AN INDEPENDENCE WOMAN
Conversations with Claiborne Mitchell
by Page

You’ve heard all the bromides. Live each day like it’s your last. Today’s the first day of the rest of your life.

Life is short/Life is a gift
And we promise ourselves that we’re not just going to hear these things, but we’re going to hear them. Make changes. Stop wasting time watching regular season baseball games, or Lifetime movies. Call friends and family more often. Use one’s body and exercise more often before the body betrays you and you can’t do the things you used to do.

Along the same lines, there are so many fascinating people in the world - people you intend to learn more about. Some you do. Most you don’t.

“For example, I’m still haunted that I never sat down and really visited with Bob Schotz. A few months back, I was interviewing Don Bright, then running for Inyo County District Four Supervisor, and he told me that Claiborne Mitchell, Independence resident and KIBS fixture, was very sick and that I ought to interview her before she wasn’t around to interview anymore.

So what did I do? Procrastinated for about five months until I finally tracked her down.

Gott her number and we set a time to meet at her home in Independence. She told me to bring a few bottles of La Marca prosecco (which they carry at Smart and Final) with me. And it was only then that I learned that I had no business speaking with Claiborne. Because she was given 2-4 months to live in July, 2020. And it would have been a tragedy for me to miss our conversations. Plural.

Claiborne’s life story is not easy to sit through. Ten sittings wouldn’t be enough.

Because you see, interviewing Claiborne is like embarking on a grand scavenger hunt. You think you know a basic fact (Claiborne’s a Brit. She has the accent.) until she’ll tell you she was born in South Carolina and lived in the States until the age of seven and has carried an American passport her entire life.

What? And sometimes, she’ll be brutally honest. Other times, evasive and opaque. One moment, you’re doubled over in stitches. Next moment, rocked with sadness.

How can a person this vibrant be on the verge of checking out?

“I’ve already written my own obituary,” she says. “It’s liberally sprinkled with words like kind, generous and funny.”

Then she laughs. And takes another sip of prosecco. I take one, too. She toasts more birdseed to the chickadees. It’s 10 a.m.

I should ask her to speak Italian. That’s one of three foreign languages she knows. French, Spanish and Italian. She says, ‘My Italian depends upon my prosecco intake.’

Moving to the Sierra

It was about 15 years ago. Claiborne had just put on a pre-Oscar event for Elton John and had a ten-day window before she had to return to L.A.

So she and a friend (true to Claiborne’s opacity, we never learn of the nature of this friendship or whether said friend is male or female) decide to drive up to Lake Tahoe. Around Mojave, Claiborne falls asleep in the passenger seat.

see MITCHELL, page 9

Benton homicide:

Friends and Enemies:

Harveys departing:

More Equity:

No joking:

Benton homicide:

Friends and Enemies:

Harveys departing:

More Equity:

No joking:

FREE

ESTA ... BIEN?
By Page

At the Inyo County Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, February 23, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) director Phil Moores spoke to the supervisors about how the agency performed in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and what plans may be in the pipeline in the coming months/year.

Ridership, unsurprisingly, was down 21.63% from the previous fiscal year, which led to a subsequent drop in revenue and service hours.

Moores noted that maintenance costs were up despite reduced hours and revenues, an indicator that the fleet is aging out of it’s useful lifespan.

The replacements for the fleet, Moores said, are project-ed to be electric buses per the state’s requirements as laid out in the Innovative Clean Transit Act (ICT), which pushes public transit into the renewable energy sector.

The fleet spoke with Moores after the meeting about these buses, what they might look like, and when people could start to expect them on the road.

Currently, ESTA is conducting a demo program with a number of bus models to determine the best fit for their business.

Moores explained that the Federal Transit Authority has a useful life benchmark for buses; the fleet used in Mammoth Lakes will be 12 years old (the threshold) in 2024 and ESTA is eligible to apply for grants to replace the aging vehicles.

Moores said that he plans to start the application process at some point next year, as any grant money received has a relatively lengthy time limit on when it must be spent.

He added that the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area have been resourceful and helpful partners in the process; ESTA has already begun saving money in anticipation of the new buys.

“We should be leading this cause in my mind,” Moores said of sustainable options in transit.

There are two options that would suit ESTA’s needs: a battery powered electric bus that requires charging or a hydrogen fuel cell electric bus, which runs on hydrogen and generates electricity to charge the bus’s batteries.

The by-products of this sort of engine are only heat and water, which Moores noted is a lot more environmentally friendly than carbon.

The ICT requires that transit authorities begin purchasing electric/zero emission vehicles by 2026, with 2029 as a hard date for having a fully electric fleet.

That’s not all that ESTA may have in store for the future.

Moores also said that he’d been asked by local officials including the Local Transportation Commission (LTC) to explore the possibility of providing public transit access to trailheads in Inyo County.

more ESTA, page 2

For more information, visit MAMMOTHOLISTICS.COM
ESTA continued from page 1

Moores said that the trailheads under consideration are Onion Valley, Horseshoe Meadows and Whitney Portal.

A Bishop Creek shuttle already exists along Route 68 to South Lake and Sabrina; this summer will mark its 4th year of operation.

Moores acknowledged that there are currently private businesses offering shuttle service to the trailheads via charter.

“That’s where ESTA can’t compete,” Moores said, “we cannot compete with private companies for charter services. That would be a misuse of public funding.” ESTA’s status as a public agency means that it doesn’t have to worry about turning a profit and can therefore offer services for cheaper, effectively pricing out the private companies.

If ESTA were to provide that service, he said, it would be a regularly scheduled shuttle. But ESTA stands to lose money on that sort of service because it’s highly unlikely that there’s a ton of riders are looking for trailhead access midweek.

So it would need to subsidized, he said, but finding funding for subsidies will be challenge given the pandemic.

Another component is the Forest Service: ESTA would need a permit to operate on federal lands and any infrastructure/rules would have to be enforced by Forest Service staff.

Since the Forest Service is short on both staff and funding at the moment, immediate progress seems unlikely: Moores speculated that any service would begin at the very earliest in Summer 2022.

The focus, he said, would be on Whitney Portal access, as Horseshoe Meadows has a sizable parking lot and Onion Valley isn’t in high demand.

Further down the line, Moores envisioned a potential route linking Yosemite Valley to Whitney portal to service through hikers on the John Muir and Sierra Crest trails.

Trailheads in Mono County are mostly serviced in one form or another and the transit system in and around Mammoth Lakes is extensive, Moores said. Hence, he hasn’t gotten any request for expansion.

The issue struck a chord with Inyo County Supervisor Jen Roeser at Tuesday’s meeting; The Sheet followed up with Roeser, who in addition to being a supervisor also owns and operates the McGee Creek Pack Station.

Roeser said that Moores proposal properly identifies an area of need in Inyo County as “trailheads were built for a 1960s model of recreation” that leaves much to desired today.

She said backcountry pack outfits and travel businesses could benefit immensely from consistent service to a trailhead, as increased public interest in extended backpacking trips/through-hiking correlates to more business and demand for parking at specific sites.

Roeser also expressed support for the private entities already offering shuttle services, taking the view that public and private could work efficiently in tandem to provide efficient and responsible access to trailheads.

The whispers just never stop.

Vaccine line-cutting appears to be more than just an occasional outlier. So we asked Bryan Wheeler, Mono County’s Director of Public Health, for a status report this week on the vaccine rollout and what measures the County is taking to maintain the integrity of its lists.

Wheeler acknowledged that there have been a “lot of problems” with people trying to game the system.

But, he says, “We’ve mostly curbed the line-cutting at this point ... the strategy of hanging around [at the end of the day looking for an extra shot] is not really a great strategy anymore. It was a decent strategy at the outset.”

He said that most invites are sent out by the Information Technology (I.T.) department and that Mono County is “not prioritizing rich people.”

Currently, the County is requiring identification which requires proof of residence, as well as a post office box.

Mono County is still vaccinating folks in Tier 1B, which has been stretched to 55+ with medical conditions, though Wheeler said “we’re getting close to saturation where we’re at.”

What comes next is unclear. Wheeler said the State is considering a change to age-based prioritization as opposed to Tier-based. That might change who’s next.

He did say it’s been challenging getting people back for their second shots. When asked if media reports of the efficacy of one dose might be convincing people that that’s all they need, Wheeler said, “There’s a strong possibility people are reading about the Pfizer shot and deciding they don’t need a second.”
North Landing Road Closure

Starting on Sunday, March 1, LADWP will be implementing a temporary road access closure at North Landing Rd (north of Crowley Lake Reservoir) to limit vehicular access to Sage-Grouse breeding grounds from March 1 - April 19, 2021. Vehicular traffic from the public will be prohibited during this time to limit potential disturbance during the prime breeding season for this sensitive species. The closure will be lifted Tuesday, April 20, 2021 prior to Fishing Opener.

As stewards of the almost 315,000 acres of land, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is committed to continue implementing conservation actions in support of maintaining and improving habitat and success of the Sage-Grouse. Our goal is to employ best management practices for land and water uses while protecting water quality, habitat, and biodiversity.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding as we work together to ensure protection for the Sage-Grouse.

LADWPEasternSierra.com

Phone & Chat Counseling  Mon-Fri 7 am to 9 pm • Sat 9 am to 5 pm
Our highly-trained counselors can help you develop a quitting plan that’s right for you.

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<td>Enroll by texting Quit Smoking or Quit Vaping to 66819</td>
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<td>Vapers 1-844-8-NO VAPE (1 844-866-8273)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOREAN 1-800-556-5564</td>
<td>Self-Help Materials To receive free quit smoking or vaping materials, call 1-800-NO-BUTTS or 1-844-8-NO-VAPE</td>
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We’ve helped nearly ONE MILLION Californians!

The California Smokers’ Helpline provides nonjudgmental, personalized quit support in six languages. Counseling protocols are based on clinical research conducted by UC San Diego’s Moores Cancer Center and funded by the California Department of Public Health, First 5 California, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sponsored by MONO TOBACCO EDUCATION PROGRAM
A common sense gap

Dear Editor:

As many know, the members of the Town Council are facing at least two pending litigation charges alleging their actions restricting businesses during the pandemic. It remains to be seen what repercussions they will face, but if they want to restore faith in their constituents, they need to remove current arbitrary restrictions on lodging.

The 24-hour gap rule between bookings is still crippling the lodging and cleaning companies in town. This makes one- and two-night bookings infeasible, so the number of cleaning turnovers has been reduced by half. Cleaning and laundry companies have suffered immensely with the Regional Stay At Home Order shut down over the holidays—why is the Town continuing to hamstring their businesses?

It also means that every week lodging operators lose 2 or 3 days because of this arbitrary rule. That’s up to 40% of lost income on top of a devastating year—all for what?

There is no data demonstrating that virus transmission occurs in the lodging sector. It has been proven that the virus doesn’t remain on hard surfaces. The State guidelines for lodging do not require this gap—it has been invented only toward potential Parcel residents. That’s up to 40% of lost income on top of a devastating year—all for what?

Don’t forget that we still have zero ICU patients and the hospital has remained green through this entire surge. The surge is clearly over. Why continue to restrict our lodging, cleaning and laundry businesses?

Please remove this arbitrary restriction immediately.

Craig Shilligan
Mammoth Lakes

Equity?

“Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the Government take care of him better take a closer look at the American Indian.”

-Henry Ford

Dear Editor:

Wokeness has arrived in the Eastern Sierra. Isn’t that wonderful? I was naïvely hoping that we could remain isolated from the crap going on in the rest of this country.

We have Mono County employees and supervisors, Mike Jones and Jennifer Kreitz, espousing their political views. According to Lunch’s editorial of February 13, Jones claims the parking concerns for The Parcel represents “bad equity” and the Town should consider undertaking a “racial impact assessment report.” Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz stated that the parking must speak to inherent, closeted discrimination and/or racism toward potential Parcel residents.

I sure hope that they were speaking as private citizens rather than in their public roles. If they are speaking as employee/supervisor, I feel they have crossed the line of direct political engagement.

Telling the citizens of this town that there is cloistered discrimination and/or racism going on in our town that speaks to their mentality, not the citizen mentality. Who the hell are they to be defining racism to anybody.

It is much simpler than that. In relation to The Parcel, it is about cost (which the taxpayers eventually pay for).

“EQUITY” is such a nebulous word. Drive around town and take a look at the parking at many of the condo/housing complexes. How many of them have understructure parking? Yet the first approved phase of the parcel of 89 units has 93 understructure parking spaces.

Where did that requirement come from? It would be a lot cheaper to have 93 parking spaces in the open instead of understructure. Racism? Bullshit. Many of our residents clean snow off of their cars—so can the people in The Parcel.

By the way, why is Mono County even involved in this? How many levels of government bureaucracy does it need to develop this site? Oh, yes we need at least three levels of redundant governmental bureaucracy to do anything nowadays.

When I went through the 2020-21 Mono County Budget documents, I found a very interesting quote, “the budget communicates to Mono County citizens our priorities for meeting their needs because the County’s business is to provide public services on their behalf. It focuses all our efforts and ultimately drives employee behavior and decision making.”

Well County government, you certainly deserve big kudos by driving the behavior of Mike Jones and Jennifer Kreitz.

Another interesting quote in that proposed budget, “County budgets require give and take and there is never enough money to go around. This is especially true and painful with tonight’s annual budget—something we will experience in FY 2020-2021.”

As a taxpayer, I really feel sorry for your pain. Try taking a look at what is absolutely required by the county government to deliver and then cut the rest. “Equity Training?”

In a recent letter to the editor, I made a comment about how the Town of Mammoth Lakes was spending money during this pandemic. At the time, I was having difficulty finding town budgets so I could compare operating budgets between 2018-19 through 2020-21. With the help of the town, I was able to find those budgets. Thank you Town of Mammoth Lakes. I have no complaint with the town’s staffing approach during this pandemic. However, I will point out a few things that I think are questionable.

1) TBID - The town continues to collect TBID (Tourism Business Improvement District) fees to fund marketing) during the pandemic and through the shutdowns.

For 2018 the projected TBID was approximately $5.68 million. The projection of TBID for 2020-21 is $3.3 million. What is the TBID rate, 1? If so, that is a

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Kindergarten Round Up

Kindergarten Round Up:

Learn how to enroll your child in Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten, meet the teacher, and sign up to get or pick up your Kindergarten Readiness Backpack.

Pending Health Department approval related to County COVID status, Health and Safety Fairs will be held at all events except Mammoth Elementary School.

If your child will turn five on or before September 1st, 2021, he or she can attend Kindergarten in the fall of 2021. If your child will turn five between September 2nd and December 1st, 2021, he can attend transitional kindergarten during the fall 2021.

For the clickable Zoom link and calendar events, go to: https://www.first5mono.org/calendar-of-events/

Martes, March 16
5:30-7:30 pm
Mammoth Elementary School
Via Zoom
https://zoom.us/j/99616940643?pwd=K2paVnVQRVRaMUJtV1Zic25waTVPQT09
Meeting ID: 996 1694 0643
Passcode: mcs
Zoom dial in number: (669) 900-6833

Monday, April 26
10:00-11:30 a.m.
Lee Vining Elementary School, Outdoors
132 Lee Vining Ave, Lee Vining

Tuesday, March 16
12:30-2:00 pm
Bridgeport Elementary School, Outdoors
205 Kingsley St, Bridgeport

Tuesday, April 27
1:00 - 2:30 pm
Antelope Lake Elementary School, Outdoors
111527 Hwy 395, Coleville

Wednesday, April 28
12:30-2:00 pm
Edna Beaman Elementary School, Outdoors
23541 Hwy 6, Benton

Lee Vining Elementary School, al aire libre
132 Lee Vining Ave, Lee Vining
Lee Vining

Lunes, April 26
10:00-11:30 am
Lee Vining Elementary School, al aire libre
132 Lee Vining Ave, Lee Vining

Martes, April 27
1:00 - 2:30 pm
Antelope Lake Elementary School, al aire libre
111527 Hwy 395, Coleville

Miércoles, April 28
12:30-2:00 pm
Edna Beaman Elementary School, al aire libre
23541 Hwy 6, Benton

Orientación al Kindergarten:

Aprendo como inscribir a su hijo en kindergarten y kindergarten transicional, conozca al maestro e inscribase para obtener su boleta de preparación para el kindergarten.

En espera de la aprobación del Departamento de Salud relacionada con el estado de COVID del condado, se llevarán a cabo ferias de salud y seguridad en todos los eventos, excepto en la escuela primaria Mammoth.

Su niño cumple cinco años antes del 1 de Septiembre de 2021, entonces puede asistir a Kindergarten durante el Otoño de 2021. Si su niño cumple cinco años entre el 2 de Septiembre y el 1 de Diciembre 2021, entonces puede asistir a Transicional Kindergarten durante el Otoño de 2021.

Para ver el enlace Zoom en el que se puede hacer clic y los eventos del calendario, yaya a:

https://www.first5mono.org/calendar-of-events/
LETTERS continued from page 4

business loss of approximately $242 million in gross sales to our town’s businesses over one year. What is really questionable is with all of the lockdowns we have had, why are we spending TBID plus TOT totaling nearly $6 million on Mammoth tourism? I would suspect that well over 90% of the people that have been up here skiing this winter are already aware of Mammoth and that Mammoth Lakes Tourism did not have anything to do with their visitation. The visitors show up when the snow falls and when the holidays occur.

2) Rental Lockdowns. One evening, my wife and I were listening to the Town’s incident command discussing the pandemic situation. Early in the discussion, a lady who obviously had a source of her income from rentals was distraught about being locked down. She had major bills to pay and needed the income. The pablum she was given in reply was “we know it is hard, it is hard for everyone, we are all in this together.”

The next week, while the town was still locked down, we were inundated with the hordes that came up here because either the mountain opened or we had a great snowfall. The response was, “yes, we know that there are a lot of people in town.” Do you think these hordes were all 2nd homeowners? I bet not. I suspect there were a lot of under the table deals to let friends or others use these 2nd homeowner’s places. Yet the honest person was still shut down.

The fact that we have “shutdown police” while the town is inundated with the hordes is a joke. The impact to the spread of COVID by this lady’s (and others) rentals is miniscule to what the hordes would spread. In this case, the local government should turn its head, close its eyes and let these people rent.

3) TOT - The amount of TOT for 2018-19 was $20.4 million. The projected TOT for 2020-21 is $11.39 million. One would expect the projections for 2020-21 to be conservative. Even then, the shortage in TOT from 2018-19 to 2020-21 is approximately $9.1 million. With a TOT rate of 13% this is a reduction of almost $70 million in revenue for those businesses that generate our TOT. This is a huge hit to our local businesses.

When we have a state government that has suffered from cranial rectitus over the past year and a half, it is time for the local government to take matters into its own hands. Use the following approach: “We are doing the best we can to follow state guidance under very difficult and tough conditions.” Then turn your head, close your eyes and let people survive. If the state complains you can use that tried and true political approach, “We made a mistake, we did our best, it was an error and we will never do it again. Please forgive us.” This approach isn’t quite civil disobedience, but it works.

Consider. To date, there are at least 13 variants to the COVID-19 virus. It is unclear how effective some vaccines will be against these variants. Considering what has been happening it certainly is possible that a new variant will develop that our current vaccines can’t handle. Then are we going to go back in to the “tried, but untrue” lockdown strategy. You better start thinking ahead now.

John Stavlo
Mammoth Lakes

Dogshit hell

Dear Editor,

Looks like Mammoth dog owners clean up after their dogs but don’t feel it needs to go any further than that. Check out the end of Old Mammoth Road, 50 feet beyond the snow closures for Mammoth Rock. Place up there is pretty much a dogshit hell. Doesn’t this area contribute to Mammoth water supply?

SP Parker
Bishop

Clap-clap-clap

Dear Editor,

YAY! for the Community Recreation Center (CRC), and “Thank You” to the many personalities over the decades that is has taken to complete the public process for this cornerstone facility. The presentation, discussion, and vote at Council were fascinating. The perseverance and creativity around this project are momentum building: Structural elements were retained for future expansion of the CRC. Relocated bus staging frees up parking at Vons and gives the drivers a year round facility with bathrooms. Cash flow is being managed to build what is ready now, and still be ready to build when the design phase of the Mammoth Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) is ready. Clap-clap-clap.

In five years, if we have community indoor recreation and performing arts blossoming in this town, we all will have won. It’s starting to smell like there’s a Town of Mammoth Lakes and a ski resort called Mammoth Mountain. It will be no surprise to see the council members who voted “No”, enjoying themselves at the CRC. See you there.

Peter Chapman
Mammoth Lakes

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LETTERS
LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL BRIEFS

Murder in Benton

On February 19, 2021, at 9:33 p.m., Mono County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) Dispatch received a domestic violence call in the Benton area. MCSO deputies and California Highway Patrol (CHP) Bishop officers quickly responded to the residence, where they found evidence of forced entry and a struggle. However, no one was inside the residence or on the property.

After an extensive search of the surrounding area, law enforcement located the male suspect’s vehicle at a residence in Hammil Valley. The female victim was located in the vehicle, clearly deceased. The suspect had barricaded himself in a motorhome on the property.

The Inyo/Mono Special Enforcement Detail (SED) responded, along with assistance from CHP-Bishop and their H-40 Helicopter, Inyo Sheriff’s Office, and Bishop Police Department. Mono County Paramedics and White Mountain Fire Medic 4 staged at a safe distance for any potential injuries.

Entry was made into the motorhome by the SED Tactical Team, where they located the suspect attempting to conceal himself. The suspect was arrested without incident and is now in custody in the Mono County Jail.

The suspect has been identified as William Ralph Wilson, 65, of Benton. The victim has also been identified, Elizabeth Ann Copeland, 58, also of Benton.

Additional details will be released as they become available, provided the investigation will not be compromised.

-Press Release

Canning returns to Mammoth Hospital

Dr. Rachel Canning is the newest addition to the Mammoth Hospital team, coming to Mammoth Lakes most recently from Fresno, Calif. where she completed her predoctoral internship, postdoctoral fellowship, and worked as a Clinical Psychologist at the Sullivan Center for Children.

She completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with a specialization in child and adolescent care, at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

At the Sullivan Center for Children, an outpatient mental health facility, Dr. Canning provided therapy and assessment to children and adults. She also provided therapy and assessment at an intensive day treatment school, historically black college counseling center, community based clinic, and alternative public charter school for children with learning and emotional disabilities.

Dr. Canning previously lived in Mammoth Lakes and is excited to return to the community to provide behavioral health services at Mammoth Hospital.

She enjoys working with children, adults, and families. She is passionate about providing services in rural and underserved regions. In her spare time, Dr. Canning enjoys being outdoors and appreciating all that the Sierra Nevada has to offer. She has also been active in the American Alpine Club, including the Climbing Grief Fund, and starting a local climbing organization.

-Press Release

THE KNIFE JOKER

The Knife Joker owner Travis Vanwey behind one of the shop’s many display cases

Carving out a market for yourself is difficult at any time. Doing so during a global pandemic makes it even more so. But that hasn’t deterred Travis Vanwey from taking a stab at it.

Vanwey opened his brick-and-mortar store, located in the Cottonwood Plaza on Main Street in Bishop, in August after moving from a space on the floor above, opened in late February.

Vanwey ran the store online for 3.5 years before opening a physical location. The store, he said, began as a knife-collecting hobby that dated back to his youth growing up in Round Valley. Back then, everybody had at least one utility knife that they carried with them. For him, it grew to be a passion.

He had knee surgery two days before the opening in August but that didn’t stop him from doing a pretty solid business at the outset.

Then the smoke rolled in and he’s been building back business ever since. What makes Knife Joker different from another retailer? For one thing, Vanwey has built relationships with producers to the point that some of the knives they sell to him cannot be found anywhere else. And clients from around the world come to him looking for specific items.

And the name? Just something to catch the eye, Vanwey said with a laugh.

The store, positioned at the rear of the plaza is open until 6 p.m. during the week, until 4 p.m on Saturdays, and closed Sunday and Monday. He can be found online at theknifejoker.com

For more information
email businessinfo@inyocounty.us
or call 760-878-8457

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**Dave R Easterby, Agent**
Insurance Lic#: 0H65719
625 Old Mammoth Road Suite 7
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Bus: 760-934-7575

*Newsflash!* State Farm is offering homeowners insurance in Mammoth Lakes and June Lake. Call today for a quote.

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**State Farm**

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

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By Page 8
A story 26 years in Mammoth Lakes, Dave and Sharon Harvey are headed for greener pastures.

The former owner/operators of the Swiss Chalet Motel on Main Street spoke with The Sheet about their East-side experiences, memories, and future moves. (Hint: they aren’t quite leaving the mountains behind)

The Harveys’ Mammoth experience began in 1978, with the family making weeklong trips to town every summer to visit and hold family reunions at a time share they had purchased and booked for the same week every year.

The family would be headed back to their home in Long Beach, spending “five hours trying to figure you out come into a community like this,” Dave said.

“We’d leave and be so depressed,” Sharon said, “and try to figure out how to get here (permanently).”

The permanent move came in 1995, when the couple purchased the Swiss Chalet Motel and came up with their two children, Dave Jr. and Sarah, to make a life in the mountains. They arrived the weekend of the annual fireman’s picnic.

“It was pretty cool coming up from the city and all the chaos of that place,” Sharon remembered; the L.A. Riots in the city and all the chaos of that place, “man’s picnic.”

They had help as well from Tina and Pedro Godinez, who were already working at the motel as housekeepers. The Godinzes’ worked at the hotel up to it’s last day, and even after the Harveys sold the hotel, would stop by on Christmas with a plate of homemade tamales and salsa.

Dave’s handyness came from his family; Dave’s grandparents came to the United States via Canada, operating an upholstery and awning business in Taft, California for many years.

As Dave explained, awnings are a necessary component of life in Taft, a desert town known for its heat. His grandparents saw the need and stepped up to provide the service, an entrepreneurial spirit that Dave has carried into just about every aspect of his life.

Dave joined Search and Rescue soon after moving to the area, and upon seeing a dire need for new equipment and winter gear, actively began fundraising to get the team up to speed. One rescue involved a young man whose father had an organization known for its generosity. After the man came home safe, snowmobiles were donated to SAR in gratitude.

Dave also mangled to secure deals with North Face to ensure that the rescuers were properly outfitted.

That didn’t mean there weren’t pitfalls.

Sharon recalled one winter when the newly-purchased Case loader that they used for snow removal got stuck in the drifts during a big storm.

So Dave went to Robert Schaubmayer Sr. to ask for a hand getting unstuck. Schaubmayer came by with his own loader to get Dave’s out.

“It was a little difficult in the beginning,” Dave related, “we had to figure out who the movers and shakers were.”

And in doing so, Dave became involved in the Town’s planning commission and served as a commissioner for a number of terms, all while running the motel in tandem with Sharon.

As Dave spoke with The Sheet about their East-side experiences, memories, and future moves. (Hint: they aren’t quite leaving the mountains behind)

The Harveys’ Mammoth experience began in 1978, with the family making weeklong trips to town every summer to visit and hold family reunions at a time share they had purchased and booked for the same week every year.

The family would be headed back to their home in Long Beach, spending “five hours trying to figure you out come into a community like this,” Dave said.

“We’d leave and be so depressed,” Sharon said, “and try to figure out how to get here (permanently).”

The permanent move came in 1995, when the couple purchased the Swiss Chalet Motel and came up with their two children, Dave Jr. and Sarah, to make a life in the mountains. They arrived the weekend of the annual fireman’s picnic.

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And in doing so, Dave became involved in the Town’s planning commission and served as a commissioner for a number of terms, all while running the motel in tandem with Sharon.

“Four years with the Harveys would be a new start in a sense,” Dave said of starting the Swiss Chalet in 1978.

The Harveys opened the motel on the Fourth of July, and Dave and Sharon spent the next 26 years running the Swiss Chalet Motel.

The Harveys’ first employee was Ralph Lockhart, who worked with the couple for two years before finding the right deal.

The real estate agent was Darcy Bauer, who worked with the couple for two years before finding the right deal.

The right deal was decidedly not turn-key. The Harveys discovered, during conversations with the Swiss Chalet’s owner, that the current operator was running it into the ground.

So the Harveys worked out a deal, Dave “put it together and made it work,” and Bauer helped get the sale done. After months in escrow, the Swiss Chalet belonged to the Harveys.

“It was a tough living experience but definitely some of my fondest memories,” Sharon said.

Dave wore many hats during those initial years and ensuing two decades: locksmith, upholsterer, plow operator, and more.

All roles born out of necessity: the building needed 49 new sets of locks and bolts, the windows needed new covering, and the chairs, 56 in total, needed to have the fabric redone.

The Harveys are headed off to Castle Rock in the Denver suburbs to be closer to their daughter Sarah, who has a newborn, and Dave’s 88-year old mother who lives in South Texas.

“It’s been an experience,” he said, “I’m so happy we did it. My kids grew up well and I think it’s always better to have a village looking out for your family.”

He added, “The most wonderful people in the world live in Mammoth.”

“I would highly recommend it to anyone, especially young people without many ties.”

“We’re going to definitely miss the small community,” Sharon said, “That’s going to be hard.”

“Mammoth ain’t perfect but it’s sure better than a lot of places I’ve been.” Dave said with a laugh.
MITCHELL
continued from page 1

When she wakes up, the first thing she sees is the old school Mt. Williamson Motel vacancy sign. “It was like I awoke out of a dream. I saw the sign and simply said, ‘We have to stay there.’”

She wakes like a child on Christmas morning, to discover deep snow on the ground. She walks out into the sage, stares up at the mountains, and ditches Tahoe to spend the whole ten days at the Williamson, staying to explore.

Within four months, she’d moved to Independence. She arrived right before the “soft-opening” of the Lone Pine Film Museum. She was contacted (once her experience with event production became known) when there were nine days left to outfit a 10,000-square foot space. She did so with key help from Kerry Powell, Dorothy Bonnette, Elsie Ivey and a host of other volunteers. “We sort of put everything up with wood and rope.” It worked.

She then recalls being asked to ride in the Film Festival parade. Claiborne had to be talked into it. She hadn’t ridden in the Film Festival parade. Claiborne enlisted Claiborne to pull forward to lead. Crisis averted.

Later, Claiborne worked for a season for Roesser at the McGee Creek Pack Station. But during her 15 years here, KIBS has been Claiborne’s thread. “I love my Americana,” she says. For many years, she hosted a country music program in the afternoon. There were other jobs, of course. Notably, she did a stint working dispatch for the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department, where she gained a great appreciation of former Sheriff Bill Lutze. “Bill wasn’t about power,” she says. “He was about serve and protect.”

**Illness**

When I arrived for our first visit in Independence, Claiborne was outside sitting her back door, overlooking her small backyard and the mountains beyond to the west. She was rolling a cigarette.

“As long as I can roll a cigarette, I’m okay,” she said. “If I can’t roll a cigarette, take me to the E.R.”

The irony, of course, is that smoking isn’t what’s going to kill her. Drinking either. “The lungs are great. My liver’s great. I’m strong as an ox.”

But… she noticed last spring that she was having trouble with her left hand, working the controls on the KIBS motherboard. “My hand wasn’t behaving. I couldn’t work the panels properly.” So one night, she calls a friend in the medical profession and describes her symptoms.

The friend replies, “You should be in the E.R.”

So that’s where she went. Quickly followed by a flight to Reno. And then the death sentence (brain cancer). “I’ve been given my papers,” she says.

**Lunch:** You’re remarkably sporting about it.

Claiborne: Why rail against it? Rather, I’ve decided to lean into it. I can still engage. I have knowledge of my own death and yet I’m 100% present. So much laughter and so many tears (in this backyard over the past six months). … I wish there was more of a conversation around death, as well as appreciation, gratitude. Live as if you’re gonna get hit by a bus tomorrow, which I have been.

Claiborne then shifts the focus to others - which is her tendency. She says “being part of a team” has always been a thread through her life.

**And Team Independence has responded in kind. “I’ve been so supported by this community, by the Civic Club. By people dropping off meals and fresh vegetables. By the Oak Creek Dispensary at Fort Independence comapping CBD oil. By friends stopping by …”**

**Behind her, stuck to a fading tapestry, there is a small sign - it looks like a sticker. On one side it says “history.” On the other side, it says “risk.” Claiborne took this from her hospital bed, while she was in Reno in the maw of what she described as the Pharma/insurance/hospital conveyor belt.**

“They wanted to keep me in an ornithological way,” she jokes, a play on oncology. “They wanted to keep me in an ornithological way, her jokes, a play on oncology. She said no thanks to the rest of the pharmacy, insurance, hospital.”

Claiborne then hosted a country music program in the afternoon. And Team Independence has responded in kind. “I’ve been so supported by this community, by the Civic Club. By people dropping off meals and fresh vegetables. By the Oak Creek Dispensary at Fort Independence.”

**Lunch:** At the outset, when you got home, did you find yourself obsessing about your own physical decline?

Claiborne: Sure, but I got over that pretty quickly. I’m more accepting. Although right now, I’d trade a little dementia for a little mobility (laughs). One positive - I’ve really come to appreciate the fine points of the stars and the low-light pollution [in Independence].

**Biography**

Claiborne’s family has deep southern roots. So how’d the English accent come about?

As a young girl, her father, an engineer for Cummins, was transferred to Brussels. “That’s where Claiborne picked up her French.”

They wanted to keep me in an ornithological way.

Claiborne: Mitchell

She then attended boarding school in England for high school. She never made it to college.

Post-high school, she decided to spend a year off, and moved to San Francisco, living in the Cable Car Hotel at California and Polk. She worked for Instant Press, doing letterpress print and business cards.

Next stop was Barcelona, where she waitedressed and modeled ... and met two friends who started a concert promotion company. This was in the relatively new post-Franco (Spanish dictator from 1936-1975) era, and touring acts became interested in doing a Spanish leg.

And Claiborne was the only partner fluent in English.

So Claiborne shepherded the likes of B.B. King and Joe Cocker and Ray Charles and Ginger Baker around Spain. Although Ginger Baker, says Claiborne, was a pain-in-the-ass.

Next stop was the Galapagos, where she was recruited to be the social director of a 90-passerenger cruise ship (“The Buccaneer”) which offered naturalist tours.

I stopped her there. What prompted these seemingly random moves all over the world?

“Love affairs,” she replied with a glint in her eye.

She was ultimately promoted to Purses when the previous Purser fell overboard in a drunken reverie (Pursers, said Claiborne, are notorious drunks). When she left that job to return to England to work as an event producer and artist liaison, the Ecuadoran crew was sad to see her go.

And Team Independence has responded in kind. “I’ve been so supported by this community, by the Civic Club. By people dropping off meals and fresh vegetables. By the Oak Creek Dispensary at Fort Independence.”

**Vast General Knowledge. That was important and entitled. Consequently, they’re not open to a difference of opinion.”**

Sounds like the average American would be well-served, once the pandemic lifts, seeing more of the world than the Disney version at Epcot. The average American needs a little less safety and a little more Claiborne-inspired VGK.
BBQ FOR TWO
Big Pine adds a second BBQ joint

By Lunch

The chihuahua approves.

“By Lunch,” he says, “I'm the new jefe (at least he thinks he's the new jefe) at Hugo's BBQ in Big Pine.”

As owner Roger Sandoval says, “He used to be skinnier, until we opened a few months ago. Now he's a bit of a sausage.”

Hugo's BBQ is located where the Copper Top BBQ used to be - the Copper Top has moved north along Highway 395 past the Mobil station to its new spot. So is there business enough for two BBQ joints? Sandoval says yes. Primarily because Hugo's is BBQ plus. “We’re the only Mexican food place in Big Pine,” he says, “That’s 75% of our sales, although we do quite a bit of BBQ.”

Big Pine, “he says, “That’s 75% of our sales, although we do quite a bit of BBQ.”

Roger Sandoval remains a big fan of the late President Reagan and says he only votes for Republicans. “The Sheet couldn’t resist asking Roger about President Trump and his immigration policy and the wall. “We need the immigration,” says Roger. “But status should go to those deserving. "While he admits President Trump wasn’t very likable, Roger says, “He was looking out for the interests of our country, and his country is my country.”

He then told the story of Hugo being born at Northern Inyo Hospital and being handed a bunch of forms so that he could apply for government assistance and not have to pay the bill. Roger declined the assistance and paid cash. "I never wanted to work for a paycheck. I wanted to work so I could learn something and then go do it myself later."

3. His wife Margarita. “My wife and I think alike and we work together. We’re good partners.”

4. “The only man who doesn’t find work is the one who doesn’t want it.”

“Every day. We put forty pounds of beef down there,” he explained, “and we slow-cook it overnight. 12-16 hours … we've been there, “ he explained, “and we slow-cook in the front yard. It's a pit he excavated next to the smoker in which he slow-cooks in an underground pit but a deal to sell the property to the Copper Top fell through. He did extend their lease seven months while the Copper Top was building its new restaurant. But the Copper Top, he said, was unhappy when Roger said he planned to do BBQ as well. "They threatened to sue,” he said. But Roger added that it’s a free country. What grounds, exactly, did they have to sue him on?

Hugo’s ticket to the Eastern Sierra. In 1983, he opened his own lawn service business. Just went door-to-door with his card. No job too small. “By the end of the summer I had eighty accounts,” he said. Which forced him to get a bank account. He literally taught himself to write checks - he had a cheat sheet he’d use to help him remember what numbers went where.

Later, he went to work for a man named Jim Nicholas who owned a string of gas stations up and down the Sierra. “He was a very good man who taught me how to build a gas station,” says Roger. In fact, Nicholas sold Roger his first gas station in Trona back in 1995, a station Roger owns to this day. He and his wife obtained their green cards during the Reagan presidency and became citizens in the year 2000. As a self-made man, I asked Roger about the keys to his success:

1. Hard work. Nothing comes easy. Some people have an idea that they'll go into business and have a bunch of employees, but you've got to be in the game seven days a week, manage your business and never give up.

2. “I never wanted to work for a paycheck. I wanted to work so I could learn something and then go do it myself later.”

3. His wife Margarita. “My wife and I think alike and we work together. We’re good partners.”

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I know what you’re thinking. Who is Barbara Amiel, and why the heck did you read this book?

The short answer: Barbara Amiel was married to the newspaper publishing baron Conrad Black.

Black’s company, Hollinger International, owned newspapers on three continents.

But he was ultimately undone and sent to prison for nearly four years over a series of relatively small, fraudulent transactions.

One of these transactions involved a Hollinger subsidiary - The Mammoth Times.

A fairly comprehensive news story which appears at www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca entitled “Conrad Black Undone by Small Transactions” features an interview with former Mammoth Times Publisher Wally Hofmann.

“I feel vindicated by the jury’s decision,” says Hofmann, who as publisher ultimately reported to Hollinger International, which owned the Mammoth Times through a subsidiary between 1999 and 2001. Hofmann gave evidence to the Hollinger special committee about the paper’s financial health that contradicted statements from Hollinger executives. That report triggered the criminal investigation into Black and his co-defendants. Hofmann ultimately lost his job over his comments to the committee. “Bottom line, the results of this action are not just a man having some legal problems, and stockholders having financial problems,” he says. “There are little fish in a little pond called Mammoth Lakes whose lives got turned upside down for doing nothing other than telling the truth.”

With that as a backdrop, I read Amiel’s book thinking I might gain more insight into what happened.

The Mammoth Times was not even mentioned.

Further, Amiel is unpertinent. She believes her husband did nothing wrong and was scapegoated and tossed in with anyone else.

But Amiel essentially argues that her husband was not a crook - just a really good (and well-compensated) businessman who created value for shareholders. She says he created a $2 billion company over 37 years. Once the regulators got involved and Black was removed, the lawyers bankrupted the company.

In hindsight, you’ve got to hand it to Black for his prescience in wishing to unload all of his community newspapers at top dollar.

Amiel’s book does feature one of the more amusing appendixes you’ll ever find, where she offers complete lists of all her friends and enemies in the U.S., Canada and Britain.

Conrad Black was granted a full pardon by President Donald Trump in 2018.

DON’T MESS WITH BARBARA

By Lunch

Friends and Enemies

Barbara Amiel

Pegasus Books

563 p.

A Life in Vogue, Prison & Park Avenue

Barbara Amiel

About earnestness: “Earnest people are the death knell of any amusing social event or personal relationship.”

About Americans: “A waiting room full of people in analysis ever banging on about their feelings.”

About her first husband: “He seemed mysterious, and I interpreted his quiet as a sign that still waters run deep. I was wrong. He was simply a quiet man with not much to say.”

About Americans: “I had become the village idiot for all producers looking for a token someone to balance out the 90% of their program that was dressed-up received wisdom … Canadian television couldn’t find another female journalist with long hair and a bust to talk in favor of God, against affirmative action and strongly against a state policy of multiculturalism.”

Okay, so about her husband’s legal issues, which consume the second half of the book and are not nearly as interesting as the parts where Amiel defends Bill Cosby or talks about socializing with Ghislaine Maxwell.

Amiel does play a role in her husband’s downfall to the extent that at the exact moment when her husband’s company is instituting cost-cutting measures, she agrees to do a six-page spread in Vogue where she displays her opulent lifestyle and exclaims, “I have an extravagance that knows no bounds.”

She’s not without self-awareness. She knows it was a stupid thing to do (appear in Vogue). She knows it was a stupid thing to say.

The Vogue spread did not go unnoticed by shareholders and investigators.

Ellen M MacDonald

• Traditional Barber •

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Wed. - Sat.11-6

Located inside

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(760) 965-6420

3325 Main Street

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Mammoth Spas Creation is looking for an additional member for its team. We currently have a position available for a maintenance technician. We are also hiring an office assistant. These are full-time positions. Monday to Friday. To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to clemper@disabledsportseserra.org or fax it to 760-944-2475.

Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for a night audit position. We are looking for full- and part-time candidates to fill this position. Applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. Please apply in person at 6800 Minaret Rd, Mammoth.

Housekeepers Wanted in Mammoth Lakes! Flexible hours, $18/hour (Seasonal pay up to $25/hour for Open Space) + Drive time paid & mileage reimbursement, free health benefits depending on hours worked, sick time and PTO! To apply please go to www.vacasa.com/careers!

Temp Snow Removal Operator $24.54 - $28.41/hr CDL required, looking for someone to start immediately! Full-time hours available.

Crossing Guard $18.62 - $21.55/hr Looking for someone to start immediately! Full-time hours available.

For more information and to apply to townofmammothlakes.ca.gov (760) 965-3563

Mammoth CHEVRON Seeking experienced cashiers/customer service associate. 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 CHEVRON Seeks a new direct hire for the Road! This is an opportunity to contribute to the future of alternative fuel transportation. Our service area encompasses Mono, Mono, and Alpine counties.

Second Chance Thrift Shop is looking for a bright, cheerful, upbeat housekeeper and/or Assistant Front Desk to line retail potential with growth. Must be able to safely lift 50 lbs., have exceptional customer service skills, and desire to learn. Wage DOE. Email resume and cover letter to clemper@disabledsportseserra.org or fax it to 760-944-2475.

Mammoth Lakes Metal Devices Inc. seeks an experienced graphic design and marketing firm for a fundraising strategy to celebrate our 200th anniversary this year. 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 our name, logo, and brand strategy to reflect our shared mission and values. Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. (MLH) seeks a new director for the Board. This is an opportunity to contribute to the future of affordable housing. Our service area encompasses Mono, Mono, and Alpine counties. MLH seeks an experienced graphic design and marketing firm for a fundraising strategy to celebrate our 200th 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 our name, logo, and brand strategy to reflect our shared mission and values.

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TOWN STUFF

February 26-28/ "A Thousand Words" virtual play reading cycle hosted by Sierra Classic Theatre, with plays written by Allison McDonnell Page and Jesse Steele; all shows are free to watch on Zoom. Time: 7 p.m. each night. More info: www.sierraclassictheatre.org or see ad pg. 2

Monday, March 1/
Mammoth Lakes Lodging Round Table meets 10-11 a.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88670501007.
Mammoth Lakes Restaurants Round Table meets 10-11:45 a.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88670501007.
Mammoth Lakes Housing Board meets at 6 p.m. Viewing available through Granicus.
MHS Boosters meet via Zoom. Time: 5:30 p.m. Meeting ID # 82211423707. Passcode: 527668. On the agenda: Presentation of LADWP’s Draft Urban Water Management Plan

Tuesday, March 2/
Inyo County Supervisors meet at 9 a.m. Attend via https://zoom.us/j/868254781 or access via county website.
Mono County Supervisors meet. Attend via https://zoom.us/j/96798397357 or access via county website.
Mammoth Recreation Commission meets at 1:30 p.m. Viewing available through Granicus.
Mammoth Lakes Recreation meets at 5 p.m. Viewing available through Granicus.

Wednesday, March 3/
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets at 5-11 a.m. for a special meeting, followed by a regularly scheduled meeting at 4 p.m. Viewing available through Granicus.
Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center Free Education Series “Mid-Winter Avalanche Concerns and the Season up to Now” conducted via Zoom. Time: 6 p.m. Visit https://www.esavalanche.org/prior to the event for the link. Eastern Sierra Land Trust Book Club meeting The group will be discussing Underland: A Deep Time Journey by Jasper Gibson (join ESIA (Eastern Sierra Interpretive Assn.) for a presentation from Jasper Gibson, a world class photographer who has photographed numerous expeditions around the world. Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m., register online at sierraforever.org. Event is free with an option to donate.

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-12:45 pm.

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

TOWN STUFF

off of a copy. Time: 6-7 p.m. RSVP at gabrielle@esia.org.

Thursday, March 4/
Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce PPE Distribution at the Mammoth Lakes Visitor’s Center from 10 a.m. noon or as supplies last.
ESIA’s Winter Adventure Series: Jasper Gibson (join ESIA (Eastern Sierra Interpretive Assn.) for a presentation from Jasper Gibson, a world class photographer who has photographed numerous expeditions around the world. Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m., register online at sierraforever.org. Event is free with an option to donate.

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.inyocounty.ca.gov/generalinfo/jury_civilgrandjury.htm or contact the Grand Jury Assistant at 760.873.5157.

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Notice of Auditor’s Report on Summary Financial Statements

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statements of net position as of June 30, 2020, 2019, and the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and summary statements of cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of Southern Mono Healthcare District d/b/a Mammoth Hospital (the District) for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019. We expressed an unmodified opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated February 22, 2021. The audited financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the District. Management’s Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described above. We did not perform any audit procedures regarding the audited financial statements after the date of our report on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements of the District as of and for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019 referred to in above are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which they have been derived, on the basis described above.

Ede Baluah
Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 22, 2021

SOUTHERN MONO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT ON SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30

2020

2019

ASSETS

Current assets $1,121,027,625 $817,709,592 

Long-term investments 10,464,093 9,439,632

Capital assets, net 37,555,713 38,359,399

Other assets 3,320,000 3,320,000

Total assets $1,162,557,691 $1,306,498,084

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INCOMES OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION

Current liabilities $28,650,797 $9,039,204

Deferred in comes of resources 103,933 112,210

Net position 109,769,341 111,187,675

Total liabilities, deferred in comes of resources, and net position $126,492,903 $1,428,665,329

SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

Years ended June 30

2020

2019

Operating revenues $80,860,574 $81,706,028

Operating expenses 77,431,812 72,301,189

Net operating income 3,428,762 9,404,839

Nonoperating revenues, net 3,914,671 4,120,907

Revenues in excess of expenses before capital contributions and transfers for debt principal payments $7,051,833 $15,345,243

Contributions for capital assets 279,833 338,250

Transfer for debt principal payments 725,294 1,008,200

Net position, beginning of year 101,187,675 88,310,082

Net position, end of year $109,769,341 $126,492,903

SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years ended June 30

2020

2019

Net cash from operating activities $11,555,024 $14,741,522

Net cash from nonoperating activities 25,650,283 3,360,183

Net cash used for capital and related financing activities (6,067,258) (3,066,129)

Net cash from investing activities 9,041,176 1,361,500

Net change in cash and cash equivalents 36,561,025 16,387,582

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year 70,508,745 84,307,164

Cash and cash equivalents, end of year $107,076,771 $90,794,746

Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents to the summary statement of net position

Cash and cash equivalents in current assets $94,495,718 $60,956,814

Cash and cash equivalents in noncurrent assets 10,664,053 3,631,932

Total cash and cash equivalents $107,076,771 $90,794,746

Reconciliation of operating income to net cash from operating activities

Operating income 3,428,762 9,404,839

Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash from operating activities 3,337,562 7,040,935

Net cash from operating activities $11,555,024 $14,741,522

TS #2021-0007

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDING OF MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT CODE CONCERNING WATER SHORTAGE CONDITIONS, WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES, AND ENFORCEMENT

The Board of Directors of the Mammoth Community Water District (“District”) adopted Ordinance No. 02-18-21-05 amending the District’s Code during its meeting on February 18, 2021. The ordinance amends ordinances to the District’s existing water conservation regulations to add a Water Shortage Level 0 and a shortage level to cover a 40 percent water shortage condition. The ordinance amends the District’s water supply shortage levels as follows:

Level 0 Permanent Water Conservation Requirements;

Level 4 Shortage: (1) mandatory reduction in demand for each consumer of 40% below that consumer’s demand in the same month in calendar year 2013; irrigation for residential and commercial landscapes, except golf courses, public parks and school playing fields, which is limited to 2 feet per week or 40 percent of the water usage level.

Golf Courses, Public Parks and School Playing Fields are subject to the mandatory water reductions from the same month in calendar year 2013 of 10% for Level 1, 20% for Level 2, 30% for Level 3, 40% for Level 4, and 50% for Level 5 according to submitted plans.

The ordinance was adopted with Directors Cage, Cregg, Dommale, Smith, and Thompson voting in favor.

A copy of the entire ordinance is available for review at the District office located at 1315 Meridian Boulevard, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546. A copy may be found on the District’s website: https://www.mcdw.ca.us or by contacting Stephanie Hake at 760-934-2956 ext. 321.

TS #2021-0028

Notice of Town Council Meeting

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES

The following persons will convene the Town Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of the Town Hall, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546. The meeting will be adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting date.

The agenda includes the following items:

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Discussion of General Topics and Miscellaneous Items

3. Consideration of Ordinance No. 02-18-21-05 Amending the District’s Code Concerning Water Shortage Conditions, Water Conservation Measures, and Enforcement

4. Consideration of Minutes from the February 18, 2021 Regular Meeting

5. Consideration of Minutes from the February 1, 2021 Special Meeting

6. Consideration of Minutes from the January 21, 2021 Special Meeting

7. Consideration of Minutes from the January 21, 2021 Regular Meeting

8. Consideration of Minutes from the January 4, 2021 Special Meeting

9. Consideration of Minutes from the January 4, 2021 Regular Meeting

10. Consideration of Minutes from the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

11. Approval of Payment of Bills

12. Approval of Minutes

13. Consideration of Reports

14. Any other business

The meeting will be adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting date.

TS #2021-0023

Notice of Ordinance

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL, will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 02-18-21-05, amending the District’s Code concerning water shortage conditions, water conservation measures, and enforcement.

The ordinance was adopted with Directors Cage, Cregg, Dommale, Smith, and Thompson voting in favor.

For additional information, please contact Stuart Brown, Parks and Recreation Director, by telephone at (760) 934-3008 or by email at stuartbrown@mammothlakes.ca.gov. The proposed ordinance will be available for review at the Town Offices, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546.

A copy of the complete text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, and/or a copy may be obtained from the office of the Town Clerk at a nominal charge.

JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As: Mammoth Hutte

SLEC of Georgia LLC
1842 Mentone Blvd. #244
Mentone, Ca. 92359

TS #2021-0022

I saw you ... committed to that idea.
I saw you ... boarded a plane for Cancun during the Texas power outage debacle. You are a disgrace to the name Ted.
I haven’t seen this much line-cutting since the ‘80s!
I saw you ... scheduled an outdoor hockey game in Tahoe last week. Might’ve wished to consult the Mammoth Rec Dept. before you committed to that idea.

PERSONALS

I saw you ... managed to scan your way into getting a vaccination. Would it be unkind to root for you to be one of the 6% it doesn’t help?
I saw you ... were able to get a vaccination.
I haven’t seen this much line-cutting since the ‘80s!
I saw you ... boarded a plane for Cancun during the Texas power outage debacle. 

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HORROSCOPES

By Clouds McCloud

Pisces: A full Moon in Virgo is a big aspect of your latest birthday. You see, this Virgo Moon will usher in a time of changing patterns and thoughts. It is, in many ways, a rebirth of the spirit of many people. Old or stagnant parts of our inner lives will give way to new and different ones. While change can be scary, it’s almost always good, particularly when it comes to changing attitudes and underwear, and especially to your lucky colors of yellow and orange.

Aries: In honor of the passing of fellow Aries, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, your words of wisdom will come from the legendary poet. 1) “Oh the world is a beautiful place to be born into if you don’t much mind a few dead minds in the higher places.” 0) “There is no such thing as an accident.” 1) “Fortune has its cookies to give out, which is a good thing.”

Gemini: As February says sayonara, its cookies to give out, which is a good thing as an accident. “1) Fortune has its cookies to give out, which is a good thing.” 0) “There is no such thing as an accident.” 1) “Fortune has its cookies to give out, which is a good thing.”

Taurus: As we hit the homestretch of winter you’re likely to start itching to hit the road or the trail or pretty much anything but your hallway carpet.

That’s why your new words of wisdom will come from one of Clouds’ all-time favorite Geminis, Ralph Waldo Emerson: “Go where he will, the wise man is at home ... Where his clear spirit leads him, there’s his road.”

Cancer: Never feel bad about cutting someone out of your life if that person handed you the scissors, or a hedge trimmer, or a chainsaw. Sure all those tools are cool, especially the chainsaw, but that doesn’t mean you should hold on to them forever. It’s okay to say farewell to things that no longer serve a purpose, are worn out or can be replaced by a newer version on sale at your favorite local store.

Leo: One of the best traits a person can have is: Not needing to be liked by everyone. While this may seem difficult to a sign like Leos, who wear their egos on their sleeves, it is easier than you think. Sure, we all need love, acceptance and appreciation from others, but not as much as we need it from ourselves. So anyone who can’t provide one of those three to you doesn’t matter. What does, is getting daily doses of love, acceptance and appreciation, especially the loving part.

Virgo: Virgos tend to be perfectionists. The only problem with this is that perfection is not only rare, but it’s fleeting. That’s why it’s always important to remember that life is about the journey, not the destination—unless, you’re going to Borah Borah or a brothel, in which case it is about the destination. To help you enjoy the ride, never let perfection stop you from enjoying pretty darn good.

Libra: There’s an old health maxim that says we should each drink a gallon of water every day. This not only keeps us hydrated, it also keeps us so busy peeing we don’t have time to get bogged down with other people’s bull dung.

Therefore, your new astrological assignment is twofold: Stay hydrated—pickle juice works wonders; And don’t let other people’s drama drag you into the bullpen or the bully pulpit.

Scorpio: Studies have shown that it takes at least three years to truly know someone. That’s why couples who wait this long to marry are less likely to divorce. Of course, it only takes a minute to piss off your partner and we tend to get things like the “seven year itch.” We are all human, after all. The real key to any successful relationship is somehow managing to accept the other person as well as yourself, even when you’re both fully dressed.

Sagittarius: A mom in the Golden State made news recently after her kids were kicked out of a Catholic school when it was discovered she had a sexually-oriented OnlyFans page. Of course, Clouds did investigate this thoroughly and followed that up with a long nap. The lesson here is: naps are extremely regenerative and if you want to do something risqué, mask it up.

Capricorn: Studies have shown that smiling relieves stress because smiles release endorphins - even if the smile is forced. The lesson here is that maybe you should try to force yourself to smile more often. You’re bound to be rewarded with more, unforested smiles and maybe even some hugs or spooning. A Swiss study did show that the stronger the smile the more attractive you become. So there’s nothing left to do but smile, smile, smile.

Aquarius: The reason they call it the “past” is because whatever happened has passed. Sure, the past impacts the present, but it doesn’t have to impact the future. That’s why it’s always best to deal with what you must and ignore what you can. Just don’t ignore your partner or yourself for very long as it leads directly to grumpiness. Guin-ness can help with grumpiness, so can exercise, fresh air and wild lovemaking sessions.

PERSONALS

I saw you ... jumped the line for your vaccination. Congratulations. But now comes the spay/neuter part.

I saw you ... rolled your SUV this week. For a guy who calls for his driver a lot, my advice is go hire one for the rest of your life.

Elevating COMMUNITY

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