Curtis Shapiro, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Housing Coordinator, has lived the housing crunch firsthand. For the first four months he had his job, the Housing Coordinator lived in his truck.

**IT’S NOT ALL ABOUT THE PARCEL**  
Chamber, Town, MLH all working to create housing opportunities

A t The Parcel workshop held Tuesday evening, project developer Andrea Clark of the Pacific Companies guessed The Parcel wouldn’t accommodate its first residents until 2023-2024. Which means, the local housing shortage promises to become even more acute in the short-term.

However, there are several local entities currently working on alleviating the housing crunch, each taking a different angle, from expanding the existing housing base to short-term.

The argument for leniency? The base is isolated within the county and remains very much self-contained as a hotspot and therefore is not representative of the county as a whole. This gives hope that the adjudication filed by the county, asking the state to exempt the base’s numbers from its Covid calculation, could be accepted.

But wait, there’s more! There has also been a recent increase in Covid-19 cases unrelated to the Marine base. The county recorded twelve new...
ONE THING WE CAN ALL AGREE ON
... is that everyone likes an extra six inches.

We learned that at a four hour Parcel workshop on Tuesday. A workshop via Zoom that was briefly halted by a power outage - perhaps there wasn’t enough brain activity on the call to maintain an electrical current.

Alright, that was mean. But honestly, warranted. Because there was nothing about this call that couldn’t have been discussed on the last call. None of the slides had changed. None of the details of the previous presentation altered.

It’s like every bureaucrat in town equates maintaining “momentum” with holding another damn meeting.

And if you’re gonna have another damn meeting, you may as well have it be a joint Council/Planning Commission meeting so when they ask all the Commissioners and Councilmembers their opinions, you get to yawn through ten comments versus the usual five, because, you know, everyone has to say something.

“Except Cleland Hoff. She tries to go light on gratuitous commentary for the sake of gratuitous commentary. I’ll miss that. And I’ll miss those magical moments - like the frown on her face during the November 4 Council meeting when she was on a Zoom call helplessly watching her dog throw up across the room. Now that was good theater!

So there was a bit of an echo chamber on Tuesday evening. As in, “I’d like to echo what so-and-so just said.” Echo-echo-echo ...

Never mind the echo chamber in Kirk Stapp’s own head. Kirk clamps onto a few points and won’t let them go. Density and parking. Density and parking. Don’t move on to building height unless you want Kirk to talk about density and parking.

Speaking of building height, I did appreciate that the developer needs a six-inch height variance for the phase one project. How it came out to six inches is anyone’s guess. I’m surprised no one asked for eight.

But let’s indulge Kirk and go back to density for a moment. The rough parameters right now are somewhere between 400-580 units for the six-phase, 25-acre site.

Shellan Rodriguez, representing Pacific Companies, the Town’s development partner, said that to qualify for housing grants, you typically need to guarantee 18 units/acre minimum, so throw out the 400. You’re at 450 (18 times 25) to start.

Rodriguez, by the way, gave me a good chuckle when she stumbled over Mayor Pro-Tem Lynda Salcido’s name, calling her Mayor Pro-Tem Sausalito. Oops. Sausalito was running the meeting in Mayor Sauser’s stead. He’s rescued because he lives too close to the project site.

Salcido is expected to become Mayor next month.

I think we’re going to miss Sauser running the meetings. Sausalito is too Sausolicitous. We really should operate such meetings like a round of Jeopardy! (RIP Alex Trebek). As we all know, a Jeopardy! contestant who’s not quick enough to buzz in never gets to answer any questions and therefore never gets any air time.

PEDC Commissioner Paul Chang got some air time. Man, he’s got a deep voice. He’s more like Paul Robeson. Chang said we need to educate our visitors and residents about public transportation and that we need to exercise discipline to meet our mobility goals.

Fellow Commissioner Jennifer Burrows echoed that, referencing the Walk, Bike, Ride program.

see LUNCH, page 3
LUNCH

continued from page 2

Surely, Chang and Burrows practice what they preach. They must be the hearty ones riding those empty buses around town these days.

Okay, I don’t mean pick on Chang and Burrows. Too much anyway. Reality is, don’t shortchange the project parking because you have a utopian vision as to how other people should live - a vision that conveniently doesn’t apply to you.

Seeing John Wentworth and Stu Brown riding around town on their bikes has dramatically more impact on me - leadership by example - than listening to any public official (other than John Wentworth or Stu Brown) talk about riding, biking, etc.

But the parking. Yes, Kirk, the parking.

Town Planner Chandler Van Schaack said the project, as designed, features a 27% reduction in parking (from existing code). The project designates 0.5 spaces for a studio, one for a one-bedroom, 1.5 for a 2- or 3-bedroom and two spaces for a four-bedroom. This is all just a calculation, an estimate. The spaces aren’t even assigned. “A parking management strategy will have to be developed,” he said.

Here’s a strategy. Assign the spaces and build more.

When I moved into the Town’s first-ever affordable housing project, Meridian Court, in 2006, the development featured 24 units on a one-acre parcel. Because they sought to cram as much density on the site as possible, they had to skimp on parking. All the same arguments about public transportation and getting people out of their cars came up. Well, you know what? If there’s a kid(s), and you both have jobs, you’re gonna have to juggle. And each person’s gonna have a car. My two-bedroom unit had one dedicated parking space. There were four visitor spaces in the entire place. What did we end up doing? Battling over those spaces and parking illegally on the street.

And what people forget. Once people have a permanent place, they tend to nest. And sprawl. And share that deeply ingrained American thirst for toys - boats, snowmobiles, et. al.

Now I understand the argument. You want boats and snowmobiles, then don’t move into public housing.

Because that’s understood to be the bargain - if we spend a half-million apiece on these units so that we can provide below-market accommodations for you, you’re supposed to live like a churchmouse, go to work and not cause trouble and not acquire toys. Except skis and tennis racquets, which tend to store easily and don’t take up much room.

But why the meeting was a waste of time: It’s the first phase of a six-phase project. Once you finish it, there will be still be plenty of places to store snow, plenty of illegal carve-outs for parking. Plenty of time to debate ultimate project density calculations. The developer needs approval from Planning Commission and Council in order to go after grant money. Applications for that grant cycle are due in March. Approve now. Worry about philosophy later.

Shoot, I almost forgot one of the highlights. That was commentary made by Tom Hodges, Mammoth Mountain’s Vice-President for Development.

Hodges gave the usual Mountain speech that we’ve heard a thousand times before - expect 2-3 hotels might get built over the next 3-5 years. Lot of employees. Best to maximize housing density. Great downtown planning opportunity, etc.

But it’s hard not to hear this spiel and think about the underlying message: Hotels, built by us, are going to need employees, and we’d like you to take care of that thorny issue [housing] at public expense so that we can maximize private gain.

Hodges is a community guy. But he’s also a corporate advocate. And I know a lot of folks in Mammoth are still sore about the Ski Area’s determination that Ikon pass sales are made out of Colorado and therefore not subject to the 2% lift ticket tax initially promised when the Town created the TBID (Tourism Business Improvement District).

When the TBID was renewed in 2018, that former lift tax contribution was left off. By my calculation, 2% of 100,000 (estimate) local (California) passes sold at, say, $750 apiece = $1.5 million in forfeited annual tax revenue.

I think if the Mountain wishes to get involved in downtown planning issues, the first order of business should be for Alterra to haul out the checkbook.
Mono County Clerk Recorder Shannon Kendall gave an update on the 2020 election at Tuesday’s Mono Board of Supervisors meeting.

The county was still processing 150 provisional votes at the time of Kendall’s presentation, about half of the usual number.

Mono County’s voter turnout was 86.77%, as 6,803 residents cast ballots out of a pool of 7,840 registered voters.

Kendall reported that none of the races in the county were ultimately too close to merit a recount.

The county is still verifying signatures; it has until November 20 to complete the task. Election officials will conclude ballot counting by November 23, certify the results the following day, and have until December 1 to declare the results.

Voter turnout in Inyo was also high,clocking in at 87.2% with 9,603 residents voting of 11,013 registered voters.

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Mammoth Mountain kicks off the 20/21 ski season this weekend after an abrupt ending to the previous season in March, 2020. Those seeking a return to the previous normal, however, may be sorely disappoint-ed. The mountain is limiting the number of passes it is selling for the foreseeable future. While Ikon Pass holders won’t need to make a reservation or guarantee their spots on the slopes, others may be ill-served by the limit. Recent storms and cold weather have allowed MMSA to diversify it’s opening day lift offerings, opening multiple chairs at Main Lodge as well as The Mill’s Stump Alley Express (Chair 2). This will allow climbers and mountain management’s hope that it can spread more people out and decrease the potential for virus spread. But as for apres ski…that won’t look the same this year. Anywhere. Never mind the loss of institutions like Slumber’s and Nevada’s.

Kelli Moore, Assistant to Mammoth Mountain Hospitality Eric Clark, joined the Mammoth Lakes Lodging Association’s weekly Monday Zoom meeting to explain that tickets for the coming weekend are completely sold out, with Thanksgiving weekend also devoid of available tickets. She explained that this may change if snow continues to fall and be made on the slopes, as it would further increase MMSA’s ability to keep riders and skiers spread out on the mountain.

For the lodging community, that limited number of tickets has already impacted sales and guest reservations. Diane Stilwell of 101 Great Escapes explained that she had already had guests cancel when they were unable to get lift tickets for Thanksgiving weekend, a sentiment echoed by other lodging operators. “That’s really awful,” Stilwell said of the cancellations.

MMSA Hospitality Marketing Manager Heather Johnston encouraging lodging operators to direct guests to other options like the Ikon Session Pass and the unlimited afternoon passes; the IKON Session offers 4 days of skiing for $499 while the afternoon passes are good from 12-45 p.m. to close at 25% of a regular single day pass. Johnston also noted that the majority of the capacity issues will come in the early season before the entire mountain can be opened.

Other changes include no group ski school lessons and extended leniency for cancellations.

“If there is anything we’ve learned to do these past 6 months, it’s to pivot and be flexible,” Johnston said.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi added that MLT is working with the mountain on getting the new information out to guests and local businesses.

Mark Deeds of Sierra Meadows Ranch told fellow meeting attendees, “I’m a bit caught off guard with the information about the mountain selling out … it seems that, gosh, I wish there was better communication with regards to the sell out.” His reasoning was identical to Stilwell’s: guests will cancel reservations when they aren’t able to ski during their weekend in Mammoth Lakes.

Johnston explained that due to early season capacity concerns, there would most likely be additional sold-out weekend as MMSA continues to push early bookings. “The main intent right now is two things: keeping employees, guests and the community safe, and number two is to stay open.”

She added that the MMSA call center had been jammed with calls, making it entirely possible that more sold out days are on the horizon.

Mammoth Mayor Bill Sauser also advocated for MLT and the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce to push any non-mountain local activities that could pique guest interest and prevent them from cancelling reservations. These would range from snow activities like snowmobiling and cross country skiing to indoor activities like bowling and axe throwing. The complications involved in that, however, are that alternative snow activities can’t open until more snow has fallen.

Snowcreek Director of Operations John Morris urged lodging operators to get as much information out on their own channels as well, stating “It is incumbent on all of us to get as much of that information out on our own sites as well … especially in the early season period where conditions may not be perfect.”

Morris continued: “A lot of people come up [to Snowcreek] but don’t ski,” he said. “The snow aspect doesn’t matter as much to them; they just want to be here.”

The Sheet attempted to contact Mountain representatives to ask about ticket packages through the standard 800.MAMMOTH line. The hold message advised callers to attempt to manage bookings and reservations online. After about 10 minutes, The Sheet gave up.

None of the mountain lodging properties (Juniper Springs, The Village Lodge, Mammoth Mountain Inn, etc.) list lift tickets as part of their room deals. It should also be noted that 800.MAMMOTH is listed as a contact number for lodging operations owned by MMSA. So even if you’re calling to confirm a reservation or ask a question, get ready to stay on hold for a little while.

Uncertainty Lurks for Restaurants
Later on Monday, the Mammoth Lakes Restaurant Association held its second ever meeting. Heather Johnston kicked this one off with similar information to what she had presented in the morning, telling restaurateurs that MMSA had already sold out a few days/weekends and was limiting capacity for the time being.

Noting that “it sounds super scary,” Johnston explained that Mammoth will be taking a very conservative approach to the number of lift tickets sold for the time being.

“We’re shooting for the fact that we could potentially have a small amount of terrain [open],” she said.

Johnston also reported that the call center had a queue of about 200 callers waiting to be helped at the time of the meeting. She added that Mammoth Mountain will be putting out the most up-to-date information online so as to alleviate some of the demand for the call center.

She again stressed the importance that safety will play in keeping the
Mono County Public Health Officers are submitting a request to enter into a tier adjudication process with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Rationale: It doesn’t want an isolated outbreak of 173 positive cases at the Marine base to affect the larger county when it comes to potential increased Covid restriction.

The Marine base outbreak started with the arrival of more than 1,500 Marines from outside the area for training, some of whom had unrecognized COVID-19. Most of the cases have occurred among these visiting trainees, who are restricted to the remote mountain base. Thirteen cases have occurred among MWTC personnel, and three among family members. There is no evidence that this military outbreak has resulted in increased infections outside the MWTC community.

Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Health Officer cautioned, “As we make this request to try to stay out of the Purple tier, I am increasingly concerned that we are seeing more cases in Mono County that are NOT related to the Marine Corps outbreak. Last week (November 1-7) we had 15 new cases across Mono County that are NOT related to the Marine Corps outbreak. Last week (November 1-7) we had 15 new cases across Mono County that are NOT related to the Marine Corps outbreak.

Say no to scammers

From Mammoth Lakes Police: As winter approaches, many businesses in town are hiring new staff. This is a good time to discuss with employees, telephone and internet scams that target businesses.

Today (November 9), a local business lost their day’s cash earnings to a telephone scammer who convinced employees that the manager needed them to take the cash and wire it out of the country for an emergency. Luckily the transaction was able to be intercepted.

Scams come in all forms, from utility bill scams, customers inquiring about expensive services with little regard to cost or product specifics, spoofed emails etc. If a situation feels wrong to you, it probably is!

Schools shut down again

From Eastern Sierra Unified School District Superintendent Heidi Torix, posted to the Coleville School Facebook page:

Unfortunately, we have an exposure at Antelope Elementary that will cause AES to close down, and therefore Coleville High School and Bridgeport Elementary, because of siblings. The health department will likely contact some families if they think you should have your child tested. Everyone else should quarantine effective immediately for 14 days. Today will be the last day of in-seat instruction for the three schools until Monday following Thanksgiving break. Technology will be going home today with students if possible, along with work for tomorrow and Monday. Tuesday you will refer to the online schedule that was followed at the beginning of the year. This is precautionary so please do not rush to the assumption that your child has COVID. More information will follow from your child’s teacher regarding instruction. We will get through this and bring your children back to school after the break.

Downtown Bishop Plans

The City of Bishop and Alta Planning have been developing concepts and alternatives for the Downtown Bishop Specific Plan and Mixed-Use Overlay Zone, and now invite you to join them at a socially distanced open house the week of November 16th – 20th.

Stop by to talk with city staff and learn more about concepts and alternatives that can offer more housing options, mixed-use buildings, and an improved pedestrian experience. Comments received will help inform the development of the final plans.

Location: 156 South Main Street
Open: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.
COVID Protocols: Masks are mandatory and required to be worn by all parties within the venue.
Capacity will be limited to ensure social distancing.
Queuing outside will also follow social distancing protocols.
On November 5, Cassandra Bravo of Riverside notified her boyfriend that she would be going on a short hike in the Lone Pine area after dropping her son off in town. When she did not return by Friday, friends contacted local authorities, who found her car at the Whitney portal parking lot.

Inyo County Search and Rescue located Bravo on Saturday as snow was falling, alive and barely coherent after spending two nights in near-freezing temperatures with no protection against the weather.

They reported that she had slipped and fallen some 100 feet down a slope and was sheltering against a large tree trunk.

Bravo was airlifted to the Antelope Valley Medical Center in Lancaster but ultimately succumbed to her injuries as the medical team attempted to stabilize her at the facility.

Bravo was a nurse at Loma Linda University Medical Center where she worked in the Urgent Care department. A GoFund me has been set up to help care for her two children: https://www.gofundme.com/f/in-memory-of-cassandra-bravo

Last week, Todd Estrada wrote a letter to the Mono County Board of Supervisors asking the board to consider creating a stand-alone Veterans affairs position for Mono County, which would break the VA partnership between Mono and Inyo counties.

In his letter, Estrada called the situation unfolding in Inyo, which involves Inyo Sheriff Jeff Hollowell and his choice to place Veterans Affairs representative Jessica Allmon on administrative leave.

This week, Mono County Supervisors took up the item, hearing a brief presentation from county administrative officer Bob Lawton on the topic before providing their own input. Lawton reported that Inyo County is "not able to provide [service] on our behalf temporarily," as a result of Allmon’s absence. Veterans Affairs services for both Inyo and Mono Counties is instead being handled by the Kern County VA.

He added that Inyo County representatives had informed him that the reason was a "personnel matter" and that greater clarity can be expected by December 1.

"I have great reservations about veterans from Topaz, Coleville, Walker, Bridgeport, Mammoth, June Lake... being told they need to not communicate with Bishop but with Bakersfield," Lawton said.

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ADVANCED AIR COMING TO MAMMOTH

Press Release

This winter experience a new type of luxury with Advanced Airlines service to Mammoth Lakes. Beginning December 17, 2020, this public charter service will fly from Burbank, Carlsbad and Hawthorne (LA) to the Mammoth Yosemite Airport. Enjoy the convenience of a private experience at commercial airline cost with benefits such as skipping TSA and complimentary beverages and snacks. “Advanced Air is very excited to launch airline service directly into Mammoth Yosemite Airport from Jet Center Los Angeles at the Hawthorne Airport (3 miles southeast of LAX). Million Air Burbank at the Burbank Airport, and the airline terminal at the Carlsbad San Diego Airport,” said the company’s President, Levi Stockton. “We have a long history of flying into Mammoth Lakes. Our company was created 15 years ago on the need to travel from Los Angeles to Mammoth Lakes on a regular basis. We view this venture as a partnership with the community and we’ll be working closely with local stakeholders to ensure our service exceeds the standards you’re already used to.”

In these uncertain times surrounding COVID-19, Advanced Airlines will be operating a flexible fleet combined with 30-passenger regional jets and 9 passenger King Air 350’s, allowing for maximum capacity to meet the demand.

“We see a bright future for our partnership with Mammoth Lakes and we’ll be focusing our efforts on providing high on-time departures and flight completions,” Stockton added.

Advanced Air was founded in 2005 and began scheduled shuttle service in 2015.

“Advanced Air brings a very high-level of service that both our visitors and locals deserve,” said Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director, John Urdi. “Their flexibility of aircraft and ability to land in Bishop on stormy days creates the opportunity for almost guaranteed access in and out of the region.”

Visit www.advancedairlines.com to book your ticket to visit Mammoth today.

-Lara Kaylor
ML Tourism

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GOT BAD TENANTS? LISTEN TO DAVE

When The Sheet stopped by The Bookie Joint on Thursday looking for answers to a survey question, “In the context of the election, what’s the best way to get rid of a bad tenant?” Dave Leonard replied, “The problem is not so much how to get rid of the bad tenant but rather how to make him leave the property in a decent condition. He is more likely to take a huge shit on the bed than to considerately clean the oven.”

“Bad tenants, bad landlords—our bad tenants are our bad landlords,” said Tenants’ Right’s advocate, Tania McDonald. “They’re asking for it. They choose to have these tenants.”

When the tenant/landlord relationship is symbiotic, you can avoid the problems and the mess associated with having bad tenants. “When the landlord is being a good landlord, the tenant is being a good tenant,” McDonald said.

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LUNCH
continued from page 3

Look for this issue in the coming months. More than one local business owner has brought it up. And that is the domino effect, not only of Covid, but of false Covid (i.e. you think you have it, you’re cautious, and you stay home from work, and suddenly there’s no one left to work - and often, these friends are all employed at the same place). Sure, we dealt with this in the spring, but the labor market is thinner now, and the flu market hasn’t even geared up yet.

Finally, I thought this was pretty clever of Brent Truax over at Sierra Nevada Resort. When I asked him about operating the Resort restaurants this year, he said he’s absolutely going to open the Red Lantern - and hand out Jimmy’s menus.

Upstairs and downstairs, at 50% capacity, Jimmy’s will be able to accommodate about 100 patrons at any one time.
cases of Covid-19 last week. While this is not enough to topple the county into a more restrictive tier, it is a definite cause for concern. County public health officials have stressed the importance of keeping local numbers low, however, the relative growth in cases may signal more on the way. Covid cases are spiking nationwide, with nearly 150,000 new cases recorded Wednesday.

Renown Hospital in Reno, often the destination for patients flown out of Mammoth Hospital, reported on Wednesday afternoon that it would be reopening its parking garage emergency care facility due to a surge in cases. The unit was opened earlier in the pandemic but never used.

At the Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Public Health Officer Tom Boo and Public Health Director Bryan Wheeler explained that the county was in the process of filing an adjudication by Wednesday to be reviewed by the state. If granted, Mono County would not be held responsible for the base outcome. If rejected, Mono County would likely be pushed into the most restrictive tier (purple) on California’s framework due to high positivity and case rates, the two metrics measured by the state to determine a county’s tier. Mono County’s positivity rate for October 24-31 was 14.71%; the week before was 8.55%. Both are high enough to necessitate movement to Tier 1.

“As you can see,” Wheeler said, “We’re currently trending in the wrong direction, or the less desirable direction.” Tier 1, widespread disease, would remove in-person dining as a whole and force many non-essential businesses to close. Tier 2, substantial disease, would cut many capacities down to 25% and ultimately require local businesses to close due to the impossibility of serving customers outdoors in many capacities.

Wheeler reported an increase in calls to the 211 nurses hotline from symptomatic individuals, with 18 calls on Monday alone, a number Wheeler said, that is similar to the calls the hotline received during a case spike during the summer. In response to a question about the presence of the flu in the area, Wheeler responded that there had been near-nonexistent flu cases so far, noting that the free flu clinics had proven to be a massive success.

Regarding adjudication, Boo explained that he, Wheeler, and other local officials had participated in a call with California Department of Public Health officials last Friday to discuss the outbreak at the MWTC and advocate for it not to count against the county.

“We were basically making the case that moving to a more restrictive tier would not help and the economic hardship would be unwarranted,” Boo said. As for how state officials responded, Boo believed that the pitch was well received and the officials in question were receptive to the plea.

Boo also discussed the recent news that pharmaceutical company Pfizer had reported 90% success rates with its potential Covid-19 vaccine. The vaccine would require two doses 28 days apart, and is said to be very fragile, requiring extremely cold temperatures for storage and transport.

Initial availability, he explained, would be reserved for frontline workers (EMTs, nurses, hospital staff, doctors) and high-risk individuals and could be available by mid-winter. Larger scale vaccinations would most likely begin in summer 2021. He said the county does not currently have the required freezer capacity to store the vaccine, adding that the two-step nature of the vaccine could mean some people neglect to get the second shot, thereby negating potential immunity.

Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz asked Boo about the timeline for the state’s decision on tier adjustments. Boo replied the tier movement would be effective immediately once the state makes a decision, although the adjudication request adds in a mandatory seven day buffer on the final decision.

Kreitz also asked about where the non-MWTC cases were coming from.

“A lot of cases seem to be related to travel and just getting together,” Boo reported, factoring in new seasonal employees as another possible cause. He and Wheeler stressed that the new cases in question are not a single cluster but multiple separate individuals.

During public comment, Jamie Schechtman, owner of June Pie and the T-Bar, asked how a tier change might affect local lodging operations and the ski industry as a whole.

“The tier system does not directly affect lodging at all, Boo explained, nor is there consideration for where ski resorts fit in the structure.” The state is currently putting together guidance for the ski industry.

The county will know the results of the adjudication appeal by next week at the earliest.

Additional spikes in California, particularly in the southern part of the state, also worried Wheeler and Boo, as Southern California is a primary drive market for the region.
from homeowners trying to gauge the opportunity cost of fixing up their properties to rent.

“Many didn’t even know there was a housing issue in Mammoth Lakes,” said Shapiro.

Six of those 36 have ultimately been converted to an active rental.

Do the math and it’s daunting. 6/4800 amounts to a conversion rate of a little over a tenth of one percent.

Especially when you’re losing stock seemingly as quickly as you gain it.

Shapiro said he can anecdotally count 2-3 instances over the past few months where local workforce was passed over for a long-term rental by out-of-towners of greater means.

He told one story where two nurses had a place lined up, but lost it to a Southern Californian who offered to put in a bid.

Competition for housing stock from out-of-towners has been an increasingly impactful issue, said Shapiro.

Glenn Hinkel, who’s owned property in Mammoth for more than twenty years, is one very satified customer of Shapiro’s. “They sent me 7-8 vetted candidate applications. I went through them and made a choice. It was a totally easy process. Too easy. I was impressed.”

Hinkel commended Shapiro for his responsiveness.

And ultimately signed an 8-year contract with additional money if he’d accept their application. He turned it down. “I don’t want to gouge people,” he said.)

The rise of the ADU

Nolan Bobroff is the Town’s Housing Coordinator, working under the umbrella of the Community Development Department.

One of the components of Bobroff’s job is trying to figure out how to incorporate/incentivize ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units), otherwise known as “Granny” units.

Bobroff said the state has relaxed standards on ADUs in recent years (there were three ADU-related bills passed by the California legislature in 2019).

The effect of these legislative changes include exceptions to parking requirements (if the home is located within a half-mile of a transit stop - most of Mammoth) as well as allowing ADUs to encroach into setback areas.

For example, said Bobroff, say you already have full lot coverage on a single-family lot. According to state law, you could add an 800-square foot attached or detached ADU.

Sheet: What do the neighbors think about that?

Bobroff: They don’t love it, but that’s state law.

And that’s really the challenge for Bobroff. First, it’s to amend Town code to come into alignment with state directives (An agenda bill is scheduled to come before Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission in January, 2021). But second, and more important, how does one make relaxed development standards and incentivizing ADUs stick? What’s to say a homeowner won’t build out an ADU, rent it for a mandated period to fulfill a requirement, and then take it off the rental market, enjoying the extra space he/she has created?

Whatever the angle, the creation of ADUs has become increasingly popular of late. As of a few years ago, Bobroff said applications for ADUs were rare. These days? Ten applications for permits have been submitted within the last year, with three having received a Certificate of Occupancy.

A less impactful (at least to the neighbors) form of the ADU which also dovetails with Curtis Shapiro’s program is the development of “Interior” ADUs.

As Bobroff explained, a homeowner can carve out an ADU within the home so long as the space has a basic kitchen, a lockable door and an exterior entrance.

“We get so many inquiries, even in passing [by homeowners wanting to know what they can/can’t do with their property]. But very often, a full-time tenant living on a property [used as a second home] becomes a win-win,” said Bobroff.

MLH offers down-payment assistance

Mammoth’s Town Council recently gave Mammoth Lakes Housing the go-ahead to launch a down-payment assistance program.

Mammoth Lakes Housing Executive Director Patricia Robertson said MLH will offer up to a maximum of $50,000 in down-payment assistance to those who have not owned a home in the previous three years. There are a few caveats/exemptions to this, one being divorce.

There is $100,000 total available in the kitty. The program will be administered via lottery.

The assistance comes in the form of a zero interest loan, which will be recorded on behalf of the Town as a promissory note and deed of trust.

The assistance will also come with a residency requirement and a deed restriction - what one would be able to sell the unit for would be capped, tied to local AMI (Area Median Income) growth.

The rationale being that this would maintain affordability of the property. Buyers will be required to put down 10% of their own money in any transaction.

Further, the program is restricted to those making 120% or less of current AMI.

Example: The 120% AMI calculation for a household of four is $97,450.

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Tailgate Concert & Drive-in Movie Series

Tri-County Fairgrounds • Bishop, CA

Upcoming Events

**OCT. 30**
Annabelle

**OCT. 31**
Drive-In Trick or Treat Event
Addams Family

**NOV. 7**
Carbe & Durand Band
Presented by Inyo Council for the Arts

**NOV. 8**
Anything Selena
Live on Stage

**NOV. 14**
Led Zepagain
Live on Stage

**NOV. 17**
Stone Locals & More
Presented by Bishop Area Climbers Coalition & Patagonia

For show times and ticket prices visit tricountyfair.com

Sponsored by:

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
I'm a year where things once taken for granted have been undeniably altered, it stands to reason that many traditions must follow suit as well. For Sierra Classic Theatre’s (SCT) annual Murder Mystery, that meant ditching the live venue and attempting the complicated task of performing live theater over Zoom.

In the months since the pandemic took hold, some theater companies have attempted the feat and while they were able to pull the show off, the task of translating pre-existing works into virtual plays proved too clunky to allow for a strong performance.

After an attempt to have a live production of Shakespeare's The Tempest over the summer was ultimately cancelled, it was back to the drawing board as colder weather moved in.

SCT’s Artistic Director Allison McDonnell Page told The Sheet that she began researching Zoom Theater productions to see what was working and what would be like by the time this was actually going to be handed in via an online form. Instead of a sit-down dinner at a restaurant, SCT has paired with three local restaurants to provide special menus for each night. McDonnell Page explained that the restaurants chosen for this year are establishments that have never been able to host the show in-person due to space limitations. “It’s been really interesting trying to write and do comedy in this time.”

McDonnell Page explained that the restau
	

rants chosen for this year are establishments that have never been able to host the show in-person due to space limitations.

The shows are November 15, 16, and 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at sierraclassictheatre.org. Info: see ad pg. 2
instances where patrons enter a restaurant and remove their masks once seated, a situation that “puts other people at risk when eating and also puts staff at the restaurant at risk.”

He recommended speaking to guests when they arrive and posting literature that clearly states the restaurant’s mask policy and that patrons should act in order,” he said.

Wheeler underscored the importance of increased masking guidance as Mammoth Mountain begins operations and as the Mammoth Lakes population swells dramatically during winter weekends.

 “[Covid-19] numbers in LA are up and that’s concerning considering it’s our drive market,” said Wheeler.

Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Director Ken Brengle explained that the Association is already doing that, as agreed upon at the group’s previous meeting.

Association Co-Chair Brandon Brocia, of Bleu and the Eatery, asked Wheeler about best practices for indoor dining.

Wheeler recommended adding air purifiers and increasing the quality of filters throughout the building. He also advised operators that wait staff would benefit from wearing face shields.

Mono County Environmental Health Director Molina mentioned open windows (when possible) and filtration systems as solutions, adding that servers should also potentially wear N-95 masks.

“[Servers] are going to be coming constantly in contact with unmasked customers,” he said. “[N95s] are harder to get, also more uncomfortable to wear, but if people can do that for at least part of their shifts, it would be helpful to them.”

Brengle reported that the Chamber still has some boxes of N95s that it can distribute as needed.

Sierra Nevada Resort Managing Director Brent Truax asked about cleaning standards, referencing SNR’s usage of ozonators to help clean surfaces.

Molina answered that wiping down the most frequently touched spaces or objects would be the best way to keep people safe, as you can test with a chlorine solution that you’ve properly gotten everything, which you can’t accomplish with an ozonator.

Matthew Sutton, Senior VP for Government Affairs and Public Policy at the California Restaurant Association, joined the call to talk about the efforts that his organization is undertaking to ensure restaurants could continue to operate above water during the winter.

He explained that they had tried to petition a capacity 25% increase for restaurants that agreed to follow additional health and safety protocols. This would allow for more indoor seating once outdoor spaces like patios are no longer viable due to cold weather.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary for California’s Health and Human Services Agency, ultimately rejected the petition as there is greater evidence of Covid-19 spread indoors. He stressed improving air quality as a key to remaining open.

Sutton explained that the restaurant association had in turn asked the state for a list of approved products for air quality improvement, a list he hoped to have by the end of the week.

Other new guidance discussed included plastic face shields for servers, temperature checks (not as effective due to asymptomatic individuals), and keeping contact information for guests in the event that they are needed for contact tracing.

Alisa Mokler Harper and her husband Paul explained that they had already implemented a stricter mask policy at the Warming Hut and reported near total compliance with the new rules. They reported that guests generally accepted that they had to wear masks except when eating and that no one really caused much of a fuss over the changes.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism Local Marketing Manager Molly Horner announced that MLT and the Chamber of Commerce is introducing a community gift card system that could help bolster the local economy.

The program, called Giftee, is a digital credit card that can be loaded with funds and used at any participating business in town. There is no upfront cost for businesses to take part in the program. Horner explained that business owners can also use Giftee as a way to reward employees, expand marketing giveaways, and can be used as a customer retention/guest recovery tool.

Businesses get all of that a customer spends through the program.

Although there is an interchange fee akin to what Mastercard charges for transactions, Horner explained that MLT is looking into covering that fee for local businesses, making the program effectively free.

The value of the program, she said, depends on the number of merchants that sign up for it and there would be incentives for early sign-ups like premium placement on Mammoth’s Giftee page.
Sierra Employment Services, Inc is hiring for the following positions:

- **Medical Front Desk B.** $16.16
- **Hotel Front Desk M1.** $14
- **Gift Shop.** $12 - $22
- **Bookkeeper M1.** $20 - $22
- **Retail Clerk B.** $13

Call Us Today: 760-924-0532 or 760-873-8599
www.SierraEmployment.com

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We currently have an immediate opening for a spa Maintenance Technician (part-time position). We are also hiring an Office Assistant. These are full-time positions. Monday through Friday. These positions offers vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required. Please call 760-924-3091 or stop by the store located at 1303 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Resumes can be mailed to mammothspa@aol.com.

- **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 760-914-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com
- **Mono County Superior Court is hiring** this is an at-will, part-time professional level contract position that serves at the pleasure of the judges of Inyo and Mono Superior Courts. The Child Support Commission primarily hears matters brought by the Department of Child Support Services in Inyo and Mono Counties as part of the Title IV-D child support enforcement program. For additional information please contact Susan Cash at 760-872-8211. www.mammono.ca.gov/geninfo/employment.htm.
- **Second Chance Thrift Shop** is looking for a bright, energetic, upbeat worker, ready for front line retail with potential to grow. Must have great people skills, exceptional customer service skills, and desire to learn. Wage DOE. Email resume and cover letter to clep@disabledsportseasternsierra.org or fax to 760-934-2475.
- **Housekeepers Wanted in Mammoth Lakes** Full-time, flexible hours, $18/hour (Seasonal pay bump to $23/hour from 11/29-4/1) + Drive time paid & mileage reimbursement, free health benefits depending on hours worked, drive time paid & mileage reimbursement, free health benefits depending on hours worked, part-time & full-time. We are hiring a full-time Janitor for facilities cleaning positions. Housekeeping staff members will be responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of bathroom areas, meeting rooms, lobbies, and general areas of the facility. In addition, housekeeping staff members will be responsible for the proper and timely maintenance and cleaning of all public areas and restrooms. Teamwork and the ability to establish and maintain positive working relationships with customers, vendors, and coworkers is essential. Applicants must have a minimum of one year of janitorial experience and have the ability to work under pressure in a fast-paced environment. We are seeking reliable, self-motivated individuals with good communication skills who are able to work both independently and as a part of a team. The ideal candidate will have experience in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment. Competitive pay and package. Please email resume to sarah@mammothreservations.com.
- **Housekeepers** Full-time and Part-time positions available, year-round starting immediately. Must have the ability to work weekends and be competitive pay. Experience required. Must have vehicle. Call Luis at 760-914-0786 or stop by 1914 Meridian Blvd.

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- **The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications** to fill positions for the 2020-21 ski season. Serving the love of food and beverages to the guests who share our love of the mountain and possess an entrepreneurial spirit. Ideal candidates enjoy working in a great team atmosphere and are passionate about providing impeccable customer service to our guests. Flexible scheduling is available and must be able to work weekends and holidays. Competitive hourly wages plus additional compensation which includes: sales commissions, tips, participation in ski season, industry primary equipment deals, personal use of shop equipment and tools. We have discussed and ended year of year bonus based on hours worked and season completion. We take COVID precautions seriously, we are looking for local health department to ensure maximum safety for our employees and guests. We comply with all California/Mono County directives for COVID-19 including: cleaning, disinfecting, capacity, hand washing and face covering. If you’re passionate about skiing or snowboarding and enjoying sharing that passion with guests of our mountain community, this could be a great opportunity for you. Please email a resume with references to mammothblacktierski.com if you are interested in joining our team.
- **Local CleaninCo. is looking** for experienced cleaners starting wage $825.00 / wk. Call 760-408-1910 Salary: $20.00
- **Housekeepers Wanted** - Full time, year round position. We pay $10/hour. We are seeking a staff who work as hard as they play. Duties include accounts payable and receivable, as well as General Office Duties. Competitive pay. Please email your resume to info@buttermohoaservices.com.
- **Housekeeping Supervisor** - Full-time, year round position working weekends and holidays. Duties include accounts payable & receivable, as well as general office duties. Competitive pay. Please email resume to mohan@snowcreekresort.com.
- **Account Manager Needed.** Full-time Position - $95,000/Year. We are looking for a friendly, detail-oriented person. Duties include Accounts Payable & Receivable, as well as General Office Duties. Competitive pay. Please email your resume to info@buttermohoaservices.com.
- **Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.** Salary Range: AMT I $4,875 - $5,901/month AMT II $5,581 -$6,784/month. Under general supervision, installs, operates, maintains, calibrates, and repairs instrumentation and equipment associated with air quality and meteorological monitoring. Calibrates balances, weighs air quality filter samples, and maintains gravimetric laboratory systems to required regulatory specifications.
- **Air Monitoring Technician I** The entry level job training class of the series. Education and Experience: Air Monitoring Technician II: Completion of two years of college with major course work in electronics, a bachelor’s degree in an environmental science or any combination of training and/or experience that could likely provide the desired knowledge and abilities. Air Monitoring Technician II: The fully experienced, journey level class of the series. Education and Experience: Air Monitoring Technician III: Completion of two years of college with major course work in electronics, a bachelor’s degree in an environmental science or any combination of training and/or experience that could likely provide the desired knowledge and abilities.

**Work With The Best.** Footloose Sports, nationally recognized as a top 60 retailer, is hiring for the upcoming ski season. We are seeking a staff who work as hard as they play. Duties include accounts payable and receivable, as well as general office duties. Competitive pay and package. Please email resume to footloose@footloosesports.com to schedule an interview.

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- **Fictitious Business Name Application**
  - **The Following Person Is Doing Business As:**
  - **Booky Joint**
    - **Tenth Heavy People—California 42487-0086 PO Box 3639 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 October 2, 2014. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 28, 2020. File Number: 20-321. 2020-0186( 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14)

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- **Fictitious Business Name Application**
  - **Flavin Construction**
    - **Age Busters, Inc.** 437 Wagon Wheel Road, P.O. Box 2801 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 December, 1982. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 27, 2020. File Number: 20-196. 2020-0195 (11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5)

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- **Fictitious Business Name Application**
  - **The Following Person Is Doing Business As:**
  - **Mammoth Chocolate & Confections, Inc.**
    - **Inc 437 Old Mammoth Road Suite #190 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 December, 1982. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 27, 2020. File Number: 20-196. 2020-0196 (11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5)
**TOWN STUFF**

**November 14-15**  Drive In Concert Series At Tri-County Fairgrounds: Led Zepagain (Saturday) and Anything Selena (Sunday). Zepagain: Gates open at 4:30 p.m., music starts at 6. Tix are $50 per car. Anything Selena: Gates open at 2 p.m., music starts at 3 p.m. Cost: $40 per vehicle. More info: www.tricountyfair.com/see ad p. 11

**Saturday, November 14**  Free Virtual Childbirth Classes hosted by Northern Inyo Hospital. First of a two-part series; those interested are advised to attend both sessions. Advanced registration is required. Info: registration 760.873.2158/ communityeducation@nih.org Stuff A Bus & Coats For Kids! Tix available at 2 p.m. Location: Grocery Outlet in Bishop. Please bring non-perishable food items and/or gently used coats to help keep our community fed and warm.

**November 15-17**  Sierra Classic Theatre’s Zoom of Doom. Catch the new (virtual) murder mystery from SCI, with accompanying meal deals from local restaurants. Tix available at https://sierraclassicttheatre.org/see ad pg. 2

**Sunday, November 15**  Mono County Fishing Season Closing Day. After the 15th, winter fishing regulations go into effect.

**November 16-20**  City of Bishop Planning Dept. Open House. Stop by to talk with city staff and learn more about concepts and alternatives that can offer more housing options, mixed-use buildings, and an improved pedestrian experience. Comments received will help inform the development of final Downtown Specific Plan. Daily: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Where: 150 South Main (old Culver’s Sporting Goods)

**Monday, November 16**  Mammoth Lakes Housing Board Special Meeting meets at 2:30 p.m. Viewing available through Granicus. Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce hosts its Lodging Roundtable via Zoom. Access via the Chamber’s website @ www.mammothlakeschamber.org.

**Tuesday, November 17**  Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets at 8:30 a.m. Viewing available at https://zoom.us/j/868254781. Mono County Board of Supervisors meets at 9 a.m. Viewing available https://monocounty.zoom.

**November 17-18**  Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Customer Service Training workshops with Erik Seversen. Business skills, stress coping mechanisms, and ways employees can create superfans out of customers. Nov. 17 from 3:45-5 p.m. and Nov. 18 from 9-10:15 a.m. FREE for all Mono County employees and employers. Advanced registration required. www.mammothlakeschamber.org.

**Tuesday, November 18**  Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets at 4 p.m. Viewing available through Granicus.

**Thursday, November 19**  Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative virtual public meeting via Zoom to weigh in on project ideas. 5:30-7 p.m. Register @ www.esrrp.org.

**Ongoing**

CS Studios “Ancestors of the Arts” art show ongoing @ C5 Art Gallery at 602 Warren St. in Bishop (back of the old J.C. Penney bldg.). Hours: Tuesday-Friday 2:30-5:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Covid testing**

Bishop: Church of the Nazarene parking lot, 900 W Line Street on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday - participants must be in a vehicle in order to get tested. Make reservation beforehand. Lone Pine: Lone Pine Sports Complex, 602 N Main Street. 8 a.m.-12:45 p.m. on Fridays - participants must be in a vehicle in order to get tested. Mammoth Lakes testing Tuesdays at Sierra Nevada Resort 9 am-12:45 pm and Wednesday and Friday at the M.L. Community Center 10 am-1 pm.

**AT THE MOVIES**

**Movies Playing This Week 11/13 to 11/19**

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**TOWN STUFF**

us/1/94912271179 Joint Mono County Board of Supervisors and Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets at 1 p.m. Viewing available https://monocounty.zoom. us/1/94117631160 DIY Trash Pickup and Free Drive-in Movie. Stop by the Tri-County Fairgrounds between 8-10 a.m. to snag a trash bag and grabber, then clean your favorite spot around town and get a free ticket to see Stone Locals, a new climbing film, and anything Selena. Nov. 15 participating in clean up). Gates at 5 p.m, film at 6 p.m. More info: www. tricountyfair.com/see ad p. 11

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*Eric P. Wasserman Senior Financial Advisor* 545 Old Mammoth Rd, Ste 12 P.O. Box 1917 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 760-742-2400 760-742-2450 www.wassermanfinancial.com
RAIDERS LAUNCH LOCKDOWN AND COVID

By Hartley

Another week down, another week the CoCo has been held off from wreck- ing the season. But don’t get it twisted, CoCo is heating up and messing with some games and fantasy lineups.

Select piianiiiiiiiiics

Colts lay 1 point to the Titans. Whether there is CoCo or not, Colt QB Philip Rivers is gonna throw picks and he is gonna look like he has to put every ounce of his body into a throw ... just to have it land short. I don’t know what the Colts were thinking when they signed his old ass. Take the Titans plus the point. They should win this game.

Packers laying 1 to the Jaguars. The Jaguars have Jake Luton - I think that’s his name - at QB. Luton didn’t get the memo that they are supposed to tank and it showed. The guy beat the Ravens last week. He gets the memo this week. Lay the points. The Packers ain’t great but they have the one week of tape on Luton. This week you will see all the reasons why Luton was a round one pick.

Football Team a 3 point dog to the Lions. It’s a rare event when the Lions are favored at anything other than pocket pick. But this week they’re playing THE WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM, which has Alex Smith at QB now, playing on a leg and a half, a shell of his former self. Not confidence-inspiring. Until you look across to the other sideline where you see Matt Patricia still waddling around. He of the 12-27-1 career record. Now I hear they are in contract “negotiations” with their best WR Kenny Colla- day. I know how this turns out. He is pretty good. They don’t wanna pay him. Rather than continue playing on this miserable team without being compen- sated, he retires from the game ... just like Barry Sanders and Megatron. I don’t know what the Lions are doing, but they need to know what they are doing.

Browns laying 2.5 to the Bengals. The Browns were on a bye last week and Baker Mayfield was still on TV more than any other NFL QB thanks to all his com- mercials. Sick of that little luv. Mean- while, can someone tell the Texans how to be an NFL team? They have a world- class QB and cannot get it right. Their head coach this week looks like he should be the logo on Famous Amos cookies. The guy acting as GM is a former team chaplain for a couple teams but has NO FOOT- BALL BACKGROUND and he is taking over the whole organization. Dropkick me Jesus through the goalposts of life. I think he is actually a cult leader the way he is being so praised by all at TV’s request, somehow pushed OBJ out and is now running the organization. He fired the head of PR for the team the other day. Huh? If anything, they need some good PR there. I’m on the Browns. Now. Only in 2020.

Bucs laying 6.5 to the Panthers. Lay these points. After the roastinghelmetsback the Panthers have lost 3 in a row and win this game by 10. Now about last week ... what were the Bucs doing? It looked like the coaches told Brady, THIS IS OUR OF- FENSE AND NOT YOURS. NOW THROW THE BALL DOWNFIELD ALL THE TIME, DON’T AUDIBLE TO THOSE BORING RUN PLAYS AND WATCH SOME VINTAGE JAMEIS WINSTON FILM - YOU KNOW, THE GUY WE DRAFTED FOR YOU. HE KNEW HOW TO FORCE THE BALL AND NOT CARE ABOUT INTER- CEPTIONS, NO RISK-IT, NO BISCUIT. Bucs were last in passing yardage and now the Bucs cannot win the division, since the Saints swept the season series. So they have to win on the road IF they make the playoffs. The Bucs ran the ball five times last week. That’s it. The Buc- coaches taking the offense back and trying to take back the credit for winning since everyone was giving Brady all the credit. That was the fewest rushing attempts in a game in NFL history. Yet Coach Bruce Arians still shows up at the press confer- ence to criticize everyone but himself. Poor Dolphins laying 2.5 to the Chargers. The Chargers are phenomenal at losing games. It’s like they are competing with the Dan Quinn Falcons for finding ways to lose games. They need to fire the coach. Yeah, everyone liked him on Hard Knocks for his leadership, but he cannot manage a game. Only place he is leading them is to another very high draft pick. Lay the points. In every game you have to say the Chargers are at a coaching disadvantage.

Cardinals laying 3 to the Bills. This is a peculiar line, given that the Bills throt- tled the Seahawks last week and folks are back on the Josh Allen train because he feasted on the ‘Hawks nonexistent defense. Stop it folks. Stop it. But the Cards are a malcontent. He is the safety version of OBJ. It will never be his fault. They’ll just go to titty bars and watch movies. Which doesn’t seem so far fetched given the QB Ben Rottenburger and three other- players were just put on the CoCo list after a weekend in Dallas. Rottenburger is back to his old shit. Play like smelly ass for three quarters, fall down and get hurt and leave the field for a few plays. Then return (limping of course) and put up some numbers so he can pretend he’s Willis Reed. Fooling no one.

The team is 8-0. But heading into this season, the Steelers had the second-easiest schedule in the league based upon the cumulative record of its opponents in 2019. And a lot of those opponents (like the NFC East) are even worse than last year. If the Steelers finished 16-0 and played the Chiefs in the playoffs, they’d still open as a six point underdog. At home. The Seahawks made a big splash by trading for Safety Jamal Adams. So how’s it working out? It’s not. He’s a LB play- ing safety, worthless in pass defense and a malcontent. He is the safety version of OBJ. It will never be his fault. They’ll gloss it over and talk about his talent and passion. But that attitude ... is cancerous.

Raiders coach Jon Gruden had the au- dacity to claim the team was “on the cut street because of all the crazy stuff we order at Amazon than have a shopping list that is like the runway. If we wanna run vehicles on the road and you’ve got a deal. Second thing they are gonna do is fly planes in and tell us “we get first dibs on landing. In fact we want a roundabout on the runway. If we wanna run vehicles out there and get crap directly from the plane to our vans - any objection?"

And the problem is. We, all of us. I would rather order from Amazon than have a shopping list that takes me four days to get to a local store to pick it up. If I order from Amazon the minute I think about it it will be on my doorstep before I leave the house for the store. We really needed a roundabout on my street because of all the stuff we order at Hartley Estates. I LOVE Amazon.

RAIDERS LAUNCH LOCKDOWN AND COVID

By Hartley

Another week down, another week the CoCo has been held off from wreck- ing the season. But don’t get it twisted, CoCo is heating up and messing with some games and fantasy lineups.

Select piianiiiiiiiiics

Colts lay 1 point to the Titans. Whether there is CoCo or not, Colt QB Philip Rivers is gonna throw picks and he is gonna look like he has to put every ounce of his body into a throw ... just to have it land short. I don’t know what the Colts were thinking when they signed his old ass. Take the Titans plus the point. They should win this game.

Packers laying 1 to the Jaguars. The Jaguars have Jake Luton - I think that’s his name - at QB. Luton didn’t get the memo that they are supposed to tank and it showed. The guy beat the Ravens last week. He gets the memo this week. Lay the points. The Packers ain’t great but they have the one week of tape on Luton. This week you will see all the reasons why Luton was a round one pick.

Football Team a 3 point dog to the Lions. It’s a rare event when the Lions are favored at anything other than pocket pick. But this week they’re playing THE WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM, which has Alex Smith at QB now, playing on a leg and a half, a shell of his former self. Not confidence-inspiring. Until you look across to the other sideline where you see Matt Patricia still waddling around. He of the 12-27-1 career record. Now I hear they are in contract “negotiations” with their best WR Kenny Colla- day. I know how this turns out. He is pretty good. They don’t wanna pay him. Rather than continue playing on this miserable team without being compen- sated, he retires from the game ... just like Barry Sanders and Megatron. I don’t know what the Lions are doing, but they need to know what they are doing.

Browns laying 2.5 to the Texans. The Browns were on a bye last week and Baker Mayfield was still on TV more than any other NFL QB thanks to all his com- mercials. Sick of that little luv. Meanwhile, can someone tell the Texans how to be an NFL team? They have a world-class QB and cannot get it right. Their head coach this week looks like he should be the logo on Famous Amos cookies. The guy acting as GM is a former team chaplain for a couple teams but has NO FOOT- BALL BACKGROUND and he is taking over the whole organization. Dropkick me Jesus through the goalposts of life. I think he is actually a cult leader the way he is being so praised by all at TV’s request, somehow pushed OBJ out and is now running the organization. He fired the head of PR for the team the other day. Huh? If anything, they need some good PR there. I’m on the Browns. Now. Only in 2020.

Bucs laying 6.5 to the Panthers. Lay these points. After the roastinghelmetsback the Panthers have lost 3 in a row and win this game by 10. Now about last week ... what were the Bucs doing? It looked like the coaches told Brady, THIS IS OUR OF- FENSE AND NOT YOURS. NOW THROW
BET ON IT
By Zachary Hite

According to an October 15 press release by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, New Jersey’s Sports Gambling handle (amended States) in the previous month was $749 million. This brings the year to date number to $3.29 billion.

The $749 million number represents the highest sports gambling handle for any state so far in 2020. It is even higher than Nevada, which set its own record in November 2019 when the State received $614.1 million worth of sports bets that month.

And the gambling is here to stay. On November 3, 2020, Nebraska voters approved amendments to its state constitution legalizing “all games of chance.” Also this month, Tennessee has launched a regulated sports wagering platform that is all online, joining 19 other states to have legalized mobile sports gambling. Six states, North Carolina, Washington, Virginia, Maryland, South Dakota, and the aforementioned Nebraska, all have laws in place that allow a type of gambling, but the states do not have the infrastructure to oversee/tax this type of gambling.

That is coming.

The only state that will likely never have legal gambling is Utah, which has certain provisions against gambling written into its State Constitution. For the rest - the spigot is turning.

In June of this year, the American Gaming Association released a report detailing the state of gambling in the United States in 2019. The key findings:

- $10.2 billion paid in gaming taxes to state and local governments, with billions more supported in sales, income, and other taxes.
- $43.6 billion generated in gaming revenue in 2019, the fifth-straight year of revenue growth.
- 21 of 25 commercial gaming states experienced year-over-year revenue increases, with 14 states reporting annual growth projections, market share, industry capitalization and many other factors to pick an investment vehicle.

For one, the continuous market of gambling changes the psychology of the gambler. It is the difference between the psychology of a long-term buy and hold investor and a daytrader.

One is reading the charts, utilizing technical and fundamental analysis, growth projections, market share, industry capitalization and many other factors to pick an investment vehicle. The other is attempting to look for overreactions from the public/market in the moment.

If you are going to live bet a game, you have to be watching the game. You have to be the judge of whether a touchdown is a fluke, whether this game is following the projections or not ... and what that would mean for your bet.

It is, quite honestly, chaos. You can bet the result of every hike, every pitch, every possession down the court, literally every minuscule event that happens in a game. For Killick and Griffiths, this is a bad omen. “The gambling study literature has suggested that in-play sports betting may offer more of a risk to problem gamblers because it allows the option for high-speed continuous betting and requires rapid and impulsive decisions in absence of time for reflection.”

The second thing that this has done is change the landscape of betting. Most online sportsbooks have new options allowing you to alter a bet that has been placed.

The most common one is the ‘cash out’ option. If you bet the Lakers to win a game and they are winning by 10 with 6 minutes left, you can cash out, at a lower value, to lock in your winnings. You can do this when you are down or up. The other tool sportsbooks have provided customers is the ability to change a bet as it is happening. If you have a two-team parlay (both have to win), and one team is doing well and one is doing bad, you can swap out the bad team for a different team (with an appropriate odds adjustment, naturally).

All of this, legalized gambling in the USA, mobile gambling, live betting, cash out options, and New Jersey booking over 90% of its sports bets over the internet showcases the gambling industry’s evolution into the technological age.

Much like the stock market, sports betting has become so intricate, diverse, confusing, and yet every day it becomes easier to do.

What happens when you can bet every play? What happens when you can cash out of a bet before it is over? Every additional prop bet offered adds a small percentage of people who might bet on that prop. When the efficiency of gambling is increased, through technology, US oddsmakers are attempting to see how far it can go. How much is this industry worth?

Every innovation in the industry will increase the size of the pot. Much like Robinhood and other commission-free trading brokers, mobile sports gambling will bring gambling into the average American’s hands. What that does is hard to say. In Britain, the average person spends approximately $177 a year gambling. In America?

Point is, keep an eye on this massive industry that serves no purpose besides entertainment, because it could grow forever.
By Clouds McCloud

**Scorpio:** To make the most out of this next blessed year of your life do a few things. First, remember and accept that you are blessed. Second, to help with the first one, whenever you look at yourself in the mirror pretend you’re looking through Clouds’ eyes—just try not to passionately rip your clothes off every time. Finally, realize that it’s okay for everyone to believe in whatever they want, especially when you believe you should be drinking on a warm beach somewhere.

**Sagittarius:** Everyone always wants to manifest and pray for material things like cars, loads of money and homes so big they could be called Rancho Costa Plenty. But it’s also important to bring this same energy into attracting things like health, happiness, valuable friendships and peace of mind. As one of Clouds’ favorite Sags says, “Gratitude turns what you have and who you are into plenty.”

**Capricorn:** Caps tend to be hard on themselves and so you’ll probably relate to this John Wayne quote, “Nobody ever saw a cowboy on a psychiatrist’s couch.” Since COVID and the onset of cold temps make this a perfect time to be easier on yourself, how about watching some old movies with lines like this one from The Duke: “If you’ve got them by the balls, their hearts and minds will follow.”

**Aquarius:** A twug is the new term Aquarius: their hearts and minds will follow. “Duke: “If you’ve got them by the balls, ies with lines like this one from The how about watching some old mov- a perfect time to be easier on yourself, and the onset of cold temps make this psychiatrist’s couch. “Since COVID “Nobody ever saw a cowboy on a ”Nobody ever saw a cowboy on a psychiatrist’s couch.” Since COVID and the onset of cold temps make this a perfect time to be easier on yourself, how about watching some old movies with lines like this one from The Duke: “If you’ve got them by the balls, their hearts and minds will follow.”

**Taurus:** Aries: Aries are always young at heart and tend to get along well with younger people. While this is a gift, some folks will occasionally judge you as being immature. Since Clouds wants you to always hold onto your youthful exuberance for life, here are a couple of comebacks. One) “They say the first sign of maturity is not reacting to other people’s immaturity.” Two) “Immature is a word that boring embracing happiness and enjoying positive impact. You only have to be the best you, which should include embracing happiness and enjoying being at least partially naked. **Gemini:** They say that revenge is a dish served best cold. But the reality is that karma serves nothing but just des- serts. So maybe you should take the people in your life with more grains of salt before you become as nutty as a fruitcake. It will help if you stop trying to put too much on your plate and remember that variety is the spice of life.

**Cancer:** Cancers are known as the “Moms of the Zodiac.” This, of course, has its positives and negatives. On the good side, Cancerians are always loved and appreciated by others, even if we only acknowledge this on Mother’s Day, your birthday or when we’re drunk. On the downside, most dudes don’t like to be called the moms of any kind, even if you use adjectives like hot, yummy or helicopter.

**Leo:** Fellow Leo and former New Kid on the Block, Donnie Wahlberg, is now in his 50s. Since he’s obviously very successful and even married his favorite pinup girl (Jenny McCarthy, might you should adopt one of the “Words of Wisdom” he posts on Twitter. 1) “What’s important is self-appreciation.” 2) “Kindness works.” #)

**Virgo:** Your new role model is late basketball Hall of Famer and fellow Virgo, Tommy Heinsohn. The former Celtic player and coach was said to “always bleed green.” But the reason he bled so much is because he always put his heart into everything he did, which included painting, as he was also a noted artist. So try enjoying some of his lines: B) “I try to put all I am as a person into what I do—my intelligence, my emotion. I’ve done that in everything.” 15)"Kenny Mauer [an NBA referee] better go home to his wife … because nobody here loves him.” 74) "I play basketball for love and money, and they come in interchangeable order, depending on how things are going when you ask the question." 76) "I love Waltah!

**Libra:** Librarians like to avoid conflict, even though this just makes you repress things and eventually leads to pent up moments of conflict anyway. That’s why your new philosophy should be: Less repression, more healthy communication. After all, it is okay to accept your feelings. Like, for example, if your phone battery dies, it’s okay to be angry. You just need an outlet.
CARBS AND PROTEIN IN EQUAL MEASURE

By Lunch

Hillbilly Elegy
J.D. Vance
HarperCollins
257 p.

In one sense, this book could be grouped with The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls and Educated by Tara Westover. Books by people who’ve escaped difficult upbringings and uprooted themselves from their native soil in order to make their way in the world. But Vance’s book is a variation on that theme. Because while he suffered a revolving door of father figures and a mother who literally stooped to begging her son for a clean jar of urine so she could pass a drug test, Vance had a savior in his life - Mamaw (his grandmother) - and a redeemer, the United States Marine Corps.

While the film version (which opens at Minaret Cinemas this weekend) most assuredly focuses on Vance’s brutal home life - I can already picture Amy Adams playing Vance’s substance-abusing mother - the book is just as much about Vance’s perception of the world that shaped him.

As he tells his rags-to-riches story, Vance serves up keen insight and broad-minded thinking. "The message of the right is increasingly: It’s not your fault that you’re a loser; it’s the government’s fault." Vance grew up in both northern Kentucky and southern Ohio. The forgotten Rust Belt. Riddled with opioid addiction and desperation.

"After my cousin Mike buried his mother, his thoughts immediately turned to selling her house. ‘I can’t live here, and I can’t leave it untended. The drug addicts will ransack it.’"

And, "You can walk through a town where 30% of the young men work fewer than twenty hours a week and find not a single person aware of his own laziness."

Speaking of which, here’s a great vignette which doesn’t really fit in this review but I just loved it and it speaks to the laziness. While Vance is in high school, a student calls in a bomb threat on the day of an exam. Math Instructor Ron Selby intuitively knows who the student is. While the rest of the school is madly dashing for the exits fearing an explosion, Selby goes to the kid’s locker, removes the “bomb” contents, marches outside and throws the contents in a trash can. He then tells the cops: “I’ve had that kid in class; he’s not smart enough to make a functioning bomb.”

The turnaround

What turned Vance’s life around was living with his aging grandmother during high school - and working as a cashier at a local grocery store during these years to help pay the bills. "I can’t leave it untended. The drug addicts will ransack it."

Vance grew up in both northern Kentucky and southern Ohio. The forgotten Rust Belt. Riddled with opioid addiction and desperation. "After a few months, I came home and asked Mamaw why only poor people bought baby formula ... it would be many years before I learned that rich folks are considerably more likely to breastfeed their children."

It also made J.D. resentful, as he watched people going through his line paying with food stamps while they jangled on cellphones, a trinket "that I only dreamed about."

"Our drug-addict neighbor would buy T-bone steaks," recalled Vance, "which I was too poor to buy for myself."

"This was my world: a world of truly irrational behavior. We spend our way into the poorhouse ... our homes are a chaotic mess ... we don’t study ... we talk about responsibility but we never walk the walk ... our eating and exercise habits are designed to send us to an early grave."

And remember the name. Mr. Vance’s advancement in the world is fairly meteoric once he finds stability in his home life during high school. He serves in the Marines, finishes Ohio State in two years and then is accepted at Yale.

And places like Yale, where professors don’t tolerate mediocrity and expect far better, fuels Vance even more.

As one of his professors writes on one of his assignments, “This is a vomit of sentences masquerading as a paragraph. Fix.”

"Love that. Will have to borrow and use on a future staffer."

In short, see the movie for the dramatic carborhodies. Read the book for the protein.

And remember the name. Mr. Vance’s name appears destined for a future ballot.

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