**REA V. WORLD**

**Housing is on the Radar, but MLT resists money grab**

By Lunch

Mammoth Lakes Town Council and Mammoth Lakes Tourism held a joint workshop on Wednesday evening to discuss/debate what MLTs direction should be moving forward in the near-term.

The undercurrent: How much money does MLT need to do its job?

It’s a question that Councilmember Sarah Rea asked very bluntly, and a question that her fellow Councilmembers and MLT Board members deftly dodged.

The end result: Status quo.

By Page

Saturday, May 1, 2021

FREE

Vol. 19, No. 18

Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Director Ken Brengle displays Town Manager Dan Hollar’s Pandemic Champion award. For a summary of awards and winners, see p. 6

**HOT STUFF**

Talking fire science with SCE

By Page

The 2020 wildfire season was the most extreme in California history, with nearly 9,500 fires burning approximately four million acres across the state.

Four million acres is about 4% of the land within California.

Five of six of the largest wildfires in state history occurred last year; the August complex alone burned an area roughly the size of Rhode Island and has been called the state’s first “gigafire.”

Locally, the Creek Fire kept things dark and smoky for nearly two months while burning through the High Sierra. Mammoth Lakes was deemed to have the fourth-worst air quality in the country last year as a result.

So what is the outlook in 2021? Did last year’s large scale fires burn enough to prevent massive fires again this year?

The answer, it seems, is no.

Since April 12, there have been seven fires in the state and while they have remained relatively small, three were still burning as of Thursday, April 29.

The largest fire still active is the North Fire in Los Angeles, which had burned 640 acres and was 25% contained as of press time.

The Sheet spoke with Tom Rolinski, a fire scientist with Southern California Edison (SCE), about the upcoming fire season and what tools the utility has to aid in the detection and prediction of wildfires.

Rolinski is a meteorologist by trade, having spent time working for the National Weather Service, Bureau of Land Management, and United States Forest Service before moving to SCE. He co-created the Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index, a modeling system that helps to determine the wildfire threat during a particular weather system.

In determining the expected severity of a given fire season, Rolinski explained that there are a number of factors to consider, including fuel conditions, vegetation, precipitation, humidity and general weather patterns.

With weather, there’s both the “short fuse” and “long fuse” conditions. Short fuse weather can be difficult to predict until shortly before it happens: wind events, lightning, etc. An example of a long fuse would be drought, which takes place over an extended period and increases the potential for ignition.

The bottom line: “I think we’re going to have a fire season starting earlier than normal” Rolinski told The Sheet. “I think this fire season has the potential to be a very active one.”

Fire season typically starts in mid-May and ends in mid-November, with a peak between September and November as the Santa Ana winds return, which “coincides with when fuels are at their driest.” It’s difficult for meteorologists like Rolinski to predict what peak season may look like this far out.

see WILDFIRE, page 10

**NOT SO TRASHY**

Volunteers with their haul from a trash pick-up in Lee Vining. The pick-up was a part of the town’s Earth Day Celebration. The celebration also featured an electric vehicle demonstration and recycled art projects. Photo courtesy of Janet Carle

The circus is here! p. 8/

Don’t Shoot Me p. 5-6/

Can Leonard p. 4/

“They destroyed our ass.” p. 12/

Dispersed clothing p. 18/

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**News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra**

Mammoth Lakes Board members deftly dodged. Rolinski is a meteorologist by trade, having spent time working for the National Weather Service, Bureau of Land Management, and United States Forest Service before moving to SCE. He co-created the Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index, a modeling system that helps to determine the wildfire threat during a particular weather system.

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THE MAMMOTH MANCHIN

“The only way to get to success, you realize you are going to f*#k it up and you gotta just start going to work. There’s a boxing or UFC analogy: You gotta bite down on your mouthpiece and start fighting! You have to be willing to take the emotional damage. People get exhausted from that beating. I don’t know why I don’t.” - Ari Emanuel

Ari Emanuel is a Hollywood mogul, the CEO of Endeavor, an entertainment and media agency, and the recent subject of a lengthy profile in the New Yorker.

And I include the above quote in the wake of the Mammoth Lakes Chamber holding its Pandemic Awards just because … the nature of trotting out awards is to soothe people who don’t really have the stomach for the emotional damage.

But maybe I’m just bitter I wasn’t nominated for the Optimist Award!

I do think they should have had a “Didn’t Take a Handout” award. I wouldn’t have have qualified. Received a first-round PPP loan.

I would qualify for the “No Time Off” award. Which is probably why I’m so pleasant these days.

Back to the Emanuel quote. And I’m going to offer some praise here which may shock you. But that special recognition the Chamber bestowed upon Mammoth Town Manager Dan Holler makes sense to me. He f*#ks up. He may shock you. But that special recognition the Chamber bestowed upon him keeps grinding. And he doesn’t lose his cool. At least publicly.

Praise to Mammoth Councilman Kirk Stapp this week, who finally used his political leverage re The Parcel.

Because fellow Councilmembers Rea and Sauser are conflicted out on The Parcel, there are only three Council votes remaining. And as Town Attorney Andrew Morris explained Wednesday, you need a majority of the total Council to pass a resolution (or three votes) versus a simple majority of the Councilmembers who can vote, which in this case would be two.

So Stapp did his best Joe Manchin impersonation (the centrist West Virginia Senator who is the swing vote for the Biden agenda) on Wednesday and demanded a small, yet significant change in wording in order to give his go-ahead for phase one of The Parcel.

Stapp demanded the “up to 580 units” language be amended to “up to 450” as he is worried about too much building density.

While he acknowledged that future Councils can certainly change the language right back, it does insert a placeholder for Stapp’s objection and will likely make future Councils ponder the density issue versus repeat “up to 580” over and over again until it becomes virtually institutionalized.

As I’ve said many times before, having lived in Mammoth’s first affordable housing development which consisted of 24 units on one acre, 20 units/acre is the right number to me. And The Parcel has approximately 22 buildable acres. Stapp’s number is right. And he was clever in advocating for it.

I don’t normally publish anonymous letters but this one makes an excellent point.

“My main takeaway from the “Sexy Beach: Alterra Pushes Forward with Main Lodge Redevelopment” article in the April 10 issue was that with the planned increased real estate set to house and provide a “21st century guest experience” to so many more visitors, is there a plan to increase housing for the growing workforce that will staff the newly expanded resort?

MMSA’s current employee housing properties are dated, overpriced, and in short enough supply that they don’t have enough to house the entire winter seasonal workforce. I know that this is an issue that plagues the town as a whole and my two cents doesn’t account for much, but for a company able to spend “hundreds of M[illion]s, approaching a B[illion]” dollars to expand their resort to the level indicated in the article, I feel like they could afford to build some additional employee housing while they’re at it.”

Lunch reaction: Damn right.

Inyo Supervisors discussed the upcoming water season at their meeting on Tuesday.

Dr. Aaron Steinwand of the Inyo County Water Dept. said the runoff forecast for this year is 55% of normal, or 226,800 acre-feet.

The City of Los Angeles projects groundwater pumping at between 64,600-75,000 acre-feet, but as Supervisor Matt Kingsley noted, L.A. dangles the lower range as a carrot. The upper range is what we should be worrying about.

But Steinwand … he’s even worried about the lower range.

He said groundwater levels among the 46 indicator wells have fallen 2’ on average this year.

Inyo County Water Commissioner Randy Keller (echoed by fellow Commissioners Gratz, Alpert and Huette) “feel this is all potentially part of a mega-drought.”

“The valley is drying out because of the pumping. You can see it,” said Paul Huette.

Gratz said, “The [Long Term] Water Agreement was based upon a cup that was already half-empty.”

So Inyo Supervisors voted to approve a letter to Aqueduct Manager Fredy Perez recommending a groundwater pumping total below the lower range.

We’ll publish the introductory paragraph here.

Dear Mr. Perez,

In accordance with Section V.D. of the Inyo/Los Angeles Long Term Water Agreement, this letter transmits the Inyo County Water Department’s (ICWD) comments on LADWP’s Draft Owens Valley Operations Plan for Runoff Year 2021-2022 (Draft Plan). The Draft Plan indicates that the City intends to...
THANK YOU TO OUR FRONTLINE WORKERS!

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During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Good Morning,

I was very disappointed to read a full page article titled Immoderate Disposal [sic] this week. I thought this article, though an opinion piece, was filled with inaccuracies, poor writing for an average person, and unacceptable writing for a reporter.

Mr. Leonard misuses the term wilderness and backcountry throughout, to create a false argument based on his beliefs to keep people out of his backyard. Understanding the definition of wilderness and backcountry is essential when discussing camping, impact, and use on public land. He uses both these terms incorrectly. How could you let this be published, let alone run a Sierra Club ad with it. I don’t know if I should be embarrassed for you, or for them?

This article goes over the top and does not even utilize basic journalism principles of fair and honest reporting. We must hold the government officials accountable for greater enforcement of rules already in place, rather than blanket bans which clearly do not work. More so, a little investigation shows dispersed camping in non-wilderness areas of our National Forests has actually been a public right going back to the historical beginning. In his photos of campers, none showed any illegal camping, nor any littering. He doesn’t seem to understand that it is legal to camp on non-wilderness Forest service land for up to 14 days, except in specific sensitive locations where it has been prohibited. Camping on our National Forest lands, in and also outside of developed campgrounds, is the backbone of our summer economy and lifestyle.

Leonard clearly does not understand the different types of forest land management and should educate himself before writing an article. Numerous times in his article, he compares dispersed camping on local forest service roads to wilderness. Legal Wilderness is designated and approved by the US Congress via the 1964 Wilderness Act. Yes, there are restrictions and permit requirements in designated wilderness which is rightfully protected to the highest order, as it should be. But we are not talking about wilderness here, as Leonard incorrectly states. Someone car camping near a road bridge across a river is clearly not in the wilderness. Also, there are no requirements to obtain a permit to use the backcountry of the forest outside of the wilderness, as he claimed he has had to do. Nor should there be a permit and a fee for everything we want to do everywhere on our public lands. If it was tried, how would we even begin to regulated or enforce it on a massive National Forest. It would be folly.

If there are specific sensitive areas where camping should not be allowed then let’s talk about those areas. And if people are littering, having illegal campfires, or otherwise breaking Forest service law, then let’s talk about those areas. And if people are littering, having illegal campfires, or otherwise breaking Forest service law, then let’s talk about those areas. And if people are littering, having illegal campfires, or otherwise breaking Forest service law, then let’s talk about those areas.

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Mr. Mayor and Town Council,

As you know we have been in a crisis for some time in regard to housing for our local workforce. When the community went through strategic priority planning sessions with the Council during 2012-2016 (a Council that I was part of), we all supported as a top-five priority to move forward to solve our workforce housing issues. While I applaud the previous Council for completing the land purchase of Shady Rest and the current efforts to build affordable housing, there needs to be a more concrete approach to funding the projects to get stakes in the ground and get units built.

Jessica DeMartin
Mono City
By Phil Higerd

HOW TO PREVENT POLICE SHOOTINGS

I t has always baffled me that following every high profile police shooting since Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., the immediate default assumption trumpeted by the media, and then echoed by politicians, celebrities and activists; is that the responsibility for the incident lies with the “supply side” if you will. That is, the officers responding to a 911 call, who are supposed to be motivated by racism or other hatred, and are just looking for an excuse to shoot somebody.

There is hardly the slightest mention of the “demand side,” that is: what did the subject do to draw the attention of law enforcement in the first place, but more important; what did the subject do after being contacted, which led to deadly force being deployed?

By now, my “Back the (good) Blue” bias will be palpable to most. I would not hesitate for a second to jump into a fight where an officer might be in trouble, to do anything I could to help him/her achieve their primary goal: to go home to their family at the end of their shift. And for every Derek Chauvin, there are many Eric Talleys. So what is the causal common denominator in almost all high profile police shootings?

It is a person suspected of, or actively committing a crime, who resists arrest. Consider the most recent ones:

The 16 year old girl in Ohio, shown on bodycam video attacking another girl with a knife. The officer’s command to “get down, get down” are ignored, and he fires to prevent a murder. Instead of being hailed as the hero, he is condemned as a villain by politicians and celebrities; particularly one obscenely paid athlete.

Adam Toledo: Officers responding to a “shots fired” call chase him 60 yards down an alley; yelling at him to stop and drop the 9mm pistol he has in his hand. Instead of dropping it anywhere along the way where the officer can see it, he finally gets tired and tosses it behind a fence out of sight. Media shows a freeze frame with his hands up, and declares Adam was “unarmed!” Except that bodycam video shows that he had the gun in hand 2/10ths of a second before he was shot. The person culpable for Adam’s death is whoever put the gun in a 13-year old’s hand.

Daunte Wright: was pulled over for expired plates, but arrested when it was learned that he had a warrant for illegal possession of a .45 caliber handgun. (I bet you didn’t hear that detail from the media). His sudden and violent resistance to avoid being handcuffed, and re-entering his vehicle, created the high stress situation in which he was mistakenly shot instead of being Tasered.

You can see this pattern in almost every high profile case all the way back to: Michael Brown: who had just robbed a convenience store, and when confronted by the officer, fought with the officer to the extent that Brown’s DNA was inside the door of the police car, and the officer’s DNA was found under Brown’s fingernails. The phrase “hands up; don’t shoot!” was determined by the Obama Justice Dept. to never have been uttered at that scene. Unfortunately, Brown’s actions were the opposite of “hands up;” otherwise he would likely be alive today.

In discussing this issue with various friends and family, I have on occasion been told “You don’t know what it’s like to have an encounter with the police as a black man.” While that is literally true, I do have relevant life experience which informs this topic, in that I was once nearly shot to death by a police officer though I had broken no law, and done nothing wrong.

Here’s the story:

When I was in my early 30s, (long, long ago), I was doing errands in the closest town with a sporting goods store that had a gunsmith (Bishop). The week before, I had left my Colt Woodsman, a .22 caliber beer can shooter, at the shop for a minor repair. I picked up the gun, but having forgotten to bring a case for it that day, I slipped it into the deep pocket of my somewhat baggy logger pants, as I was legally licensed to do, and went about my other errands. About a half hour later, as I was walking down the sidewalk, I came upon a police cruiser. I smiled and nodded to the officer, who then opened his door just enough to extend his Smith & Wesson Model 1006 through the gap, pointed straight at my sternum, with...
the command "don't move, or you're a dead man!" I 'reached for the sky' and realizing in an instant that someone had caught a glimpse of my gun and called out "Don't move!" and I knew that I had an empty.22 in my pocket, and a permit for it in my wallet. The response that I got, was an even louder: 'DON'T MOVE, OR YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!' There was certainly no white privilege in play that day, and it mattered not, whether I was white, black, Asian, or what have you. I immediately raised my right hand, knowing that if I made any sudden move, that a 10mm hollow point would likely impact my thoracic cavity, leaving at most 12 seconds for my blood pressure to go to zero, and I think dark except perhaps for a "bright light at the end of a tunnel?" This was not a time to argue or to protest that I had done nothing wrong: much less fight, or try to run ... It was a time to say nothing except "yes sir" or "no sir," and do exactly what I was told. They soon figured out that I was no threat, and uncuffed me, and permitted the use of their bedroom to deal with the spontaneous incontinence that typi- cally manifests in such life threatening situations. I felt no ill will toward the officer who newly made my wife a widow, and my kids fatherless, because I understood that he was responding to a "man with a gun" call in a state where concealed weapon permits are extremely rare, and he considered me to be a threat, until I convinced him, by complying with his commands, that I was not. The decision of whether I lived or died that day was totally mine to make; and so it is with almost all police shoot- ings. Let's be very honest: in most cities, a young black man in a hoodie is more likely to be contacted by police than a 60-something white guy. But why is that? It may be any number of factors such as the actual rate of off- ending, the similarity in appearance to suspects being sought, or it might be pure evil racism. But whatever precipitates the initial police contact, the outcome (or surviv- ability) of the contact is almost always going to be determined by the subject's actions. I don't know when the idea came into our culture that fighting the police was an acceptable option, much less a prudent one with any chance of a good outcome. For an officer, a fight is not a sporting event. It is seen as a potential fight to the death, because he knows that if the suspect seizes his pepper spray, his Taser, or his gun, they will be used to incapacitate, and likely kill him. The lesson here that is not being taught, especially in communities of color, where it is most needed, is: "EX-IS-US, IN-RESIST!" Chris Rock did a 5 minute video years ago entitled "How not to get your ass kicked by the police" which is on YouTube. It is funny/ not funny, in that it is so serious a subject, but brilliant in its simple message. Another tool that would be extremely beneficial in dealing with this problem is the "Community Police Academy." I was invited to participate in this excellent program in our town, where citizens learn about police training, procedures, the law, tactics, use of force, de-escalation techniques, and how citizens learn about police training, procedures, the law, tactics, use of force, de-escalation techniques, and how physiological responses to fighting, and through hands-on exercises, get to un- derstand dangers that officers face on a daily basis, such as how fast a gun can be pulled on you during a traffic stop. This type of program could and should be instituted in the high schools, along the lines of the health ed. curriculum, and could go a long way toward creating these tragic and un- necessary incidents. Fictitious Business Name Statement The Following Person Is Doing Business As: P3-Parks-Pipes-Powder Minaret Sports Inc. P.O.Box 3395, 325 Main Street Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 This business is conducted by a Corpora- tion. The name of the corporation is "Minaret Sports Inc." TOT (based on that $14.5 budgeted number) and another $4.79 million in projected TBD (Tourism Business Improvement District) revenue. Mayor Bill Sauser sprinkled plenty of bombastic comments throughout the workshop to keep people entertained. He said if we cut marketing now and use that money for other purposes, the town would float a bond number, that it caps its payouts to NGOs like MLT while it pockets the rest. MLTs budget for 2021-2022 proj- ects $2.34 million as its share of Town TOT, and that $1.45 budgeted number. MLT Board members acknowledged 2021-2022 would be a bounce-back year. John Mendel thinks it’ll be a $20 million TOT year. MMSAs Eric Clark said he was "very bullish." Chamber representative Jeremy Goico said he was not worried about people showing up the next 6-12 months. It’ll be "a lot easier than the year before". The Town has budgeted TOT reve- nue at just $14.5 million for 2021-2022. What this effectively means, when the Town floats a bond number, is that it caps its payouts to NGOs like MLT while it pockets the rest. MLTs budget for 2021-2022 proj- ects $2.34 million as its share of Town TOT, and that $1.45 budgeted number. and another $4.79 million in projected TBD (Tourism Business Improvement District) revenue. Essential acknowledging that government isn’t nimble enough to respond to change of any description. He explained a comment from Councilman John Wentworth regarding carrying capacity. Sauser also floated the idea of limiting TOT certificates and perhaps pushing older housing stock into long-term rentals. Causing John Mendel to caution that it’s probably not a good idea (and hardly fair) to pick and choose winners and tell people what they can and can’t do with their property. Later, Sauser declared that the Town has spent more on housing than mar- keting over the past five years. He said this with a straight face. MLTs cumulative budget over the past five years is approximately $40 million. The Town has spent approximately $10-11 million over the past five years on housing, if you include the $7 million it spent to acquire The Parcel. No action was taken at the work- shop, and it is unlikely that MLT and/ or Town budgets for 2021-2022 will be adjusted.
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Application process must start by May 14, 2021.

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Mono: Ana Danielson, 760-934-0031 ext. 207
or adanielson@incounty.org

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SURVEY SAYS ... Lehman conducts housing v. CRC/MUF survey

Editor’s note: Matthew Lehman conducted an online survey this week to gauge Mammoth’s community priorities. This is what he found.

Attached are the results of the Survey I did over the past few days. It was run as a post on two pages I have and it was run as a boosted ad available to anyone within a 15 mile radius around Mammoth.

The one-question survey: “Do you support the Town of Mammoth Lakes decision to build the Multi-Use facility now, or would you have rather seen funding go toward local housing options?”

142 responses
17% in favor of the Multi-Use Facility
83% in favor of Housing

This survey came about through various comments/questions whereby people simply didn’t understand why we were building a Multi-Use Facility when we so desperately needed housing. Moreover, people continue to be perplexed as to why we are building another tent structure, particularly one that is going to cost nearly $15 million. Who knows, perhaps we could suggest we stop the multi-use facility and put funding toward housing, but instead to take the temperature of what the public wants versus what the vocal minority wants. That which the public wants versus what is being built don’t seem to line up, even if the decision was made years ago.

To paraphrase Mitch Cahoon’s response in a Facebook post, political leaders should do their jobs and find a way to come up with the needed money for the priorities wanted by the public versus making excuses as to why they can’t place certain funds where needed. Mitch and Julie Brussel both had pretty good responses to Dan Holder’s comment about how funding can be spent (my personal Facebook page) - you can check that out if you want the specifics of what was said.

As a side note: It would be funny to see something written about all the tents, the Sprung Structure at the Airport, Eagle Lodge, the MUF and now all the tents out on the Scenic Loop Road and other parts of town. “The Circus has come to Town.” -Matthew Lehman

IN SEARCH OF ... A PLACE TO LIVE
Debbie and John Diaz

As Sarah Rea said at Council on Wednesday, “Every other week, someone’s telling me they’re getting kicked out of a place.”

So at The Sheet, we’ve decided to profile folks as they come forward in the hopes of connecting good, solid long-time locals with a new housing opportunity.

This week, we spoke with Debbie and John Diaz, who moved to Mammoth Lakes in 1994.

John Diaz, 66, retired from Vons in Mammoth last March after a 26-year run with the company.

Diaz is a familiar, friendly figure to anyone with a child in Mammoth - when he was at Vons, he’d call ‘em “Squirt.”

He’d also volunteer to lead all the kids’ tours at Vons when their teachers would bring them over on field trips.

He retired in part because of the CoVid risk (“Vons didn’t feel safe”) and in part because of a work-related shoulder injury that he is rehabbing from.

Debbie continues to work for the Mono County Health Department. She serves as the Emergency Preparedness Program Manager and has been very busy since last March.

The two, who have been married for 24 years and together for 35, have a mixed family with several children. Debbie’s daughter Shannen and granddaughter Macey live in Mammoth.

The couple say they’ve made about 25 calls over the past week and have a few short-term offers. They say a one-bedroom in an older condominium complex currently rents for about $1,500/month.

Debbie says, “With so many homes being purchased by the upper income folks and then most putting them on Airbnb, it leaves the rental inventory slim. And who can blame them? Why make $3,000/month when you can make $3,000/week?

It’s pretty clear that we have been priced out to purchase or rent.

We pray that this article will bring some awareness to our town and its government that affordable housing didn’t come quick enough for people like us.

With a grateful (yet broken) heart...

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In regard to Mammoth air service in ’21-22, Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdi said Mammoth will have charter service (max of 30 passengers) to Carlsbad, Burbank and Hawthorne. He anticipates generating 4,500 enplanements for the ’21-’22 winter season.

Charter enplanements do count toward the total which generates a $1 million Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) subsidy. In short, 10,000 enplanements = a million bucks.

So why not run charter service through the summer and try to hit that number? we asked.

Urdi thinks getting to 10,000 by year two or year three is more realistic. He did not dismiss the possibility of charter service availability for summer ’22.

From the Mono County Sheriff’s Department:

At around noon on Saturday, April 24, 2021, deputies were patrolling Crowley Lake on a Mono County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Boat. Because of the incredibly high winds, several vessels became stranded and swamped. Mammoth Airport recorded gusts as high as 52 mile per hour; Mammoth Mountain recorded gusts over 75 miles per hour.

Deputies noticed a small aluminum vessel near the Chalk Bluffs with 4 males and a dog on board taking on water. Due to the location, high waves and size of the distressed vessel, a vessel tow was not a viable or a safe option. Deputies were able to get all persons and the dog aboard the Patrol Boat, and a good Samaritan vessel assisted in getting the empty distressed vessel to shore.

While on the way back to the marina, the Patrol Boat suffered a severe mechanical failure, resulting in the loss of thrust from the engine and jet drive. Deputies quickly determined that the safest action was to beach the Patrol Boat and get all persons safely to shore. Once on shore, a Sheriff’s Sergeant and California Fish and Wildlife Officers were able to access a nearby dirt road and provide transport. No injuries occurred to the subjects, the dog or the deputies.

The Mono County Sheriff’s Office received several reports of swamped and capsized vessels throughout the county on Saturday. Fortunately, no one was reported injured or missing.

We urge all boaters to be safe, have and wear Personal Flotation Devices, use common sense, and respect the weather when recreating on the water.
Although 2020 was a record year in terms of burned acreage, “there’s still a lot left to burn,” Rolinski said, “You really can’t make projections on how much we expect to have burned this year…fuels are already drier than they normally would be.”

There is some good news to be had: “We do have less of a grass crop this year just due to lack of rainfall,” Rolinski explained. The terrain typically starts to “green up” in late December or early January; this year, that has happened much later.

“When we have less grass available to burn, it typically results in fewer ignitions,” Rolinski said. He explained that a lot of fires are caused by roadside ignition, when a car pulls over and the heat from the engine can provide enough heat to light dry grass. Dry grass fires can quickly ignite larger fuels if they grow out of control and with diminished grass presence, the connectivity between small and large fuels is reduced.

What’s SCE doing to mitigate the impacts of fires on the landscape? Rolinski said long-term grid “hardening” is underway to reduce the potential for a utility-ignited blaze. SCE is in the process of adding covered conductors across its circuits and installing switching devices that allow for pinpoint de-energization on a circuit. The goal: maintain as much service as possible during wind events without blacking out an entire circuit. In addition, SCE’s prediction and modeling abilities have been buffed out.

The utility has installed 1,000 weather stations across its coverage territory that monitor temperature, humidity, wind speed, etc., to aid in decision-making. 161 early detection cameras have also been added to the network to detect wildfires before they grow out of control.

Rolinski runs millions of simulations through these computers, which can place an ignition at any point in the service area and model the effects across a variety of conditions.

When asked if the number of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events might increase this year, Rolinski said that there’s no way knowing. The events are driven by the weather and given how unpredictable it can be, especially in the Sierra, there is no way to say for certain.

“I wish I could,” he said, “That’s not just exclusive to SCE, that’s just true in the weather business.”

Speaking of fires ...

The following is a press release from the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department about campfires at dispersed camping sites.

Fires are currently allowed in dispersed camping areas in Mono County, but it is extremely important to obtain a permit and build campfires safely. With an overly dry winter behind us, we’re now facing what is shaping up to be a summer with severely high fire danger. Always check to ensure there aren’t any fire restrictions in the area where you plan to camp, and visit https://permit.preventwildfresca.org/ to obtain a campfire permit.

None of us want to see a smoke-filled summer like last year! So please do your part to keep this beautiful area safe. Directives included in the permit are:
- Know and comply with all current fire restrictions for the area where you plan to use a campfire
- Clear all flammable materials from the ground for five feet in all directions from the edge of the fire. Keep a shovel and water nearby
- Keep the fire small- Think of the fire in a cube that’s 2 ft, by 2 ft, by 2 ft.
- Always personally supervise the campfire until it is completely extinguished or ensure that another knowledgeable and responsible adult supervises the fire
- Always personally make sure the fire is dead out and completely cold before you leave it unsupervised. Extinguish the fire with water and a shovel using the “drown, stir, and feel” method.
- An additional note: Prevent the spread of invasive species. Get your firewood near where you burn it. Don’t bring firewood from home and don’t take it home with you. Learn more at www.firewood.ca.gov

May Mental Health Awareness Month Activities

Mono County Behavioral Health would like to invite you to participate in free mental health awareness activities all month long!

**May 4th**
- *Mono County Board of Supervisors Resolution: For meeting details, visit monocoounty.ca.gov/boes
- “The Why Of Suicide, and the How of Hope” Presented by: David Woods Bartley @5:30pm-7:00pm (Spanish interpretation available)
  Location: Zoom https://monocoounty.zoom.us/j/95235707971 or MCBH Facebook

**Week of May 17th**
- *Tune in for a week of special Facebook content on Suicide Prevention in Spanish and English*
- *Foro Latino: Visit Facebook: https://fb.me/e/3P4kwnKjn for more details*

**May 12th**
- *Beginning of 30-day public comment period on MHSA Three-Year Plan and Annual Update. View the plan at monocoounty.ca.gov/mhsa*

**May 21st**
- *“Let It Go” Virtual Art Show To submit your art or learn more, visit monocoounty.ca.gov/art (English & Spanish)*

**May 26th**
- *Eight-Hour Mental Health First Aid Course: contact SBains@shinehelp.org for more info (English only)*

**May 27th**
- *Eight-Hour Mental Health First Aid Course: contact SBains@shinehelp.org for more info (English only)*

Free Yoga All Month Long

Mammoth Shady Rest Park- Tuesday & Thursdays 1:30pm-2:20pm
Bridgeport Park- Wednesdays 12:30pm-1:30pm
Crowley Lake Park- Thursdays 4:00pm-5:00pm
Walker Park- Saturdays- Kids 10:00am-10:30am, Adults 10:30am-11:30am

For more information call 760-924-1740
We are Covid 19 compliant with online ordering and no contact delivery when possible.

Thank you for your business - we appreciate it very much.

G.C. Forest Products
Mammoth Firewood

lowest price of the year

place your order before may 30th
and request delivery no later than sept 15th

place your order today!

online: gcforestproducts.com call: (760)934-7392

gcforestproducts.com
By Lunch

This past Saturday, the 52nd annual Manzanar Pilgrimage was held virtually on Zoom. Nevertheless, I drove down to Manzanar with Robbie, Roxanne and Kendall Tani. We figured there might be a smattering of folks who’d be there in person. And Kendall, who was a member of the UCLA Kyodo (drum) team during her college years, brought her drum to play for the occasion.

A speech by a founding member of the Manzanar Committee particularly struck me - probably the best speech I’ve heard at the Pilgrimage over the years. From Jim Matsuoka, former Manzanar internee, and recipient of the Manzanar Committee’s 2019 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award:

I remember one night in particular ... this was during the early ’70s, right after the first pilgrimage to Manzanar, and our task at hand was to figure out the wording for the plaque that the State of California said they were going to put up at Manzanar.

So I did the first draft, and when I looked at it, I was like, uhuh, this is pretty bad. What I was trying to do was bridge the gap between what they were going to accept and what we felt we’d like to say and it just didn’t work out. So the worst critic of that draft was myself. I said, this is real ... real crap. So anyway, Rex [Takahashi, then a UCLA graduate student] took over, and he typed away and we looked at his stuff and he laid it all out there.

Racism, economic greed, war hysteria. I mean, all good stuff. And we said man, that is not going to pass. It’s like we’re giving ’em the old hoo-ha or what have you. And, so, we were at a quandary. We didn’t know what to do.

So finally, though, we worked it out and said what the hell, we need to tell it like it is. It’s racism out-and-out. It’s economic greed. ’Cause they destroyed us. They destroyed our ass. All of us. I mean, we all walked in before the camps and we had property. We had jobs. We had savings accounts. What have you. And when we got in there, we had nothing, nothing but what they would give us on a monthly basis. And when we left, we had nothing. So ... they really laid it to us.

And the final one was hysteria. In a way, we almost have race hysteria again.

What gets me is that whatever we had to say then ... it looks like we got that all over again today. Certainly racism hasn’t gone away. And economic greed is right there. I mean, good grief! Good golly!

And instead of war hysteria we got race hysteria in a way. Asians are being blamed for everything now. You name it, we did it.

So anyway, we said, what are we gonna do? We didn’t take a vote or anything like that. We just came to the conclusion: Let’s submit it. They’re gonna turn it down anyway. So we might as well tell ’em the way we feel, just the way it is.

We were shocked and surprised when they accepted it, and that’s what we put on the plaque, and we put the plaque on the guard house and of course that p.o.d everybody that saw it so the thing is probably shot through with bullet holes so I think they moved it close to the interpretive center to keep an eye on the damn thing.

I wanted to rattle the chains of the Nisei (second generation Japanese-Americans) who’d been sitting on their butts playing the Quiet American for so long.

When people ask me how many people are buried at Manzanar, I say a whole generation, and I hope that pisses ’em all off. And of course I got some nasty letters from other Nisei saying what are you talking about?

I’m talking about people that are trying to play the role of the Quiet American and that kind of stuff doesn’t work well. Believe me. It isn’t working well today because a lot of people think Asian-Americans are doing nothing but playing the role of the Quiet American, and they’re very angry and p.o.d and they’ll take it out on us because that’s what they believe. There’s truth in some instances. In other instances, it’s not true.

A lot of us who are descendants of people in Manzanar and other camps ... man, we came out strong for the Muslim community. We were there after 9/11. We were there making all kinds of waves at the Border and bringing backpacks to the kids and what have you at the ICE facilities. And a lot of our people are involved in the Black reparations thing. So we’re in there ... and a lot of our people are very welcoming to the people in the LGBT communities. We want you all. This is how it’s got to be in this country. ... So before, I had a very, very dismal feeling toward Manzanar. Why not? It destroyed my family. It made my father so ... it lost his dream. All of his money. Everything he worked for was gone. We were thrown into poverty.

So all I thought about Manzanar was hey, nothing but bad news. But the more I think about it, we need a place to all get together, to come together, to work toward a better society. And I can’t think of a better place than Manzanar. I really can’t. So ... I see a wonderful future if we can get together and have people come and people work with each other and really say hey, we want a better America and we want it to start here at Manzanar.
A s The Sheet goes to press, the NFL draft is just getting underway. Can’t wait. If for no other reason than to have everyone stop doing mock drafts or leak bullshit stories about who is drafting who. NO one knows. They just toss it out there hoping someone will respond and tip their hand.

But even funnier is that some of you delusional fans of horrible teams think that tonight will actually make a difference. It won’t. And deep down, you know why - because you favorite team sucks from the top down and always will. Just remember drafting a GREAT player to a lousy organization just guarantees that talent is wasted.

Everyone wants the Steelers to draft a RB when they have no offensive line. I do not get it. They need to draft linemen. A lot of them. Drafting a RB without having anyone to block for him is like me going to a strip club without a pocket full of $1 bills.

I keep hearing those that recommend playing Rock Paper Scissors with college draftees to determine their competitiveness. He is a complete clown. To think that is a method of evaluating anyone is beyond me - never mind bragging about it as some sort of special and new creative edge.

The Eagles should fire him now and say WE SCREWED UP. I mean, they brought him in to fix Wentz ... then traded Wentz.

This is one of those hires that ends up on those NFL network top 10 worst facilities to do on-site massages. After one press conference. Sirianni has already embarrassed himself.

How to Win the Draft

* Don’t draft a RB in the first round as a general rule, unless the guy is a special dual threat like a McCaffrey or Kamara. If he is just a runner, he needs all kinds of help. DON’T DO IT

* Draft linemen early and often. Draft them over WRs in early rounds. They are hard to find. Receivers are at every Foot Locker.

* Don’t let Belichick draft RBs or WRs and don’t let Tomlin draft DBs

* Don’t let the Bears draft anyone.

* Don’t let Jerry Jones drink and draft if there is a dynamic offensive weapon available, he will draft him, even if he already has several.

* Don’t trade with Belichick

* Always trade with the Bears.

* Don’t draft a QB, RB or DB from Alabama. They have so much talent around them, you cannot tell if they are actually good. Draft the Bama WRs.

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Help Wanted

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

- Caregiver/Med Tech – B - $15-$17
- Housekeeping Sup – ML - $DOE
- Janitor – B - $15
- Medical Asst – ML - $ML -$25
- HH Clerk – B - $17-$22
- Housekeeper – ML - $175
- Condo Front Desk – ML - $17-$17
- Maintenance Worker – B - $17 - $24
- General Laborers – B - $ML-16 $22
- Retail Help – B - $17-$14

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

Mammoth Lakes is seeking an additional member for its team. We now have immediate openings for a maintenance technician position and an office position. These are Full Time Positions (Monday-Friday, 8am to 4pm). To join their team, you must have 3 years of vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. To apply, please call 760-924-1109 or stop by the store located at 401 Tamarack Road Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothpal@sol.net.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service skills and clean driving records. We are also looking for office staff for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-914-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com

Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for maintenance, housekeeping, front desk and night audit 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 6080 Minaret Rd, Mammoth Lakes.

Experienced real estate agents/brokers to work with a 30 year old Mammoth Lakes brokerage. Mammoth newcomers shall be considered. Top rated franchise company. Full benefits depend on hours worked, sick time and PTO! To apply please go to www.vacas.com/Careers

Mammoth Campground/Chalet is hiring for Full-Time, Year-Round Housekeepers. Housekeeping: Qualifications: a desire to truly help people. Employees must be capable of working alone and in a team environment. A positive can-do attitude is a must. Prior experience a plus, AM/PM shifts available. Starting pay is $15-$17 per hour plus tips, dependent on experience. For more information looking for a Full-Time, Year-Round GuestService Agent. Housekeepers and client service workers with basic computer skills, are 100% reliable, be capable of working alone and in a team environment. A great attitude is a must. Call or stop by for an interview or contact us at 760-934-3000 ext. 1.

Sweetwater Plumbing Inc. Hiring for 2 full time positions for Plumbers and Plumbers Apprentice. Job is located in Mammoth Lakes. Call 760-914-1206 for details. Sharpen your skills, and your pocketbook. "For Full-time housekeepers Full-time Maintenance Worker Front desk/night auditor Please call Donna or J at 760-965-0544 Caregiving Job Opportunity Be part of a team who cares for an autistic child. It's a fun and rewarding job. No previous training required, just a soft caring heart. • Pay starts at $17 • Every 30 work hours you get 1 hour sick time and vacation. Also use the vacation. • Part-time/full-time. Call or text 760-965-6227 Help wanted. Mammoth Gear Exchange in Bishop and Alpine Approach in Mammoth. Pay: $15/hour, flexible hours. Order@mammothgear.com For more information contact Sierra Mountain Chalets. Seeking courteous, efficient, service representative who will also coordinate with housekeeping and maintenance groups. Send for contact info.

Seeking a Rental

ISO Unfurnished Full Time Rental Of House / Studio / Apartment / Condo Reliable, long-term Local Designer/Ski Coach is in need of new living arrangement in Mammoth. Non-smoking, non-drinking, no pets. Impeccable references. 760.709.6115

Help Wanted

Because we’re looking for experienced professionals dedicated to the Mammoth way. 2.5% increase to base salary July 2021, plus a competitive benefits package. Must be committed to serving our local community!

Human Resources Manager $93,200 - $144,411
Parks Maintenance Worker $37,632 - $52,954
Public Works Maintenance Worker $44,336 - $62,386

The Town offers an excellent benefits package. Eligibility for CalPERS retirement. Comprehensive leave beginning at 5 weeks per year. 12 paid municipal holidays. 100% employer paid health insurance for employees and dependents

Vacation and dental reimbursement program

Alternative work schedules

Contributions to deferred compensation plans 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 and quickbooks/accounting skills required. To inquire please email william@wlhariderinc.com or call (760) 937-0838

Sierra Park Villas Mammoth Lakes Onsite Property Manager. Housekeeping and maintenance of 100 unit complex in Mammoth. Responsible for camps grounds and common area facilities as well as the fiscal and operational success of the complex. Housing available. Send resume to apply@sierraparkvillas.org

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**calendar of events**

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**TOWN STUFF**

**Friday, April 30/ Mammoth Lakes Recital Room presents its annual Theatre for Young Audiences production via Zoom. This year: Hare and Tortoise. Time: 6 p.m. For info: www.MammothLakesRep.org. Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. Time: 6 p.m. View it available through Zoom or through Granicus on the town website. Earth Day Youth Art Contest Final Day for Submissions. Co-hosted by Eastern Sierra Land Trust and CS Studios in Bishop, the event is option students in grades 5-12 from Mono and Inyo counties. Three winners will be chosen to receive prizes. Visit eslt.org to learn more. Mammoth v. Bishop in HS Soccer. Girls 3 p.m. Boys 5 p.m. Location: Bishop MHS Baseball plays @ home v. Summerville. Time: 3:30 p.m. Also 5/1 @ Noon.**

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**Monday, May 3/ Mammoth Lakes Housing Board meets. Time: 6 p.m. Attend via mammothlakes.granicus.com. MHS Softball and Baseball host home games @ Whitmore starting 3 p.m.**

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**Tuesday, May 4/ Mono County Board of Supervisors meets. Time: 9 a.m. Attend online via Zoom at https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/96381169321. Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets. Time: 8:30 a.m. Attend online via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/968254781.**

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**Thursday, May 6/ Mono County Redistricting Forum hosted by Mono County Democratic Central Committee. Time: 7 p.m. Register in advance. https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZO9yc-2oqDl8pEtHYZ1IvEFCF7rJpe60tm71p. Inyo/Mono Schools substitute teacher recruitment. 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. More info: See ad p. 7.**

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**Saturday, May 8/ Felici Trio Watch Party! Rebecca, Brian and Brian give a play-by-play account of their most recent concert recording with works by Beethoven, Brahms and Mendelssohn! Time: 5 p.m. To RSVP, email Felici@ChamberMusicUnhoused.org. The concert will be available on our website (https://felicitrio.com/concertcalendar.html) by May 10th. Eastern Sierra Audobon Society COSA Bird Walk. Join ESAS and volunteers on an easy walk around the Bishop Paiute Tribe’s Conservation Open Space Area (COSA). Time: 8:30 a.m. Meet behind the U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management building (351 Pacu Lane, Bishop). A limited supply of binoculars are available.**

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**Covid testing/ Bishop: Tri-County Fairgrounds, Danielson 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. ‘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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**Covid Vaccination/ Mono County Public Health is hosting the following COVID-19 vaccine clinics over the next week.**

- **April 30: Benton Clinic (Moderna) 4pm-5:30pm - Benton Community Center (58869 Hwy 120, Benton)**
- **May 1: Mammoth Lakes Clinic (Moderna) 1pm-3:30pm - Mammoth High School (365 Sierra Park Rd Mammoth Lakes)**
- **May 3: June Lake Clinic (Modern) 2pm-3:30pm - June Lake Community Center (90 W. Granite Avenue, June Lake)**
- **May 8: Mammoth Lakes Clinic (Moderna) 10am-12pm - Mammoth High School.**

My Turn: https://myturn.ca.gov/ Inyo County vaccine registration can be accessed through the county website at www.inyocounty.us.
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
CAP 2-001
The Town of Mammoth Lakes will receive sealed bids for the project described below:

1. Project Description:
   Site name: 2021 Whitmore Ballfield Warning Track
   Town: Mammoth Lakes
   Location: 2016 Whitmore Field

2. Project Overview:
   This Project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. In bidding on this project, it shall be the responsibility of the Bidder to verify that all labor compliance requirements under this contract and applicable law in its bid.

3. Contract:
   The Contract will be awarded to the responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid on the base bid.

4. Requirements:
   The Town reserves the right to waive any irregularity in a bid.

5. Submission:
   Submission of a bid shall be deemed conclusive acceptance by the Bidder that all plans, the specification and the site and all the bid and the successful bidder shall be bound by all plans, specifications and the site and all the contract and applicable law in its bid.

6. Notice:
   The Notice of Objecting Party is hereby given that the Mammoth Lakes Recreation Board will hold a public hearing on April 12, 2021 at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chambers, Suite 230, within the Minaret Village Commerce Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road to consider the following:

   Provisions and Contract Documents for this work are included in the specifications.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
The project includes the site description shown on the plans and specifies抹除内容的文本。
LETTERS continued from page 4

The previous Town Council made political funding commitments via Measure A for Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT), Housing and Transportation going into each (current percentages from Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) of 2.35%-MLT, .85% Housing, .85% transit). The Tourism Business Improvement District Tax (TBID) was established much later in efforts to grow our way out of bankruptcy with additional marketing efforts on top of the Measure A MLT allocation, which clearly worked.

As with all of the Non-Governmental Organizations that were established, the goal and Council directive was for each entity to become self-sufficient over time.

There is no better time than now that this happens with MLT, with all the funds the TBID generates. TBID is now well established and matured, the revenue generation from it has performed to or exceeded our expectations. The TBID funds should now be the sole revenue generator for MLT including salaries and overhead. There is no longer a logical argument to support funds generated from both TOT and TBID to MLT while the quality of life for the community has diminished without providing ample workforce housing to run the local businesses along with numerous other infrastructure needs, that all need funding.

When reading the MLT deliverables for 2021/2022, item B* strikes an ongoing concern with the business community. One would ponder the question of why the Council would accept as presented that any budget oversage should go back to the Town for workforce housing versus reallocating all of the current MLT TOT allocations? This deliverable on the surface states MLT just has too much money to budget with, period. The full TOT collection of 2.35% (historically in excess of $2m annually and projected at $2.34 million for 2021-2022) of marketing allocation to MLT should be immediately reallocates 100% to be utilized or bonded ($20m eligible) for housing.

*Per MLT (TOT above and beyond budget will continue (4-year commitment) to be allocated from the Tourism Reserve toward the construction of the Parcel housing complex. The goal is to achieve between $750,000 and $1,000,000 annually to this effort.)

Greatness comes from leadership. Mr. Mayor and Town Council you have the discretion to make a bold leadership decision to reallocate the political funding from marketing to housing now. This will get stakeholders in the ground sooner and provide solid funding options to house our workforce to make the community sustainable for decades to come.

Michael Raimondo
Mammoth Lakes

Déjà Vu—Royal Gold All Over Again

Dear Editor,

The Forest Service is pulling out its standard scoping letter again for the Kore Mining exploratory drilling project at Hot Creek. Once again its a Categorical Exclusion and the Forest Service doesn’t have to officially notice the project. Once again, it just happens to be under the 1-acre surface disturbance avoiding Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) regulations and an environmental review. Once again, they will just contour the drill pads and road segments, sprinkle seed, and walk away.

Royal Gold did this 8 times. The 9th time raised alarms when it was discovered that the drilling was a step away from a full-on, open pit, cyanide heap leaching mining operation. A group formed and they alerted the community, argued for an environmental review, outlined the many impacts of an open pit mine, and raised a stink. Royal Gold withdrew. That was 23 years ago.

Now we need to do it all over again. Kore Mining bought the Royal Gold claims and is picking up where Royal Gold left off. Kore claims the surface disturbance will be 0.93 acre (less than an acre) to avoid SMARA and County regulations. That includes the 30’ x 50’ pads and road segments to the pads. It claims all their parked vehicles, drilling equipment, the water truck, the container tank for the muds, the port-a-potty, and supplies (bags of bentonite clay, buckets of acrylic polymer and grease, diesel fuel), and the bags of core samples will all fit in the 30’ x 50’ drill pad at a site. Sounds crowded to me.

This project is not the end. According to its website, Kore is already promoting a mining operation and released a mine development report last October, complete with maps showing where the heap leach pad and guard house, office, etc., will be. Their Preliminary Economic Assessment describes the project as profitable and easy to mine because the oxide zone of low-grade gold is shallow 100’-200’ down, yet extensive. Its website has an infographic that states, “Simple, open pit & heap leach, Simple = low cost.”

Mono County has an ordinance against the use of cyanide, unless it can be shown that the leaching will not adversely impact the environment. Kore Mining references the ordinance in its mine development report.

Maybe cyanide leaching can be contained in a lined pit and the ordinance is not a problem, not sure. The ordinance was passed after the close call with Royal Gold.

Please submit comments to the Forest Service by May 6 and point out how this impacts the human and non-human environment: https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=59294.

Also, attend the May 4 Mono County Board meeting and the May 5 Mammoth Town Council meeting to tell your representatives to oppose this drilling project and all that may follow.

Lynn Boulton
Lee Vining
**Horrorscopes**

By Clouds McCloud

**Taurus:** The Stars are saying big things are in store for this next annual chapter of your life. So don’t be afraid to be ambitious this year. Heck, you could even adopt a new motto like “Go big or go home!” or perhaps, “A goal without a plan is only a wish.” Or maybe even “I can’t possibly quit, because I’m too legit.”

**Gemini:** You Geminis can be your own worst enemies. While this is still better than being your own worst enemy, it does leave room for improvement. Therefore, try to spend a little time each day thinking about the impacts of your actions, preferably before you take some of them like making a major purchase, driving or calling exes after drinking, or making love to the wrong, person, place or thing.

**Cancer:** Spring is the time to embrace new things like more fresh air, healthier eating habits, safely socializing and sleeping in the nude. It’s better for your body and mind—and not just the nude part. That’s why your new bumper sticker should either say, “Perfectly Imperfect” or “Honest if you’re a goose!” or “If you can read this you’re driving too close to me.”

**Leo:** Here are some things Leos really dislike: backstabbers, being bossed around, folks who steal your spot. Dislike: backstabbers, being bossed around, people who chew with their mouths open. Leos are pretty chill with light and people who steal their spots.

**Virgo:** In case you’re having a little trouble making a decision right now, perhaps it’s time for you to become a bit more conservative in life. You could even adapt a conservative saying like “In God we trust, the guns are just for backup.” Or perhaps you prefer something like, “Just because I drive a Subaru doesn’t make me a Liberal.” But Clouds knows you’re at your best when you balance conservatism while enjoying some liberty. So wave that flag, high five that queen and stop judging people by the color of their skin, but instead on whether or not they are jackasses.

**Libra:** Henry David Thoreau was not a great person, place or thing. Still, he did have some ideas that connect with Libras, especially these three: “Simplify, simplify, simplify.” Those words are preceded by “Our life is frittered away by detail.” Maybe it’s time for you to worry less and enjoy frittering more.

**Scorpio:** Scorpios are known for tending more. Fifth Wheel parked on the Scenic Loop to discuss. I see ... there’s been a lot of debate about dispersed camping, and yet no debate about dispersed clothing. Meet me in my dispersed camping, and yet no debate stretching your hamstrings more, yourselves. So quit wasting energy on the words are preceded with “We’re all times, fellow Aquarian, Magdalena Nuener. “Lena,” as she is known, is from Germany and can both Nordic ski and shoot a rifle as well as anyone, so we probably shouldn’t disagree with her. But we all should adopt her motto, “My life motto is ‘Do my best’ so that way I can’t blame myself for anything.”

**Capricorn:** Caps make good leaders so perhaps it’s time for you to become a conservative saying like “In God we trust, the guns are just for backup.” Or perhaps you prefer something like, “Just because I drive a Subaru doesn’t make me a Liberal.” But Clouds knows you’re at your best when you balance conservatism while enjoying some liberty. So wave that flag, high five that queen and stop judging people by the color of their skin, but instead on whether or not they are jackasses.

**Aquarius:** Your new role model is the most successful female biathlete of all times, fellow Aquarian, Magdalena Nuener. “Lena,” as she is known, is from Germany and can both Nordic ski and shoot a rifle as well as anyone, so we probably shouldn’t disagree with her. But we all should adopt her motto, “My life motto is ‘Do my best’ so that way I can’t blame myself for anything.”

**Pisces:** Studies have shown that praise is more impactful than criticism when you’re trying to get someone to improve at something, like work. Pisces can have a subtle, but swift and deadly-accurate tongue. Your words have power, so use them wisely. Here’s an example. Try saying, “You’re bringing good energy. I’m sure you’re going to start getting good soon.” Instead of saying, “You kind of suck at everything and you’re about as useful as the ‘g’ in lasagna.”

**Aries:** Clouds was recently asked to describe a typical Aries. The answer included things like highly capable, very personable, kind, athletic, attractive, own worst enemy. The latter part is usually coupled with a case of insecurity. That’s why Clouds wants all Aries to know that you have no reason to doubt yourselves. So quit wasting energy on those thoughts, maybe put them towards stretching your hamstrings more, or perhaps massaging someone else’s.

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**PERSONALS**

I see ... there’s been a lot of debate about dispersed camping, and yet no debate about dispersed clothing. Meet me in my Fifth Wheel parked on the Scenic Loop to discuss.

I see ... complaining about the local housing crisis. Which is what happens when too many years go by with too few ejections. Seeing as we’re both homeless, how about you join me in the woods and help me pitch a tent?
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