Celebrating the career of Bishop’s Bruce Licher

THE ART OF BEING BRUCE

T

here are the true artists. The art-for-art’s-sake artists. The artists who walk away from the sure thing for the more compelling, hardly-sure thing. The artists who march to a drumbeat which the rest of us often don’t hear.

They are the Hortons who hear Whos.

The city of Bishop is fortunate enough to house a few of these aliens, notably the painter Karen Nielsen Licher and multimedia artist/husband Bruce Licher.

Bruce takes center stage this week as we celebrate Labor Day Arts - not in person as we customarily do at Sam’s Woodsite, but right here within the pages of The Sheet.

Bruce has come out with a beautiful coffeetable book this year entitled “Savage Impressions: An Aesthetic Expedition Through the Archives of Independent Project Records and Press.” Unfortunately, the book came out in March, and all promotional events were subsequently canceled. The book fell off the radar before it even had a chance to get on the radar.

Which is shame, because the book, which chronicles four decades of Licher’s successful, eclectic career (how many folks do you know locally who boast two Grammy nominations on their resumes?), deserves radar.

The title of the book gives away Licher’s initial and lasting claim to fame, as the leader of the 1980s post-punk band Savage Republic.

But Licher is not a guy to spend the rest of his life resting on the laurels of one early success. Savage Republic inspired career offshoots that took him in multiple directions, most notably the painter Karen Nielsen Licher and multimedia artist/husband Bruce Licher.

Bruce has come out with a beautiful coffeetable book this year entitled “Savage Impressions: An Aesthetic Expedition Through the Archives of Independent Project Records and Press.” Unfortunately, the book came out in March, and all promotional events were subsequently canceled. The book fell off the radar before it even had a chance to get on the radar.

Which is shame, because the book, which chronicles four decades of Licher’s successful, eclectic career (how many folks do you know locally who boast two Grammy nominations on their resumes?), deserves radar.

The title of the book gives away Licher’s initial and lasting claim to fame, as the leader of the 1980s post-punk band Savage Republic.

But Licher is not a guy to spend the rest of his life resting on the laurels of one early success. Savage Republic inspired career offshoots that took him in multiple directions, most notably the painter Karen Nielsen Licher and multimedia artist/husband Bruce Licher.

Bruce has come out with a beautiful coffeetable book this year entitled “Savage Impressions: An Aesthetic Expedition Through the Archives of Independent Project Records and Press.” Unfortunately, the book came out in March, and all promotional events were subsequently canceled. The book fell off the radar before it even had a chance to get on the radar.

Which is shame, because the book, which chronicles four decades of Licher’s successful, eclectic career (how many folks do you know locally who boast two Grammy nominations on their resumes?), deserves radar.

The title of the book gives away Licher’s initial and lasting claim to fame, as the leader of the 1980s post-punk band Savage Republic.

But Licher is not a guy to spend the rest of his life resting on the laurels of one early success. Savage Republic inspired career offshoots that took him in multiple directions, most notably the painter Karen Nielsen Licher and multimedia artist/husband Bruce Licher.

Bruce has come out with a beautiful coffeetable book this year entitled “Savage Impressions: An Aesthetic Expedition Through the Archives of Independent Project Records and Press.” Unfortunately, the book came out in March, and all promotional events were subsequently canceled. The book fell off the radar before it even had a chance to get on the radar.

Which is shame, because the book, which chronicles four decades of Licher’s successful, eclectic career (how many folks do you know locally who boast two Grammy nominations on their resumes?), deserves radar.

The title of the book gives away Licher’s initial and lasting claim to fame, as the leader of the 1980s post-punk band Savage Republic.

But Licher is not a guy to spend the rest of his life resting on the laurels of one early success. Savage Republic inspired career offshoots that took him in multiple directions, most

Bruce Licher outside his Project Room in Bishop

THE ART OF BEING BRUCE

Celebrating the career of Bishop’s Bruce Licher

By Lunch

Mammoth Disposal appeared before Mammoth Lakes Town Council Wednesday to officially accept a proposed rate structure for the current franchise agreement related to waste disposal.

The six-year deal goes into effect January 1, 2021 and does not come without controversy calling for an annual 5.6% increase.

This has clearly upset some people in Mammoth Lakes. Five letters were submitted in opposition of the rate increases, three of which were written by second homeowners.

Loren Calahan, a second homeowner, wrote, “As a long time 2nd homeowner in Mammoth Lakes, I feel that I already pay my fair share for the solid waste service that I rarely use.”

Gene Mecherikoff, also a second homeowner, wrote “.... My question is: why does one who owns a vacation home have to pay as much as a full-time resident when, in fact, the usage of the home is less than one quarter, which means I am supporting (with no service for me) the rest of the town for three quarters.”

These were but a sample. Mayor Bill Sauser believed more would come, “I am sure we are going to get comments as soon as people realize what is going on because this is a huge increase.”

Sausser posited this could lead to more illegal dumping in the future.

Because of compound interest, a bill that is currently $100 will be $138.67 by 2027, a 38.7% increase over that six year span.

After the initial round of price increases, the hikes become less extreme. The staff report states, “Increases in the following years starting January 1, 2027 are expected to be tied to annual changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) with a minimum of 1% and a maximum of 4%.”

Rates are increasing for a variety of reasons. Part of the agreement assumes an estimated $9.3 million in capital expenditures by Mammoth Disposal, primarily for a new transfer station which will cost Mammoth Disposal $1.9 million for land and an estimated $5 million in construction costs.

Additional costs include recycling services and solid waste processing costs as well as disposal costs of tipping at a landfill. Benton Crossing Landfill closes December 31, 2022 and Mammoth Disposal will have to transport waste to Russell Pass Landfill in Nevada. The overall price remains the same but the operation changes slightly.

The Staff report states, “The Town hired H&H Consultants, LLC to conduct a third-party review of the rates proposed by Mammoth Disposal. The analysis broke the rates down into cost centers which were reviewed for industry reasonableness. Overall, the rate structure was found to be reasonable.”

Additionally, the resolution says, "Mammoth Disposal has experienced increases in the cost of labor, utilities, supplies, equipment, fuel, debt for facility purchase and planned construction, and other costs above the current cost of living index.”

Town Council did not have much of a discussion. Councilman John Wentworth did ask, "How is this contract going to provide for the growing and climbing tourism presence [in Mammoth Lakes]?" To which Town Manager Dan Holler and Mammoth Disposal representatives essentially responded with, "That would require further discussion but it is possible to get extra bins in specific areas within this proposed rate structure.”

Mayor Pro-Tem Lynda Salcido kept it short, “Unfortunate that these rates have to go up but given the state guidelines we have to increase.”

Councilman Kirk Stapp praised the efforts to date, “We have come a long way with trying to deal with this issue over the decades.” The motion passed 5-0.
A CHANGE IN TACTICS

Many of us have eventful first weeks on the job. But probably not as eventful as Ingrid Braun’s first week on the job at the Los Angeles Police Department back in March, 1991.

That was the week Rodney King was beaten by LAPD officers after a high speed chase.

And Ingrid Braun was there. On scene. She was a rookie, so she was told to watch and stay out of the way.

No matter. She still received a five-day suspension for not reporting “wrongdoing.” And ultimately took the stand as a witness in two criminal trials and as a defendant in one civil trial stemming from the incident.

At the time, she said LAPD training suggested that at the termination of a pursuit, “we were told ‘don’t tie up a suspect. Here’s a stick. Break some bones.’”

But, says Braun, who is now serving her second term as Mono County Sheriff (she ran unopposed for reelection) on the bright side, “We saw changes in tactics used in California after that. After Rodney King, “we assume everything is recorded.’”

And “you learn how to wrestle and fight for your life,” she said. In other words, you’ve got to figure out a different way to take someone down and/or defuse a situation.

“I feel for the guys in Minneapolis who were rookies with less than a week’s experience,” said Braun of the George Floyd incident. “But … there’s no good reason to kneel on someone’s neck. The tactics in Wisconsin (Jacob Blake) didn’t make sense either. If you lay hands on someone, you want both hands,” she said, alluding to video which showed the officer had a fistful of Blake’s shirt in one hand while he fired his gun with the other.

“It’s hard to know what he [the officer who shot Blake] saw, but … it’s also hard to explain,” said Braun, who knows as much of the rest of us do about the incident from third party video.

Nevertheless, said Braun, If you know who the guy is (as was known in the Blake case), you need to balance community safety versus the importance of catching/detaining him right now. Kenosha police may have been better off letting Blake go in that situation - at least in that moment.

“And why didn’t they have body cams?” she asked rhetorically. “We have dash and body cams. Both record at the same time … When someone calls me and says, ‘Your deputy did such-and-such,’ I can just say, ‘Well, hold on, let me take a look at the video.’”

Braun maintains that deputies almost feel safer with the cameras, and most, depending upon their tenure of service, may not know different.

They’ve worn cameras their whole careers. It’s a protection for them. A check for them. And also, potentially, a training tool. You can look at that video afterward and discuss it.

“If you have humans, you have a degree of fallibility. It goes with any occupation,” said Braun.

In general, she concluded, people are fairly pro-police - especially around here -because police are out helping people - as one example, she cited evacuating folks door-to-door in Coleville this week due to the threat of wildfire.

And two observations from Matthew Lehman that didn’t appear in the real estate market overview story on page 12.

1. “When you see a top of a market, you see creativity [in the deals].”

2. For the buyer looking to relocate to Mammoth Lakes and work remote-ly, “The fact that Suddenlink [internet] is a piece-of-s&%t is a problem. ”

For a subscription, contact Lunch at his above e-mail address, or call the office. Issues are mailed out bi-weekly. Cost is $7.5/year.

Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography

- Richard Rodriguez, Author of Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography

“Why would we lie to ourselves?”

- Bill S. Preston, Esq.

“Suddenlink, you still can’t deliver internet in Mammoth Lakes.”

- Ingrid Braun, Mono County Sheriff

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.
Based on a book written by Naoki Higashida when he was just 13, the film opens a door to a magnificent constellation of divergent ways of experiencing reality, with intimate portraits of five remarkable young autistic people.

A dry comedy about a tenuously linked group of nobodies trudging through a delightfully woeful existence in dreary Winnipeg.

Tomo is drawn deeper into another side of Tokyo, together with a young woman who obsesses over a stranger’s old scrapbook. In a maze of subcultures and surreal lingerings in the air, he finds his answers at the bottom of something entirely bizarre.
Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the notice I received of the proposed June Lake Highlands Specific Plan Amendment #2, authorizing nightly rentals.

I commend the Community Development Department for at least mailing out notices, unlike the way GPA 18-01B, authorizing nightly rentals in many other SFR zones, was handled.

The proponents of that measure (18-01B) took an early lead in shaping the opinion of public officials, while the rest of us were left to be vigilant enough to find it in the papers, putting us at a disadvantage. While I am a full-time resident of June Lake since 1998, my job takes me out of town most of the time, so I don’t always see public notices in the papers, nor do I have the ability to attend public meetings in the middle of the week. I was unaware of GPA 18-01B until a couple of days before the final board meeting was held. I scrambled to put together a statement to present at the meeting, but it was half-baked and came out weak. By that time, board members had probably already made their decisions.

The process for GPA 18-01B, the County cited several concerns: “disruption of the sense of neighborhood”; “inappropriate behavior and lack of respect ... by renters”; “inadequate ingress and egress”; “environmental ... issues” - among which is higher density associated with nightly rentals, and the resulting increased demands on infrastructure. The Area Plan EIR states there was already not enough water to serve all the properties at build-out. Now, houses are getting ever bigger. They can hold multiple families. The Highlands is no exception. GPA 18-01B should never have been adopted on a negative declaration, and neither should the current proposal.

In sharp contrast is the way the 1986 June Lake Area Plan was handled. Before the plan was drafted the County sent out surveys to every property owner and a lot of visitors to poll their visions for the future of June Lake. Among the choices were “resort community” and “destination resort.”

The overwhelming majority opted for resort community, citing a desire that the natural environment should predominate over the built environment. Indeed, that’s been June Lake’s stock in trade. The June Lake Area Plan codified most of the provisions of the previous Mono County Zoning and Development code. The people who bought property in SFR zones did so under one or the other of those plans. They paid a price reflective of the fact that SFR zones are the most exclusive and most desirable properties, and they have been paying taxes based on that value. They had a reasonable, investment-backed expectation that the County would preserve their rights against the concerns mentioned above. The proponents of nightly rentals took title with notice of the restrictions. They had no such reasonable expectation to be able to defeat their neighbors’ vested property rights.

June Lake Highlands Amendment #2 would compound the environmental impacts, against a backdrop of unprecedented numbers of visitors in Mono County. People are camping illegally all over the place. No one’s doing anything about it. They’re leaving their trash wherever they want, and tagging rocks and trees with graffiti. Beaches, trails and the town are getting more crowded and less enjoyable for locals.

If this is the new normal, let’s not make it worse by adopting Amendment #2.

Craig Meinhard
June Lake

And here’s ... the rest of the story

Dear Editor:

Owen Page’s article in the August 8 edition reporting on the Adventure Trails hiatus provided good background information. However, there are critical issues that start where the article left off. As the article describes, Inyo County more LETTERS, page 19
At 50%, glass more empty than full

This week, Mono County restaurants were permitted to reopen their dining rooms.

New State guidelines went into effect on August 31. All counties in California, based on COVID metrics, are placed in different tiers of risk. The tiers are minimal, moderate, substantial, and widespread.

Mono County is currently placed in the tier of ‘Moderate.’ For restaurants in the ‘moderate’ category, this means indoor dining will now be allowed with modifications. There is a maximum 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer. Wineries have the same rules except 25% capacity. Bars can be open, but only outdoors.

Inyo County is categorized as ‘widespread’ and is limited to outdoor dining only.

During a Zoom call this week, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ken Brengle asked local restaurateurs if they could survive at 50% capacity.

The Warming Hut’s Alisa Mokler Harper replied, “I think, for us, that is a good place to start. But that is not going to get us through the winter.”

Peter Corcoran of food distributor US Foods agreed, “Operating at 50% revenue through the winter is not going to work. So there is either going to have to be further relaxation of restrictions or other revenue stream opportunities.”

Census response remains anemic

Mono County’s Census response rate is still the lowest in the state at 21%. On July 30, Census Director Steven Dil-ingham announced Census counting efforts will cease on September 30, one month before the previous deadline. This means all online, telephone and mail efforts to reach the American population will stop this month.

Mono County Supervisors discussed how to raise the response rate because, according to the staff report, “California would lose an estimated $1,000 in federal funding each year for the next 10 years for each resident uncounted in the 2020 census.”

“A lot of it has to be grassroots,” opined Supervisor Stacy Corless. “If there is a way to call in the troops and ask their neighbor, their friend, if they can do that, we could get our numbers up.”

Supervisor Bob Gardner had some ideas as to why Mono’s numbers are so low. “I finally found someone in Los Angeles, yesterday, that worked for the census. They said we probably have at least 50% of our households not occupied. A lower number isn’t necessarily indicative of what the actual number is.”

California’s statewide self-response rate of 67%.

Gardner still wants to increase the response rate as much as possible. “I think we need to do a full court press. Do we know that all county employees have responded, all city employees, can we contact all non-profits and make sure they have reported?”

Gardner continued, “From my perspective the numbers don’t reflect what we have truly done but I think we can do better ...”
PROPPING UP THE BOOMERS (AGAIN)

Tax breaks for Boomers on November ballot

By Lunch/Hite

No one likes to pay taxes, that’s for sure. But from the looks of the 2020 electoral ballot in California, pandering to the politically powerful and populous Baby Boomer generation has reached a new high (or low).

The latest: Proposition 19, deceptively titled, "The Property Tax Transfers, Exemptions and Revenue for Wildlife Agencies and Counties Amendment." It is difficult to imagine a more craven and misleading moniker.

19 is really a bit of a mishmash. It eliminates some tax loopholes while creating monstrous new ones.

And if it looks familiar. It is. California voters soundly rejected a similar measure just two years ago.

Prop. 19 proposes allowing eligible homeowners (55 and older) to transfer their tax assessments anywhere in the state. So if you’re a longtime homeowner who has an artificially low tax valuation on your home, you can sell, buy anywhere else in California, and maintain that artificially low valuation.

Currently, only ten of California’s 58 counties allow for such transfers, mostly because the tax loss is too great.

Inyo and Mono Counties currently do not allow for such transfers.

The tax value on a more-expensive home would be the difference between the sale price of the old home and the purchase price of the new one added to the old home’s tax value.

So, someone who sold a $700,000 home, with a tax value of $300,000, and bought a new home for $800,000 would have a tax value on the new home of $400,000.

If they bought a new home for $700,000 or less, they’d carry the old valuation of $300,000 with them.

While that might be great for a place like San Diego County, offloading way-below-market valuations onto burgeoning retirement communities and remote work enclaves like Inyo and Mono counties and replacing them with full-ticket valuations, this is not going to benefit the Eastern Sierra as a whole, though it will absolutely benefit the real estate industry.

But 19 does close a key loophole related to inherited property.

Previously, parents could transfer homes to their children without triggering a reset of the tax value. This has led to a multi-generational extension of the Prop. 13 tax break.

19 would close that loophole, requiring heirs to declare the inherited property as their primary residence to retain the existing tax valuation.

But as Mono County Assessor Barry Beck says, “There is a residency requirement ... but I don’t know how we would track that.”

In other words, say the heirs use the home as a permanent residence for a year or two and then leave and starting renting it out.

“If we know they’ve moved out, we could then reappraise [under the new law],” explained Beck. “But how would we ever know?”

Another prop to drop ...

The ballot proposition which promises to draw the most attention this fall is another one focused on taxation - Proposi-

tion 15.

Prop. 15 proposes a “split roll,” dividing commercial and industrial real estate from residential.

And while residential real estate would still be governed by Proposition 13, which limits property tax increases to a maximum of 2% annually, commercial and industrial real estate, if Prop. 15 passes, would now be taxed based upon market value.

And while this may make sense for a place like Anaheim - that’s the example proponents give (we need an updated assessment of Disneyland!), there aren’t a lot of big commercial properties in Inyo and Mono Counties.

Further, the proposition includes an exemption for small businesses.

“We would almost certainly see a net loss in the assessment roll,” said Mono County Assessor Barry Beck.

Inyo County Assessor Dave Stottlemyre also points to a lot of unanticipated costs which would be incurred if Prop. 15 passes. Not only would he foresee the county having to hire an additional auditor/appraiser, but he would also anticipate an impact to his office, the tax collector and the county counsel’s office based upon the inevitability of appeals.

Eviction ban extended

In a busy week for ‘eviction bans’ both California and the federal government took action to protect renters struggling to pay due to COVID related hardship.

On August 31, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 3088 otherwise known as the ‘Tenant, Homeowner, and Small Landlord Relief and Stabilization Act of 2020.’

The bill effectively bans evictions of tenants for failure to pay until February 1, 2021. On this date the tenant will still be responsible for paying unpaid amounts to landlords by March 1, 2021, or have an agreed-upon payment plan in place.

This is for tenants making under $100,000 who can prove economic hardship. This expands California’s eviction ban to allow those affected to accrue rent all the way from March 4, 2020 - January 31, 2021 before beginning to pay it.

The federal government, via the CDC as the relevant agency, also enacted a four month rental ban in place until January 1, 2021. At this point, tenants will have to pay the accrued rent. A powerful move by the CDC in which it is testing the limits of its powers. The law says the CDC can take action to prevent the spread of disease and banning the eviction of tenants is a loose translation of this law.

There is already criticism directed at the CDC for overstepping its boundaries. The larger conversation is centered around what happens when these evictions bans end. Without stimulus, the tenants might not be able to pay 4+ months of rent and this might leave the landlords with empty pockets.
Semi-private program forming now!

Dry Land Training

Tuesdays & Thursdays
5:30-6:30pm

RSVP Required - inspirefit.kstephens@gmail.com

All Serious Athletes Welcome

Inspire Fitness by Kara Stephens
COLOR COVID

Mono County had a week with zero new coronavirus cases. In fact, the last coronavirus positive in-county was August 19–20. The State of California updated its Coronavirus regulations last week and the new system officially went into place on August 31.

The system is a tier system in which each tier has a list of rules that the county needs to follow. Mono County is currently in tier 3, otherwise known as ‘moderate risk’ while Inyo County is in the ‘widespread’ tier 1 category.

This comes as no surprise as the old system had severe limitations, for example, when Mono County got removed from the ‘state monitoring list’ under the old system, nothing happened. There was no protocol besides the State manually moving the county off the list and allowing businesses to reopen.

The new tier system is clearer. It will take 21 days for a county to move from its initial tier. Metrics are mandatory. The framework is uniform. Instead of open and closed, some business sectors can be partially opened to balance the risk of the spread with the economy in a given county.

At the Mono County weekly COVID roundup meeting on Thursday, Bryan Wheeler of Mono County Health asked local law enforcement what to expect this weekend. Mono County Sheriff Braun was the first to answer by saying, “There will be a heatwave and we will be one of the coolest places in California. We expect crowds and we expect tourists. And they are going to be coming here and doing what people do on vacation.” Braun urged Mono County residents to wear masks and tell others to pick up after themselves and follow COVID guidelines.

Gavin Newsom (via Twitter)

“We expect to be slammed up in the Lakes Basin. I have already seen a ton of RV’s pulling into the RV park,” said Mammoth Lakes Police Chief Al Davis. “We are going to be doing our thing [this weekend].”

Davis mentioned he has officers working overtime and he expects a busy, but productive weekend.

The highlight of the meeting was absolutely when a caller with the last four numbers of 5968 called in and asked the question, “Is anyone on this panel willing to go on record saying that 162 cases and two deaths amounts to a public health emergency?”

Tom Boo, Mono County Public Health Officer, was the first to respond. “I am willing to go on record. This is a global pandemic...”

Then Boo explained why he believes the measures taken by the Emergency Command Team, as well as the County as a whole, played a major role in the containment of the COVID-19 virus.

Then all of the other panelists raised their hands saying they would be willing to go on record as well.

Stats:

Mono County - 162 positive cases, 2 deaths
Total tests administered- 4,763 tests with 162 positive, 4,539 negative, and 72 pending.

Inyo County - 182 confirmed cases, 70 active, 14 deaths, 98 recovered
Total tests administered -4,464 with 182 positive, 4,204 negative, and 36 pending.

By Hite

“Wear your mask on the weekends. It’s simple. Your county will be assigned a color based on: - Case rate - Positivity rate. Your color determines how businesses can operate in your county.”

SCHOOL BELL AT A DISTANCE

8 LOCAL NEWS

www.thesheetnews.com

THE SHEET | Saturday, September 5, 2020

The Stelth Ulvang Band at 7:00PM

Fair Food, Cold Beer and Live Music in a Safe Outdoor Setting

Get Tickets @ TriCountyfair.com

1234 SIERRA STREET, BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514

SATURDAY SEPT 5TH 9:00PM
(COVID SAFE) Drive-In Concert At The Bishop Fairgrounds

Featuring VALLEY SONS

LIVE MUSIC

DRIVE-IN

3 BANDS
The Harry Andreas Band
At 5:00PM

ALPINE APPROACH
THE BEST COLD WEATHER APPAREL

WATER RATE
WORLD’S LARGEST SNOWBOARD SHOP

3203 Main St, 760.934.2471, waverace.com
THE INTERNET IS DOWN AGAIN
Mono County I.T. director helps explain why local internet sucks so much

Last week, Frontier Communications had some network issues leading to an August 25 Inyo County Board of Supervisor meeting being delayed. Customers in Inyo County were also affected by this glitch.

At the same time, The Sheet received multiple letters from community members in June Lake who were experiencing a different set of issues with their network.

Finally, at Tuesday’s Board of Supervisors meeting, Stacy Corless, the District 5 Supervisor, had issues with her internet before driving to the Mono County offices to continue taking part in the meeting.

These are just the most recent set of issues pestering Mono and Inyo County residents who are fed up with the Suddenlink/Frontier cabal.

“We have more capacity broadband toward getting quality internet in our area. We have more capacity than most places in the country. Mono County just won the ‘Digital Counties’ 2020 survey for counties under 150,000 people. “The survey, conducted by CDG (Center for Digital Government) in partnership with NACo (National Association of Counties), identifies the best technology practices among U.S. counties, including initiatives that streamline delivery of government services, encourage open data, collaboration and shared services, enhance cybersecurity and contribute to disaster response and recovery efforts.”

“This is directly related to Digital 395 as the extensive fiber optic network provides some of the fastest internet speeds in America.

But still, there are problems. Suddenlink’s atrocious customer service likely makes the situation seem more dire than it is. This is something Greenberg admitted, “They have issues that they need to resolve within their network. And it is no mystery there are issues with their customer service.”

“I am optimistic and will remain optimistic,” said Greenberg, “[These service providers] have the opportunity to succeed.”
A PLACE OF EXTREMES
By Paul Oster

Q: Your most recent lockdown and post-lockdown writings anticipated strong drive-to tourism and serious interest in Mammoth real estate. Both of these predictions have come to fruition. But how long do you think the strong demand in the local real estate market will remain?

A: There has never been a more difficult or bizarre time to try to answer this type of question. And those of us who have been around for decades remember selling properties through bad and disrupted economic times, earthquake and volcano hyperbole, severe droughts, hantavirus scares, and all sorts of other instability. I guess we really were due for something even crazier.

The local real estate market is indeed very busy, and in all price ranges. The market data will clearly show it; from total inventory (low) to the number of properties in escrow (high). If there was more quality inventory available we would have more sales on the board. And the escrow companies, appraisers and inspectors are already taxed beyond reasonable capacity in our little resort town. But how long this demand will last is anybody’s guess. It may actually increase, especially if Mammoth Mountain can pull off a reasonable ski season.

The local market is being strongly influenced by what I am referring to as “movement.” Many people are on the move, especially out of metropolitan areas. And many are also heading out of the State of California. U-Haul data is the clearest indicator of this. People who have contemplated moves in the past have been compelled to action. The work-from-home (WFH) trend is also creating movement: some want larger (second) homes — there are numerous move-up buyers currently in the Mammoth market. Some are clearly seeing Mammoth Lakes as one of the locations for the WFH experience. Others are being moved to retire earlier than expected and are moving towards their retirement location, including Mammoth. There are also a good number of 1031 tax-deferred exchanges happening so people are moving their assets to different locations. Part of the answer here depends on how long this movement trend lasts.

Meanwhile, today’s buyer profile in Mammoth is very strong, including many cash buyers. And the financed buyers are “actually qualifying” as one local loan officer recently stated. It isn’t the funny money of the mid-2000s. Most of the buyers I see have strong financial positions and aren’t looking to speculate. They intend to use their properties. In the current market the weaker, less committed buyers are getting nudged out by stronger buyers. This isn’t good for local residents looking to buy, but it is a condition of the market.

The economic pundits continue to state that “everything is being repriced.” But Mammoth’s repricing is going to depend on future demand, and new listings (supply). Up until a couple of weeks ago there was equilibrium between buyer demand and the listing inventory. But the total inventory of homes and condos is creeping lower despite new listings coming to the market. Many homes that have sat on the market for extended periods of marketing time (year+) have recently sold. And Labor Day weekend is historically the peak of inventory in the Mammoth market; the summer listing bulge meets the traditional pre-winter selling season. But 2020 is a complete anomaly, so only time will tell what the balance of the year and beyond will hold. The sellers and listing side is a whole different story of movement and motivation. The property owners in Mammoth are being pounded with mail and other solicitation that now is a great time to sell. And it is. But owners and potential sellers are having lots of thoughts too. Some of the current sellers want to liquidate (and be liquid) or move their equity value to somewhere else. Some STR owners are nervous about the potential for future loss of rental revenue. Some sellers are fearful they may lose their job or their businesses may be in jeopardy. But others are becoming hesitant for different reasons. They might “need” the Mammoth property in the future and will hold on for now. Or maybe the WFH option now makes sense and they want to keep the property and spend more time here. And some are hedging that values may take a reasonable jump, so they should hold on. Some potential sellers still suffer from being “mentally upside-down.”

As my regular readers know, the
Mammoth market is still not at the peak values of the mid-2000s (the Mono County Assessor says the peak was spring of 2006). This is quite unlike many (most) real estate markets in California. Just this last week an appraiser told me he could justify a 3 to 6 percent increase in values in just past the three months. But this still has most of Mammoth real estate at 60-80% of the values of 2006 (I can point to one of my recent transactions and it is 63%, and that isn’t considering ~15 years of inflation). There are still owners/potential sellers who can’t get past their upside-down position in Mammoth. They’ve been waiting for something to juice the market. And I have no doubt some believe this is it. Ultimately, supply may be constrained in the near future.

The real estate statistics and market participants can all attest to the incredible demand in the local real estate market. The Lake Tahoe region is experiencing similar demand. And all of it is rather counterintuitive while many are predicting a coming depression or even economic collapse. These are bizarre and unpredictable times indeed.

Whatever the “eventual economy” is for the nation, our State and even Mammoth Lakes, there will be winners and losers through all sectors of the economy. The Lake Tahoe region is experiencing similar demand. And all of it is rather counterintuitive while many are predicting a coming depression or even economic collapse. These are bizarre and unpredictable times indeed.

What does the “eventual economy” mean for Mammoth? That’s a different thought. The hotel properties for the Mammoth community alone should minimize any future tax base (for the foreseeable future). They should remain extremely viable as long as demand doesn’t totally disappear. And can demand disappear? Once again the population base of southern California is large and now the “drive-to” aspect is even more significant. But also: Has anybody noticed how many Nevada license plates are in town this summer? These guests are coming from both southern and northern Nevada. And history has proven that people still come to ski in slower economic times. Or is this perhaps the solution to the overcrowded slopes of the past two seasons? Many current STR owners believe rental rates should be increased. They are increasingly thinking about quality over quantity. Historically, the Mammoth real estate market is also driven by a strong stock market. The current stock market is considered psychic by many, but the fact remains that the indexes remain quite high. There continues to be money flowing from the stock market into Mammoth real estate. Some of it from Liquidation of stock, some borrowed against portfolios.

Regardless, the stock market remains one of the most, if not the most, preferred market. The current stock market is considered psychic by many, but the fact remains that the indexes remain quite high. There continues to be money flowing from the stock market into Mammoth real estate. Some of it from Liquidation of stock, some borrowed against portfolios. Regardless, the stock market remains one of the most, if not the most, preferred places to remain invested. Until it isn’t, it will continue to create demand in the local real estate market. And what about mortgage delinquencies and potential foreclosures? Well, values are going up right now. Any owner under stress should be liquidating and getting out of the debt. This opportunity alone should minimize any future defaults. The Dodd-Frank laws of the past ten years were implemented to prevent a 2008-style crash from happening again. “People are actually qualifying.” But maybe even more profound, the State and Federal governments are already ahead of this, especially legislatively here in California. They seem willing to do just about anything to keep owners from being foreclosed upon.

So what happens if the skiing is really good this winter? And maybe a little less crowded? Or not? Southern Californian skiers who have been jumping on airplanes to fly to other resorts may find a drive-to resort more attractive (as and if point out, “drive away” also — you aren’t stuck on some cruise ship). And they may re-discover how awesome the skiing is on Mammoth Mountain. They’re also poised to discover how the drive has improved in so many ways over the past decades. This could create more demand. We really don’t know where this is going. But Mammoth seems uniquely positioned. And community priorities and values are changing too. Just a year ago nobody was thinking we needed fewer visitors and more trash patrols. But here we are.

Mammoth has always been a place of extremes. And the past few months have been extreme in many ways. Let’s hope they push us in new and positive directions.

Happy Labor Day!

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of BE/MAX of Mammoth (celebrating 30 years). For other timely real estate information you can go to www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com. For legal, accounting, or construction advice, please seek out the appropriate professional.

---

**WELCOME TO MAMMOTH**

Realize your Dreams! Own a piece of Mammoth.

**Sherwin Villas Tri-level Townhome**
2bd/1ft/2ba located in center of town, fully furnished.

$442,500

**165 Le Verne St.**
“Top of the world” views in every direction.
¼ 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
The two most popular questions Realtor/Broker Matthew Lehman has received in recent months:

“Who are the buyers making up the strong sales activity?” and “Are all the locals just picking up and moving away?”

In response to the first question: Most buyers are families looking to become residents vs. second or third homeowners and an increasing number of buyers are coming from areas other than Southern California. I have seen a growing number of buyers from San Francisco, Sacramento and other parts of the state.

Also, upsizing: Many of the buyers are locals moving from smaller homes into larger ones, or from Sprinter Vans into more conventional living spaces. Lehman attributes this to the work/school from home environment and the resulting demand for more space. Also, there is an increasing need for more bedrooms as the pandemic may be contributing to a baby boom. Make room for the “Coronials!”

Not all sellers are staying in the local area or upsizing, says Lehman. A good number are simply moving out of state to more tax-friendly locales.

Interest Rates: Lehman contends buyers are looking to take advantage of record low interest rates. Even though prices are up, mortgage payments are down due to these low interest rates. With the stock market at record levels, a very divisive election year and much uncertainty given the trillions of dollars newly printed money, real estate may be a decent investment option.

Offers: The most interesting characteristic Lehman has seen in recent months is the structure of offers being presented to sellers, particularly “contingent offers” subject to the sale of the buyers’ home elsewhere. In other words, “we will buy your home, but only if our other home sells first.” Typically, says Lehman, these are rare offers and seldom accepted by sellers. That said, it appears these type of offers have become much more prevalent in Mono County and even the norm over the past month or so.

The view from Bishop

Inventory has fallen to record lows according to Jake Rasmuson of Bishop Real Estate. There were just 35 homes on the market in July and 30 as of the end of August. Two months ago, there were 40.

Contrast that to 63 homes on the market as of August 31, 2019 - a 52% year-over-year decrease.

Median days on market: 20. In 2019, that number was 29.

Buyer demand, says Rasmuson, continues to be very high, especially in those homes priced below $500,000. This is causing multiple offers and above-ask bids on a majority of properties.

*Lunch anecdote: House across the street was on the market one day, had seven offers, and sold for $20,000 above ask.

Like Lehman, Rasmuson cited low interest rates as a driver, enhancing buyers’ purchasing power. COVID combined with an large number of transactions have caused a the transaction timeline to be further extended. If you are getting a loan, gone are the days of the 30-45 day escrows. If you are buying or selling a house locally anticipate at least a 60 day escrow.
LICHER

continued from page 1

notably in the realm of letterpress print-
ing.

A former student at the UCLA School of the Arts, Licher said his initial goal as a young man was to found a record label (which he did). His inspirations were a pair of British labels - 4AD and Factory Records. Albums put out by these labels were easily identifiable in record stores. There was a care and an artistry in the presentation "You'd be inspired to take a chance on it [the album]," said Licher.

So he took the same care with Savage Republic. He went so far as to create his own set of stamps to go with all Savage Republic correspondence. This was part of what Licher described as a Mail Art movement in the '80s. So long as your stamps don't interfere with the official postage stamps in the right-hand corner, you can decorate a piece of mail anyway you like.

So for every piece of mail that went out, there'd be a USPS rate and an SR (Savage Republic) rate. "Our rates were generally half of what the U.S. rates were. We were kind of a socialist republic," Licher explained in his low, gentle voice. "There's hardly been a person who's walked this earth who was more fastidious or organized.

He died earlier this year, but had been keeping pocket notebooks (essentially daily journals) since 1953. On his walks, he would keep track of all the garbage he picked up, as he wished to leave the world a better place. Bruce says his father catalogued 220,000 pieces of trash.

His father also wrote a postcard a day to his mother. Every one of these postcards is catalogued. Bruce has the box.

Bruce Licher's parents met at an MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Glider Club meeting. Mom had a pilot's license - which is about the sexiest thing there is to a man [Lloyd Licher] who was later inducted into the National Soaring Museum Hall of Fame.

Another thing about Bruce's father: "There's hardly been a person who's walked this earth who was more fastidious or organized.

For Bruce and Karen, life has been a straddling of art and commerce - how to get to do more of the first while doing just enough of the second.

Letterpress printing has provided an outlet to combine both. As Arizona-based writer Pete Gilstap says, "What Bruce Licher creates at Independent Project Press rides the line between 'art' and 'product.' And don't forget the music. Bruce followed up Savage Republic with Scenic Glider Club meeting. Mom had a pilot's license - which is about the sexiest thing there is to a man [Lloyd Licher] who was later inducted into the National Soaring Museum Hall of Fame.

Another thing about Bruce's father: "There's hardly been a person who's walked this earth who was more fastidious or organized.

He died earlier this year, but had been keeping pocket notebooks (essentially daily journals) since 1953. On his walks, he would keep track of all the garbage he picked up, as he wished to leave the world a better place. Bruce says his father catalogued 220,000 pieces of trash.

His father also wrote a postcard a day to his mother. Every one of these postcards is catalogued. Bruce has the box.

Bruce Licher’s parents met at an MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Glider Club meeting. Mom had a pilot's license - which is about the sexiest thing there is to a man [Lloyd Licher] who was later inducted into the National Soaring Museum Hall of Fame.

Another thing about Bruce’s father: "There's hardly been a person who’s walked this earth who was more fastidious or organized.

He died earlier this year, but had been keeping pocket notebooks (essentially daily journals) since 1953. On his walks, he would keep track of all the garbage he picked up, as he wished to leave the world a better place. Bruce says his father catalogued 220,000 pieces of trash.

His father also wrote a postcard a day to his mother. Every one of these postcards is catalogued. Bruce has the box.

Bruce Licher’s parents met at an MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Glider Club meeting. Mom had a pilot's license - which is about the sexiest thing there is to a man [Lloyd Licher] who was later inducted into the National Soaring Museum Hall of Fame.

Another thing about Bruce’s father: "There's hardly been a person who’s walked this earth who was more fastidious or organized.

He died earlier this year, but had been keeping pocket notebooks (essentially daily journals) since 1953. On his walks, he would keep track of all the garbage he picked up, as he wished to leave the world a better place. Bruce says his father catalogued 220,000 pieces of trash.

His father also wrote a postcard a day to his mother. Every one of these postcards is catalogued. Bruce has the box.

This is offered as background to say, there is a keen organizational gene which runs through Bruce Licher, and also permeates his work and this book. His work is spartan, clean.

And what’s particularly fun about the book is that there are little gems everywhere - both the art and the stories behind the art.

One favorite. An insert in the For Against “Echelons” album, which was nominated for a Grammy as best album package: "While the album was being made we took a short trip to Mexico, and, in a store, I saw a big bundle of wheat stalks. Having Karen had the drawing [of a wheat stalk] as the cover, I saw an opportunity. I bought it and put one in with each record. To protect the wheat in between, I bought a poly bag, so I put the wheat in between and started shipping them. A week later, the distributor rang up and said there were moths inside the sleeve! They’d laid eggs and moths had hatched! She said, ‘What do we do?’ We said, ‘Charge extra!’ But of course, they had to be removed. Some old copies even have pieces eaten out of the paper.”

Another favorite: Bruce was commissioned by Penguin books. “His work was considered ideal for a series that was intended to give the impression of hand-made small press editions.

Turns out the poets complained that covers made them seem small-time, and they wanted to be glossy "Hey look, I’ve made it" and big-time.

Lichter's work is spartan, clean. Also permeates his work and this book. His work is spartan, clean.

Another favorite: Bruce was commissioned by Penguin books. "His work was considered ideal for a series that was intended to give the impression of hand-made small press editions.

Turns out the poets complained that covers made them seem small-time, and they wanted to be glossy "Hey look, I’ve made it" and big-time.
HORRORSCOPES

By Clouds McCloud

Virgo: This may not be the most exciting birthday of your life, but it is ushering in better times. Since you'll need to thank people who wish you well as you kick off your next trip around the sun, here are some lines to help show your gratitude. 1) "May your vacuum such as well as 2020 has." 2) "Germs are just like the rest of us, they really like you." 3) "I may not be doing it, but they do say that Duct Tape fixes everything."

Libra: The recent full moon ushered in a season of positive change. Real love will arrive. Healing will happen. Financial and career opportunities will appear. The biggest thing you need to do is stay out of your own way. Adapting one of these new mort- ions should help: 1) "Why wake up stressing, since waking up is always a blessing!" 2) "My favorite dressing is "un."

Scorpio: The Stars say any recent family discord was needed and ultimately helpful. That's because it's tough to move on in life when you don't deal with things that keep drag- ging you down. Scorpios are actually great at healing, once you've admit- ted there was an injury, or six. So please try not to do the classic Scorpio move of saying, "Communication is key!" You have completely ignoring the subject, person, phone, email, and/or Instagram page.

Sagittarius: Sag's tends to be tough and to keep plugging away until you get to the nice stuff. This is the time to let the words of wisdom come from Plato, "Never discourage anyone who con- tinually makes progress, no matter how slow. " And your new theme song comes from The Killers, "I've got soul, but I'm not soldier."

Capricorn: According to a study from Oxford, women with large bottoms are going to smash more. Since the study was clearly funded in part by Sir Mix-A Lot, please accept yourself for your imperfections and enjoy these quotes from his Royal Highness. "Successful people know the value of opportunity and take advantage of it." 1) "tells you all the time, "I'm Mix- A-Lot. I'm not a rocket scientist." 2) "I like big butts and I cannot lie."

Aquarius: Most of the members of this sign can probably relate to betta fish. Much like you, these are beauti- ful creatures and often want to fight, which they're why you're also known as Sigma: The Fighting Fish. But with a little effort you can have enough fighting going on in the world right now. So we need you to look good and avoid fights. It might help if you adopt a new attitude, "All I want to do is ... Netflix and Chill, PBS and Press Fleshy or Disney Plus and Undress."

Pisces: As a very ethereal sign, it would be nice if you spun more of your magic and kept people on a mel- lower and more accepting plane. Per- haps quoting Yoda would help, "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate brings... giving people free massage oils and hIPPING will work even better. Aries: As that seems aloof in

matters of the heart, but really cares deeply, here is some general advice for you. Come up with funny things you’d like to say to others, but you never will. You know, things like, “I thought you were born this year ... and I re- minded me to put out the recycling.” Or how about, “I can’t truly show you how I feel because I don’t have your Sheffield.”

Taurus: People have really been on edge recently, and for good reason. Things always get roughest before they get better, especially things like your Valentine’s Day. It’s important to control what you can control, namely, your effort and attitude. If you start feeling edgy or angry, try using some CBD infused toilet paper to calm your butt down.

Gemin: One of the reasons the Clairs and the astrologers can’t always get along is because therapists aren’t supposed to say things like, “You need to have a ‘Screw You’ attitude towards people who don’t like you ... even if that’s a lot of people on your ‘screw’ list.” The other reason is because Clouds wants people to heal themselves. This is possible, so as long as we’re realizing we’re always evolving, and occasionally de- veloping and revolving, and hopefully involving ourselves with people who make us smile and disrobe.

Cancer: There’s a lot of uncertainty right now. There are lots of crazy constant changes and thoughtless floating around like Great White sharks off the beaches of Cape Cod. That’s why you should adopt this theory: That everything’s going to be okay. And you should remember what they say about love in Cape Cod—It happens one clam at a time.

Leo: Studies have shown that simply having one orgasm a day can add up to eight years to your life. Combine that with the fact that this also means eight more years of orgasms and you’re really talking about a win-win scenario. I just hope this is all that good news, that when you’re up in the right mindset. Good news are headed towards most Leos.

PERSONALS

I saw you ... are ready for some NFL football. Too bad your team’s QB, Jared Goff, is a one-man interception pandemic. I understand many of you are super fans of Donald Trump’s re-election. I don’t understand. Are you tired of winning? It is time to listen to an indoor din- ing. Which I’m excited about - as soon as saloons reopen, too. I heard you ... believe the coronavirus is a hoax. Like we’d ever make a good couple, since I have all the social distancing skills of a porn actress. How ‘bout we meet at Vons later so we can fondle the produce and breathe on each other? I say yes. I also support Distant learning. But maybe it’s time to leave the brew- ery and log into a class or two. I see you ... lab day has arrived just in time, especially since you haven’t worked a day since March.
Friday, September 4/11th Annual Western Night @ Bridgeport Barns and Terrace. BBQ + fundraiser benefits Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Foundation, 6-11 p.m. Drive-in movie @ Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. $20/car. Tonight: Grease starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. Gates open 7 p.m. Movie starts: 8:30 p.m. Main Street Market @ Eastside Guesthouse, 777 N Main Street, Bishop. Time: 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, September 5/Book Chalet moving sale at its shop across from The Stove on Old Mammoth Rd. 9 a.m. 'til 5 p.m. More info: See ad p. 5 Tailgate concert @ Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop featuring Valley Sons, Stelth Ulvang, Harry Andreas. Time: 5-11 p.m. Cost is $30/car.

Monday, September 7/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. Mono County Libraries presents: The Evolution Project for Teens Upcoming Virtual Workshop -- The Stories We Tell: Now & Then by Carissa Devine, Mono County Libraries, Youth Librarian. Monday, September 7th, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Learn more or register online at monocolibraries.org

Tuesday, September 8/Mono County Supervisors meet. 9 a.m. via Zoom. More info: See ad p. 4 Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission meets. 2 p.m. Attend virtually by logging on @ townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Thursday, September 10/Town Stuff Calendar of Events meets. 1 p.m. Attend virtually by logging on @ townofmammothlakes.ca.gov. 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. Covid-19 Community Conversation hosted by Mono and Mammoth officials. English: 5:30 p.m., Spanish: 6:30 p.m. Visit https://coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov for the Zoom link. Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce “Women in Business” event with personal trainer/nutrition coach Debbie North. Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Info@ mammothlakeschamber.org. Mono Arts Council Art and Wine class. Today’s theme: Alpine Lake Sunset. Taught by resident expert Miguel Flores. All classes live through a secure Zoom link which will be emailed to you after you sign up. Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost: $15. 9/17 class: “Ocean Moonrise.” 9/24 class: Tiger Lily. Ongoing: Free Covid-19 Testing in Bishop every Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ Church of the Nazarene, 8 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Sept. 11-12/Drive-in movie nights @ the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Gates open 7 p.m. $20/car. Sept. 11-13/6th annual June Lake Jam Fest is virtual this year. For details, visit www.junelakejamfest.org. Sept. 14-15/Bishop Community Blood Drive. 10-6 on the 14th and 8-2 on the 15th. Location: Elks Lodge. 151 E. Line St. in Bishop. Make an appt. by calling 866.985.0598 or visit bloodhero.com, sponsor code Bishop.

Sept. 16-20/Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is happening virtually this year. Lots of films, post-screening Q & A’s, special events, more. Info: www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.com or see related story and film review p. 17.

Sept. 17/Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative virtual meeting. 5:30-7 p.m. More info: See ad p. 4.
Town of Mammoth Lakes, CA

PUBLIC NOTICES
Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will receive sealed bids for the work shown on the plans enclosed.

 This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. Pursuant to Section 2771 of the Labor Code, the prevailing wage rates and working conditions in the construction industry of the City of Mammoth Lakes are set forth in the General Prevailing Wage Rate Schedule. The Department of Industrial Relations is referenced but not printed in the general prevailing wage rates. A copy of the schedules shall be posted by the successful bidder at the job site. The contractor shall maintain active registration with the Department of Industrial Relations for the duration of the Project. The contractor shall maintain all required licenses, permits, and certificates as required by law. The contractor shall demonstrate their qualifications by having adequate Certificate and shall maintain all required licenses and certificates as required by law. The contractor shall notify the Town if any of the work required by the Contract is subcontracted. The contractor shall hold harmless all parties who may be present at the execution of the Contract, the employment of apprentices, the hours and labor conditions, or the general prevailing wage rates in the locality. Notice of the contractor’s failure to comply with the requirements of this contract and applicable laws shall be submitted to the Town. The Town may participate in determining compliance with the wage requirements.

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CA

Jami Donnor, Town Engineer

DISTRIBUTION:

1. Town of Mammoth Lakes, California (760) 965-3652.
3. The Laurel, Mammoth Lakes, California.

Notice of Availability of Proposed 2020-2021 County Budget Documents and Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the proposed County budget documents for fiscal year 2020-2021 will be available to the members of the general public on August 27, 2020, at the offices of the County Administrative Office, Courthouse Annex, 12113 Fish Creek Road, Mammoth Lakes, California.

This business is conducted by Husband and Wife. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 17, 2020. File Number 20-144-195-001, 002, $10.00.

Mammoth Mountain Resorts

Southern California Gas Company

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2017. This business was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Stephen J. Parker, Clerk of Mono County, 19501 St. Vincent’s Drive, Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Mammoth Payroll Services

Thomas S. Parker, P.O. Box 1182, Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on September 14, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Mammoth Mountain Resorts

Jeff Desalvo

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 17, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.

Jeff Desalvo Slopes Drs, P.O. Box 1838 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May, 2016. This statement was filed with the County Clerk on August 20, 2020. File Number 20-150-095-001, 002, $10.00.
Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is going virtual this year. Surprise, surprise.

VIP passes as well as individual tickets are available for purchase at https://www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.com/2020-tickets.

The Film Festival, now in its fifth year, showcases emerging filmmakers and independent feature films before they become commercially available.

The Mammoth Lakes Film Festival website boasts that it has been, “Named as one of the Top 50 Festivals Worth The Entry Fee by Movie Maker Magazine in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020.

This year’s virtual experience opens with a film scheduled for release on Netflix this month titled ‘Residue.’

Residue is the debut film for Merawi Gerima, a filmmaker from Washington D.C., who graduated from USC.

In an interview by the USC Alumni spotlight, Gerima said, “It was a very personal project. You know, I started at USC in 2015 in the fall and the next year I went back home ... I think that being able to see the gentrification and the intensity in which the city had changed in one year, I think it was a bit of a shock. It was a rough visit.”

Which is what the film is ultimately about. Gentrification and its trickle down effects that are almost undetectable by the people experiencing them.

The film follows Jay, played by Obinna Nwachukwu, as he returns to DC from California hoping to make a movie about the neighborhood he grew up in.

The movie slowly descends into Jay’s tumultuous thoughts and feelings regarding where he grew up. Through a mix of reality, dreams, and flashbacks, Gerima contextualizes why Jay is disturbed by what’s revisiting.

Jay is the metaphorical black sheep. He is shunned by his old friends and does not appear to have a place in his old community. On top of that, he is searching for his old friend ‘Demetrius’ and no one is willing to tell him anything regarding his whereabouts.

What this all creates is a feeling of isolation. Jay can’t connect to his friends or, at times, his family. On top of that, the neighborhood is completely different than it used to be. Without giving too many spoilers, Gerima superimposes a Jay memory flashback on top of white women laughing and eating food to create an appropriate dichotomy between the old and the new.

And within this isolation, Jay faces many demons and memories that continuously haunt him.

Filmmaker Gerima also does a great job of only showing you what he wants you. You aren’t really sure how many houses have been gentrified or the extent of the neighborhood change. You just hear the construction. The white people in the movie are purposefully given no depth. Many of the black characters too. But there is enough depth within Jay’s inner circle that stimulates interest in the events to come.

The movie was well worth a watch. It shows gentrification from a point of view that is often left untold when economists and policymakers are discussing what to do about it. There is a personal story to be told for every house, every neighborhood, and every person who has ever been economically forced between a rock and a hard place.

It is also impressive that the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival got an early screening of a movie that Netflix claimed for itself earlier in the year.

Tickets are $8 and the movie will be shown on September 16. This is the debut movie for the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival which runs from September 16-20.
With restaurants getting the ‘green light’ to seat people indoors...
The Sheet asked people on the street: How do you feel about eating indoors?

“I don’t think it’s the right step with the numbers the way they are”
- Samantha Basalari, Traveler

“I’m going to wait it out to be honest. It is not an issue right now because the weather is great.”
- Sean Galloway, Mammoth Lakes

“I don’t really eat at restaurants anyways. Yeah, I never eat out.”
- Isaac Gillman, Mammoth Lakes

“I’m happy to see restaurants opening back up. But I would still eat outside”
- Ryan Wood, Mammoth Lakes

“I’m happy that restaurants are still finding ways to survive and thrive but I wouldn’t feel safe eating inside.”
- Katie M., Mammoth Lakes

“I personally am still not going to eat in a restaurant, it is still so nice out. But I’m glad the restaurants can get more business”
- Brooke M., Tuolumne

“I don’t think there is a restaurant worth eating inside in Mammoth Lakes”
- Chip Powell, Mammoth Lakes

“I think it’s about time to go and enjoy some of the things we used to enjoy. Stop being afraid. Oh, and wash your hands”
- Laurie Carr, Seattle

“I don’t think it’s the right step with the numbers the way they are”
- Samantha Basalari, Traveler

“I think it’s about time to go and enjoy some of the things we used to enjoy. Stop being afraid. Oh, and wash your hands”
- Laurie Carr, Seattle

“I don’t really eat at restaurants anyways. Yeah, I never eat out.”
- Isaac Gillman, Mammoth Lakes

“I’m happy to see restaurants opening back up. But I would still eat outside”
- Ryan Wood, Mammoth Lakes

“I’m happy that restaurants are still finding ways to survive and thrive but I wouldn’t feel safe eating inside.”
- Katie M., Mammoth Lakes

“I personally am still not going to eat in a restaurant, it is still so nice out. But I’m glad the restaurants can get more business”
- Brooke M., Tuolumne

“I don’t think there is a restaurant worth eating inside in Mammoth Lakes”
- Chip Powell, Mammoth Lakes

“I think it’s about time to go and enjoy some of the things we used to enjoy. Stop being afraid. Oh, and wash your hands”
- Laurie Carr, Seattle

“I don’t think it’s the right step with the numbers the way they are”
- Samantha Basalari, Traveler

“I think it’s about time to go and enjoy some of the things we used to enjoy. Stop being afraid. Oh, and wash your hands”
- Laurie Carr, Seattle

“I don’t really eat at restaurants anyways. Yeah, I never eat out.”
- Isaac Gillman, Mammoth Lakes

“I’m happy to see restaurants opening back up. But I would still eat outside”
- Ryan Wood, Mammoth Lakes

“I’m happy that restaurants are still finding ways to survive and thrive but I wouldn’t feel safe eating inside.”
- Katie M., Mammoth Lakes

“I personally am still not going to eat in a restaurant, it is still so nice out. But I’m glad the restaurants can get more business”
- Brooke M., Tuolumne

“I don’t think there is a restaurant worth eating inside in Mammoth Lakes”
- Chip Powell, Mammoth Lakes

“I think it’s about time to go and enjoy some of the things we used to enjoy. Stop being afraid. Oh, and wash your hands”
- Laurie Carr, Seattle
has changed its request for road easements with designations that allow OHVs on them, to just road easements. If the project just concerns easements, the USFS would not need to do the same level of analysis of the environmental impacts. If Inyo County wants to change the road usage after obtaining the easements, it would also need to prepare an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The difference between the USFS vs. Inyo County doing an environmental review is the scope and depth of the environmental review.

Inyo County was the CEQA lead for the Adventure Trails Program (A-T) and it narrowed the scope of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to consider only environmental impacts on the road itself, i.e. the road and the shoulders. That narrow view failed to identify and address impacts to the adjacent public lands and natural resources where significant environmental damage would be i.e. beyond the trailheads and the land beside the road. That is why the Center for Biologi- cal Diversity and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility sued the County for an inadequate EIR.

After combing through documents received through a Freedom of Information Act request, it is clear that the actual goal of the easement request is to expand the Adventure Trails Program and not to facilitate road maintenance. By breaking the project up into two steps: 1) obtain easements first and then 2) make the change to allow OHVs on them, the County can narrow the scope of the environmental review once again to look at just impacts to the roads and their shoulders. Whereas the USFS would consider the broader impacts to public lands as part of the decision whether or not to allow OHVs, the County won’t.

The USFS would be creating an enforcement and maintenance nightmare for itself if it grants Inyo County these easements. Inyo County will market the Adventure Trails Program. Imagine 500,000 OHVs coming to Inyo County annually instead of 50,000 (per 2015 Inyo NF survey). Kern County OHV riding areas attract over 800,000 OHV visitors a year. Just with the current level of OHV activity a local citizen’s group has documented 80 instances of trespass and damage over the last 6 months.

While the A-T Program is a popular idea for some, it is controversial due to its potential for damage to our natural resources, illegal trespass, incursions into wilderness, conflicts with other types of recreation, and the added burden of increased number of visitors, vegetation repair, and law enforcement on the USFS, BLM, and NFS. We need to take a hard look at these impacts before deciding what is best for the public.

Lynn Boulton
Chair Range of Light Group
Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club

More than hot water

The following was penned this week regarding water issues surrounding Mono Lake to the Mono Board of Supervisors.

Dear Members of the Board,

I wanted to send a letter to follow-up on the 9/1/20 meeting discussion of my recent correspondence to the Board regarding the mismanagement of the DeChambeau Ponds and Wilson Creek. Specifically, I want to address comments made by Bartho Miller, Eastern Sierra Policy Director of the Mono Lake Committee.

Mr. Miller is correct in saying that the artesian hot well is one source of water for the ponds and that the delivery system for the hot water is currently ruptured and is aiding in the degradation of the ponds. However, by his mentioning that the hot water issue was not included in my previous letter, he seemed to be implying that I was attempting to mislead the Board into thinking that the creek flow is the only issue when according to his explanation, the whole problem is the hot water leak.

In reality, based on the knowledge and memory of many long-time locals, as well as available public documents, both Wilson Creek water and the hot artesian well are critical sources of water for maintenance of the pond habitat. The current and most urgent matter is the dramatic reduction in flows in Wilson Creek, and this is the reason for the most recent destruction we have seen.

Mr. Miller has raised the important issue of the hot pipe leak, and this allows me to explain the background of this aspect of the problem. Though Mr. Miller rightly raised it as a concern, he did not adequately explain the history or real problems behind this issue. In my opinion, he did more to mislead the Board by implying that the hot water issue is the real reason the ponds are currently drying up, and wildlife habitat is actively being destroyed.

The first thing I want to make clear, is that the hot pipe leak has existed for over a decade. Due to this leak, hot water has not been deliverable to several ponds for at least several years, if not longer. I want to make it very clear that despite this inability to provide hot water, up until very recently, the creek water was still able to keep several of the ponds viable as habitat.

The hot pipe leak has prevented hot water from being able to flow into Pond 2 for at least five years, and yet despite this, over the last five years, Pond 2 has been kept full. Even this past winter, and as recently as this past April, Pond 2 had water in it and was spilling and filling Pond 3 as well. In recent winters, people have ice-skated on this pond, and I have even run into various folks from the Mono Lake Committee out on the ponds skating. Did they not know they were skating on Wilson Creek water? And did they not realize it could not have been the creek flow, since it was, after all, frozen?

— Mr. Miller and the MLC appear to be preparing to claim that if the hot water pipe is repaired, then the entire problem at the ponds will be solved. Therefore Wilson Creek can continue to be denied water and kept preciously low or even completely dry. For the reasons stated above, unless this repair is accompanied by a guarantee of a flow of creek water to flush the hot water and keep all the ponds filled, this will actually spell further disaster for the ponds because the water will become toxic, and there still will not be enough water to fill all the ponds.

Hillary Hansen
Mono Lake

We are working hard to clean up the places that you love, but there is more work to be done.

Help us extend our Trail Ambassadors’ work into the fall to address impacts of the 2020 summer season.

Make a donation online at

Friends of the Inyo
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

All information subject to change. The Snowcreek Property Company. CalBRE #01812140.

2020. All rights reserved.