cantaba los himnos.

Pedro era fanatico de toda la música, sea Pink Floyd, Rascal Flatts, o cancio-
nes de los Andes. Le gustaba escribir las letras de las canciones que amaba y practicaba ese mismo amor en la gente a su alrededor.

Aunque se había retirado el año pasado, Pedro todavía trabajaba por Doorstep Deliveries. Empezó a mostrar síntomas el fin de semana del 15 de marzo y su familia lo llevó al hospital el próximo sábado donde los síntomas empeoraron. Para el domingo ya estaba en Renown Hospital en Reno. Durante sus últimos días en Reno, la familia Escobar pudo hacer video llamada al hospital y verlo; pudieron estar presentes, via Zoom, durante sus últimos minutos.

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stancias permitan.
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its tax bill on April 2.

By then, late fees had accrued to the tune of $10,000. Fortunately they hadn’t been late on a payment in the last three years, and the fees were reduced to $4,840.

As the couple presented its case to Town Council, Jason described laying off 15 full-time employees and starting to tear up. Megan immediately took over and Jason regained composure quickly, but it was apparent the existential dread of potentially closing a business they have had since 2005 weighed heavily on Jason’s mind.

The story was poignant and the gist; any expenditure inches the company closer to the edge.

Council was flabbergasted. Clandel Hoff was the first to comment, “Traditionally, I am the person on the Town Council that takes the hardest line with this. I am so sorry for the stress that you guys are under. Even though this is an issue that I take a very hard line on. Rob [Patterson], is there any way this can be deferred for six months. Is there any other option that we have right now?”

Patterson, the Town’s Finance Director, explained that deferment was an option. Ultimately, precedent was on the Town Council that takes the dissenting vote.

The motion passed 4-1 with Council-member John Wentworth acting as the only dissenting vote.

Capital plans?

Council received an update on Capital Improvements Projects from Public Works Director Grady Dutton. Normally these updates are meticulous and, quite frankly, boring. But this presentation, although no action was necessary, offered recommendations on what projects should go forward, which ones could be stalled, and which ones should be financially gutted to help the Town through the pandemic.

Noteworthy deferred projects include, transit shelters ($350,000 from Measure A), street rehabilitation ($1 million from General Fund), Old Mammoth Road beautification ($750,000 from Assessment District), Mammoth-Yosemite Airport wildlife fence ($1.3 million from FAA), Whitmore pool maintenance and paving (TBD on the pool and $200,000 for the paving from grant funding), and the Sharp’s Trailhead ($675,000 from a grant).

Noteworthy projects that staff recommended continuing include generators in the event of a public safety power shutoff ($385,000 - $170,000 from general fund), Lake Mary sidewalk ($170,000, with $40,000 from the general fund), Transit facility roof ($70,000) and heating ($80,000 respectively, both funded through the general fund), and a Town hangar taxi lane, slurry seal taxiways and security gates for the airport worth $1.5 million ($500,000 each).

But then Dutton got to what projects should be drained/eliminated to support the general fund in these trying times. $500,000 originally allocated for road rehab (reduced from $1 million), $500,000 in the airport capital account (reduced from $1.4 million), $500,000 from parcel funding (reduced from $1 million), and $350,000 from creative housing funds, draining that fund completely. Additionally, the Town expects approximately $1.4 million in CARES act funding that could be allocated to the general fund.

The Town has held zero discussions thus far regarding any possible furloughs and/or reductions in workforce.

Letters to the Town

Two letters were sent to Town Council as part of public comment.

The first was from Brent Cooley, general manager of Best Western, who, like the Herbsts, was late to pay his February transient occupancy tax remittance. Cooley also requested the fees be waived. Unfortunately for Cooley, it appears these fees will not be waived.

And finally Jodi Schultz, a recruiting assistant for the US Census Bureau, wrote to Council mentioning that jobs would be available soon to work for the Census. Temporary positions can be applied for at 2020census.gov/jobs. Additionally, the self-response numbers to the original census questionnaire in our area have been less than stellar.

The letter reads, “Today Ridgecrest is at 63.2%, Bishop is at 54% and Mammoth Lakes is at 6.9%. Kern is at 51.5%, Inyo 41.6% and Mono 12.1%. The total self response for California is at 58% and the total of the nation is 57.3%.”
**TOWN STUFF**

**Saturday, May 9/ The Felici Trio presents Porch Concert #3:** Time: 5 p.m. Live-stream: https://www.twitch.tv/themammothchannel. For Mammoth Locals: Mammoth Channel 12. Brian and Rebecca team with with a special guest (daughter Sophia) to play trios by Mozart, Boccherini and Borodin.

**Monday, May 11/ Bishop City Council meets. 6 p.m.** The agenda and packet can be accessed online on the City’s website at: 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 the “click here to view virtual city council meeting” (view meeting via Zoom/YouTube).

**Tuesday, May 12/ Bishop Climbers Coalition continues its “Digital Benefit Series.”** Time 7 p.m. Featured guests: the climbing duo of Mark Hudan and Jordan Cannon. Advance registration req’d. Visit www.bishopclimbers.org for more information.

**Mammoth Lakes Town Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 13/ Webinar Wednesday from 12-1 p.m.** hosted by the CSU-Bakersfield Small Biz Development Center. Get the latest on PPP and other programs designed to aid small business. To get in the loop and on the call, email Kelly Bearden @ kbearden@csub.edu.

**Measure “G” Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight Committee Meeting**

**Date: 5/12/2020, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Location:** Zoom

**Thursday, May 14/ Mammoth Trails Committee meets @ 3 p.m.** Visit the Town website @ www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to attend via granicus.

**Ongoing:** Mammoth Taxi Delivery brings you free local restaurant deliveries. Call for availability. 760.937.8294.

Vons offers two hours of shopping Monday-Friday from 7-9 a.m. for those shoppers who may be virus-vulnerable.

Mammoth Food Bank hours are 10-12 and 3-5 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

All TOML parks, playgrounds and facilities closed except Whitmore. Fishmas now falls on June 1.

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Mammoth Spas Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We currently have an immediate opening for a spa Maintenance Technician position, and we are also hiring an Office Assistant. These are Full Time Positions (Monday through Friday). These positions offer vacation accrual, benefits, and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required. Please call 760-924-3091 or stop by the store located at 1401 Tavern Road Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothspa@aol.com.

White Mountain Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for office staff for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scotttie at 760-914-7433. www.mainlytaxi.com.

Mammoth Lakes is accepting applications for full-time & part-time, year round and seasonal positions. The resort is accepting applications for full-time & part-time, year round and seasonal positions. Applicants must be 18 years of age and have a valid driver’s license with no felony convictions. We are currently recruiting for one permanent District Engineer position in the Engineering Department. For APPLICATION INFORMATION/TO AP-PLY: Please see the District website http://www.mcwd.dst.ca.us/employment.

The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for full-time & part-time, year round and seasonal positions. Positions must be available to work weekends and holidays. Front desk, day and evening positions are available as well as housekeeping positions. Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd, Mammoth.

Vacas is hiring full and part time housekeepers in Mammoth Lakes/June Lake with pay starting at $18/hour. Apply at vacas.com careers.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for office staff for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scotttie at 760-914-7433. www.mainlytaxi.com.

White Mountain Fire Protection District is in need of a Grant Writer!! WMFPD seeks an individual with design experience to guide the agency through the competitive process to pursue funding that will go right out of the account. The goal was elucidated pretty clearly. We want to invite people to town, but not too close to a lot of us on the down-low. We want them to obey all the rules. We want them to spend money at all our businesses but not too much and we’re not going to hold fireworks because we’re social distancing etiquette among carculs of families parked all over Crowley would be too challenging. This arms-length approach pretty much describes my high school dating career. A person only has so much patience for that. Let me start with a few examples.

Notice of Budget Adoption

Chalfant Valley Fire Department Community Services District
Notice of Adoption of FY 2020-2021 Budget
Notice is hereby given that at a special meeting of the Chalfant Valley Fire Department Community Services District to be held virtually on Thursday May 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., the Board of Directors will adopt the annual budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

As authorized by Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order, N-30-20, dated March 17, 2020, the meeting will be held via teleconferencing with members of the Board of Directors and requested the personnel guarantees between separate remote locations. This alternate format is in observance of the guidance from teleconference by local officials that certain precautions be taken, including social distancing, to address the threats of COVID-19.

There will be no physical location of the meeting open to the public. Persons interested in listening and/or participating in this special meeting must contact the General Manager at least two days prior to May 28, 2020 for Zoom instructions and an invitation.

Copies of the proposed budget can be reviewed in advance upon request. If you have any questions contact Jamie L. Brown at (760) 782-1073 or mammothfire molto@gmail.com.

TS - 2020-0075
Notice of Summons

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: JOHN E. HALLGREN, et. ux.,
thought you said chlamydia was NOT a flower. I see...
that April showers really do bring May flowers. The only issue I have with that, I thought you chlamydia was NOT a flower.
I HATE TOMPA
By Hartley

This could have been the most revealing NFL draft (held April 23-25) ever. The reason? Most of the ridiculous postseason camps and combines were eliminated. So the Raiders didn’t have the opportunity to be mesmerized by dashing and stopwatches. Instead, players who played 2, 3, 4 seasons of actual football were judged on game films versus how they look in spandex running straight routes against no coverage.

That or you’d have scouts with spare tires that could fit on snowplows watching QBs throw against air to receivers in underwire with no coverage.

I don’t give a damn if a WR runs a 4.3 forty but can’t get open against coverage and couldn’t catch his nuts with a lacrosse net. He’s not worth anything. This draft will reveal the morons. They would have to say "we interviewed him and he ran a 4.3 forty ... we interviewed him and he blew us away at the whiteboard with his knowledge of defenses." No. You watched him in college and you know he can’t perform when it matters most ... and that stuff never changes, particularly when you advance a competitive level.

Onto the good stuff

Former Patriot TE (and now WWE champ) Rob Gronkowski is headed to Tampa to play with the Bucs and the only QB he’s ever known, Tom Brady. What the hell. They are calling it Tompa Bay now. Cute. Stupid, but cute. I hate Tompa. I am actually glad he bolted. And screw Patriot Coach Bill Belichick.

What happens now in New England when it’s no fun AND you’re losing. I like Brady moving on and saying he can do it elsewhere. And I think the Brady/Arians QB-coach dynamic will be interesting.

Bottom line, with the weapons he’ll have in Tampa, I think Brady will put up some great numbers. I like him branching out.

But Gronk? He’s a clown. This is more like 23 out of the last 25 is weaker and because another team that’s beaten us gone. “That is rich. The division is ours now because Brady is gone. And screw Patriot Coach Bill Belichick.”

I laughed at everything he did wrong, but then came Corona. And his response, his lack of leadership ... is Trump Train. Ballin’.

But then ... Corona. That virus ate up all my money, all my early retire- ment plans, all my dreams ... GONE. So Trump is useless.

I laughed at everything he did wrong, all the lies and mismas and bloated bs, as my account grew. And I laughed at all the folks who hated him so much. Why hate Santa? Why hate the Easter Bunny? Then came Corona. And his response, his lack of leadership is putting my 401K in reverse. In fact, he’s doubling down on reverse. Went from 401K to 802W and now a 200.5B.

Anyone remember the song BUT THEN I GOT HIGH. Well ... I had a lot of stuff I was gonna do. I had the leather trim of a new Silverado all picked out. Hit the reset button. Maybe invest in a new office chair. Might have to see Randy Fendon about that ...

Instead of focusing on playing football and all 16 games, he’s got Charger revenge games circled on the schedule. Move on, dumbass.

Hall-of-Fame QB Brett Favre has collected over $1 million for appearances he didn’t make. From his home state of Mississippi. What a stand-up guy he is. Classic. He is implicated in a massive $94 million fraud case in Mississippi. That’s all. And he did for a few years. I hate Santa? Why hate the Easter Bunny? But then came Corona. And his response, his lack of leadership is putting my 401K in reverse. In fact, he’s doubling down on reverse. Went from 401K to 802W and now a 200.5B.

Anyone remember the song BUT THEN I GOT HIGH. Well ... I had a lot of stuff I was gonna do. I had the leather trim of a new Silverado all picked out. Hit the reset button. Maybe invest in a new office chair. Might have to see Randy Fendon about that ...

Randy Fendon about that ...

By Hartley
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