Mono County Supervisors held an emergency meeting on Tuesday to hear an update on the Mountain View Fire that burned rapidly through the eastside of Walker last Tuesday, destroying 128 structures.

By contrast, the Round Fire which roared through Swall Meadows in 2015 destroyed 42 structures. According to local resident Dave Murray, it was “the biggest wind event anyone’s ever seen. ”

Steve Nelson, representing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) described the fire behavior as “crazy” with sustained wind for hours in the 50 mph range, with gusts reaching the overall damage in Walker: 20,385 acres burned in the fire, Steve Nelson estimated that 20,000 were scorched in the initial burn period, which lasted about eight hours. Snow and rainstorms early Wednesday morning helped to prevent further spread in the area.

As of this week, the fire response and recovery efforts are being handled by local entities like BLM, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and various Mono County agencies. Mono County Building official Tom Perry gave a report on the current fire coverage.

Antelope Valley Assistant Fire Chief Mike Curti suggested there may have even been stronger. According to Curti, local volunteer Fire Captain Mike Mandichak had Davis Instruments (professional weather station gear) atop his house which recorded a maximum gust of 125 mph. The wind was so powerful, related Curti, that Mandichak’s Davis Instruments were literally blown off the house.

According to local resident Dave Murray, it was “the biggest wind event anyone’s ever seen.”

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As of this week, the fire response and recovery efforts are being handled by local entities like BLM, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and various Mono County agencies. Mono County Building official Tom Perry gave a report on the overall damage in Walker:

More fire coverage

WALKER DIGS IN/DIGS OUT POST-FIRE

GET BACK ON THE BUS

While MUSD plans for reopening, no set date for most students to return

W

While some local schools have gradually returned to in-person learning, Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD) has, for the most part remained online with the exception of some small, highly focused student cohorts.

This is due to the fact that Mammoth Unified has created a list of specific criteria, ranging from community infection rates to adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) that must all be met before widespread in-person schooling can begin again. If just one of those criteria is not met, then students will continue to attend classes over Zoom until it can be met, all the while continuing to meet the other criteria.

At MUSD’s Board meeting on Thursday, November 19, Gary Taylor, Maintenance, Operations and Transportation outlined the plan for school reopening in the event that all criteria are met.

Taylor highlighted three areas: PPE, facilities and transportation.

For PPE, Taylor explained that the school district has stockpiled numerous supplies, including several thousand facemasks, both three-ply paper and cloth, for use by both staff and students, over 1,000 sanitizer bottles, thousands of pairs of gloves, and enough plastic face shields so that each student in Mono County. For more about the MAC, see p. 20.

Although the district has 200 air purifiers, one in each “isolation” room on three campuses; the rooms are intended for those who may have been exposed to Covid-19. Additional air purifiers would increase the air exchange rate per hour in rooms by one for PPE, Taylor explained that the school district has stockpiled numerous supplies, including several thousand facemasks, both three-ply paper and cloth, for use by both staff and students, over 1,000 sanitizer bottles, thousands of pairs of gloves, and enough plastic face shields so that each student member can have one.

In addition, MUSD has placed plexiglass dividers in public areas like libraries and offices. “Safety is a huge concern of all of ours,” Taylor said. Although the district has 200 desk shields available for use at individual student desks, Taylor said that until a standard set is released, “I would advise against getting them for everybody.”

He explained that while they may be practical in a normal classroom setting, the additional cleaning time devoted to sanitizing the desk shields would exacerbate already lengthy clean times. At the middle school and high school, where students rotate through classrooms, they may have to be cleaned even more frequently. Taylor also cited the cost for providing the shields for each student, $25,000, is a relatively significant expense for the district.

MUSD is also holding back on a mass air purifier purchase until an opening date is more tangible. Taylor explained that there are currently three air purifiers, one in each “isolation” room on three campuses; the rooms are intended for those who may have been exposed to Covid-19.

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SPENDING TO SAVE

Of the many things about my wife I struggle to understand, a principal topic I find confounding is her ability to justify an expense by telling me it’s actually saving me money.

But then, in Mammoth, the marketing folks tell us that every dollar spent on marketing generates something like $270 in visitor spend, so I suppose I should be accustomed to exaggeronomics.

About five years ago, my wife came home from another victorious trip to one of our local thrift stores here in Bishop, telling me she’d bought a piece of furniture right off the truck.

That’s right. It never even made it to the sales floor.

And what’s better: the item in question came with about 300 LP records at no additional charge.

Fast-forward four years and ten months. The so-awesome-it-had-to-be-bought-off-the-truck record cabinet and associated LP records are still in the garage, gathering dust, when my wife comes home victorious once again!

This time she’s bought the final pieces to the puzzle - a record player and a receiver. She’d acquired speakers at an earlier date but that had somehow eluded me.

A month goes by.

I take the record cabinet and the boxes of records and place them squarely in the living room. I tell her the furniture and the records will proceed through the living room, into my pickup and toward an undisclosed thrift store unless she finishes her project.

Which she does. And then she says to me, “But it’s your job to sort through the records to see if there’s anything in there worth listening to.”

The collection we inherited pretty much covers a time period spanning 1955-1975. The top artist: Chet Atkins. We must have fifty Chet Atkins albums. Second most popular: Sinatra. Then a three-way tie for third between country and jazz and female vocalists.

So for the past month, I’ve been immersed in this time capsule. And you know what? My wife’s a damn genius. I used to have a few hundred albums at my home in Swall, but after the Round Fire, I just kind of... let it go. But I could even see becoming a bit obsessive. Endless discovery. And Lou Rawls... it’s been great fun sorting through a lot of artists I didn’t know much about.

When I asked him if he had any favorite record stores that still exist, he said, “All my favorite record stores have closed. I tend to look for records at thrift stores, estate sales, yard sales... I like them because I’m willing to take risks [on artists or albums he doesn’t know much about] for fifty cents or a buck.”

One store he did later mention: Rockaway Records in L.A.’s Silverlake neighborhood, where Hollywood-types bring in their excess. It’s a high-end shop, trafficking in the rare and hard-to-find.

Part of the reason I approached Bruce was because I knew he was such an aficionado that I wanted to get his top ten desert island disc list.

Funny thing is, he’d already created one. A French publication asked him the same question back in 2006 (There we go again here at The Sheet. Completely derivative). And he gave me the list, but I’m gonna save it for an upcoming issue. Because no conversation with Bruce can ever really be confined to a single theme.

I will tease it by saying I’d only heard of two of the ten bands on his list, and you won’t find any Beatles or Stones on it. As Bruce says, “Their music is so much a part of the [cultural background] I wouldn’t need it on a desert island. I could just sing it to myself.”

For a subscription, visit the website, make a donation and be added to the e-mail blast list.

Bruce Licher’s used record store within a store at Spellbinder Books in Bishop
STAY SAFE TO STAY OPEN

Wear a mask or face covering

Practice physical distancing
Wash or sanitize hands often
No indoor gatherings
LETTERS

Rebate for absenteeism?

Dear Editor,

Jack, I want to help in the battle against Covid by suggesting to the homeowners from using their properties as Dr. Boo would like. Simply eliminate or rebate their property tax pro rata for every day they prove they were absent from the county. The compliance response would be overwhelming to this simple step. And it would be fair, as people ought have not to pay tax on property they are being told not to use. Fair and guaranteed to get the desired results. What’s not to like? Unless money is more important than lives to Mono County.

John Bogitz
Mammoth Lakes

Put the rink on The Parcel

Dear Town Council:

Questions abound regarding need and cost of the multipurpose ice rink. The town already owns the parcel. Yet to and cost of the multipurpose ice rink. This year in 2020, the Dem took action and used that faulty election machinery and software (of foreign manufacture) to reverse what the results first showed. If you were paying attention the night of the 3rd of November, the President was ahead in all five of the contested states. But the counting was mysteriously stopped. Hours later when the count was resumed, the President was mysteriously behind.

What the President’s legal team presented in the Press Conference (none of the Fake News outlets covered it, why you didn’t know what Mr. Guenther was explaining) is the fact that they have found gross fraud in those five states. There is enough evidence of fraud that when corrected, President Trump will be shown as the victor. Should you had bothered to check the other seats being contested states. But the counting was mysteriously stopped. Hours later when the count was resumed, the President was mysteriously behind.

What the President’s legal team presented in the Press Conference (none of the Fake News outlets covered it, why you didn’t know what Mr. Guenther was explaining) is the fact that they have found gross fraud in those five states. There is enough evidence of fraud that when corrected, President Trump will be shown as the victor. Should you had bothered to check the other seats being voted on election day, the Republicans out performed the Left across the board. Your self-centered glee about the fake election results is proof you print your opinion, not the facts.

Bob Woodson
Bishop

Editor’s reply: Mr. Woodson, I know that my take on things doesn’t count for much with you, so I figure I’ll let Peggy Noonan have a crack at this. Noonan, as you may know, was a speechwriter for both Presidents Reagan and Bush I and has had a regular weekend column in the Wall Street Journal for many years. I doubt Kayleigh McEnany would dismiss her as an “activist.” She is employed by Rupert Murdoch after all.

Mr. Noonan’s column last weekend was titled, “A Bogus Dispute is Doing Real Damage.” I think it’s worth excerpting at some length here.

“No hard evidence of widespread fraud, no success in the courts or prospect of it. You can have a theory that a bad thing was done, but only facts will establish it. You need to do more than what Rudy Giuliani did at his news conference on Thursday, Nov. 19, which was throw out huge, barely comprehensible allegations and call people ‘crooks.’

You need to do more than Sidney Powell, who at the same news conference charged that ‘communist money’ is behind an international conspiracy to rig the U.S. Election. There was drama, hyperbole, perhaps madness. But the wilder the charges, the more insubstantial the case appeared.

... It’s one thing when supporters of the president say simply, ‘Let’s go through the process and see where we are.’ It’s not bad to look into how messy the voting system is, not the worst to realize it needs long-term remedial attention. How did we devolve into a nation that the system is for suckers? But the sheer nuttiness surrounding the current mess is becoming deeply destructive. Online you see the websites read by millions saying the entire election system is shot through with criminality. The headlines read: It was stolen. We have proof of coordinated vote tampering. The president has many avenues to victory. The Trump campaign sent an email under the name of formerly respectable Republican Newt Gingrich, once speaker of the House, saying: The Corruption is Unprecedented. It’s time to victory.

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... The irony is that this election will be remembered for the president’s attempts to sow chaos, not for what it actually appears to have been, which is a triumph for America. In the middle of a pandemic, with new rules, there was historically high turnout. Under stress the system worked. Voters were committed, trusting, and stood in line for hours. There was no violence at the polls, no serious charges of voter suppression. In a time of legitimate hacking fears, there were no reports of foreign interference. Our defenses held. On top of all that, the outcome was moderated: for all the strife and stress of recent years, the split decision amounted to a reassessment of centrism.”

Hey Eastern Sierra!

Last chance to weigh in on project ideas!

Virtual Meeting: December 10, 5:30 – 7 pm

Everyone’s welcome! Registration required.

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Certifying businesses in both Mono and Inyo counties.
Mammoth Lakes lodging operators have battled with the county and town from the outset over capacity restrictions imposed on the establishments. Which has made each guest that stays with them all the more important for keeping their businesses afloat. Some guests, alas, have opted to make life even more difficult, it seems.

“It’s been a little frustrating,” Snowcreek Director of Operations and Lodging Association Chair John Morris said at Monday morning’s association meeting. “We’ve had some really bad behavior by guests wanting to cancel [reservations].”

“We had one guest who said that they just found out that their son got Covid,” Morris explained, “if we weren’t going to give them back their money immediately, they said they were going to come up here and infect all of us.”

Other guests have attempted to use the excuse of state-mandated curfews as a way to get out of paying for late cancellations.

“People like to abuse frontline staff more than they like to say that to managers,” he said, pushing for managers around town to stand up to unruly guests.

Sierra Nevada Resort’s Brent Truax had fielded calls from guests worried that they wouldn’t be allowed in if they arrived in town too late in the evening, a misunderstanding of the state’s curfew order.

Lodging operators also sought clarity Monday on the new lodging order issued by the Town of Mammoth Lakes, particularly as it relates to condominiums.

Operations that rent condos, like Snowcreek, are required to have a 70% maximum capacity over the course of a month for each condo unit. Units must stand unoccupied for a minimum of nine days each month.

Hotels abide by the same 70% capacity requirement but are allowed to have back-to-back stays in rooms, provided that the room is cleaned and left vacant for a period of six hours.

The question, as it relates to condos, is how would an owner’s visit to his own rental property affect those numbers. Mammoth Lakes Finance Director and member of the town’s Covid-19 planning/enforcement group Rob Patterson explained that “if an owner wants to come up here to pick something up Wednesday morning, and be at its highest on Thursday, Nov. 26 (66%) and Friday Nov. 27 (68%).

Condo and reservation bureaus lead the pack with 71% occupancy on Thursday and 76% occupancy on Friday. Smaller hotels are projected to have rates around 69% at Saturday and 57% on Friday while large hotels with 51+ units project 67% and 71% for those respective days.

Morris explained that since a lot of people have the week off, people are arriving and leaving earlier than usual. Saturday departures are much more common this coming weekend than they would otherwise be.

Heather Johnston, Hospital Marketing Manager at Mammoth Mountain, joined the meeting to give a brief update on mountain operations.

With limited terrain open at the moment, Johnston explained that the number of lift tickets available for any given day would remain the same for the foreseeable future.

Discounted afternoon tickets have also sold very well, with the coming weekend already sold out.

Johnston said the mountain has been cracking down on mask usage by guests. “We’re doing something where if you ski without a mask, you’ll get a couple of warnings and then they’ll pull your pass for the day,” she said. As for how severe punishments may be, “it depends upon your attitude.”

The mountain has limited indoor capacity of 25% in accordance with Mono County’s red tier designation. As a result, mountain-operated restaurants have pivoted more towards grab-and-go and mobile ordering options. Drink service will look a bit different this year; she explained, as servers will come to individual tables to take orders; no walk-up bar service is available for patrons and those not seated will not be served.

Buses are operating at 50% capacity for the time being.

Lou Marguiles, operator of the Laundry Annex in Mammoth Lakes, told the lodging operators that her business is undergoing a large remodeling/expansion project, with a projected opening date in mid to late December.
A letter appearing in the Nov. 21 issue of The Sheet page five asking county and town officials to continue to advocate for restaurants to remain open at a sustainable indoor capacity, the Mammoth Lakes Restaurant Association met on Monday afternoon to discuss how to move forward. They were joined by consultants from US Foods as well as County Supervisors John Peters and Stacy Corless, who wished to respond personally to the letter.

Jason Mead and Josh Dellar, both restaurant operations consultants (ROCs), gave a brief talk on their background in the restaurant industry before making themselves available to any local restaurant, US Foods customer or not, for consultation on ideas for expanding business and increasing revenue.

Mead has spent more than 23 years in the restaurant industry and 14 years with US Foods; Dellar has been in the business since 1982, and with US Foods for the past 7.5 years. Between the two, Dellar explained, they have done more than 1,000 consultations since the Covid-19 pandemic began in March, mostly helping people with CARES Act questions as well as Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) navigation. The FFCRA estimated employee paid leave requirements as a result of Covid-19.

In addition, they provide lease review and negotiation tips (Dellar is a licensed broker) to help navigate an already difficult process and help save some money for business owners. The pair also advocated for innovations like ghost kitchens, designed specifically for delivery-only meals and promised to help identify revenue streams based on the capabilities of each individual restaurant.

“[Local US Foods rep] Peter Corcoran cares about this business, cares about this community,” Dellar said, “we love this business, we really do, we want to give back.”

Mead highlighted the importance of a strong delivery capacity for restaurants hoping to keep up a revenue stream during down months, and suggested looking into potentially expanding third-party delivery services.

Peters and Corless, joining the meeting from Walker, explained their advocacy work to the restaurateurs present.

When state officials announced the limited stay-at-home order, county representatives pushed back on a blanket application of the policy, which limited it to counties in the purple tier, which does have a restaurant component.

Peters said. He also referenced advocacy work done by he and Corless in June to get the state’s travel ban lifted so as to assist Mono County businesses with generating some revenue for the summer.

Peters owns the Bridgeport Inn, which does have a restaurant component.

While willing to help in anyway possible, “I remain committed to our local, state, and federal public health response,” said Corless, who reiterated her oft-repeated stance that she would not vote to sue the state or defy state orders.

Peters serves as a member of the California State Association of Counties’ Rural Caucus Covid Working Group, along with Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths and various county executives and public health officers. In this capacity, he explained, he has been able to speak semi-regularly with Dr. Mark Ghaly, who is running California’s Covid-19 response. He consistently advocates for the needs of small rural counties like Mono.

Corless added that the Mono Supes are devoting their time to specific points of advocacy as opposed to the larger issues that counties of all sizes are devoting their time to specific points of advocacy as opposed to the larger issues that counties of all sizes have faced during the pandemic. She encouraged the association to continue to use its consolidated voice to come up with safety protocols that visibly demonstrate the extra precaution and care taken by local restaurants.

Brandon Brocia, co-chair of the association, said that he is working with the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce to come up with a checklist of benefits and resources available to restaurants at this time, including FFCRA funds.

COVID update

Public Health Director Bryan Wheeler also joined the call and gave an update on the county’s Covid situation.

The county was at 14 positive cases for the previous week, with numbers expected to rise slightly due to lag time. While the number of available tests from the state remains at 160/week, Wheeler said that he is exploring other options, including commercial labs, and that Verily is expanding the number of days that it will conduct tests.

“Do we’re holding steady and it does not appear we will move to the purple tier at this time,” Wheeler said. He hoped that the county would have more accurate picture of Covid-19 statistics after the holiday weekend.

Cathleen Calderon, who runs Doorstep Deliveries, asked Wheeler what could be done about issues related to Vons in Mammoth Lakes; she said that some of her drivers have expressed discomfort about the number of people in the store and related a conversation with store management where it was allegedly revealed that the one-way aisles were created to be intentionally misleading.

In addition, per store policy, Vons does not have the staff capacity to post people at doors and limit large groups of entering.

As for Inyo County, it remains in the Orange Tier. One of five counties left in California that is still orange.

Another eight counties, including Mono, are in the red.

45 counties representing 95% of California’s population are now in the purple (most restrictive) tier.

Statewide, California is experiencing 25 new positive cases per 100,000 people per day and a 6.2% test positivity rate.

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Mono wins reprieve

Mono County submitted an ad-
judication request to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on November 9, 2020, stating that the COVID-19 cases confirmed to the U.S. Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Train-
ing Center (MCMW) in Pickel Meadows should not count toward the total cases in Mono County in terms of tier assign-
ments.

In the adjudication request, Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Public Health Of-
Brianne Pizziello, Mono County Department of Public Health, advised Mono County in terms of tier assign-
ments. "The one I'm having some trouble with is with regard to Playhouse 395."
The City gave Playhouse 395 $3,525 during 2019-2020 to assist with paying for the rights to Little Shop of Horrors.

This year, Playhouse made an ask of $16,750 and staff initially recommended allocating $10,526, with the money again going toward a production of Little Shop of Horrors.

"I'm not entirely convinced that they will be able to execute something like this on our timescale," Muchovej said. According to him, Playhouse 395 is planning on doing a live production of the show in March.

He suggested taking another $5,000 out of the proposed allotment. Mayor Laura Smith agreed, question-
ing the return on continued investment if it boils down to a single production.

Councilmember Karen Schwartz felt that the spirit of the grant was to support the organizations in general but ultimately agreed to underfund the request.

Council also felt that, while both the Chamber of Commerce and Tri-County Fairgrounds are not completely reliant on city funds, the two organizations have done a lot of good for Bishop.

Councilmembers pointed to the stream of events scheduled at the Fairgrounds throughout the summer as evidence of their value to the area and cited consistent communication and assistance from the Chamber and Visi-
tors Bureau.

While no dollar amount was voted upon, the council agreed to support the Fairgrounds with funding and to poten-
tially enter into a funding agreement with the Chamber, akin to Mammoth Lakes relationship with Mammoth Lakes Tourism.
74 residences and 53 utility buildings were destroyed by the fire; the local branch of the Toiyabe Indian Health Clinic was the only commercial building destroyed. In all, 128 buildings gone. In addition, 2 residences and 13 utility buildings sustained major damage (defined as 40-75% damaged by fire).

County Finance Director Janet Dutcher put the estimated private property loss at $16.359 million. That figure, she explained, is just based on real estate values, not personal property loss. She and the rest of the finance team used Perry’s building information and real estate sites like Zillow to come up with what she called a “back of the napkin estimate.” Dutcher believes the estimate is most likely below the actual loss.

Dutcher used information from the 2015 Round Fire recovery efforts to calculate public property damage, which includes debris and hazardous waste removal. In 2015, the cost for removal and disposal was $5.035 million for the 40+ structures lost in that fire.

With significantly more damage sustained in the Mountain View Fire, Dutcher estimated the debris removal cost would be at least double that of the Round Fire at nearly $11 million.

Emergency protective measures, costs related to law enforcement, animal control, and other county services, clocked in at an estimated $100,000. This number, Dutcher explained, does not include firefighting services.

The loss of guard rails and signage along US 395 came in about $140,000 and the loss of the county solid waste transfer station was estimated at $70,000.

Dutcher cited other metrics that will play a factor in overall cost but are not yet known. These include individuals now unemployed, agricultural....
FIRE
continued from page 8
property/assets lost, and the amount of tax revenue lost due to tax readjustments for property owners with damaged or destroyed buildings.

This is all, however, secondary in terms of importance, as the county is more focused on helping Walker residents displaced and otherwise affected by the fire.

Dutcher reported that California Disaster Recovery Assistance would cover 75% of the costs incurred while the county would cover the remaining 25% via an approved budget allocation from the General Reserve.

The Emergency Command Center (EOC) at the Antelope Valley Community Center in Walker has representatives from a number of local and state agencies on hand, EOC lead Justin Nalder reported, to answer any questions that locals may have about next steps.

Workshops for residents will be held Tuesday and Wednesday to walk them through the insurance process, loss of documentation (e.g., driver’s licenses, passports), et al.

County Director of Social Services Kathy Peterson stated that 172 people were initially relocated to the Red Cross temporary shelter at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden, Nev; that number has diminished as things are sorted out and people begin the process of moving forward.

22 families are currently being housed at the Topaz Lodge just across the Nevada state line; they are being helped by the Red Cross and Mono County Social Services.

22 families are currently being housed at the Topaz Lodge just across the Nevada state line; they are being helped by the Red Cross and Mono County Social Services.

more FIRE, page 10
FIRE
continued from page 9

on clearing out visible household hazardous waste like paint can and propane tanks, Environmental Health director Louis Molina explained, along with identification of more hazardous materials like asbestos. Phase 2 will begin the first weekend in December and will be a much more methodical clean-up/disposal effort. Molina explained that the clean-up from the Round Fire took about a week, and based on that, the Mountain View Fire cleanup will likely take longer due to more widespread damage.

In terms of resources and information, those interested are encouraged to visit the county Mountain View Fire portal at mountainviewfire.monocounty.ca.gov as well as the Mountain View Fire Resources and Recovery Facebook page.

On the ground

Lunch drove to Walker Sunday morning to view the scene firsthand.

First stop was the firehouse on Larson Lane, where Dave Easton of the Humboldt-Toiyabe Nat’l Forest, Mike Curti, Asst. Chief of the Antelope Valley Vol. Fire Dept. and Antelope Valley Fire Captain Lori Morris, who also works for Mono County Social Services, shared a few stories.

“I’m amazed we didn’t have more deaths and injuries, especially among first responders,” said Curti.

In addition to one death (a woman died while she was apparently setting her horses. Exact cause is unknown), another victim is currently at the Las Vegas Burn Center.

Visibility, they said, was 5-10 feet. Smoke, fire, sand...

The main job initially was just evacuations, and it was almost impossible to even find the addresses. Trucks engaged the fire as they could...

One distress call received was from a woman who couldn’t see well enough through the sandstorm to drive away. When she was finally reached, a firefighter managed to grab five photos off the mantel as they were fleeing.

The house was engulfed a minute later.

Larry Henry (at left) lives on Jocelyn Lane. As the fire approached, he and his elderly neighbors, Claudia and Dick Bonnet, escaped by driving up and around a canyon along a rough 4WD road, cutting bolts along the way to open cattleguards. But when they dropped back around onto Camp Antelope Road (imagine them skirting a mountain in a circular fashion, driving from 9 o’clock to 2 o’clock), they were met by fire.

So they literally parked their vehicles on a neighbor’s property that had a fair patch of defensible space.

The fire basically blew over and around them.

They then essentially followed the fire back to their homes.

Henry’s was standing. Bonnet’s was not.

Rather than evacuate, Henry said he spent the entire night using a shovel (he had no power for water) to put out spot fires, though he did lose a shed.

A neighbor up the road, Les Bates, similarly stood his ground and spent the evening defending his home.

Bates described the wind as sounding like a train. There was burnt debris just feet from his home.

He had video on his phone he showed me. Footage of staring out at a wall of fire.

He also said he’d heard that a family had moved into a house the day before on Birchim Lane and that the U-Haul was still parked in the driveway.

Patti Hamric-Christensen of the local CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) reported that five marines returning to the Marine Warfare Training Center spotted the fire as they were driving back to the base and responded immediately, grabbing hoses and shovels. They also warned neighbors so they could evacuate.

The marines are credited with helping save the Noble family’s home.

Remarkably, many animals made it through unscathed. First responders said horses who had been let loose the day before were by and large standing around the corrals come morning.

And the local phlebotomist reportedly saved her emu.

On Sunday, there were four different companies and 150 personnel working on restoring power. Critical because there was concern about homes/pipes freezing.

The recurring themes one heard on Sunday were teamwork, bravery, courage, resilience, generosity.

Antelope Valley Lions served pastries and coffee at the community center.

Bobby Carpenter (on page nine) is a Lions member. He escaped with his wife, his dog and his cat. Lost everything else.

Checks for the Mountain View Fire Relief Fund may be made out directly to “Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce,” and mailed to: NMCC, 106651 US HWY 395, Coleville, Calif. 96107.

*Please note on the subject line: “Mountain View Fire Relief.”*
Taylor said, “is going to be a pretty big challenge.”

Up until March 2020, MUSD had three bus routes: a Mammoth Lakes route that picked up 45-60 students in grades K-5, a south county route that picked up 30 students K-12, and then an additional route in town that picks up 50-75 K-5 kids.

In addition, the district also operates a small bus route that picks up 9 students, one of whom uses a wheelchair.

The maximum capacity for the bus has been knocked down to 15 kids and a driver,” Taylor said, “the small bus is knocked down to 4 kids, a chair and a driver.”

Larger buses have an 84 occupant capacity. “My recommendation would be, because of travel and the difficulty of getting southern [county] kids up here, I would have both busses possibly go that direction,” Taylor told the school board. The plan would be to have busses pick up the maximum allowed number of students, return to Mammoth Lakes to drop them off, and then head out again.

Students will be loaded back to front when they get on, loaded front to back when they arrive at school or at the bus stop, and red x’s would demarcate which seats must be left empty for the duration of the ride.

Taylor did not explain how the changes to seating capacity might affect the timing of routes both in the morning and at dismissal in the afternoon.

Superintendent Jennifer Wildman, discussing the MUSD reopening, explained that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has lifted much of its school guidance, “stating that they were both inaccurate and also politically motivated.”

“The way that schools open require cohorting,” Wildman said, “it’s easier to put small groups of children with a single teacher and be able to tell when someone gets a case, when to shut down a small cohort.”

She referenced a graphic depicting the potential spread of Covid-19 if cohorts are not employed in the high school and middle school.

“Unless we cohort in individual classrooms, this is what we have in the middle school and high school reopenings,” Wildman said.

If the county is still in the purple tier by mid-January, said Wildman, “the schools cannot reopen. If they are in red, the decision will be made by the school board.

“People are really sad and upset about not getting to come back to school,” said Wildman. “On the reverse side of things, ‘Is [reopening] worth risking the health and safety of our staff and students?’”

She explained that most of the school districts with in-person learning that she had been keeping an eye on have closed and moved back to online learning.

The board agreed to hold a meeting in January prior to any reopening attempt.
# MARKETING AND DISPERSED THINKING?

By Paul Oster

"Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded."
-Yogi Berra

Q: What happened this past summer was truly eye-opening for this community. And even though many younger local residents reacted strongly, I think most of the longer-term residents were rather shocked too, but not surprised. We could see it coming. It was really a culmination of events driven by lockdowns, closures and restlessness. All of this brought droves of people into the mountains including the Mammoth Lakes region. And if this incredible demand continues, it could impact real estate values, but which way is uncertain in my mind.

A: We all witnessed the crazy and often disrespectful crowds this past summer and it certainly has made many in this community re-think various aspects of our tourist-based economy and marketing. If this level and type of visitation continues into the future, do you think it can negatively impact real estate values, but which way is uncertain in my mind.

I always support the practice of critical thinking whether it is about the local economy, politics, real estate, etc. But today it appears there simply isn’t sufficient questioning as we go about our lives. The events of last summer have made many in the community re-think what the goals and priorities of our resort economy should be and how we should go about achieving them. Hopefully the thinking wasn’t lost in all the smoke.

While the overwhelming crowds may have been alarming and annoying, the volume of visitors, cash flow and general business may have kept many of our tourism-related small businesses in business. The TOT/TBID numbers are indicating this. This is the good news. The bad news is that our local environment, both natural and manmade, took a beating. The reaction by local residents, second homeowners and random visitors to this degradation is applauded and inspiring. It alone is an indicator of what is tolerable and what isn’t.

Our public officials should take note. Hopefully this past summer’s experience was an anomaly. Once things like amusement parks, music events and other hedonistic venues reopen, this recent crowd may quickly abandon their desire for the mountains or the camping experience. We can only hope they found it boring, or too difficult (cleaning up after oneself is for other people?). But because it happened and this community didn’t like what it saw, it is time to reflect on what the future of tourism in the Mammoth Lakes region should look like. The works on Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) appear to be only concerned about (high) visitor numbers. But the rest of the community, including our Town Council, are the ones who should be weighing the future value proposition of the local economy. But again, it may already be lost in the craziness of current life.

So where to start? Does anybody remember the legal promise for the Sierra Club’s litigation against the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the expansion of Mammoth Airport in the early 2000s? The Club contended that the EIR didn’t sufficiently consider the “growth inducing impacts” of the Airport expansion. (Ironically, we can look back and get good laugh about that concept.) But the legal challenge itself made us reflect on the topic, and the delays itself may have seriously eroded the success of the expansion. Momentum is everything.

Has anybody at the Town or MLT ever considered the growth-induced impacts of excessive marketing? Are we now seeing that maxed-out visitor numbers and TOT/TBID revenues aren’t the end-all? There are other things to consider. I often go back to one of the laws of the weird pseudoscience called economics; the law of diminishing returns. Mammoth Lakes received a harsh lesson about the law of diminishing returns this past summer. It wasn’t all our fault; the pandemic conditions magnified everything for us. But we need to learn from it. More is not better. Usually visitors are degrading and damaging. And unwanted. For decades Mammoth has strived to become a “destination resort.” This past summer we went backwards. Is the goal of a destination resort manifest in quality not quantity?

As a proper framework for the future, perhaps the community needs to go through an EIR-type process for marketing and tourism. It may be long overdue. Without the proper assessment and protection of our local environment, the future desirability of living or visiting here will deteriorate quickly. And don’t think the Forest Service or federal or state government will do anything. And forget the Sierra Club; they’re too busy saving frogs in faraway places. We’re on our own.

The EIR process is quite applicable to our current and future quandary, especially if this level of demand continues. The government requires these studies and process for just about everything that happens, so why not for marketing and tourism? But it has to be done right. The EIR process has become cheapened, too. Some 30 years ago there was a man by the name of Larry Johnston who produced EIRs for various projects around Mammoth. Yes, the same Larry Johnston that was a County Supervisor and was known for his awesome Fourth of July parade floats. His EIRs were truly local in knowledge, flavor and sensitivity. They were real.

Today our EIRs are just hired out to an international company that sits in a massive building down in Irvine. They are big cut-and-paste paste jobs and the consultants come to Mammoth for an afternoon and make expert conclusions. Basically, they are just reams of B.S.. But they cost less, and are worth less (or worthless?). And just reams of B.S.. But they cost less, and are worthless (or worthless?). And the “lead agency” -- the Planning Commission and Town Council just rubber stamp the whole thing. Real scrutiny is absent. The EIR for the ice rink/MILF at Mammoth Creek Park was a classic example. This certainly isn’t the type of EIR process we need for what faces us. It needs to be real. I dislike the term “organic” in many contexts but this is what it needs to be.

There are many potential “elements” or sub-studies to an EIR; they can assess impacts on various topics including traffic, visual, biological resources, noise, aesthetics, cultural resources, public services, recreation, water quality, etc. How did these fare last summer? Many times these elements are specific studies conducted by consultants or experts. But they really need to be conducted and expressed on a local level, not boilerplate rhetoric pulled from some “template.” EIRs are just reams of B.S. But they cost less, and are worthless (or worthless?). And the “lead agency” -- the Planning Commission and Town Council just rubber stamp the whole thing. Real scrutiny is absent. The EIR for the ice rink/MILF at Mammoth Creek Park was a classic example. This certainly isn’t the type of EIR process we need for what faces us. It needs to be real. I dislike the term “organic” in many contexts but this is what it needs to be.

Has anybody at the Town or MLT ever considered the growth-induced impacts of excessive marketing?

-Oster
This unparalleled property encompasses two of the best lots in Mammoth Lakes, taking full advantage of the stunning views surrounding this incredible mountain lodge home. Every detail in both architecture and design have been meticulously thought out to offer the discerning owner the epitome of luxury in one of California’s best known year-round playgrounds. Approaching the home, one notices the authentic timber logs and the views of the majestic Sherwin Range that are framed in most windows throughout the home.

An impressive two-story entry opens into an enormous entertaining space anchored by an oversized stone hearth and floor-to-ceiling picture windows that truly bring the outside in. The gourmet kitchen features beautiful finishes and high-end appliances; this home is a paradise for entertaining and family gatherings. The master bedroom suite rounds out the ground floor and opens to a private balcony. Four additional bedrooms, all en suite, are located up a grand staircase and separated from each other by a mezzanine that crosses the entire length of the main living space below. No mountain estate is complete without an oversized bonus room and this one delivers. This home leaves nothing to be desired, it will delight and charm all who come to visit, truly a luxury property in a magical setting!

Offered at $7,400,000

**CALL TO SCHEDULE A SHOWING**

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sue@mammothmrg.com

Jennifer Lanners
DRE #01711295
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Janice Gray
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**Mammoth Realty Group**
501 Old Mammoth Road | Mammoth Lakes

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Iconic mountain lodge designed by Elliot Brainard and custom-built by Preschutti Construction
5 bedroom suites • 6 baths • 2 powder rooms • Huge bonus room • Large spa room • Oversized garage
Immense great room with stone fireplace • Gourmet kitchen with breakfast bar • Oak plank floors • Hydronic heating
6,763 sq. ft. on two lots totaling .76 acres • Fully landscaped • Furnished (with some exclusions)
One of the first topics might be the simple volume of visitors we are attracting to the area. Covid may have exaggerated last summer’s volume, or not, but it should help us understand how the law of diminishing returns impacts local tourism. Ironically, many local STR (short-term rental) owners have been asking for months if they should be raising their rates. They think they can have the same amount of revenue with less traffic, headache, and wear-and-tear. They have the foresight. And whether we realize it or not, this community might be a victim of Airbnb’s dynamic pricing model. And we haven’t properly adapted. An increasing number of Mammoth’s visitor’s book through Airbnb and many are booking based on price. During non-peak periods this means they are most likely looking last minute, and some even as they are driving up Highway 395. Airbnb’s algorithms can drive the price down the closer to the actual booking dates. It is up to the STR owner to accept this lower price, and most do. Our guests are increasingly figuring out how to visit Mammoth on the cheap. And even worse, some have discovered it can actually be free (dispersed camping). Is this the best for our community and economy? Does MLL have this answer?

One thing that failed us as this past summer was communicating with our visitors, especially our new visitors. The pandemic pushed down some of the critical communication lines like the Visitor’s Center. But if the visitors were finding all sorts of (questionable) information on social media, why weren’t we communicating with them in a similar manner? We had signs at the entry to town demanding masks, but were silent on illegal campfires. Bad behavior in the Lakes Basin had to reach a critical level before our leaders realized some personal interaction with visitors might be helpful. 

-Oster

Happy Thanksgiving!

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of RE/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.
The Liquor Version of Foie Gras
By Hartley

My picks SUCKED last week ... it's a good thing they don't let you gamble legally in WauWa state. Well, unless you visit an Indian Casino. NO. I didn't say Native American. I am part-Indian, so sue me. I can say Indian Giver and all that shit. I got rights. I just ain't got no money from it. Turns out being BlackFoot Indian is like being Black-no 40 acres and a mule, no casino rights. Nothing. Get your ass to work.

Texans laying 3 to the Lions. I heard Lions ownership is considered a great group to work for because they are extremely loyal and allow their hires plenty of time to ... well, suck. But is that really a great organization to work for? All that means is you can suck for a long time, have awful people around you and never get fired. That isn't great. That's welfare. The Lions are football welfare.

They didn't score a point last week. Worse than that. I didn't know they played.

I watched the Steeler game with the Ravens on RedZone on the side. I NEVER saw the Lions playing Taysom Hill at QB. And I am still critical. Hill had putting on film his inability to play QB. He cannot move at all and the smart defenses should crush him. But the Raider defense is horrible. Take the Falcons plus the points. They bounce back in this spot while the Raiders are due for a letdown. Cardinals laying 2.5 to the Patriots. Okay Lunch, how does it feel? How does it feel to know your Pats are a below average team, and your coach, no matter how brilliant he is, is a HORRIFIC GM? How does it feel to watch your team play and wonder if the talent level matches the Jets? How does it feel to know you are gonna win too many games to get Trevor Lawrence but not enough to make the playoffs? The Patriots are in purgatory. Belichick needs a monumental offseason because I can outrun 99% of the Patriots with a bad back, bad knee, arthritic hip and liver that can only be considered the liquor version of foie gras. Lay the points. The Cards are more athletic.

Browns laying 6.5 to Jags. Lay 'em. The Jaguars are a Lingerie Football team, without the pretty women.

Bills laying 5.5 to Chargers. Lay 'em. QB Josh Allen will make 4 plays that make you say WOW. And he will make 6 plays that make you say WOW his I.Q. must be way below the mean.

Bengals 5 point 'dogs to the Giants. Lay 'em. The Giants are a Lingerie Football team, without the pretty women.

Cowboys laying 3 to the Football Team. The Cowboys can't lay a sheep or cow with their hooves stuck in their hooves. Team plus the points.

Steelers laying 4.5 to the Ravens. The Ravens are mentally soft. QB Lamar Jackson struggles when things don't go his way and the coach is wanting to fight players on the other team before the game. Punk ass. Coaches like to act tough when they know it can't go anywhere and the media eats it up. "Harbaugh is tough. I wonder if he can take Malcolm Butler." Stop it. Malcolm Butler would take Harbaugh's manhood. That said, the Ravens play the Steelers tough and they need this game. Take the Ravens plus the points.

Dolphins laying 6.5 to the Jets. Lay 'em. Dolphins just better. I praised Flores for his coaching, and then he benches his rookie QB last week. What is the point of that? How does the QB get better at dealing with difficult situations if you pull him?

Raiders laying 3 to the Falcons. The Falcons are missing me off. They need to win for the new coach or be the old Falcons. Stop confusing me. Matt Ryan looks like he is playing QB in quicksand. He cannot move at all and the smart defenses should crush him. But the Raider defense is horrible. Take the Falcons plus the points. They bounce back in this spot while the Raiders are due for a letdown.

Cardinals laying 2.5 to the Patriots. Okay Lunch, how does it feel? How does it feel to know your Pats are a below average team, and your coach, no matter how brilliant he is, is a HORRIFIC GM? How does it feel to watch your team play and wonder if the talent level matches the Jets? How does it feel to know you are gonna win too many games to get Trevor Lawrence but not enough to make the playoffs? The Patriots are in purgatory. Belichick needs a monumental offseason because I can outrun 99% of the Patriots with a bad back, bad knee, arthritic hip and liver that can only be considered the liquor version of foie gras. Lay the points. The Cards are more athletic.

Vikings laying 4 to the Panthers. Lay 'em. The Panthers are building, but they're still only in the framing stage. Viking QB Kirk Cousins is gonna get another contract. And you will wonder why. Like when they tell you Justin Bieber dropped another album. Why? 'Cause someone is always dumb enough to overpay. Just like there's always someone who goes to the strip club on Tuesday.

Saints laying 5.5 to the Broncos. I was critical of the Saints playing Taysom Hill at QB. And I am still critical. Hill had a decent game last week. But he is also putting on film his inability to play QB. Teams will get him. This week Vic Fangio will get him. The Broncos suck but Fangio is a great defensive coach. Take the Broncos plus the points as the Saints have a letdown.

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With our gratitude,
Mammoth Hospital
Elevate Your Health
LUNCH
continued from page 2
Predicatably, Licher’s favorite Stones album is generally panned by critics as the band’s worst: Their Satanic Majesties Request. “It’s a cool artifact,” says Bruce. “I love the sitars and the spaciness.”

Sheet (and I have no idea why I asked this): Are you a Zappa fan?

Licher: I tried to get into him. There are a couple of instrumentals I like, but he’s a little wacky and wanky for me.

I did meet him once. He and his wife. In the Hollywood Hills. He discovered the letterpress stamps I was doing and wanted to do a “tax the churches” series but ... it never went anywhere.

Licher also has no classical music on his desert island list, “My Dad listened to exclusively classical so I got my fill of that growing up,” he says.

But this is how much Bruce loves music. His latest project: He’s relaunching his Independent Project Press record label, partnering with Jeff Clark, a guy he knew in the ‘80s who was the lead singer of Shiva Burlesque. They’ll be releasing reissues and previously unavailable archival recordings.

Before I left the shop, however, Bruce suggested I call another local, next generation collector.

Bryan Mack has lived in the Sierra since 1998 (excluding his time as an undergrad at UCLA and as a law student at Loyola Marymount).

His mother Brenda taught 2nd and 3rd grade at the Round Valley school. And while he is now practicing as a lawyer in Bishop (he opened his practice last year and primarily focuses on estate planning), he spent several years post-law school teaching high school math in Independence for Owens Valley Unified School District.

Mack says his collection stands at about 3,000 these days. And while he has a little bit of everything, his focus is on metal and hard-core punk.

He says moving to Bishop in the first place is what inspired his collection, since records were cheaper than CDs. He’d always go to Laws Museum’s Choo Choo swap meet because there was a guy who’d always have a table there selling LPs for fifty cents apiece.

“I’d buy random stuff for fifty cents if it had a cool cover,” says Mack.

“I go to the IMAH (Inyo Mono Association for the Handicapped) thrift store quite a bit,” he says. “They’ve got a solid selection.”

When I mentioned that Licher was trying to thin his collection, Mack offered up a bit of a sigh on the other end of the line.

“I still buy more than I sell,” he admits.

So if you’re looking for something to do this weekend, you can cruise more than a few places in the Sierra in search of vinyl. Also look for Mark McClean’s sign (at right). He sells vinyl at his consignment store located on Main Street in Bishop. Another absolute gem of a place if you’re heading north to the Carson Valley: Try the High Desert Trading Post in Gardnerville. It’s located in the Meadowdale Shopping Center (where the Gardnerville post office is located).

Atleework recalls her family roots and explores the history of California’s arid Eastern Sierras in her ambitious, beautiful debut ... Atleework’s remarkable prose renders the ordinary wondrous and firmly puts this overlooked region of California onto the map.”

- Publishers Weekly

“The most beautiful book about California I ever have read.”

- Richard Rodriguez, Author of Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography

Available wherever books are sold
TOWN STUFF

Thursday, November 26/ Mammoth Lakes Annual Turkey Trot hosted by Mammoth Lakes Track Club, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Visit Mammoth. Register online at VisitMammoth.com to receive your printable bib number and run the two-mile race anywhere you would like.

Friday, November 27/ Mammoth Lakes Community Ice Rink Opening. Mammoth Lakes Ice Rink opens for the season, with free admission and rentals subject to availability. Hour-long sessions available at 6, 7:30, and 9 p.m. Sessions are limited to 100 people each, masks required at all times. Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center “White Friday” used equipment sale.

Saturday, November 28/ Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center “White Friday” used equipment sale.

Sunday, November 29/ Nordic patrons will be limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Nordic patrons will be required to wear a mask and wait outside until we serve the guest in front of them. Dress appropriately. Info: 760.934.2442 ext. 8

Monday, November 30/ Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce hosts its Lodging Roundtable via Zoom. Time: 10 a.m. Access via the Chamber’s website at www.mammothlakeschamber.org.

Tuesday, December 1/ Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets at 8:30 a.m., viewing available via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/86085547801

Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission meets at 1 p.m., viewing available via Granicus.

Wednesday, December 2/ Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meets at 1 p.m. Viewing available via Zoom at https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/93534952022

Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission meets at 1 p.m., viewing available via Granicus.

Thursday, December 3/ Mammoth Lakes Virtual Community Coffee from 8-9 a.m. Check the Chamber of Commerce website for more information.

Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce PPE Distribution. 10 a.m.-noon in the Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center Parking Lot. While supplies last.


Saturday, December 5/ Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center drive-in/virtual annual fundraiser from Tri-County Fairgrounds featuring headliners Kimmy Fasani and Chris Benchetler. Doors open 4 p.m. program starts 5:30 p.m. One can also stream the whole event live at www.esavalanche.org as well as participate in the silent auction and raffle online.

TOWN STUFF

Virtual Breastfeeding 101 Class open to all pregnant people in Inyo and Mono counties, 9-11 a.m. Register by contacting Grace at 760-872-1885 or WIC@inyocounty.us. Fundraiser and Silent Auction for Maggie Larson and Artizia Bosga @ the Looney Bean in Bishop. 6 a.m. ‘til 3 p.m. All proceeds go towards these amazing ladies to aid in their cancer battles. If you’d like to donate anything toward the silent auction, contact Tanya @ 760.937.2248 or Clancy @ 760.937.1466. More info: see ad p. 6

Ongoing

CS Studios “Ancestors of the Arts” art show ongoing @ CS. 210 South Warren St. in Bishop (back of the old J.C. Penney bldg.). Weekend hours: 10-5 Friday-Saturday and 10-1 Sunday. More info: See Story p. 21

The Inyo Council for the Arts Holiday Gallery Show is up at the ICA’s new location at 150 Willow Street in Bishop! Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. Masks, physical distancing required. Info: 760.873.8914/info@inyo.org.

Mono Arts Council’s “Howling at the Moon” art show is currently on display at the MAC Gallery inside the Minaret Mall across the way from Minaret Cinemas. Gallery hours 11-6 Friday-Monday.

Laws Museum, located just outside Bishop off Highway 6, is open Friday-Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: www.laws museum.org/760.873.5950.

Mono County Libraries Virtual Homework Zone takes place Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. over Zoom. Register at monocolibrary.org.

Mono County Libraries Storytime Live! Join Ms. Chelsea for a story and fun activities on the Mammoth Lakes Library Facebook page. Time: 10:30 a.m on Wednesdays, recording remains up on the page for 24 hours.

Mono County Libraries Virtual Storytime. Start your week off with a community storytelling session on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. on the Mono County Libraries Facebook page. The recording remains up on the page for 24 hours.

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.

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.I. Community Center 10 am-1 pm.

Walker/Coleville testing Fridays at Walker Community Center 9 am-12:45
Help Wanted

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

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Phlebotomist B - $18-24/hr
Medical Front Desk B - $16, 11am-6pm or 2pm-9pm
GL/Grd Shovelers ML & B - $15-22/week
PR Bookkeeper ML - $20-22/week
Call Us Today
760-924-0523 or 760-873-8599

www.SierraEmployment.com

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We are currently accepting applications for Full-Time Positions (Monday through Friday). These positions offer vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required. Please call 760-924-3991 or stop by the store located at 1401 Tavern Road Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Resume should be e-mailed to mammothsp@aol.com.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with a current CDL class C and a current service and clean driving records. We are also looking for office clerks with at least the person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-541-7143 www.mammoth-taxi.com

Local Cleaning Co. is now hiring a full-time Janitor for facilities cleaning. Please email resumes to lcornwell@conglomerate.com. We are also hiring a part-time Janitor for facilities cleaning, experienced maintenance person with great organizational skills and cleaning ability. For additional information please call 760-934-2400. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the interviews will be conducted via videoconference. **Hiring Process may be delayed or extended due to COVID-19 mandates**

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Mammoth Lakes is hiring for the upcoming season. We are seeking a staff who work as hard as they play. We’re looking for responsible individuals, passionate about winter sports, and motivated to provide the best in customer service. We have full and part-time positions open in our rentals, sales and retail ski repair departments. We are offering great pay, DOE discounts and flexible hours, in progressive work environment. Call us at 760.934.2400. Go to our website at www.footloosesports.com or email your resume to info@footloosesports.com to schedule an interview.

Immediate opening for a housekeeper. Condos paid by please call 760-934-0698.

Se busca personas de inmediato para limpieza de condominios. Se paga por concesiones. Email: empleos@condominio.com

Local Cleaning Co. is looking for experienced cleaners starting wage $13.00-$20.00 Call 760-408-1910 Salary Range.

Housekeepers Wanted - Full time, year round position working five, eight hour shifts per week, including weekends and holidays. Includes a benefit package along with a starting wage of $15.00 an hour. If you are interested in joining our team please email us at employment@snowcreekresort.com.

Account Manager Needed. Full Time Position. Looking for a friendly, team player. Duties include Accounts Receivable, as well as General Office Duties. Competitive pay. Please email your resume to info@butterhoaservices.com.

Help Wanted What’s Bakery Mammoth Lakes, CalChat’s A Drug Free Work Place. Character Reference Required Baker-Trained Or We Will Train Starting Wage $11/hr. Bakers must be Baker $25.00 Per Hour. Requires Early Morning Hours. Seasonal Work Load.Full Or Part Time. Sanitation Part Time Hours 3 To 6 A M. We Can Work Into Your Schedule. Starting $15.00 Per Hour

For Rent

2 BDR/1 BA unfurnished ML apt. Wood stove, propane furnace upstairs, 1 car garage, year lease only $1,900 299 manzanita ca 760-937-7359.

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HARTEY continued from page 15

Work with The Best. Footloose Sports, nationally recognized as a top 60 retailer, is hiring for the upcoming season. We are seeking a staff who work as hard as they play. We’re looking for responsible individuals, passionate about winter sports, and motivated to provide the best in customer service. We have full and part-time positions open in our rentals, sales and retail ski repair departments. We are offering great pay, DOE discounts and flexible hours, in progressive work environment. Call us at 760.934.2400. Go to our website at www.footloosesports.com or email your resume to info@footloosesports.com to schedule an interview.

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HARTEY continued from page 15

Thanksgiving is here. And with every one saying what they are thankful for, I am taking a different tack. The Thank- Less edition. I am THANKFULLY FOR PEOPLES that support your local businesses. You just don’t know why you are. You just don’t know WHY YOU ARE YOU.

The New York Jets being an NFL Franchise, their integrity and respect for sports and common sense separate this team from its ownership.

Tony Roma on National TV. I hear them all the time. Who the f*** loves football and what do I get when I hear his voice? I want TV OFF. I DONT KNOW WHAT. THAT LOOKS LIKE THE BALL going out of bounds so HE IS TRYING TO GO VVVWWJSSSSSSSSTTT THAT LITTLE BIT. I hate him. Add Joe Buck in here, too.

Lamar Jackson. I liked him coming out of college but you lead a billion dollar franchise - grow up, cut your hair and enunciate your words so anyone, any one can understand you. Anything named/related to HAR BAL.

Matt Patricia being employed. While I get it’s not nice to demand someone lose their job, when people like Matt Patricia or Mickey Tingley can’t fix Guess keep their jobs, it minimizes the im- portance of mild competence, and makes people believe someone like Trump is qualified to be president.

The New York Giants or Jerry Jones. For- get that the Cowboys have won NOTHING since 1995. Jones was on TV recently bragging about how the Cowboys lead the NFL in wins. PARDON ME. A PANDEMIC. Yeah. That is what Jerry cares about. He is happy about being potentially the biggest contributor to the spread of Covid than anyone else in the world.

BYU football says they’ll play ANY- TIME ANYWHERE. Until ... They were contacted by the University of Wash- ington. We want to see your national ranking before we play you. So ... anytime anywhere is different in MORON, I mean MORMON, than regular inglis.

Baker Mayfield. Take all those com- mercials off TV please and let this little turd go away peacefully. The team runs the show here a game at a time.

Corona story of the week. NYC po- lice officers broke up a sex party of 80 individuals. They were maskless swing- ers and had mattresses on the floor and “condoms scattered everywhere.” Okay.

So they were maskless but they wore condoms - and answered the question (at least for themselves) as to what’s worse: being a functioning adult or a drug dealer.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road and via Zoom online, the Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission will hear an application request for the following:

Application Request: Public hearing and consideration of a Resolution recommending to the Town Council approval of:

1. District Zoning Amendment (DZA) 20-001 to adopt the 2021 Parcel Master Plan, replacing the 1991 Shady Rest Master Plan and creating new site-specific zoning and affordability requirements for The Parcel site.

2. Use Permit (UPA) 20-003 requesting a 100% density bonus pursuant to Zoning Code Chapter 17.118 (Town Density Bonus Program) to allow for up to 580 affordable housing units to be constructed in phases on the 25-acre site where 300 units is the maximum number allowed by the underlying RMF-1 zoning district.

3. Design Review (DR) 20-005 for the first phase (Development Area 1) of The Parcel affordable housing development, which includes initial infrastructure improvements and construction of up to 81 units (80 affordable multi-family housing units and 1 manager unit) along with a daycare facility, community center, and public park.

4. Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA) 20-005 to repeal Town of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code Section 17.32.020, Affordable Housing Overlay Zone (AH) and replace with the 2021 Parcel Master Plan zoning standards.

CEQA Determination: CEQA Determination: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.3, Streamlining for Infill Projects, an Infill Environmental Checklist has been prepared and has evaluated the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects associated with the project and demonstrated that such effects have been previously and adequately analyzed in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Town of Mammoth Lakes 2005 General Plan Update (State Clearinghouse No. 200304215, dated May 2007) and Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan Land Use Element/Zoning Code Amendments and Mobility Element Update Draft Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 201505207, dated June 2016) and/or impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21094.5, CEQA does not apply to such effects.

Location: 1699 Tavern Rd and 33 Center St. (APNs: 035-010-020-000 and 035-100-000-000).

Zoning: RMF-1, AH

Proponent/Owner: The Pacific Companies/The Town of Mammoth Lakes

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than December 5, 2020, contact: Chandler Van Schaack, Senior Planner, at: cvschaack@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

ZOOM WEBINAR INFORMATION
Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:
Please visit this URL to join. https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/94467884546
Webinar ID: 944 6788 4546
Or join by phone: (669) 900-6833

Callers - To Raise your hand press *9, To Unmute/Mute press *6

Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission
P.O. Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
TS #2020-0204
When I swung by the MAC (Mono Arts Council) Gallery last week, there were volunteers and employees in the back putting together art boxes for every K-8 student in Mono County.

This is one of two in-school programs MAC is now sponsoring – it also provides supplies for each. They are:

1. “Create with the Greats: Art History Lessons with a Master Artist. This includes a corresponding lesson with pastels and paints.
2. Digital Arts program - translating art to the digital world, using tech to share art digitally via ‘zines, et. al.

These two programs are made possible by grant funding from the California Arts Council, Measure U (Town of Mammoth Lakes) and the Mono County Office of Education.

But the state grant is unlikely to come through for next year. Similarly, Measure U funding is up in the air. And Measure U only covers Mammoth. As MAC Executive Director Kristin Reese says, “we serve the entire county; Lee Vining, Bridgeport and Benton all have no art programs in the schools. And while Coleville has a high school art teacher, the Eastern Sierra Unified School District also has no music program.

This is especially difficult to swallow for Ms. Reese, as she majored in music in college and plays in the local bluegrass band Bodie 601.

“So there’s certainly need. But the funding is sketchy. So like many non-profits, the MAC is looking for financial support from the private sector.

“We need support and awareness,” says Reese frankly. “We need to raise $190,000 by July 1, 2021.”

The Mono Arts Council is a private non-profit which typically relies on a mixture of grants, fundraising events and private donations. Its baseline budget is approximately $300,000 annually.

It operates its art gallery inside the Minaret Mall at a slight loss, though the goal is obviously to break even. Its purpose: Have a place for local artists to display their work.

Unfortunately, foot traffic at the gallery since the pandemic began is down 80%.

Further, The MAC has been hamstrung by its inability to hold its traditional fundraisers: No 4th of July Arts...
ANCESTORS OF THE ARTS
C5 show celebrates one’s forebears
By Lunch

5 Studios co-founder Naomi Hart Johnson calls the current "Ancestors of the Arts" show a "different kind of show. We’ve asked artists not to bring their own work but to think about ancestors who’ve been inspiring to them and bring in something to help honor that person [i.e. mementos, artifacts]."

The show was conceived during the Halloween period and reflects this time of year, with the cyclical nature of summer ending, the days shortening, the cold biting at one’s heels, the contemplation of death ...

This show provides a space where you can have a moment of grief and share a story.

There are writings/reflections to accompany the pieces.

The show will be up through Xmas. While C5 is closed Thanksgiving day, it will be open 10-5 Friday and Saturday and 10-1 Sunday. The studio is located at 210 South Warren St. in Bishop.

C5 is a concept in progress. It offers classes, workshops, studio space for rent. It also boasts a funky gift shop for Xmas shoppers and some Wild Iris fundraiser items from last month remain for sale.

To learn more, visit www.c5studios.org.

This installation, courtesy of Ginger Wojciechowski, honors her forebears, "Farmers, originally from Kentucky. They traded livestock for furniture and sold guns as far north as Detroit. A rowdy bunch that liked cigarettes and the color red."

An installation in remembrance of Bishop’s David Hardin

Dana Ellis’s “Freefall”

MAC continued from page 20

Festival, Labor Day Arts Festival, June Lake Jam or Holiday Art shows.

The ever-popular Art & Wine classes, which pre-Covid might have drawn 25 are now drawing maybe ten.

"Suddenly we can’t even really cover costs for those classes," says Reese, but she’s loathe to cancel them as they very much fit the organization’s mission.

One of the silver linings during the pandemic, says Reese, is the current staff featuring Education Coordinators Monica Eilts and Deja Charles. "I’ve never seen so much enthusiasm in our staff. We’re really seeing an upsurge in interest with Gen Z as it relates to volunteerism and social change."

Finally, Reese wished to give a shout-out to Kristen Schipke, who recently re-signed from the MAC board. Reese credits Schipke with helping reboot the organization back in 2015, as well as developing the art and wine class program.

If you’re interested in learning more about the MAC, contact Reese at 760.914.2731 or drop by the Gallery. You can also make a contribution online at the MAC website, www.monoarts.org.

Dana Ellis's "Freefall"
Pisces: As Pisceans know, there’s a power in writing things down, especially things like what you’re thankful for or are hoping to attract or achieve in your life. Using the right colors can be even more helpful. Blue is connected with clarity, creativity and faith. Black is good for protecting or releasing. Red is good for passion and ambition. Whipped cream is good for writing on pies, cookies or body parts.

Aries: There’s an ancient belief that when you write something down and read it regularly it has the power to change your life. That’s why they call it spelling, because writing is the most powerful way to cast a spell. That’s also why this would be the perfect time to write out a list of things you’re thankful for. It will help make them happen more often—although keep in mind that full nudity is tougher in the winter, so maybe remember to be thankful for socks, too.

Taurus: The first Thanksgiving, held back in 1621, was three days long. While the pandemic will make this year a less social one than usual, this is actually good news for Tauruses. As a healing sign, you tend to attract people with issues. Since there’s nothing like having a meal ruined by someone spilling personal drama all over it, you’re not going to have to deal with much of that. The only thing you’ll have to be careful about spilling is wine. So that’s something to be thankful for.

Gemini: More than 214 million pounds of potatoes are eaten each Thanksgiving in America. A lot of folks will be eating theirs alone or in smaller groups this year. Since Geminis are such social people and make friends easily, be sure to reach out to lots of them. They’ll be thankful. You can use the potato stat to help break the ice, although this line might be more enjoyable: Haters gonna hate, potatoes gonna potato.

Cancer: The average American intakes 4,000+ calories of everything from chips and dip to turkey and stuffing on Thanksgiving. While you don’t need to eat that much, you should stuff yourself with thoughts about all you have to be thankful for, like these Cancer traits: Cancers are usually the kindest sign, unless you’re feeling hungry. Cancerians like it when people can read your minds, because then you get angry at them for not fully understanding you. The Zodiac sign for Cancer looks like the number 69, even though you prefer temperatures in the high-70s.

Leo: When you Leos are at your best, especially things like what you’re thankful for: your mesmerizing eyes, your mesmerizing eyes, your mesmerizing eyes, your mesmerizing eyes, your mesmerizing eyes. What better way to break the ice than to reach out to lots of them? They’ll be thankful for. You can use the potato stat to help break the ice, although this line might be more enjoyable: Haters gonna hate, potatoes gonna potato.

Virgo: There are lots of reasons for you to be thankful as another Turkey Day trots past. Here’s a list of them: You’re reading The Sheet so you’re currently the smartest, most erudite person in the general vicinity. You actually like and can put up with a few people. You’re great at getting things done and tend to do things well with Cancers and Scorpios. You’re the karmic sign of the Zodiac and your underrated sense of humor enjoys watching people get hit in the head with life’s boomerangs.

Libra: While the President and all of his men may be treating the truth like a punching bag, this much we know is true: we are all going to die someday, which means on all the other days we won’t. So it’s up to us to be thankful for these days and to make the most out of them, even if that means some days we never get out of our PJs.

Scorpio: To help you make the most of this year’s holiday season, here are some things Scorpions should be thankful for: your mesmerizing eyes, the fact that your mere thoughts can change the temperature of a room, your ability to balance hot and scary as hell, your ability to ignore people so hard they question their own existence, and, of course, because your sign oozes sexuality like hot butter dripping over a stack of flapjacks.

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Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
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