She was the type of person who didn’t make an excuse or find something else to do when a friend needed help moving (just ask Sue Ebersold).

She was the type of person who would drive 90 minutes out of her way when a friend needed someone to take care of a grocery list (just ask Tamara Walker).

That was two days before she died.

Marla was a sweet soul who cared deeply about other people. Not just in thought, but in action.

The Linde family of San Francisco took its first-ever Mammoth ski trip this week, and was astonished at the difference in commute time to the hill in Mammoth (four minutes from Snowcreek V to Eagle) versus 60-90 minutes (Tahoe City to Squaw/Alpine).

The Center will boast an Olympic-sized ice rink (with roof!) for winter use, and an indoor shell for summer activities.

Councilmembers Sauser, Wentworth and Salcido voted in support.

Councilmembers Rea and Stapp voted in dissent.

The approval vote means Council awarded an $8.9 million contract with Hamel Construction of Murrieta for the site preparation and installation of a Sprung Structure at Mammoth Creek Park.

The Sprung Structure itself, rink infrastructure and a 119-space parking lot are being acquired/built separately.

Ultimately, it’s a $15 million project, factoring in an additional $1.7 million in “pre-construction” costs.

The CRC is anticipated to have an operating budget of approximately $650,000/year.

For many community members, the vote to move forward was long overdue, and Councilman John Wentworth noted that public sentiment (as gauged by letters of public comment received) ran 7-to-1 in favor. Further, asserted Wentworth, these weren’t “cut-and-paste” form letters but “heartfelt, sincere expressions of support.”

Wentworth added that when you consider the CRC, The Parcel and a future MACC (Mammoth Arts and Cultural Center) project, the total investment for these projects is approximately $26 million.

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The Linde family of San Francisco took its first-ever Mammoth ski trip this week, and was astonished at the difference in commute time to the hill in Mammoth (four minutes from Snowcreek V to Eagle) versus 60-90 minutes (Tahoe City to Squaw/Alpine).
ATTENTION CITIZENS ...

The Sheet received the following urgent message on Thursday afternoon. I write to you to warn you of what is coming down the pike, more like up the pike to you, because of the town's high elevation. I am a Mountain Town spy living amongst the Flatlanders. These Flatlanders do not suspect me. I have infiltrated their group texts, tapped their phone lines, bugged their houses and cars. I’m all over them like Andre Iguodala on Lebron James in the 2015 Finals.

I have some sensitive intelligence to share. At 4:26 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, I intercepted the following text exchange between Keith and Ryder, both of Chino Hills, Calif. I’m withholding their last names because I don’t want to blow my cover.

—Yo Ryder, Keith here. I’m heading up to Mammoth this weekend. Got a condo with me, Ashley, Derek and his girlfriend, Scott and his girlfriend, Xander and his girlfriend, Erica and two of her friends, Josh and his girlfriend.

There’s one more spot on the floor open and I was wonderin’ if you wanted to fill it? It’s only gonna be $20 per night because it’s a three bedroom. Place has a hot tub. Plus Xander’s bringing his projector and his light orb and Scott might be bringing Molly along...:=) So def gonna be a sick wknd.

Lmk asap if you can come.

—Duuuude!!!

So down

—I’ve got room in my truck for you. I’ll pick you up on Friday at 7 am ur place.

—perf

Perf for them. Not so perf for you.

I meant to warn you earlier but The Sheet’s delivered on Friday. By now Keith is driving 50 mph down Main Street in his truck, a lifted white Ford Raptor. Ryder’s probably riding shotgun blowing fat clouds from his vape. They are probably blasting Travis Scott with the windows down and not singing along because they don’t actually know the words. They’re blasting Travis Scott because they think it’s cool or dope or whatever. They’re blasting Travis Scott because they have to. Because, bro dude man guy, it’s Mammoth. They’re headed to Vons for more White Claws and candy bars to feed your bears. Whatever the bears don’t eat, Keith and Ryder will litter on the trails. The loud music won’t stop, but, come nightfall it will change. They’ll start bumping electronic music, easily discernible because it sounds like a robot orgy. Like most flatlanders, Keith, Ryder and the gang want more and wider parking spaces. If you encounter them, avert your gaze and quicken your pace. They are only dangerous when directly threatened and they feel directly threatened all the time. It might be best to skip town or hunker down until early Sunday afternoon when they flee back down the pike trying to beat traffic.

I wish you all the luck in the world,

—Your Undercover Flatlander

What else do I have for you this week...

From a February 8 Mono County Press Release:

Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Public Health Officer, has elected to not renew his contract but has graciously offered to remain in his role until April 2021, despite his contract expiring on Friday, February 5. Mono County will be recruiting for a Public Health Officer during this transition.

A few more observations from Wednesday’s Council meeting:

“This project encompasses the whole park” - Recreation Commission Chairman Betsy Truax

*Betsy, this would be incorrect. The project doesn’t encompass the whole park. It only encompasses 70% lot coverage of tent structure and asphalt. As I’ve always maintained, great project and wrong location. I mourn the death of that cute little park I spent so much time in with my eldest daughter. It’ll have all the charm of a landfill once they’re done with it.

Second. A “surprise” was unveiled Wednesday as Public Works Director Haislip Hayes touted a potential Old Mammoth Road/Woodman mini-transit hub and a Mammoth Creek Park mini-hub as key components of the transit system and another argument for the CRC project.

First, the Woodman deal is completely independent of the CRC. But more to the point, every time the Town has suggested pushing transit further up Old Mammoth Road, neighborhood residents have fought it. I wonder if this time will be different. I wonder if anyone at the Town has reached out to any neighborhood residents about this. Doubt it.

But let’s spend some money first!

Sarah Rea alluded in her remarks Wednesday that certain people tried to get her disqualified from voting on the CRC, claiming she’d already made up her mind.

As if Bill Sauser hadn’t made up his mind on this twenty years ago. It’s one thing if you’re debating a private development project. It’s another thing when you’re weighing the relative merits of spending public money on one priority versus another.

Trying to get her disqualified was a chickenshit move. I wonder if the chickensh!ts will step forward and raise their hands on that one. Identify yourselves, pansy assholes! As the great Floyd Allred would say, “lower your voice and strengthen your argument.”

And finally, here’s a random concluding thought: When people refer to the South African variant, are they referring to the Smokeyard’s Alon Ravid?
SAMPLE MENU (please visit our website for full menu options)

**STARTERS**

- **SMOKED CRISPY CHICKEN WINGS $13**
  Hot buffalo or original matsu sauce with ranch dressing.

- **MUENSTER CHEESE ASADO $12**
  Topped with an heirloom tomato bruschetta and soft-grilled crostinis.

**SALADS**

- **BABY GREENS SALAD $10**
  Cherry tomatoes, fuji apple, tossed in house vinaigrette.

- **CAESAR SALAD $12**
  Sourdough croutons, parmesan cheese with homemade dressing.

**ENTREES**

- **FILET MIGNON $42**
  Crispy shallots on top of a chive compound butter served with a bourbon horseradish demi-glace, chive mashed potatoes, and seasonal vegetables.

- **OVEN ROASTED CHICKEN BREAST $30**
  Finished with a marsala cream sauce, mashed potatoes, and roasted vegetables.

- **HALF-RACK SMOKED BABY BACK RIBS $27**
  Glazed with bbq sauce. Served with fuji apple coleslaw and fries.

- **HOMEMADE PASTAS**
  - **PISTACHIO PESTO $20**
    Fettuccini, squash, slow-roasted tomatoes, and mushrooms in a pistachio, pesto crème sauce.
  - **STROGANOFF $28**
    Slow-braised beef on fettuccini with mushrooms, pearl onions, and broccoli topped with shaved parmesan.

**ON THE BUN**

- **BBQ BURGER $18**
  Smoked bacon, worcestershire onions, mushrooms, munster cheese, and lettuce.

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Community or Passing Lane?

Dear Editor:

Last month I had to update my personal observations record under the category of fastest speed indicated on the radar Speed Limit sign (30 MPH) just north of Lee Vining. A sedan passed me and entered the High School Speed Zone at 68 miles per hour. No brake lights were observed on the car as it transited Lee Vining from North to South in around 23 seconds. I doubt that the driver even noticed the three crosswalks.

Ironically, just a few weeks earlier, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) made a maximum one day effort in Lee Vining which resulted in numerous citations being issued. My friend commented, as the officers left town that afternoon, "I believe that it is time to utilize the pictures they produce serve as the basis for the issuance of an administrative citation, roughly equivalent to a parking ticket."

Given California’s status as regulatory pioneer, it is surprising that the state has yet to authorize the use of these cameras. Local pressure could certainly change that. I believe that they could still be used to send warnings and that the pictures would be of great interest to the insurance companies that cover these vehicles.

Gary Nelson
Mono City

Different shade of lipstick

Dear Editor,

I think we, the silent majority, should give thanks and praise to Sandy Hogan for her gallant effort standing before the Town Council to point out the folly in their thinking. Especially when it comes to the Community Recreation Center, (CRC). I assume that when the facility lost face as the MUF, Multi-Use Facility, its name was changed to CRC, but it’s still the same pig - just a different shade of lipstick.

In the summer we play football, soccer and baseball outside, so why not basketball outdoors? In the winter we nordic ski, alpine ski and snowshoe outdoors, so why not skate outdoors? The point being that we already have a skate/hockey facility. Put a roof over it if that’s the driving issue to move it. We have a MUF at the North Village, with the old library sitting empty next to it. These could be used as a Senior Center, Youth Center and rented for other community groups to use.

A high level management person from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area once said that a facility like Eagle Lodge that can be vandalized with a box knife is not a desirable structure. Shouldn’t the same thinking apply here?

E.L. & Pat Smoogen
Mammoth Lakes

Re IMACA Homeless Parking Proposal

This letter was sent to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors and also submitted here for publication.

Dear Board,

Thank you for your robust and thoughtful comments on the IMACA proposal at your meeting yesterday on February 16. I listened to the entire discussion. I had hope. Then surprise and disappointment when your 3-2 vote to uphold the appeal on the IMACA project was passed. Your planning commission had vetted the project and voted to support it.

Mr. Emerson’s plan was well thought out and presented as acceptable to the Nazarene Church, the school and the FFA. It is hard to understand, after all the praise, Supervisors Kingsley, Pucci and Rooser still voted to uphold the appeal because “it’s not in the right place.” The appellants represent a loud minority. In my opinion “the can has been kicked down the road!”

Thank you to Supervisors Griffiths and Tober for voting against the appeal and by so doing support IMACA with their solution to help the homeless in our area. The plan was a good start until a “better place” might be secured, money raised, with hours of planning and approval. As Rusty Gregory once said, “don’t let perfect get in the way of progress”!

Sydney Quinn
Big Pine

The following letter was submitted for Mammoth Council consideration on Wednesday and reprinted here because ... Lunch feels like it.

Dear Councilmembers and Staff,

First, I would like to thank everyone for their time, energy and commitment to use.

Mr. Emerson’s plan was well thought and approved. As Rusty Gregory once said, “don't let perfect get in the way of progress!”
to this community during a monumen-
tally challenging time. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend tonight's meeting due to work commitments. However, I would like to provide some comments as someone who was very involved in the development of the CRC project since its inception.

I am speaking both as a member of the public and a board member of MLR, al-
though unfortunately the full MLR board did not have the opportunity to weigh in on this particular item despite being the designated recommending body for expenditures of Measures R and U. Ultimately these dollars are at the discre-

tion of council and if the council desires to change MLR's role, that is certainly their prerogative, but it seems as if some better communication around the issue was warranted.

Arriving at tonight's umpteenth vote to change MLR's role, that is certainly an unfortunate reality. That development put the existing council at a crossroads; do we continue to charge forward and get creative with how we finance the gap or do we toe a hard line and direct staff to re-engineer a facility that fits within our former council at a crossroads, among others.

Council chose the latter, which was unfortunate to me. That is not the path we do not own, which would get in the way of the school's plans and desires. The facility proposed by the school district had just as much merit, so I felt it was critical that the project was devel-
opon land that we (TOML) owned to not throw away more money or get in the way of the school's plans and desires.

We also always discussed and reit-
erated the importance of developing complementary facilities, providing the community a much needed covered ice sheet, as well as a community center (another subpar existing facility) and a covered space for summer recreation programming.

Staff and council were acutely aware that the finances of the organization were in the best place they had ever been and that we had significant resources to pull together to develop a world-class facility. Staff should be commended for that effort.

Unfortunately, the actual bids came in well above projections and blame can be placed wherever one sees fit for that ultimate reality. That development put the existing council at a crossroads: do we continue to charge forward and get creative with how we finance the gap or do we toe a hard line and direct staff to re-engineer a facility that fits within the budget constraints established at the time.

Council chose the latter, which was unfortunate to me. That is not the path I would have chosen, but I fully respect that when you step off council you have relinquished that control.

For the 4 years I served on council, one of the guiding lights the "yes" votes always referenced was that if we were going to do this, it needed to be done right and not in a subpar fashion as we have typically operated as a community over the years. Unfortunately, that important principle seems to have been lost in translation over the many years we have been pushing forward with this facility. The facility proposed tonight is a far cry from what many of us originally set out to do. It has now been stripped down to a $14 million+ tent over a rink. Many of the components that made this facility worth pursuing are no longer incorpo-
rated, which begs the question as to what the point is. It pains me to say it, but it was always my goal to push this com-
munity to want better for itself, but we al-
ready have a subpar facility, so it doesn’t seem sensible to just build another one at the cost proposed. Especially consid-
ering that the funding proposed now suggests realocating dollars that were previous allocated to the MACC (Mammo-
ths Arts and Cultural Center). Both projects worthy of consideration, but it would be hard to argue that one is more important than the other. That is why our former council was so careful in spreading our overage dollars across a variety of worthy projects including the CRC, the MACC and the Parcel (kudos to staff and council for the job they are doing to push that critically important project forward), among others.

In short, our community deserves bet-
ter than what is being proposed and we need strong council leadership to steer us in that direction.

Colin Fernie
Mammoth Lakes

19th Nervous Breakdown?

Inyo County Assessor David Stottle-
myre sent the following letter to the Inyo
Board of Supervisors regarding soon-to-
be implemented Proposition 19

Honorable Members of the Board,

In the upcoming weeks, you will likely receive inquiries from constituents about Proposition 19, which passed last November, 2020. County Assessors all over the state have received thousands of questions regarding Prop. 19, I write to provide you with the status of my office’s efforts to implement the constitutional changes attributed to Proposition 19, which becomes effective, part in Febru-
ary and part in April.

Unfortunately, Proposition 19 is confusing and contains conflicting lan-
guage. It failed to provide implementing statutes to explain its application throughout California. The California Ass-

ers’ Association (CAA) and the State Board of Equalization (Board) drafted a detailed legislative package (60+ pages) identifying issues of concern. This pack-
age was presented to the appropriate leaders in the State Legislature the first week of January, hoping it would get passed on an urgent basis by February 15, when Proposition 19 takes effect. The package contained suggested changes that addressed significant issues, such as what properties are eligible to transfer and when, who is eligible, and the
Keough’s really is a zoo

Wildcare Eastern Sierra, with approval from Inyo County, is offering outdoor programs at its Keough Hot Spring Care Center. Attendance will be limited to small groups of 10 or less. Safe distancing, masking, and other safety measures will be in place.

Meet Wildlife Ambassadors Spirit and Bullitt (Red-tailed Hawks), Razzle-Dazzle (Common Raven), Ms. Walter (domestic pigeon) and Harvey (milk-snake).

There will be exhibits of bird nests, eggs and feathers, animal bones and antlers, turtle and tortoise shells, and more. Educational handouts will be available to take home.

The hour-long programs can be scheduled on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, or Sundays between the hours of 10:00 am and 1:00 pm and are held in the front yard of the Center.

For further information or to schedule a program, call Wildcare at 760.872.1487. And remember to support Eastern Sierra Wildcare!

Beautiful Nepal

The local non-profit Friends of Himalayan Sherpa People has announced a fundraising slide show titled Beautiful Layan Sherpa People has announced a schedule a program, call Wildcare at 760.872.1487. And remember to support Eastern Sierra Wildcare!

The local non-profit Friends of Himalayan Sherpa People has announced a fundraising slide show titled Beautiful Layan Sherpa People has announced a schedule a program, call Wildcare at 760.872.1487. And remember to support Eastern Sierra Wildcare!

Your donations can help to build a school for these kids in Phapre, Nepal accomplished by the organization. The group hopes to raise funds to continue paying teacher salaries and operational costs of the school they helped to build, as well as providing school uniforms and classroom materials for the students.

Suggested donation to attend the event is $10, payable via a GoFundMe account. Additional donations at the fundraiser are gladly accepted to help the Friends group help the children and the village of Phapre, Nepal.

Zoom link to program: https://tinyurl.com/SherpaPeopleFundraiserEvent For additional information please call 760.872.2852.

Two shots down, now what?

On February 10, 2021, the CDC updated COVID-19 quarantine guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDPH supports this guidance, which is stated below:

-Vaccinated persons* with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

-Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)

-Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series

-Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all 3 of the above criteria should continue to follow current CDPH quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Fully vaccinated persons who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated. In addition, they should respond to calls or texts from their local health department and engage in contact tracing efforts if requested to do so.

These criteria could also be applied when considering work restrictions for fully vaccinated healthcare personnel with higher-risk exposures, as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages. Of note, exposed healthcare personnel would not be required to quarantine outside of work.

*Fully vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings should con-continue to follow CDPH quarantine guidance for healthcare settings following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19; outpatients should be cared for using appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions.

For more information, see CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States.

Beware of Carbon Monoxide

Every winter over 430 people die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. When the temperature drops and furnaces, fireplaces and space heaters are used for heating there is a risk of CO exposure. CO is considered a "silent killer" because it is an invisible and odorless gas. The Town of Mammoth Lakes and MLFPD would like to remind residents to take actions to prevent injury or death from CO poisoning:

-Purchase CO detectors and place one on every level of your home

-Inspect your fireplace and heater on an annual basis to determine that they are working properly

What causes carbon monoxide poisoning? CO is a colorless, odorless gas made when fuel burns. Fuels include wood, gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane or kerosene. Breathing in carbon monoxide fumes prevents the body from using oxygen properly, which can harm the brain, heart, and other organs. Long enough exposure will lead to permanent brain damage or death.

- Never use a gas range or oven for heating
- Never patch a vent pipe
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly
- Do not let your vehicle warm up in the garage
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or email lblossom@paiutepalace.com

Helena McKellips
HR Generalist/Benefits Specialist
(760) 873-4150 Ext. 215
or email hmckellips@paiutepalace.com

Stacy Yarcho
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GOLDEN STATE PROMISES SHOWER OF STIMULUS

By Owen Page

While pandemic-related relief from the federal government in the form of stimulus checks and business aid is still somewhere in the future, the California government opted this week to announce its own version of stimulus for those in need throughout the state. On Wednesday, the Newsom Administration announced a deal with Democratic lawmakers that would send $600 to low income Californians and give small business grants for those who’ve been hard hit by the pandemic.

The total cost for the “Golden State Stimulus”, a cool $9.6 billion, with 5.7 million residents expected to receive a payment. The deal is an expansion on earlier proposals by Newsom. “People are hungry and hurting, and businesses our communities have loved for decades are at risk of closing their doors. We are at a critical moment, and I’m proud we were able to come together to get Californians some needed relief,” State Senate President Toni Atkins said in a press release.

Those with incomes below $30,000 and others “unfairly” excluded from previous federal stimulus payments will be eligible to receive the $600. If you qualify for the state Earned Income Tax Credit, you’re in, and can receive the check shortly after filing taxes for 2020. In addition those with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) who were excluded from receiving the $1,200 and $600 federal stimulus money can receive a one-time $600 payment.

Households with ITINs and income below $75,000 are eligible as well, recipients of SSI/SSP and California’s Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants are also eligible. Two years of fee relief for about 59,000 restaurants was also included, for both ABC grants and barbering/cosmetology licenses.

$400 million is allocated, in new federal funds, for $525 stipends per enrolled child in state-subsidized child care and preschool providers. $100 million is available for qualifying low-income community college students carrying six or more units and an additional $20 million to reengage students carrying less. For small businesses: more than $2 billion is being made available, with grants up to $25,000 for a business and $50 million in funding for cultural institutions.

Two years of fee relief for about 59,000 restaurants was also included, for both ABC grants and barbering/cosmetology licenses. $400 million is allocated, in new federal funds, for $525 stipends per enrolled child in state-subsidized child care and preschool providers. $100 million is available for qualifying low-income community college students carrying six or more units and an additional $20 million to reengage students who have left school because of the pandemic or are at risk of leaving.

Covid numbers around the state and country continue to drop, a hopeful sign that comes as vaccine rollout is steadily ramping up. In California, a number of counties have been able enter less restrictive tiers (i.e Red or Orange) in recent weeks, including Del Norte, Plumas, and Trinity counties.

The state is averaging 24.2 new Covid-19 cases per day per 100,000 residents with a 6.5% 7-day positivity rate. Both Mono and Inyo counties saw decreases in positive cases over the last 30 days, a 10% increase during that time period but an indicator that the “curve” is being flattened.

The county’s case rate per day per 100,000 residents has dropped to 14.3 for the week of February 7 to 13. The overall positivity rate is 5.79%, the lowest it has been in months. Despite the drop in cases and testing, the county remains in the purple tier until the cases/day/100,000 residents is about half of what it is now.

The county to date has received 8,936 doses of vaccine; 4,853 first doses and 2,083 second doses have been administered to county residents. “Overall we’re doing pretty well as far as vaccinating the population here in Mono County,” County Public Health Director Bryan Wheeler said.

There is currently a vaccine shortage, exacerbated by the rough weather in the middle of the country and the steady ramping up of production. As a result, only about 200 people can get vaccinated per week in Mono County, down from the 500-700 receiving shots each week prior.

The presentation featured an update from Mammoth Unified School District Superintendent Jennifer Wildman, who announced that grades TK-2 will return to in-person class on March 1 and grades 3-5 will return a week later on March 8. Students will be split into cohorts and participate in hybrid learning format. No visitors will be allowed to enter schools.

Wildman also reported that about 98% of MUSD staff has been vaccinated against Covid-19. Middle and High Schools cannot re-open in-person until the county reaches the red tier.

Mammoth Hospital Chief Medical Officer Craig Burrows said that hospital testing numbers, both negative and positive, will be included in the county totals to more accurately reflect the situation on the ground.

Given that most hospital staff have been vaccinated, the majority of those tests could come back negative. This in turn could drive local case rates further down.

Burrows, outgoing Mono County Health Office Tom Boo (he will leave his post at the end of March), and Wheeler all stressed the importance of continued vigilance in following guidelines, regardless of vaccination status, so as to continue the positive local case trend.
INYO GOES GREENE
County hires new VSO
THE SHEET   I   www.thesheetnews.com
LOCAL NEWS

The County of Inyo is pleased to announce that the Inyo/Mono Veterans Services Officer (VSO) has been successfully filled by Inyo County resident, Gordon Greene.

Since July 2020, veterans have received assistance remotely through Kern County Veterans Service Office. Inyo County flew an open recruitment for the VSO, and five qualified candidates were selected for interview. On Feb 16, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors made an official appointment of a new VSO after completing thorough interviews.

The interview panel included the Inyo County Administrator, two local veterans, and the Los Angeles Supervisor of Veterans Claims. The panel sent four of the five candidates to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors for final review and interviews.

After joining the Navy in 1995, Greene’s impressive military history included:

• Attending the Naval Hospital Corps School from December 1995 – April, 1996 where he received extensive training in various aspects of the medical field ranging from medical terminology, physiology and anatomy, and emergency medical care.
• In 1996, Greene was assigned to Field Medical Service Technician School in Camp Johnson where he earned his Field Medical Service Technician School in 1996 where he received extensive training in various aspects of the medical field ranging from medical terminology, physiology and anatomy, and emergency medical care.
• In 1996, Greene was assigned to Field Medical Service Technician School in Camp Johnson where he earned his Field Medical Service Technician School in Camp Johnson where he earned his Field Medical Service Technician designation. Greene was educated in phlebotomy, IV therapy, and combat injuries. Additionally, he received training in firearms, battlefield tactics, and the structure and history of the US Marine Corps.
• Upon completion of Field Medical Service School, Greene was assigned to the Naval Air Station (NAS) in Brunswick, ME in the General Medicine Clinic where he provided medical support for various air squadrons as well as base personnel and their dependents.
• Greene was later assigned to the First Aid Station where he, along with an Independent Duty Corpsman, provided emergency medical care to injured active-duty personnel. During his time at NAS Brunswick, he provided first aid classes to local civilian groups and provided services as a Nationally Registered EMT.
• Greene served the remainder of his time in the Navy at NAS Brunswick until honorably discharged in 1998.

Additionally, Greene has worked for Toiyabe Dialysis Center & Davita Dialysis Center, Inyo County Juvenile Center, and most recently for Inyo County Health and Human Services as an Eligibility and Employment Integrated Case Worker.

“Inyo and Mono Counties have one of the highest percentages of veterans in the state of California,” stated Inyo County Board Chairperson and Second District Supervisor, Jeff Griffiths. “It is important to our community that we take care of those who have served our nation. I am so proud that Gordon has answered the call to serve as our Veterans Service Officer.”

BEN FRANKLIN TO CLOSE ITS DOORS

To our special customers and friends; Ben Franklin will be retiring at the end of April. We have dearly loved serving you! We are so fortunate to have such talented and wonderful quilters, artists, photographers and individual crafters in our area. You are just amazing!

Internet shopping, increased freight expense, taxes and insurance costs are just several things in the last few years that have hurt this small business, but the onset of Covid-19, that has been the biggest hit of all. Not that we have been closed like our restaurants, salons etc. but our orders are not being filled. The bulk of arts and crafts are made and shipped from overseas and are not available.

Our main supplier in Ohio is completely closed and the other big one in Michigan is only shipping about ¼ of what we have been trying to order. This has been a very difficult decision to make. It is with much gratitude that I thank all of my customers and friends for your business and support. On behalf of my husband, Mike and myself, I thank all of the Ben Franklin employees that have been so loyal and faithful for the last 25 years.

With love and best wishes,
Adrienne Gillespie, Ben Franklin Crafts and Frames

*Note: one staffer told The Sheet that at the rapid rate things are selling, the store may close earlier
GETTING IN TUNE WITH THE DAWSONS

Dick and Carolyn Dawson have lived in Hammil Valley since 1967

In the Eastern Sierra, if you had a piano and you needed it to be tuned, there was one man to call: Dick Dawson. He’d range from Independence to Mammoth Lakes and beyond, and if the work was too far, every now and then, a piano might come to him.

But if you were to read that first sentence and think, what could be interesting about a guy who tunes pianos, you’d be sorely misguided.

Because while pianos are a common thread in Dick Dawson’s life, there’s much more to the man than that.

When he first moved to the Sierra in 1956, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area had just built its first chairlift and Dave McCoy was still in his 40s.

And it’s not every day that you meet someone who rode in arduous 100-mile horse races well into his 70s.

Dawson is a life-long Californian: he was born in Long Beach in 1930, moved to Air Base George in Victorville with his family when he was 3, and graduated Victorville High School in the late ’40s.

After graduating, he went into the Air Force and served as a crew chief working on F80’s during the Korean War. Dawson didn’t say much about his time in the Air Force, noting only that “I ended up doing whatever was necessary.”

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DAWSON
continued from page 1

he said, “I think I’m about 96 to 99 points below that but I ended up teaching quite a few of them.” It was during those first years in Hammil Valley that Dick and Carolyn began to dip their toes into endurance riding on horseback: 24 hour, 100 mile races over mountains and through deserts on the backs of their Arabian horses. Given the remote location of their property, they rode their horses to go pretty much anywhere. A 50 mile ride in a day was par for the course.

Dick and Carolyn became staples of the Tevis Cup, a grueling 100 mile day-long ride from Truckee to Auburn that begins at about 5 a.m. The historical completion rate for riders is slightly above 50%. The Dawsons have each completed it multiple times, riding the race into their 70s.

Carolyn provided an article about Dick’s participation in the cup at the young age of 69, when Dawson battled through stomach issues and being so exhausted that he couldn’t clamber back on his horse to finish the race with minutes to spare. Not deterred, he rode and completed the race two years later at 71, with his final 100-mile ride coming at the age of 77.

Dick estimates that he’s done about 3,000 miles on horseback in various competitions, with 11 100-mile rides under his belt.

In terms of non-equine transportation, Dick’s fondness for Alfa Romeo cars began with his first in 1962. The collection has grown since then, with a number still on the property having been “put out to pasture.”

In 2006, Deep Springs awarded him a plaque recognizing his service to the small community and the music room at Deep Springs is named in his honor. “It’s an absolutely amazing group,” he said of the students, adding with a laugh, “they make you realize how stupid you really are.” He kept teaching at Deep Springs until February of last year, when a pacemaker and the pandemic required that he stop at the age of 89. “I’ll be damned if I can figure out why I’m still alive, but it’s because of her,” Dick said, with a warm smile to Carolyn.

Some wisdom accrued over 90 years of life:
Find something you want to learn and give it your all, you won’t be sorry Don’t be afraid to practice a lot (no more than four hours a day)
Don’t be afraid to make mistakes (If you’re learning something) Get a decent book and work through one chapter a week. Try to perfect what you’re doing.

These days, a road now runs between the neighborhood and Highway 6, Dawson Ranch Road, named for Dick. When asked about the name, “The road is here because you’ve been here,” Carolyn said, looking at Dick, “We’re going on 54 years (here).” “54?” He shot back, laughing “God, no wonder I’m tired.”
MARLA continued from page 1
cheered others in their successes and consoled them in their defeats. She was a terrific friend, neither petty nor jealous, Ever. And she was the type of person you wanted riding shotgun on any roadtrip. Easygoing and fun and up for anything. She and longtime friend Margie Castaneda had just roadtripped up to Reno in mid-January. The first stop they'd always make on their Reno trips: Macy's in the Meadowood Mall.

When asked if she and Marla had ever had a disagreement in the near four decades since they met at Las Montanas (where Marla waitressed and bartended in the early '80s), Margie laughed and said, "Only once. On that last trip. I wanted to go to Denny's and she was just adamantly "No!" Las Montanas was also where Marla met Sue Ebersold. As Sue recalls, Marla was just super-friendly and fun to be around so Sue baked Marla a cake for her birthday.

"Why'd you bake me a cake?"
"Why not? I like you!"

That kicked off a beautiful friendship. Marla worked with Sue at the Breakfast Club off-and-on for pretty much the rest of her life. Marla was a key component in making the Club a club - where folks would walk in as strangers and leave as friends.

Co-worker Mary Jo Huseh said Marla just loved talking to customers about where they're from. In fact, she kept a map at home and put pins in it as her own geographical checklist. What's amazing about Marla was her ability to have those conversations and yet keep everything in her head. The Breakfast Club (at least when not in the throes of a pandemic) is a bustling place. But how she kept everything in her head was by having a whole private conversation - with herself. Marla zipping around the Club muttering to herself she was half-crazed was always an entertaining sight.

Marla was born in Santa Monica to Mary and Hank Wiegand. Make that Capit. Hank Wiegand, a World War II pilot who flew commercially for Western Airlines for four decades.

Marla grew up in Long Beach, and the family also had a cabin at Lake Arrowhead.

It was in Arrowhead where Tamara Walker met Marla in 1977. Both waitressed at the Royal Oak in nearby Blue Jay, Calif.

Two years later, the pair moved to Mammoth (see inset below right). Tamara's fondest memory: "Back in the day, we went ice skating at the Alkali ponds and decided to do a little topless skating," recalled Tamara. "The dump tramp's outfits that showed cleavage - if you had any. During the warm months, we met at a vacant lakeside dock Marla knew about to catch some rays, swim with the pooches, and laugh and cry. Thus began a Sisterhood that has lasted a lifetime!"

September, 1979 - Marla and I drove my Ford Courier to Colorado to search for bigger mountains and jobs. We mostly camped out and would spruce up in makeup, dresses and stockings we put on in campground bathrooms.

My dad insisted we would have protection and gave us a 12-gauge shotgun. We kept it under the front seat of the Courier. We stopped in a secluded area to make sure we knew how to use the gun. Marla kept asking me, "Do you really know what you're doing?" I said, "Of course," but didn't. We both managed to load and shoot the weapon with some angst and a ton of belly laughs.

Our theme music became Supertramp's Breakfast in America album. Any song from that album, especially Take the Long Way Home became ours. We would call each other when we would hear that song.

Our Colorado search was futile. We couldn't coordinate both work and a place to live. One realtor told us to BBQ the dog so we would have no pets. That when I asked the community for donations to support the newspaper. That's when the name "Marla" came through on the donation list, and I don't know about you, but in my life, there's fittingly only been one Marla.

Marla was the one who would help Sue plan the annual Oscars party, and each year she and Sue would study the fashions of the day and each buy a new gown for the event.

Marla was the one you kept giving going away parties for and then she'd come back. One wonders if she would leave just because she liked a good party. Or maybe it's because she loved everybody too much.

As Heather said, "Marla recently gave me a heart-shaped stone. On it was etched, 'The Ones We Love are Forever in Our Hearts.' How apt. Look for details on a celebration for Marla when time and Covid permit.

MARLA TO MAMMOTH
1977 - I met Marla and Janice Jagoda at the Royal Oak in Blue Jay, Calif. (Lake Arrowhead). We waited tables in serving wrench outfits that showed cleavage - if you had any. During the warm months, we met at a vacant lakeside dock Marla knew about to catch some rays, swim with the pooches, and laugh and cry. Thus began a Sisterhood that has lasted a lifetime!

October, 1979 - We moved to Mammoth when Highway 203 was only two lanes. Main Street and Old Mammoth Road had stop signs. Whiskey Creek, Cask & Cleaver, the V.I. and Rafters were the "Hot Party Spots." There were no bike lanes or stop lights. Safeway, Buster's Market and Pioneer were our markets.

We only had a Ford Courier Pickup to gather firewood prior to the long winter months. We used saws and axes to gather wood. We lived @ 28 Pinecrest in a piece of caca A-Frame with flat pop-out sides that leaked when it rained or snowed. We had to shovel the snow off of the flat sides of the roof. We were true Mountain Women. We couldn't afford to hire a plow for snow removal so we shoveled A LOT.

Our first jobs were at the Alpenhof Restaurant and Lodge. Maid work was mandatory in order to have waitress shifts at night. Marla and I worked the rooms together. To this day when I make a bed I think of my "Sista Marla."

-Tamara Walker
She attributed the 7-1 ratio of public comment to a Facebook campaign. She concluded by saying the project was sold as a MUF (multi-use facility) but in reality is nothing more than a hollow shell with many of the promised amenities having been pushed out to a later date due to cost considerations. “Don’t cling to a mistake just because we spent a lot of time making it.”

The evisceration turned Sauser into a puddle.

He spoke next and meandered through a defense of the project. “We’ve been working on this for a long time,” he said. Seven years since the latest push to move forward, confirmed Public Works Director Haislip Hayes. As Rea said, working on something a long time doesn’t necessarily make it good.

“The Sheet resembles that remark. “We need to move forward with what is best for the community,” Fair. Debatable.

He also disputed that the current CRC project is scaled-down. He’s unequivocally wrong on that count.

“I still wish the community knew it’s building a $15 million house with no furniture or walls,” mused Sharon Clark in a text message to The Sheet on Thursday.

And as former Councilmember Colin Fernie writes in a letter to Council reprinted on pages 4-5, the current project represents a “far cry from what many of us set out to do.”

... It pains me to say it, because it was always my goal to push this community to want better for itself, but we already have a subpar facility, so it doesn’t seem sensible to just build another one at the cost proposed.

But, as Recreation Manager Stu Brown said in his presentation, “This is a defining moment for community recreation in Mammoth Lakes.”

And for Sauser, Wentworth and Salcido, “defining moment” would not be defined by inertia.

As for Councilman Stapp’s role in the proceedings, he again talked about so many projects, so little time and money. So why this one?

Then he randomly mentioned that the Town has been renting offices for 46 years even though the Town has only been incorporated for 36.

“As if building Town offices for a Town staff that has been completely unaffected by the pandemic should be potentially weighed as a higher priority than Mammoth Youth Hockey.”

It’s not a higher priority than Mammoth Youth Whittling.

One thing to hold Council accountable for: It has “borrowed” $1.5 million set aside for the future construction of the Mammoth Arts and Cultural Center. Town Manager Dan Holler promised that monies would be restored to the MACC account by FY 2022-2023.

In other Council news...

Mammoth Lodging Association Chairman John Morris pleaded with Council to eliminate its 70% cap on lodging.

He agrees with keeping the 24-hour space between stays in place. He said the 24-hour empty slot between stays effectively caps lodging operators at 80% anyway.

He added that there are six weeks left for operators to sock away some money during the earning season before slack.

His earnest plea earned little feedback.

Finally, Finance Director Rob Patterson anticipates that TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax revenue) will come in at $12.8 million this year, $1.3 million above budget, but down $7.7 million from the pre-pandemic record set in 2018-2019 ($20.5 million).
Sierra Employment Services, Inc. is hiring the following:

Housekeepers w/CAR – ML - PR
Admin Assistant – ML - $16-18
Payroll Clerk/Recruiter - ML - $22
Designers w/Car – ML - $15
Retail Cashier - ML - $15
General Laborer – ML - $12
Clerical File Clerk – B - $14 - 16

Call Us Today 760-924-0523 or 760-873-8599
www.SierraEmployment.com

Vacasa is now hiring Maintenance Runners
in Mammoth Lakes - $18/hr.
Must have reliable transportation and basic maintenance experience.
Please apply at https://www.vacasa.com/jobs
or submit your resume/CV , cover letter and references.

Vacasa is now hiring Housekeepers with a car in Mammoth Lakes - $15/hr.
Must have a valid driver’s license and reliable vehicle.
Please call 760-934-8111 or apply online at www.vacasa.com/careers.

Mammoth Chevon Seeking experienced carwash employee. Must be honest, personable and enjoy making customers smile! Day and evening shifts available. $17.50+ per hour starting pay & vacation benefits for qualified individuals.
Apply in person or call 760-934-8111.

Mammoth Chevon Seeking experienced cleaning/laundry employee. Must be honest, personable and enjoy making customers smile! Day and evening shifts available.

MLH seeks an experienced graphic design and marketing firm for a rebranding strategy to celebrate our 20th anniversary. As the local nonprofit leader in affordable housing, our vision is that communities in the Eastern Sierra thrive because everyone has access to safe, affordable, quality housing. We need your name, logo, and brand strategy to reflect our mission, values, and commitment to our community. Experience required. Email resume to lisac@convictlake.com

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

- Housekeepers w/CAR – ML - PR
- Admin Assistant – ML - $16-18
- Payroll Clerk/Recruiter - ML - $22
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Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. supports working-class housing for a viable economy and sustainable community. Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. (MLH) seeks a new director for the Board of Directors. This is an opportunity to contribute to the future of affordable housing in our mountain community. Our service area encompasses Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties.


Vacasa is now hiring Housekeepers with a car in Mammoth Lakes - $15/hr.
Must have a valid driver’s license and reliable vehicle.
Please call 760-934-8111 or apply online at www.vacasa.com/careers.

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Friday, February 19/

Saturday, February 20/

Sunday, February 21/

Monday, February 22/
Mammoth Lakes Lodging Round Table meets 10-11 a.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88670501007.

Inyo County/LADWP Technical Group meeting via Zoom. Time: 1 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88114003622?pwd=DSw5c2F2dEVAY3B5cFR1Z0IzQkNCdz09. Agenda incl. runoff and operations update, 2020 LORP annual report.

Tuesday, February 23/
Inyo County Supervisors meet. 10 a.m. Attend via https://zoom.us/j/868254781 or access via county website. Wanaaha Casino job fair. Time: 11 a.m. ’til 3 p.m. More info: See ad page 7.

Wednesday, February 24/

Friends of Himalayan Sherpa People fundraising slideshow via Zoom. Time: 5 p.m. Suggested donation: $10. For more information, see the local brief on page six.

Thursday, February 25/
Mammoth Lakes Tourism Virtual Community Coffee at 8 a.m. ESIA’s Winter Adventure Series: Agnes Vianzon, Join ESIA (Eastern Sierra Interpretive Assn.) for a presentation from Agnes Vianzon, founder and executive director of Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps. Learn about the story of ESCC, and how it is increasing the representation of those who visit, steward, and work for public land agencies. Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m., register online at sierraforever.org. Event is free with an option to donate.

Friday, February 26/
“It’s a Thing” Take 2, virtual play reading hosted by Sierra Classic Theatre, written by Allison McDonell Page and free to watch on Zoom. Time: 7 p.m. More info: www.SierraClassicTheatre.org or see ad pg. 2

Upcoming
Inyo County Grand Jury is taking applications for the ’21-’22 cycle. Submit an application to the Office of the Jury Commissioner at PO Box 1508, Bishop, CA 93515. For a copy of the application or for further questions, please visit the Grand Jury’s website at http://www.inyocourt.ca.gov/generalinfo/jury_civilgrandjury.htm or contact the Grand Jury Assistant at 760.873.5157.

Covid testing/
Bishop: Tri-County Fairgrounds, Tallman Pavilion on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday - participants must be in a vehicle to get tested.
Mammoth Lakes testing Mondays and Thursdays at the Mammoth Lakes Foundation, 100 College Pkwy. 11 a.m. ’til 2 p.m. No appt. necessary.
Walker/Coleville testing Fridays at Walker Community Center 9 am-12:45p.m.

Covid Vaccination
Pre-register for your Covid-19 vaccination in Mono County. Go to coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov or call 211.
Inyo County vaccine registration can be accessed via the county website @ www.inyocounty.us.

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Beer lovers’ candy store
Selection of more than 300 beers
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TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NOTICE INVITING BIDS.

TECHNICAL AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTATION

A Respectful Request:

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

At the Mammoth Lakes Regional Airport, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 220, Mammoth Lakes, California.

Dear Prospective Bidders:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1770, and following, of the California Public Works Code, the Town of Mammoth Lakes (the Town) desires to enter into a contract to reconstruct the East General Aviation Apron (172,000 sq. ft.) west of the terminal apron, including but not limited to, the following:

• Base Bid - Reconstruct East General Aviation Apron

This is an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for the above project. The Town will award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder meeting the minimum qualifications as set forth in the solicitation documents. The successful bidder shall furnish a payment bond for 100 percent of the contract price to secure fulfillment of all the bidder’s obligations and a performance bond for 100 percent of the contract price. The successful bidder shall furnish a payment bond for 100 percent of the contract price. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to alter, substitute, or modify any part of this solicitation, and to accept or reject any bids at any time prior to award of the contract. The Town also reserves the right to waive any informalities, errors, or omissions in any bid.

The prospective bidder must be registered in accordance with the provisions of Title VI - Civil Rights of the California Public Works Code and the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and the regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantage business enterprises will be made available to any interested party on request.

The contractor shall demonstrate their qualifications by having adequate experience, knowledge, experience, and ability to perform the work.

Minimum Qualifications:

The contractor shall demonstrate their qualifications by having adequate experience, knowledge, and the ability to perform the work.

The Town will award the contract on the basis of the Bid Price (quantity and price) and compliance with the terms and conditions of the solicitation documents. The contractor shall submit a proposal including the following:

• Lump Sum Bid

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to alter, substitute, or modify any part of this solicitation, and to accept or reject any bids at any time prior to award of the contract.

The Contractor is required to meet the Federal government’s requirements for DBE’s under their contract. The Town’s Equal Opportunity Ordinance requires that the Town’s DBE’s receive the maximum benefit of all contracts awarded.

The successful bidder shall furnish a payment bond for 100 percent of the contract price to secure fulfillment of all the bidder’s obligations and a performance bond for 100 percent of the contract price to secure fulfillment of all the bidder’s obligations and a performance bond for 100 percent of the contract price.

BONDING REQUIREMENTS:

The successful bidder shall furnish a payment bond and a performance bond in an amount not to exceed 100 percent of the contract price.

The Town is interested in the award of a competitive contract to the lowest responsible bidder meeting the minimum requirements as set forth in the solicitation documents. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to alter, substitute, or modify any part of this solicitation, and to accept or reject any bids at any time prior to award of the contract or any time after award of the contract.

The successful bidder shall conform to all the terms and conditions of the solicitation documents. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to alter, substitute, or modify any part of this solicitation, and to accept or reject any bids at any time prior to award of the contract or any time after award of the contract.

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When Lunch handed me Move Your Bus to read and review, I wasn’t quite sure how to interpret the move. Was it a subtle way to light a fire under me? Did he want pointers on how to run a business and manage people? Or was this just something to occupy my time.

The book is written by teacher Ron Clark, who runs the Ron Clark Academy in Georgia, has been named Disney’s Teacher of the Year and featured on Today, CNN, and Oprah.

Clark has previously written books about motivating students to achieve at a higher level; Move Your Bus is the first about running a business, into writing.

Clark uses the metaphor of a bus, one powered by folks running a la The Flintstones, to illustrate his concepts. In this scenario a company is a bus and the people running the bus are archetypal stand-ins for employees at said company. There’s the Runners (motivated high achievers), Joggers (do well for themselves but aren’t pushing too hard), Walkers (those just getting by), Riders (high achievers), Joggers (do well for the medium-to-large business bracket).

Clark’s approach is simple: those who produce the most for the company and get the best results are the most deserving of rewards. If you didn’t do as well as the top person, tough luck, do better. He prioritizes his runners, those people who work extra hours, go the extra mile, and are constantly looking for innovation and new ideas to create a spark. These people, he says, are the sparkplugs of an organization, cornerstone workers to build around and support.

Clark gives examples from his own school: teachers who always volunteer extra time to help out, who work long hours to make the perfect experiences for their students, and are always suggesting new ideas at staff meetings.

As a leader or director, you can’t let others bring these folks back to Earth because they run the risk of losing that lightning-in-a-bottle quality.

Then there’s the joggers, those who do a pretty good job but don’t go over the top in their efforts. They may be great educators, but something is holding them back from achieving that full potential. Often, it could be that they are self-conscious about their effort and don’t want to be labeled a “try-hard” by others.

These folks, Clark argues, seek validation more than others and tend to flourish when they are noticed. They often have a niche talent and if you can find it and bring it to the front, they will succeed more often than not.

And in doing so, you may create another runner.

As for walkers, Clark doesn’t have much patience. You can try to kickstart them but more often than not, they are set in their ways and focused on the end of the line, not the present. It can be a real effort to get someone like this to begin thinking creatively as they’re just going through the motions but breakthroughs are not entirely out of reach.

That said, don’t get your hopes up. And for riders, Clark says, let ‘em go. They can be an enormously negative presence on an organization, dragging others down to their level to make a workplace where laziness and complacency can thrive. It simply isn’t worth the effort to try to change this person.

And Drivers have to manage all of this, ensure a cohesive environment, a “bus” that runs smoothly and efficiently.

The key takeaways: for workers, it’s all about mindset and achievement. If you put the care and effort in, making those staples of your work, then you too can achieve at a high level; you first have to believe in yourself and the impacts you can have to get there.

For managers: your best workers are most valuable and should be treated as such and enabled to succeed. Clark references how his school holds each student to a high standard but provides them the tools and assistance they need to get there.

Clark’s writing can come off as descending or preachy but there’s a reason for that: he’s found an incredibly successful model that works with the proper inputs. Can it translate to every scenario? No. Are there tips and tricks that could be used by just about anyone? Sure.

It was a quick read, about three hours, so if you’ve got time, why not?
THE BUSINESS OF WELLNESS
How Sierra Shanti’s Lauren Robinson has weathered the pandemic
By Kendra Atleework

On a windy February evening, Lauren Robinson and I donned our winter hats and took a walk on the canals. Lauren is the owner of Sierra Shanti, Bishop’s very own yoga and wellness studio. I’ve been taking classes at Sierra Shanti since it opened in 2013. When classes went online at the start of the first shutdown, I found solace in a familiar ritual. While the cows milled around us and the sun set behind the Sierra, Lauren told me what it’s been like keeping her business afloat, and what the future holds for Sierra Shanti.

Kendra: How did it feel, as a business owner, when you first started to sense the impending shutdown?
Lauren: It was so abrupt. My initial reaction was to focus on how I could keep the studio alive. We immediately started going online. Emotion went out the window, and I went into autopilot-action-mode. I had to, to survive! Of course the emotions came later. It’s been really hard—I never anticipated the rolling shutdowns lasting this long.

Kendra: You moved to Bishop just a year and a half before the pandemic started. It must have been incredibly difficult to face this at a time that was so vulnerable, both in your own life and for your business.
Lauren: I’d started a lot of exciting new things at Sierra Shanti, and the pandemic hit right when the business was in an upswing. February of 2020 was a really successful month, which was so exciting for me and for the community.

… And then March happened. But I had been hoping to start offering online classes anyway, and the crisis fast-tracked that.

Kendra: How have you saved your business so far?
Lauren: Hybrid classes: a combo of in-person and online. We want to be in service for people for safe, masked, in-person classes, when that’s allowed. We also want to serve people who don’t want to be inside the studio at all during this time. So we offer online and outdoor classes, also. And anyone who signs up for class, whether they can attend livestream or not, receives a copy of the class recording, valid for seven days. So really, anyone can practice from anywhere, anytime they want.
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Kendra: What role does Sierra Shanti play in the local community, now as well as before the pandemic?
Lauren: I think now more than ever is the time to be focused on movement, wellness, and natural health solutions, all of which the studio offers—and I’ve been working hard to evolve our studio into a place for overall wellness and a community center. It’s a location, a place to come back to, to foster that sense of support that we’ve all missed so much over the last year.
Kendra: Will you keep some of the changes you’ve made once we can all go back to normal?
Lauren: Absolutely. We can’t wait to rejoin the studio in person, and we won’t be taking away online classes.

Before the shutdown, Sierra Shanti had started hosting guest teachers who offered special workshops. Learning to host them virtually has opened up a whole realm of connections. I’m really excited because we have a lot of fun stuff planned for 2023 already.

Kendra: So, hybrid classes and workshops are a bit of a silver lining, since it allows a bigger variety of people to participate in yoga classes. I mean, let’s face it, there is some amount of falling over for some of us (yes, me). And stuff like being afraid to get into plow pose.
Lauren: Yes! I had someone tell me today that she prefers the Zoom format. Some people are telling me they’re practicing more than ever, because they can just roll out of bed. We can also invite friends who live elsewhere to a virtual yoga class. We’ve got students in North Carolina participating. Another teacher’s mother-in-law has joined from her home in Israel.

Kendra: That’s a good reminder for me that Zoom isn’t all evil! Still, yoga is such a tactile activity. You get a lot from hearing the other students in the class breathe, seeing the subtleties of the teacher’s movements. How have you and the other teachers handled the dissonance of teaching such an intimate activity through the cold lens of technology?
Lauren: First I had to get over being camera shy! It’s been a major learning experience and challenge to remain authentically connected to my students through the screen... so throughout the practice I get up close to the screen and try to offer individualized support to students.

It’s not quite the same. I miss teaching in person very much. But this is the way things have to be right now.

Kendra: The virtual classes have been a balm this year, even for a camera-shy suddo like me. Before the pandemic I always took a Saturday morning yoga class at Sierra Shanti with Ranae, one of your phenomenal teachers. As soon as that was up and running virtually, it was really nice to have some semblance of a ritual I remembered from my life before—even though it was in my house, by myself. It was comforting. And I knew the people in the class.

Kendra: So, why Bishop? How did we get so lucky as to snag you?
Lauren: Bishop had been calling me for years. I was living in San Diego before this. About five years ago, on Christmas Eve, I decided I’d like to travel somewhere and take a prana vinyasa yoga class. I started looking up places, and that’s how I found Bishop, and K-
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