THE COLOR PURPLE
By Page
A

a few weeks before they can move into a less restrictive tier. Mono County will need to reduce its caseload to 7 new COVID-19 cases per week with an 8% positivity rate in order to return to the Red Tier, according to county health officer Dr. Tom Boo, speaking at Tuesday’s Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting.

“The state yesterday (Monday, November 30) indicated an intention to order some wider version of a stay-at-home order because of projections that COVID-19 cases are going to exceed the capacity of California hospitals to provide care in the next 3 weeks,” Boo said. December 19 is the projected date when that capacity will be exceeded.

The issue, Boo explained, is related to staffing capabilities. There simply aren’t enough nurses, doctors, respiratory therapists, and other essential staff to care for hospitalized patients. A new state health order would aim to be both effective and short, with 3 weeks as a best-case scenario, said Boo.

Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz, who has been involved with rural county representation through the California State Association of Counties, confirmed what Boo said about capacity issues after a call with state Health and Human Services director Mark Ghaly on Monday. Peters reported that 105 people had visited the local assistance center, with many opting to fill out damage surveys for their properties. Out of the people who have visited the center, 65 are exploring putting together a housing task force to help those displaced by the fire find new lodging. Mono County Health and Human Services Kathy Peterson reported on the assistance side of the operation. 28 people are still in Red Cross-assisted housing at the Topaz Lodge; the county is working to get them settled more permanent- ly at the moment. Peterson reported that 105 people had visited the local assistance center, with many opting to fill out damage surveys for their properties.

The line to get a COVID test at 10:30 on Thursday morning; The Sheet counted nearly forty people in line at the time. Mono County Public Health added testing on Thursday solely for contact tracing and 211 referrals. The line to get a Covid test at 10:30 on Thursday morning; The Sheet counted nearly forty people in line at the time. Mono County Public Health added testing on Thursday solely for contact tracing and 211 referrals.

Re(x)use me?
Redraw?
Resume?
Redux?
Depraved

p. 2/
p. 5/
p. 3/
p. 4/
p. 14/
**RE(X)USE ME?**

There’s been a lot of national hand-wringing of late over the fate of the republic if Trump refuses to concede the election, the resilience of our institutions, et. al.

Maybe it’s because no one really knows what they’re doing. They are ignorant of rules, of procedure, of history. And even if they have some familiarity of these things, none of it applies to them.

Imagine you’re playing a game of tennis. During a rally, your opponent hits the ball long. You call the ball out. Your opponent says, “That ball wasn’t out.”

Wait, What?

“That ball wasn’t out. That line you’re pointing at - how do I know it’s even drawn in the right place? And you have some nerve, unilaterally deciding where that ball landed. How do I know you’re telling the truth?”

This is what happens when each individual becomes his/her own arbiter. And only their opinion counts. And no one’s willing to say no to them, especially when they raise their voice, or insist that their opinion matters more than yours because it’s really important to them, and they’re emotional about it, and that emotional urgency trumps law, tradition, common sense, decency. It trumps everything.

It gets even more dogmatic when their friends and/or colleagues are too chickenshit to hold them accountable.

That’s the preface to Wednesday’s meeting of the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board.

The big topic: Discussion of potential funding of a new business assistance program.

As MLT Executive Director John Urdi explained, there had been an initial $300,000 program approved by the town. Two-thirds of the funding for that program came via the Town/MLT joint reserve account, said Urdi. The program had certain restrictions, among them: one had to have a storefront business, and annual revenue of less than $1 million.

Urdi suggested that a follow-up, second program be initiated with broader guidelines, focusing on primarily helping restaurants (the sector of the economy hardest hit by Covid restrictions) and some retail.

He also suggested that grants be “scaled” based on business size and revenue - maybe divided into a few tiers, with some of the larger entities being eligible for up to $25,000 or $30,000.

Instead of division by tier, Board member Eric Clark (MMSA Senior V.P.) tossed out the idea that grants simply be scaled based upon remittance. The larger the business, the bigger the grant.

Urdi suggested second round funding of $500,000.

Before further discussion could take place on the matter, MLT Board member Rhonda Duggan pointed out that there were several fellow Board members who ought to think about recusing themselves from the agenda item, seeing as they own businesses which could conceivably benefit from such a program.

These board members include Michael Ledesma (Gomez Restaurant and Tequileria and Hugs Ice Cream), Matt Hammer (Shelter Distilling and Black Velvet Coffee), Jess Karel (Sierra Nevada Resort, which operates three restaurants) and Jeremy Goico of Black Tie Ski Rentals.

*I leave off Mammoth Mountain because I can’t imagine the Mountain would apply for such funding. Though I was told by Urdi that he didn’t think MMSA would be necessarily excluded, but “Morally, I’d like to say they have deep enough pockets [not to apply],” he said.*

Mr. Ledesma acknowledged that in terms of a conflict-of-interest, “I’d probably be at the top of the list.” But then, he said, we all tend to have a conflict of interest in such a small town and this is a “precarious” time.

Suggestion being: In extraordinary times, minor details like conflicts-of-interest should be discarded for the greater good - the greater good apparently reflected in what Mr. Ledesma would like to see occur.

When Ms. Duggan tried to interject, Mr. Ledesma raised his voice and angrily insisted on finishing his thought.

He suggested he would not fight “abstinence” on this (a genius malapropism if there ever was one). My interpretation being that if someone told him he had to recuse himself from the discussion, he would. But that person apparently wasn’t Ms. Duggan, and it’s not like Mr. Urdi asked MLT Attorney Timothy Sanford to sit in on the call.

The Sheet called Sanford Thursday. He said he didn’t know anything about the issue and wasn’t asked to be there.

An expert opinion costs money.

But you’d figure you’d invest an hour of Sanford’s time ($425) if you were discussing promotion of a $500,000 program which could potentially benefit certain board members.

But as Urdi cautioned, MLT doesn’t have the authority to designate the money. That decision ultimately rests with Town Council. All MLT could do as a board on Wednesday was reach a consensus to suggest Mammoth’s Council support the initiative. That was the compromise. They didn’t want to vote on it because, well, then certain conflicts-of-interest would be memorialized.

No board member recused himself from the discussion. Matt Hammer and Jeremy Goico also spoke in support.

Mammoth Town Manager Dan Holler, in consultation with Town Attorney Andrew Morris, told The Sheet Thursday that the Town would recommend MLT members Ledesma, Hammer, Goico and Karel not participate in future discussions regarding assistance grants they might be eligible to apply for.

The entire board (Salcido, Duggan, Foster, Morris, Clark - assuming MMSA is a non-applicant) was in support. Why the other members insisted upon participating in this fait d’accompli is a mystery.

If the wind is supporting your sail, there’s no need to plug into the fan

A second round grant process may look different than the first. As Urdi said, “We would continue to refine the process in collaboration with Sandra [Moberly].” Moberly, the Town’s Community Development Director, administered the first round grants.

One refinement could be in the composition of the panel evaluating the applications.

The first round panel featured two Mono County Tourism staff members (Alicia Vennos and Jeff Simpson), two Mammoth Planning and Economic Development Commissioners (Jen Burrows and Greg Eckert), Chamber of Commerce board member Tom Parker and Chamber of Commerce Executive director Ken Brengle.

Which created some appearance of conflict of interest when Chamber board members (Green Fox Events, Warming Hut) applied for grants, as technically, those board members are Mr. Brengle’s bosses.

Mr. Urdi also sits on the Chamber board. One of his bosses on the MLT board, Mr. Ledesma, was awarded a first round small business grant for Hugs Ice Cream shop.

Inyo County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tawni Thompson did not participate in Inyo’s business assistance program for this very reason - appearance of conflict. As she says, she just knows some of her members better than others, and has her biases.
LETTERS

Fly Like an Eagle

Dear Editor:

... In response to: The Sheet, Get Back on the Bus, November 28, 2020. An Open Letter to MUSD School Board and Superintendent,

Objective

The purpose of this letter is to provide additional support for returning to our original plan of opening MUSD schools safely with in-person learning and getting our children’s lives back on track through analog and associated data. This letter is submitted for your consideration December 2, 2020 via a public forum to allow more time for analysis and public feedback.

Analog Case Background

Our “sister” year-round destination resort, Vail, lies within Eagle County, Colorado along with roughly 17 other resorts within/near the county limits. The county population density is 25/sq. mile while Mono County is 4/sq. mile resulting in far greater intensity of human contact year-round. Regarding visitation, “1.3 million visitors come to the Vail area each year; 650,000 in the summer,” (source: https://eaglechamber.com/2019/10/09/colorados-tourism-summer” (source: https://eaglechamber.com/2019/10/09/colorados-tourism-summer”). While the population of Eagle County (~55,000) is more than 3x Mono County, other demographic factors are nearly identical between the 2 counties – age, sex, ethnicity, poverty, etc.

Plan the Work, Work the Plan

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) risk management between Colorado and California are also nearly identical with tiered risk levels indicating operating guidance for businesses as well as public school systems. The Eagle County School District (ECSD) published their 2020-2021 opening guidelines (Source: https://www.eagleschools.net/reopening-plan-sy2020-21) in conjunction with the state of Colorado which are similar to those here in California (symptoms check, face coverings, safe distance, sanitizing hands, disinfect area, grab-and-go lunches, staggered lunches, home screening, pick-up and drop-off protocols, isolation rooms). ECSD, like MUSD, performed community outreach to explain the plan, get feedback and buy-in to the plan from parents, students and staff and commitment to the execution of the plan.

Results

Eagle County Schools have been successfully open from K-8 since August 25, 2020 (Source: https://www.eagleschools.net/parents/school-calendars) with in-person learning 4 days per week with Wednesday used for planning for most K-8 schools in the district. Eagle Valley High School, for example, (student body of approximately 1,000) has been open for A/B hybrid learning with 2 pods of 500 organized by last name attending in-person learning combined with distance learning. Other high schools within the district have variations to this plan based on their individual needs. These operating protocols are similar to those defined in the original MUSD plan.

There have been 16 cases of COVID-19 in all of ECSD within a student body of 7,000 and staff of 830 across multiple campuses within the district as of October 29, 2020 with zero cases contact traced back to the schools (Source: https://www.eagleschools.net/article/if-dial-turns-orange ). Regarding these cases, the state and ECSD protocols were followed (471 students and staff quarantined with 31 transitioned to remote learning) and the students and staff have returned safely to school at the end of the required period. Since October 29, there have been COVID-19 cases contact traced back to ECSD and, using the same safety protocols, ECSD has continued with the same programs of in-person learning.

Eagle County Public Health support

While the purpose of the support systems of the 2 counties are the same, the utility of the 2 are drastically different. While Mono has focused on the number of tests performed, Eagle focuses on the number of individuals tested to arrive at true community spread and positivity. Additionally, Mono focuses on the number of daily positive cases while Eagle is focused on the daily positive cases in combination with daily hospitalizations which provides the community as a whole an acute awareness of the stress to their local health care system while holding everyone personally responsible for the outcome every day.

Regarding daily hospitalization statistics, Eagle County health officials have come across critical statistics and their latest dashboard configuration reflects these findings – out of a total of 2,334 cases, 2.3% are from the 0-9 age group and 10.4% are from the 10-19 age group with zero hospitalizations from both age groups (Source: Eagle County Community COVID-19 Monitoring dashboard https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/1ddB1kj5h6QjTk77HltHKnho8GHnvk85e/page/plbIB). Furthermore, these data prove that the previous school year lockdown has not resulted in the elimination of cases within these two age groups since March 1, 2020 as there have been 296 confirmed cases with only 16 confirmed cases occurring within the 2020-2021 school year through October 29.

Therefore, Eagle County leadership, in conjunction with their community, has empirically proven to have safely

see LETTERS, page 4
We are in this Together?

As with Eagle, Mono County has visitation which has daily COVID-19 positivity. This is a proven scientific fact. Assuming roughly 2,000,000 annual visits and positivity in the range of 5-15% (well within range for the population of Southern California during the pandemic, for example), this yields an average daily visitor positivity of anywhere from 250 to 800 (multiply by 5 to 10 for the holidays). This then begs the question, among others, “If TOML is open and yielding literally nothing but a FAQs, why aren’t MUSD open?”

ECSD is open, with zero student hospitalizations, as well as Eagle County as a whole with similar visitation as well as a far greater resident risk profile due to a much higher population density than Mono County and MUSD.

I present the case here that the answer is that the Eagle County experience has proven that the two, safe in-person learning, are not mutually exclusive.

Recommendations

1) Please open MUSD immediately under the original plan with in-person learning
2) Stick with the plan and work it with us – the parents, students and staff. We have empirically proven that it has been done safely under analogous conditions. In particular, our existing plan contains accommodations for students and staff and their family members with pre-existing conditions to keep everyone safe.
3) Reach out to similar demographic school districts like ECSD to continuously establish Best Practices and share lessons learned (for example, ECSD Superintendent Philip Qualman and his staff are willing to help).
4) Set proper expectations (for example, zero student and staff COVID-19 cases will be impossible to achieve). Follow state guidelines and case protocols with zero student and staff hospitalizations as the goal. Put the responsibility on all of us to stick to the guidelines and get on with it.

MUSD Board and Superintendent – please open the schools now with in-person learning for the sake of our children. Seven school years months of lockdown have been devastating with far reaching negative effects. Respectfully, it is time we all step up for not only those who do have a voice but, more importantly, for those who do not – our children.

Plan the Work, Work the Plan.

John Smyth
Mammoth Lakes

Mr. Smyth is the parent of a 5th and 9th grader. His professional background is in data analytics, sales, marketing and project management.

Preserve the Park

Dear Editor:

Mammoth Creek Park West

I walked through the park today. It’s a beautiful little park, with natural surroundings, and incredible open space views. It offers the public a place to take a break.

After the high costs of living here, don’t we deserve this little jewel of an unbuilt park?

Put more picnic tables with sun covers, and a walking trail around this last little piece of park, with full-size outdoor monkey bars for adults to maintain their neglected cores and shoulderers, just like the perfect ones you took away, and with situp and leglift planks like a Par Course could offer us in the outdoors.

MCPW is a nice get away from our densely built town.

The park represents why many people come here, to get away from the Concrete Jungle.

Most people don’t hike to Duck Lake to get away. MCPW represents Mammoth when it used to be a wide open, rustic, inspiring town that many city people crave.

At least give the community this natural, undeveloped park, that gives the joy of the great outdoors and nature.

Jane Kenyon
Mammoth Lakes

In response to Lunch’s reply to Mr. Woodson’s letter which appeared in the Nov. 28 issue.

Are you ready?

Dear Mr. Lunch:

You chose Ms. Noonan only because her opinion matched yours. Neither you nor her have searched for truth of what is really happening. You both accuse Trump of building a case out of nothing, as if there was no wrongdoing in the election. The facts are there, you only have to open your eyes.

Noonan says Trump’s attempt at overturning the election will cause the country harm. No, you both should study up on the Constitution. Everything Trump is doing is pointed out in the Constitution. Don’t you do any of your own research? Other people don’t either, that is why you need to be careful who you agree with in print.

Contrary to Noonan’s position, if Trump is unsuccessful, then the country, and we citizens, will be harmed. And in ways you apparently can’t conceive.

I noticed you went to Walker to view the fire damage yourself. It was a horrible happening. Couldn’t you find someone like Ms. Noonan who had already covered it, even if poorly? Your very lack of concern for the truth to be told about our country’s horrid happenings in our recent election, is just as horrible.

By the way, if Trump succeeds in showing fraud, fake ballots and even altered results in the election, do you and Ms. Noonan think the FBI and the Attorney General should get to doing their jobs? Or is Truth, Justice, and the American Way, much too confusing to you?

As the publisher of the SHEET, how do you look at other papers using lies, slander, and libel-filled statements to sell copies? Freedom of the Press, and Freedom of speech, are not without limits. We do have laws against Slander and Libel. Shouldn’t all such cases be taken to trial?

Just because other papers get away with it, that doesn’t mean you should follow their lead.

Just in case President Trump is successful, you might need to find a safer place to stand, other than behind what someone else said. There may be belated libel and slander suits. Duh?

The public is fed up with all the lies and false news. They may demand the truth and nothing but the truth, from here on out. Are you ready?

Bob Woodson
Bishop
REDO VOODOO
Mono County districts due for redraw
By Page

The United States Census, taken every 10 years, has much more far-reaching implications that simply a vote population count. Population statistics help determine the amount of state and federal aid allocated to a particular jurisdiction and accurate information ensures that needs are properly met.

But the census numbers also have an impact on local representation: districts are drawn based off of population numbers. As a result, districts can be redrawn every ten years when new census information is released.

The task of redrawing those voting districts locally falls to the Mono County Board of Supervisors. The goal is to achieve an relatively even balance of residents across the five districts to ensure fair and equal representation.

At Tuesday’s meeting of the Board, County IT director Nate Greenberg, along with Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich and Geographic Information System (GIS) analyst Eric Miller, gave a presentation on the redistricting process to seek initial input from the Supervisors.

Greenberg explained that the county takes the census data, inputs it into GIS, and runs through a number of processes that help determine the most even distribution for the districts.

The county uses what's called a Block Boundary Suggestion Project, which "allows us to sort of review blocks and tracts against other units of geography that are critically important to us (i.e. streets, special districts)," Greenberg explained.

In 2010, the process went slightly awry as factors were not adequately weighed and the program spit out designated blocks that made creating districts very difficult. Greenberg stressed the importance of keeping blocks at a manageable size.

Greenberg laid out the process of redistricting as follows:

1. Prepare for redistricting by educating the supervisors and public on the matter while putting together a road map to follow  
2. Initiate the redistricting process in January when 2020 Census data is available  
3. Engage with the public for input on structuring districts, develop alternative plans and final recommendations.  
4. Finalize the decision with a vote. New districts cannot be adopted prior to August 2021 but must be in place by the first actual election in 2021 with a hard deadline of January 7, 2022.

In addition, new updates to the process were ratified in a state bill in October 2019. The changes are aimed specifically at public engagement and participation, particularly for historically underrepresented communities. Four separate public hearings are required by law: one before the process begins (projected to be sometime in January), two conducted during the process, and a third that must take place on a weekend and after 3 p.m.

Brown Act requirements apply to all of these meetings. Greenberg explained that previous boards had established a redistricting commission, with each supervisor selecting two commissioners as representatives of the county’s communities. In 2010, "It looked kind of like a traveling roadshow that more or less followed the RPACs," Greenberg explained, traveling to each community to hold a public meeting.

While that portion of the process is still months away, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and uncertainty over vaccine availability may require some changes to that process.

As for what happened with redistricting in 2010, the outcomes were less than perfect, making the upcoming redistricting efforts all the more important. The 2010 process resulted in a sitting supervisor (Tim Hansen) being redistricted and then faced with the proposition of running against a sitting colleague in their new district.

Supervisor Fred Stump also alleged that some of the then-supervisors opposition to the boundaries were repeatedly glossed over and undermined. Mammoth Lakes, home to over half of the county’s residents, created another problem when it came to keeping population numbers equal. As a result, four of the five districts include a portion of the town. This means that Districts 4 (1/4) and 3 (2/3), north and middle county, both have pieces of Mammoth Lakes.

"To have a supervisor who represents part of Topaz represent part of the Town has never made much sense to me," Stump said.

Supervisors Jennifer Kreitz and Stacy Corless also spoke on behalf of Mammoth residents who were frustrated by the 2010 redistricting.

“We have plenty of time to get a process right that everybody feels comfortable with,” Greenberg said.
WELL, WELL, WELL...
United States Geographical Service and BLM installing wells to monitor local groundwater, Ormat

By Page

Extensive ground and tree-cutting work in a portion of Shady Rest park has led many to wonder what exactly is going on.

The answer: The Bureau of Land Management, in conjunction with the United States Geographical Service, is putting in wells to monitor the local groundwater.

These wells are a required component of a recent stanchion built by local energy provider Ormat in order to pump groundwater from the local aquifer.

Mark Busby, General Manager of the Mammoth Community Water District, told The Sheet that “when Ormat is pumping from the deep aquifer when they need to produce energy, we want to make sure there’s no effects to the resources the community relies on for their drinking water.”

USGS is putting in two wells, one shallow and one deep to monitor the provider’s pumping operations, as USGS monitoring in the past has shown a degree of connectivity between the two aquifers.

Although Ormat’s large-scale project won’t be online for at least another year or two, Busby explained that getting the wells constructed is a key part of the overall monitoring process, as it is “really important that we get these wells in place so that we have enough information and we know what the baseline chemistry is on all these wells so when they do start pumping, we can note that there’s a change.”

“Hopefully we see very little change and Ormat can their produce power from a renewable energy and the community can go on enjoying the great water that we have here,” Busby said.

So what would cause concern for the monitoring entities?

“What you don’t want to see when somebody starts pumping is the temperature changing in the well or a geothermal constituent such as arsenic increasing in the well,” Busby explained. “Those are signals that you’re getting an influence from the deeper geothermal travelling into the shallow well.”

The new wells will have no effect on the aquifer as a whole due to very low pumping numbers. Well water will be measured four times a year with very little activity taking place around the wells. “It’s just the construction part that’s a nuisance,” Busby explained.

The last impact of the project will mostly be a four-inch pipe sticking out of the ground. No further earthwork or tree-cutting required.

“We have such a complex, fractured groundwater basin here that the more monitoring that’s done here has really helped all involved,” Busby said.

FIRE
continued from page 1

96 surveys completed, 30% of the respondents were uninsured with an additional 10% uncertain about their status or how much damage would be covered.

County officials are also looking to set up conversations with people affected by past fires to share their experiences and lessons learned with those affected by the Mountain View Fire.

One of the major differences, as noted by Janet Hatfield, who is organizing a group from the Round Fire in 2015, is location. For the Round Fire, the percentage of uninsured property was much lower, a number of the damaged/destroyed buildings were second homes, and the proximity to available housing, in Crowley, Mammoth, Bishop, etc., was much greater.

Many private citizens have offered up their time, funds, and services to the region. Supervisor John Peters reported that the owner of Mountain View Barbecue in Walker, despite losing a home in the fire, has provided daily free dinners to fire victims with a donation option available for the wider community. Wives from the Mountain Warfare Training Center have pitched in to help with deliveries and service, as have representatives from the Antelope Valley Lions Club and Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce.

Eastern Sierra Unified School District has been in contact with families affected by the fire to ensure continued education for their children. Peters reported that those families have received financial assistance related to education in an effort to keep kids in virtual classes.

The Northern Mono Chamber has received about $27,000 in donations to their relief fund, with another $77,000 donated through the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce as of Tuesday. For those interested in contributing time or resources, go to https://mountainviewfire.monocounty.ca.gov/ or visit the Mountain View Fire Resources and Recovery page to learn more or email mvfhelp@mono.ca.gov.

Information about clean-up and guidance for handling fire debris can also be found on the county’s fire incident site.
LOCAL BRIEFS

Out of gas

The Management of the Bishop Paiute Gas Station and the Administration of the Bishop Paiute Tribe were informed this afternoon of a gas station employee testing positive for COVID-19. The employee had not been on premises since prior to November 25th.

However, out of an abundance of caution, effective immediately the Bishop Paiute Gas Station is closed until Friday, December 11th and all staff has been sent home to self-quarantine. During this time, the premises will also be cleaned and disinfected.

If you have any concern of exposure from the gas station store or an employee, please refer to the COVID-19 Guidelines at [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus or call your Primary Health Care Provider.

For more information please contact the Bishop Paiute Tribe at (760) 873-3584.

MAC kicks off fundraiser

Mono Arts Council (MAC) kicked off its first ever major fundraising campaign on “Giving Tuesday.” Now through June 30th, 2021, we are raising $250,000 to establish key programs, support some of our most beloved programs, and build a strong foundation for the future of the arts in Mono County. Our goal is to chart a new funding course to augment the grants we receive and the revenue from our annual events.

We need your help to ensure everyone has access to the arts in Mono County.

This year, like many other organizations, we have been hit particularly hard. We canceled our long-standing summer fundraising events for the health and safety of our community. However, those critical measures have taken a financial toll.

The need for the arts in our community continues to grow. Now more than ever, we need the arts. We need the arts to express ourselves, to share our experiences, to bring us together no matter the physical distance between us.

Each year, we provide K-12 arts education programs for 1600 students, arts events for 12,000 adults, and platforms for established and emerging artists.

Beyond events, we advocate tirelessly for the arts and work to build collaborations to ensure we have a thriving arts community.

Go to [https://www.monoarts.org/donate-support] to make a donation.

Cleland out

Wednesday marked Mammoth Lakes Town Councilmember Cleland Hoff’s final meeting in office. Hoff had served on the board since 2016, serving one four-year term with council and opted not to run for re-election. Hoff was also selected to be mayor from 2018 to 2019.

She is succeeded on the council by newcomer Sarah Rea.

“You have shown everyone through example what passion for this town means,” Mayor Bill Sauser said of Hoff, with Town Manager Dan Holler stating, “It’s been enjoyable getting to know Cleland from a council perspective as well as a friendship perspective.” Both cited trips to the California League of Cities as personal favorite memories of Hoff.

Sharon Raven Clark made public comment expressing her gratitude to Hoff, writing “Thank you, Cleland Hoff, for giving so generously of your time and talent serving our community for the last four years. You have been an independent voice for the people. Our democracy, of, by and for the people, depends on public servants like you who actually listen and hear what we say. I’m grateful for your service on our behalf. We will definitely miss your presence and your insight on Town Council. Thank you, Cleland. All best wishes for next adventure.”

Sandy Hogan, consistent council attendee and commenter, wrote also, “Thanks to Cleland for her 4 years of service to the community! We’ll miss you, and wish you and your family well.”

Hoff personally thanked Town Attorney Andy Morris for his patience and willingness to field her questions, Town Clerk Jamie Gray for her assistance over the years, Holler, her fellow council members, and numerous other town staff.

Margulies has the spirit

Mammoth Lakes Laundromat Owner Marc Margulies was selected by Bill Sauser for the Mayor’s Spirit of Mammoth award for his contributions to the town throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Marc has gone above and beyond the call of duty, volunteering and working tirelessly at the food bank, donating not only his own time but convincing others to volunteer and give of their time as well. He also, on a regular basis, volunteered the use of his own equipment and drove it himself to do all the pick-ups necessary in Bishop for the food bank. He has shown us what it means to be a caring individual in this town, his selfless actions improve the lives of many during this unfortunate pandemic,” said Sauser.

Hanukkah Celebrations in Mammoth

Chabad of Mammoth will be lighting four public Hanukkah Menorahs placed at the Village, the Main Lodge, Bishop City Park, and Darwin. While the scope of the ceremonies will be limited amid the ongoing coronavirus emergency, the lights will shine forth as brightly as ever.

This year’s Menorah lightings are being done with the recognition of the crucial need for a message of hope during what for many is a very difficult time. Chabad of Mammoth will also distribute Menorahs, candles, and Hanukkah-at-home kits to those celebrating at home.

“The menorah serves as a symbol of light and hope for us today amidst the darkness of the pandemic, as it did for generations before us,” said Rabbi Gordon. “The flames of the Menorah shine out into the night, reminding us that even when confronted with much darkness, a tiny light can dispel it all. Another act of goodness and kindness, another act of light, can make all the difference.”

Precautions will be taken at the Menorah lightings to ensure everyone is safe. All participants will be asked to keep a safe distance and wear masks to ensure the outdoor events are safe. Following the ceremony, Hanukkah souvenirs, Menorahs, and pre-packaged Holiday treats will be distributed. For more information on Hanukkah events in the coming weeks, visit chabadmammoth.com.

FOR SALE $575,000

Spectacular View Home in Virginia Lakes
Close Proximity to Yosemite National Park
Backcountry Skiing, Hiking, & Fishing Paradise
For More Information about This Home & Similar Properties In and Near Mammoth Lakes,
Please Call / Text or Email Justin Dyer

JUSTIN DYER
REALTOR® | DRE Lic. 02037718
Justin@MammothMRG.com
(805) 217-0027

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM INITIATIVE

Visit www.essrp.org to register for the event and donate/ticket purchase.

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM INITIATIVE

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM INITIATIVE

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM INITIATIVE
I know the type is a bit small (break out the magnifying glass), but Mammoth’s Transient Occupancy Tax numbers for the first four months of the 2020-2021 fiscal year show surprising strength. Year-to-date, TOT collections are running just 6% below last year, but $1.7 million ahead of budget, and included records for July and August.

Via a public records request, The Sheet obtained copies of the first round grant applications. And what was notable, and what may also seem crass, is that something titled a Business Assistance Program could just as easily be titled the Pay Off Paul Program. As in Rudder.

Honestly, Paul (my landlord for 15 years) has been very decent. Others? Not so much. Many of the applications indicated that landlords expressed little empathy for tenants struggling due to Covid impacts. At least two applications claimed that Mammoth Mall management has tried to increase their rent post-pandemic. So it seems like these grants amount to little more than pass-throughs, with businesses passing grant money onto landlords.

Mr. Urdi said personal experience tells him we may lose 30% of our restaurants if we sit on our hands and don’t provide immediate relief. “Realistically, we probably be [in the] purple tier until President’s weekend.” But in the very next sentence he tilted toward optimism, saying if we get some decent snow, March and April could set up very well for us, especially given pent-up demand. A near-term challenge will be air service. Urdi said six scheduled San Francisco flights for later this month have been canceled due to lack of demand.

One Los Angeles has suffered the same fate. The silver lining on some of the Advanced Air flights is that if there is flagging demand, advanced can change out its 30-passenger aircraft for a nine-seater.

Dug into the archives a little bit this week to kill some column inches because I’ve got several projects (like Nick Gunter’s obituary) which I haven’t been able to pull together yet. Five years ago ... Mammoth Mountain Ski Area enjoyed its best Thanksgiving in ten years, hosting 33,000 skiers from Thursday-Sunday. Southern Inyo Hospital District closed its ER and its CEO resigned.

more LUNCH, page 9
Government works chaotically, “he said getting work on the ground completed. It was the snowiest December ever. It was 155” through Christmas, and a 249” season total to date.

Newspaper a lack of patience for the naysayers he feels that having more than 20 units on an acre raises livability concerns. Instead, he said, it all just sort of fell away and went black. Sheet: And when they revived you, was it a shock, a rude awakening? Fultz: Nah, he said. I just woke up. And then drifted in and out of consciousness from there.

And the view from Hartley regarding Coco in Washington state: The CoCo has taken things to a ridiculous level. Around here they have walked this is going, right? The weather here is damp and cold. So bars and restaurants are fueling another industry in order to keep their businesses alive. They are driving the plastic tarp and dropcloth industry to new heights. You drive by a bar and they have taken any area outside that is shielded by one wall on one side and constructed tarp-covered and tarp-wrapped “outside” seating areas for folks to drink. So ... you took an outdoor area, wrapped it in a tarp and filled it with drinking and smoking folks ... have more people in that area than the capacity of your indoor seating and ... made it another INDOOR AREA, just less cleaning and ventilation.

What the hell are we doing? I see them all around town. I stopped at one, the Blue Goose, just to take a look inside. I couldn’t believe how many cars were in the parking lot. Peeked in and it was the ***show I expected. Cold, stale air and packed with folks desperate to prove they will NOT be held down by the Coco. A couple guys, drunk, crawling under or between tarps to get in and out or leaning between them to smoke and vape.

So they are adhering to one state mandate to not be inside, but indoor smoking, capacity and other state restrictions are out. They probably have portable heating in some of these with the temperature dropping weekly. So a heat source in a tarp-covered area. Yeah, nothing bad can happen there. But you gotta hand it to ‘em. They are working hard to save their businesses. That is some Swamp People ingenuity.

But watch out if you need a tarp in Kitsap County. There may be a shortage. The hardware stores might start jacking prices on tarps ... Now that’s a business idea. Maybe buy up all the tarps you can, drive ‘em up here, and sell ‘em out of the back of a truck.
COVID continued from page 1

County officials are also working on updating enforcement standards and protocols that would “enact a whole new penalty citation regime” according to Mono County Counsel Stacey Simon. That includes higher fines for violations by businesses operators, the absence of a correction period to allow operators to rectify violations, and an expanded enforcement task force comprised of county staff.

Boo took time to again dispel rumors that the recent spike in cases is the fault of one particular group, saying “it’s locals, it’s visitors, it’s incoming employees, it’s everywhere.”

Wheeler took the reins on a discussion centered around local Covid-19 vaccine distribution. He confirmed that California will likely receive approximately 327,000 vaccines and while there’s still uncertainty about how those will be distributed, Mono County “will certainly get some.”

He explained that the smallest amount that can be ordered is a “pizza box” containing 975 doses and that initial orders would most likely be shared with Inyo County due to the low number of high-priority individuals in the county.

When Kreitz asked if that amount represents the true number of vaccines, as it is a two-dose injection, Wheeler responded that the vaccines short shelf life means it has to be used quickly and responded that the vaccines short shelf life means it has to be used quickly and for the season, as many of the recommendations and requirements are already in place. The examples given for restricting capacity are not mandated and are merely suggestions, with MMSA already opting to discontinue day-of-ski passes and limiting passes in general.

During Wednesday’s Mammoth Lakes Town Council meeting, Town Attorney Andy Morris said that, while the ordinances don’t explain how much a resort has to reduce its capacity, the guidance is “pretty industry friendly. I think they really kind of dodged a bullet.”

As of the current guidelines, ski areas will be able to operate in any tier. In short, skiing is considered an essential outdoor activity. Duh. Of course!

Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler gave Town Council a rundown of the current Covid-19 situation at that meeting. Holler touched upon revamping or reviving community assistance programs to assist residents with income or rent as well as food distribution.

“We fully expect to see some of that again, hopefully not at the same level,” Holler said.

He continued: “As we look through December and January and even into February, there’s a very high likelihood that these types of programs may make the difference between people having enough to eat, people being able to retain housing, and for businesses to be able to reopen or survive reductions in business.”

Holler also gave a pessimistic outward projection as far as ahead as next summer. “We fully expect not to be fully out of this at that point,” he said. “We are pretty sure we will have a substantial visitation challenge come April, May, and June, with the weather and opening our forests up.”

On Thursday afternoon, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a new regional stay-at-home order described as a “emergency brake” to decrease the spread of Covid-19.

Newsom’s decree breaks the state into five regions: Northern California, Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Greater Sacramento, and Southern California.

If a region’s ICU capacity falls below 15%, the stay-at-home order goes into effect for at least three weeks. All regions except the Bay Area are expected to hit that threshold in a matter of days. This will close all bars, wineries, nail and hair salons, barbershops, and other personal services.

Schools that have been given the go-ahead to remain open will be allowed to do so.

Retail stores will be afforded up to 20% capacity. Both Mono and Inyo counties have been placed into the Southern California region, which includes Orange, San Diego, and Los Angeles counties.

Non-essential travel has also been restricted, with hotels and motels now limited to only accepting guests traveling for an essential reason. Enforcement is being delegated to local entities, but Newsom said that uncooperative counties would face consequences for their actions.

California has broken its own record for hospitalization five times over the course of five days; 8,831 people are hospitalized in the state. In addition, 112 people died in the state on December 2, up from 14 recorded deaths on November 2.

Another surge is expected following Thanksgiving.

Newsom also provided details about the rollout of the 327,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

There are three tiers of priority:

1. Acute care facilities, psychiatric hospital facilities, correctional facility hospitals, skilled nursing/assisted living facilities, paramedics/EMTs, first responders and dialysis centers.

2. Intermediate care facilities, home and community health care workers, public health field staff, primary care clinics, urgent care clinics, and correctional facility clinics.

3. Specialty clinics, lab workers, dental clinics, pharmacy staff.
**TOWN STUFF**

**Saturday, December 5/**
Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center drive-in/virtual annual fundraiser @ 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.

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/ WIC@inyocounty.us.


**Wednesday, December 9/**
Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission meets. 2 p.m, Attend via Grancius though the TOML website. On the agenda: The Parcel.

**Thursday, December 10/**
Sustainable Rec and Tourism Initiative final virtual project review mtg. 5:30 p.m. Register @ www.essrp.org. Menorah lighting in the Village at Mammoth. 6 p.m.

Ongoing

C5 Studios "Ancestors of the Arts" art show ongoing @ C5, 210 South Warren St. in Bishop (back of the old J.C. Penney bldg.). Weekends: 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, 10-4. Masks, physical distancing required.

Info: 760.673.8014/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. Hours: 12-5, 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.lawsmuseum.org/760.873.3550.

Mono County Libraries Museum Live! Join Ms. Chelsea for a story and fun activities on the Mammoth Lakes Library Facebook page. Time: 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. Or start your week off with a community storytelling. Mondays at 10:30 a.m. on the Mono County Libraries Facebook page.

**Covid testing/**
Bishop: Church of the Nazarene parking lot, 900 W Line Street on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday - participants must be in a vehicle to get tested.

Lone Pine @ Lone Pine Sports Complex, 682 N Main Street. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Fridays - participants must be in a vehicle 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.

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

All Visitor Centers (Mono Basin, Mammoth, White Mountain, Lone Pine) are closed, but visitor questions are being answered via phone daily, 8-4:30.

Mono Basin: 760.647.3044
Mammoth: 760.924.5302
White Mountain: 760.873.2500
Lone Pine: 760.876.6200

**Covid testing/**
Bishop: Church of the Nazarene parking lot, 900 W Line Street on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday - participants must be in a vehicle to get tested.

Lone Pine @ Lone Pine Sports Complex, 682 N Main Street. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Fridays - participants must be in a vehicle 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.

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

All Visitor Centers (Mono Basin, Mammoth, White Mountain, Lone Pine) are closed, but visitor questions are being answered via phone daily, 8-4:30.

Mono Basin: 760.647.3044
Mammoth: 760.924.5302
White Mountain: 760.873.2500
Lone Pine: 760.876.6200

**INTERIOR DESIGN & Affordable REMODELING**
Sierra Design Studio 590 Old Mammoth Rd 760.934-4122 Mammoth Lakes, CA sierradesignstudio.com

**AT THE MOVIES**

Movies Playing This Week 12/04 to 12/10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Mule</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Christmas Chronicles</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Shape of Water</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Call of the Wild</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Secret Life of Walter Mitty</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The King's Speech</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Grand Budapest Hotel</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Grand Budapest Hotel</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>The Grand Budapest Hotel</td>
<td>Mammoth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROVIDING FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR ALL ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE.**

Eric P. Wasserman Senior Financial Advisor 549 Old Mammoth Rd, Ste 12 P.O. Box 1197 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 760-624-2605 www.wfaonline.com

**OFFICES FOR RENT**

**PLUMBING MASTERS SINCE 1985**
Eric K. Hermansen 760-784-4701 Quality Clean Dependable Service At work or in person.

**WELL FARGO ADVISORS FINANCIAL NETWORK**
Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC. Member SIPC
**Help Wanted**

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We are cur- learning. Wage DOE. Email resume and cover letter to info@butnerhoaservices.com. We are looking for a friendly, team player. Must have professional manner, responsible, and Casualty California Insurance License considered. Top rated franchise affiliation is a must. 

Job Functions: 
- Extensive knowledge of commercial & personal insurance coverages. 
- Experience conducting needs assess- ment. 
- Strong written and verbal communica- tion skills. 
- Extensive knowledge of commercial & personal insurance coverages. 
- Experience conducting needs assess- ment. 
- Strong written and verbal communica- tion skills. 
- Extensive knowledge of commercial & personal insurance coverages. 
- Experience conducting needs assess- ment. 
- Strong written and verbal communica- tion skills. 
- Extensive knowledge of commercial & personal insurance coverages. 
- Experience conducting needs assess- ment. 
- Strong written and verbal communica- tion skills.

**Insurance Scouts** continues to grow as we are looking for our next team member: Position - Total Protection Team, New Business Sales. 

Employment Type: Full Time 

This is an at-will, part-time professional position. Please call 760-924-3091 or stop by our website at www.footsloosesports.com to schedule an interview.

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 works as hard as they play. We’re looking for responsible individu- als, passionate about winter sports, and who can provide the best in customer service. We have full and part-time posi- tions open in our sales, rental, and 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.footsloosesports.com or email your resume to footloose@ footloosesports.com to schedule an interview.

Must have professional manner, responsible, and Casualty California Insurance License

**Wagner's Snow Removal**

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Co. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 19, 2020. File Number 20-0196 (11/14, 11/21, 12/8, 12/15, 12/19, 12/26)

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

The Following Person

Is Doing Business As: 

Wagner Property Services LLC

Wagner Property Services LLC, 1451 Majestic Pines, P.O. Box 8300 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Co. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 19, 2020.
File Number 20-0196 (11/14, 11/21, 12/8, 12/15, 12/19, 12/26)

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

The Following Person

Is Doing Business As: 

Flavin Construction

Age Busters, Inc. 
457 Wagon Wheel Road, P.O. Box 2801 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corpora- tion. 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 20-0195 (11/14, 11/21, 12/8, 12/15, 12/19, 12/26)

**Statement of Abandonment**

Of Use of Fictitious Business Name

Book Chalet

The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name:

Mammoth Lakes Friends of the Library
645 Old Mammoth Rd 29, P.O. Box 1468 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a Corpora- tion. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 24, 2015.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 9, 2020.
File Number 20-0199 (11/14, 11/21, 12/8, 12/15, 12/19, 12/26)
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 Mammoth Village Shopping Center, 457 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 17.138 (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; and

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. 2003042155, 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. 2015052072, dated June 2016) and/or impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21949.5, CEQA does not apply to such effects.

Location: 1699 Tavern Rd and 33 Center St. (APNs: 035-010-020-000 and 035-100-003-000).

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 65990(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: evanschaack@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/94467884456
Webinar ID: 944 6788 4456
Or join by phone: (669) 900-6833

Callers - To Raise your phone hand press “9”, To Unmute/Mute press “*”

Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission
P.O. Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
TS #2020-0204
8-3 record is testament to favorable year when it’s freezing and everyone is this guy goes crazy the last part of the Derrick Henry season is officially open. Titans -6 versus Browns and he is hurt again. Tua is hurt again ... hmm. 4 games in this week. He's good for a pick or two. Dolphins have Fitzpatrick back at QB take the Bengals plus the points. The and styrofoam wiper blades on it. But would buy a Ferrari and put used tires So they can only go so far. Mike Brown Scrooge (Mike Brown) for an owner. change so much because they have a culture was changing. Then the QB got hurt. Sidenote: the culture can only hurt. Sidenote: the culture can only quarterback, but then last week the Jaguars dumped tricked 'em. People may love Gruden, but that team ain’t going anywhere. Defensively they are laughable and QB Derek Carr is a bum. Carr is a living, breathing example of how people can make statistics lie. Topside: jets Head Coach Adam Gase was DRILLED by reporters after the game last week. Gase says he doesn’t call plays. But during the game, reporters noticed he was carrying the playing sheet and making calls and the Offensive Coordinator was not. Still, Gase argued he wasn’t calling the plays. The reporter said the offensive coordinator was seen doing NOTHING. Gase tried to argue it and they lit him up. Later, Gase said there was a competitive disadvantage to everyone knowing who is calling plays. He later indicated if other teams know one is calling runs and the other calling passes or one is calling on 1st and 2nd down and another on 3rd down, it would be tantamount to revelation of a massive trade secret. So the playcaller hiding his face behind his playsheet isn’t enough now, the coach has to be unidentifiable and hiding in the stadium seats somewhere so no one knows who is calling the plays. HILARIOUS. The next time a GM wants to hire a coach they should make him do mock press conferences and let reporters and comedians absolutely drill him. If he comes off as a moron on the podium, don’t hire him. Saints -3 @ Falcons. I’d keep fading Taysom Hill and take the Falcons to win this game. The Falcons have an adult Defensive Coordinator who’ll force the Saints into a QB change by the 3rd quarter. Then Jameis Winston will enter the game and throw a pick 6 just to get back into the flow of the game. You know how players say they need to take that first hit to feel comfortable after not playing in a while. Winston needs to take a pick 6 to feel good. Cardinals +3 versus Rams. Jared Goff gets lost on his way to the stadium as a warmup for how he’ll perform in his job.
HARTLEY continued from page 14

Patriots -1 @ Chargers. This coaching matchup is like having Halle Berry in a swimsuit competition with Al Roker. Bill Belichick is the smartest coach in the league, and Anthony Lynn is the NFL's COACH. Anthony Lynn made so many mistakes last week managing the game I am shocked he wasn’t fired on the sideline - which is basically what happened. MVP of the game is the Key Grip or AV guy for San Diego who replaces Anthony Lynn’s headset with one of those candy necklace chains you chew while you wear it. Eagles -8.5 @ Packers. Eagle Head Coach Doug Pedersen is Exhibit A for what happens when a meddico who caught lightning in a bottle and won a Super Bowl starts believing the fanboys press. First thing he did: Write a book about touchy-feely leadership principles. He should have written a book about luckily being surrounded by smart people. Since Offensive Coordinator Frank Reich left, the team has been under .500.

Chiefs -14 versus Broncos. Lay ’em. The Broncos last week had a practice squad WR play QB. It was hard to watch. But as I watched, I couldn’t say he was any worse than Trubisky. He had to fill in because the whole Bronco QB room was on CoCo watch. The Broncos have now chosen one QB, Blake Bortles, to isolate from the others to ensure they’ll have at least one lousy QB who’s eligible to play. You have to think they could have figured this out earlier.

Steelers -8.5 versus Football Team. This game could be interesting. The Football Team quarterbacked by a guy trying to do something to watch if they start getting to Ben because his accuracy this year is a mess. Take the Football Team plus the points. No. 13 versus No. 2. This is the Zone game for San Francisco but they can’t actually play at home due to CoCo so the game will be played in Arizona. Bill QB Josh Allen is so inaccurate one of his passes sailed over the Santa Claus in Phoenix where they are playing. Announcer still says, "This kid’s arm is magical!"

Bruce Arians. Enough of this guy. You can tell Arians (like Trump) watches TV for all his coaching. I don’t blame him. He is getting the offense for so he keeps, in turn, dumping the blame on QB Tom Brady. He kept saying the offense is fine - that Brady isn’t executing. Taking every opportunity to blast him. Then he finally came out this week and said he and Lethwick don’t call the plays, Tom picks all the plays. There it is. He has been trying to say it in code, but he came out and said it. He has always been a dumbass and there was a reason it took him 30 years to get a head coaching job.

Chief WR Tyreek Hill had 200 yards receiving in the first quarter last week. Do the other teams know you need to cover him? After the first 40 yards or so, wouldn’t you double him?

Interview note: As Arians was threatening the single-game passing yards record last weke it was revealed the current record holder is Norm Van Brocklin, so I won’t write about him.

Will Fuller and Bradley Roby, both of the Texans, have been suspended for PEDs. Reaction: The Texans and Roby should sue the company that makes the PEDs Roby took because they didn’t en- hance his performance one bit.

I feel a certain sympathy for the young- ers who learn during these days - restrained to stay so much at home, limited mostly to virtual studies, not being able to travel, and generally forced to subli- mate so much natural exuberance that arises only in the years of one’s youth.

I was fortunate in my youthful years. I had a loving and middle class family, a good education, and enough freedom to write quite a bit. I had many interests at an early age, including reading literature and history, watching baseball and play- ing tennis, investing in the stock and commodity markets, following national politics, classical music, and working in a paying job in the summer - all this before going to college.

I also had an active social life and, after junior high school, lots of friends and activities. All of it combined to bring me out of the shyness and uncertainty I had felt earlier.

Everyone has a life story. Mine has been filled from the beginning with fasci- nating characters, and not a few brushes with history in which I have only been a sightseer, albeit one who could take notes and later tell some interesting stories.

I am going to tell one now. It happened 53 years ago in Paris. First thing he did: Write a book-

I mentioned earlier my early involve- ment with the stock market. I started to invest when I was in junior high school, I had no money to speak of, but I bought a few shares here and there, and eventually my father, a physician with no time or interest in the stock market, let me invest for his account. (By the time I finished college, I had paid its costs many times over.)

In college, I continued my modest stock speculations until, following a tip from my father, I bought the most up- coming stock which months later hit pay dirt, and my $200 capital became worth thou- sands. When I graduated, I had saved every summer trip to Europe during which I learned to manage travel finances through the foreign offices of my stockbroker firm in the large European cities I visited.

But money was not the only reason for going to a broker’s office. It was obviously a way to keep an eye on my stocks back in the U.S. via their teletype which also provided in-depth news accounts in English in case there was a big interna- tional story.

This was before cable TV and the in- ternet came to the U.S. There was not an arm and a leg. All one had was the limited daily coverage provided by the International Herald Tribune, which was not always reliable as a description of the Vaclav Havel situation.

As it turned out, I was living and study- ing in Paris that summer of 1967 when the Six Day War broke out in the Middle East, and for the first few days, no one in Paris seemed to know how it was going. I immediately went to my stockbroker’s office to read about what was going on in a language I could understand.

My brother in Paris was an American who lived in Versailles with his wife. He was the grandson of the founder of a well-known pre-World War I motor car company, and was very gracious to me. I think he thought I was the heir to some fabulous fortune in the U.S. due to my knowledge of the stock and commodity markets because he let me hang out all day and even invited me to his home in Versailles for a lovely dinner party fol- lowed by a 9:00 p.m. art auction nearby - an auction that included some very famous painters (Brueghel, DelChirico, Leger, Miro, et al).

At the small dinner party were other brokers and their wives. As was the custom in those days, the European offices of U.S. brokerage firms hired persons with royal or noble titles to impress their clients. This office had its share, and at the dinner party I met my future wife, Marie-Louise (a mer- member of the French former royal Bourbon family (not recognized in the current non-monarchical Republic of France) over canapés and very good wine.

My host then sat me next to the of- fice managing broker, an elegant older gentleman named Czernin. I had once written a term paper in college on the diplomacy of the Austro-Hungarian empire, so to make conversation I asked Mr. Czernin if he was related to the Austruro-Hungarian WWI foreign minis- ter who had helped negotiate the notorious Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Leon Trotsky in 1918.

"That was my father," he said. "Come to my office tomorrow, and I’ll tell you some stories."

It turned out that Mr. Czernin was, in fact, the current Count Czernin. His father was the famous Foreign Minister Count Czernin who lived at the ancestral Czernin estate near Prague. After Emperor Franz Jo- seph died in 1916, his successor Emperor Charles named Count Czernin as his foreign minister, a post he held for the remainder of WW I.

His son had stories to tell. As a boy be- fore the Great War, he spent his summers on the family estate in Czechoslovakia where a steady stream of Europe’s roy- alty, politicians and industrialists came to see his father and hunt.

He remembered particularly meeting one of his father’s closest friends, and a frequent guest, whose name was Franz Ferdinand. He was an archduke, and his wife was the heir to his great uncle Franz Joseph’s throne in Vienna. Yes, he was the same Archduke Franz Ferdinand who was assassinated a few years later while on his chauffeur-driven car to a wrong turn in a crowded Sarajevo street, igniting WWII and changing modern his- tory.

Needless to say, Count Czernin had my rapt attention...

Two days later, while the Israeli air force was destroying the combined Arab forces against them in the air and on land, he greeted me when I came to his office with “I have something to show you.”

When we sat down, he brought out a big leather portfolio which contained a single item - a very large photograph of the attendees at the conference which produced the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk at which Russia, one of the main Al- liances (United States, Italy, etc.) opposing the Central Powers (Germany, Austria- Hungary, Turkey, etc.), ended its military effort in the war, and agreed reluctantly to the humiliating terms imposed pri- marily by Germany.

It was a brilliant maneuver, freeing up a million Central Power troops from the Eastern Front and enabled them to be transferred to the Western Front where their arrival might enable them to win the war. But it was too late. Lenin and Trotsky had taken power in Russia following the ousting of the tsar in 1917, but were fighting a counter-revolution, and desperately needed to end the war very unpopular and costly effort against the Central Powers. Lenin had delayed signing the treaty, hoping that Germany, facing widespread food shortages, would collapse. Finally, he sent War Minister Trotsky himself to Brest-Litovsk to sign in early 1918.

Months later, Germany did collapse, and the treaty was annulled by the Armistice in November. More of his work can be found at www.barrycasselman.com.
A NEW HOME FOR FAMILY FUN

OVER 17 NEW CREEKHOUSE RESIDENCES SOLD IN JUST 3 MONTHS.

Another luxury development by the Chadmar Group

Luxury mountain retreats with miles of trails, open space & room to breathe near Mammoth Mountain. Up to 3 Beds & Flex Room, up to 2,152 sq. ft.

Contact our sales team today to learn more about highly anticipated winter sales release coming soon • 877-766-9275 • LiveCreekHouse.com

All information subject to change. The Snowcreek Property Company. CalDRE #01812140. 2020. All rights reserved.