When Mammoth Lakes Tourism facilitated Dirk Winter’s purchase of Sam’s Wood Site on Minaret Road, the goal was pretty simple: to preserve a longtime events venue in Mammoth Lakes. It may have preserved a venue (for now), but it also created a massive headache.

The principal beef was that Winter had used MLT’s money for private acquisition. Nice. And the fallout since shows that bygones have not stayed bygones.

Mammoth’s Festival of Beers and Bluesapalooza organizer Sean Turner brought a funding request before the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board at its May 5 meeting. Turner asked for a $90,000 reimbursable grant from the Town of Mammoth Lakes, a $200,000 loan from MLT and assistance in covering facility usage fees for the Wood Site.

In a letter to the MLT Board and Town officials, Turner stated that there had been previous grants that Turner and his partners had always paid back, and that he would pay back the $200,000 from MLT by the end of 2021. To date, 2,000 tickets have been sold for the event, the majority of which were purchased for the Covid-cancelled 2020 festival.

However, Turner said that there have been 200 tickets sold in the last month alone. Bluesapalooza 2019 maxed out at about 6,800 attendees. The issue currently facing the festival is a cash shortage; the entertainment industry is typically payment-up-front. And due to the pandemic, the proverbial warchest is pretty much empty.

As Turner put it, the event hinges on support from MLT and the Town. Without it, no Blues and Brews until ’22. MLT board members Jess Karrell and Rhonda Duggan recused themselves due to contractual involvement with the festival and/or organizers. “All of us in town would greatly like to see Bluesapalooza happen this year if it’s possible,” Board chair John Morris said of the request.

“It would be a major win for this community to pull off an event like that in this environment.”

Morris stated his belief that the loan would be a good use of the non-profit’s Tourism Reserve funds.

“The biggest issue would be the precedent,” he added, “If we do decide to make this loan, how do we couch it in a way that we don’t have everyone coming to us and using us as a bank?” That concern was reiterated by numerous board members.

“We can’t become a bank for every event,” said Pat Foster. “How do we keep a lid on this?”

John Mendel, of Devil’s Creek Distillery, suggested changing the wording of the agreement so that MLT would become a partner in the endeavor.

“The word ‘loan’ does trouble me because we’re not a bank,” Mendel added.

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area representative Eric Clark said that the underlying circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic could help to justify granting Turner’s request.

“I think we might be able to frame our assistance in that world, saying that it is different because of Covid-19,” Clark said.

The general hesitation surrounding the loan was superceded by a unanimous desire to see Bluesapalooza happen in August.

“As a Board member and a Town Council member, I’m extremely supportive of this event going forward,” said Lynda Salcido.

Michael Ledesma, who runs the Mammoth Margarita Fest, said that he sees the event as being fundamentally different from many others in town.

Ledesma pointed to the ticketed nature of Bluesapalooza.

“Getting dirked around” News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

NEED FOR SPEED

Bishop Unified and Mammoth High School held a track meet on Wednesday. No team scores were kept but several events were held, ranging from the long jump, hurdles, sprints and more. Mammoth’s Aidan LeFrancis (left) came from behind to give Mammoth the victory in the 4 x 400 meter relay. He also won the 800 meters, defeating Dominic Westervelt (center) and Brandon Gardue. For more photos, see pages 10-11.

see BLUES, p. 6
I’M EIGHTEEN

I’ve got a Baby’s brain and an old man’s heart
Took eighteen years to get this far
Don’t always know what I’m talkin’ about
Feels like I’m livin’ in the middle of doubt
‘Cause I’m Eighteen
I get confused every day
Eighteen
I just don’t know what to say
Eighteen
I gotta get away

That’s right, Alice Cooper. The Sheet celebrates its 18th anniversary this week. I could say it feels like yesterday but I’d be lying, I could say I fondly remember sleeping next to the copy machine at Access Art and Business Center for warmth, but I don’t. The carpet was filthy.

What’s true now as then is that the state is in the middle of a recall election. And porn star Mary Carey is running (again) for Governor. I gotta track down_CHS. M. Storage TBD

“I may as well divulge the secret now, as he’s long moved away. Neil McCarroll was the one who footed the bill for those original “Mary Says” ads.”

I can also divulge now how close The Sheet was to shutting down after four days of publication. I was living in Sunny Slopes - Valerie Vannest took me in as a roommate in Susan Burgett and Mary Pipersky’s rental - and had completed the Saturday 11 x 17, two-sider. The timing is a bit fuzzy, I recall dusk, as a roommate in Susan Burgett and Mary Pipersky’s rental - and had completed the Saturday 11 x 17, two-sider. The timing is a bit fuzzy, I recall dusk, as a roommate - and had completed the Saturday 11 x 17, two-sider. The timing is a bit fuzzy, I recall dusk, as a roommate - and had completed the Saturday 11 x 17, two-sider. The timing is a bit fuzzy, I recall dusk, as a roommate - and had completed the Saturday 11 x 17, two-sider. The timing is a bit fuzzy, I recall dusk, as a roommate - and had completed the Saturday 11 x 17, two-sider. The timing is a bit fuzzy, I recall dusk, as a roommate.

The California Highway Patrol officer lit me up as I was crossing the highway. He claimed that when I’d left Tom’s Place and made the left turn to head across the highway, that I’d cut the turn early and crossed the double-yellow line. Total bullshit. I figure he’d been laying in wait, watching the door, waiting for someone to pop. So I went through the battery of sobriety tests, and the whole time I’m thinking, “I’m a one-man operation. If I lose my license, I’m done.”

I contrast this to a stop which occurred a few years ago. I was driving home down the grade when I had a little swerve changing the radio station and I got lit up.

The guy asks me if I’ve been drinking and I tell him yes, I had a Budweiser while I was finishing the paper.

I guess a lot of folks tell ’em they’ve had a single Budweiser.

I didn’t bother to tell him I’d had the Budweiser a few hours before and he didn’t ask.

So it goes out over the radio and coincidence or no, there are officers from multiple agencies who swing by to “assist” or “observe” or just delight in my downfall. Must’ve been four officers there. Maybe five.

The guy walks me through the field sobriety tests. I observe that a lot of the tests are more difficult than they should be given that I’m asked to perform them on a fairly significant incline.

I half-consider asking the officer to skip straight to the breathalyzer but why ruin the moment? The sunset was beautiful.

I ultimately blew a .08 and they sent me on my way.

In this week’s Economist, there’s an article entitled “Money, Machines and Mayhem” which talks about what to expect during the post-pandemic boom.

1. Don’t expect excess in terms of wild consumer spending. After the Spanish Flu of 1918 and post-WWII, consumers remained fairly cautious. “A recent paper by Goldman Sachs estimates that in 1946-1949 American consumers only spent about 20% of their excess savings ... Beer consumption actually fell.”

2. Expect increased entrepreneurialism and risk-taking.

3. Expect an increase in the use of technology and automation. “Bosses may want to limit the spread of disease, and robots do not fall ill.”

4. “When people have suffered in large numbers, attitudes may shift towards workers ... policymakers across the world are less interested in reducing public debt or warding off inflation than they are in getting unemployment down. A new paper from three academics at the London School of Economics also finds that Covid-19 has made people across Europe more averse to inequality.

... Pandemics expose and accentuate pre-existing inequalities, leading those on the wrong side of the bargain to look for redress.”

The prediction the article makes: “Social unrest seems to peak two years after the pandemic ends.”

Wow. Considering what the unrest has been over the past year, it’s hard to imagine what that peak will look like.

Final stat courtesy of Barron’s Magazine this week: As Jim Blanco of the eponymous Blanco Research points out, 33.8% of all personal income in the past year, including the 2020 CARES Act payments, was mailed out from the U.S. Government.

Meanwhile, FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) says margin debt is at $822.5 billion, about 50% higher than a year ago. What that means is that people are borrowing money against their portfolios to toss into the stock market.

Hm. Government hands me money, and then I borrow even more money against that money. I’m sure this will end well.
DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND COMMUNITY CLEAN UP EVENT

Join us on May 21 & 22 to grab a bag and help clean up our town. The Town in partnership with Mammoth Disposal, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, and Volunteer Eastern Sierra (VES) has scheduled a Defensible Space and Community Clean-Up event. This year’s event is different from previous years as there is only one location to drop-off your green waste or trash. Town staff/volunteers will NOT be collecting yard waste or household trash from properties. All trash must be dropped off (for FREE…) on the days and times listed below.

**Defensible Space Clean-Up: May 21 & 22**
Protect your property from wildfires by creating and maintaining defensible space around your home on May 21 & 22. The defensible space zones start from the building, structures, decks, etc. up to 100 feet or the property line. You can promote a healthy defensible space zone by removing ground litter and trimming up trees to 15 feet (not to exceed one-third of the tree).

**Community Clean-Up Day: May 22**
Take pride in our Town by volunteering on Saturday, May 22 to beautify our streets, parks, trails and public spaces. Drop by Footloose Sports on May 22 from 9:00am-12:00pm to collect complimentary trash bags, a community clean-up map, and recycling information along with helpful clean-up tips.

**Clean-up Event Details:**
**Dates:** Friday, May 21 & Saturday, May 22, 2021
**Hours:** 8:00am – 4:00pm daily

**Bag Pick-up:**
May 3-22: TOML Offices
M-F 8am-12pm or 1pm-5pm  Limit 5/person
437 Old Mammoth Road, Ste. 230

Saturday, May 22: Footloose Sports
9am-12pm  Limit 3/person
3043 Main Street

**All Green Waste & Trash Drop-off:**
299 Commerce Drive (Town Yard) –
NOT at the Mammoth Disposal Transfer Station
(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE TOWN YARD TRASH DROP-OFF AREA)

What you CAN drop-off: Pine cones/needles, grass clippings, leaf debris, tree limbs less than 12” in diameter, dog waste and community trash. Household, HOA or property trash; large bulky items (furniture, appliances, old tires, mattresses, etc.); metal objects (refrigerators, snow stakes, motorized equipment, etc.); recyclable materials; food waste; and e-waste (TV’s and electronics).

COVID-19 Precautions: To keep our community safe, we ask volunteers to wear face coverings, bring their own gloves, and stay 6 feet away from others not in the same household unit.

Want to Volunteer at the Town Yard? Register online at ves.galaxydigital.com, or contact Annemarie Hall, Volunteer Eastern Sierra at (949) 636-4003. No volunteer sign-up needed to pick up litter around town.

Need more information? Contact Jena Carter, Code Compliance Officer at (760) 965-3636.
LETTERS

Self-inflicted shortage

Dear Lunch,

Out of all the town council meetings, public debates, articles written and mind-numbing nonsensical Facebook "polks" (oh the irony on that one!) with regard to our housing shortage I have yet to hear anyone address the staggering amount of abandoned homes, duplexes, apartment buildings, motels, and vacant land that directly contribute to our housing shortage. What follows are just a few properties that have been left abandoned.

Apartment building: Forest Trail, across from Fire Station
Duplex: Forest Trail, across from Tennis Courts
Duplex: Minaret Rd, across from Sam’s Wood Site (see picture)
Single Family Home #1: Rainbow Place
Single Family Home #2: Rainbow Place
Old Blondie’s Vacant Lot: Joaquin & Main Street
Old Corvinos Vacant Lot: Viewpoint Rd & Main Street
Motel: Viewpoint and Main Street, up on hill next to condos
Vacant Lot: next to Norco and the old Gomez A-Frame

 Streams in the area, currently home to the threatened Lahontan Cutthroat trout, are in danger of being dried up as the mine intends to use 1.7 billion gallons of water per year. This area is also the most important Sage Grouse habitat in the state of Nevada - as much as 8% of the entire population of this species makes its home in this remote and treeless region.

So while “environmental” organizations are helping the government extirpate the Pinyon Jay, whoops, I mean “save” the Sage Grouse, by eliminating Pinyon forests other “environmentalists” are helping sell the electric car as “green” and “sustainable” even as lithium mining blows up prime Sage Grouse habitat.

There is no way that blowing up a mountainside, killing off a species which is already at risk, poisoning the air and the water all while using large quantities of fossil fuel is “green” or “sustainable.” In truth, the electric car is just another way to (temporarily) sustain the consumptive and deluded lifestyle of the dominant culture.

Joe Hannigan
Mammoth Lakes

Electric Cars Are Not “Green”

Dear Editor:

There have been nearly 8,000 lithium mines claimed across the state of Nevada. There is lithium exploration going on in the California desert as well. This astronomical surge in the desire for lithium is for the batteries of electric cars.

One such mine was approved at Thacker Pass, Nevada in January; protestors have been camped at the site for more than 100 days now and “environmental” organizations celebrated Earth Day by putting electric cars on a dais.

The first stage of the mine would be an open pit covering 6,000 acres. At full build-out the entire facility could cover 17,000 acres. The lithium will be leached out of the clay and rock using sulfuric acid made on site by burning the sulfur which is removed in the process of turning crude oil into gasoline. The sulfur, which is removed from gasoline to alleviate acid rain, will arrive at the mine site in at least 75 truckloads a day. The diesel fuel used by these trucks will be in addition to the more than 11,000 gallons per day which will be used on the mine site. Carbon emissions from this mine will add up to 150,000 tons per year.

Mammoth Hospital’s Chemotherapy infusion center offers a calming and peaceful setting for treatment. Here you will find dedicated, certified Oncology Registered Nurses who are available to help you and your family in a variety of ways.

We work with many oncologists in California and Nevada to provide follow-up treatment and care in Mammoth Lakes. You are not alone in your fight against cancer. From diagnosis through treatment and survivorship, we will walk with you.

760.924.4113
www.mammothhospital.com

Mammoth Hospital
Elevate Your Health

Phil Higerd wrote a nice article last week. I’m sure that many will think he’s a racist ... for telling the truth. He’s right that the common denominator in so many of the police-involved deaths or shootings is breaking the law and resisting arrest. Both George Floyd and Daunte Wright would most likely be alive today if they had simply not broken the law or resisted arrest and by the way, had been respectful and polite. I for one would expect to have the police show up if I tried to pass counterfeit money as George Floyd did and I have been pulled over for expired tags. However, I didn’t have a warrant out for my arrest for gun charges, nor did I resist arrest. I further complicat-ed things by being polite, took my fix-it

see LETTERS, page 5
Dear Editor:

I knew Jim Lambert for 41 years. One of my first jobs was at the Sierra Nevada where I was a maintenance man. The original Napa Auto Parts was around the corner, where we would go for parts for the old "Pumpkin" - the big orange International Harvester bus that I used to drive guests in to up to Main Lodge. Over the years we played music together, he employed me at Napa ... he was such a great human being. If I still lived in Mammoth, I'd spearhead the 1st Annual Jim Lambert Memorial Music Festival dedicated to local bands so that Jim's memory would continue on for his love of music by continuing with a local music festival. Alas, I am now living in Missouri but perhaps someone can take up the cause. Jim is a great man he will be missed.

Allen Brown
Mammoth Lakes

Jimapalooza!

Dear Editor:

I was thinking the majority of supporters of MUF are in the picture of the ground-breaking in your paper. Those people threaten all of the following:

Heap leaching reservoir which could be this dumb.

Mineral operation featuring a cyanide event which has caused great concern among the county family, and which we are working to address.

Regarding Lehman's MUF survey? It is pretty much reflects my unscientific, man on the street, in Von's, Grocery Outlet, golf course parking lot, Starbucks observations ... except that my observations show even fewer people in support. Am thinking the majority of supporters of the MUF are in the picture of the ground-breaking in your paper. Those people are the squeaky wheel; the rest of us are in addition to where they are now?

Regard Lehman's MUF survey? It pretty much reflects my unscientific, man on the street, in Von's, Grocery Outlet, golf course parking lot, Starbucks observations ... except that my observations show even fewer people in support. Am thinking the majority of supporters of the MUF are in the picture of the ground-breaking in your paper. Those people threatening all of the following:

Jim Lambert Memorial Music Festival dedicated to local bands so that Jim's memory would continue on for his love of music by continuing with a local music festival. Alas, I am now living in Missouri but perhaps someone can take up the cause. Jim is a great man he will be missed.

Big Gerry Feher
Missouri

Not a Kore constituency

Dear Editor,

We are writing to strenuously object to Kore Mining's proposal to do exploratory drilling in the headwaters of the Owens River. The intent of this project is the eventual establishment of a full scale mining operation featuring a cyanide heap leaching reservoir which could threaten all of the following:

The Hot Creek Fish Hatchery - a major supplier of fish for Eastern Sierra fisheries.

more LETTERS, page 14
and the large multi-day draw as examples of how important having the festival would be.

"If it comes back to the point where Bluesapalooza cannot move forward without some degree of front money, I would hate for us to have had the opportunity to make Blues a go and us having said no," Morris said.

Turner took time to explain his side of the situation and quell some of the unease.

"I very much understand the gravitas of the ask that I am making on behalf of the MLT and the Town of Mammoth Lakes," Turner said, clarifying that the $200,000 ask was not inclusive of the facility usage fees.

He added that Sierra Classic Theatre would be paying a usage fee on the Wood Site for the first time ever. Bluesapalooza is not eligible for event-specific state and national grants because the festival is part of the same corporate entity as Mammoth Brewing Company.

MBC has already received PPP funds and the $100,000 ask is "not to make money but I cannot lose money this year. This is my biggest fear."

In response to a question from Mendel, Turner stated that he lost $180,000 on the event last year.

Despite the lean times, Turner expressed a desire to keep up the quality of the event while adapting it to Covid-related guidelines.

SCT’s Artistic and Managing Director Allison McDonell Page said that Winters had asked for $5,000, non-negotiable, from her.

"He’s asking me to get it from MLT," she said. "There’s some kind of little vendetta there."

Page said nearly half of her budget would go to Winters if she had to pay the fee.

Regarding Winters, Salcido said "this deal went upsiedown and we did get our money back ... his next move in the game is to now punish the people that want to use this site, even adamantly suggesting they get money from MLT."

"For those people that are now being forced to continue to work with the Wood Site, we couldn’t talk about an ability to separate that," she concluded.

The board motioned to grant Turner a $200,000 loan, with half due back on December 31, 2021, and the rest due March 21, 2022, along with a $50,000 reimbursable grant. The grant is due back if the event makes a profit.

"If we make money, I’ll pay you back within 30 days," Turner told the board.

"I’m asking MLT to make that contribution outright. I’m asking MLT to put some skin in the game," he said.

In the conclusion to his pitch Turner added, "I don’t need to make money but I cannot lose money this year."

By Lunch
With a nod to Chappelle...

SCT's Artistic and Managing Director Stacy Corless was "asounded" that the operating plan for project came out a week before the public comment period was set to close.

"It’s baffling to me that this is the process," she said, asking Inyo National Forest and Kore representatives to clarify.

District Ranger Gordon Turner added while the initial comment phase is set to close, the Forest will continue to accept public comments on the matter.

In addition, the Forest has been continually working to get a draft plan of operations approved, which requires a good deal of back-and-forth between agencies and entities. Supervisor John Peters said that the public was being brought into the process "in the 250th lap of a 500 lap race."

"Why are we getting the information pieced in this manner...it’s just baffling to me, it would be so much more helpful to just see the plans laid out," he said.

"We’ve been releasing the info as we have it available to release," Martin told the supervisors, "This is actually very early in the process."

Marc Leduc, COO at Kore, said that the company had put a lot of thought into working with the Forest Service and embracing the process as a whole.

Any additional proposed work would need to be approved by the FS, would be subject to an environmental review, and would involve years of studies.

As for the currently proposed work, "It’s a very small project," Leduc said, "We’re planning on disturbing less than one acre."

"I’m asking MLT to put some skin in the game," he said.

"It’s actually very early in the process."

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Any additional proposed work would need to be approved by the FS, would be subject to an environmental review, and would involve years of studies.

As for the currently proposed work, "It’s a very small project," Leduc said, "We’re planning on disturbing less than one acre."

Once drilling is complete at the 14 pads, Kore will seal the holes with bentonite and depurate.

The area has been historic area of exploration since the 80’s," Leduc said, "There are over 800 drill holes out there and the area is reclaimed.”

Leduc said that the company is timing the operation so as not to impact Bi-State Sage Grouse activity.

As of Wednesday evening, more than 900 comments had been submitted on the proposal.

Notice of Intent to Adopt (NOI) Notice of Public Comment Period

Notice is Hereby Given that pursuant to Section 15072 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Town of Mammoth Lakes hereby gives notice that a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Mammoth Disposal Transfer Station Project is available for review and comment. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt the IS/MND is hereby distributed.

As Lead Agency, the Town of Mammoth Lakes is circulating for public review the IS/MND.

Project Description and Location: The proposed project is comprised of two separate sites at 59 Commerce Drive (1.87 acres; Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APN] 037-200-049 and 264 Commerce Drive (0.55 acres; APN 037-200-061) in the eastern portion of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, approximately 0.1 mile south of State Route 203 and approximately 1.6 miles west of U.S. Route 395. The project proposes to 1) expand the existing transfer station at the 59 Commerce Drive Site, 2) relocate the buy-back/recycling center (currently at the 59 Commerce Drive Site) to the 264 Commerce Drive Site, and 3) relocate the fleet maintenance operations (currently at the 264 Commerce Drive Site) to the 59 Commerce Drive Site.

Comment Period: A 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/MND begins on May 10, 2021 and ends on June 8, 2021. Town staff will respond to all comments received on the Draft IS/MND. Comments may be submitted by facsimile, letter, or electronic mail. Copies of the Draft IS/MND are available during the 30-day public review period at the following locations: Town of Mammoth Lakes, Community and Economic Development Department, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 200, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, Mono County Library, 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, and Town of Mammoth Lakes website: https://www.ci.mammothlakes.ca.us/1015.

All comments and responses to this notice should be submitted in writing to: Kimberly Cooke, Associate Planner, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Community and Economic Development Department, P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, or drop off at the Town offices at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 200, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, via facsimile at (760) 934-7200, or email at kcooke@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov. For additional information, contact Kimberly Cooke via email or by phone at (760) 965-3638. Public comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on June 8, 2021.
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 now offering homeowners insurance in Mammoth Lakes and June Lake. Call today for a quote.

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LOCAL SPORTS GET BACK TO FULL SWING

By Sheet Staff

High school sports are back in the Eastern Sierra, the first official season for many spring teams since 2019. Baseball, softball, track and field, girl’s soccer and football have all returned in some capacity.

The games, however, look just a bit different.

Players are now wearing masks when on the field and there are no high-five lines.

On Monday, May 3, Mammoth High School’s baseball and softball teams had games at Whitmore.

Baseball took on Desert High School and Baseball faced Lone Pine.

Assistant Softball Coach Wendy Parks said that the team has a range of skill from years spent in Little League to never throwing a ball before stepping on the field.

“No matter what the score is, our girls never give up. They’ve knocked down balls, gotten hit in the chest, arms, throat, legs and ankles and they never give up. They always have their heads held high and play every pitch as a new chance,” Parks said of the team.

Highlights of the game include a home run by senior captain Isla Lackey and consistent pitching from the other senior captain Jessica Bonich.

Baseball blanked Lone Pine, 12-0, to pick up its first win of the season behind junior Connor Burrows.

Both teams are back in action at Whitmore on May 10 against Rosamond before taking on Coleville on May 13. Baseball is at Coleville; Softball is home.
SPORTS
continued from previous page

Clockwise from above: Sam Bonich lays down a bunt; Ashlynn Townsend fields the ball; Bai-
ley Sokol at the dish; Jessie Bonich pitching; Isla Lackey makes a play at first

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CINCO DE ATLETISMO

Bishop Union High School and Mammoth High School went head-to-head in track and field on Wednesday, May 5.

Alexis Eide (2nd in the long jump and 100m, 1st in Triple Jump) and assistant coach Marie Pitt

Sierra Burror won the 400m, 800m and 1600m

Diego Honda (2nd from right) won the 3200m.

Delilah Maloney takes the handoff from Anwyn Benson

MHS frosh Davin Wolter

Bishop Coach Michael Walsh

Starter Darrell Havens

Do what you love!

We’re looking for great people to join the Mammoth Hospital team!

- NEW EMPLOYEES START WITH 5 WEEKS PAID TIME OFF
- ANNUAL SUCCESS SHARING PROGRAM
- OUTSTANDING INSURANCE PLAN: MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION, AND LIFE INSURANCE
- PAY DIFFERENTIALS FOR EVENING AND NIGHT SHIFTS
- GREAT MEAL PLAN AT THE HOSPITAL CARES CAFE

Mammoth Hospital
Elevate Your Health

We’re Social. Come Visit. f  g  i  in

For current openings, visit https://mammoth-hospital.breezy.hr
Nimrit Khvrana, 2nd in the 400m

Joe Almeida and mom Chrissy

Eliza Marcuson, a 9th grader, won both hurdle events and the 200m

Mammoth Coach Lisa Okamoto. The index finger is for first coaching experience.

Mammoth Senior Ryan Furness won the 400m in a time of 1:01:01

Volunteers

Photos by Gayla Wolf
Demand For Supply

The Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) invites interested stakeholders to review and provide comments on a 20-year water supply outlook plan for the Town of Mammoth Lakes (Town). The intention of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) is to ensure the availability of adequate reliable water supplies for the Town's forecasted buildout. The UWMP discusses current and potential future water supplies and demands, compliance with the state-mandated 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020, and actions to be taken in response to future drought conditions.

As a requirement of the 2020 UWMP, the District has also developed a Draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP). The WSCP details how the District intends to act in the case of water shortage conditions. Stakeholders are also invited to provide review and comments on the Draft WSCP.

The Draft UWMP and WSCP are available on the District’s website https://mcwd.dst.ca.us/, the Mammoth Lakes Public Library, or at the District office located at 1315 Meridian Blvd., Mammoth Lakes. Public hearings to discuss the 2020 UWMP and the new WSCP will be held at 5:30, May 20, 2021 via video/teleconference meeting. Visit the district website for details on joining the public hearing or submitting comment.

Not So Restful

Crews from the U.S. Geological Survey Research Drilling Unit, working on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office, have started installing a geothermal monitoring well in Mammoth Lakes on National Forest System lands in the northwest portion of the Old Shady Rest Campground. Residents and visitors should anticipate increased activity at and near the well site, including increased vehicle traffic on State Route 203 (Main Street, Sawmill Cutoff Road and Forest Trail Road), as USGS mobilizes and works to complete the well. Drilling operations are planned for 12-hours per day, seven days per week, during the first two weeks of well installation. Beginning in early May, operations will be ramped up to 24-hours per day to ensure well completion prior to opening the campground for the summer. All roads and recreational trails in the area will remain open for public use during drilling.

The BLM Bishop Field Office, in close coordination with the Inyo National Forest Mammoth Ranger District, approved the well installation to support the Groundwater Monitoring and Response Plan for the Casa Diablo IV (CD-IV) Geothermal Development Project. The CD-IV Project is located on a BLM-administered federal geothermal lease located within the Inyo National Forest in Mono County.

"Participation in the BLM required monitoring and response plan for the CD-IV Project has increased substantially since July 2019," said Bishop Field Manager Steve Nelson. "I am pleased to report that both Ormat, the owner and operator of the CD-IV Project, and the Mammoth Community Water District have agreed to assist and support us in a collaborative effort to drill and instrument the Old Shady Rest monitoring wells."

Once operational, the CD-IV power plant will provide a clean, dependable energy source and produce 30 megawatts of electricity to power up to 22,000 homes, while offsetting 4 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions. The Old Shady Rest monitoring wells will be incorporated into the BLM approved groundwater monitoring and response plan for the project. The goal of that plan is to provide increased certainty that CD-IV plant operations will not have an adverse effect on the municipal water supply for the town of Mammoth Lakes.

For more information regarding the monitoring well project, please contact BLM Bishop Field Office Geologist Jason Titus at 760-872-5012.

Salvation for Those in Need

The Bishop Rotary and Bishop Sunrise Rotary Clubs are raising money for the Bishop Salvation Army. One of the hardships for our homeless population in Bishop is that there are no facilities they can use to take a shower, clean-up and spend a night or two indoors. Many of the facilities that were available in the past closed because of the Covid emergency, which also increased the homeless population.

The Bishop Salvation Army has stepped in to provide motel rooms for families and individuals who need a
BRIEFS
continued from page 12
place to spend a night or two. But the Salvation Army needs money to rent these rooms and the money has run out. The Bishop Rotary Clubs hope to fill this need.

The Bishop Rotary Clubs have set up a GoFundMe page with the Bishop Rotary Foundation to accept tax deductible donations to give to the Salvation Army. All proceeds will be donated to the Salvation Army. You can help Bishop’s homeless by going to: https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/help-for-salvation-army or searching for the Bishop Sunrise Rotary Club Facebook or web pages to find the link.

Scholarships for Seniors
The Eastern Sierra Foundation congratulates Cerro Coso Community College’s Class of 2021! The 62 graduates who attended the Eastern Sierra College Center’s Bishop and Mammoth Campuses are a true inspiration to all of us in the Eastern Sierra for their perseverance during this incredibly difficult year.

More than half of the graduates earned multiple degrees and certificates, for a total of 108 awards in 27 areas, such as administration of justice, business, information technology, kinesiology, liberal arts, mathematics, medical assisting, paralegal, nursing, office technology, and child development.

The Eastern Sierra Foundation supported over a quarter of this year’s graduating class with full scholarships covering tuition and books. The Foundation is pleased to announce a one-time Summer Scholarship to provide additional support during the pandemic. All Inyo County residents taking at least one summer class through Cerro Coso Community College are eligible. Applications are available at www.easternsierrafoundation.org.

ATTENTION ALL INYO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: Fall 2021 scholarships are also available. The scholarships cover tuition and up to $500 towards books.

Pot Found in Jail
Park rangers recently discovered a large, illegal marijuana grow site in Death Valley National Park. The site, comprising approximately 40 acres, was spotted in Jail Canyon, a rarely-visited canyon on the western side of the Panamint Mountains. Jail Canyon is temporarily closed for public safety reasons until park rangers can fully evaluate the area. “We are deeply saddened and concerned with the damage that these illegal activities cause,” said Barbara Durham, Traditional Historic Preservation Officer for the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe. “The natural and cultural resources in these areas are irreplaceable and invaluable, damaging them for profit shows incredible disrespect to our homeland.”

Rob Wissinger, Chief Ranger at Death Valley National Park, said “Seeing irreparable damage to a fragile ecosystem rich with rare natural and cultural resources is devastating.”

Marijuana grow sites significantly damage and destroy the park’s natural and cultural resources by introducing pesticides, land clearing, poaching and waterway modifications. Although the climate of Death Valley may appear inhospitable to marijuana cultivation, over the past decade, hundreds of acres of marijuana have been illegally cultivated in the park.

Note: Hikers in remote areas near water sources should remain alert, turn around and leave if they notice signs of suspicious activity. Once safe, they should notify Rangers at a visitor center or call the National Park Service tip line at 888-653-0099.

Broncos win
Great finish to a long, but short season. Up 26-21 at the half, the team dominated the second half leading to a 47-21 final last Saturday at Orosi. The seniors all played great in their final contests. Joe Weaver (12 catches, 176 yards, 4 TDs), QB Clay O’Mohundro (508 yards total offense and 6 TDs in two games), Jesse Abbott, Garrett Martinez, Sean Beavers, Jordan Cooper, and Caden Lamphhear were all major contributors. Injured seniors Carson Evangelist and Steven Pano were not able to be with us on the field but were in our thoughts.

Thanks to all the Broncos who held on through such a tough season. Delayed from fall, the athletes who stuck with us had to work through delays, Covid testing, forced distance learning, and quarantines to be able to play. My staff also deserves a ton of credit. They showed up everyday ready to work and provide a great experience to our athletes. Coaches Rick Beall, James Ferrell, Jake Evangelist, Carl Olsen, Chris Matteson, Will Lyons, Mike Cooper, James Jackson, Rich Miears, Cody Lawson, and filmer Jim Tyler all deserve huge thanks.

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

- Caregiver/Med Tech - B - $15-$17/Hour

- Housekeeping/Gap - ML - SDOE

Help Wanted

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

Mammoth Taxi is looking for an additional member for its team. We now have immediate openings for maintenance technician and an office position. These are Full Time Positions (Monday through Friday).

Help Wanted

- Condo Front Desk - ML - $15-$17

- Housekeepers $10-$13

Contact Donna or JC at 760-965-0544 ext. 11 for more information.

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Mammoth Taxicab is seeking a third licensed driver for its’ Dallas/Fort Worth airport run. We are offering a competitive wage of $17.50+ per hour plus $1.35 per hour as the ability to obtain and maintain a DMV Medical Examination Certificate. A good driving record is required. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply.

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Mammoth Gear Exchange is looking for sales people to join our team. We have full and part time positions available. We are looking for someone who is energetic and enjoys interacting with people. We offer competitive pay and benefits.

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

- East Side Bake Shop seeks experienced staff passionate about community and good food. We are looking for bakers, order prep, and fry shop. Send resume to eastsidedtoday@gmail.com or call 760-946-2996

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Mammoth Chevron

Mammoth Chevron seeking experienced cashier/customer service associate. Must be able to make change, handle multiple customers, and smile. Must be available for full time. Apply in person or call 760-934-8111.

Office Administrator for Construction Company

- Year-round position approx. 30 hrs./week. Competitive pay with computer literacy required and quickbooks/accounting skills preferred. To inquire, email william@wlharderinc.com or call (760) 937-0848

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Mammoth Lakes Taxi

We’re looking for experienced professionals to join our dedicated team. 2.5% increase to base salary July 2021, plus a competitive benefits package. Must be comfortable handling our local community! Human Resources Manager $93,000 - $141,000 Parks Maintenance Worker $37,832 - $52,954 Public Works Maintenance Worker $44,336 - $62,386

Eligibility for CalPERS retirement with leave beginning at 5 weeks per year 12 paid municipal holidays Comprehensive vision/dental reimbursement

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for maintenance, housekeeping, front desk and night audit positions. We are looking for someone who is energetic and enjoys interacting with people. We offer competitive pay and benefits.

- Savana Rental

Housekeepers Wanted in Mammoth Lakes

- Flexible hours, $23/hour from a Drive time paid & mileage reimbursement. Benefits include free pizza and entry to T-Bar Social Club concerts. Send resume to ZAPM@t-bar.com or call 760-983-1855

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Convict Lake Resort is hiring for Marina dock hands to start in April. $17/hr. Must possess a valid driver’s license. Must be able to maneuver boats.

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Sherin Villas is hiring an attendant concierge. A great opportunity to work in a 30-year old Mammoth Lakes brokerage. Mammoth newcomers will be considered. Top rated franchise affiliation with vast technology, social media and art network. Tremendous flexibility. Strong referral opportunities. Work from the road in a registered rental car with a dedicated meet and greet/work office available. Attractive compensation package. Benefits include sick/vacation pay, medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401k, Profit Sharing Plan, and a $4000 signing bonus on completion of 1 year.

- Savana Rental

Help Wanted

Hand wanted. Help wanted for maintenance and cleaning of a Mammoth vacation rental.

- Savana Rental

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TOWN STUFF

Saturday, May 8/ Felici Trio Watch Party! Rebecca, Steven 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@ChamberMusicInboud.org. Note: The concert will be available on our website (https://felicitrio.com/concertcalendar.html) by May 10th.

Eastern Sierra Audubon 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 Paca Lane, Bishop). A limited supply of binoculars are available.

Round Up at the Lake Fishing Derby at Convict Lake. Held every Saturday in May and the first two weeks in June. Time: 6 a.m.-5 p.m., register at convictlake.com

Art and Wine: Mother’s Day Acrylics hosted by Miguel Flores. Join the Mono Arts Council for a special Mother’s Day celebration. Registration and info available at monoaorts.org.

Monday, May 10/

Mammoth Lakes Clinic will host the following COVID-19 vaccine clinics over the next week. *May 8: Mammoth Lakes Clinic (Moderna) 10am-12pm - Mammoth Lakes Clinic from June 2-4. This registration period time is limited to one youth product per child. Summer registration with unlimited youth registrations (subject to availability) as well as adult products will open on Monday, June 7, 2021.

Covid Vaccination
Mono County Public Health is hosting the following COVID-19 vaccine clinics over the next week.
*May 8: Mammoth Lakes Clinic (Moderna) 10am-12pm - Mammoth Lakes High School.
*May 12: Sawmill Meadows clinic @ the Fire Station. Time: 2:30 p.m.

My Turn: https://myturn.ca.gov/ Inyo County Public Health will be holding a second round of COVID-19 vaccines this weekend.

TOWN STUFF

Thursday, May 13/ MHS Softball plays @ home v. Coleville. Time: 2 p.m.

MHS Baseball takes on Coleville. Time: 3 p.m. at Coleville.

Saturday, May 15/ Introduction to Cyanotypes: An Adventure in Alternative Photographic Processes with Joe Profit. 1-3 p.m. Location: C5 Studios in Bishop. Info: www.c5studios.org.

Ongoing
Laws Museum is “Back on Track!” and FULLY OPEN. Indoor and Outdoor exhibits are now open to the public. Visitors welcome EVERY DAY from 10 am - 4 pm. Info: 760.873.5960/lawsrailroadmuseum@gmail.com.

FREE Digital Arts Workshops for Teens. Learn more and sign up at monocolibraries.org. Info: Email the Youth Librarian at cdevine@monocoe.org.

ALA Auxiliary will be offering Poppies for our Veterans May 1st thru May 30th at Von’s, Grocery Outlet Market and Dwayne’s Pharmacy. Come and meet our ladies.

Upcoming/
Multiple Sclerosis Support Group – 5:30 PM May 24th at Shady Rest Picnic Area. Hosted by Mammoth Hospital, the MS Support Group will meet to discuss the impacts of MS and it’s treatment, talk about self-care with MS, including nutrition and mental health and lifestyle. Get tips on managing symptoms and treatment options in an environment that provides empathy and support. For questions, please call (760) 934-2551.

TOML Youth Summer Program Pre-Registration will take place from June 2-4. This registration period time is limited to one youth product per child. Summer registration with unlimited youth registrations (subject to availability) as well as adult products will open on Monday, June 7, 2021.

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My Turn: https://myturn.ca.gov/ Inyo County vaccine registration available at monocolibraries.org. Info: Email the Youth Librarian at cdevine@monocoe.org.

FOR THE BEER LOVERS

There are no catch limits when it comes to beer.

Mammoth Liquor
Beer lovers’ candy store
Selection of more than 300 beers
There are no catch limits when it comes to beer.

493 S. Main St.

934-6260

Main St. Next to Rick’s

OPEN FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY

TOWN STUFF

Monday, May 10/ MHS Softball and Baseball host home games @ Whitmore against Rosamond starting 2 p.m.

Bishop City Council meets 6 p.m.

Inyo County/LADWP Technical Committee Zoom meeting. Jo Ann Bollen, an organizer from San Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will discuss efforts underway to flip CA-08 Bernardino, will disc...
The Town of Mammoth Lakes will receive sealed bids for the following project: 2021 Whitmore Ballfield Warning Track

Notice of Public Hearing

Mammoth Community Water District Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Intent to Adopt a Water Management Plan

The Mammoth Community Water District (District) will be holding a public hearing regarding a proposal to adopt a Water Management Plan for the 2021 Whitmore Ballfield Warning Track on May 20, 2021.

In accordance with the California Department of Public Health’s and Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders N-26-20, the District has elected to hold this meeting solely by video teleconference due to the constraints of the property. The Board will be attending from separate locations in response to the threat of COVID-19. The public is invited to listen, observe, and provide comments during the hearing by either method provided for below. Members of the public interested in viewing and having the opportunity to comment at the public hearing via video telephone must request admittance prior to the meeting.

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To request admittance to the video teleconference, call 760-924-1131, ext. 405 and leave your name, phone number, email address, and reason for attending the meeting.

You also may call in to the hearing using video teleconference with members of the Board attending from separate locations. A phone number, fax number, and email address.

The notice of a public hearing is now available on the Town’s website at www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

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The Mono County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) Search and Rescue (SAR) Team is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to saving lives. When called by the MCSO, the Team responds at any time, in any weather, for as long as it takes, for free.

Each year, the SAR Team honors members for their individual excellence and public service. This is usually done at an awards dinner in December, but due to pandemic restrictions, it was delayed until a May 1, 2021, picnic at Mono County Park. The Team’s primary annual honor for achievement is the Pete Schoerner Rescue Member of the Year award. The award is named in memory of a beloved teammate who died in an ice climbing accident in 1996.

The Pete Schoerner Rescue Member of the Year award was given this year to John Bush. John serves the Team as a member of the Board of Directors, as Vice-President, Equipment Officer, and as a member of the Training Committee. He is a very active responder to search and rescue calls. Since joining the team, he has responded to 216 team events.

New members in training are called Candidate Members, and must undergo training, practice, and testing in eighteen skill categories before being considered for advancement to Rescue Member. Completion of all requirements takes a lot of dedication and faithfulness over a period that is typically a year or more.

The Team honors one Candidate Member each year with the Rick Mosher Candidate Member of the Year Award. Rick Mosher is the only team member to have died in the line of duty, while searching in a small airplane that crashed during an operation on August 15, 1979.

This year the Team selected Chad Senior as the Rick Mosher award winner. Chad is very active in many aspects of Team responses to calls and training. Since joining the team, he has participated in 111 team events and has advanced to Rescue Member.

20-year service plaques were awarded to Jutta Schmidt and Jeff Holmquist. A 10-year service plaque was awarded to Christina Ackerman as well as a photograph of her and SAR Dog Tako rapelling off a cliff.

The SAR team wishes to thank members of the community for their generous support since the Team’s founding 55 years ago.

Michelle Gastelum
Rotary Club of Mammoth Lakes
2021 Rotary Foundation
College Completion Scholarship Awardee
Michelle Gastelum
Michelle is a 2020 graduate of Mammoth High School currently attending Cerro Coso Community College. Upon completion of her AA degree, the scholarship will provide tuition up to $10,000 for each of two years to complete her undergraduate degree. Michelle’s goal is to become a veterinarian and work with exotic animals.
THE WAITING IS NOT THE HARDEST PART

By Page

Waiting (1999)
Ha Jin
Vintage Books
308 p.

The year before I graduated college, I stuck around to listen to the commencement speech of the poet Joseph Brodsky. Or perhaps I should call it the anti-commencement speech. Brodsky was no Oprah, exhorting the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to “follow their passions” and conquer the world. Rather, Brodsky laid the unvarnished truth on the graduating seniors, telling them that life wasn’t going to be one endless carnival ride of excitement. His speech was titled “In Praise of Boredom.” And he advised how one better get used to it, the boredom, one’s own insignificance, and the repetitiveness, which he described as “boredom’s mother.”

As Brodsky says, “You are finite,” time tells you in a voice of boredom, “and whatever you do is, from my point of view, futile. As music to your ears, this, of course, may not count; yet the sense of futility, of limited significance even of your best, most ardent actions is better than the illusion of their consequences and the attendant self-aggrandizement.”

“I thought of Brodsky as I was reading Ha Jin’s “Waiting” because there sure is a lot of waiting around in this novel, which won the Pen/Faulkner award back in its day.”

But it’s precisely the waiting that invokes the John Lennon observation: “Life is what happens to you when you’re making other plans.” Or at least wisdom happens. The protagonist in this story is Lin Kong, a physician who lives in the city. He’s part of the new China emerging in the mid-1960s, a China aspiring to advancement and sophistication. Meanwhile, his wife and daughter live back in his rural hometown. His marriage with wife Shuyu was arranged. He is embarrassed by her simple ways, by her bound feet, by the reminder of the past she represents.

He has a new woman in the city, a nurse who works with him at the hospital, whom he’d like to marry. But to marry, he’s got to divorce, and divorce is frowned upon and the country judges won’t grant it. So every year for 18 years, Lin Kong returns home for his two week leave with the intention of divorcing his wife. And for 18 years, it doesn’t happen.

But there’s no bitterness about it. The country is slowly changing, and by 1983, after 18 years, Lin Kong can finally get a divorce. Of course, Lin Kong has changed over that time, as has Shuyu and his daughter and his mistress. How they’ve changed, how Shuyu evolves more than Lin Kong could have imagined, how marriage with Manna Wu is a whole lot more challenging than extended courtship, and how one can hold two opposing ideas in the mind at the same time (to borrow from Fitzgerald) represent the strands Ha Jin weaves together.

As Jin writes, “True lovers don’t have to stay together looking at each other all the time; they look and move in the same direction.”

LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE
REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION BY 10%

IRRIGATION SCHEDULE

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<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
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<td>SPRINKLER TIMES: 1AM - 7AM &amp; 6PM - 11PM</td>
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<td>All hoses must be equipped with an Automatic Shutoff Device •</td>
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The first days of a new presidential administration are like a dust storm --- it is always an unclear sight to behold as new men and women take charge of the federal executive branch.

Joe Biden has now been president for more than 100 days. His administration, personnel, executive orders, policies, and proposed legislation have offered few surprises.

He ran for president as a liberal “not-Trump.” a Keynesian who would raise taxes, a central government regulator, and an advocate for federal New Deal-styled social welfare policies. In these matters, he has kept his promises. Most Democrats, but not all of them, approve. More radical members of his party in Congress (e.g., The Squad, Maxine Waters, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren) are now clamoring for him to veer farther to the left.

Several areas of crisis or hard challenge have emerged for the new president. Some of them he inherited; others are of his own making.

Number one, of course, is ending the pandemic. Thanks to the hurry-up program of his predecessor to develop vaccines, the national effort seems to be going well, and approaching “herd immunity.” Individual states have varying programs, and are getting some uneven results, but most of the nation should be vaccinated by late summer. Much less successful programs in Europe, Asia and South America, however, are causing concern for possible mutant virus surges.

Simultaneous to the vaccination program is the critical restart of the economy. Again, individual governors are insisting on different rules. Mr. Biden has proposed an overall $6 trillion federal stimulus plan for infrastructure and bailouts. He asserts that he will pay for this by increasing taxes on the rich and on corporations while closing some tax loopholes.

His conservative critics contend this strategy doesn’t work because it discourages new business investment and expansion, causes layoffs instead of new jobs, reduces general income growth, and thus ultimately reduces tax revenues.

The president is betting on success with short term measures, but is risking a recession next year before the mid-term elections.

The new president inherited a relatively quiet Mexican border, but his pre-election call for open immigration has produced a sudden chaotic surge. Elected Democratic officials in Border states who fear voter backlash next year are not happy.

Mr. Biden also inherited a positively evolving Middle East as a number of Arab nations recognized Israel and began commercial relations with the U.S.’s major ally in the region. This developing alliance also is a reaction to Iranian nuclear militarism, but the new administration seems determined to try to revive, led by John Kerry, a failing treaty made in the previous Democratic administration with a hostile Iran.

One small but bold Biden foreign policy success was his statement that Turkish actions against its Armenian citizens 100 years ago was genocide. Turkish governments since that time have denied culpability. No U.S. president, Democrat or Republican, has had the courage to declare the historically obvious. Turkey is now a member of NATO, but often does not seem to be a reliable ally.

Another bold Biden international move was his decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan, rejecting the advice of the military. Saying it was time to end U.S. “forever wars,” Biden’s move was one favored by his predecessor but not yet implemented.

Although he has established a commission to study expanding the United States Supreme Court from its current number of nine justices, there appears to be scant support for it in Congress, even among many Democrats. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has even said she will not bring it to the floor for a vote.

Many traditional issues of immigration, abortion and guns continue to divide the two major parties. With a Democrat now in the White House, the initiative shifts to the liberal Mr. Biden who has been reversing his predecessor’s executive orders. Many of these issues, however, will be ultimately decided in the courts.

It’s too early for report card grades, and for judgments of success or failure, but President Biden appears to be a “not-Trump” executive following his liberal instincts, yet under strong pressure from his left, and from policy expectations from his party’s New Deal past.

Barry Casselman is a syndicated columnist who has been covering national politics since 1972. More of his work can be found at www.barrycasselman.com.
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