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But then Jeremy Goico, the newly elected Vice-Chair for MLT asked, “Can you explain to us the difference between MLTPA and Mammoth Lakes Trails System? I do not understand the difference.”

Here is how Urdi answered the question: “Mammoth Lakes Trails System is a program directly through the Town of Mammoth Lakes. MLTPA is contracted annually to do planning work. And the Mammoth Lakes Trails System is really the execution wing.”

This is the basic way to explain it. But how the infrastructure has evolved to get where we are now is worth a look.

BOYS OF SUMMER

J.P. Farber and Eli Perry enjoying the good life at Red’s Lake last weekend

IS 14K MORE THAN FOOL’S GOLD?

MLT commits funds to improve visitor experience

By Hite

This week, a new Trails Host program was officially unveiled as part of the solution for the congestion in the Lakes Basin. The program will place two “Trail Hosts” in the Basin providing information and oversight — even if the oversight comes with no regulatory authority.

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TRAILS System Master Plan

The most important part of the oddly nuanced inner-workings of managing trails is easily the Trails System Master Plan. The Town of Mammoth Lakes created a Trail System Plan in May of 1991. After multiple incarnations, the current Mammoth Lakes Trails System Master Plan was officially established in 2011.

This is the bible. The holy text of all things related to trails in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The 300+ page document has everything from possible trails to funding strategies to how trails should be configured.

Mammoth Lakes Trails System

So the Town had its playbook. All it needed was a system to execute the playbook. In fact, TOML even had a funding stream readily available for this execution. Measure R, established in 2008, provided a funding source that see TRAILS, page 14

CARELESS CENTER

Covid outbreak in Bishop; three hospitalized

By Page

As Mono County goes, so too does Inyo it seems. Inyo County saw a spike of 28 new Covid cases over a three day period between August 1 and August 3, raising the overall county case-load to 86 individuals. Three of those new cases resulted in hospitalizations, two of which are, as of Thursday morning, considered in critical condition. “Inyo’s death toll was raised to three by 5 p.m. Thursday from one.”

More dire is the fact that all but one of these new cases is tied to a single location, the Bishop Care Center, per a press release from Inyo County.

The Care Center has implemented severe infection control measures while the California Department of Public Health reviews the facility’s procedures to ensure the safety of staff and residents.

Mono County Health Officer Tom Boo reported to the Mono Board of Supervisors on Tuesday that he’d heard from James Richardson, Inyo County Public Health Officer, that a party held in Mono ten days prior was considered the “index” of the Bishop outbreak. Boo reported at least one positive tied to the party so far, noting that numerous staff from the Bishop Care Center were in attendance.

Boo expressed a desire to further investigate the party, noting that “it’s totally not prudent to be having parties in the pandemic context.”

The Sheet spoke with Debbie McCormick, whose nephew, Michael Heffron, has been a resident at the facility for over twenty years. McCormick explained that Heffron’s mother, her sister Linda Franklin, had received a call from someone at the Care Center on Saturday night who told her that there had been a confirmed case at the Center.

McCormick told The Sheet that families were having difficulty getting in touch with the Care Center to verify the health of family members within the facility, adding that families haven’t been contacted en masse about the outbreak save for a conference call. “I don’t believe, given what I know now,” McCormick said, “that they had a plan in place for this.”

The Sheet also spoke with Franklin, who said that the last contact she’d had with her son was Wednesday night, when he called her to say that he was being moved out of his room and that he didn’t know why. The panicked call from Heffron was how Franklin found out that her son, and his roommate, had tested positive for Covid-19.

Franklin said that on the conference call, held earlier this week, the Care Center representative told the families on the line that there were 19 positive tests among residents. The addition of Heffron and his roommate push that number to at least 21, with an additional seven staff members testing positive. “I don’t blame the Care Center,” Franklin clarified, “They were doing a fantastic job keeping it out of there.”

The Center has been closed to visitors since March, with only two opportunities for drive-by visitation on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Franklin said that she’d been in touch with a health inspector from San Bernardino who was coming up on Thursday to inspect the facility.

“The other people don’t see COVID, page 6

Broken yolks

Need help?

Big mess

Short shorts

Less room at the Inn?

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p. 8/
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p. 7/
My curiosity got the best of me this week, so I decided to park a desk and a chair at the path leading from the parking lot to the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center on Thursday morning. Daughter Margaux created a colorful “Need Help?” sign for me the night before, and I wore my Mammoth Lakes Lions Club gear so that I’d look like a legit volunteer.

And I sat out there from 9 a.m. ’til noon and answered visitor queries the best I could.

The Welcome Center and Mammoth Lakes Tourism offices are closed because of Covid. Meaning there is no physical “help” presence at Mammoth’s primary visitor entry port.

About halfway through my “shift,” Supervisor Stacy Corless (recused from the Tioga Inn hearing) and June Simpkins came by to help out.

I took notes regarding every visitor interaction, of which there were 39. Total number of visitors engaged: 86. Though there were undoubtedly several more uncounted who stayed in the car while a designee asked the questions.

Many were first-time visitors.

None would have received any help otherwise.

All were masked and polite. Every single one.

One asked me about (it was either on a bumper sticker or a license plate frame) a message she’d read which went something like, “If you’re not a Mammoth local, go home.”

I told her that some people who’ve lived here for all of five minutes - the first thing they want to do is slam the door so as to preserve what’s left for themselves. “Ignore it,” I said. “I’m glad you’re here. Just don’t camp illegally, litter or complain.”

One couple asked for information about taking their nine grandchildren (some as young as 2) to Devils Postpile.

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I was asked if there was a way to park at Mammoth. “There’s no need to market locally right now. Our customers are clamoring at the gate. My wife is turning away 3-4 Airbnb requests on a daily basis.”

Our issue this summer is not going to be visitation. Our customers are clamoring at the gate. My wife is turning away 3-4 Airbnb requests on a daily basis. That’s the ultimate decision-making body. They were warned this was going to happen, and responded by doing nothing, NOTHING.

This week, a citizen named Nikki Rae Jepsen collected 2,000 signatures from concerned community members and approached MLT, advocating it devote $120,000 of its budget immediately to resort care and management.

MLT’s response: We’ll dole out the $14,000 we’re saving by the Welcome Center not operating to fund two trail hosts at 20 hours a week each for ten weeks. What a lackluster, shitty response. I mean … that ball was teed up so nicely. Why do we have to sit there and spend the next month talking about club selection? Why is it so hard to just shut it? Should’ve told Jepsen they’ll spend $50,000 minimum.

Nikki Rae for Town Council, btw. Deadline to file papers is Friday at 5 p.m. Here’s what really needs to happen over the next four weeks minimum. We need four Visitor engagement sites at the Welcome Center, in front of Vons, at the corner of Forest Trail and Main near Kittredge Sports and in the Village at Mammoth.

These sites need to be staffed from 9-3 daily.

I imagine volunteer organizations like Lions and Rotary and Volunteer Eastern Sierra can staff two of the sites for a small fee, as most of these groups’ local fundraising opportunities (Pancake breakfast, et al.) had to be canceled this year. These organizations would be eager to raise some money (which is donated back to the community anyway in the form of scholarships, etc.)

And staffers from MLT, the Mammoth Lakes Chamber and/or the Town who are “working from home” can get off their ass and staff the other two sites. A shift or two a week.

And you don’t need to be a marketing person to staff it. If a newspaper publisher and a politician can do it, ANYONE can do it.

Heck, even a Town Manager or an Executive Director or a Police Chief could do it.
CELEBRATING 17 BAGEL MAKING YEARS IN MAMMOTH!

On behalf of our entire Old New York team, thank you for your patronage!

The Village at Mammoth | (760) 934-DELI
oldnewyork.com
Need directions?

Dear Editor:

It’s been an extraordinary summer which has exposed our towns lack of communication with our visitors. I suggest a welcome to Mammoth radio station that visitors can tune into on their drive into town. Post signs along the highway urging visitors to tune in for info that will improve the quality of there stay. This recorded message can discuss: Bears, fires, camping, Yosemite, Reds Meadow, trail etiquette, parking, directions to the First Chair food truck (just kidding), etc.

We obviously have enough summer tourism so perhaps the town’s market- ing entities can run with this.

Dan Molnar
Lee Vining

The next two letters were sent to Mammoth Town Councilmembers. Neither letter received so much as a peep in response.

In-con-ceivable!

Council members:

It is inconceivable that we are ending the many-year agreement with Steve Searles for wildlife management. Below are some of the issues that come to mind in a few short minutes of absorbing this news:

1. Steve has expertise that cannot be replicated. If these services have been valuable for the many years of his past contracts, why are they not valued now?
2. No one else can take his place. I mean this seriously. There are no Forest Service staff, or Town staff, who have the know how in their other duties to take on what Steve has been doing to track and train bears. And no one has his passion.
3. Steve has helped the Town of Mammoth Lakes with global name recognition. I met some Israeli hikers at Glacier National Park in Montana a few years ago that knew of our town because of Steve’s Animal Planet series. His impact has been priceless.
4. Don’t focus on the short term financial shortfall rather than looking at the long term needs. Wildlife is encroaching into urban areas more and more frequently. Now is not the time to end this relationship.

Please find creative ways to reach an agreement and fund his contract.

Alexander Hamilton may have not wanted to throw away his shot, but what we’re doing is shooting ourselves in the foot.

Jo Bacon
Mammoth Lakes

A disestablishmentarian (of sorts)

To All:

Per recommendations from the California Office of the Attorney General, who has authority over the examination of proposed misconduct or malfeasance of a Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation, I am requesting that the public and all assessees of Tourism Business Improvement District Tax, be informed of their rights and privileges to “disestablish” Mammoth Lakes Tourism as the Owner’s Association or Mammoth Lakes Tourism Business Improvement District, a legislative body charged with managing funds and implementing programs in accordance with the Management District Plan and local, state and federal laws.

Assessees of TBID, including but not limited to, all tourism businesses: lodging, businesses, restaurants, retail businesses and ski resorts, will be provided with a letter outlining their rights to petition for the “Disestablishment” of MLTBID per Chapter 6, Section 36670 and Section 36671 of the 2018-2023 Mammoth Lakes Tourism Business Improvement District, Management District Plan by Town Council.

The letter must clearly outline the requirements of disestablishment of the district. The letter must clearly state that a written petition of the owners or authorized representatives of businesses in the district who pay 50 percent or more of the assessments levied, have the right to submit a petition to city council during a specified 30 day period each year, per Chapter 6, Section 36670.a.2. The letter must clearly state the 30 day period EACH year that this petition may be submitted to town council.

Ted Carleton aptly summarized in his article, “And Oh What Hites We’ll Hie...,” Volume 18 No.23 from Saturday, June 6, 2020, that since the inception of TBID in 2013, Mammoth businesses have contributed $16 million or 52% of TBID collectively.

It is your fiduciary duty and the right of all businesses to know their legal right to file grievances with a governing body and the method for filing such a grievance.

This is my formal notification to all, that as both an assessees and payer of TBID since 2013, I am submitting this grievance for your serious consideration.

Evidence in my possession and control show gross misconduct and malfeasance on the part of Mammoth Lakes Tourism, including the Executive Director, John Urdi and perhaps, certain Board Members.

Thank you for taking this matter under review.

Courtney Sherman
Mammoth Lakes

Sierra Hot Tub Co.

Stop by to see our floor model displays

Visit our Showroom in the Main Street Promenade
3399 Main Street, Suite G, Mammoth Lakes
Sales/Service/Supplies 760-914-2867

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyd's, Richardson, TX

1708136

Dave R Easterby, Agent
Insurance Lic# 0H65719
625 Old Mammoth Road Suite 7
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Bus: 760-934-7575

Give your home the protection it deserves.

Your home is where you make some of your best memories, and that’s worth protecting. I’m here to help.

LET’S TALK TODAY.

*Newsflash!
State Farm is now offering homeowners insurance without restriction in Mammoth Lakes and June Lake. Call today for a quote.
Don't roshambo with DeChambeau

Dear Editor:

I have lived in the north Mono Basin for more than twenty years, and I have been bird watching at the DeChambeau Ponds for nearly as long. I also worked for the Forest Service for over thirty years, including over twenty years at the Mono Basin Scenic Area, in which the DeChambeau Ponds are located, until retiring two years ago.

Though I never worked directly on the DeChambeau project, I was often in the same office as the staff that was involved with it, dating back to the late 1990’s, when there was still a manager of the scenic area. In those days, much effort was put into management of the ponds and irrigation of the ranch. At the time, the Mono Lake victory of 1994 was still recent, and the ponds were a restoration project intended to replace waterfowl habitat that was destroyed by the decades of DWPR diversions. Over the past twenty years, though there were changes in staff and priorities, the DeChambeau Ranch and Ponds continued to be managed consistently in order to maintain bird habitat at the ponds, and preserve some of the history at the ranch. The ranch itself offers bird habitat as well.

For many years I have enjoyed bird watching at the ponds and the ranch, which are not far from my home. But this spring and summer I have been very disturbed by what I have seen. Most of the DeChambeau Ponds have been dry for months now. Areas that I have observed for years as being valuable nesting habitat have this year been dry and useless to the birds. I know this is a very recent situation at the ponds, I was still working in the 2012-15 period, for instance, during a time of bad water years the ponds were managed consistently and were being used by birds.

The Forest Service’s letter on this subject, which appeared in The Sheet on July 18th, 2020, attempted to downplay the problems at the ponds. They claim the ponds have “been filled or are being filled” right now. I have been out there since this letter appeared, and I can tell you that the ponds that dried out are still dry. Based on what I know from observing the work that was done at the ponds over the last twenty years, I believe that what the Forest Service is currently doing at the ponds is a major departure from what the standard practices have been. They either have changed their priorities and no longer consider this habitat of value, or they simply no longer understand how to manage the system. It is also possible that there is political pressure having to do with a larger water allocation issue, that may be influencing the Forest Service’s actions. I am not as knowledgeable about that situation, but I know that those issues have long been in the background.

Whatever the truth is about what is happening now, to me it is unacceptable that such valuable habitat as was the DeChambeau Ponds, are currently being allowed to dry up. The longer this goes on, the longer it will take for this wetland habitat to recover. What we see happening now is unnecessary destruction and all of us who value birds and their habitat in the Mono Basin should be alarmed.

Tim Bue
Mono City

*Bird Watcher, Retired Forest Service, Mono Lake Ranger District

Honor the law in Tioga decision

Dear Editor and Mono Supervisors,

I am writing to you about the much-discussed Tioga Inn project to build roughly 140 employee housing units on a lot above the Tioga Gas Mart at the intersection of HI 395 and HI 120, on the way to Yosemite.

Full disclosure, I have represented Dennis Donnaille as a lawyer, I have been involved in dealings and contributions with the Mono Lake Committee, and have been a member of the Sierra Club for many, many years.

That said, much input has come to the Mono County Supervisors about the project, a great deal of it negative because of perceived impacts on the darkness of night skies, visual impacts on visitors at Mono Lake, and effects on County services by reason of a significant increase to the population of Lee Vining.

Underlying most of the criticism is a belief that the Supervisors have an unfeathered right to simply deny the project and regulate the property to the extent that it becomes a de facto park for the town of Lee Vining.

No doubt vacant land is almost always more attractive than land that has something built on it. Those of us who live in Mono County did not come here for the urban delights, it was the incredible beauty of natural wilderness that attracted most of us to live far from the blandishments of the big city. The problem is, of course, that private land is not public, it belongs to someone, taxes have been paid on it, and a lot of money was spent to acquire it in the first place. All of this gives the owner the right to do something with the property which the public may find attractive or not, usually not, and, as a rule, no development is as nice as the vacant land that preceded it.

Of course, what happens is that when people occupy a place like Lee Vining, they would just as soon it stay the way it was when they arrived. This, almost invariably, puts the public in conflict with the private owner, with the elected government officials as the referees, uncomfortably stuck in the middle.

As for the Tioga Inn, the comments have gone from the serious to the ridiculous. The project will have to comply with Mono County ordinances regulating night-time outdoor lighting so as to preserve dark skies, but one commenter suggested that, in order to guarantee the preservation of Lee Vining’s dark skies, the project be required to be constructed underground.

As to “visual impacts”, the commenters believe that the view of the Sierras from HI 395 and Mono Lake should have no visible structures in between, lest the attractiveness of Lee Vining to the tourist community be irrevocably destroyed. Were the Supervisors to bow to this demand, the eventual result would be that either the project and/or any project at all, either be built in subterranean fashion or simply denied outright.

This would put the Supervisors in the position of having denied a reasonable use of the land, which would then constitute a “taking” of the property by Mono County and obligate the County to recompense the owner for the value of the land.

Given the financial condition of Mono County at present, which is in no condition to start re-making private land in the County into public parks, so that satisfying the concerns of the commenters and the rights of the property owner will take finding compromise and judicious application of the law by the County’s elected representatives.

Interestingly, were the County to bow to public demand and start condemnning private property to preserve night skies and visual impacts, it would require a substantial increase in County taxes. Then the very same people complaining bitterly about night skies and visual impacts would have no control over what they fall on them, since they had already discharged their civil duty by showing up at the Board’s meetings to complain about land use.

On the other hand, it is well within the rights of the public to complain about whatever they want to, irrespective of the practicality or the advisability of such action. It is the duty of the Supervisors to adjudicate their obligation to the public interest, the County budget, and the rights of private landholders, and come up with a solution that honors the law and, very likely, satisfies no one.

Paul Rudder
Mammoth Lakes
Hardly solitude

Dear Editor:

As a long-time outdoor enthusiast (hiking, riding, climbing) and Mammoth resident, I am writing to express my concern with the Solitude Canyon multi-use trail proposed by the Mammoth Lakes Trail committee and being considered by Inyo National Forest (INF).

I have a 20-year familiar (hiking and biking) with the Rock Trail and Sherwin Crest terrain, and can attest to their changes over time. From conversation with the trail proponents, my understanding of the arguments in favor of the proposed trail are twofold:

- Relieved overcrowding on other trails, especially those in the Mammoth Lakes basin; and
- Increase attractiveness to tourists interested in hiking (especially) relative to other resort towns that have significantly more trail mileage ("They have more than 100 miles, while we have only 17i.

Implicit in these arguments are several assumptions:

- The Solitude Canyon trail will in fact relieve horse, mountain bike and pedestrian traffic from the Lakes Basin (and other trails);
- The Solitude Canyon trail will not have adverse consequences, or at least consequences that cannot be readily mitigated; and
- There are not significantly better alternatives for investments that can improve the tourist experience.

Let’s take each one of these in turn. As for relieving traffic in the Lakes Basin. As anyone who has spent time among the tourists in the Lakes Basin can attest, the vast majority of tourists do not stray more than ¼ mile from public facilities, e.g., parking, toilets, and bus stops. It is hard to imagine that the remoteness of Solitude Canyon will attract sufficient traffic to mitigate this overcrowding. And even if it were, is it a sound objective to increase non-pedestrian access to environmentally sensitive and wilderness areas?

As anyone who has hiked multi-use trails, especially those on steeper terrain, can attest, horses degrade trails very quickly turning even the best constructed trails into rivers of ankle-deep dust and dung. Hike to the Red Cones to enjoy this experience!

As for a harmonious co-existence of hikers and mountain bikers, the majority of hikers are courteous, however there is a not insignificant number who would sooner run you over than slow down or stop. This is an especially common occurrence on the upper Rock Trail which is narrow, with a steep side-cut that leaves little room to get off the trail, and has curves with poor forward visibility.

Old Mammoth Road, just past Mill City, is a common access point for the upper Rock Trail. It has limited side-of-road dirt parking and there are no public sanitation facilities. I attest that it is already a public sewer adjacent to Mammoth Creek. If the Solitude Canyon project were to be successful in attracting more traffic, this traffic would increase traffic at this point without providing any mitigation.

Lastly, I can easily think of many more uses for infusion of investment dollars in the proposed Solitude Canyon project, not least of which is improved maintenance and upgrades to existing trails, and trailhead facilities.

The Mammoth Lakes Trail committee, in partnership with INF, has made some of the most significant projects to enhance tourism and business in Mammoth. I’m thinking specifically about the paved trail system throughout town and in the Lakes Basin, and the trail signage. This has greatly expanded pedestrian and bike use, with E-bikes, in particular, being a boon to non-acclimated tourists and local business rentals as well. However, I think the resources considered for the Solitude Canyon project can be better spent elsewhere.

Craig Knoche
Mammoth Lakes

COVID continued from page 1

stand a chance [against Covid],” Franklin told The Sheet, “and I don’t know how much of a chance Mike stands.”

Both sisters had the summation of the situation they’ve experienced so far: “It’s a nightmare.”

Boo issued an updated health order on August 1 that outlaws gatherings of people from different households, regardless of size or location, with exceptions for religious and cultural services as well as political protests.

With the recent outbreak, Inyo County appears on its way to a spot on the State Covid monitoring list, joining the other counties which have seen increased cases and subsequent walkbacks on businesses reopening.

Except: the state is experiencing data issues with its reporting system. Delays in test results and potential duplicate tests have significantly impacted reporting and it is unlikely that Inyo County will be placed on the state watchlist until those issues are resolved.

Mono County continues to experience above average rates of Covid-19, with the preliminary positivity hovering around 10% for all tests. The county has transitioned to using the University of California, San Francisco’s lab for test results and in spite of a glitch over the weekend that delayed results, Boo reported faster testing turnaround times than the county had previously experienced.

For the first time, Mammoth Hospital is at yellow status, an indication that the healthcare system is feeling the effects of the recent spike. Boo reported the change in status on Tuesday, explaining that recent Covid admits and limited ICU capacity combined with additional ”normal” admits are making space a bit tight at the hospital. Additionally, the hospitals in Reno that Mammoth typically sends patients to are experiencing a similar surge and cannot accept many more patients at this time.

Boo also expressed doubt about the upcoming school year; parents with children ages pre-K through 6th grade can sign a waiver for their children to attend school in person but positivity rates remain above the threshold for in-person classes.

Testing for restaurant employees remains a priority, even as the majority of restaurants report zero positive cases among their staff, due to the high frequency of interaction with unmasked guests. Boo also reported the that majority of Covid-19 cases in Mono County are concentrated within the Hispanic/Latinx community, an issue that county and Town of Mammoth Lakes officials have consistently stressed.

The primary concern, as evidenced by extensive written and in-person public comment, is visitors. As Boo told the supervisors, “It’s a fact of life that pandemics are driven by human travel,” adding, “I don’t know why people insist on vacationing during a pandemic.”

Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz cautioned against taking a harsh stance against tourists. “Telling people to stay home might be the most dangerous thing to do,” she said, “People are looking for outdoor recreation because it’s deemed safe.”

“We have to be careful that we’re not driving people into their homes where they may not be safe [from exposure to working family members],” she added.

In an August 1 health order that outlawed social gatherings, Boo wrote “Throughout California we believe that informal gatherings of friends and relatives who don’t live in the same household are helping to drive the spread of infections.”

Distancing is the single most important thing that we all can do to prevent the spread of infections.

County residents reported increased incidences of graffiti, littering, and a general lack of awareness from guests, many of whom may experiencing the region for the first time.

To that effect, Mammoth Lakes Tourism has caught increased flak from locals upset about the bad behavior, so much so that they have pulled all outward paid messaging about responsible tourism and significantly lowered their presence outside of the area.

As for enforcement, Inyo National Forest district ranger Gordon Martin expressed frustration about the current situation, noting that federal and directives to work remotely severely limit the Forest Service’s enforcement capacity.

“We’re having trouble approaching people bc they’re not wearing masks,” Martin said, “We get out there and people approach us and it becomes a challenge when they’re not masked up.”
Mammoth Five Star Rentals, said that while he appreciates the work being done by government workers throughout the pandemic, he would need strong evidence that shutting down again would provide a net positive for the community.

“During the prior shutdown, “ Herbst said, “we were all aware that the town was full of visitors and as pointed out, they’re either camping in the woods or staying in illegal rentals. But shutting down professional property management only serves to turn off one of the guardians of health when people do come to Mammoth.”

Herbst highlighted his own commitment to keeping guests and staff safe, assigning a staff member to serve as a point person for Covid-related issues and taking steps to reduce the chance of transmission.

Following a decree about clean linens, Herbst ordered $14,000 worth of new blankets which have yet to arrive. “Am I gonna get shut down again before I even get the $14,000 worth of blankets I didn’t have the money to buy in the first place?” Herbst asked.

“If you shut us down before the end of August,” Herbst told Holler, “I don’t know if we can reopen.”

After the meeting Stacy Schaubmayer, General Manager of the Alpenhof Lodge, sent out a letter to Town officials. Schaubmayer explained that in adhering to local health ordinances, Alpenhof has operated at 60% capacity and had lost a total of 716 room nights in the month of July.

“If you want to cut lodging to 60-65% occupancy that’s not going to make any difference – we are already there,” Schaubmayer wrote. “If you want to cut if further than that – then we should just close because we will not be able to sustain being open at lower occupancy rates. Where you will see the difference is the 25% of displaced people from the campgrounds – who will find somewhere to camp anyway because they are here.”

She continued: “Our front line staff is doing triple duty by enforcing mask mandates, filling in for the closed visitor center and trying to recommend places for these guests to go to.”

“Lodging is not part of the problem, Schaubmayer concluded, “We have been part of the solution all along ...”
At approximately 3:45 a.m. on Saturday, August 1, a 73-year old truck driver was traveling into Lone Pine at an unknown rate of speed, when he drove into the northside wall of the Mt. Whitney motel, where the truck overturned and burst into flames, Sergeant Laura Browning of the Bishop CHP told The Sheet. The truck driver was transporting hay.

The northside of the hotel, where the truck hit, had nine guests at the time of the collision: three guests in rooms 2 and 3, two young female guests in room 2, and a single male in room 3. Room 1 had been vacated at around 5 p.m the day before, Pete Bhakta, owner of the Mt. Whitney motel, told The Sheet. When the semi-truck hit between rooms 1 and 2, both guests in rooms 2 and 3 reported thinking that it was an earthquake—when they came out of their room it caught on fire right away, according to Bhakta.

Bhakta was sleeping on the second floor above the main office when he heard the bang, as he described it. He then looked out of his second-floor window, and heard people yelling, "get out, get out!" He said. A guest knocked at Bhakta's back door, notifying him to get out.

Randy Moffatt of Orange County was a guest in room 20, when the accident took place. Moffatt told The Sheet that sometime around 4 a.m. someone knocked on his door, and he ran out of his room. When he was outside, he heard several people yelling at the truck driver to get out of the truck. Moffatt said he ran back to his room to put on his shirt, shoes, and socks before leaving the building.

When he came out of his room a second time, he noticed the truck driver was near the driveway, 20-feet from his room—he distinctly recalled that the truck driver was in his underwear. Of the injuries: "They sure looked like burns, he was moaning and groaning, he was in pain...anyone else around there would have said the same thing," said Moffatt upon seeing the truck driver. "Everything happened so fast, I've never been in a situation like this before, so it sort of blew me away!"

Moffatt later helped to pick up the truck driver while he was on a gurney into the ambulance—he clarified that he wasn't one of the citizens that carried the truck driver out of the truck.

Lone Pine resident David Zukaitis explained to The Sheet that the sound of the collision was like someone slamming a garbage can lid, and then 20-seconds later the power went out. "I've seen a couple of wrecks over the year[s], but nothing like that," said Zukaitis.

Samuel Garza, an electric trouble supervisor with LADWP, said after 4 a.m. he received a call to re-install power lines. Garza explained that the truck went through two electric poles (one near the entrance to Carl's Jr./gas station and the other near the Mt. Whitney motel), and the steel sign on the Carl's Jr. lot. Garza told The Sheet that Lone Pine was out of power for 30-minutes to an hour, with the surrounding communities of Pangborn and the trailer park behind Frosty's Chalet still out of power later that same day.

Moffatt told The Sheet that the two female guests in room 2 had their personal belongings burned in the ensuing fire. About 18 guests were staying at the motel, but none were injured, said Bhakta. According to Sergeant Laura Browning of the Bishop CHP, the truck driver was transported to the Southern Inyo Hospital. The Lone Pine Fire Department did not disclose any further details of the fire, the truck driver's identity or his condition to The Sheet.

According to Sergeant Browning, the truck driver was extracted by Deputy Atkins of the Inyo County Sheriff's Department and two civilians.
THE BLAME GAME
Mammoth Lakes Tourism responds to local criticism

By Page

S
ometimes, just doing the bare minimum is too much for some to tolerate. In the case of Mammoth Lakes Tourism, it’s incited a minor firestorm.

A local petition circulated by Mammoth resident Nikki Rae Jepsen had the stated goal of holding the nonprofit accountable for the increased incidences of littering and graffiti occurring throughout the town and county. Pictures of spray-painted rocks and trees abound on social media along with overflowing dumpsters; the June Lake substation of the Mono County Sheriff’s office has been vandalized and the door kicked in. The Sheet reached out to Jepsen this week to see what the goal was for her petition. Jepsen made sure this wasn’t spun into a contentious issue. “I am not trying to blame anyone. This isn’t about hating Mammoth Lakes Tourism. I just want to see something done.”

As of Thursday, August 6, the petition had 1,840 signatures.

What would holding tourism accountable mean? “Tourism organizations advertise these areas and they can only do that when they are clean. The goal would be for Tourism to invest in these areas, keeping them pretty,” said Jepsen.

Jepsen, originally from Tennessee, moved to Yosemite in 2012. She worked in the valley for 3-4 years before her boss asked her if she wanted to work in a Welcome Center.

During her time at the Welcome Center, she worked closely with tourism and had a woman-on-the-ground perspective of what happened during Eastern Sierra summers.

“This is my third summer living on the Eastside and garbage has always been a problem. This year it seems exponentially worse,” said Jepsen.

So what specifically is the goal? “The funding is there,” said Jepsen. “MLT spends $1.5 million on marketing and I am asking they put 8% of that ($120,000) into cleaning up the areas they advertise.”

“What I really want to see is dumpsters and bathrooms,” Jepsen told The Sheet. Some areas are fine, but areas such as the Lakes Basin, Rock Creek, and June Lake have been overrun and occasionally all it would take is one extra dumpster. “If [the $120,000] could create two jobs that would paid a living wage, that would be great. All they would have to do is walk the trails that they advertise and clean them up,” said Jepsen.

“If there is a place that can do this, it’s Mammoth Lakes. Then maybe Mono County Tourism and then it could spread to other remote tourist destinations.”

Comments on a recent MLT Facebook post titled: “7 Picnic Spots Perfect for Takeout Meals in Mammoth Lakes” speak to local distress.

“How has this become a game for you?” Jennifer Leader DeAngelis wrote, “Visit Mammoth continues to promote our area even though we have completely full and overrun with tourists. I went to the Vista last week at 9:30 pm, there were no parking spots to be found. You’re bringing the people here Visit Mammoth, now it’s your turn to clean up after them.”

Craig Sterling asked “How is this NOT advertising Mammoth? This is entirely irresponsible to be advertising in the middle of a pandemic and with our town being literally overrun by people, trash, noise and graffiti.”

“There’s a lot of misconception about what MLT has been asked to do,” MLT Board Chair John Morris said at the beginning of the board’s monthly meeting on Wednesday. “I’m really getting tired of the us vs. them… whether that’s MLT vs. various agencies or residents vs. visitors, we really are all in this together.”

MLT Marketing Director Matt Gebo, audibly irritated by the flak MLT and its staff has caught in recent days, ran through what the organization is currently doing, noting “we are doing our level best to educate visitors as well as folks in the community.”

As Gebo explained, MLT has paused all paid marketing for the next few weeks and has repeatedly pushed the link to the Responsible Tourism page on their website; that web page has been viewed by 75,000 individuals thus far, he claimed, and Gebo explained that people viewing that page were staying on it for nearly a minute longer than average.

People, online at least, are paying attention.

Gebo noted that with Yosemite only taking reservations, Devils Postpile operating at limited capacity, no events taking place in the Village, and a lack of trail stewardship events, the crowds are limited to select areas. Hence, the crowding and persistent trash.

Urdi explained the decision to pull the paid marketing messages had been his. “It was based on the feedback we had and the abuse we’ve been taking,” Urdi said. “The whole point of the advertising was trying to educate people who are coming here.”

Morris noted that MLT’s current online educational presence was an attempt to compensate for the closure of the town Visitor Center and a visible source of information in town.

“Understand that MLT and all of us are in this together,” he said. “We’re trying to make this a better place to live not a worse place.”

In other news: Morris was re-elected as board chair, with Jeremy Goico assuming the Vice-Chair position formerly held by Scott McGuire. Michael Ledesma was voted board secretary and Rhonda Duggan will remain treasurer for the next year.
Mammoth Lakes Town Council addresses the Covid conundrum

Mammoth Town Council met on August 5 as it considered taking action on COVID-19 related issues.

The challenge is balancing three competing interests: 1) protect public health in the midst of a pandemic; 2) to sustain a viable economy; and 3) to protect and provide for our local social and natural environment,” read the staff report.

Town Manager Dan Holler gave the presentation laying out the necessary data for Council.

It started with a look at vehicle visits at the entrance to Highway 203 off of the 395 (See chart at bottom of page). “We compared the data of July this year versus July last year and we found that we are only down 861 vehicle trips. So the number of people coming into Mammoth Lakes this year is pretty much the same, “ said Holler, “The very preliminary data for Council.

The slide read, “[We are] Not seeing an increase in illegal rental advertising.”

Holler continued on lodging, “The other element we took a look at is what is going on in terms of occupancy levels... What we saw when we pulled the data is the average occupancy of all the different days [in July] was 68.9%. July of 2020 was 64.5%.”

Again, not a significant difference to prior years. In short: the traffic is similar to last year and there’s no evidence that lodging is causing a spike in cases. As a result Holler and other members of the Emergency Operation Command feel scaling lodging back is unnecessary at this time. Lodging is still under review if the Town feels the need to mitigate the number of visitors.

“The other concern we get in the community meetings is the general belief that MLT (Mammoth Lakes Tourism) is continuing investment into inviting visitors into Mammoth Lakes, said Holler. During the month of July, Mammoth Lakes Tourism spent $55,000 on marketing efforts as opposed to $400,000 the previous year. The $55,000 has mainly been used to create a campaign promoting responsible recreation in the Eastern Sierra. “MLT’s Southern California messages is 8.72% which is just above the State standard of 8%,” according to the California Health Department. “[Operations closed due to being on the County monitoring list] shall remain closed, even when a county is removed from the County Monitoring List, until the State Health Officer modifies the Order and authorizes re-opening.”

Council weighs in

“I think a lot of people in town are in a lot of pain. This is not financial pain although that is part of it,” said Council member Cleland Hoff, “I don’t think anybody that is watching this is feeling that we are really addressing the issue.”

Councilmember John Wentworth desired a few concrete action points. He felt the Town needed to work in conjunction with what was going on in the public health space: a more coordinated front of regulations and enforcement.

Wentworth also asked that local law enforcement, including Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mono County Sheriff, and the United States Forest Service come together to properly handle any negative ramifications of the uptick in tourists.

Then Wentworth asked for a standardized regional message and data sets readily available for Council designed to inform decisions. Finally Wentworth noted, “I would like to see a community conversation so we can articulate to our community what the winter is going to look like.”

Stats

On July 15 there were 54 cases and then July 16 there were 63 cases. As of August 5, there are 153 positive cases. Still only one person in the hospital. The positivity rates per 100,000 people must not exceed 100 per the State threshold to be on the monitoring. - Mammoth Lakes has 656 cases per 100,000 and the unincorporated County has 122 cases per 100,000.

The current positivity rate of cases is 8.72% which is just above the State standard of 8%.

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-Cleland Hoff

July 2020 vs. July 2019

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GRAND PRIZE DRAWING | THURSDAY, SEPT 24 @ 8pm

Slot Tournament

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OVER $30,000 IN CASH PRIZES!

Weekly Qualifying Tournaments

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4PM TO 6PM & 8PM TO 10PM

Slot Tournament

SATURDAYS ROYAL

CHAMPIONSHIP
SAT • NOV 21

1ST PLACE IS $5,000 CASH!

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Weekly Qualifying Tournaments

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CASINO CLOSED DAILY FROM 3AM TO 8AM FOR CLEANING AND SANITATION!
In Inyo County, the Adventure Trails network of roads has been controversial from the outset. Designating roads for Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) has consistently been a tricky subject, as doing so can unintentionally encourage OHV users to create additional trails. In 2012, after the passage of AB 628 (allowing Inyo County to create a pilot program for combined use highways), the Adventure Trails program submitted 38 separate applications for combined use permits on county roads. Three years later, that number was narrowed down to eight roads, seven of which were approved by the Inyo Board of Supervisors. In order for the county to assume jurisdiction over any of these roads, easements must first be granted by the Inyo National Forest Service, which owns the land that the roads in question run through.

Inyo County was granted just over half a million dollars in grant funding from the Green Sticker Fund in order to fund a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. The findings of the review will inform the Forest Service’s decision to grant or deny the easements. The funding was granted in the FY 2017-2018 cycle with a three year deadline for use.

In the time since the funding was granted, Inyo County has further reduced the number of roads to four from eight. Four of the roads were designated for “special use permits” which the Forest Service was not willing to grant easements on. The project initially received some backlash from the local community, with the Center for Biological Diversity bringing a lawsuit against the county in 2015 which alleged that the Adventure Trails system would encourage reckless usage of OHVs on county roads and negatively impact local communities. Since then, the county has reoriented the focus of the project to road maintenance, arguing that since it has maintained the roads in question since they came into existence, the county should have jurisdiction on those roads.

The roads in question are portions of Death Valley, Onion Valley, Foothill, and County Roads. Locals like Marty Marshall worry that although the project has changed names, the county’s ultimate goal of making those roads combined use remains the same.

“It really hurts me when [the land] gets damaged mostly by people who probably have no idea [what they’re doing] and they’re using our taxes to do it,” Marshall told The Sheet. Marshall is part of a group of Bishop locals seeking better enforcement policies on OHVs. As far as the county is concerned, the project is straightforward and non-contentious.

“We just want the title or rights to the roads we’re already maintaining,” Inyo County Transportation Planner John Pinckney told The Sheet, “It’s a matter of semantics really.”

Pinckney explained that the County’s goal is not to designate the roads combined-use for OHV, rather the county feels it should have the right of way on roads that they’ve maintained since their inception.

In addition, Pinckney explained that the county aims to stay under the grant amount in terms of spending and assuaged fears of overspending or misspending by adding “we don’t get paid anything until full receipts and everything have been submitted to state parks.”

“You can’t move money to something that you don’t have authorized by Board of Supervisors action AND it would void the state parks agreement.”

In short: the grant money stays where it is until the project is over. Additionally, Pinckney argued, there is “zero impact of transferring the easement” as “if they sign easement today, there’ll be no effective change in management of the road.”

Pinckney added, in response to concerns about the county flipping the roads to combined use, that Death Valley National Park has come out against roads to combined use, that Death Valley National Park has come out against combined-use designations on Death Valley Road, as OHVs are not allowed in any of the National Parks. Philip DeSenze, District Ranger for the White Mountain Ranger Office, agreed with Pinckney’s assessment, noting that the Forest Service and Inyo County had been working to get the roads in question under the proper legal jurisdiction. “The grant presents the opportunity to do that for several of the roads the county have been maintaining for some other time.”

DeSenze explained that the NEPA is mostly concerned with archaeological sites and wildlife endangerment. If any information emerged that DeSenze were to classify as an “extraordinary circumstance”, a full environmental review would be required along with significant analysis and the development of alternative solutions.

When he first arrived on the job, DeSenze noted “a lot of support and a lot of animosity from folks who oppose this project,” adding “I think that support for expanding adventure trails system is maybe not at same level as it was 5 years ago.”

In addition, if the county were to attempt to change the usage designation on the roads, DeSenze indicated that the Forest Service would provide any relevant information and expertise needed as an adjacent landowner.

Regarding the current situation with OHV’s on Forest Service land, DeSenze said, “we’re trying to expand management of OHV’s, work with partners to get us info and be out in field and have a peer pressure presence.”

If the easements are granted, and there’s no definite guarantee that they will be says DeSenze, a CEQA review, public hearing and Board of Supervisors approval are required if the county or another proponent pursues a combined-use designation.
VEREUCK HONORED
A plaque was unveiled Wednesday evening honoring the late John Vereuck, a larger-than-life Mammoth figure who served as the President of the Village at Mammoth HOA for the first 15 years of its existence.

Pictured below: Daughter Dawn and Dr. Marc Kayem, who spearheaded the project to completion.

At right, Vereuck sweeping the Side Door the morning after he bought it for a dollar from Shields Richardson. He sold it back to Richardson later that day for $2. “A 100% return,” crowed a smiling Richardson, who attended Wednesday’s event.

The Side Door hosted a small, distanced gathering following the ceremony, where guests were treated to Pinot Grigio on ice, Vereuck’s drink of choice.

REKA CLEANS UP
There has been lots of finger-pointing when it comes to litter in the Eastern Sierra. Rather than more blaming, Reka fly fishing hosted a clean up day in the Lakes Basin last weekend. “Educating as opposed to shaming,” wrote Paz Mendelevitch on the Reka outdoors site. Pictured above is Marcus Cassidy holding fishing line as Mendelevitch raises his arms. Below is Laurey Carlson triumphantly holding up trash bags.
TOML chose the latter course. Such as MLTPA to do the dirty work. The workers and attempt to use a non-profit or 2) Hire Rathje and a few seasonal trails department that is entirely in-house had two options: 1) Have a functioning investment into the local Trails System. Although MLTPA was not responsible for any of the work, they work up until the shovel hits the dirt.

The Current Structure
This leaves us where we are today. “We [MLTPA] are Joel’s hands if you will. He is just one guy and he knows he has a contractor at his disposal to achieve what he needs,” said Wentworth. Sheet: Why not have it all in house? Wentworth simply believed it was fiscally responsible, “Our billable rate compared to what the town pays for contractors is about a third per hour.” Rathje agreed, “It would likely be more expensive for the same number of human resources if it were all under the umbrella of the Town.” Here is how it all works: Mammoth Lakes Recreation is the oversight. They established the Mammoth Trails Committee which evaluates projects directly sourced from the Mammoth Trails System Master Plan. The current contract with Mammoth Trails System grants $300,000 a year to complete miscellaneous projects from the Master Plan. The Committee then decides how to spend it. The plan is then brought back to Mammoth Lakes Recreation for approval.

If MLR says yes, then Mammoth Lakes Town Council gets a stab at it. And if it gets past Town Council, individual projects are submitted to The Forest Service for review.

“Nothing gets decided unilaterally,” said Rathje, “All of the different layers of vetting provides multiple touch points for the public to be involved.”

“It is set up in such a way, that Joel over the course of the year, can say I want to move money from this project over to this project,” said Wentworth. And when that happens, MLTPA does the paperwork. That is not all MLTPA does, but when it comes to the Mammoth Lakes Trail System, they work up until the shovel hits the dirt.

The Vision
Wentworth views MLTPA as an organization that could serve as a model for others. “We are [working to create] a ground up, locally grown, recreation management model that can be replicated,” he told The Sheet.

“The basic model is that these are public partnerships. Public agencies partnering with federal agencies,” Wentworth said as he rattled off all the different types of agencies that have similar interests allowing a coordinated front.

Wentworth believed these “public-public” partnerships are good for the communities they represent. As for examples, Wentworth mentioned the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership in which MLTPA “provides convening, facilitation, and technical support,” as well as the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative (SRTI) which MLTPA “provides services through a contract with the Town on behalf of the Eastern Sierra region.

As to the question of the possible conflict of interests of the board of MLTPA, Wentworth made one thing clear, “The CEO works for free, the executive director is not compensated. No one on the board is compensated.” The contract signed with the TOML gives the hourly rates of the employees of MLTPA and all of that is publicly available.

The board composition is unique. John Urdi, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Tourism, serves as the treasurer. Wentworth serves for Mammoth Lakes Town Council and is also the Founder/President. Wendy Schneider, Executive Director of The Inyo, serves as Vice President.

“Our board is stronger for having those diverse and competing interests,” said Wentworth.

Rathje anecdotally referenced the board to well as when he told The Sheet that although he occasionally disagrees with Schneider, having her on the board adds a voice that might otherwise be ignored. Rathje values this diversity.

Finally, The Sheet asked Wentworth a question along these lines: “Do you think anyone knows all of this? Are your fellow Council members even aware of how this all works?” Wentworth answered simply, “We have failed to inform the public of our actions. We have a lot of work to do [on that front]!”
TOWN STUFF

Friday, August 7/
Final day to submit papers to run for Mammoth Lakes Town Council.

August 7-9/
YogaLab Mammoth’s SUP Yoga Weekend. Join Yoga Lab Mammoth and guest instructor Erin O’Malley for a weekend of yoga on the lakes. Limited space available so register in advance. Schedule and tickets: https://www.yogalabmammoth.com

Monday, August 10/
Meet Chris Bubser. INYO350 is inviting the public to a Zoom meeting with Congressional District 8 Democratic candidate, Chris Bubser. Time: 7 p.m. To sign up for the meeting visit: www.chrisbubser.com/inyo350

Mono County Board of Supervisors Special Meeting via Zoom @ 1 p.m. https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/92884120013

Tuesday, August 11/
Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets via Zoom. Public session starts 8:30 a.m. https://zoom.us/j/668254781

Mono County Board of Supervisors meets via Zoom. Public session at 9 a.m. https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/93209619057

Mammoth Lakes Recreation-Special Meeting via Zoom. Public viewing available through Granicus. Time: 3 p.m.

Wednesday, August 12/
The New Normal: Coping With A Covid World. Seminar conducted by Mono County Behavioral Health. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Visit https://

Thursday, August 13/

Monday, August 10/
YogaLab Mammoth’s SUP Yoga Weekend. Join Yoga Lab Mammoth and guest instructor Erin O’Malley for a weekend of yoga on the lakes. Limited space available so register in advance. Schedule and tickets: https://www.yogalabmammoth.com

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Thursday, August 13

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Mammoth Trails Committee meets via Zoom. Public viewing available through Granicus. Time: 3 p.m.
Sierra Employment Services, Inc. is holding the following positions.

Staff Accountant B - $29,006
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Bilingual Recruiter ML/B - $15 to 18

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Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We currently have an immediate opening for a Spa Maintenance Technician position, we are also looking for Office Starter July 1st or Full Time Positions (Monday through Friday). These positions offer vacation accrual, personal time off, health insurance, experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required. Please call 760-934-5991 or stop by the store located at 1401 Tread Road Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Please email resumes to klornwed@convictlake.com or stop by for an application.

Bistro East is looking for Apprentice Sous Chef, apply at Snowcreek Athletic Club front desk. Great Training, pay and a free membership.

Convict Lake Resort is hiring a full-time Junior for facilities cleaning and maintenance. $11/hour with some overtime. Benefits available. Please call 760-934-3800 ext. 32 or email to klornwed@convictlake.com

Mobil Mart/We are looking for a line cook. Grilled/veggie, one Firehouse available. Stop by or contact tiagogasmart@gmail.com

Laundry Attendant at High Mountain Services located in Mammoth Lakes, is seeking Full-Time laundry attendants. We offer flexible work hours, and will train the right candidate. Must be able to lift 50 lbs, maintain a fast pace while multi-tasking, following directions, be safety conscious, trustworthy, and work well in a team environment. You will be required to wear a face mask, disposable vinyl gloves while working. Please call mammothlaikeshop@gmail.com or text (760) 790-0301 for application.

Help wanted! Mammoth's high volume fishing store is seeking full time / part time retail sales consultant starting immediately. Candidates must possess strong customer service skills. If you have a passion for fishing, we’d love to have you join our team. To train the right personality please contact Jeremy@760-914-1476.

Mammoth Community Water District’s Maintenance Department is currently recruiting for one permanent Plant Maintenance Technician position in the Plant Mechanical Maintenance Division. For Application Information/To Apply: Please visit the Caliendo District website at https://mwmwd.ca.gov/employment/

Full-Time Maintenance Personnel Needed for a residential rental management company. Previous experience preferred, trained providing. Looking for reliable, responsible, hard-working candidates with positive work ethic. Competitive pay. Email resume to sarah@mammothbiertrounty.com, call 760-934-8372 or stop by 1914 Meridian Blvd.

Obsidian Private Residence is seeking a Manager to provide Guest Service and administration of the residence. Work independently to manage the front desk responsibilities. • Demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills • Possess extremely strong organizational skills with the ability to focus • Previous reservation experience preferred
Contact: 760-934-3800 ext. email@obsidianlakes.com

The Hitchlon Creek Community Services District is requesting proposals for snow removal services for the 2020/2021 winter season in the Crowley Lake area.
Please contact the General Manager at (760) 935-4500 or districtmanager@hitchloncreek.com for information on areas to be plowed, dates of service and specific services to be provided.
Proposal deadline: September 4, 2020

Vaca is hiring full and part time housekeepers in Mammoth Lakes/June Lake with pay starting at $14/hour. Apply at vaca.com/careers.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for office staff for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-914-7435 or www.mammoth-taxi.com

Mammoth outdoor-rental-related retail business seeks year-round, full time store manager. Basic computer skills i.e. Word, Excel, etc. required, Salary negotiable based on experience and what application brings to the table. Call 760-914-1476.

For Rent
Snowcreek #79, 2 bedrooms, loft, 2 full baths, in-unit laundry, plenty of storage and parking, fully furnished. Access to suacci and sauna in complex. Step off the M Bdr deck onto the meadow, 30 feet from creek. Sweeping views of the Sherwins. Separate entrance with easy access to the Ash stop. Utilities inclusive except internet and cable. Available 11/1. Rent is $1100 per month. August 1st for six-month to one-year lease. $2600/mo, first month and deposit due before move-in. Salary negotiable, based on experience. Send email to vane.katie@gmail.com or text 818.354.0035.

Office For Rent 2nd floor location w/views, New floors, Closet, Common Bathroom, Parking, ±Year Lease. Commercial use only. Please call Sarah at 760-934-8372

The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for the following positions: Housekeeping for part-time and round positions. Flexible hours for front desk, maintenance and housekeeping positions are available. Applicants must be available to work weekends and holidays. Housing available for the right individual. Please apply in person at 6800 Minaret Rd, Mammoth.

Convict Lake Resort has immediate job openings for maintenance personnel, group sales representative and sales manager. Please email resumes to klornwed@convictlake.com or stop by for an application.

Bistro East is looking for Apprentice Sous Chef, apply at Snowcreek Athletic Club front desk. Great Training, pay and a free membership.

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Notice of Vacancies

HILTON CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
60-2012-01

Notice of Vacancies

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) announces that it is accepting applications for new members to sit on the District’s Board of Directors. To learn more about the District, visit the District’s website at https://www.gбуapcd.org.

Submit: Sealed applications must be submitted to the District office no later than 3:00 p.m. on August 20, 2020. The District is located at 3222 Crowley Lake Drive, Bishop, CA 93514.

Sealed applications must be made available for public inspection at the District office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from July 30, 2020, to August 17, 2020.

The deadline to submit applications is August 20, 2020. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

Notice of Resolution

RECEIVED RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05
HILTON CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HILTON CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER CHARGES AS OF 06-30-2020

WHEREAS, staff of the Hilton Creek Community Water District ("District") has prepared the Report on Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges as of June 30, 2020, containing a description of each parcel of real property within the Hilton Creek Community Water District having delinquent charges, together with interest and penalties thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Report on Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges has been rendered herein as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Hilton Creek Community Water District that a public hearing on the Report of Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges is set for August 30, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., and on the basis of the findings of the COVID-19 emergency and resuming public hearings, the public hearing will take place virtually or at the District office located at 15015 Hilton Creek Road, Bishop, California. At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will entertain the following matters:

1. Resolution on Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges report.
2. Resolution on all other matters of the Hilton Creek Community Water District at its regular meeting of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, by the following vote:

YES: Mark Budge, Chair; Brian Eby, Director; Visualize the next page.
HOROSCOPES

By Clouds McCloud

Leo: Despite all the chaos in the world, this is a birthday to truly celebrate. It will kick in what The Stars say will be a great year for you. In honor of the recent passing of country music legend Charlie Daniels, adopt this as your new power saying: “The devil whispered in my ear, ‘You are not strong enough to weather the storm.’ I whispered back, ‘I’m not listening to somebody who lost a fiddle contest to some hillbilly from Georgia.’”

Virgo: An Arnold Palmer—iced tea mixed with lemonade—is a tasty, cool treat during the dog days of summer. Since your fellow Virgo was one of the most successful golfers of all time and was born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, how about toasting a Rolling Rock to the “The King” while quoting him? “I always gave total effort, even when the odds seemed entirely against me. I never once tried. I never felt that I didn’t have a chance to win.”

Libra: Since the world hasn’t been this nutty since the 1960s, it’s only fitting that your words of inspiration come from a fellow Libra who became a unique leader during that time, John Lennon. 1) “Well I tell them there’s no problem, only solutions.” 2) “Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making others plans.” 3) “Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted.”

Scorpio: Our President just supported a doctor who believes that demon spirits are the cause of reproductive issues in people, therefore, we should probably expect him to start blaming all the recent earthquakes on Godzilla. All this means is that we’re in the midst of some big—and much needed—changes in the world. That’s why you should change some part of your life that doesn’t make you happy. Listening to some Blue Oyster Cult should help. "Oh no, they say he’s got to go—Go, Go, Godzilla!"

Sagittarius: Yes, it’s true Carl Jung did say that “Everything that irritates us in others can lead us to understand ourselves.” Of course, Carl lived out in the woods and didn’t have to deal with neighbors. To help you accept others and yourself more, try digesting an old saying that goes, “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.” Poet William Blake wrote that “If the doors of perception were cleansed everything would appear to man as it is, infinite.” And Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, “As soon as you’re locking doors you’re narrowing your circle.”

The message here is that life is full of doors, just remember to wipe your feet before entering any.

Cancer: If you don’t like something in life it’s pretty easy to take away its power, which is your attention. The less you care the better off you’ll be. That’s why your new theme song coming from the Talking Heads: “The less we say about it the better. Make it up as we go along. Feet on the ground, head in the sky, it’s okay. I know nothing’s wrong. Nothing.”

Studies have shown that people, especially women, who have regular and fulfilling sex lives look up to four years younger than they are.

Clouds

N? …. How about “I PRESSED ON!” or “I OPEN DRESS!” The point is, life is just a game anyway, so how about making it into something you enjoy? Pisces: They say that people born in your sign are rays of sunshine with some hurricanes mixed in. Since we’ve now entered hurricane season, you should expect some bouts of windy chaos in your life. It will help to remember that you can always just ignore windbags who may drive you nuts. And if that doesn’t work, just try passing some wind and that should give you some much needed space.

Gemini: There’s an old saying that goes, “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.” Poet William Blake wrote that “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.” Poet William Blake wrote that “If the doors of perception were cleansed everything would appear to man as it is, infinite.” And Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, “As soon as you’re locking doors you’re narrowing your circle.”

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I hope you ... get that job as a Trail Hostess, but only if you promise to wear the short-shorts.

I saw you ... were mad about all the trash on the trails, but that’s not a nice thing to say about people.

I saw you ... were upset about all the trash on the trails, but when you bent over to pick it up, I had to admire the junk in your trunk.
GOOD MORNING!

For The Love Of It
The Mammoth Legacy of Roma and Dave McCoy
Robin Morning
Blue Ox Press, 366 p.

You want a feel-good summer read about a legendary offshoot of the Bunyan clan which built Mammoth Mountain? This is the book for you.

And of course it’s published by Blue Ox Press. If you remember anything about Paul Bunyan, his faithful sidekick is Babe the Blue Ox.

The difference between Paul Bunyan and Dave McCoy is that only one of them was real.

The similarity between Bunyan and McCoy is that both are mythical.

But McCoy’s secret weapon? He had a far more impressive (and far better-looking) sidekick, his wife Roma.

And Roma, who celebrates her 100th birthday on Wednesday, August 12, is the real revelation in this rose-colored biog-raphy by Robin Morning, which covers the McCoy early years, from 1915, when Dave was born, until 1955, when Mam-moth Mountain Ski Area debuted its first chairlift.

Morning structures the book in a very compelling way, interspersing one chapter featuring a general narrative of events, followed by a next chapter told from Roma’s perspective, covering the same terrain.

While I had many conversations with Dave over the years, I’ve never spent time with Roma.

This book really brings her out. She’s fantastic.

A favorite anecdote of Roma and Dave as young newlyweds: They’re living at Crowley’s in a DWP-house by the dam. In winter, they park the car at Tom’s Place and ski in/out because the road isn’t plowed. The setting: coming home from a shopping trip to Bishop.

“One full-moon night, the sky was so bright that we let our skis run straight and fast down the final hill to our house. Dave’s ski got caught in the sagebrush, and he spread-eagled to the ground. A carton of fresh eggs, which we’d carefully packed on top, splattered across the snow.

We both started laughing like crazy. Dave got untangled, we raced home, grabbed a mixing bowl and spoons, and by the light of the moon, scraped the broken eggs off the snow.”

And that’s why this book is such a treat. So many great little stories and vignettes.

Here’s a Dave as Bunyan story courtesy of Roma, highlighting her husband’s hunting skills: “To conserve ammunition [during World War II], he’d wait until the geese lined up in such a way that he would hit all three with one bullet. I’m not kidding.”

Or Dave as Bunyan, coming back from a horrific ski injury where doctors wanted to amputate his leg, to win the California state slalom title six years later.

But along with the Bunyan, there’s also plenty of Dickens. Dave’s father abandoning he and his mother to start another family. Roma’s mother dying when she was 13. Dave’s best friend dying in a freak accident at 17.

And maybe the most refreshing aspect, as it relates to the Dickensian parts: No overt introspection. No self-pity. Just straight up relentless.

As Roma observes, “Dave believed that a problem wasn’t really a problem. It was just a temporary inconvenience with a solution waiting right around the corner.”

A lot of the solutions came in the form of people - the McCos had a knack for drawing the right people to them at the right time.

Particularly Nick Gunter. To find an accountant so loyal, so clever, so trustworthy … without Nick Gunter, so much of what happened wouldn’t have happened.

Gunter provided the business acumen and solidity which gave the banks and the Forest Service confidence.

And there are other heroes too, like Bob Bumbaugh: “Whatever Bumbaugh built wasn’t coming down in this lifetime without a wrecking ball.”

And Tom Dempsey, who wanted to be here so badly that as a kid, when he failed to hitch a ride to Mammoth one night, slept in a cardboard box in the men’s restroom of the only service station open in Bishop.

And Gus Weber, who, when Dave didn’t immediately respond to a letter of inquiry regarding a ski school position, drove all the way to Mammoth from Jackson Hole to ask him in person.

With this book, clearly the biggest challenge Morning faced was in what to leave out. Personally, I could have done with less detail about various ski races and results - but it’s easy enough to skip those parts.

All in all, this is a fine effort, and by the time I finished, there were a lot of dog-eared pages and a lot of appreciation for Dave, Roma and the team they inspired.

“If you had a positive attitude, Dave welcomed you. If you were negative, he didn’t give you much attention. He wasn’t mean; he just didn’t have time for anyone who wasn’t supportive of what he was trying to accomplish.”

Lunch

*For The Love Of It* can be purchased at the Booky Joint in Mammoth, at Spellbound Books in Bishop or at www.blueoxpress.com.
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