**CASTING ABOUT**

Sean Robertson made the most of a cloudy day by dropping a line in Silver Lake over the weekend.

**MAN (CLEANING UP AFTER MAN) DEFENSE**

On the trails with Friends of the Inyo’s Alex Ertaud

By Hite

After yet another story about trash, Friends of the Inyo asked The Sheet to tag along with an employee to see what the non-profit was doing to mitigate the trash issue in the Eastern Sierra.

So for one day, The Sheet followed Alex Ertaud, Stewardship Director at Friends of the Inyo, up Duck Pass Trail to Barney Lake.

Ertaud has a story akin to many residents in the Eastern Sierra. He graduated from college during the Great Recession and did not have many options.

So he took a job as a ski instructor and the Eastern Sierra. He started to grow on him.

Ertaud left the area to get his Masters degree from the University of Utah. But like so many others, found himself coming back.

Ertaud officially began his tenure as the Stewardship Director for Friends of the Inyo in September 2017. “Ideally we would have five trail ambassadors, one for each ranger station,” said Ertaud referencing the trail ambassador program staffing. Depending on funding, there have traditionally been 2-4 full time trail ambassadors staffed during the summers.

This year, there is only one full time ambassador and one part time.

So what do these ambassadors do? Lindsay Butcher, the only current full time trail ambassador, told The Sheet, “On a normal day I am usually going up some trail. I check permits, I pick up trash, and I am usually doing some trail work along the way.”

People are typically receptive to this type of work, “The reaction I get is pretty positive. Hikers are thankful that someone is out there doing the work,” said Butcher.

When the Sheet followed Ertaud up Duck Pass, the experience was exactly as Butcher had described.

Ertaud brought a shovel and other tools just in case he needed to clear trail. He removed any rocks larger than a fist from the trail, picked up trash, and attempted to talk to almost everyone that appeared to be camping, whether that be checking their permit, answering questions, or sharing general knowledge.

One of the 20 or so groups Ertaud talked to did not know they had to pack out their toilet paper.

“‘I’ve been doing this for four summers and I’ve picked up thousands of pounds of trash,’ said Ertaud, ‘I’m glad it [the trash] is getting its moment and attention. But this is a continuation of a...”

Alex Ertaud documents evidence of an illegal fire at Lake Barney

By Hite

Ertaud left the area to get his Masters degree from the University of Utah. But like so many others, found himself coming back.

Ertaud officially began his tenure as the Stewardship Director for Friends of the Inyo in September 2017. “Ideally we would have five trail ambassadors, one for each ranger station,” said Ertaud referencing the trail ambassador program staffing. Depending on funding, there have traditionally been 2-4 full time trail ambassadors staffed during the summers.

This year, there is only one full time ambassador and one part time.

So what do these ambassadors do? Lindsay Butcher, the only current full time trail ambassador, told The Sheet, “On a normal day I am usually going up some trail. I check permits, I pick up trash, and I am usually doing some trail work along the way.”

People are typically receptive to this type of work, “The reaction I get is pretty positive. Hikers are thankful that someone is out there doing the work,” said Butcher.

When the Sheet followed Ertaud up Duck Pass, the experience was exactly as Butcher had described.

Ertaud brought a shovel and other tools just in case he needed to clear trail. He removed any rocks larger than a fist from the trail, picked up trash, and attempted to talk to almost everyone that appeared to be camping, whether that be checking their permit, answering questions, or sharing general knowledge.

One of the 20 or so groups Ertaud talked to did not know they had to pack out their toilet paper.

“‘I’ve been doing this for four summers and I’ve picked up thousands of pounds of trash,’ said Ertaud, ‘I’m glad it [the trash] is getting its moment and attention. But this is a continuation of a...”

**A SENSE OF URGENCY**

Inyo hopes to discourage Covid violations

By Lunch

Inyo County Supervisors passed an urgency ordinance on Tuesday to “discourage and penalize violations of orders pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic.”

But while the Supervisors agreed to the potential enhancement of civil penalties for violations, they declined to add a criminal component.

It was the prospect of an added criminal component which raised the ire of many local citizens.

One, Leon Beadle, promised recall petitions if the ordinance was approved as presented.

County Counsel Marshall Rudolph explained at the outset that the County did have the power to include a criminal component. According to California penal code section 836.5 (d): “The governing body of a local agency, by ordinance, may authorize its officers and employees who have the duty to enforce a statute or ordinance to arrest persons for violations of the statute or ordinance.”

The reason the Supervisors were contemplating this step (the potential empowerment of health department and other officials to issue criminal citations) is because Inyo County Sheriff Jeff Hollowell has stated he is reluctant to enforce some of the state health orders which he believes are unconstitutional.

And as Inyo County Superior Court Judge Tom Hardy said on Tuesday, while state and county orders “can” be enforced by peace officers, enforcement is not required.

“Kinda like a speeding ticket,” chimed in Supervisor Jeff Griffiths. If they see you speeding, they can pull you over and ticket you. Or not.

But as Griffiths added, “The goal is to dissuade egregious offenders who are a danger to...”

**Tightening races**

p. 15/

**Redrawn flood maps**

p. 8/

**CannaBishop?**

p. 6/

**Suddenstink**

p. 4/

**4th amendment blues**

p. 5/
I had the following email exchange with Allen Brown this week.

**Brown:** News Flash! BLM (Black Lives Matter) takes their community improvement team to Kenosha, Wisconsin. What a great organization! Hope the local high school chapter is taking notes!

**Second email:** News FLASH! Biden, Harris, Pelosi condemn violent protests/riots/looting in Kenosha. OPPS! No, they didn’t!

My reply: You’ve seen the video, right? You saw what the cops did to that man. Seven shots in the back. I’m ashamed of those officers, ashamed for my country.

When will officers break ranks? When will the good ones realize that they can’t continue to avert their eyes while the bad ones pull this shit?

**Brown:** Saw the video, looks horrible. Unlike you, I’m content to wait and see what the full investigation/story reveals! There’s always more! Also, unlike you apparently. I don’t think this incident that initially appears so terrible justifies riots, looting and now more deaths. **Second email:** Ted, hope you know I like you, I do. Yeah, I saw that video, looked terrible. What I saw when I watched that video was a guy not following police instruction, resisting arrest AND, it looked like he was reaching for something on the floor of his car. Doesn’t change realities, still horrible. I was never a real peace office although technically I was, just a juvenile probation officer. What did I learn from that? There’s almost always SOMETHING more. We should all want justice and be willing to know the full story rather than just rushing to judgement and using a terrible thing like this as an excuse to riot, loot and kill even more people. **Third email:** You know I’m right.

“Two people were later killed in Kenosha by a self-described 17-year old militia member who said he was there to preserve order and defend property.

The above represented chapter one of my mentally processing the murder of an unarmed man, Jacob Blake, in Kenosha, Wisconsin by a police officer. Chapter two was presented by Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers when asked by a reporter about Jacob Blake during a postgame press conference. Rivers is a black man, extremely successful and articulate. He attended college at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He’s coached an NBA championship team. He married his college sweetheart, a white woman he met during his freshman year. They’ve been married 34 years, and have four children.

“What stands out to me is just watching the Republican Convention. They’re spewing this fear, right? You hear Donald Trump and all of them talking about fear. It’s so often ... [I’m] reminded of my color. It’s just really sad. We’ve got to do better, but we’ve got to demand better. We’ve got ... it’s funny. We protest and they send riot guards, right? They send people in riot outfits. They go to Michigan with guns and they’re spitting on cops, and nothing happens. The training has to change in the police force. The unions have to be taken down in the police force.

My dad was a cop. I believe in good cops. We’re not trying to defund the police and take all their money away. We’re trying to get them to protect us, just like they protect everybody else. I didn’t want to talk about it before the game, because it’s so hard, to just keep watching it. That video, if you watch that video, you don’t need to be black to be outraged. You need to be American and outraged. How dare the Republicans talk about fear? We’re the ones that need to be scared. We’re the ones having to talk to every black child. What white folks only give to his son a talk about being careful if you get pulled over? It’s just ridiculous ... It keeps going. There’s no charges. Bremoena Taylor, no charges, nothing. All we’re asking is you live up to the Constitution. That’s all we’re asking, for everybody, for everyone. Thank you.”

**NBA players**, and then athletes in other sports, have sat out games the past few days in protest.

I recognize that we live in a culture with an extremely short attention span. That we’re accustomed to having news events resolve themselves in very tidy timeframes. There was George Floyd and the subsequent protests that ignited throughout our country and then ... the protests subsided and things got back to “normal” and then - Jacob Blake happens and a lot of folks can’t gear up for another round of it, of conflict. But really, of truth splashed in their faces. In my face.

Chapter three came when the panelists of “Inside the NBA” expounded upon what Doc Rivers said. Now the panel features three former, top NBA players (Shaquille O’Neal, Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith), all black, and a longtime broadcaster named Ernie Johnson, white.

It’s probably the most relevant show on television. The former players are candid and self-deprecating and bust each other’s chops and tell jokes. Watching the show is like hanging with your friends - especially for those of us who inhabit the same 50s age range.

Barkley followed up by asking Johnson if he’d ever had to give the traffic stop lecture to his children. Never.

For the other panelists, it’s a frequent conversation. Kenny Smith said he finds himself unconsciously talking about personal safety and caution with his kids multiple times per day. It depends upon the neighborhood. In some neighborhoods, these are the unwritten rules and codes. In other neighborhoods, different rules and codes apply.

And it hits home, that these gentlemen who’ve enjoyed so much professional success, who are so well known - they still worry about stuff that many of us have never worried about in our lives. And if the black elite can’t find any peace or security on a day-to-day basis, what’s it like for the vast majority of minority populations who aren’t rich or famous?

The fear element that Rivers talks about - I wonder how much of that relates to the declining white majority in this country. By 2044, the white share of the population in America is supposed to fall below half.

In 2018, the New York Times spoke with Jennifer Richeson, a social psychologist at New York University, and they have been talking about the results ever since. Their research found that people in neighborhoods where the white population is greater than 50% are more likely to report negative feelings toward racial minorities than those who were not. They were also more likely to support restrictive immigration policies and to say that whites would likely lose status and face discrimination in the future.

In short, they are fearful. And as Rivers describes above, fear is a very powerful and divisive political tool.

The most depressing part to me looks like succeeding chapters over the next quarter century, as politically, fear has proven a very winning card destined to be played again and again.
**RESIDUE**

A young filmmaker returns home after many years away to write a script about his childhood, only to find his neighborhood transformed by gentrification and his childhood friends scattered to the wind.

**MARLENE**

A restoration specialist moves to Berlin to start over, but her life gradually becomes a nightmare as her upstairs neighbor’s behavior becomes increasingly threatening and unpredictable.

**THE WIND**

Poland’s Halny wind comes in cycles, every spring and autumn, sometimes turning into a destructive gale that creates a setting for a wild performance of human struggle against the destructive forces of nature.

**WWW.MAMMOTHLAKESFILMFESTIVAL.COM**
Dear Editor:

I was chagrined when I read [MMSA VP] Mr. Albright’s quote in last week’s Sheet regarding the upcoming ski season: “We have no idea what winter’s gonna look like.” Upon reading this my first thought was, “How could this be?” Thus far, MMSA has had five-plus months to paint this picture. They need to do a better job holding themselves accountable to their stakeholders and communities. This type of statement from an MMSA executive is totally unacceptable. We will soon be entering September, so the execution phase of the plan will quickly be upon them. He stated the plans range from not operating at all - is he serious? Not operating would be an absolute disaster for Mammoth Lakes, the regional economy, and the ski industry in general.

As I reflect, the quote by Henry Ford comes to mind: “If you think you can or think you can’t, you’re right.” Not operating should not even be on the table. Instead, spend your energy on operations should not even be on the table. Instead, spend your energy on what operations need to look like and not a nice one. Cock-tail parties on the decks need to stop. We are not supposed to ski impaired ... but then the bars and booze ... so which one is it, MMSA? Next, more tables and benches outside for lunch. I get it; when it’s cold outside, it’s winter, it’s part of the usual way: Chambers of Commerce, Visitor Centers etc. We were surprised, though, that there was no up-to-date posted information at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. The brochures were mostly gone. We had a good time at Devil’s Postpile for the day we were there. But we spent no money in Mammoth Lakes except for fruit drinks at a local store. We might have stayed longer and spent more money had there been more information. I write this to you because of your editorial in the Sheet (August 8, 2020). At the very least, there could be up-to-date postings and brochures at the Welcome Center. A person with plastic barriers would have been nice but I do understand the issues with the virus. Mammoth Lakes is a beautiful area. We look forward to returning someday.

Kevin Olivo
Redlands

Missing out

Dear Editor:

My wife, two granddaughters and I were unexpectedly in Mammoth Lakes on August 10, 2020. We knew it would be difficult finding information in the usual way: Chambers of Commerce, Visitor Centers etc. We were surprised, though, that there was no up-to-date posted information at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. The brochures were mostly gone. We had a good time at Devil’s Postpile for the day we were there. But we spent no money in Mammoth Lakes except for fruit drinks at a local store. We might have stayed longer and spent more money had there been more information.

I write this to you because of your editorial in the Sheet (August 8, 2020). At the very least, there could be up-to-date postings and brochures at the Welcome Center. A person with plastic barriers would have been nice but I do understand the issues with the virus. Mammoth Lakes is a beautiful area. We look forward to returning someday.

Kathy and Gary Newman
Cleveland, Ohio

Newmans: A temporary Welcome Center was reopened by Tuesday, August 11. You just missed it!

Bad connection

Dear Editor:

SuddenStink strikes again. We are beyond frustrated with our phone and internet service. It started going bad the beginning of summer and has continued to degrade. We made the decision to go with the over-the-internet phone system some time ago. A decision we completely regret now. We’re forced to reboot our modem 2 to 5 times a day, almost every day. Sometimes voices are too garbled to understand, frustrating both office staff and potential guests. In the current vacation market, typically our guests: -Are getting out of crowded cities and more LETTERS, page 5

Book Chalet Moving Sale

August 29 and September 5 ONLY

9am to 5pm each day

Donate $5 for used books, DVDs & CDs

FREE tote bag to first 300 customers

645 Old Mammoth Road
(across from The Stove Restaurant)

All proceeds go to support the library and its programs

Book Chalet

USED BOOKS

friends of the library

www.bookchalet.org

MOBILIZATION

WE CARE FOR YOU & YOUR CAR

NORCO SERVICE CENTER
760-934-9693 • 3670 MAIN ST. IN MAMMOTH
Don Morton
June Lake

Solitude or Pumice

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the proposed new trail in Solitude Canyon. I recently hiked into the canyon from the old mining road near the motocross track and down the old abandoned Sherwin Lakes Trail. Other than the latter, there are no other trails evident except game trails. We were thrilled to see a large buck take off down canyon!

There are many environmental resources to consider which would best be addressed in an Environmental Assessment. As the Lakes Basin has become extremely impacted, deer and other wildlife have no other migration route from summer to winter habitat. We know there are many old growth Jeffrey Pine, but there needs to be an assessment of the flora as well.

Who will really benefit? It will be a trail suitable mostly for extreme mountain bikers. Certainly not the general population of Mammoth or visitors. An 18”-24” trail is not safe for two-way traffic with horses, hikers and bikers. Horses and bikes do not mix well as has been proven on the Mammoth Rock Trail. The difficulty of the trail will attract e-bikes. Given the start of the trail near the motorcross, motorcycle trespass will also be encouraged. Who will patrol and enforce prohibition of motorcycles and e-bikes?

The USFS doesn’t have the resources to monitor the trails that exist now. Resources would be better spent on improving trails in the Shady Rest and Pumice FLat area. A trail with various loops from Mammoth to June Lake would be beneficial to a wider range of bicyclists and users in already disturbed areas.

According to the 2008 Sherwin Meadows Recreation Plan, Solitude Canyon was controversial back then. The group was unable to come to an agreement. I appreciate the time and effort the USFS and many volunteers took to create this plan. However, it was incomplete.

In summary: object to this intrusion into Solitude Canyon and believe the information provided by the proponents in their scoping letter to the USFS was inadequate. I moved to Mammoth in 1970 and have hiked extensively in the area and the Sierra. I care deeply about our public lands. The proposed Solitude Canyon Trail is not appropriate for the canyon.

Sydney Quinn
Mammoth Lakes

Take only pictures

Dear Editor:

I found a disturbing post 8-21-2020 from the Inyo N.F. on their Facebook account page. “Thanks to the trail ambassadors with Friends of the Inyo for helping maintain trails, checking permits, and packing out extra trash they find.”

Having non-profit conservation groups assisting the agency maintaining trails or packing out trash can be beneficial when they are properly supervised. Outsourcing checking wilderness permits and bear canisters is not. These are law enforcement functions that must be done by trained Forest Service employees and be consistent with our Constitution. Penalties for any of the wilderness violations are serious, up to 6 months in prison and/or $5,000 fine.

Recently I encountered some “ranger types” in the John Muir Wilderness. They were wearing shirts that displayed the official US Forest Service emblem on one arm and a Friends of the Inyo emblem on the other. They were not wearing a Forest Service badge or name tag and their uniforms were not standard FS. If they had asked me for a permit or other questions related to my visit, I would have refused to provide them any information. As far as I knew, they could be imposters.

“Checking permits” in wilderness when no obvious violation has been committed is essentially the same as law enforcement stopping a vehicle for the sole purpose to see if the operator has a legally required driver license. Neither is legal unless there is a reasonable basis for believing that a crime may have been committed “probable cause.”

The Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides that “[t]he right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause...”

Lacking an obvious violation, wilderness rangers stopping backpackers and demanding they present papers or a bear canister violates their 4th Amendment Rights. American justice is based on investigating crimes, not persons. Hiking with a backpack is NOT reason to suspect that one has violated the law by failing to be properly supervised.

DON MORTON
I

board’s behest. The matter could be undertaken at the
that, a discussion, with no action item
telling his fellow councilmembers that
discussion to the table this time around,
sales in town.

by the city’s planning commission, that
in 2017, after passage of Prop 64, and ulti-
ries within the City of Bishop.

At the time, Council rejected a pro-
posed ordinance, approved unanimously by
the city’s planning commission, that
would’ve have authorized marijuana
sales in town.

Councilmember Jim Ellis brought the
discussion to the table this time around,
telling his fellow councilmembers that
he’d been approached by people inquiring
about the ban and wanted “to see
where council and the public is on this.”

The discussion on Monday was just
that, a discussion, with no action item
or vote on the topic. Further action on
the matter could be undertaken at the
board’s behest.

Councilmember Karen Schwartz
kicked off the conversation asking about
revenue associated with legal pot sales,
adding, “If the revenue is so minimal that
it doesn’t make sense or it’s this huge
number, then we want to consider the
costs and the benefits of a dispensary.”

Mayor Laura Smith tapped on an ad-
ditional question about law enforcement
costs associated with keeping things fully
legal.

While staff was unable to provide a
comprehensive cost-benefit analysis on
Monday, Bishop City Administrator Ron
Phillips explained that there are cur-
rently two marijuana dispensaries in Inyo
County. Those dispensaries generated
just under $100,000 in tax revenue in FY
2017-18, just over $115,000 in FY 2018-19
and generated close to $320,000 in FY

Presently, Bishop receives none of that
revenue, as the dispensaries in question,
while near Bishop, are technically in the
unincorporated parts of Inyo County.
Inyo voters have also approved a 12.5%
tax on marijuana.

Mayor Smith was surprised by the low
number of dispensaries until she was re-
mined that there are others within Inyo
County that are on tribal lands.
Phillips also reported that he had asked
Bishop Police Chief Ted Stec to inquire
with his counterpart in Mammoth Lakes,
Chief Al Davis, and Inyo County Sheriff
Jeff Hollowell about potential enfor-
cement costs.

Phillips repeatedly told Stec that they had
no enforcement costs associated with the
pot shops, only revenue; likewise in Inyo
County, Hollowell had no costs to report
along with no criminal complaints to the
District Attorney’s office.

“I think our position here is to do the
will of the voters,” said Councilmember
Stephen Muchovej. “If you look at those
ballot measures and just the results
from within city limits … the majority [of
people] are okay with this and they’re
comfortable without the stigma that has
been applied.”

Smith disagreed, noting “People within the
city of Bishop were not voting for legal-
ized marijuana shops in the City of
Bishop.”

Muchovej: “But they were voting for it
in the state.”
Smith: “Yes, but not in their neighbor-
hood.”

Phillips added that there are laws
about proximity to schools and that
council could also make its own deter-
mination as to where the shops would be
allowed.
He also explained that proponents
of marijuana dispensaries in Bishop have
indicated that they are organizing in an
attempt to draft a resolution and put it to
the voters. All those proponents would
need, Muchovej said, is 250 signatures;
the city would then have to pay for a
special election on the resolution. In ad-
dition, City Council would have no input
on the resolution.

A special election, according to City
Attorney Dean Pucci, would cost the
jurisdiction between $60,000 to $100,000.
Councilmember Chris Costello cast
doubt on public support in favor of dis-
ensaries, noting that while the letters of
opposition were unique and written by
teachers, pastors, and school principals,
many of the support letters were a form
letter that only required people to sign
their name.

“I’m not even sure it was sent by all
those different people,” Costello said, “it
might be sent by someone with a whole
bunch of different email addresses.”
Costello also argued that having dispens-
aries within walking distance of town
would only make things worse.

Smith sided with Costello throughout
the meeting, arguing that dispensaries
would provide easier access to marijuana
for youth and referencing an article pub-
lished in The Sheet last year about dogs
getting sick from eating human feces with
marijuana in it, adding that there are “areas
where I see [human waste] almost
every day.”

Ellis, who had toured the Ascent facility
in Mammoth, maintained, “I want to look
at the whole picture and not just put this
in a box of a bunch of teenagers getting
stoned.”

Dre Dee Costello, the councilmember’s
wife and local nurse, teacher and pastor,
explained in a written comment, “The
amount of patients seen for cyclic vomit-
ing syndrome has increased … cannabis
has become one of the most commonly
abused drugs in the world.”

“It has a negative affect on youth’s
mental and physical health,” she added.

Another commenter, Greg Robinson,
wrote “Putting these outlets on main
streets helps set the character of our
town.”

After the form letter and the names of
its signatories had been read aloud,
Costello asked, “Does anybody recognize
any of those names of people that live in
Bishop?”

Muchovej responded, “They’re voters,
Chris.”

Costello: “I don’t.”

Muchovej: “There was an acupunctur-
ist in town, there was a business owner
in town … we know you know all the
ministers since they sent us letters before
the agenda was really out.”

Smith added, “You kind of wonder
when it’s a letter that it’s that just kind of
generated.”

Muchovej countered again, asking
“Does it discount their sentiment in your
mind?”

“If I was really passionate about some-
thing or really had something to say,”
Smith responded, “you would wanna say
what you wanna say.”

Costello eventually read a prepared
statement, prefacing it with “I hope you
guys can hear my heart in this.”

His essential argument: the cost far
outweighs the benefit. “No amount of
revenue stream is worth the potential
negative effect in this community.”

He also referenced his own struggles with
marijuana, telling Council “For the 6
years I was addicted to pot, it did no good
things in my life … it was by God’s grace
that I was able to quit.”

“What will be your argument with a
child or their parents whose life becomes
impacted by addiction,” Costello asked,
“just because we need more money in
the city?”

Muchovej was unimpressed. “That’s
very nice, Chris,” he said, “but let’s just be
clear … we’re not talking about approv-
ing a dispensary for the singular purpose
of money, we’re talking about the will
of people.”

“I’m not convinced the majority of
people who live in Bishop are for this,”
Costello explained.

“To that point, how many of the pastors
are outside of the city limits?” Muchovej
asked. “I hear people’s concerns. In my
mind a lot of the concerns that have been
made border on fear mongering.”

Smith got the final word, “as far as I’m
concerned, it’s a substance,” she said,
“It’s a drug, it’s an altering substance, it’s
not healthy for you … anything that you
smoke or breathe into your lungs is not
healthy for you.”

Ellis, who had asked that council dis-
cuss the issue, remained non-committal,
noting “I still don’t have the pulse of the
community.”
City staff will return with more infor-
mation at a later date.
Welcome to Mammoth

Realize your Dreams! Own a piece of Mammoth.

IN ESCROW

Sherwin Villas Tri-level Townhome
2bd/loft/2ba located in center of town, fully furnished.
$442,500

165 Le Verne St.
"Top of the world" views in every direction.
½ ac. lot nestled among million dollar homes.
$389,000

90 Monterey Pines Rd.
Prime residential lot close to Eagle Lodge, old growth pines and filtered views, perfect for your mountain retreat.
$197,000

Helios N-12 Corner Townhome
Spacious 2bd/3bath/2car garage, steps to The Village @Mammoth & Gondola, furnished.
$612,500

IN ESCROW

Visit our Showroom in the Main Street Promenade
3399 Main Street, Suite G, Mammoth Lakes
Repairs/Sales/Service/Supplies
CA C-61 lic. # 769180
760 709 0362

Janice Gray
Mammoth Realty Group, For Information Call:
760-914-0927 | DRE Lic. 00831051 | Janice@MammothMRG.com
URGENCY
continued from page 1

public health. Civil penalties do give us a chance to go after offenders.”

The civil penalties in the ordinance call for up to $500 daily fines for individuals and $2,000 daily fines for commercial businesses.

The catch is, a person or business issued a notice of civil violation has the opportunity to “cure” that violation within twenty-four hours.

As Griffiths observed, a notice of civil violation would be fairly useless in a party situation, which tends to resolve itself within a few hours, unless there’s a Motley Crue reunion tour happening.

A principal reason Inyo Supervisors would prefer the Sheriff’s Department participate as a “partner” in health order enforcement is that the County of Inyo, not the Sheriff’s Department, is the legal party in the public comment (read by Assistant County Counsel Rudolph this week in opposition to adding a criminal component to the urgency ordinance. He believes it would create major liability for the county to empower staff to issue criminal citations without extensive training.

The District Attorney had offered his office’s assistance if training were required.

Ultimately, the Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the civil component of the urgency ordinance and to toss the criminal component, which Supervisor Rick Pucci observed, “has contributed to most of the negativity around this.”

As citizen Craig Barrett said in his public comment (read by Assistant to the CAO Darcy Ellis), “People are under stress. They don’t need a further emergency order [to make them more stressed].”

Pushing it further, opined Hollowell, would amount to an invasion of privacy. “We can address them [those not wearing masks] from an educational perspective,” he said.

That’s it.

Hollowell said he wrote an email to County Counsel Rudolph this week in opposition to adding a criminal component to the urgency ordinance. He believes it would create major liability for the county to empower staff to issue criminal citations without extensive training.

The District Attorney had offered his office’s assistance if training were required.

Ultimately, the Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the civil component of the urgency ordinance and to toss the criminal component, which Supervisor Rick Pucci observed, “has contributed to most of the negativity around this.”

As citizen Craig Barrett said in his public comment (read by Assistant to the CAO Darcy Ellis), “People are under stress. They don’t need a further emergency order [to make them more stressed].”

In other Inyo/Bishop news ...

Crop Report

Agricultural Commissioner Nathan Read presented the 2019 crop report to Inyo Supervisors on Tuesday.

The total value of Inyo County’s Agricultural production was $22.9 million in 2019, up 7% over-year-over-year but still far below 2011-2013 numbers (approx. $27 million).

By category, livestock and livestock products was down 8%. Field crops were up 2%. But the biggest movers were nursery products (up $2 million, or 78%) and fruit and nut crops (up 84%).

Livestock and field crops make up 77% of the county’s total production, while nursery products account for 19%.

Mono County agricultural production value was up 1% in 2019 over 2018.

Bishop occupancy numbers

At Bishop City Council’s regular meeting on Monday, Bishop Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tawni Thomson made available Bishop’s transient occupancy numbers over the past three months.

May 2019: 69% May 2020: 38%
June 2019: 82% June 2020: 66%
July 2019: 86% July 2020: 71%

She said August, 2020 is tracking about 20 points down from 2019.

Updated flood maps

Edie Lohmann and Eric Simmons of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) spoke to both the Bishop Council and Inyo Supervisors this week regarding the update (first since 2011) of local flood maps.

The takeaway: In Bishop, if you live along Bishop Creek, particularly the south fork of Bishop Creek, the new maps, which go into effect in December, may require you to obtain flood insurance (if you don’t own your property outright).

Affected areas along Bishop Creek include Rome Drive, the J Diamond mobile park and the east side of Bishop.

As Lohmann said, “You may want to get flood insurance before the changes are implemented,” so you can get grandfathered in.

The new report can be accessed at https://msc.fema.gov or visit the city of Bishop’s website and find the report in the August 24 agenda packet.

No Allmon Joy

Jessica Allmon, Veteran Services Officer for Inyo and Mono Counties, has been dismissed from her position by Inyo County Sheriff Jeff Hollowell.

Allmon is appealing her termination.

Pete Peters, Commander of Bishop’s American Legion Post 118, Joe Davis, Commander of Big Pine’s American Legion Post 457 and Members of local VFW Post 8088 have all written letters in support of Allmon and against the closure of Bishop’s Veterans Service office.

Local calls are now being routed to Bakersfield.

As it’s a personnel matter, Sheriff Hollowell could not comment.

Ms. Allmon did not return calls for comment.

The fractured relationship between Hollowell and Allmon has been documented in previous Sheet stories in the February 15 and March 14 issues. Those stories can be accessed at www.thesheetnews.com.

NEW CHAPTER AT ALDRIDGE

Gabe Distel takes over at Aldridge Plumbing

By Lunch

Gabe Distel is the new owner of Aldridge Plumbing in Bishop.

He recently bought the business from Russ Aldridge, who'd been in business for Bishop for a quarter century.

Distel is a fourth-generation local who graduated from Mammoth High School in 1997.

He had been working at Dean’s Plumbing and Heating since 2016.

Distel will, at least initially, be a one-man show. And he can handle pretty much anything: Leaks, slab leaks, remodels, fixtures, sinks, faucets, water heaters, tankless heaters, swamp coolers...

“That’s a big deal come summer,” says Distel, who estimates he services about 100 swamp coolers every year. “People don’t like to get on roofs anymore,” he grins.

Distel’s career has always been in customer service in some form or another.

Interestingly, he served as a paralegal for nearly a decade in a previous incarnation.

As for the plumbing trade, Distel says, “I don’t mind being in difficult, small, cramped spaces.” And, “If I can help the little old lady in the Highlands who’s got a leak and needs someone to turn a wrench, that’s great. She’s thankful, and nice people get treated nice. That’s what I like.”

This echoes Aldridge’s philosophy: If you take care of the clients, they’ll take care of you.

Aldridge said he finally had to sell the business because an injured back made it a struggle just to get in and out of the truck. “I’ll never be out of pain for the rest of my life. But I have no regrets. I was able to provide for my family … but the trade is hard on the body.”

Gabe Distel
trend,” he added in describing the trash situation. Butcher posited that a lot of the agencies that traditionally are up there (U.S. Forest Service, police) are dealing with severe budget constraints that limit the number of people in recreation management.

Covid-19 and increased visitation has exacerbated the trash problem this summer.

“We need to do better to take care of our trash,” said Ertaud, “We can’t forget that all these things are still going to be a problem [next year].”

He stressed the need to maintain the image of “picking up trash and leaving no trace,” and praised Mammoth Lakes Tourism for its marketing campaign created to spread awareness.

The Forest Service’s lack of personnel has made this job tougher. Due to the visitor centers being closed, tourists just discovering the Eastern Sierra do not have an outlet for their basic information questions. “There are probably more first-time backpackers and people not accustomed to the Eastern Sierra. Because these ranger districts are closed, they are not getting a ‘leave no trace’ background of information,” said Butcher.

“A temporary Mammoth Welcome Center was reopened about two weeks ago. Those personnel restraints cause more problems than just a lack of information. Friends of the Inyo attempts to fill in some of the gaps. For example, every 5-10 years, the USFS needs to do a campsite inventory for certain areas in the backcountry. This year, Friends of the Inyo sent some people into the wilderness to help out.

Overall, the trail ambassador program attempts to mitigate some of the issues that Eastern Sierra residents have been complaining about this summer.

When asked what the average person can do to help in this effort, Butcher said, “I would tell them to get involved with local organizations like Friends of the Inyo, or putting on trash drives through Facebook [shout-out to Sierra Trash Eliminators]. Another thing is to always hike with a trash bag. I was taught from a young age to leave a place better than you found it.”

One final question: “What is the difference between this program and the new Trail Host program that was created by the Town and MLTPA [Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access]?”

Ertaud responded, “I am not sure. I can only speak to what we are doing.” Ertaud stressed that he has a good relationship with Joel Rathje, the Mammoth Trails Manager and MLTPA - his boss Wendy Schneider sits on the board of that organization.

The Sheet then asked, “What would you have been able to do with the $14,000 MLT gave to the Town for the Trail Host program?” Ertaud said, “Well ours is a plug-and-play model. I could have had a full time trail ambassador almost as soon as I got the money.”

Again, Ertaud mentioned he had no qualms with any other organizations.

A fire broke out early Wednesday morning at Gordo’s Mexican Restaurant in June Lake. A June Lake Brewery employee told The Sheet it was an electrical fire that sparked in the area separating the restaurant from the upstairs apartment. The interior of the restaurant sustained significant damage.
Mono County was officially removed from California’s Covid-19 watchlist on Sunday, August 23rd. The change in status comes after the county completed three consecutive days below the state’s data thresholds for Covid-19 positivity rates and reflects the county’s efforts to avoid further cases.

As of noon Thursday, Mono County has not recorded a new case of Covid-19 since August 19, resulting in a 7-day positivity rate (> of people who test positive divided by # of tests) of 0% and a per capita positivity rate of 14/100,000 residents.

Inyo County’s outbreak continues to take a toll, with the number of cases in Inyo exceeding those in Mono by 10, 172 to Mono’s 162. Inyo also recorded an additional 2 deaths, bringing the total number of deaths in the county to 13. Inyo was placed on the watchlist last week as a result of the increased positive cases.

So what does getting off the watchlist mean for Mono?

Not much, as it turns out; the only sector allowed to open is schools, provided the county has been off the watchlist for 14 days and even then, students will require a waiver to attend in person.

An announcement by California Governor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday afternoon indicated that there would be news about the watchlist and changing Covid-19 guidelines on Friday, August 28.

As of noon Thursday, Mono County completed three consecutive days below the state’s data thresholds for Covid-19 positivity rates and reflects the county’s efforts to avoid further cases.

Conversely, the beginning of the week for Mono allowed for the relaxation of some restrictions that guests stay for a specific minimum period (2-3 days at the shortest). This reduces overall costs as longer stays require fewer cleans and are more likely increase food and beverage sales.

Operators reported that while overall stays were down, guests were indeed biting on multi-night stays more often. 1849 Condos reported a large increase in owner use while other hotels have reported increased guest interest in wifi strength, a sign that some guests may be thinking about working more from Mammoth Lakes.

Restaurateurs, meeting later that same day, heard from Doorstep Deliveries owner Cathleen Calderon, who has seen a marked increase in the services she provides since the pandemic began in March.

Calderon reported Doorstep Deliveries has seen 400% growth in food delivery and seen 100% growth in delivery during the time period between March and August.

“It’s blown my mind a little bit how people have depended on us,” Calderon said.

Calderon explained that summer has traditionally been a slower business period for deliveries but noted that she has seen a large increase during June, July and August. In July alone, Doorstep did 1,317 deliveries, up from 465 the year prior.

In addition, Doorstep has gone from delivering meals averaging $47.45 a ticket to almost $60 a meal during the pandemic.

Mammoth Taxi Company took on some of the delivery burden during the pandemic as well, offering free delivery to those in quarantine or unable to leave their homes.

“I wanted to reach out to the restaurant group, knowing that things will change … but until they do, we need a proactive plan,” said Mammoth Taxi owner Scott Marzonie.

Both Marzonie and Calderon offered their services to restaurateurs looking to capitalize on the booming takeaway market.

Molly Horner, Local Marketing Manager for Mammoth Lakes Tourism also sought to provide assistance to restaurateurs, asking “How can we help promote you guys without discounting?”

Horner suggested developing special deals at a specific price point or designating a day of the week for restaurants to promote takeaway specials.

Sean Turner, President at Mammoth Brewing, asked where his staff could tell guests to bring their takeout if the restaurant was full.

Horner pointed him to a recent MLT blog post about picnic spots in and around Mammoth Lakes.

Both groups agreed that they would continue to meet on a weekly basis given the potential for new information or guidance.
Dennis, my friend, as I write and think about you, I must say, ‘life well lived.’ I had the good fortune of meeting Dennis some 30+ years ago. We became friends immediately when he would stop by Mammoth Gallery and talk photography with Brad Dawber and me. At the time he was a chef, but photography was his passion. Not long after that, he quit his job at the restaurant in order to make photography his profession and he went after it with a vengeance.

In the beginning, he photographed close to home and I remember how he would go to Mono Lake - at least a zillion times. The effort paid off later when Dennis produced a beautiful photo book of Mono Lake.

Recently, JC Leacock, a fellow photographer and longtime friend from Colorado, shared with Dennis and me a picture of the three of us - perfectly titled, ‘The Three Amigos.’ The photo took me back to my faded photo journals from trips starting in 1992 when Dennis and I met up with JC to photograph places in Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico and all the backroads in-between.

From dawn until way after dark, we made every hour count on these trips. If we weren’t photographing, we were exploring, or we were driving, driving - all the while talking only one subject - photography. I Dinner at 10 p.m. was normal. So was a cold can of beans with tortillas.

Then we’d all load film ‘til midnight in order to be ready for sunrise. I’m so glad for my extensive note taking as I recalled the laughter, and the anxious we shared traveling on a shoe-string budget; as well as those exhilarating moments photographing (virtually alone) in the midst of beautiful light and extraordinary landscapes.

I spot the page with a scribbled drawing of a tow truck pulling a broken-down Isuzu on a long straight road - the sun on one side of the road and stars at the other. I chuckled out loud to myself and I’m quite sure Dennis heard me, and did too. That was when Dennis’s Isuzu Trooper broke down on the Navajo Indian Reservation in the Utah Desert. I thought we were doomed for sure. But Dennis flagged down the only other car out there and traded a couple of his books for a ride into town.

Dennis didn’t like the idea of leaving me out there alone so I told him I would hide out on a nearby mountaintop with our camera gear. After several hours had gone by - I was just starting to worry that Dennis couldn’t get a ride back (this was before cellphones). Then, suddenly, I heard a siren down below and then Dennis’s voice on a loudspeaker hollering my name. He had gotten a ride back in a police car.

We waited another hour ‘til a rusty tow truck arrived and then down a long, long road we went to the mechanic. Once at the station, a group of Indians gathered around to try and figure out what was wrong. We had noticed oil leaking earlier on the trip and so thought that was the issue, but they discovered worse and of course, the parts weren’t available.

Result: Another slow-going, four-hour tow to the next, larger town! I talked to the driver the whole way there to try and make the trip a little more upbeat and the time go by faster while Dennis sat quietly contemplating what else could be wrong with his car.

When we learned the Trooper needed a new engine which would take a couple of weeks to repair, I figured we were done in, but Dennis decided we needed to redeem some of the expenses and so we rented a car and continued on photographing in Arizona then Colorado.

Around this time in our lives Dennis and I taught a few workshops and created some Sierra products including the Eastern Sierra Calendar. Later, I went on to do my own calendar while he continued with the ES calendar.

After twenty-five years, he retired the calendar, and that was when I realized what a huge impression Dennis and that single calendar title had made on the Eastern Sierra community. For when I delivered my calendars, everybody, would ask about Dennis and then say many kind words about him. Dennis was quite a people person and was a good-hearted, treasured, trustworthy friend, the kind you have forever - like those from high school.

He was humble about his work and his accomplishments. Dennis had photographed all over the U.S. and abroad including Japan, Korea, Czechoslovakia, and several times to one of his favorite places-Ireland, where he did several stunning solo calendar titles. Over the years, his photographs decorated thousands of calendars, books and national magazines - many of them selected for the cover page. He was proud to have an image selected for a U.S. stamp, and also for two more pictorial books, The Eastern Sierra, and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest.

Dennis definitely had an undeniable force of energy to learn and then do the best he could at whatever he set out to do. He enjoyed being creative with his art, cooking, studying his faith, fishing, hiking, and recently working at the sporting goods store in Bishop. He always looked forward to his yearly hunting trips with his buddies. Of all the places Dennis had been, he would always say to me the Eastern Sierra was home.

I will forever cherish those early years we spent together, friends, building our photo careers. Time had slipped by, but just a couple weeks before he knew of his illness, we were talking on the phone about photo submissions. Then we both laughed, realizing we had that same conversation about 30 years ago!

Thank you for all the beautiful pictures and for our dear friendship. You will always be missed.

-Londie G. Pudelsky

OBITUARY
Dennis Flaherty 1953-2020

Dennis Flaherty places-Ireland, where he did several stunning solo calendar titles. Over the years, his photographs decorated thousands of calendars, books and national magazines - many of them selected for the cover page. He was proud to have an image selected for a U.S. stamp, and also for two more pictorial books, The Eastern Sierra, and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest.
**Help Wanted**

**Mammoth Spa Creations** is looking for an inquirer with Scottie at 7/6's team. We currently have an immediate opening for a spa maintenance technician position. 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 application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothspas@aol.com.

**Vacasa** is hiring full time housekeepers in Mammoth Lakes./June Lake with 20 hours/week, between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. No early birds, please! Huge moving sale Saturday 8/29, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. No early birds, please! Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546.

**Help Wanted**

**Retail Sales Consultant** - The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for full-time & part-time, year round positions. The positions available are in the food and beverage areas, with benefits available to all employees. Please apply in person at the lodge.

**Moving Sale**

**Vacasa** is hiring full-time positions (Monday through Friday). We currently have an immediate opening for a spa maintenance technician position. 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 application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothspas@aol.com.

**Vacasa** is looking 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 call 760-914-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com.

**Vacasa** 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 call 760-914-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com.

**Mammoth outdoor-related retail business is seeking a full-time, full-year, full-time position.** Basic computer skills i.e., Word, Excel. Will be responsible for general desk duties based on experience and what applicant brings to the table. Call 760-914-1476. Temporary Snow Removal Operators $24.34 - $28.41/hr – CDL required. Positions will be filled asap. For more information and to apply, visit vacasa.com/careers.

**Convict Lake Resort** is hiring a full-time Janitor for facilities cleaning and maintenance, $17.41/hour with some overtime. Benefits available. Please call 760-934-3800 ext. 32 or email to icornwell@convictlake.com.

**Mammoth Dental** is seeking a dental assistant who is detail oriented, must be flexible, enjoy working in a fast-paced environment. This position is for a team player that could go fund 10+ seasonal rangers, you know, the ones who actually do tangible work and interact with the public.

I would appreciate Acting Forest Supervisor Gary Guenther’s outreach to forest managers to get the public to respect the rules. As a resident of Mammoth Lakes, I am concerned about the negative impacts of individuals failing to follow the rules.

**For Rent**

2 1/2 BD/1 BA unfurnished ML apt, Ground floor, Huge kitchen, Deck. No garage - two cars max. Backs to green belt. $1,750/mo. Backs to green belt. $1,750/mo. Please call Sarah at 760-934-8372. Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546.

**Vacasa** is looking 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 call 760-914-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com.

**Retail Sales Consultant** - The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for full-time & part-time, year round positions. The positions available are in the food and beverage areas, with benefits available to all employees. Please apply in person at the lodge.

**Moving Sale**

**Vacasa** is hiring full-time positions (Monday through Friday). We currently have an immediate opening for a spa maintenance technician position. 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 application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothspas@aol.com.

**Vacasa** is looking 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 call 760-914-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com.

**Mammoth outdoor-related retail business is seeking a full-time, full-year, full-time position.** Basic computer skills i.e., Word, Excel. Will be responsible for general desk duties based on experience and what applicant brings to the table. Call 760-914-1476. Temporary Snow Removal Operators $24.34 - $28.41/hr – CDL required. Positions will be filled asap. For more information and to apply, visit vacasa.com/careers.

**Convict Lake Resort** is hiring a full-time Janitor for facilities cleaning and maintenance, $17.41/hour with some overtime. Benefits available. Please call 760-934-3800 ext. 32 or email to icornwell@convictlake.com.

**Mammoth Dental** is seeking a dental assistant who is detail oriented, must be flexible, enjoy working in a fast-paced environment. This position is for a team player that could go fund 10+ seasonal rangers, you know, the ones who actually do tangible work and interact with the public.

I would appreciate Acting Forest Supervisor Gary Guenther’s outreach to forest managers to get the public to respect the rules. As a resident of Mammoth Lakes, I am concerned about the negative impacts of individuals failing to follow the rules.

**For Rent**

2 1/2 BD/1 BA unfurnished ML apt, Ground floor, Huge kitchen, Deck. No garage - two cars max. Backs to green belt. $1,750/mo. Please call Sarah at 760-934-8372. Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546.

**Retail Sales Consultant** - The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for full-time & part-time, year round positions. The positions available are in the food and beverage areas, with benefits available to all employees. Please apply in person at the lodge.
**TOWN STUFF**

**August 28-September 3**

**12th Annual Lands and Legacy Celebration Online** hosted by Eastern Sierra Land Trust. ESLT has put together a week of activities as part of the celebration. Registration: $25, with a 10% discount for ESLT members; $10 for first responders, students, educators, or AmeriCorps members. Registration and info: ESLT.org/lands-legacy or call 760-873-4554.

**Friday, August 28**

**Main Street Market** @ Eastside Guesthouse, 777 N Main Street, Bishop. Time: 5-8 p.m.

**Saturday, August 29**

**Drive-in Concerts** @ Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. ThundHerStruck (AC/DC cover band plays at 7 p.m. Metallica/Three Days Grace encore (pre-recorded show) at 9 p.m. Go to tricountyfair.com for tix and info

**Monday, August 31**

**Mono County Public Health Covid-19 Testing** @ Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail. Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Testing is limited to 75 tests per day, arrive no later than 12:45 p.m.

**Monday, September 1**

**Verily Project Baseline Covid-19 Testing** @ Sierra Nevada Resort. Sign up for a time slot at https://www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/

**Mammoth Lakes Chamber PPE Distribution. 10 a.m.-noon @ the USFS Welcome Center parking lot.**

**Mammoth’s Recreation Commission meets. 5 p.m. Visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to access.**

**Wednesday, September 2**

**Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. 4 p.m. via Zoom. Visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to access.**

**Mono County Public Health Covid-19 Testing** @ Memorial Hall in Bridgeport. Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Testing is limited to 75 tests per day, arrive no later than 12:45 p.m.

**Friday, September 4**

**Verily Project Baseline Covid-19 Testing** @ Lee Vining High School. Sign up for a time slot at https://www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/

**11th Annual Western Night** @ Bridgeport Barns and Terrace. BBQ + fundraiser benefits Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Foundation. 6 a.m.-11 p.m.

**Ongoing:**

**Evolution of Storytelling Project - September 2020 - June 2021**

A series of virtual workshops will be delivered by diverse members of Mono County communities in order to provide participants with unique perspectives as well as techniques and tools for developing voice. Free to all Mono County teens and young adults in grades 9-12. Learn more at monocountylibraries.org --> Programs --> Evolution of Storytelling Project for Teens. See ad page 2

**Free Covid-19 Testing in Bishop every Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ Church of the Nazarene, 8 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

**MAMMOTH LIQUOR**

Beer lovers’ candy store

Selection of more than 300 beers

**FORGET THE BUBBLE**

**FOCUS ON THE SUDS**

**MAMMOTH LIQUOR**

934.6260 Main St. Next to Rick’s

**THE SHEET**

Saturday, August 29, 2020

www.thesheetnews.com
Notice Inviting Bids

Town of Mammoth Lakes, California

Notice is hereby given that the proposed County Budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 will be available to members of the public on August 17, 2020, at the time and place specified below. Members of the public may attend the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., located at 200 N. Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, California.

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Notice of Available of Public Hearing

County of Mono, State of California.

Notice of Availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District is the lead agency pursuant to CEQA for the proposed project. The project proposed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes is the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) Project. The project consists of: (1) new 260 MW geothermal power plant and associated transmission lines, roads, and restrooms, locker rooms, mechanical rooms, and storage; and (2) the associated transmission system. The GBUAPCD Project is located within Mono County, California. The draft SEIR was available for public comment from July 30, 2020 to August 30, 2020, and was certified on August 31, 2020.

Notice of Hearing

Cont. Notice

Notice of Hearing

Notice of Availability

Notice of Public Hearing

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Notice of Availability of Proposed 2020-2021 County Budget Documents and Public Hearing Thereon by the Mono County Board of Supervisors

 COUNTY OF MONO

Town of Mammoth Lakes, California

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Recreation Center Project

Notice of Public Hearing

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Notice of Availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project

Public Notice

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Notice of Public Hearing

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED 2020-2021 COUNTY BUDGET DOCUMENTS AND PUBLIC HEARING THEREON BY THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Notice is hereby given that the proposed County Budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 will be available to members of the public on August 17, 2020, at the time and place specified below. Notice of the public hearing regarding the fiscal year 2020-2021 proposed budget, preparatory to making a final determination thereon. Any member of the general public may appear at the hearing and be heard regarding any increase in the budget or for the inclusion of additional items.

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Notice of Public Hearing

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Notice of Public Hearing

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of Public Hearing
C

TIGHTENING SENATE RACES

By Casselman

control of the U.S. senate in the next term is still undecided, nine weeks before election day, but a new trend favoring most Republican candidates, appears to be currently developing after several weeks of seeming GOP decline in most polling.

Of course, polling isn’t the only indicator that’s useful, and this cycle many observers, myself included, have raised questions about those polls, even prestigious ones, which employ questionable techniques such as low samples, registered voters (RVs) instead of likely voters (LVs), and arbitrarily weighting their raw results.

But, as I have long pointed out, as the election draws very close, the pollsters are working very hard to avoid embarrassment when the results are known usually make an extra effort to be accurately predictive.

In addition, especially in a presidential election year, there are waves of ups and downs for candidates and their parties, and Mr. Trump and his colleagues had seemed to be in some decline while Mr. Biden and his colleagues were enjoying a bump up.

Latest polls, however, are signaling a tightening in many competitive races. Of particular note, three consecutive major polls in the usually “blue” state of Minnesota indicate a virtual tie in the presidential race, a circumstance confirmed by local reports, especially in rural areas where Mr. Trump seems possibly stronger than he was in 2016 when he almost carried the state.

Minnesotans has not voted for a Republican for president since 1972.

One important caveat: Just because voter sentiment seems trending their way, does not mean Republicans are going to win. There is still enough time for a trend toward the Democrats to develop. The next several weeks will see the relatively small, but nonetheless key, group of undecided voters make up their minds. The pandemic, and the exceptionally large numbers of absentee voters, also inject more uncertainty in the outcome.

What about the specific competitive U.S. senate races?

There are 10-12 races which are battlegrounds. Democrats will need to pick up a net of 3 or 4 (depending on who is elected vice-president) to take control of the chamber in 2021.

Although about twice as many GOP incumbent seats are up this cycle, the most endangered incumbent is a Democrat, Doug Jones of Alabama. He is likely to lose to Republican Tommy Tuberville, the former Auburn Univer-
sity football coach.

In addition, incumbent Michigan Democratic Senator Gary Peters is fac-
ing a strong challenge this year from Republican John James. Peters leads now, but this could be too close to call in November.

I had not, until now, thought that Minnesota Democratic Senator Tina Smith was very vulnerable this cycle. Like Peters, Smith is low profile and overshadowed by the state’s other senator, Amy Klobuchar. GOP senate nominee Jason Lewis is aggressive, but controversial, and always needed a Republican tide in 2020 to win this race. If the current GOP surge continues, and Mr. Trump carries Minnesota, this could be a big upset on election night.

Aside from the New Hampshire senate race, which is not now close, the opportunities for additional GOP pick-ups currently seem very slim.

Democratic possibilities for pick-ups are more numerous.

Perhaps the most vulnerable GOP incumbent this cycle is Arizona Senator Martha McSally. Republican McSally lost in 2018, was then appointed to fill a vacancy, but faces a former astronaut, Mark Kelly, in 2020. McSally has consistently trailed Kelly in polls.

The other highly vulnerable GOP incumbent, Colorado Senator Cory Gardner, seems to be faring better. He has been rated the underdog against former Democratic Governor John Hick-
enlooper, but the challenger’s campaign has been marked by missteps and controversies, and Gardner might survive.

North Carolina GOP Senator Thom Tillis has also trailed his Democratic opponent Cal Cunningham in polls, and this race might also depend on the presidential vote in the state. North Carolina had been dependably “red,” but recently has been trending “purple.”

As in Colorado, incumbent Montana GOP Senator Steve Daines is facing a well-known Democratic challenger — in this case, current Governor Steve Bullock, who entered the race at the last moment. Down-ballot, Montana is somewhat “purple,” but has been reliably GOP in the presidential race.

Finally, among the most vulnerable GOP incumbents, Maine Senator Susan Collins is facing a well-funded challenge from Democrat Sara Gideon. One of the few remaining GOP centrist conservatives in the senate, Collins has been a popular iconic Maine figure with her own base, and remains favored to retain her seat.

Less vulnerable, but nevertheless competitive GOP incumbent senate races are taking place in Iowa (Senator Joni Ernst vs. Democrat Theresa Greenfield), Georgia (two GOP incumbents facing liberal challenges), and Kansas (open — GOP nominee Roger Marshall vs. Democrat Barbara Bollier).

Democrats assert they can also pick up senate seats in Alabama, Kentucky, Texas and South Carolina, as Republicans contend they can add a seat in New Mexico, but so far, these seats are leaning clearly to the incumbent party. In October, another evaluation of the above will be in order. For now, however, control of the U.S. senate is in contested doubt.

Barry Casselman is a syndicated column-
nist who has been covering national politics since 1972. For more insight, visit www.barrycasselman.com
A NEW HOME FOR FAMILY FUN
CALL TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR.

HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW FLOORPLANS & ARCHITECTURAL STYLES NOW AVAILABLE!
Luxury Mountain Retreats With Miles of Trails, Open Space & Room To Breathe Near Mammoth Mountain.

UP TO 3 BEDS & FLEX ROOM. UP TO 2,152 SQ. FT. • SALES (760)-934-3334 • LIVECREEKHOUSE.COM

2020. All rights reserved.