BOWLING PARTY

By Lunch

“'So, we asked in a Tuesday meeting with senior resort management held in the clocktower in Mammoth Mountain’s Main Lodge, ‘Is this project in the Ms or the Bs?’”

Newly minted COO (Chief Operating Officer) of Alterra Resorts Mark Brownlie (see related story about Brownlie’s promotion on the jump page) reacted with a quizzical look. “Millions or Billions?”

Brownlie and MMSA Vice-President of Real Estate Development Tom Hodges then danced around the question before arriving at something like “Hundreds of Ms, approaching a B.”

But what’s being contemplated isn’t just a massive investment of dollars. The Main Lodge redevelopment seeks to create a uniquely Californian, “21st century guest experience.”

And what is more uniquely Californian than an expansive beach filled with beautiful people?

Except our beach will have mountain views.

Alterra’s vision for the Main Lodge area (the land trade to obtain two parcels and approximately 36 acres was formally approved in March, 2020 just as the pandemic hit) is depicted in a drawing published on page ten.

And the most striking part of what will be is what won’t be. Namely, Main Lodge will be torn down.

And in its place will be... see BEACH, pages 10-11

NO MORE TIERS

Covid tier system headed for dustbin in June

By Page

The finish line finally appears to be in sight.

Announcements from the California government indicate that the state sees brighter days ahead in the battle against Covid-19.

To date, over 20 million Californians have received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine, approximately half of the state’s population.

Come next week, a new set of guidelines for vaccination and gatherings go into effect.

This signals faith, at least within the government, that vaccination efforts are working.

Starting April 15, any California resident age 16 and older is eligible to receive a Covid-19 vaccine.

Event and large gathering capacity is dictated by a county’s tier: if a county is in purple tier, no events are allowed at indoor venues. Red tier allows for 10% or 100 people at venues under 1,500 capacity and increases up to 25% if guests are tested and/or show proof of vaccination.

Orange tier allows for 15% (200 people) and up to 35% if tests and/or proof of vaccination can be produced.

Yellow tier puts capacity at 25% (300 people) and up to 50% for tested and vaccinated folks.

At venues that exceed 1,500 guests, untested and vaccinated capacity is set to 10% (2,000 people) but scales to 35% in the orange tier and 50% in the yellow tier.

Individual venues will need to modify the services that they provide to require things like advance ticket purchases, designated food and beverage areas, and restricting out-of-state visitors.

The state also released guidance for private gatherings and conferences, set to go into effect on April 15 as well.

Outdoor gatherings may only occur if all guests are tested and/or vaccinated.

Purple tier: outdoor only, limited to 25 people. If guests are tested/vaccinated, 100 people.

Red tier: Indoor gatherings up to 100 people, outdoor gatherings up to 50 people, 200 if tested/vaccinated.

Orange Tier: Indoor gatherings up to 150 guests, outdoor gatherings at 100 guests or up to 300 if tested/vaccinated.

Yellow Tier: Indoor gatherings up to 200 guests, outdoor gatherings at 200 or 400 if guests are tested/vaccinated.

Much of the onus of verifying test results or vaccination status falls on event organizers and venues.

This design prompts thoughts of a “vaccine passport,” a hotly debated issue nationally as there are members of the population who cannot get the vaccine such as children under 16, individuals with prior severe vaccination reactions, and those who cannot verify their residential status within a county or region (no license etc.).

June Lake’s T-Bar Social Club will host its first concert in over a year on April 15 featuring local band GrooveSession. The show, open only to 25 fully vaccinated California residents, has sold out.

California also hit a vaccination equity goal of 4 million shots administered to the... see COVID, page 3

Volunteers at the Volcom Brothers Skatepark in Mammoth, including Mitch Nowicki, Ethan Campbell, Parker (don’t have the last name), Kaden and Kinsley Klassen work to clean out the bowl this week for spring skating.

SEX BEACH

Alterra pushes forward with Main Lodge redevelopment

By Lunch

“Is this project in the Ms or the Bs?”

Newly minted COO (Chief Operating Officer) of Alterra Resorts Mark Brownlie (see related story about Brownlie’s promotion on the jump page) reacted with a quizzical look. “Millions or Billions?”

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Woke or broke?

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Going Long

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Road conditions

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Air Supply

p. 6/

Chainsaw AI

p. 2/
Hello TOML Town Council:

There is an editorial in the April 3 issue of The Sheet that makes our Town Manager and Police Chief appear absolutely incompetent, unprofessional and incapable of performing their jobs. Please, please ask Andy Morris, our TOML lawyer, to begin an independent inquiry into the incident ASAP. The longer this toxic topic circulates unaddressed, the worse it will become.

Thank you,
Sharon Clark

The Mammoth Lakes Town Council most certainly made no mention of or allusion to The Sheet’s reporting from last week.

But the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD), Police Chief Al Davis and Town Manager Dan Holler were most certainly front-and-center at Council on Wednesday.

And one can make an argument that this week’s sequel is as jaw-dropping as last week’s original feature.

This week’s grenade was tossed during MLPD Lieutenant Eric Hugelman’s retirement ceremony.

Which started with Chief Davis going through a perfunctory outline of Hugelman’s career: starting as a reserve officer in 1989, being sent to the police academy in 1991, becoming a sergeant in 2006 and a lieutenant in 2017. Along the way enjoying stints as a school resource officer as well as a detective.

Police Chief Al Davis remarked that he would not have been as successful here as Chief without the aid of both Hugelman and retired Sgt. Marc Moscowitz.

Sure sounds like a nice endorsement of Hugelman - the same guy who was deemed good enough to send to a Police Chief training less than two years ago.

When it was Hugelman’s turn to speak, he said it has been an “honor and a privilege” to serve the Mammoth community.

And then his turn took a left turn. Without a blinker.

And then his turn took a left turn. Without a blinker.

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

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

"As for my retirement," he said, "This is not something that was my choice. The decision was made for me."

Holy shrapnel.

Let me interrupt here to say that I texted Hugelman last week upon hearing of his impending retirement to ask him if he had retired of his own accord or was pressured to do so?

He did not answer.

I texted him the following question after his retirement ceremony: If they offered to rescind and keep you on, would you stay?

His reply: Yes.

After Hugelman made the statement about his retirement, you would think that a Councilmember might become curious and ask a question or two.

Instead, Mayor Bill Sauser gave a thank you for your service/asset to the community/know you a long time speech.

This was followed by similar bromides from Mayor Pro-Milquetoast Lynda Salcido.

The other three Councilmembers said nothing.
And then it was onto the next agenda item.

But I couldn’t move on, because the implications of what Hugelman tested to are far-reaching.

Holler told the paper last week that with Hugelman’s retirement, the Town planned not to fill the Lieutenant position and instead go with a Chief and four sergeants.

If Hugelman’s retirement was voluntary, you figure Holler could justify a switch, saying “Eric retired, so I’m just going to work around it based upon the staff I have."

But if he’s literally forcing a retirement and then changing the police staffing structure, what Holler is doing is making policy. And that is not his job. That is Council’s job.

It connotes willful intent on Mr. Holler’s part to circumvent his employers.
It’s changing a management structure and eliminating a position that Holler and Davis argued for in 2017, without explaining to Council or the public why such a change would be a good idea.

It clearly signals to anyone in the Town’s employ that he/she would be insane to accept an at-will position at the Town of Mammoth Lakes with Machete Dan and Chainsaw Al in charge.

In fact, the only people who’ve been let go since the pandemic started were both at-will employees: Hugelman and Wildlife Specialist Steve Searles.

Who happen to be pretty good friends.

Not too long ago, it was a pretty common sight to see the two sharing a meal at the Breakfast Club.

But let’s switch gears here, because The Sheet met with Police Chief Al Davis on Tuesday afternoon. I give him credit for meeting with someone who had called for his ouster four days previously.

The first thing we talked about was a previous case (2016) where the Mammoth Lakes Police Department offered a settlement to a man it had falsely arrested.

The man’s name: Bret Meier.

Two officers arrested Meier on an outstanding warrant. The warrant was for a man named William Shade.

Meier insisted repeatedly that he was not William Shade.

Meier is about 6” taller than Shade, by the way.

No one wanted to hear it.

He was booked into the Bridgeport Jail anyway.
COVID continued from page 1

state’s most vulnerable population.

Hitting that metric allows for easier access to the yellow and orange tiers. But that tier system may not be around too much longer.

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced on Tuesday that the state is planning to move to a structure titled “Beyond the Blueprint” on June 15, 8 weeks after new guidelines go into effect. Part of that plan entails doing away with the tier system as a whole.

Newsom said that the state’s economy will reopen if vaccination rates remain high and hospitalizations stay low but didn’t give much information or structure beyond the announcement.

As of April 2, Mono County has administered 7,426 first does of Covid-19 vaccine and 6,317 second doses. The county put up two large clinics on Saturday, April 3 and Monday, April 5, that saw ~1,500 residents receive second doses. The county is still second in the state in vaccination rate, landing only behind Alpine County.

County Public Health Officer Ryan Wheeler said at Tuesday’s Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting that the county is now pivoting efforts back to first doses before a focus on vaccinating the under 16 ages group and education.

Wheeler said the county is focused on acquiring Pfizer vaccines for the purpose of vaccinating residents ages 16-18. One tray, he said, has already been earmarked for the county. “As soon as we get firm confirmation of securing that tray of Pfizer, then we will move forward with that plan,” Wheeler said.

In addition, the county will begin to receive Johnson and Johnson vaccine in two weeks, offering a one-shot option. Supervisor John Peters, who serves on the Rural County Working Group with CSAC, indicated that the process on his end had been frustrating.

Peters said that any info he gets from the state comes “in dribbles” and California Health and Human Services Director Mark Ghaly has developed a habit of cancelling meetings 15 minutes prior to their scheduled start time.

“Again,” Peters added, “We don’t get any credit for the good vaccine movement we’ve been doing and that’s the troubling part.” Larger counties such as Los Angeles, San Diego, and those in the Bay Area have progressed to less restrictive tiers at a faster rate than Mono County.

Mono County has been solidly in the red tier for the past few weeks, and Inyo County is expected to move into the red tier next week, per Inyo Health and Human Services Director Marilyn Mann at Tuesday’s Board of Supervisors meeting.

According to state statistics, the county is reporting 2.3 new Covid-19 cases per day per 100,000 residents with a 1.6% positivity rate. Although eligible with the current metrics, Inyo County will have to wait three weeks before moving into the orange tier, provided that the numbers hold.

Meanwhile, Mono County is reporting 13.3 new Covid-19 cases per 100,000 residents with a 3.1% positivity rate.

LETTERS

Get Woke, Go Broke

2nd homeowner John Rogitz addressed the following letter to the San Diego Padres in the wake of Major League Baseball moving its all-Star game out of Georgia.

Dear Padres:

I’m writing to let you know I will not be attending any MLB games this year or purchasing any MLB merchandise owing to the league’s capitulation to the Woke-stapo by removing the All Star game from Georgia because of the new state law strengthening voting integrity.

Firstly, no sports league has any business entering politics. Or, if you think it is your business to take sides in political battles, it is our business not to do business with you.

Second, the Georgia law has been mischaracterized and flatly lied about. It does not, for example, prohibit giving water and food to people in voting lines, contrary to what the President represented to the American people. It expressly permits it by non-political poll workers and others. The law simply prevents political operatives from exploiting waiting lines to conduct illegal electioneering under the guise of supplying water and food within 150 feet of the polling place.

Within that zone, poll workers and aid workers have carte blanche to deliver food and water. The law likewise expands access to early voting statewide by requiring two mandatory Saturdays and allowing local election officials the option of up to two Sundays during early voting, giving Georgia more early voting days than New York. It indeed requires voters to provide a driver’s license or a free state ID card number to request and submit an absentee ballot - much as the Padres require an ID to pick up a ticket at will call. Perhaps you think security in picking up sports tickets is more important than ensuring the integrity of voting for President of the United States. Also, for the first time Georgia now mandates ballot drop boxes for the convenience of voters. The law also requires local election officials to continue tabulating votes until counting is complete, to ensure that all votes are counted in a timely manner. I wonder which of these provisions you disagree with?

Yet MLB, apparently out of ignorance or fear or both, has pulled the All Star game from Georgia for a misguided political reason.

On a positive note, you are not alone. I will not be flying Delta for also participating in this ignorant and misguided virtue signaling. I am copying Coca Cola but only to let them know some people do not appreciate woke corporate mul-lahs. I stopped drinking their emetic sugar water years ago, so I have no means to boycott them.

John L. Rogitz
San Diego
GOING LONG

Jack Long, a 4th grader at Lee Vining Elementary School, was the Sweepstakes Winner of the elementary division of this year’s San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono Counties Science & Engineering Fair. He also won the Science Technology and Education Partnership special award and the Gold medal in the elementary physics division.

His question was: At what temperature will Mono Lake water freeze? For his project, he set up five buckets of water with different ratios of Mono Lake water to freshwater, from 100% freshwater to 100% Mono Lake water. He put them in the freezer with a thermometer or temperature logger and monitored their freezing progress and temperatures. How he came up with this question: “When I was at school they put salt to melt the ice on the ground. So I wondered if you put salt in water, how cold would it have to get for the water to freeze?” Mono Lake water froze over a range of temperatures. The more saturated the water with salt, the colder it had to get to freeze. Two cups 100% Mono Lake water froze solid at -17.1 degrees Celsius.

The YouTube link to his 5 minute video submission to the science fair, which was virtual this year, appears below. https://youtu.be/2R1F6na86Kg

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 #FlagsHonoringYoungLivesLost on April 23 for Children’s Memorial Flag Day. These ceremonies in 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.

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 comunidades son alentadas a compartir estrategias y actividades para prevenir el abuso y negligencia infantil a través del condado.

Los Molinitos Azules son el símbolo nacional para la prevención del abuso y la negligencia infantil. Brillando en el sol, el molinito 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 de condado de Mono y otras agencias tienen planiadas actividades para el mes de Abril. Estas actividades son para ayudar a divulgar el conocimiento sobre el abuso infantil y negligencia en el condado de Mono.

Actividades:

- 2 de Abril - VISTETE DE AZUL: para #VisteteDeAzulParaninos. El día viernes 2 de Abril. Publica una foto de ti y tus colegas, amigos y familas 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 #PasareMolinitos publica una foto o fotos durante el mes de Abril de ti y tus colegas, amistades y familiares con molinitos y una breve explicación de lo que significan, también reta a otros a plantar molinitos.

- 23 de Abril: HONOR A VIDAS PERDIDAS: #Vanderasenhonorandoverdiasperdidas el 23 de Abril para el día de la bandera conmemorativa 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 mas sobre el consejo de prevención del abuso infantil en el condado de Mono y como te puedes involucrar mas, por favor llama al 760-934-0031 o visita nuestra pagina web: monocounty.ca.gov/capc o visit facebook.com/Mono-Strengthening-Families-715026581957919/.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect in Mono County: 1-800-340-5411

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

- **Black Velvet Coffee Roaster**
- **Timbercreek Hospitality Group**
- **Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546**

This business is conducted by an **Limited Liability Co.** 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.

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

- **Grant Lake Resort**

Harry & Deborah Hallum
P.O Box 27, 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.

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Person Is Doing Business As:

- **XTC Tours**

Gary Small
P.O Box 100, P.O. Box 778
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an **Individual.** The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1990. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on March 15, 2021. File Number 15-173.
Mammoth Orthopedic Institute at Mammoth Hospital

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By Page

Mammoth Lakes Tourism discusses air service strategy and potential Bishop schedule

2020 in terms of air service didn’t quite pan out the way it was expected to. Deals with United to fly out of Denver and a planned marketing push in markets outside of the West Coast were scratched due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With a sigh and a big X crossed through last year, the focus has instead turned towards getting air operations in Bishop up and running.

For right now, December 2021 is the projected start date for commercial service to and from Bishop.

What does the interim then look like? What will happen with Mammoth Yosemite airport? What are some potential destinations/connections?

Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) director John Urdi discussed that future at MLT’s monthly board meeting on April 7.

First up: Mammoth-Yosemite (MMH). The airport will continue to provide service via charter flights. Urdi said that flight planners will seek to complement the charter services with the commercial service to Bishop.

A big factor in the move to Bishop, Urdi said, was the reliability of service. During snowy winters, up to 30% of flights to MMH were cancelled.

The charter flights are short segments, “point-to-point” flights with no more than 30 passengers and no TSA. Passengers would tentatively be able to fly to Mammoth Yosemite from Hawthorne, Burbank, Carlsbad, Santa Barbara, and San Jose.

Service from those locations would be provided by Advanced Air and potentially JetSuite X.

In discussing commercial options, Urdi first gave a broad overview of the national airline industry to highlight trends and travel patterns.

Total available seats are down 40% from 2019 and passenger counts are down 60% from that same year.

Airlines, he said, are “bullish” on leisure destinations due to drastically reduced business travel.

Air hubs in the center of the country (i.e Denver, Salt Lake City, Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth) are recovering the fastest and generally doing well. This is presumably due to connecting cross-country or regional flights.

Coastal airports (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, New York, etc.) are still struggling to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The downturn stems from a massive decline in international travel.

The difference between coastal and central hubs is significant: while central hubs just about doubled passenger counts since April of last year, coastal hubs have only made gains in the 20-30% range.

The options laid out by Urdi and consultants Kent Myers and Bill Tomcich of AirPlanners begin with Denver, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

“Right now, the number one performing market [in the US] is alternating between Denver and Dallas-Fort Worth,” Urdi said.

What’s most encouraging, Tomcich added, is that people are starting to fly again.

In March, the TSA reported having at least 1.5 million travellers only twice. “Four out of the six days in April, they have exceeded that,” Tomcich said.

Denver and San Francisco appear to be the front-runners for service to Bishop.

Both airports are “incremental markets” with a lot of passengers travelling through to another destination. People are already in transit when they arrive. The same cannot be said for LAX, where most people are starting or finishing a journey.

Denver, although the farthest and newest airport on that list, has a lot going for it: it’s United Airlines’ fastest growing hub with 24 new gates planned, and there’s a proven market for outdoor recreation.

On the downside, the service is in its relative infancy and the length of flight would boost costs.

San Francisco is appealing as a connection point from other destinations (i.e Seattle, Portland) on the West Coast, and would be only a 32-minute flight.

However, weather (see: fog) and air traffic control delays are a concern, and the airport is among the slowest to recover.

Which brings things to Los Angeles, where they get tricky.

LA is arguably the Eastern Sierra’s largest market, fares to MMH were relatively cheap, and the service proved profitable in the past.

In addition, the flight is short and would complement other United flights from Denver and San Francisco.

The big question: will people want to fly from LA to Bishop?

Urdi’s concise answer: “I tend to think they probably won’t.”

For example: a drive from LA to Bishop from the area can run about 4-5 hours.

The process of getting to LAX, getting through TSA and then boarding, etc. wouldn’t amount to much time or money saved. If a passenger is headed on to Mammoth or June Lake, factor in short travel time.

AND add limited gate availability and limited connecting flights.

The issue is more than simply local travellers.

Myers explained that San Francisco sees about twice as many domestic flights as LAX does during an average year.

In addition, SFO has 83% more available seats and serves 29 more markets than LAX.

“Eight out of ten of the top connecting flights to MMH, LAX, and SFO markets are the same,” Myers said.

The two outliers: Colorado Springs, CO, and Prescott, AZ.

Denver, by comparison, hits a lot of different markets from SFO, mostly airports in the Midwest, South, and along the East Coast.

But, as board member John Mendel put it, “It’s difficult to fathom not flying from Denver.”

Myers pointed out that the charter service out of the Los Angeles area would provide a better flight experience without a massive price increase.

“Another part of the story here,” Tomcich said, is the actual real estate within United operations within Airports.”

United has only 23 gates at LAX; with 41 markets flying in, only 23 can conceivably connect elsewhere.

The limited gate availability can increase connection times to as long as four hours.

In contrast, has 46 United gates, and thus more bandwidth for connection.

Urdi said that there are further expansion opportunities down the line as well. Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Seattle, and Dallas-Fort Worth. All are large, relatively central connectors to domestic markets.

Phoenix and Dallas-Fort Worth would potentially an American Airlines partnership; Seattle and Salt Lake City would be Delta, with Alaska Airlines also an option for Seattle.

The timeline for Bishop is at the outset, establishing a baseline service akin to previous service to MMH, then considering various growth scenarios for years 2-5.

If United experiences success at Bishop, then considerations would be made for adding another air service provider.

The goal, which Mendel touched upon during questioning, is year-round destination tourism.

“I think this is a big step, a bold step,” Mammoth Mountain’s Eric Clark said, “but I think it goes towards the destination visitor.”
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**OBITUARY**

**DICK RUDOLPH 1943-2021**

As the sportscasters like to say, “He left it all out on the field.”

Or as his son Tim observed, “He didn’t die with a half-used body.”

Dick Rudolph, longtime Sierra resident, a fixture in the local construction trade and outdoor enthusiast, died last month after a bout with Covid. He was 78.

Dick was born and raised in Santa Monica.

The two most important people in his life (outside of his children) were a pair of fellows he knew from childhood: his cousin Dave Harshbarger and lifelong friend Hudson DeCray.

He worked for/with Harshbarger for three-and-a-half decades at Harshbarger Construction.

DeCray was in commercial insurance and Harshbarger was one of his biggest clients.

“Dave was the money guy and the contact guy. Dick was the hands-on project guy. Dick didn’t like dealing with the bankers, developers, etc. It was his choice and desire to be an employee. But I always looked upon them as partners. They wouldn’t have been nearly as successful without each other,” Harshbarger remarked wryly, “I trusted him implicitly ... and he signed my name very well.”

Harshbarger said the cousins worked together once Dick had retired and they all liked him.

As a leader, he was stern with those he worked with, but he had great common sense. Was mechanical. And as a leader, he was stern with the bankers, developers, etc. It was his choice and desire to be an employee. But I always looked upon them as partners. They wouldn’t have been nearly as successful without each other.”

“Dave was the money guy and the contact guy. Dick was the hands-on project guy. Dick didn’t like dealing with the bankers, developers, etc. It was his choice and desire to be an employee. But I always looked upon them as partners. They wouldn’t have been nearly as successful without each other.”

Harshbarger remarked wryly, “I trusted him implicitly ... and he signed my name very well.”

Harshbarger said the cousins worked at a gas station together in Santa Monica during high school and college.

“Growing up it was pretty clear he was going to be successful,” said Dave. “He had great common sense. Was mechanical. And as a leader, he was stern with employees, but they all liked him.”

He moved to Mammoth after a stint in the army, and according to family lore, it was an early release thanks to remodeling the Colonel’s house.

Also according to lore: The first building plans he submitted in Mammoth were on a napkin. It was pretty casual back then, busting out A-Frames.

After Harshbarger relocated his business to Southern California, Dick hung his own shingle as Rudolph Construction before retiring himself around the year 2000.

His romantic life was not as consistent as his professional one.

“He didn’t die with a half-used body.”

-Tim Rudolph on father Dick

His son Tim describes his father as a “serial monogamist.”

There were the marriages that bore children. Son Tim was born in 1966; daughter Lindsey was born in 1982.

Neither marriage lasted long. But in both instances, Dick Rudolph played an active parenting role.

With Tim, it was easier. Mom and dad both lived in Mammoth.

With Lindsey, she lived with her mother in Reno.

“But she would see Dad occasionally during the year and then every summer. She remembers playing office and going camping and later how her father would drive up to catch some of her softball games.

When asked what parts of her she feels she inherited from her father, she laughs.

“I’m stubborn as hell, which is 100% Dad. And I’m a workaholic. Which is 100% Dad.”

Hud DeCray confirmed the stubborn part. “He had his opinions about things. But it wasn’t my way or the highway. It was more ... my way or we’ll continue to argue about it.”

Son Tim loved his father for sharing so many of the activities that he was passionate about: riding, hunting, fishing.

And the two got to spend a lot more time together once Dick had retired and built a vacation home in Todos Santos (on a lot right next door to cousin Dave naturally).

That was more of the second phase of Dick’s life, where beach, fishing, happy hour and Mondays on the golf course took precedence.

Hud DeCray said he and Dick fished 52 days together on Crowley last summer.

And he had his favorite watering holes: Sloughs in Mammoth and La Cascia in Bishop.

As a younger man, he was a bit of a motorhead and raced snowmobiles and motorcycles.

Throughout, he was generous to a fault.

June Simpkins said that when she cocktailwaitressed, Dick would always tip generously during the offseasons when people were struggling.

And Hud DeCray said simply, “Dick always had your back.”

He said Harshbarger Construction would literally require its subcontractors to get their insurance contracts through him.

He also said Dick was very generous with his romantic partners, often after the romance had concluded and they were simply friends.

He paid two years college tuition for one; helped pay off a condo for another. And he always did these things quietly.

“He wanted to see people cared for and successful,” said Hud. “He was one of the finest men I’ve known.”

From daughter Lindsey: He treated people right, and he knew how to take care of his personal and financial responsibilities. He certainly modeled that.

From son Tim: He just loved the place [the Eastern Sierra] so much. He moved here for the hunting and fishing but I know he stayed for the people and the relationships he built.

Tim Rudolph lives in Reno with his wife Patty. He works extensively with Native American tribes around the west, serving as a CFO and consultant.

Lindsey Juriaan lives in Reno with her husband Mike and their two children Kevin (13) and Madilyn (8). She works as a commercial property manager.

Memorial services will be held. Details TBD.
Local Briefs

Road Conditions
Seasonal road conditions in Mono County as of April 7, 2021:
- Monitor Pass Hwy 89: Closed - plowing started April 1st
- Sonora Pass Hwy 108: Closed - plowing started April 1st
- Tioga Pass Hwy 120 West: Closed - plowing will start April 15th
- Bodie Road 270: Open from the junction of U.S. 395 to end of the paved section of the road. The dirt road is clear until ½ mile before the State Park entrance. There is still a ½ mile hike into the park with wet and muddy conditions. Due to limited space, RV’s and trailers are not advised.
- Mono Mills Road/State Route 120 E: OPEN
- North June Lake Loop/State Route 158 N: OPEN
- Virginia Lakes Road: Closed at Dunderberg Meadows Road
- Saddlebag Lake Road: Closed
- Lundy Lake Road: Open to Lundy Lake Resort
- Rock Creek Road: Closed at Snow Park - opening will begin 4/12

Sunrise Scholarship
Bishop’s Sunrise Rotary Club has posted this year’s scholarship applications. Due to limited space, RV’s and trailers are not advised.
Since 2004, the Sunrise Rotary Club has given scholarships totaling over $400,000 to over 330 Inyo County high school graduates, helping these local students afford to continue their education at a variety of schools, colleges and universities.
The annual scholarship program is one of the club’s ongoing efforts to benefit and support our local community.
Seniors continuing on to university, college or trade/vocational schools are encouraged to apply.

Breathe a little easier
From the American Lung Association:
Longer and more severe wildfire seasons due to rising global temperatures produce harmful smoke with far-reaching health impacts. In 2020, there was 57,000 wildfires in the U.S. that resulted in over 10.3 million acres burned, compared with 4.7 million acres in 2019.
Smoke exposure from wildfires can harm not only those in the area, but also travel thousands of miles downwind, across states, countries, and even oceans.
“Smoke inhalation can cause heart attacks and asthma episodes and can even lead to premature death,” said Afif El-Hasan, M.D., pediatric asthma expert and American Lung Association volunteer medical spokesperson. “Wildfire smoke can be especially harmful to people living with lung diseases like COPD and asthma. Taking proactive precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones during a wildfire is imperative, especially if you live in an environment where the wildfire risk is high.

How To Create a Clean Room
- Choose a room that is large enough to fit everyone in your household and comfortable to spend time in.
- Make sure you close all doors and windows in the clean room and run window air conditioners or central air conditioning with the setting to indoor air mode.
- Set up a properly sized air purifier with a HEPA filter and run it continuously on the highest setting.
- Avoid any activities that produce particles in the air like burning candles or smoking.
- Stay in the clean room, especially when there are local alerts about high air pollution days and when smoky air conditions exist.

Fighting Fire with Cash
During a visit to Shaver Lake on Thursday afternoon, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced a $536 million wildfire action plan.
The aim is to provide assistance for response to and prevention of wildfires. Newsom’s plan comes after the largest wildfire season in state history last summer and fall.
Money will go to forestry agencies and forest health projects, fire protection for homes and buildings, grants, and other measures to mitigate the fires.

$125 million comes from the State’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund while the rest will come out of the general fund.
Earlier in the week, Newsom announced that he was allocating $80.74 million, via his emergency authority, to hire approximately 1,400 new firefighters for CalFire.
The legislature will vote on the bill Monday and Newsom expects to sign it on Tuesday.

Passover in the Sierra
Chabad of Mammoth Lakes took time to distribute Passover matzah around the area from Mono City to Bishop. Mushky Gordon (above on the right, with students from Deep Springs College) even made the trek out to Deep Springs College near Big Pine when the organization received word that there were Jewish students studying at the college this semester.
CAN'T STAND THE HEAT?

Q: My friends in Truckee tell me that many of the new second

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

Your home is where you make some of your best memories, and that’s worth protecting. I’m here to help.
LET'S TALK TODAY.

*Newsflash!
State Farm is offering homeowners insurance in Mammoth Lakes and June Lake. Call today for a quote.
BEACH
continued from page 1
nothing. Just 1,500-feet of “ski beachfront” extending from the edge of the
footprint of Main Lodge well past Discovery Chair.
A new Skiier Services building will be built next to where Main Lodge
stands now.
And another mini-Village featuring a five-star flag hotel will be built on
the other side of the road, replacing the Mammoth Mountain Inn.
Alterra submitted a formal application
to the Town of Mammoth Lakes
this week, the next phase in a redevelop-
ment effort that began 22 years ago.
This will trigger both CEQA (Californ-
ia Environmental Quality Act) and
NEPA (National Environmental Policy
Act) review.
The 36-acres, which will be ulti-
mately be governed by a specific plan
and require modification to the Town
of Mammoth Lakes General Plan, is
all currently disturbed - no pristine
wilderness here.
Brownlie did confirm that Alterra
hopes to more than double the bed base which currently exists (approx-
imately 220 rooms) at Main Lodge.
What he’s most excited about is the
rare opportunity to reimagine a truly
iconic place and make it even better.
“The key is to not look at it as an
operator, but as a guest, and this is our
chance to put the guest services and
the amenities in all the right places,
and build on Dave McCoy’s legacy.”

BROWNLINE PROMOTED
Leaving a vacancy for top job at MMSA

Mark Brownlie, current President
and June Mountain and
Regional Chief Operating Officer
(BCOO) - Western Region, has been
promoted to Chief Operating Officer
- Resorts for Alterra Mountain Com-
pany.
Resort Presidents will continue to
report to their respective BCOO who
will report to Mark in his new role.
Mark will report to Rusty Gregory,
President of Alterra Mountain Com-
pany.

An internal process will begin
immediately to fill the Mammoth
Mountain President and the RCOO –
Western Region roles.
Mark’s responsibilities will include
oversight of all Alterra Mountain
Company destination operations,
buiding and organizing the destina-
tions’ teams, and working in concert
with Todd Shallan, COO - Hospitality,
to drive the profitability and growth
of the company through continual
improvement of the guest experience
and the Key Performance Indicators
(KPIs) of the Resorts Division.
Born in the mountains of Scotland,
Mark is a lifelong skier who began his
ski industry career in his home coun-
try more than 35 years ago.
After spending time teaching and
coaching throughout Europe, New
Zealand and Australia, Mark joined
the Mammoth Mountain team in 1997.
At Mammoth Mountain, Mark
held the positions of Head Race
Coach, Director of Mammoth Freeski,
Snowboard and Alpine Teams,
Managing Director of Athletics, V.P.
of Mountain Operations, and Chief
Operating Officer. In 2017, Mark was
promoted to President of Mammoth
Mountain and June Mountain. Mark
was named RCOO - Western in 2019.
Mammoth Mountain is Alterra
Mountain Company’s largest destina-
tion.
Sierra Employment Services, Inc. is hiring for the following positions:

- **Bilingual Med. Asst. - B** - $16 - $20 per hour
- **MR/ACU - B** - $13 - $15 per hour
- **Pharmacy Tech - L** - $15 - $20 per hour
- **Pharmacy Lead Tech - L** - $15 - $20 per hour
- **HR Clerk - B** - $17 - $22
- **MCW - B** - $14 - $18 per hour
- **MCW - M/LH** - $17 - $25
- **MCW - M/DH** - $17 - $25
- **Clinic Front Desk - B** - $14 - $18

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We are currently accepting applications. Please send your resume to info@butnerhoaservices.com. Mammoth Spa Creations also offers a competitive benefits package for qualified individuals. Please visit our website at mammothbusiness.com or stop by Mammoth Business Essentials.

**HELP WANTED**

- **Minaret Rd, Mammoth and holi to fill year round and seasonal positions. We are looking for the right employees to join our dedicated Town team. ESTA is an equal opportunity employer. Please stop by for an application or contact 760.872.1901 ext. 1 for more information.

- **Mammoth Taxi**

  * Front desk
  * Full time Maintenance Worker

  Mammoth Taxi is accepting applications for maintenance worker. Must be honest, personable and enjoy making customers smile! Day and evening shifts available. Apply in person or call 760-934-8111.

- **East Side Bake Shop**

  Bakers, counter associates, dishwasher, prep cook, and baker. Duties could include baking, packaging/shipping, making copies, scans, laminations, cleaning and more. We are many small tasks that constantly revolve around the store. We’re looking for an organized team member who has attention to detail and occasionally lift heavy packages. Starting wage $15 per hour. Email resume to samj@mammothbusiness.com or stop by Mammoth Business Essentials.

- **Sherwin Villas**

  1. **Front Desk - B** - $16 - $20 per hour
  2. **Front Office Desk** - B - $16 - $20 per hour

  Sherwin Villas is hiring an assistant condo manager. Tuesdays & Wednesdays 8am-5pm. Year round position, call 760-934-6080 for details.

- **East Side Bake Shop**

  MAMMOTH CHEVRON

  Mammoth Chevron Seeking experienced cashiers. Must be at least 19 years old. Must be honest, personable and enjoy making customers smile! Day and evening shifts available. Apply in person or call 760-934-8111.

  - **East Side Bake Shop**

    Seeking self-motivated, energetic and friendly employees. Bakers, counter associates, dishwasher, prep cook, and baker. Duties could include baking, packaging/shipping, making copies, scans, laminations, cleaning and more. We are many small tasks that constantly revolve around the store. We’re looking for an organized team member who has attention to detail and occasionally lift heavy packages. Starting wage $15 per hour. Email resume to samj@mammothbusiness.com or stop by Mammoth Business Essentials.

- **East Side Bake Shop**

  MAMMOTH CHEVRON

  **Hiring now!**

  We’re looking for experienced professionals to join our dedicated Town team. 2.5% commission on all sales plus a competitive benefits package. Must be committed to serving our local community!

  - **Account Manager**

    - $82,538 - $107,300

  - **Front Office Manager**

    - $61,582 - $86,652

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

- **Mammoth Business Essentials**

  Office Administrator for Construction Coordinator. Year round and professional position approximately 30hrs per week. Competitive pay with computer literacy required and quickbooks/accounting skills preferred. To inquire please call 760.934.1860 ext. 1. Please call 760.934.3800 ext. 1.

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**TOWN STUFF**

**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 Piciu Lane, Bishop).

**Monday, April 12/**
Mammoth Lakes Democrat Central Committee meeting. To discuss the ongoing efforts to recall Governor Gavin Newsom and current redistricting efforts. Time: 5 p.m. Register in advance https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIod-CpqT4sGdNClaM1-odypXQ2XWzr1YU. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Tuesday, April 13/**
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/9440407421. Mono County Supervisors meet. Public session generally starts 9 a.m. To join via Zoom, visit https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/9545400472.

Mammoth Lakes Recreation Commission meets at 3 p.m. To join via Zoom, the meeting code is 982 571 2256 or view through Granicus.

Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission meets at 2 p.m. Viewing is available through Zoom or through Granicus on the town website.

**Wednesday, April 14/**
Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission meets at 2 p.m. Viewing is available through Zoom or through Granicus on the town website.

**Thursday, April 15/**
June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee hosts a “Community Vision” session. Time: 5 p.m. Please click this URL to join: https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/95010689251.

**Friday, April 16/**
Mammoth Lakes Town Council Special meeting at 1 p.m. Viewing is available through Zoom or through Granicus on the town website.

**Ongoing**
The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association is operating their bookstores at the Eastern Sierra Visitor Centers. Thursday through Monday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visitor questions are being answered via phone, 760-876-6200, Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, closed federal holidays.

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 am - 4 pm.

Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Spring Virtual Job Fair running until April 15. Visit mammothlakesjobs.com for info or email bgoice@mammothlakeschamber.org to learn more.

Mono County Libraries April Reading Challenge. Join our Beanstack Reading Challenge this April. Learn more and sign up at monocountylibraries.beanstack.org. Read, earn prizes and develop your literacy superpowers!

**Upcoming**

Bonba Stories and UCLA Kyodo Taiko will perform during the 52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will be held online on Saturday, April 24 at 12 p.m. on the Manzanar Committee’s YouTube channel, https://www.youtube.com/manzanarcommittee. The Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau (RACCVB) 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.

**Tuesday, April 20, 2021**
Tobacco Free Eastern Sierra Earth Day 2021 Virtual Summit Time: 6-7:30 p.m via Zoom (Free Webinar Event!)https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/94054042184 Join advocates from across the Eastern Sierra to learn about environmental stewardship efforts & volunteer opportunities, celebrate Earth Day, and win raffle prizes!

**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 Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at the Mammoth Lakes Foundation, 100 College Pkwy. 11 a.m. ‘til 7 p.m. No appt. necessary. See ad p. 5 Walker/Coleville testing Fridays at Walker Community Center 9 am-12:45 pm.

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

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## AT THE MOVIES

**MAMMOTH LIQUOR**

**Beer lovers’ candy store**
Selection of more than 300 beers NOTHING CELEBRATES MASTERS SUNDAY LIKE A GOOD SIXPACK

**NORCO SERVICE CENTER**

**“I care for your vehicle.”**
3616 Main St. Bishop, CA 93514
760-934-8983

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**THE SHEET | Saturday, April 10, 2021 | www.thesheetnews.com | 13**
Notice Inviting Bids

Notice Inviting Bids

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of Public Comment

Notice of Construction Operations

Notice of Public Comment

NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS

Notice of Public Hearing
A few weeks later he accepted a $1,500 payment for the inconvenience of a night’s stay at the Bridgeport Hilton.

After the incident, Chief Davis said there were no hard feelings between Mr. Meier and the department.

The Sheet then asked Davis about a statement his Records Supervisor Krysdale Stewart posted online:

“Cash in lieu of lawsuit isn’t so uncommon. Check out Long Beach that just did the same in the last month. It’s all business.”

Sheet: Is it all business?

Davis: It is business.

Sheet: If you could do it all over again, would you have handled the Thompson case any differently?

Davis said it did not affect his working relationship with Hugelman.

“Eric was doing a good job,” said Davis. “It was not a performance issue. And he handled the Stephanie Thompson thing well from what I know.”

Davis penned a statement on the Mammoth Lakes Police Department Facebook page regarding the Thompson incident and claimed public sentiment showed 75% support for the MLPD in how it handled the case.

The start of his statement reads, “The Sheet did not review any police reports, incident information or bodycam footage prior to printing an article on this incident. The Sheet requested those materials, and they were being collected at that time. Not all reports were completed at the time of request. There are a number of inaccurate statements in the article.”

He does not explain why he did not return any phone calls that week.

He does not explain why the MLPD couldn’t fulfill requests for basic reports within 72 hours.

In his statement, I could not find substantial points of difference between his version of events and what appeared in the paper last week.

Let’s put this way, The Sheet doesn’t operate on MLPD time, and the MLPD certainly doesn’t operate on newspaper deadline time. But I’m not gonna kill a story just because you’re trying to run out the clock.

I thought Davis made some excellent points when he talked about how Covid has “taken relationships backward” in the community between law enforcement and the public “because we’re not visible at events (in the community).”

Further, he said, uniform plus mask makes officers look scarier and creates a sense of foreboding.

One of the rather telling parts of our conversation was when Chief Davis asked whether or not I had spoken to Steve Searles.

He said that Searles had been essentially giving him the evil eye and had it out for him ever since the Town and Searles had parted ways last summer over a contract disagreement.

And that’s when it kind of clicked in for me.

“So... it must have really irritated you that Steve and Eric remained friends. Did it make you feel that Eric was somehow disloyal and could no longer be trusted?”

Davis thought this was a reach and said it did not affect his working relationship with Hugelman.

Breaking news on a Thursday evening. Just received the following:

“The [Mammoth] Town Council has directed the Town Attorney to engage an outside expert to conduct an independent investigation and review of the Thompson incident. The Town is taking the incident, process, response and all related actions very seriously, and Town staff will cooperate fully with the investigation and review.”

In terms of serendipity, I vaguely recalled the “Chainsaw Al” moniker from my youth but had to do some research to figure out where it came from. “Chainsaw Al” was a guy by the name of Al Dunlap who was a corporate turnaround guy whose heyday was in the ’90s.

His principal strategy: Slash and burn. Improve the bottom line via mass layoffs and then sell the company.

According to his wikipedia entry, in one interview, “Dunlap freely admitted to possessing many of the traits of a psychopath, but considered them positive traits such as leadership and decisiveness.”

And from his New York Times obituary, a quote from his autobiography: “The AI Dunlaps of the world would not be hired if corporate people did their jobs,” he wrote. “But because some executives can’t make decisions or consistently make the wrong decisions, their incompetence virtually screams out for an AI Dunlap.”

Final thoughts: The Town is anticipating a 20% increase in revenue for fiscal year 2021-2022 so it’s hard to believe Hugelman was axed for financial considerations.

And Mammoth’s Council has its first “Strategic” workshop planned for this Friday, April 9. Maybe that’s why there was such a rush to eliminate Hugelman - I mean, strategy can muck things up!
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