A small group gathered outside of the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday to protest an open house hosted by Mojave Precious Metals on the Conglomerate Mesa exploration project. Opponents of the project argue that it disturbs a culturally significant area for local tribes.

**CONGLOMERATING IN PROTEST**

Locals gather to protest Mojave Precious Metals open house in Lone Pine

By Page

In a small courtyard beside the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, a small chihuahua makes a nervous initial pass on those walking in, warily keeping an eye on and backing away from those walking through the archway into the courtyard.

Inside, representatives from the Mojave mineral company mingle with one another and a few members of the interested public around a table loaded with maps and free stickers and a large easel-mounted map of Inyo County south of Lone Pine and the mountains bordering Nevada.

A yellow lab meanders around the edges, looking for food and attention, and Mojave staff are quick to offer a free burrito, chips and salsa, and water to anyone who spend more than thirty seconds at the table or easel.

With the late morning sun beating down, the scene is reminiscent of any public open house. But the issue at hand, and the one outlined on the maps, is far from tranquil, evidenced by the two deputies from the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department standing on the sidewalk outside the courtyard.

The small group gathered at the street corner less than sixty feet from the courtyard entrance, holding signs and starting conversation with passers-by, represented those who oppose Mojave Precious Metals (MPM) actions in the area and advocate for conservation.

Their signs read: “Protect Conglomerate Mesa” , “Worth More Than Gold” , and express support for the efforts by local tribes to halt disturbances on land held sacred.

A large number of the vehicles passing by on 395 gave C10-0000617-LIC

The numbers are simply cartoonish. Through the first quarter of 2021, the median sales price of a single family home in Mammoth Lakes ($1.6 million based upon 29 sales) is up 81% over last year ($885,000 based upon 126 sales).

These numbers are courtesy of local broker/realtor Matthew Lehman.

Of twelve homes currently listed for sale, just two listings are for under $1 million. The median listing price of the 12 homes is $2.1 million.

Many properties, said Lehman, are being purchased sight unseen.

“Inflation is alive and well and it is here,” he quipped, adding “This is the pandemic escape to the country and eat a lot of peaches.”

*Nice reference to the 1995 one-hit wonder “Peaches” by the Presidents of the United States.

The condo side of the equation seems almost pedestrian, a mere 10.5% gain in the median sales price (now $525,000 in 2021 over last year ($475,000), based on 114 sales to date.

More buyers appear to be paying cash and many have exceptionally strong savings according to Lehman.

“Volume does not appear to be higher than last year, just demand.”

Why are prices increasing so markedly? Lehman offered a few guesses.

- Lots of buyers with cash and greater savings than seen in years.
- A spike in the cost of building materials. Robbie Presson told The Sheet Thursday that quotes on steel, for example, are only good for 24-hours before they reset.
- Increased government regulation on construction has driven up building costs, thus limiting the supply of housing as it’s harder for builders to turn a profit.
- Possible fears of inflation and real estate being a good place to park money.
KEYSTONE LIGHT

What follows is not just a story of police bungling - which is akin to regular bungling. We all bungle things. I do so on a weekly basis. You have a laugh. You move on. Next.

The problem here, as you’ll see, is that there’s one point in this tale where things take a darker turn.

And there’s a person who should be held accountable for it - Mammoth Lakes Police Chief Al Davis.

But between Mammoth’s wussy Town Manager and the wussy Town Council, I imagine Al will skate.

Personally, I’d fire his ass.

The story starts a few weeks back on a snowy night. Stephanie Thompson, 25, daughter of Julie and Gary Thompson, a third generation Mammoth local, pulls up to Vons. As she’s getting out of her car, she surmises later, she must have dropped her keys.

When she returns post-shopping, the car isn’t there. Stolen. She calls the cops. An MLPD officer takes a stolen vehicle report.

The next morning, Thompson receives a call. Great news! We have located your 2003 Ford Explorer. It is parked in front of the Mammoth Unified School District Offices.

Only one problem. Thompson does not have an extra set of keys - the thief’s got the only set. She’s going to have to call a locksmith.

The police convince her the car will be fine right where it is. It’s broad daylight. There are security cameras.

The police choose not to place a boot on it. They don’t place a warning note on the car. No prints yet. Zilch.

* ... Even though there have been a rash of car thefts in Mammoth during the first few months of 2021. Stephanie’s Explorer would represent the fourth such theft. A fifth theft occurred just this past Sunday.

By the time the locksmith calls, the car’s long gone. Three young men are later spotted on the security camera taking the vehicle (see photo at right).

Before the locksmith call, but after the car was stolen (again), this is what happened. The police call Ms. Thompson. Tell her they’ve got to meet with her so she can fill out paperwork for the second auto theft.

She’s visiting a friend on Lupin Street. Tells ‘em to come on over.

The first squad car shows up. Stephanie goes out to the street to meet him. He produces a form for her to sign, but it’s the wrong form, so he radioes his supervisor.

The supervisor pulls up a few minutes later.

According to Stephanie, and verified by at least one eyewitness as well as bodycam footage viewed by Town Manager Dan Holler, this is what happens next.

The initial squad car is facing one direction. The first officer on the scene and Stephanie are facing toward the hood of the car.

The second car pulls up behind them, at Stephanie’s back, perhaps 20-25’ away.

The supervisor exits the vehicle without shifting it into park.

The vehicle rolls forward, and winds up pinning Stephanie’s thighs between both bumpers.

After impact, she’s able to pivot away, spin and fall. But she’s hurt. They call an ambulance and she’s taken to Mammoth Hospital.

“I initially thought my leg was broken,” said Thompson. “But it was just crushed.” Two weeks after the incident, she still sports a ring of deep bruises around her thighs. Her mother Julie says if she were taller, the accident would have crushed her kneecaps.

At the hospital, they run her through tests and x-rays. The police tell her they’ll pay the medical bills. Thompson has received no communication from Mammoth Hospital since to indicate differently.

“Can’t anybody here play this game?” - Casey Stengel

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But (if you can believe that the foregoing isn’t weird enough) this is where it gets weird.

Car thieves caught on security camera approaching Stephanie Thompson’s white Ford Explorer (second car in) to steal it for the second time in as many days.
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Close Encounter: Skandar Reid

Dear Editor:

A long time ago, in a galaxy far away (10 years? 1000 years?), I was halfway up a talus field in the Mono Craters. A research scientist, I study American pikas, and the Craters support a fascinating outlier population of this usually montane (and undeniably adorable) small mammal. I relish being consistently alone in these environments, but on that cold, overcast, autumn day a fellow traveler appeared out of nowhere and walked directly up the unstable slopes to me. “I am Skandar,” he said. “I am Connie,” I replied. We talked for a long time, sitting on that talus slope, of our mutual reasons for being there: to find raw material for sculptures, me for pikas. “Can I read your energy”? He did, I listened, and I paid heed. His sense of Being-on-this-Planet deeply touched me. Skandar is with us, holding an altered state of consciousness again, I did admire his sculptures (at Tioga Pass Resort?), and although I never met this Visionary on-this-Planet deeply touched me, and I paid heed. His sense of Being-on-this-Planet deeply touched me, and I felt the same diminishment on hearing this news as I did decades ago when I learned of Ed Abbey’s passing. Blessed are these visionaries among us.

Connie Millar
Mono City

Who doesn’t like a threesome?

Jack,

It seems one is never too old to acquire groupies. I confess I initially blushed at Hank’s proffer that compulsory face coverings are no different than laws about covering one’s private parts. That is one of the most tempting propositions I’ve ever heard, and it took me some time to regain my composure from mental images of Hank clad only in skivvies and NS5.

After I stood under cold shower long enough, it got me thinking. I may have made a mistake as to which particular portion of the Bill of Rights would prohibit a seemingly eternal government mandate from unelected bureaucrats, never ratified by a legislature, to cover our faces forever without end in sight. Then I hit on it. If it’s not in the Constitution, it’s in the Haditha! Hank is correct that under Sharia law, government can force us – some of us anyway – to cover our faces in public. One is never too old to learn a lesson – or give one – and I thank Hank both for the thrill and the clarification. I do not want to seem too forward but perhaps he and I can chat about it over drinks some time.

You’re invited too Jack, because you would add much to the assignation, and who doesn’t like a threesome?

John Rogitz
Redington Shores, Fla.

Clean-up with Chris

It’s “that time of year again” only it’s happening in May instead of the usual Saturday after Super Bowl Sunday. What’s “that”? The annual Owens River Clean Up.

It was 2013 when I had the idea of hosting a river clean up in Bishop. I was aware of the East Walker River Clean Up that Andrew Sears and Ken’s Sporting Goods runs, and the Rush Creek Clean Up administered by Joe Lemire and Silver Lake Resort. I figured it was time for me to pay it forward. But, the true motivation for organizing the event was the selfish duck hunter in me. I was fly fishing on the “Lower O,” and I came across a pile of spent shotgun shells. My immediate thought: “Who’s the dumb hunter advertising honey holes?” I wanted to keep the duck hunting under the radar – yes, I realize the irony of talking about it in this forum – so I picked up the shells, and calculated that I shouldn’t be the only one removing them from the river. I combed my brain for whom to call for help. Joe Pesci, the longtime figurehead of the local California Waterfowl Association. I shot Joe a message, telling him I wanted to organize a clean up for the beginning of February, 2014, strategically calendared immediately following the end of waterfowl season. Let’s hide those shells from Southern California duck hunters up fly fishing for the weekend.

I don’t remember all the details of organizing that first clean up, but I’m sure I got on the horn and asked for advice on how to host it. No doubt I called Joe Lemire and asked him what he does for the Rush Creek Clean Up. Joe and Nancy Lemire are residents of Rowland Heights and longtime summer guests of the Silver Lake Resort. Joe has never lived in the Eastern Sierra but was an active board member of the Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers, and his slice of heaven is the Silver Lake Resort. He started his annual event a few years before I began mine. I commend an out-of-town guest on being the spearhead of a yearly clean up in the Eastern Sierra. I called Trout Unlimited. They offered to pick up the bill for breakfast. I asked California Waterfowl Association and Caltrout to help with lunch. Silver Lake Resort’s Andrew Jones kicked in some trash bags. Preferred Septic comp’d a dumpster for the weekend. Inyo County waived dump fees. I circulated word of the event, collected some swag for a raffle – every volunteer who shows up gets a raffle ticket for their help (a Joe Lemire idea), and I got a few dozen people to show up on February 15.

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PUT ME IN COACH

I’m ready to play

I’m ready to play

I’m ready to play

I’m ready to play

I’m ready to play
2014. It was pretty friggin’ cool and we collectively picked up a lot of trash.

I came to the conclusion on that day that this wasn’t a one-and-done, but the start of an annual event. More than half of the people who attended were out-of-town guests who spent their own time and money on gas, food, and lodging to come up to the Eastern Sierra and help us out.

The following year, the event was held the day after the Swall Meadows fire. I remember driving down the grade that morning in lousy weather. There was an eerie feeling to the air. I didn’t know if anyone would even show up. A major fire the day before devastated a community. Cold rain and snow that morning, the weather sucked. While not the turnout of 2014, there were three to four dozen people in the PVR campground sipping on hot coffee and munching on muffins. They were there to take ownership and pride of cleaning up our public lands.

By 2019, we drew more than 100.

What’s collected? Everything under the sun. The usual stash of spent fishing line, empty beer bottles, worm containers, bald tires, broken swamp coolers, soiled sofas. Anything you can imagine.

It’s an unfortunate set of circumstances that we have to hold these events, but that’s the reality we live with. People can trash a forest.

The new reality, after having barely survived the summer of 2020, demands that even more of these events are now hosted. It seems like the more that I talk about this with people, the more people say that they are also having the same conversation within their circles. I also believe that it’s time to think outside of the box of whom we ask for help. We have a local community of good-hearted souls who are trying to keep on top of this. Sierra Trash Eliminators, the Lakes Basin Clean Up, and Town Clean Up Day always bring out locals willing to pick up other people’s trash. But what about the idea of volunteer tourism? What if we can attract more Southern Californians to help out?

While volunteer tourism will never bring in the dollars of skiing or fishing, it’s time to start pushing it. It’s time to start living it. Last summer, Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) preached the “Play Responsibly” mantra. That worked - until it didn’t. It brings awareness to the problem of trashing the forest, but it’s not really a solution to the new world we live in. It talks the talk, but does it walk the walk?

I appreciate the work of MLT, but do we really need to push another “Come fish Mammoth” email out to thousands of Southern Californians? They will come anyway.

I don’t host the Bishop event for personal gain. Sure, I have indirectly sold a few guide trips from it over the years, but I do it to clean up our forest, and I ask for outside help to do it. And more than half of the volunteers bring tourist dollars to do it.

Will “Play Responsibly” work this year? The time has come that our community leaders ask for outside help. It’s okay to push for volunteer tourism. I do, and I’m just a local high school history teacher, and part-time fly fishing guide. And, equally important, it’s not just the guests who want to help. I keep getting more and more residents offering me swag for the raffle. Which I don’t even need anymore. If you want to kick in some swag, hold onto it for the next similar event. People want to help, but sometimes, that requires asking them. On that note, I’m asking our town leaders to ask our guests to no longer just “Play Responsibly” but also take ownership of our public land.

The Owens River Clean Up is Saturday, May 1. You’ll find informational flyers pinned up around town with details of the event. See you there.
LOCAL BRIEFS

Catastrophic Wildfire

You may have noticed CalFire trucks and lots of work going on behind the museum on the west side of Independence lately. This work is associated with the firebreak project that the Independence Fire Safe Council notified Independence residents of via a mailer last month. According to Bill Michael of the fire safe council, “The Onion Valley firebreak project is a coordinated effort between the Independence Volunteer Fire Department, the Independence Fire Safe Council, the County of Inyo, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and CalFire to provide a buffer zone of protection in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.” Independence was listed as having a nationwide percentile risk of 75% for wildfire risk and 76% for fire risk to homes in the recent Headwater Economics publication titled Wildfire Risk to Communities.

The firebreak project will help to reduce these risks.

The project was coordinated with members of the California Native Plant Society to ensure that the Mary DeDecker Native Plant garden adjacent to the museum will not be significantly impacted. Work near the native plant garden will NOT be included in this phase of the project, but will rather be conducted at a later date after representatives for the garden can be present to coordinate with CalFire.

For more information contact the Independence Fire Safe Council at indyfsc@gmail.com

Fire Safe in Independence

LOCAL NEWS

April is...
Child Abuse Prevention Month

Abril es El Mes Nacional De La PrevenciOn Del Abuso Infantil

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by presidential proclamation in 1983. Since, then April has been a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families.

During the month of April and throughout the year communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities to promote prevention across the county.

Blue Pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention. Shining in the sun, the pinwheel is reflective of the bright future ALL children deserve! Keep an eye out for Blue Pinwheel Displays in Mono County.

The Mono County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) and other agencies have planned activities for the month of April to spread awareness about Child Abuse and Neglect in Mono County.

Activities:

- **April 2nd = WEAR BLUE:** Friday April 2, post a photo of you and your colleagues, friends or family wearing blue and what prevention means to you! For example, you can say “We wear blue to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month. #WearBlue4Kids and #WearBlue4KidsMono.

- **PASS THE PINWHEEL:** For #PassThePinwheel, post a photo or photos throughout April of you and your colleagues. Friends or family with pinwheels with a brief explanation of what they mean (the national symbol of child abuse prevention) and challenge others to plant pinwheels, too!

- **April 23rd = HONOR YOUNG LIVES LOST:** Share #FlagsHonoringYouthLivesLost on April 23 for Children’s Memorial Flag Day. This day will be held at the Mammoth Lakes Fire Station #1 to raise awareness for the children who lost their lives to abuse and neglect.

We encourage you to look for the Facebook Live Event on the Mono Strengthening Families Facebook Page.

To learn more about the Mono County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) & how you can become involved, please call (760) 934-0031 or visit our website at: monoquery.ca.gov/capr or visit facebook.com/MonoStrengtheningFamilies-715026581957919/.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect in Mono County:

1-800-340-5411

PREVENCIÓN DEL ABUSO INFANTIL

El mes de Abril fue declarado como el mes nacional de prevención del abuso infantil por una proclamación presidencial en el 1983. Desde entonces el mes de Abril ha sido un tiempo para reconocer la importancia de que las familias y comunidades trabajen juntos para prevenir el abuso infantil, y para promover el bienestar social y emocional de los niños y familias.

Durante el mes de Abril y todo el año, las comunidades están alentadas a compartir estrategias y actividades para prevenir el abuso y negligencia infantil a través del condado.

Los Molinillos Azules son el símbolo nacional para la prevención del abuso y la negligencia infantil. Brillando en el sol, el molinillo es un reflejo del futuro. Todos los niños merecen y nuestra creencia de que prevenir el abuso infantil temprano es menos costoso que reparar vidas rotas.

El consejo de la prevención del abuso infantil del condado de Mono y otras agencias tienen planiadas actividades para el mes de Abril. Estas actividades son para ayudar a difundir el conocimiento sobre el abuso infantil y negligencia en el condado de Mono.

Actividades:

- **2 de Abril- VISTETE DE AZUL:** para Promotedezalaparandas. El día viernes 2 de Abril. Publica una foto de ti y tus colegas, amigos y familiares usando ropa azul y describe qué significa la prevención para ti. Por ejemplo puedes decir nosotros usamos azul para aumentar el conocimiento sobre la prevención del abuso infantil durante el mes de Abril.

- **PASAR EL MOLINILLO:** Para #Pasarelmolinillo publica una foto o fotos durante el mes de Abril de ti y tus colegas, amistades y familiares con molinillos y una breve explicación de lo que significan, también reta a otros a plantar molinillos.

- **23 de Abril: HONOR A VIDAS PERDIDAS:** #VanderesenHonoraryVisitilas. El día viernes 23 de Abril para el día de la bandera comemorativa de los niños que será elevada en la estación de bomberos #1 de Mammoth Lakes para aumentar el conocimiento sobre los niños que han perdido sus vidas a causa del maltrato y negligencia infantil. Los invitamos a que busquen el evento en vivo que estará en nuestra página de Mono Strengthening Families Facebook.

Para aprender más sobre el consejo de prevención del abuso infantil en el condado de Mono y cómo te puedes involucrar, mas, por favor llama al 760-934-0031 o visita nuestra pagina web: monocounty.ca.gov/capr o visit facebook.com/MonoStrengtheningFamilies-715026581957919/

Little League, Big Fun

Bishop Little League Baseball anticipates playing games on May 1st under Covid 19 protocols. Registration is open at www.bishopparkandrecreation.com. Registration will run from March 22 through April 5th. The registration fee is $70 for one Player, $60 each for 2 Players, or $50 each for 3 or more players from the same family.

Bishop Little League will be having a full League from T-ball to Juniors. Players must be age 4 to play T-ball. League age is determined by your age on August 31.

Player Evaluations will be Saturdays April 10 and 17 at Field 3.

*7 to 10 years of age will be from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

*11 to 12 years of age will be from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Players 7+ must attend one of the evaluation days to be placed on a Machine Pitch, Minors, or Majors Team.

First Year Players with Bishop Little League Baseball regardless of age must bring a copy of their birth certificate to one of the Evaluation Saturdays for age verification to be eligible to play Bishop Little League Baseball.

Bishop Little League Baseball is in need of coaches at every level. If you can help, contact Coaches Coordinator Matt Kemp at (530) 902-9008 for more information.

No Wood for Now

The Inyo National Forest is delaying the personal use fuelwood season until June 1, 2021. The season will be extended, however, through the end of November, weather permitting, and permits will remain the same price.

Acting Forest Supervisor Taro Pusina said the “delay is due in part to staffing issues.” The Inyo National Forest will begin taking requests for fuelwood permits beginning May 1. Information on this process will be forthcoming in a subsequent announcement. Fuelwood permits will still be $15 per cord with a two-cord minimum purchase. Each permit request shall include your name, physical address, phone number, driver’s license number and number of cords requested. Permits will be returned to requesters by hard mail. Please expect that it will take 7-10 days to receive your permit. This process is subject to change as conditions change.

Maps showing areas open to cutting will be provided with each purchased fuelwood permit.
At Mono County’s Community Conversation held via Zoom on Thursday, Town of Mammoth Public Information Officer Stu Brown said Mono County is treading water when it comes to getting itself more open.

Last week’s Covid case rate in Mono was 15.3 per 100,000, up from 9.2 the week prior.

A case rate of below 4.9 is required for a further loosening of health restrictions.

Inyo County remains one of only three California counties in the purple (most restrictive) tier.

Everyone 16-and-older in Mono County is eligible for vaccination. And here’s a motivation for young people - fully vaccinated students would get to attend school four days per week versus the current hybrid schedule of two days per week.

Although vaccination efforts throughout the nation have proven generally successful to date (45 doses have been administered for every 100 Americans) and timelines are being shortened, there is still fear of a national surge as people let down their guards and the spring weather draws people out.

Data from the CDC shows infections are up 10% over the previous week, with hospitalizations and deaths also increasing after a decline and plateau in January and February. Natural immunity, coupled with the results of mass vaccination efforts, is expected to lessen the impact of that surge.

At Thursday’s Conversation, Mono County Public Health Director Bryan Wheeler and Public Health Officer Tom Boo (decked out in his No Mass Incarceration t-shirt) responded to a question about vaccinating kids in the 12-15 age range (The CDC has approved available vaccines for ages 16 and up).

Wheeler said that it’s a possibility given that Pfizer has requested an expansion of the age range already. “The data is really good, 100% effective” he said, “that could very well roll out in the near future.”

Boo referred to the emergency authorization process as a metric, stating that it took a few weeks to get the vaccines initially approved and “to expand to younger age groups might be simpler than that. It could happen really soon.”
quick honks in support of the group, who responded with cheers. Even the occasional semi-truck expressed audible solidarity.

Kit Cole, a consultant on the project, eventually asked the officers to move along; they had not been asked to be present by either party.

The ultimate decision on whether there will be further exploratory drilling at Conglomerate Mesa is vested with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

In the courtyard, MPM’s Katie VonSydow explained the current process out at the mesa: soil sample collection and drilling down to 660 meters for surveying.

The company, she said, is in the process of cutting in a road to make the area more accessible in the future. She added that, since the area is public land, members of the public are allowed to be there just about any time save for equipment operations (that’s a liability.)

“The area,” VonSydow explained to two men examining the maps, “has been pretty beat up by tectonic forces.”

“And mining,” a third onlooker adds, mostly to himself.

The third man is Jeremiah Joseph, a cultural resource monitor for the exploration project and member of the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe.

Joseph explained that both the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone and the Timbisha Shoshone have ancestral ties to Conglomerate Mesa stretching back for generations. It was used for hunting and ceremony, Joseph said, and the evidence of that history is evident to those who visit the site.

Joseph has been a monitor at the site for the past two years.

The trip out to the Mesa is 4 hours one-way: a two hour drive followed by a two-hour hike. MPM has a helicopter it uses to fly staff out to the site but due to insurance issues, tribal members weren’t allowed in the helicopter.

Joseph said that the tribes were then offered a 25% pay cut in exchange for being allowed to ride along in the helicopter.

“Every time we go up there,” Joseph said of the Mesa, “we find something to protect.” In addition to the cultural and archaeological resources present at the Mesa, the area’s fauna includes a large amount of Joshua trees and Pinion pines.

On the corner, Bryan Hatchell, the Friends of the Inyo’s Desert Policy Associate, was with the group of protesters, distributing signs and speaking with passersby.

“We’re not forgetting about the lands that are at stake,” Hatchell said.

Friends of the Inyo’s role in the conservation effort, he explained, is to “connect people to the landscape” and energize the local community response to projects like Mojave’s.

In addition, the group is a persistent advocate on a local, regional, and national level for conservation, petitioning for policy that would ensure protected lands retain their status.

When asked if he had interest in talking to Mojave staff, he responded, “We’re hoping to have a conversation today ... it’s important that we have one.”

While he took issue with the way that the project, and overall mining, has been presented by invested companies (i.e. progress vs. no progress, pro- and anti-jobs), at the end of the day, “we just have differences of opinion.”

Attendees were at least open to hearing what Mojave was saying, if not outright supportive.

One noted that he was invested in gold, was overall pro-gold and mining “as long as you can do it right.”

He remarked to Jodie Gibson, VP of Exploration at Mojave, that there shouldn’t be anything negative about simple exploration.

Gibson spoke with The Sheet about the event and the project as a whole.

“It’s going the way we expected it to,” Gibson said of the open house, “It’s a contentious area.”

“At the end of the day, people are entitled to have an opinion,” he said. Final decisions are built into the existing regulations.

“It comes down to science, where BLM comes in and makes that determination.”

The goal of Mojave, he emphasized, is figuring out what’s present in the ground. That’s it. If they find sufficient resources for mining, that would be handled by an entirely different company.

Gibson also stressed the importance of mitigating any environmental issues that may arise during the exploration process.

Kathy Bancroft, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer with the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe, took in the corner protest from the driver’s seat of her truck.

Bancroft had just arrived from a meeting with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

“It’s interesting because when [Mojave] agreed to meet with the tribes, they didn’t know anything about cultural monitors,” Bancroft said. “We told them there’s going to be monitors especially since no archaeologists are up either.”

Every time ground was disturbed, monitors would be there.

“The place is so sensitive that you may not see everything at the top,” she continued, “because there’s a history of looting.”

Crews are generally more careful and considerate when monitors are present, Bancroft noted.

Bancroft said that Lone Pine tribe was offered a scholarship by the mining companies that would send students to a trade school to study mining.

“Don’t try to buy us,” Bancroft said of the offer, “We don’t want your blood money.”

“This is how many times we’ve been fighting people trying to come in and do this?” she asked rhetorically, “We can’t just keep fighting them over and over.”

The goal now is permanent protection and conservation; Bancroft said that she has been in contact with people all the way up to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to advocate for their cause.

“The most important thing is to change the mining laws...it’s scary to see how much power they have,” she said.

Bancroft gave an example: Montana mining laws have been changed to prevent extensive cyanide use in mining, although the change came too late, after many water sources near mines were contaminated with the chemical.

And as for the protest outside, Bancroft said with a smile, “I love it. It’s really inspiring.”
A TASTE OF ITALY AT 8,000 FEET
Bevi Bene Wine Bar opens in Mammoth Lakes

By Page

Across the hall from Mammoth Tavern and behind frosted glass doors, husband and wife team Alec Clowes and Jolynn Khamky are trying to bring a unique wine experience to Mammoth Lakes.

Just don’t expect to see anything from Napa on the wine list. Bevi Bene is a strictly Italian affair. The plan: “Affordable wines by the glass that you’d want to buy a bottle of,” according to Clowes.

The wine bar is far and away the newest establishment in town: it opened for business on Thursday, March 25.

Clowes and Khamky moved to Mammoth in September, 2019 to get outdoors after spending the previous 10 years in New York City. Both were working remote jobs at the time; a wine bar concept was a way to connect more with the Mammoth Lakes community.

The interior is a bit of an homage to their former home on the east coast, Clowes explained, “We liked dark little bars and wanted to bring that here.”

A large painting depicting the Lacoste crocodile logo with added mouse features greets those stepping through the door. To the right of the doors is an illuminated display case filled with bottles of wine, each with a placard containing tasting notes and prices, and a small selection of imported goods liked canned tomatoes and pasta.

The seating area to the left, contained behind a waist-high metal fence, is cozy; soft chairs are clustered around small tables, with views of the Sherwins visible out of the large window. A large photograph adorns the wall and above the bar, is a projector running music videos.

It’s an intimate setting right at home with the hole-in-the-wall bars of east coast cities, save for the dramatic view out the window. Current capacity restrictions on indoor seating mean that Bevi Bene can only serve smaller groups at a few tables and the bar.

“It took much longer to build than we expected,” Clowes said; he and Khamky ended up installing the floors themselves.

The concept, he said, began as a falafel shop but the low profits and extensive work required to make that sort of venture ruled it out as an option. Wine, it turned out, had better profit margins, and was suited to the couple’s interests.

Although neither Clowes nor Khamky worked in the bar/restaurant industry, they had a clear vision of what they wanted and what they could specialize in. Many trips to Italy instilled a love not just for the wine, but the culture that surrounds it: laidback and casual, with an emphasis on variety and affordability in lighter wines. American wines, Clowes noted, have a tendency to be powerful and more oaky than their Italian cousins.

As for the list, Clowes and Khamky opted to select wines that they prefer as opposed to offering a full spectrum of wine; the approach allows them to keep a deep knowledge of what they’re selling and keep prices down.

When they can open more indoors, the couple hope to host tastings and events centered around the products on the shelves.

Bevi Bene is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 4-8 p.m.; those hours are expected to change as things open up more.

For right now, the mandated capacities and slower opening are helpful. “We’re learning the ropes,” Clowes said, adding “I’m excited that everyone’s getting vaccinated quickly.”

Customers can peruse the current offerings online at https://www.bevibenewine.com/ and order for in-store pickup. The bar is located at 587 Old Mammoth Road on the second floor, across the landing from the entrance to Mammoth Tavern.
CAN'T STAND THE HEAT?
ARE THEY REALLY GOING TO MOVE HERE?

Q: My friends in Truckee tell me that many of the new second homeowners there are actually moving in as permanent residents or plan to make their new Truckee homes their permanent residence in the near future. Is this true with all of the activity in Mammoth? And what other trends are you seeing in the market with all of this activity?

A: The real estate activity of the past 10 months here in Mammoth Lakes has been quite impressive. The underlying motivations of both buyers and sellers has also been fascinating to observe from the position of an active market participant like myself. While some agents and brokers are “just along for the ride,” I’m one who likes to look a little deeper at the dynamics of the market and how the microcosm of Mammoth is being affected by the larger world we live in.

Last summer I noted the concept of “movement” in the market. After the spring lockdown people started moving in all sorts of directions, including in and out of Mammoth. Many people accelerated their future plans. Contemplating your mortality can do weird things like this. Some are making changes and choosing to have a home or live closer to their children or other family members. Others want to insure that can spend quality time with their children before they go off to college. Or they desire to create an attractive environment for them to return “home” while they are in college and beyond. Second homes in Mammoth often fulfill this goal, at least in theory. Others are simply responding to a good deal of self reflection. And some want to “get out of dodge,” wherever “dodge” may be.

How all of this settles out remains to be seen. The demand for Mammoth real estate still appears very strong. There are many frustrated buyers who see little desirable inventory and rising prices that are being supported by actual closings. Many market observers also believe that real estate is currently one of the the best hedges against the anticipated coming inflation. This alone may be driving the market more than anything else. There are others who believe there will be excess inventory once the "pandemic hysteria" settles down and people return to some level of normalcy (does anybody know what this “normalcy” is actually going to be?)

The market forces of fear and greed are alive and well. For now Mammoth has become a popular place for the most recent work-from-home (WFH) or at-distance working trend. This may or may not be a permanent condition. It may be somewhere in between. Plenty of people are simply trying it out. And for certain, the concept was growing here in Mammoth before the pandemic and will be a part of Mammoth life well into the future. We’ve been talking about the telecommuting trend and Mammoth for years, and maybe even a couple of decades. The word telecommuting now seems to be a lost word, but not a lost concept. Its hard to imagine life before the Internet and mobile phones that are like mini-super-computers. I’m astonished some businesses still use fax machines. While Mammoth and telecommuting has always made sense, up until a few years ago there wasn’t sufficient bandwidth in Mammoth to handle it in any substantial way. The Digital 395 project and Suddenlink’s (love’ em or leave’ em) substantial investment in infrastructure changed everything. Today we just take it all for granted.

But even with our new, (almost) great Internet service, the telecommuting trend never really became a major trend here or a driving influence in the market. Until Covid. And even a year into this it really isn’t clear how much it is influencing the local market. The operative term is “how much?”

The local real estate market activity of the past 10 months has been strongest in the larger and more expensive properties, both in single-family homes and condominiums. There was strong “move-up” buying last summer – existing owners purchasing larger properties. Today, with very limited inventory, this is tricky to do. But buyers are clearly looking for larger properties with space for office carve-outs or extra bedrooms that can be converted to offices. And don’t forget the kids, they need desk space and privacy too.

But are these new owners going to become permanent residents? My guess is probably not. I could be wrong, especially if the winters remain mild. Big winters have a way of driving people out of town, or back “home.” We may not
Part of the Truckee experience has been the substantial migration out of Silicon Valley. The tech industry already represented a significant percentage of second homeowners in the Tahoe region. Covid pushed them up the hill. It was a logical step. But these tech workers may be finding their way to Mammoth (rumor is they are already here and pushing up rents). If Mammoth gains popularity with this tech crowd, everything could change on the valuation side. And again, reliable air service would be a multiplier.

Recently it appears the telecommuting and WFH trend may be reversing. At least with some big companies like Goldman Sachs. Their CEO recently called to end the remote work “aberration.” “It is not ideal for our business and it’s not the new normal” he said. Some companies are reporting mixed results from remote work. The flexibility and eased burden of childcare and commuting are great. But many miss office life and the “water cooler” interaction that can lead to increased productivity and advancement in the company. “It is still about collaboration and output.”

Each company and each industry are bound to be different. The future will certainly be a mix of all kinds of arrangements. It will be a challenge for each to sort this out, and maybe employee by employee. But the demand to be in Mammoth whether full-time or part-time for remote work opportunities is not likely to go away.

One simple question remains: why the major push by affluent families to become second homeowners in Mammoth and other mountain resort areas? The answer may have been in the February issue of Real Estate magazine that confirmed what we have experienced here in the Mammoth market the past 10 months; described as “a jump in demand to ski resorts as investors flock to the mountains.”

According to the article, the trend may be even stronger in Europe. And notably there is a greater emphasis on size and space rather than location (we sure have seen this in Mammoth). Another apparent trend; “beyond recreational pursuits like skiing, cycling and hiking, new owners want to become integrated into all aspects of the community.” One broker from the French Alps was quoted, “There has been a global change in buyer attitudes, mountain resorts are now seen a year-round locations, not just vacation properties. We expect demand to remain strong in 2021 as investors realize the lifestyle benefits of a residence with an abundance of privacy, space and fresh mountain air.”

Ultimately there doesn’t appear to be any exact or consistent theme for all of the demand in the local market. But higher selling prices and rents may be here to stay. And they could potentially go higher. I’ve discussed plenty of the potential reasons. It may simply come down to the same reason why people have been coming here for decades – the beauty of the mountains, open space and fresh air. Except this is now in demand more than it ever was. Hopefully we can preserve these wonderful attributes for future generations.

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX of Mammoth (celebrating 30 years). For other timely real estate information you can go to www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com. For legal, accounting, or construction advice, please seek out the appropriate professional.
DON’T GET IN THE TUB

By Hartley

I am a Steeler fan and boy, are they in rare form.

Last year, the team drafted WR Chase Claypool. They said he was a CHARACTER GUY. Great person. Just under a year later, he has transformed into an ASSHAT.

He is a punk. He has whined. After the Browns beat ‘em in the playoffs he talked trash. He talked about how Doo-Doo Pass Dropper (Julu Schuster) was helping him BUILD HIS BRAND. And now he is on tape getting in a fight outside a bar. That’s the way to build your brand. I have a theory. And now there is so much evidence, it isn’t a theory anymore. The problem in Pittsburgh is Coach Mike Tomlin. How do we keep hearing they want to draft great guys and high character people, yet these people turn into jerks (Claypool) and rapists (Roethlisberger)? It’s because like I used to say, there aren’t bad kids ... there are bad PARENTS who allow the kids to become a problem. And that’s the problem in Pittsburgh. Tomlin has no discipline and no structure. He’s always dismissing things. BOYS WILL BE BOYS or I’M GONNA LET MEN BE MEN. He is creating quite the culture.

I figured it out. Watson is paying these ladies to accuse him so the NFL will suspend him and he’ll NEVER have to play for the Texans again.

Viking QB Kirk Cousins just banked another $35 million. He has been paid more than any other QB in the NFL since he started taking franchise tags with Washington. That is comical. This guy couldn’t win a game that counted if you benched the other team’s defense and yet he is making BANK. The worst part is he NEEDS a lot of weapons and a great defense to be successful but they had to get rid of weapons and defense to pay him his money.

Urban Meyer will not work out as an NFL head coach. He still has that college dictator mentality and those college kids can’t pan out in the NFL … Petino, Saban, Holz. Meyer started by hiring a jackass racist for his coaching staff. ‘That blew up. Now he is complaining about NFL Free Agency. And?? You knew this is what is was when you took the job. And your team was very active in that free agency period. Shut up. Did your GM not sufficiently include you? Are you bitching already about power? Going to be a disaster. If he finishes the season without claiming another health issue I would be amazed. Vegas should have odds on this asshole not finishing game 13.

Meanwhile, Meyer said the Jaguars are leaning toward drafting Trevor Lawrence but he’s going to let the owner decide when they make that official so he’s already put it out there he wants and if the organization goes in a different direction he can’t be blamed. This guy is flaming out already.

Former #2 overall draft pick Mitch Trubisky took a backup job in Buffalo over a chance to start in Denver. Yeah, I get it. ‘That’s probably a good move to avoid being stuck in Denver for a GOOD QB. But if you are Mitch Turdbiscuit, any chance to start in the NFL is probably your last. By taking a backup job you are telling everyone you never thought you should be a starter anyway. He probably laughs at how long the Bears wasted their time on him. I bet he thought “Maybe I suck that extension out of them, make another $30 million.” Well, relax little fella, you are a white QB who was drafted in the first round - that alone will get you another two contracts whether you deserve it or not.

Any team signing this bum deserves for their starting QB to have a nut fungus or something like that - something that won’t ruin their career but will prevent them from playing for like 10 games so Turdbiscuit HAS to play.

George Patton is the Broncos GM. Not George PATTON, the famed general. Although a dead Patton is probably a better GM than the Broncos have had for the last 10 years. He said about the Broncos that they want a competition at QB but they aren’t going to force it. What he should have said is WE DON’T KNOW HOW TO EVALUATE A QB.

The Bears had to cut Kyle Fuller to sign Andy Dalton. I love that. I would rather have Kyle Fuller on defense than Dalton at QB. In fact, I would rather have Kyle Fuller at QB than Andy Dalton.

WR DeSean Jackson got signed by the Rams. This guy has been paid more money to NOT PLAY football than Chase Daniel. I know he is freakishly fast but he runs his fast right to Injured more HARTLEY, page 13

Kindergarten & TK Round Up 2021

Monday, April 26
10:00-1:30 am
Lee Vining Elementary School, Outdoors 132 Lee Vining Ave., Lee Vining

Monday, April 26
12:30-2:00 pm
Bridgeport Elementary School, Outdoors 205 Kingsley St, Bridgeport

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

Wednesday, April 28
12:30-2:00 pm
Edna Beaman Elementary School, Outdoors 25541 Hwy 6, Benton

Lunes, April 26
1:00-11:30 am
Lee Vining Elementary School, al aire libre 132 Lee Vining Ave, Lee Vining

Lunes, April 26
12:30-2:00 pm
Bridgeport Elementary School, al aire libre 205 Kingsley St, Bridgeport

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

Miércoles, April 28
12:30-2:00 pm
Edna Beaman Elementary School, al aire libre 25541 Hwy 6, Benton

Orientación al Kindergarten:
Aprenda como inscriber a su hijo en kindergarten y kindergarten transicional, conozca al maestro e inscribase para obtener o recoger su mochila de preparacion 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 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 calendario: https://www.first5mono.org/calendar-of-events/
HARTLEY
continued from page 12

Reserve every year. I am not going to research it but I would imagine he has been in the league for 14 years and hasn’t played more than three times.

Joe Flacco is still in the league. He signed with the Eagles and immediately said his job is to play football and not mentor newly anointed starter QB Jalen Hurts.

Well, I guess you need a new job because if you touch the field, the team will be crucified for bringing you in when they see you play. There was NO legitimate reason to sign Joe Flacco. He isn’t even the same type of QB as Hurts so if you bring him in, you can’t run the same offense. The Eagles were the talk of the town a few years ago and being heralded for the MODEL WAY TO BUILD AND RUN A FRANCHISE.

Now they are a mess. At least they have cheesesteaks.

The Giants signed Kenny Golladay to a huge contract. I like Golladay. The problem is their QB is Daniel Jones and he is a turnover machine. Unless you position Golladay behind Daniel Jones to pick up all the fumbles he commits he won’t get the ball.

Robert Kraft just put the nail in the Patriot Way coffin. Just read through this article>---------- https://profootball-talk.nbcnews.com/2021/03/31/robert-kraft-acknowledges-new-englands-recent-draft-failures/

So Kraft after YEARS of letting Belichick do his thing has put him on blast. Saying bluntly that his drafting has sucked and they need to do better this year. I think Kraft is now showing how pissed he is that he let Belitch run Brady out of town. He watched Brady win another Bowl and … it hit him in the nuts. I’m sure he ran right out to a massage parlor and got himself a fix.

I was at the liquor store the other day and saw something that caught my eye - a brand of bourbon I had never seen before. That in itself is sad - to realize that it is a surprise to be in a section of liquor with probably 100 bourbons having probably tasted ALL of them and had to search for something that hadn’t torched my tongue as of yet. But that’s another story.

But I happened upon it and it was in my hand as if it floated to me, I don’t even remember picking it up. I opened this bottle fully knowing it was probably not going to end well but I charged on. This bourbon could not be more aptly named and that was evident after the first sip. The name is Old Tub. Tastes just like it sounds. Funniest thing is I put ice in it to make it cold so at least it was cold bath water and not warm shit. This bourbon appears chemically designed to melt ice immediately so you HAVE TO SUFFER through it warm. It was incredible. You’d need dry ice to keep it cold.

On a flight right now to South Carolina. First time I have been anywhere since the CoCo chronicles began. Interesting to see social distancing everywhere but you get on a plane and they sit your ass in a tube right next to other people. I paid extra for a seat with no one next to me and even with a mask on the plane smells like … Old Tub. Ugly people are still ugly. It’s like you can see it through the mask. And it makes me wonder if people are just passing gas because they think you can’t smell it. They brought me a drink with no ice. Now I have some mini-bottles of Old Tub in my bag so I didn’t have to pay for one but it’s hard to say … cup of ice please to dump my tub liquor on if they aren’t serving ice. And you know how the Old Tub tastes without ice. This bottle of liquor is screwing me across country.

“Ugly people are still ugly. It’s like you can see it through the mask.”

-Harold Hartley
Help Wanted

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

- Bilingual Med. Asst. – B - $16-20
- MA at 760-934-7524 - will train
- Line Cook – B $15.50 will train
- Admin Asst. – ML $18
- HR Clerk – B - $17-22
- MOW: G & B Driver (Rt Op – ML $38
- MCDW Line Maint. Worker – ML $22
- MCDW Mech Maint. Worker – ML $22
- Housekeepers – ML $18-22
- Staffing Coordinator – ML $18-22
- Hotel Front Desk(s) – ML $S
- General Laborers – B - $16-20

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

Housekeepers Wanted in Mammoth Lakes!
Flexible hours, $23/hour from 11/29-4/1 + Drive time paid & mileage reimbursements. Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd, Mammoth

Help Wanted

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for it’s team. We currently have an immediate opening for a spa Maintenance Technician position. We are also hiring an Office Assistant. These are Full Time Positions (Monday through Friday). These positions offer vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required, Please call 760-914-2696 or stop by the store located at 1401 Taven Road. Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Resume can be e-mailed to mammothspa@aol.com.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with CDL A to provide quality service and clean driving records. We are also looking for office staff for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please contact with Scottie at 760-914-7433. www.mammothtaxi.com

Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for maintenance, housekeeping, front desk and kitchen assistant positions. We are looking for full and/or part time team members to fill year round and seasonal positions. Applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. Please apply in person at 6808 Minaret Rd, Mammoth

Help Wanted

MLPFA (Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation) Project Specialist: A successful applicant will have a demonstrated interest in public lands including Sustainable Recreation, ecosystem management, State of California climate change policies and initiatives, state and federal public funding opportunities, and how the local public lands policy along with demonstrated proficiency writing public communications and grant applications. Responsibilities include: specific duties as assigned by MLPFA staff, including public meeting preparation, messaging and outreach review, and participation in public meetings. Demonstrated familiarity and experience with computer platforms, digital systems, and software, especially Microsoft Office. Passion for sustainable outdoor recreation a plus. Please email resume to big@mlpta.org

Mammoth Chevron

Mammoth Chevron Chevron

Mammoth Chevron Chevron

We’re looking for experienced professionals to join our dedicated Town team. A 25% increase to base salary July 2021, plus a competitive benefits package. Must be committed to serving our local community!

Accounting Manager
$82,538 - $107,300

Place Manager
$61,582 - $86,652

For more information and to apply, visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Office Administrator for Construction Company
Year round professional position approximately 30hrs per week. Competitive pay with computer literacy required and quickbooks/accounting skills preferred. To inquire please call 760.934.1869

Mammoth Business Essentials

Mammoth Business Essentials

We are looking for full-time, year-round Guest Service Agents to join our dedicated Town team. A 25% increase to base salary July 2021, plus a competitive benefits package. Must be committed to serving our local community!

Year-Round Guest Service Agent

Starting pay $15-$20 per hour plus tips, dependent on experience.

Mammoth Business Essentials

We are looking for a Full-Time, Year-Round GuestService Agent. Qualified candidates will have basic computer skills, be 18 or 19 years old, must be capable of working alone and in a team environment., and have good customer service skills. A positive can-do attitude is a must. Experience a plus, AM/PM shifts available.

Starting pay $15-$20 per hour plus tips, dependent on experience.

*All Full Time Positions Include Full Medical Benefits, 401k with Employer Match, Ski Pass, Paid Holidays.

Please stop by 80|50 to pick up an application.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement

Is Doing Business As:

Black Velvet Coffee Roaster

Timbercreek Hospitality Group

3244 Main St., P.O. Box 778
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2021.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January 13, 2021. File Number 2021-002

File Number 2021-0044 (4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24)

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

Grant Lake Resort

Harry & Deborah Hallum

Fic. No. 267, 1 Grant Lake Road
June Lake, Ca. 93529

This business is conducted by a Husband and wife. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on March 15, 2021. File Number 21-015

File Number 2021-0024 (4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24)

PERSONALS

I saw you ... made the Final Four. Congratulations. Unfortunately, I see UCLosing- Cosby against you today.

I hope to see you ... this Sunday, because there’s never more comforting than watching a 6’ tall man mopping around in business suits and dropping little chocolate turds on the ground.

I saw you ... are accused of having an affair with a 17-year old girl. I think everything was legal in Florida.

I saw you ... are accused of having an affair with a 17-year old girl. I think everything was legal in Florida.

I saw you ... should use your cro-magnon forehead as your criminal defense. Are neanderthals truly subject to human laws?
calendar of events

Saturday, April 3/
C5 Studios in Bishop offers A Chalk and Charcoal Drawing Workshop with Naomi Hart Johnson. Create a beautiful landscape of a garden bursting with new life, an Easter-themed creation or anything else that takes your fancy! For children ages 7-14. Time: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Register @ www.c5studios.org. Info: 760.258.1059.

Monday, April 5/
Mammoth Lakes Housing Board meets. 6 p.m. via Zoom. Log on via www.mammothlakes.granicus.com.

Tuesday, April 6/
Inyo County Supervisors meet via Zoom. Public session generally starts 10 a.m. The webinar is accessible to the public at https://zoom.us/j/868254781. Mono County Supervisors meet. Public session generally starts 9 a.m. To join via Zoom, visit https://zoom.us/j/8545449072.

Wednesday, April 7/
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. 4 p.m. via Zoom. Log on via www.mammothlakes.granicus.com. Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. 4 p.m. via www.mammothlakes.granicus.com. Mono County Covid-19 Vaccine Education Outreach at Mammoth Lakes Rite-Aid Parking lot. Bilingual county officials will be on hand to answer questions and get people registered for vax appts. 1-4 p.m. Eastern Sierra Land Trust Online Update meeting hosted by Kay Ogden and ESLT board members. Featuring flora and fauna updates as well as news on land projects. Time: 4:00-4:45 p.m. Register at www.eslt.org

Thursday, April 8/
Mono Arts Council Art and Wine class back in the studio! Knitting Basics with Jess Francois. Starts 5:30 p.m. Register at www.monoarts.org.

Friday, April 9/
Eastern Sierra Council of Governments meets. 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. Log on via www.mammothlakes.granicus.com. Mono County Covid-19 Vaccine Education Outreach at Benton Community Center. 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, April 10/
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society COSA Bird Walk. from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Join ESAS and volunteers on an easy walk around the Bishop Paiute Tribe’s Conservation Open Space Area (COSA). Meet behind the U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management building (351 Piozu Lane, Bishop).

TOWN STUFF

Upcoming
Inyo County Grand Jury is taking applications for the ’21-22 cycle. Submit application to the Office of the Jury Commissioner at 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. The Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau (BACCVB) has several positions open for the upcoming Board of Directors election. Those interested should contact Tawni Thomson by email execdir@bishopvisitor.com or call 760.873.8405. Deadline: April 30.

Covid testing/
Bishop: Tri-County Fairgrounds, Tallman Pavilion on Monday and Thursday - participants must be in a vehicle to get tested. And at Statham Hall in Lone Pine on Tuesday and Friday. Time: 8-4.
Mammoth Lakes testing Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at the Mammoth Lakes Foundation, 100 College Pkwy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. No appt. necessary. See ad p. 5
Walker/Coleville testing Fridays at Walker Community Center 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Covid Vaccination

AT THE MOVIES

Movies Playing This Week 04/02 to 04/08

Friday-Sunday
4:45pm 7:00pm
7:00pm

Monday-Friday
4:15pm 7:30pm
7:30pm

AT THE MOVIES

TOWN STUFF

Ongoing
All Visitor Centers (Mono Basin, Mammoth, White Mountain, Lone Pine) are closed, but visitor questions are being answered via phone daily, 8-4:30.
Mono Basin: 760.647.3044
Mammoth: 760.924.5302
White Mountain: 760.873.2500
Lone Pine: 760.876.6200
Mono County Libraries operating under Call Ahead for Pickup Service. Laws Museum is “Back on Track!” Outdoor exhibits are now open to the public. Visitors welcome Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 pm.
Mono Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Spring Virtual Job Fair running until April 15. Visit mammothlakesjobs.com for info or email bgcisco@mammothlakeschamber.org to learn more.
Mono County Libraries April Reading Challenge. Join our Beanstack Reading Challenge this April, 2021. Learn more and sign up at monocolibraries.beanstack.org. Read, earn prizes and develop your literacy superpowers!

Upcoming
Inyo County Supervisors meet. 1 p.m. via Zoom. Log on via https://zoom.us/j/95454400742 via Zoom, visit https://monocounty.gov. The webinar is accessible to the public at https://zoom.us/j/868254781. To join session generally starts 9 a.m.
Mono County Supervisors meet. Public session generally starts 9 a.m. To join via Zoom, visit https://zoom.us/j/8545449072.

TOWN STUFF

Monday, April 5/
Mammoth Lakes Housing Board meets. 6 p.m. via Zoom. Log on via www.mammothlakes.granicus.com.

Tuesday, April 6/
Inyo County Supervisors meet via Zoom. Public session generally starts 10 a.m. The webinar is accessible to the public at https://zoom.us/j/868254781. Mono County Supervisors meet. Public session generally starts 9 a.m. To join via Zoom, visit https://zoom.us/j/8545449072.
Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. to consider the following:

1. The 2021-2022 County General Fund Budget.
2. The 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget.
3. The 2021-2022 Other Funds Budgets.

Written comments will not be read into the record but should be received by 8:00 a.m. on April 19 and will not be considered if received after 8:00 a.m. on April 20.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. to consider the following:

1. The 2021-2022 County General Fund Budget.
2. The 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget.
3. The 2021-2022 Other Funds Budgets.

Written comments will not be read into the record but should be received by 8:00 a.m. on April 19 and will not be considered if received after 8:00 a.m. on April 20.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of Mammoth Lakes will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 19th, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following:

1. The 2021-2022 General Fund Budget.
2. The 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget.
3. The 2021-2022 Other Funds Budgets.

Written comments will not be read into the record but should be received by 8:00 a.m. on April 19 and will not be considered if received after 8:00 a.m. on April 20.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of Mammoth Lakes will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 19th, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following:

1. The 2021-2022 General Fund Budget.
2. The 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget.
3. The 2021-2022 Other Funds Budgets.

Written comments will not be read into the record but should be received by 8:00 a.m. on April 19 and will not be considered if received after 8:00 a.m. on April 20.
Notice Inviting Bids

[Details of the Notice Inviting Bids are provided.]

Notice of Vacancy

MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board has an At-Large seat with a term expiring as of June 30, 2021, which is available for candidacy. The term of appointment for the At-Large seat will expire two years after appointment to the Board.

The Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meetings are scheduled at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month.

Interested parties should file a letter of interest with the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Office Manager, Emily Bryant, via email at emily.bryant@mammoth.com by April 9th, 2021. Applicant interviews will be conducted by the MLT nominating committee in April and May. Recommendations and Board vote will take place in June.

Dated: March 17, 2021
Angela Plantez, Assistant Clerk
T5-2021-0046

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

Dated: March 5, 2021
T5-2021-0029

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*May 1st Move-in Date

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Find us off Hwy 395, across from the airport at:

471 Industrial Circle
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

*May 1st Move-in Date
OBITUARY
RON CASEY 1931-2021

For a guy who always loved the "little people," he sure raised/mentored a whole lot of them. Probably the best word to describe Ron Casey: Patriarch.

Casey passed away on March 14 at his home in Ridgecrest. He was 89. He had seven children, 18 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Casey was a long-time plumber and housing contractor in June Lake. Upon his retirement in 1990, he spent the next 16 years or so traveling the country by motorhome with his wife Marcy. He spent his final years in Ridgecrest. He was born in Kansas in 1931. According to his sister Lilah, Ron was always working as a young boy. He sold magazines to start. Then he'd accompany his father on jobs - serendipitous, as later, his father and sons would accompany him on his own jobs.

He met his first wife Anne in high school in Tujunga. She was player of the year on the football team his senior year. The couple then had two children together; son Tim (who lives in Mono City) and daughter Dee Ann in 1964.

He moved the family to June Lake in 1969. According to Claude, he'd had enough of Southern California and traded his plumbing business for property in June Lake.

Not only did he become the only plumber in town, but Claude said Ron built 34 homes during his career, mostly 1,000-1,200 square feet in size, many with his children Tim and Dee as partners. As son Bradley said, what set his father apart was his work ethic and his determination. “If he wanted to do something... he'd just go to the bank, get the money and do it.”

Bradley said that when he helped his father as a boy, their workdays would often start at 2 a.m. He recalls showing up at one bar at closing time and working until the place opened the next day (well, later that morning). As a father, he was beloved. Daughter Sherry said she and her sisters were crazy about mom's new, handsome man. "When they were dating, I remember spilling something on the carpet and he got some solvent and helped me clean it up and mom was never the wiser. It was our little secret."

"And he had more authority in his little finger... she continued. "All he had to do was give us a look. And we were never allowed to speak to mom with any unkindness."

Son Bradley said "He was all of a disciplinarian with the girls, but then... the girls used to sneak out quite a bit more."

Sherry embraced the large, mixed family. "There were five of us all a year apart [born 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952] and the two babies... it was like living with your best friends."

Ron's life was not without heartbreak - two of the seven children died too young. Marcy's daughter Lisa died of cancer at the age of 29. Ron's son Gregory was not the driver at the age of 24. Ron's life was not without heartbreak.

Ron's son Gregory was the only driver. [born 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952] and the two babies... it was like living with your best friends."

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Son Bradley said “He was all of a disciplinarian with the girls, but then... the girls used to sneak out quite a bit more." Sherry embraced the large, mixed family. “There were five of us all a year apart [born 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952] and the two babies... it was like living with your best friends.”

Ron’s life was not without heartbreak - two of the seven children died too young. Marcy’s daughter Lisa died of cancer at the age of 29. Ron’s son Gregory died in a single vehicle car accident [he was not the driver] at the age of 24. Ron always spoke highly of Lisa’s husband Leon, who raised the couple’s two children after his wife’s death.

And if you spent time with Ron over the past decade, there was never a conversation where he wouldn’t stop at one point and reference his late wife. “Damn, I miss that woman!” he’d exclaim in between puffs on his ever-present pipe. Funny thing about that pipe. At one point, said daughter Dee, he gave up his smoking just like he’d given up his drinking. But then, he told her, “Nobody noticed. So I decided to start again.”

Ron’s dad was a drinker and a gambler and Ron followed suit - for awhile. While he never lost his love for betting the horses, betting cards, betting football, betting anything - he did quit drinking cold turkey after daughter Dee was born.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks & Recreation Department is hiring! We have a number of seasonal positions available, offering competitive pay, flexible hours, and the chance to be part of the growing recreation community in Mammoth Lakes.

- Camp Counselors
- Senior Camp Counselors
- Recreation Coordinator
- Umpires/Sports Officials
- Temporary Parks Maintenance Workers

If you have a passion for parks and recreation and want to secure a job for the summer, apply now!
Visit www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov for more information.

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The world of wimps and what to do about it:
1. Take away all electronic devices
2. Make them read a book
3. Have them write a letter.
4. Have them learn simple math without using fingers and toes
5. Take them fishing
6. Take them hunting (gun or camera)
7. Learn camping
8. Teach them how to order in a real restaurant
9. Teach them how to meet people and introduce themselves
10. Respect flag and country

"We raised 7 kids, none of whom are wimps... The wimp thing started with the hippie generation and got worse. So our kids and their kids need to learn these ten things."
As Stephanie is exiting the hospital and getting into a friend’s car, MLPD Lieutenant Eric Hugelman pulls up. He asks her to follow him down to the police station.

Once at the station, Stephanie and her friend are brought to Hugelman’s office. She is then asked to step out for a moment so it is only Hugelman and Thompson.

Thompson has known Hugelman her whole life. She trusts him. She grew up with his children.

Hugelman produces a town document signed by Town Manager Dan Holler which would release the Town from liability for the accident.

Then he fans some Ben Franklins on the table.

Which left Stephanie Thompson profoundly unimpressed.

“It was a low enough offer that I was offended ... never mind that he tried to fan the bills in such a way that it would look like there was more than there was,” Hugelman upped the offer twice, maxing out at $2,000. Town Manager Dan Holler later explained that $2,000 had been the maximum offer authorized.

In a phone conversation with Holler on Wednesday, he was asked if he felt it was appropriate for police to sequester a person alone in a room without counsel minutes after exiting the ER to make such a 3rd rate malfeasance offer.

“Lt. Hugelman, according to Thompson, did appear clearly uncomfortable when making the offer. Holler replied that he was unaware of how the offer was made and that if the description of events is correct, it “doesn’t sound wholly appropriate.”

But, Holler said, he didn’t mind making the offer. He said he had watched bodycam footage of the incident and that it hadn’t looked too bad.

Which is a pretty interesting detail, given that Thompson said she was told there was no dashcam footage when she asked for it.

Because Mammoth cops only use bodycams these days and not dashcams. But do you think anyone offered to tell her about the bodycam footage? Hell no.

Holler said it was Chief Davis who initiated the settlement process, which is a way to compensate for pain and suffering and mental anguish without getting lawyers involved.

Holler said that as of Wednesday, Ms. Thompson had not filed a claim with the town. “She could also end up with nothing and a lot of [legal] bills,” he said, if a claim action proved unsuccessful.

Thompson did note wryly that the MLPD was a lot nicer to her after they’d crunched her between their bumpers.

Prior to her injury, she said she was “victim-blamed” for having her car stolen.

She also said her vehicle insurance did not cover theft, and that the thieves had stolen her son’s new $160 scooter.

They also stole the car’s battery and slashed a tire.

Which leads us to the final chapter of our story.

The night of March 10 (when Thompson’s son is injured) and the whole of the next day pass without news.

The day after that, Thompson receives a Facebook message from a woman who heard a missing car had been reported found.

A call to the California Highway Patrol couldn’t confirm the car was hers, but did say a non-recoverable car (the drive shaft was locked) had been found on Tungsten Road in Bishop across a creek.

The next morning Stephanie accompanied her father to check it out.

Indeed it was her car.

They were able to make a key to unlock the drive shaft and put in a battery (the old one had been removed). They also determined that one of the tires had been slashed.

While father Gary was putting the spare on, Stephanie noticed a twinkling, bright, light behind him. It was the sun reflecting off of her car keys, which the thief had stash in a nearby branch.

So once they put the spare on, she was able to drive home.

Chief Al Davis declined to answer inquiries made by the newspaper this week.

The Sheet made a public record request for both auto theft reports. The reports were not made available by press time.

The Sheet also made a request to obtain a copy of the settlement offer signed by Dan Holler.

Mammoth Town Clerk Jamie Gray replied via email, “Apparently after it was not executed it was tossed, so the Town does not have the signed version.”

Ms. Thompson, however, says she kept her copy.

One interesting sidenote: During our conversation, Dan Holler said that Lt. Hugelman is due to retire on April 15. That date marks thirty years of service. Holler said the Lieutenant’s position will not be replaced. The leadership structure of the department will be Chief supervising four sergeants.

Which is exactly how the Chief wants it I imagine - supervising a team of rivals all jockeying for his favor, as Davis contemplates a run for Mono County Sheriff in 2022.

A final thought. Davis was awfully clever on this one. He gets Holler to sign the offer and Hugelman to execute the deed - so he can try to claim plausible deniability in the matter. But there’s no doubt he drove this bus.

And I don’t see where trying to bully a young woman into rushing a decision and forfeiting her rights intersects with “serve and protect.”

This is precisely the type of culture which creates risk of $50 million legal settlements. We’ve seen this before.

What happens next is crucial. What kind of message does town leadership wish to send to a relatively young police force? That bullshit like this is acceptable? Or that Council actually has a handle on the asylum.

Direct Holler to fire Davis. If Holler won’t do it, fire him, appoint an Interim, and direct the Interim to fire Davis.

Or see the place further disintegrate on your watch.
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