ONE MORE HOT NIGHT AT LA SIERRAS

By Ben Trefry

Mammoth Lakes Fire Department responded to a report of smoke and flames at 3879 Main Street on Wednesday evening. Firefighters were able to knock down the fire before it spread, rescuing an occupant in the process. MLFD and the Town met on Thursday morning to discuss expediting the demolition of the dilapidated former Mexican American Italian restaurant.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON
Bridgeport will move ahead with 4th of July celebration

By Page

After several weeks of uncertainty, the 158th annual Bridgeport 4th of July celebration has been approved by Mono County, and is officially happening! Proven by Mono County, and is continue our long-living celebration to watch.

THE MIRACLE OF US

Inn trouble?

p. 2/

Covid impact on NIH

p. 8/

Gen Xhausted

p. 14/

Inyo Face

p. 5/

The miracle of us

p. 10-11/

THE SHOW PLANS TO ATTEND ON THE 4TH AND SEE WHETHER PEOPLE REALLY DO COMPLY.

For at-risk individuals, there will be a separate parade viewing area (on Kingsley Street) to watch the parade without coming into contact with the crowds. Brown also encourages anyone who is concerned about crowds to shop at the vendors on July 2nd or 3rd; on those days they will be open, but there will be less people than on the weekend of the 4th.

There isn’t much state guidance on 4th of July events, but according to an email from the California Department of Public Health, the rising case numbers and hospitalizations make it unlikely that the state will relax the rules which prohibit any public gatherings, of any size. Exceptions to these rules are already made for cultural ceremonies.

This year’s parade is considered a "cultural procession" with the theme of Fireworks and Freedom: Honoring our Heroes.

In an email to The Sheet, Sheriff Ingrid Braun said that...
NIH Pressured by COVID

The Northern Inyo Hospital District board met Wednesday evening to discuss the FY 2020-2021 budget. The board continues to work through financial difficulties borne of Covid impacts and the Flanigan era. NIH’s net revenue is forecast to drop another 13% year-over-year in 2020-2021, from $84 million to $73 million.

This would be a second consecutive 13% drop. From 2018-2019 to 2019-2020, it dropped from $97 million to $84 million.

For FY 2019-2020, the Hospital was approximately $4.2 million in the red. In FY 2020-2021, the Hospital is expected to operate at a $10 million net loss. Which is a little scary when your cash on hand at the end of FY 2019-2020 is projected to be $5.6 million.

The silver lining: Various relief funds, including PPP loans, are expected to largely cushion the blow.

And in recognition of what’s happening at the hospital financially, Chief Medical Officer Will Timbers foresees $1 million in savings from renegotiation of provider contracts.

This only makes sense as Financial Consultant Vinay Behl projects a 25% decrease in surgeries performed at NIH in 2020-2021 as well as a 25% decrease in in-patient days.

NIH’s bond rating, adds Behl, has been downgraded to a B+ (sub-investment grade) with a negative outlook.

Behl praised Interim CEO Kelli Davis and urged the board to delay its CEO search for at least a year. He said making a change right now may prove counterproductive. “I cannot stress enough how dedicated and diligent your management staff is,” he said.

Long time IT czar Bryan Harper added on the Zoom chat in affirmation, “Kelli is one of the best executives I have had the chance to work with in 25 years.” Several other meeting participants agreed with his assessment.

Which, directly or indirectly, throws a little shade at recently ousted CEO Dr. Kevin S. Flanigan.

And there was a KSF on the call, so … perhaps he was listening in.

One of the things that Behl mentioned offhandedly in his presentation was that even in a very good year (2018-2019), the hospital district essentially broke even.

Which suggests, on some level, that Dr. Flanigan was at minimum, unrealistic in in his approach to fiscal management. It doesn’t rain every year.

The Sheet has made, at this point, at least a score of public records requests from NIH in an effort to better understand why the Board may have parted ways with him in May.

And what we discovered is that Flanigan was certainly generous towards providers (doctors).

Which is also a wonderful way to assure a CEO of retaining a base of support.

A few examples (and not to pick on these providers, but these were the providers most vocal in their support of Flanigan, so we couldn’t help wondering why).

*Note: This is not a reflection on the quality of the providers. They’re probably not to think well of someone for recognizing our genius.

**I also add as a caveat that these contracts aren’t exactly easy to understand.

For example. Dr. Charlotte Helvie.

Pre-Flanigan, she made $162,000 in base compensation, working six, four-hour shifts per week. She also received a $1,500/month stipend to serve as the liaison between Bishop Pediatrics and NIH.

Flanigan negotiated her next contract in 2017. This contract required Dr. Helvie to work the same hours, 78, four-hour shifts per quarter.

Her base compensation was bumped to $220,000. She also received a $32,000 annual fee for a “medical directorship” of pediatrics. I assume this was meant to replace the $1,500/month stipend.

In her latest renewal (2019-2020), her hours were reduced to 58 four-hour shifts per quarter. Her base compensation was reduced to $190,000. She also received a $1,500/month stipend.

An adjudicated paper of general circulation. © 2020 The Sheet, all rights reserved.
may not have gotten Flanigan in trouble in a future issue.

handed out to the TCR Radiology group for productivity/quality bonuses.

called for 1,265 hours of work for the grade to “lead physician.” The contract a $253,000 base plus $50,000 for his up-
fiscal year.

approximately 1,500 hours worked that for a medical directorship based upon directorship = $283,000, or a 12% bump above 2017.

Another example: Dr. Stacey Brown. There was also a provision in her contract for an “efficiency bonus” if she could see/process a certain number of clients per hour. The Sheet has asked her negotiated 58 per quarter plus the $185,000 plus $48,000 in 80 shifts above 2017.

By 2019-2020, the contract called for a $253,000 base plus $50,000 for his upgrade to “lead physician.” The contract called for 1,265 hours of work for the year, with any additional hours compensated at $200/hour.

The contract also included a provision for productivity/quality bonuses. We’ll tackle the sweetheart contract continued from page 1...
Council Wrap-up

Mammoth Lakes Town Council discussed its weekly Coronavirus news at a special meeting on Wednesday June 24. Town Manager Dan Holler began the discussion as he described the current orders, "The hotel and condos are open. They do have a weekly 75% occupancy limit Monday-Sunday. Short term rentals (condos or apartments rented nightly) are open. They have a 24-hour vacancy between each vacancy." "A number of other business sectors have been opening. Gyms, movie theaters, etc." Smaller weddings are allowed. No pre-party or receptions. Public pools may open as well.

The Mammoth Mountain Bike Park is scheduled to open June 26 along with Reds Meadow. The Lakes Basin will be opened the day before on June 25. Mono County had three positive tests in the last week, officially on June 19, marking the first positive cases since June 1. There is also new statewide guidance for use of face coverings in public. Yosemite National Park closed some campgrounds and will not be reopening new ones amid Coronavirus and staffing concerns. There have been no cases in Yosemite. But California had 7,149 new cases on June 23, its highest number of positive results in one day.

The second wave may be on the horizon but things are continuing to open for now.

Community programs

The Town is still continuing its COVID-19 related programs designed to help the community. This includes a rental assistance program, allocating $200,000 to those struggling to pay rent, and a small business grant program that will be launched by July 1. The grant program is funded for $300,000.

Also of note, the community food bank previously run by Mammoth Lakes Tourism will begin to be handled by IMACA beginning on June 26.

Summer camps and pools

"I know we just approved the budget last week but we have a resolution for you," said Toml Parks and Recreation Director Stuart Brown, "to amend the 2020-21 adopted budget for modified Whitmore pool and Youth Summer Camp operations." Mammoth Lakes Town Council listened to the first Town-managed summer recreational programs that will happen during summer 2020.

The item was directly related to the pandemic. The Town had to wait out the State when it came to all recreational programs. Now it has the green light. "Now we have Mono County day camp guidance. And we have State pool guidance. So the opportunity before us is to look at specific guidelines for our pool to meet the fundamental need."

Whitmore Pool will open July 6 at a limited capacity and stay open until September 4. The limited portion essentially means no recreational swimming. The pool will be open Monday-Friday for lap swim from 6:30 - 9:30 a.m. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evening, the pool will be open, also for lap swim, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The pool is expected to run at a net loss of $16,500 which will be equally shared between the County and the Town.

"On the summer camp side, we have an opportunity to offer a five week summer program. There are a lot of state requirements regarding day camps. We want to make sure that the top priority is safety," said Brown.

The summer camp revenue is expected to nearly offset the expenditures. Council approved the budget amendment 5-0 meaning the pool will open for lap swim and summer camps will happen at a limited capacity.

Other Town Council News

Town Council approved a six month extension with Mammoth Lakes Disposal until December 30, 2020 in order to get a proper rate analysis completed before terms of the next contract are discussed. Mammoth Lakes Recreation approved its recommendations for funding on Measure U and R. Included in this was the annual $300,000 given to Mammoth Lakes Trails.

Town Manager Dan Holler, like the rest of the local government, will not be receiving the annual 2.5% salary bump. The Town will not have a fireworks celebration although the State permitted them to do so. The legal fireworks are ones set off in an official manner. Regular citizens are not permitted to shoot off fireworks as it poses a serious fire risk.

LETTERS

More on Symbols

Dear Editor:

In response to Bruce Woodward’s letter published last week... Contrary to the misinformation originally shared, the swastika finds its earliest origins in the Indian subcontinent and is still used as a prominent symbol in Hindu-based cultures, which includes Buddhist and Jain communities. This tragically appropriated symbol stands for prosperity and well-being, and is still a symbol that can be found both throughout India and other Hindu-influenced countries.

However, in pointing out this mistake, I would also like to point out a mistake made in the comparison of the history of the swastika to the current political symbols being used today. The Nazi party’s use of the swastika cannot be interpreted as an original use of the symbol, as implied at one point in your letter. Instead, we must realize that this symbol has been reclaimed from the Nazi party by the same culture it was once stolen from, a culture that has faced some of the most horrendous consequences of colonization from the Western world. With the use of the swastika on holy buildings in India, the roots of its anti-violent origins are made clear and leave no room for antisemitic interpretations.

When examining symbols such as the “Thin Blue Line,” it must be recognized that in claiming the symbol, those who don it are not reclaiming a symbol of peace that originated in a different culture. Instead, they are claiming a symbol that has no simple meaning and suspiciously comes up when the Black community points out the systemic racism in our policing.

The symbol takes its root in the country’s undeniable history of white supremacy that can be found in the institution of the police. The order the symbol advocated for formed our system of policing that was intended to keep enslaved African people from running away. According to Victor E. Kappeler, Ph.D., “the institution of slavery and the control of minorities... were two of the more formidable historic features of American society shaping early policing.” The same order was later used to keep Black people out of white-only establishments. Today, it takes shape as the Black population’s inability to move about in our country without facing a death sentence from routine police activity. I would list the names of those of our Black population lost to this “order,” but am afraid the list itself would leave no room for anything else in this publication. As you can see, this “order” implied by the symbol is simply an extension of white supremacy.

As you suggest, I, and perhaps those in Eastern countries who peacefully use the swastika today, invite police officers to adopt the Jain principles that come with the original implications of the swastika and proclaim that on their vehicles, specifically that of Ahimsa—non-violence, Satya—truth, and Aparigraha—non-attachment (the last one specifically in reference to our old ways of policing).

Melanie Moyer
Mammoth Lakes
Saint Mary’s College ’22
INYO FACE!
LADWP deals Inyo County legal setback
By Page

I
n a public ruling late last month, Inyo County was dealt a setback in its attempts to take over three landfills from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The ruling, which came from a judge in the county, directed Inyo County to have to rescind resolutions that authorized the condemnation of the three properties. Condemning the properties would allow Inyo County to gain full control over the land, which is owned by LADWP, including all water rights associated with those properties.

The judge’s logic: Inyo had failed to complete environmental reviews on each of the three properties before attempting to condemn them. Any further action by Inyo would have to be stalled until the reviews are complete.

Inyo County’s attempts to claim the landfills in Bishop, Inyokern, and Lone Pine, began in Summer 2017; a staff report from that time outlined recent actions by LADWP that make the current (at the time) leases undesirable. The actions include quadrupling rent to over $20,000 annually, hindering Inyo County’s ability to operate a landfill effectively via bureaucracy, and limiting the ability to coordinate with other jurisdictions.

In addition, county employees report increased resources spent on loan negotiation and frustration with LADWP’s approval process.

“The issues of supplying water by the city of Los Angeles to mitigation projects and other required actions from the long term water agreements gives Inyo County reason to desire to own the water rights associated with the land,” said Supervisor Jon Griffiths: “The decision in the case doesn’t really make sense in that there’s no change in the use of the land. It doesn’t make sense that Inyo would have to do a full environmental impact review.”

“I don’t know if it’s totally a surprise if you consider that DWP has a long history of legal bullying and they have unlimited resources,” Griffiths added.

Inyo County Counsel Marshall Dudolph explained that the county has approximately 60 days to file an appeal, with the deadline landing around August 3, or they could instead opt to accept the court’s decision and rescind the resolutions.

There are also three separate court cases, one for each resolution that have been placed on hold, until the final decision on the CEQA ruling is made. According to Dudolph, those could be dismissed if the county’s appeal is denied and the court could also hold Inyo County responsible for paying LADWP’s attorney fees in those instances as well.

He also noted that everything going on at the sites has been approved by regulatory bodies and permitted by CEQA.

“If it’s a landfill,” Rudolph said, “an existing operation that we’ve run for decades that we plan to continue to run for decades not as LA’s tenants.”

In response to LADWP’s assertion that a CEQA review is necessary, Kingsley said, “It’s a landfill owned by the city of Los Angeles and we see it as a landfill afterwards owned by the county of Inyo.”

The violations that LADWP referenced as reason for retaining ownership of the land are also a point of contention, as Griffiths explained.

“It’s ironic that the violations that we had from CalRecycle were related to not having a current lease,” he said, “and the reason we didn’t have a current lease was because DWP didn’t renew it.”

Per Martin Adams, LADWP General Manager Chief Engineer: “This is an important victory not only for LADWP, but also for other water rights holders in California, including ranchers and other private citizens. Inyo sought to condemn city property and take water rights from a municipal water supplier without identifying any specific use for the water and without considering the environmental impacts. Left unchecked, Inyo’s actions could have set a terrible precedent with far-reaching consequences for property owners throughout the State of California.”

An Inyo County Court response: “We were disappointed and surprised by the judge’s ruling, and the board is weighing all of its options,” Kingsley said, “including appeal.”

Shira Dubrovner, Artistic Director at Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre, is producing a Shakespeare camp for kids between 10 and 16 years old. “I contact Shakespeare Kids (an educational theatre company) from LA to come up and teach the two week camp that culminates in a performance prior to the end of the two weeks,” said Dubrovner. “They teach acting exercises and stage combat along with rehearsing the play for the final performance.”

“The Shakespeare Kids Director had to shut her March camp down two weeks into the course,” she added, “and had to go online from the government shutdown.”

In order to comply with local health guidelines, Dubrovner is limiting the number of kids to between 10 and 14 and holding the camp entirely outside. Mammoth High School Cross Country team, said Turner, “provides curated adventures for families and small friend groups who want to maintain social distance while at play in nature.”

In short: build-a-camp.

“We are a small team of public school and outdoor educators who will help you build your own summer day camp experience and guide your group for the day or week,” Rose said. “Hiking, biking, lake activities, arts and crafts, open-air book club, fishing, and STEM activities are just a few of the options for your camp. We lead groups for campers entering K through 8th grade.”

For more info about Kidventures, email kidventuresmammoth@gmail.com.
A week ago, Ingrid Braun, the Sheriff-Coroner for Mono County gave a presentation to the Mono County Board of Supervisors regarding possible police reform through the lens of a campaign called ‘8 can’t wait.’

8 can’t wait is a set of eight protocols that will supposedly limit the number of deadly interactions between police and civilians.

During the presentation, Braun stressed California’s already progressive policies pertinent to training. She mentioned an interest in a citizens advisory council and a continued emphasis on training.

Mammoth Lakes Chief of Police Al Davis agreed. “California is and has been leading the country in training,” Davis told The Sheet, “Training requirements here pretty much exceed anything I am aware of.”

Davis quickly touched on California’s POST program or “Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.” Essentially POST provides regulated protocol that requires police officers in the State of California to participate in ongoing education, constantly changing information, and 24-hours of training every two years.

The Sheet asked Davis if he would be open to reform. His response: “[POST] or “Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training” is reform. It changes all the time. But we are open to other changes as well. We don’t push back against reform.”

The current state of the relationship between citizens and police departments nationwide is somewhere between contention and disdain.

That is not the case in Mammoth Lakes, “If anything, the community has more appreciative of us,” said Davis. Davis told The Sheet the department has been receiving phone calls every week from citizens who want to voice their support. Additionally, Davis cited the peaceful ‘Black Lives Matter’ protest that he said went really well.

“In my 5.5 years here (as Police Chief), we have completely changed the culture of the police department in Mammoth Lakes,” said Davis. “A lot of that is just us being in the community and interacting with the residents here.”

Davis called it community policing and said that the department simply attempts to do whatever it can to help the Town.

The budget

Still, the nationwide sentiment is at least tangentially connected to defunding. The movement acknowledges that this looks different everywhere in the United States. The TOML police reform/defunding measures would be drastically different from a city like Los Angeles.

What do the finances look like for the Town of Mammoth Lakes? During the presentation, Braun explained why 24/7 coverage finally has 24/7 police coverage.

‘Almost 84% of our budget is personnel costs. This year we have an operating budget of about $700,000. $405,000 of that budget is for dispatch services,” said Davis.

This leaves about $300,000 for things like uniforms, car repairs, office supplies, and training. “This year we are cutting back. If there are training programs, such as a detective course, we normally would like to send someone so they can get the extra training. This year that won’t be happening,” said Davis.

To go back to the budget from earlier... Statistically the average police budget has hovered around 4% of total state and local expenditures according to the US Census Bureau. The modified TOML 2019-20 budget listed total expenditures of $29 million as well as the aforementioned $4.5 million police budget. That puts the percentage around 15%. This is high but because it is California, officers need to be paid more. Places with a lower cost of living have relatively smaller police budgets.

If the Town of Mammoth Lakes wants to defund the police and put money elsewhere it would have to pay officers less money. Or reduce the amount of officers. Firing officers seems unlikely considering the Town, as of last year, finally has 24/7 police coverage.

Davis explained why 24/7 coverage matters and is likely here to stay, “It only takes one incident for that coverage to be worth it. It was huge for us to get that.”

So budget changes would have to come in the form of salary reductions. The rest of the budget is razor thin. As Davis mentioned earlier, 84% of the TOML police department’s budget is spent on personnel. For comparison, in Los Angeles that number is 94%. In Bishop, that number is between 92-94%.

The FY 2020-21 adopted budget allocated $4.6 million to the police department. $1.8 million is paid out as regular salaries. Between leave programs and overtime/temporary wages, the department spends about $300,000. Health insurance premiums cost about $400,000 a year. Then the PERS retirement fund eats up over $1.1 million. There are other minor payments made, but that is the bulk of it. 84% of the budget essentially going towards salaries, insurance, and retirement payments.

Removing Dashcams?

This week The Sheet received an anonymous tip that the TOML police department was removing dash cams from its vehicles. Chief Davis answered this easily, “In my mind it was redundant. We got body cams six years ago and the dash cams need to be updated every couple of years. I felt we didn’t need both.”

Davis also mentioned the high server costs associated with all of these different cameras. Legally police departments have to keep the film for up to two years just in case they need to be accessed.

The cost was not worth it.

THE LATEST CORONA STATS

As of 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, Inyo County had reported 29 positive Covid-19 tests, up 2 from earlier in the week. Testing in the county has yielded 993 negative results with 44 still pending.

Governor Newsom stated on Thursday that the state has seen 56,000 new cases in the past fourteen days. This comes as local jurisdictions around the state relax stay-at-home orders and continue to reopen business.

The last Mono County Coronavirus community conversation took place on 6/25/2020. The wrap: In the last 14 days Mono County has tested 335 people.

These tests returned 3 positives for a positive testing rate of 0.9%. In total there have been 1,321 people tested in Mono County. 1,228 were negative, 53 tests are pending, 40 tests came back positive. There has been one death.

The positive testing rate is 3% in Mono County.

Pop-up testing by Mono County Public Health has already tested over 400 people and has the capacity to test 1,000 people a week.

For more info on where and when you can be tested in Mono County, see the calendar on page 12.
In order to best serve your individual therapy needs during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, we are now offering multiple ways to meet your PT/OT needs safely and to your comfort level.

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MILLENNIAL PROBLEMS

27 year-old Tioga Inn will have its fate decided on Monday
By Page

The Mono County Board of Supervisors is hosting a public hearing on the Tioga Inn Project on Monday, June 29 at 9 a.m., Suite Z in Mammoth Lakes. Both in-person and online public comment via Zoom will be available.

The hearing will focus on proposed affordable housing units to accompany the Inn project, which has already been approved.

Supervisor Stacy Corless will not vote on the matter due to a conflict of interest, leaving 4 votes on the table. A majority is needed for approval of the employee housing plans and if the vote is split 2-2, the plans will not go forward.

Given the controversial subject, the Supervisors have scheduled the hearing to continue to June 30 if need be.

The Tioga Inn’s initial plans, including an environment report were initially laid out for county officials in 1993 and the formal planning/permitting process began.

Now, 27 years later, the project’s fate may finally become known.

Developer Dennis Domaillie pulled out in 1996 due to an unfavorable fee being laid out for county officials in 1993 and the formal planning/permitting process began.

Now, 27 years later, the project’s fate may finally become known.

Developer Dennis Domaille pulled out in 1996 due to an unfavorable fee being laid out for county officials in 1993 and the formal planning/permitting process began.

Now, 27 years later, the project’s fate may finally become known.

Domaille tried again in 2006 and at that time received a much more positive outcome on the report, prompting him to begin to move forward with the project. An accident related to a propane explosion left him in a coma for 103 days. By the time he was healthy and back on his feet, the recession of 2008 squashed his plans.

Now he’s back, pitching the project as a housing opportunity for the Eastern Sierra on top of the already planned hotel and restaurant to be built on-site.

Just as the country has gone into lockdown due to Coronavirus concerns.

However, instead of pulling out once again, Domaillie is pushing forward with the project on the basis that after recessions, governments are on the lookout for “shovel-ready” projects to throw money at in an effort to kickstart economies.

At an April 16 meeting of the Mono County Planning Commission, Sandra Bauer, a CEQA consultant involved with the project, walked the commissioners and staff through changes to the plans that had been made over the years, which were comprised under the title of “Preferred Alternative 6.”

While summarizing the entire history of changes to the plans over their entire history would be a hefty undertaking, some of the more significant takeaways from Preferred Alternative 6 that Bauer highlighted included:

- Reducing the overall number of buildings from 15 to 11
- An outdoor lighting plan that minimizes light and glare impacts to the outside
- Dull and muted exterior paint to avoid standing out from the landscape
- A potential shuttle service from the property to the town to reduce pedestrian and vehicle traffic along the highway.

In response to the biology aspect, specifically the Sierra Nevada Red Fox, the property would commit to proper signage about animals and have a denning survey completed to determine any denning by wildlife taking place on the property. A 500-foot buffer will be placed between dens and constructions in the event that some are found.

The visual impacts to the landscape were another area of concern, as parts of the buildings would potentially be visible from Navy Beach and South Tufa Landing. Bauer’s slideshow included a photo, taken from the water, of scaffolding set up on the prospective site in order to illustrate the change in landscape, shot with a 400mm lens.

The issue that the planning committee was grappling with in April was approval of a plan that included employee housing for Tioga Inn workers. The plan features 100 bedrooms with space for 150 workers.

Public comment was decidedly against Domaillie’s project as a whole, with Mammoth Lakes resident Tony Taylor telling the commissions, "Who is Mono County? We are all Mono County and we all will bear the burden of injuries and fatalities caused by this ill-conceived project.”

Daniel McConnell, who had photographed the site with Domaillie, explained that they had used powerful binoculars to locate the two-story scaffold erected for the test from the shore.

“As far as traffic goes, you should give people more credit; they’re not gonna walk out into traffic on the highway”, McConnell said.

If Mr. Domaillie does this thoughtfully as he builds, this fits right into the Mono Basin plan,” Commissioner Roberta Lagomarsini stated. “It’s unfortunate that his property is so geographically separated from the town but that’s just the way it is.”

“The town of Lee Vining could benefit from a few more people, a lot more jobs,” she added.

The commissioners ultimately voted 4-0, with Chris Lizza abstaining, to approve the plans for employee housing on-site at the Tioga Inn and move them forward to the Mono County Board of Supervisors.
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DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

The Town in partnership with Mammoth Disposal, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Mammoth Lakes Tourism, and Volunteer Eastern Sierra (VES) have scheduled a defensible space and community clean up event from June 25–27.

This year’s event is notably different from previous years as the Town will NOT be collecting household trash, large bulky items, metal objects, food waste or e-waste from your property or have stations located throughout Town. The Town is providing free trash bags for you to fill up with green waste or community trash and for you to drop-off the full bags between Thursday, June 25 to Saturday, June 27 at 299 Commerce Drive at no charge.

For every bag of trash turned in, volunteers will be entered into a raffle to win gift cards from local businesses!

Defensible Space Clean-Up: June 25–27
Protect your property from wildfires by creating and maintaining defensible space around your home. The defensible space zones start from the building, structures, decks, etc. up to 100 feet or the property line. You can promote a healthy defensible space zone by removing ground litter and trimming up trees 15 feet (not to exceed one-third of the tree). Defensible Space is the law in wildfire-prone areas.

EMPTY Bag Collection: Collect your free empty trash bags (limit 5/person) for you to fill-up with green waste from the Mammoth Disposal Transfer Station (59 Commerce Drive). Transfer Station hours: Mon–Sat 6:30am–7:30pm, Sunday 6:30am–5:00pm.

FULL Bag Drop-Off: Leave your bags full of green waste at no charge between 8:00am–3:00pm from June 25–27 at 299 Commerce Drive (Town Yard, not Transfer Station).

Community Clean-Up Day: June 27
Take pride in our Town by volunteering to beautify our streets, parks, trails and public spaces on Saturday, June 27.

EMPTY Bag Collection: Meet at Footloose Sports (3043 Main St) between 9:00–11:30am to receive supplies, collect complimentary empty trash bags and get community clean up assignments. A bag a person really helps!

FULL Bag Drop-Off: Leave your bags full of community trash at no charge between 8:00am–3:00pm on June 27 at 299 Commerce Drive (Town Yard, not Transfer Station).

What you CAN drop-off: Pine cones/needles, grass clippings, leaf debris, tree limbs less than 12” in diameter, dog waste and community trash (no household trash). The drop-off location will be monitored throughout the event and anyone trying to drop-off excluded items will be turned away.

What you CANNOT drop-off: Household, HOA or property trash; large bulky items (furniture, appliances, old tires, mattresses, etc.); metal objects (refrigerators, snow stakes, motorized equipment, etc.); recyclable materials, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW); food waste; and e-waste (TV’s and electronics). These items must be taken to the Mammoth Disposal Transfer Station at 59 Commerce Drive for a fee per rate schedule.

COVID-19 Precautions: To keep our community safe, we ask volunteers to wear face coverings, bring their own gloves, and stay 6 feet away from others not in the same household unit.

FOOTLONGS WHEN YOU BUY TWO

Order online at Subway.com or download the Subway App
Located at: 26 Old Mammoth Rd in Rite DIY Center Mammoth Lakes
By Lunch

Alexander Hamilton
By Ron Chernow
Penguin

The fuss of Lin Manuel Miranda’s Broadway production of “Hamilton” (based on this biography by Ron Chernow) has faded somewhat, though Miranda’s been on a publicity tour this week promoting an airing of the musical which will debut on Disney+ starting July 3.

So I felt like I finally had to see what the hype was all about. And I’m a stubborn sort, so I wanted the full 731-page experience versus a two-hour musical. A few things leap right out at you.

The first is the sheer miracle that the United States still exists as a going concern nearly 250 years after the Declaration of independence. Even Washington, post-Constitutional Convention, “doubted the new federal government would survive twenty years” according to Chernow.

Which makes absolute sense when you think about it. If you just got done overthrowsing one government for taxing you too much, only to discover that the next government wants to tax you a whole bunch to pay the debts associated with the revolutionary war, your average citizen might have just thrown up his hands and said, “What the hell’s the difference? Government’s government.”

But this time, it was different. Thanks to - and forgive the exclusivity, a product of the age - a small group of very talented men with pretty decent ethics.

They weren’t perfect. There was plenty of intrigue and infighting and jockeying for position. But when it came down to it, guys like Hamilton preserved the union, in part by choosing enemies with principles over those who had none.

Example: In the first presidential elections, there was no differentiation made between presidential and vice-presidential candidates, even though there was a de facto acknowledgement that there was one man at the top of the ticket and one for the #2 slot.

In 1800, Jefferson and his vice-presidential candidate Aaron Burr each received the same number of votes. Rather than concede the top spot, Burr hedged. Jefferson was a staunch Republican (which, in those days, meant he was a southerner and states’ rightsists who feared a strong federal government and he was also a francophile).

Burr was a Republican as well, but he was also a New Yorker. New York City was a political base of the Federalists, who had won the first three presidential elections (Washington twice and then John Adams), as was the northeast, and it was presumed Burr would be more sympathetic to the opposition Federalists than Jefferson.

Just one problem. In comparison to Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence and the nation’s first Secretary of State, Burr was a relative lightweight. As Hamilton once said of Burr, “in civil life, he has never projected nor aided in producing a single measure of important public utility.”

Which, Chernow writes, “was mystifying for such a bright, literate man.”

Burr was a bit of rogue. He knew how to play the angles and social (and career) climb. And he’d double-cross you if it suited his purposes.

Hamilton had enough influence in New York City to convince fellow Federalists they were better off with Jefferson, effectively ending Burr’s political career. And Burr would, in time, exact his revenge …

Alexander Hamilton remains the most influential immigrant the United States has ever welcomed to its shores. He grew up in the West Indies. His father left when he was a young boy. His mother died when he was 14. He apprenticed at a trading company to tax you a whole bunch to pay the debts associated with the revolutionary war, your average citizen might have just thrown up his hands and said, “What the hell’s the difference? Government’s government.”

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HAMILTON  
continued from page 10

St. Croix starting at the age of 14, and showed so much promise that a group of island businessmen pitched in to send him north for a proper education, which he obtained at King’s College in New York City.

Among the nation’s founders, his roots were the most humble. And his talents the most prodigious.

He was also, arguably, the greatest seer in American history. He had a keen sense when it came to imagining what the future might look like.

The key relationship in Hamilton’s life, and perhaps in American history, was the relationship between Washington and Hamilton.

Hamilton served as Washington’s aide-de-camp during the Revolutionary War. Critical because Washington hated paperwork and Hamilton had a knack for it. And as Hamilton got to know Washington, he literally became his second brain.

Washington could spend a few minutes sketching out an idea and Hamilton just knew how to properly flesh it out.

As Chernow observed, “He was opti-
mistic about America and pessimistic about its people.”

And while Washington didn’t have Hamilton’s razzle dazzle, he had the gravitas.

“Washington possessed the outstanding judgement, sterling character and clear sense of purpose need to guide his some-
times wayward protege.”

However, once Washington retired from public life, Chernow noted that within Hamilton, “Some vital layer of inhibition disappeared.”

*Hamilton was not the master builder of the Constitution; the laurels surely go to James Madison. He was, however, its foremost interpreter, starting with the Federalist [papers] and continuing with his Treasury tenure [Hamilton was the first Secretary of the Treasury], when he had to expound constitutional doctrines to accomplish his goals. He lived, in theory and practice, every syllable of the Constitution. For that reason, historian Clinton Rossiter insisted that Hamilton’s works and words have been more conse-
quential than those of any other American in shaping the Constitution.”

While Washington is considered the father of Our County, and James Madison the father of the U.S. Constitution, Ham-
ilton is considered the father of American government.

He had to solve the practical challenges of how to defend the country, how to pay debts, how to finance growth. “As chief tax collector, he would be the lightning rod for inevitable discontent.”

One of his brilliant strokes was to sug-
gest that the federal government assume all revolutionary war debt incurred by the states without exception or differenta-
tion, figuring the states which incurred the most debt had also made the most sacrifice.

Effectively, this tied the states together, and also created the need for a central bank. And to make it happen, he effec-
tively traded Washington, D.C. as the future site of the nation’s capital in order to establish the First Bank of the United States.

And just in the nick of time. Consider: In 1795, 55% of the federal budget was dedicated to debt service.

It’s hard to imagine these days having a federal government so weak and insignifi-
cant and struggling to establish its powers to raise revenue.

As President, Washington presided over a smaller staff than he did as master of Mount Vernon. Wow.

Hamilton also recognized the grand bargain that facilitated the Constitution was built on an unstable, undemocratic foundation. It was called the “federal ratio.” For apportionment purposes, every slave provided its owner 3/5ths of a vote.

And pretty much guaranteed a future Civil War.

Despite his acceptance of the federal ratio as the price of ratification, “Few, if any, other founding fathers opposed slavery more consistently or toiled harder to eradicate it than Hamilton.

Hamilton never owned slaves. George Washington was the only president who set his slaves free upon his death.

Of all the nation’s founders, Hamilton had the bleakest view of the wisdom of the masses.

As Chernow observed, “He was optim-
istic about America and pessimistic about its people.”

And he was obsessed with checks and balances.

“Give all power to the many, they will oppress the few. Give all power to the few, they will oppress the many.”

Whereas Jefferson thought a little rebel-
lion now and then was a good thing.

But most important, Hamilton was steadfast and ethical. He had every oppor-
tunity to enrich himself in his position as Treasury Secretary, and he was exhaust-
tively investigated because all the other crooks assumed he was just like them and on the take. He wasn’t. He was singular and truly great.

What I found most delightful about Hamilton was his knack for peering into the future.

Some items which resonate in the cur-
rent moment.

On the Constitution: “Mark my words. So long as we are a young and virtu-
ous people, this instrument will bind us together in mutual interests, mutual welfare and mutual happiness. But when we become old and corrupt, it will bind us no longer.

On the most dangerous type of politi-
cians: “Demagogues who fed on popular confusion while proclaiming popular rights. A dangerous ambition more often lurks behind the specious mask of zeal for the rights of the people than under the forbidding appearance of zeal for the firmness and efficiency of government.

On the defense of British loyalists: “He thought the nation’s character would be defined by how it treated its vanquished enemies.”

There are so many great nuggets throughout this well-written biography. I had no idea Washington nearly died right after his first inauguration. Or that there was an annual scourge of yellow fever in the 1790s which caused city residents to flee upstate.

Give a nod to Mr. Hamilton on the 4th.

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Safety Measures at Mammoth Hospital

We remain committed to providing a safe, reliable place to receive care.

Anyone entering our facility must have their temperature taken, be free of COVID-19 symptoms, and wear a face mask.

Appointment times are staggered to maintain social distancing. All high touch areas have increased cleaning and monitoring.

Handwashing stations are located in all areas of the hospital and clinics.

Telehealth appointments are available to connect you with your trusted physician via telephone or video chat.

We are currently enforcing a “limited visitor policy” at our facility. Please visit our website for more information.

Executive and clinical leaders meet regularly to examine, and revise as needed, safety and infection prevention practices.

Wash. Distance. Cover.

760.934.3311 | www.mammothsnotable.com
TOWN STUFF

Friday, June 26/
Reds Meadow Road opens for the season. No shuttle service this summer. Entrance will close once lots are full. Mammoth Lakes Basin is open.

June 26-27/
Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Cleanup Days. More info: see ad pg. 9

Monday, June 29/ 
FREE COVID-19 testing in Bridgeport. The pop-up private health clinic will be at Memorial Hall from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free testing, masks, hand sanitizer and flyers.

Mono County Board of Supervisors Special Hearing on Tioga Inn project. See ad pg. 13 for information about submitting public comment.

Tuesday, June 30/
FREE COVID-19 testing in Lee Vining. The pop-up private health clinic will be at the Mobil Mart from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free testing, masks, hand sanitizer and flyers.

Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets @ 9 a.m. See County website for viewing access.

Wednesday, July 1/
FREE COVID-19 testing at the Public Health pop-up clinic in front of the Mammoth Food Bank from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free testing, masks, hand sanitizer and flyers.

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) meets @ 9 a.m. Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Lakes Town

TOWN STUFF

Council meets @ 4 p.m. Visit the Town website @ www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to attend via granicus. Mammoth Lakes Tourism meets @ 1 p.m. Visit Town website for viewing access.

Thursday, July 2/
FREE COVID-19 testing at the Public Health pop-up clinic in front of the Mammoth Food Bank from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free testing, masks, hand sanitizer and flyers.

Friday, July 3/
Mammoth Mountain Bike Park and Scenic Gondola open for the season. More info on what’s opening at the mountain @ https://www.mammothmountain.com/covid

Saturday, July 4/
In Mammoth... Happening: Freedom March, Footloose Freedom Mile (register online, honor system) and Chamber of Commerce Business Scavenger Hunt

Not Happening... Fourth of July Fireworks, Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, POPs in the Park, Town Parade, and Arts Festival

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.

AT THE MOVIES

Movies Playing This Week 06/26 to 07/02

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
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Special Restart Prices
$6 at Box office
$5 Online

KITCHEN & BATH REMODELING

kitchen-bath-remodels.com

Providing all your kitchen and bath needs.

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.
Public Hearing Notice


The preliminary budget is available for inspection Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 3150 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes. It is also available at www.mlfd.ca.gov/crimestoppers. The MLFD Board of Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 12:00PM, to adopt the final budget. Any person may appear at the meeting to be heard regarding any item in the budget or the addition or deletion of items.

TS #2020-0103

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Andres/Heriberto Garcia
45 Mountain Blvd #10
P.O. Box 3813
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by co-partners. The register 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 June 15, 2020. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on June 22, 2020.

File Number 2020-0104 (6/27, 7/4, 7/11, 7/18)

Notice of Vacancy

The Mono County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is soliciting interested residents to serve as an Alternate Public Member.

LAFCO is a seven-member commission comprised of representatives from the Mono County Supervisors, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council, Special Districts (if any) in the area served, water, public utilities, community services, mosquito abatement, etc., and the public charged with ensuring orderly growth and development, logical boundaries, efficient services and preserving agricultural lands and open space.

For more information and to download the nomination form please visit the Mono County LAFCO website at http://www.monomounty.ca.gov/lafco/pdfs/pages/resources. It is intended, in serving as an Alternate Public Member, contact: Helen earned at 93546-1844 by July 26, 2020.

TS #2020-0106

Public Hearing Announcement

The Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a Public Hearing to consider the Tioga Inn Specific Plan Amendment #3 and Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report.

8:00 AM, Monday, June 29, 2020

Videoconferencing will be available at https://zoom.us/join (meeting ID: 984-783-3904)

Teleconference will be available at (669) 900-8383 and enter Webinar ID 984-783-3904.

The meeting will take place at Minaret Mall, Suite 2, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA, and physical participation is limited to those offering public comment.

Pre-registration is required. Send written comments to codcomments@mono.ca.gov or contact the Community Development Department at (760) 924-1805.

I hope to see you... at Town Clean Up Day. You've been quarantined so long you don't need a trimmings bag. You need a full mulching.
Help Wanted

Sierra Employment Services, Inc. is hiring for the following positions:

Staff Accountant B - $29.06
Payroll Clerk B - DOE
Full-time: $18.00
Part-time: $15.25
Retail Cashier ML - $15
Warehouse Worker ML - $15
Parking Lot Attendant B - $14-$16
Full-time: $19
Part-time: $17
MCWD Civil Eng. ML - $32.10-$42.62
MCWD Constr. Work. ML $29-$32
General Laborer ML & R $15-$20
Call Us Today 760-924-0523 or 760-873-8599
Complete job list at: www.sierraemployment.com/joblist.com"
Sierra Hot Tub Co.

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Sales/Service/Supplies
760-914-2867

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FIRST CHAIR IS STILL IN THE FOOTLOOSE PARKING LOT!
FIRST CHAIR IS STILL THE BEST GRAB-N-GO FOOD IN TOWN!

HAVE YOU STILL not tried us?!

BREAKFAST

BREAKFAST BURRITO
Eggs, Mayan pork, potatoes, salsa, cilantro, cheddar, caramelized onions

LUNCH

BÁNH MÌ
Hanoi chicken OR Hoisin pork... With pickled carrots & onions, fresh cucumber, jalapeños, cilantro, sriracha aioli

GRILLED TRI-TIP
Tri-tip, pesto aioli, arugula, caramelized onions, balsamic glaze

GYRO
Beef & lamb, cucumber, pickled onions, tomato, arugula, tzatziki sauce, pita

BBQ CHICKEN QUESADILLA
Chicken, cheddar cheese, BBQ sauce, cilantro

POKE SALAD
Ahi tuna, arugula, cucumber, carrots, pickled onions, ginger, wasabi, sriracha aioli, cilantro, sesame seeds

HOT DOG
Cheese, grilled onions, jalapeños, mustard, ketchup, relish

DRINKS, WATER, COFFEE, BROWNIES

8 - 3 DAILY
MENTION THIS AD FOR A FREE BAG OF CHIPS WITH YOUR NEXT MEAL!

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Luxury Mountain Retreats With Miles of Trails, Open Space & Room To Breathe Near Mammoth Mountain.

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