GONE FISHING
Mono Supes cancel dysfunctional commission
By Page
The duties of the Mono County Fish and Game Commission (MCFGC) seem relatively simple from an outside perspective: advise the Mono County Board of Supervisors on fish rearing and stocking.
In addition, the commission is directed to provide oversight for the county fish management study and Conway Ranch activities, coordinate Fish Enhancement actions, and provide insight or consultation as needed.
It shouldn’t be overly complicated to take care of those assignments.
And yet, to hear Mono County Economic Development Assistant Jeff Simpson explain things to the Board of Supervisors, it’s become quite difficult to get even the simplest tasks completed with the commission.
“Meetings have become increasingly contentious, unprofessional, and sometimes inappropriate,” Simpson said of the MCFGC. He related that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued notice that it will no longer be attending the meetings unless asked to do so in writing and approved by its regional director.
Though, he said, has become difficult to manage.
“We did have a commissioner walk out of one meeting,” he said, “I’m spending time on the phone before meetings and after meetings talking about the issues that happened throughout the meetings and coaching commissioners on appropriate-ness and professionalism.”
Simpson added that while debates and differences in opinion are welcome during the course of meetings, “individual agendas within this current structure create roadblocks.”
Simpson outlined 4 issues facing the commission:
Issue 1: The duties of the commission as assigned by the Board of Supervisors: Simpson reported confusion among commissioners about priorities and duties, and how to properly apportionize items.
Simpson’s solution was to have an annual Board agenda item with county staff to determine recommendations for the coming year.
Issue 2: The terms of office for the vice-chair and chair. Commissioners are elected to one-year terms for those positions; the current chair has held the position for six years. Simpson recommended eliminating both positions and having county staff coordinate and manage the meetings.
Issue 3: Appointment terms and qualifications for commissioners. Supervisors are supposed to nominate one commissioner each, with the remaining two nominated by any person. According to Simpson, there is no record of nominations dating back to 2003. Additionally, there is no guidance on geographic or residency requirement.
Currently, no one represents the Bridgeport or Lee Vining communities.
Four of the seven current commissioners have their respective terms expiring in June 2021, making the appointments a pressing issue. Simpson suggested advertising the positions county-wide and appointing commissioners from a wide array of communities.
Issue 4: Fish stocking allocations. Historically MCFGC
THE HEIGHTS LOW
Sterling Heights final day: July 2
By Lunch
The wind-down is in full swing at Sterling Heights in Bishop.
The Assisted Living retirement home located on Pine Street and backing up to Bishop City Park will close for good on July 2.
The 79-bed facility currently houses just 14 seniors.
Executive Director Alicia Smith, who was brought on board in April to help close the doors, said three of those residents have been placed in Gardnerville. One is expected to move this week. Another next week.
The Sheet also spoke to family members of 95-year old World War II veteran (and Purple Heart recipient) Lloyd Young, who will be moved into his niece Gail Sharkey’s home in Bishop within the next two weeks.
Just 15 employees remain.
Smith said she is offering assistance in attempting to “rehom” employees in next jobs.
Gloria Rivera is a cook who has been working at Sterling Heights for 20 years.
Rivera said that when she first took the job, the Center was at maximum capacity. In those old days, there were two cooks working on all shifts.
These days, Rivera prepares all three meals on Fridays and Saturdays.
Jesus Hernandez has been at Sterling Heights a little more than a year. He also works part-time at Amigos Restaurant and may take on more hours there once Sterling Heights closes.
Trudi and Rick Lee are a husband/wife team which has each worked at Sterling Heights for approximately ten years. Trudi serves as the Activities Director while Rick’s duties were listed as maintenance, transportation and caregiving, but really, said Trudi, everyone is a jack-of-all-trades of sorts, cross-trained in many different areas.
see HEIGHTS, page 7
HEROIC SAUSER

Mammoth Town Council granted Sean Turner and Bluesapalooza a $90,000 “reimbursable grant” at its meeting Wednesday.

The money’s reimbursed if the event is profitable.

This is on top of a $200,000 loan approved by Mammoth Lakes Tourism a few weeks back, along with a $50,000 reimbursable grant if the event makes money.

According to the letter from Mammoth Brewing Company in the staff report for Wednesday’s meeting, “Bluesapalooza and the Mammoth Festival of Beers traditionally brings … an estimated attendance of 5,500 from outside the area,” meaning, “an additional $600,000 is spent on lodging by attendees over the weekend, 2,000 rooms for an average of two nights at $150 per night - conservative.”

Now I understand there should be a displacement argument - if a Bluesapalooza guest isn’t renting the room then someone else likely is so it isn’t $600,000 free and clear, but then, Mammoth Lakes Tourism never makes such realistic assumptions when inventing its own math.

I did speak with one hotel operator who said Bluesapalooza is usually worth a 10% bump in rate.

The big question: Is Bluesapalooza worth all this largesse? Hell, we spent the last year handing out millions of dollars to folks in the form of business and rental and other assistance with no expectation that they’d provide anything in return. At least in this case, we get a four-day show. And think of the risk being taken - never mind the usual terms of Covid rules.

I did speak to Turner post-meeting Wednesday. The rental agreement for the property is still not signed, so the event is anything but assured.

If it does move forward, maximum attendance would be determined by the state. Turner said rumor at this time is for a 5,000-person limit on capacity.

Extra protocols may be required in terms of temperature checks or proof of vaccination.

Even though costs promise to be higher, one thing Turner said would not be compromised or reduced is the talent budget.

Ticket prices for the event have been bumped as a result of anticipation of higher production costs and limits on attendance. A four-day ticket now costs $350, bumped from $295, and may be adjusted upward further if/when the musical lineup is announced.

If Bluesapalooza moves forward, it would represent the first in-person event of its kind in the state of California since the onset of the pandemic.

As for the headline to this piece … Mammoth’s Town Council held a joint workshop with its Recreation Commission on Wednesday.

Observation: When people spend 90 minutes agreeing with each other, they mistake solidarity for productivity.

Dan O’Connell did impress me by referencing the breaking of the “Gordian Knot” in terms of getting the MUF/CRC built. Rather than explain here, why don’t you all break out those Smartphones and Google it?

Recreation Commissioner Laurel Martin warned that now that the project is underway, the Town “needs to take control of the narrative” because it’s “so difficult to combat misinformation.”

Not so sure what that misinformation is - I’m assuming misinformation is simply information that is not pleasing to one’s ear.

But good news for Martin. I think the Town’s strategy has been to assign Stu Brown his 8/7th task - he now writes Council recaps and sends them out via email blast on Thursdays. Stu’s News redux. I just read the first one. Mayor Sauser will be disappointed. Nowhere within are the words heroic and Sauser placed next to each other.

So I did it for him. Heroic Sauser. Now Bill can rip this page out as a souvenir.

Question: Can no one else within Town government other than Stu Brown summarize a meeting or write a coherent sentence? I mean, they have assistants and deputy assistants for everything. Stu should be able to farm this out. That or ... Can’t MLT lend somebody? They don’t have anything to do.

One thing I imagine Stu won’t recap … there was a point at the end of the joint workshop where Mayor Sauser talked about how he hasn’t heard from as many folks as he’d like, and that his door is always open, and Commissioners are welcome to swing by his house to share ideas and most likely a glass of wine.

It was awkward. It sounded like, “Hey, you’re welcome to come by and kiss my ring.”

I’ve got a better idea. Stop hiding behind the Zoom lens and start meeting in Suite Z again. Because it was pretty clear from the on-site transportation workshop on Thursday (see story p. 8) that while Town Council and Staff may be very in tune with each other, they seem far removed from their constituents.

And talk about building the church for Easter Sunday - designing a turnaround for 40’ buses at Woodman where a Chevy Astro Van would be a more realistic choice in terms of passenger volume.

One additional item from the Sterling Heights visit. It was the personal belief of Executive Director Alicia Smith that the property should become a V.A. (Veterans Administration) assisted living facility.

I’m assuming if that becomes the direction, they’ll fix the roof prior to occupancy.

That or Sterling Heights could become the solution to Bishop’s home-less parking issue. And you could offer a tarp with each room.

Jack of all Lunches

---

Casey Stengel

“Can’t anybody here play this game?”

JACK LUNCH

PUBLISHER

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Deeply disappointed
Ted,

I’m actually writing to express my deep disappointment in your willingness to publish Lynn Need’s letter to the editor from the AAPS ... A fringy group of doctors that don’t base a lot of their information on science. I’m not sure what your intentions were for printing this, but I would hope that you would address it and fill me in as to why you think something like that should be printed? Maybe you should read this article: https://sciencebasedmedicine.org/the-journal-of-american-physicians-and-surgeons-ideology-trumps-science-based-medicine/

Michelle Quirsfeld
Mammoth Lakes

Cut Out The Campfires

You may or may not be aware of the recent activity of multiple local fire departments of the Eastern Sierra being called into the forests to extinguish campfires that campers walked away from while they were still burning.

Two weeks ago, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department was called into the forest twice in one week to extinguish fires left by/caused by campers. Not once. Twice. One of the fires breached the campground, but was contained before it out. Yesterday, the Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department was called to a fire at Baker Creek Campground - campers even in campgrounds are leaving with fires still burning.

Fortunately, none of these fires happened during big wind events. That’s the good news.

The bad news? 1. They shouldn’t have happened at all. 2. We are seeing several windy days in the Eastern Sierra already this summer. It seems like there are more days with wind events than not. Definitely a noticeable increase this summer with windy days compared to prior summers.

And we are only halfway through May.

One of these abandoned fires occurring on the same day as a wind event would likely result in a forest fire that could reach the magnitude of last year’s Creek Fire. Several local residents in Mammoth Lakes - myself included - are wondering why fires aren’t flat out banned? It is completely and totally possible for people to recreate in the forest without having a campfire.

On behalf of a huge number of local residents that I communicate with, I would like USPS to consider banning forest fires on USPS land. This is a disaster waiting to happen if immediate action isn’t taken. At the rate that this is continuing, there isn’t going to be a forest left to manage. I think it also begs taking up conversation with Governor Newsom’s office about banning campfires throughout California.

Chris Leonard
Mammoth Lakes

Don’t remove broccoli from the menu

Dear Editor:

My name is Kyle Howell, and I have been a physician at Mammoth Hospital for 20 years, treating patients in the Emergency Department. I am the incoming Medical Chief of Staff and served as a physician advisor to Mammoth Hospital’s Covid response team.

I have no financial stake in any of the subjects that follow in this letter; I am simply attempting to dispel any confusion which still exists regarding the benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, as illustrated in the letter to the editor published in the Sheet on May 15, 2021.

In this letter, a position statement from the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) was cited, discouraging vaccination as a prerequisite to returning to college (the vaccine passport). Although I support the right of the AAPS to pursue this agenda, I feel compelled to point out that their statement regarding the COVID-19 vaccine safety is false.

First, understand that the AAPS is a “business of medicine” organization that includes less than 1/100 of 1% of all physicians in the US. Their reputation is not for promoting medical science, but rather for lobbying congress. Doctors do not look to the AAPS for guidance on treatments. They look to the AAPS because the organization fights to increase physician compensation and eliminate government involvement in our payor systems (like Medicare and Medicaid).

AAPS is vehemently opposed to government involvement in all things medicine, and this includes vaccines. While I am in favor of debating the merits of vaccine incentive programs, if we are going to require vaccines to return to college, then we should not require vaccinating to avoid hospitalization. It is a false claim.

I would like USFS to consider banning forest fires on USFS land. This is a disaster waiting to happen if immediate action isn’t taken. At the rate that this is continuing, there isn’t going to be a forest left to manage. I think it also begs taking up conversation with Governor Newsom’s office about banning campfires throughout California.

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it is morally wrong to use lies about the medical safety of vaccines to promote either side of an agenda. In this letter/position statement from the AAPS, this is exactly what they do. While there are several falsehoods in the AAPS statement, for the sake of brevity I will address just the one: “The COVID-19 vaccines on the market... have caused notable side effects, pathology and even death (>2300 deaths per VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) as of April 20, 2021).” This is simply not true. There have been multiple studies with tens of thousands of enrolled patients providing overwhelmingly convincing data that the vaccine is safe and effective and is precisely why 100% of the physicians at Mammoth Hospital received their vaccine once it was available. It is also why my entire extended family has received the vaccine (including 4 physicians) and is why my 14- and 17-year-old children have also received the vaccine. Regarding the claim that there >2300 deaths per VAERS, understand that this is unsubstantiated nonsense. Anyone who has even a passing knowledge of how VAERS works would reject this statement. The topic of vaccines is emotional/controversial for some, which easily clouds objectivity. To assess this statement even more clearly, let us pretend we are not relying on independent support or evidence.

The author of the AAPS statement certainly must know this, which makes that statement even more disappointing. In fact, it appears as if the opposite is true. Consider that in countries with high vaccination rates, hospitalizations and deaths are dramatically decreasing. While sadly, those rates are dramatically increasing in the countries where there is limited access to vaccines. Many people do not believe in big government, big medicine, big media or big anything. So take a moment to consider our local experience. Over 17,000 doses of the vaccine have been administered in Mono county. Over 7,000 people of our county are fully vaccinated (over 50% of the population), and none have died from the vaccine. None have had serious life altering side effects - at least not serious enough to bring them to the Emergency Department where I work and track these things. Compare this to the 1,000 people in our county who have gotten COVID-19. I have treated many of them in the ED over the course of the pandemic. 4 of those 1,000 patients diagnosed with COVID-19 died. I knew 3 of them. Others survived but spent a significant amount of time hospitalized and on life support. Many more came to our ED feeling like a fish out of water because of very low oxygen levels. I have taken care of others who died from highly unusual vascular complications while battling “long haul COVID syndrome” (they won’t show up in the COVID-19 stats because they were not COVID-19 positive at the time of death). But this is all clearly changing.

I have gone well over 30 days without seeing a patient with a new COVID-19 infection who has low oxygen levels or needs admission to the hospital. It has been extremely gratifying to witness the result of our county’s vaccination efforts. Ultimately, you have to ask yourself which group you want to be a part of? The 1,000 people with 4 deaths and numerous other serious medical events, or the 7,000+ people with none of those things. Maybe you think you will not get COVID-19 or if you do get it, it will not be that bad. Maybe you also think you might be the first case in Mono County of a serious long term adverse reaction to the vaccine. While these are possibilities, the odds do not make any sense. Just like playing the lotto is not exactly a statistically winning life strategy. You have to look at the facts and consider the known risks and possibilities, and then make the best informed decision of how you make it out the other side of this pandemic fully intact.

Kyle Howell, MD
Mammoth Hospital

More deep disappointment
Dear Editor

In your May 15, 2021 edition you published a very lengthy letter from Lynn Altieri-Need in which Ms. Altieri-Need quoted a very lengthy letter from the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) that strongly advises against mandatory vaccination of students. These letters should not have been printed in The Sheet. If The Sheet felt compelled to include them you should have added a disclaimer. These letters make a series of assertions that the COVID-19 vaccines are very harmful to young people, without independent support or evidence. Readers who are not informed about reliable scientific guidance are liable to take these claims at face value and resist more LETTERS, page 6
LETTERS continued from page 5

having students vaccinated.

According to the CDC:
“Although fewer children have been infected with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can:
- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Get sick from COVID-19.
- Spread COVID-19 to others.

CDC recommends everyone 12 years and older should get COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against COVID-19. Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic. Getting your child or teen vaccinated can bring you one step closer to enjoying the activities you miss. Children 12 years and older are able to get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.” (Emphasis in original.)

The language Ms. Altieri-Need and the AAPS use is superficially reasonable, concluding “only” that parents should be given the option to refuse to have their children vaccinated, but all of the arguments for such an opt-out choice are intended to cause fear and rejection of student vaccination. For example, the AAPS quotes the Nuremberg Code to support the right “to exercise free power of choice” and choose “not to participate in this optional vaccine experiment.” What optional vaccine experiment? The Nuremberg Code was written in reference to Nazi experiments on prisoners in concentration camps. Does the AAPS seriously believe that the COVID-19 vaccination program is analogous to those experiments? An uncritical reading of the AAPS letter could conclude that.

A quick Wikipedia search identifies the AAPS as “a group of conservative activist doctors who oppose the 2010 health care reform law, the ‘Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act’ Members of the group also believe that President Obama may have hypnotized voters and that climate legislation is a threat to human health.” This is not an “esteemed” group, as Ms. Altieri-Need contends.

We did not want to spend any more time than absolutely necessary on the AAPS website, but an example of their positions is a pamphlet titled “Opting Out of Medicare – a Guide for Physicians.”

The AAPS’ letter is pure propaganda, designed to mislead readers so that they distrust and reject the vaccination program.

Ms. Altieri-Need did not give her healthcare qualifications, but the source on which she relies is radically conservative and wrong. Printing those opinions without comment was irresponsible and disappointing.

Amy Motroni and Pete Peterson
Swall Meadowes

FISH COMMISH continued from page 1

has made recommendations to county staff and has not held any final decision-making power as commissioners may hold financial stake in where and when fish are stocked and the commis-

sion would be rife of conflicts of interest.

Given the controversy and tensions surrounding the stocking decisions, Simpson recommended either solidifying county staff having the final say or devising a procedure that gives the Board the decision.

Simpson estimated that he spends 20% of monthly work time on the commission and its myriad issues.

Digesting Simpson’s presentation, Supervisor Stacy Corless asked, “What would the process be to hit pause or suspend this commission?”

County Counsel Stacy Simon said that since the MCFGC is managed by the Board of Supervisors, they have discretion to take any action they may want.

Other supervisors expressed worries that the commission was too focused on the fish-related aspects of their duties and not enough on the game/wildlife side.

In response to a question from Supervisor Bob Gardner about conflicts of interest among commissioners, Simon said that MCFGC merely serves in an advisory role and does not have the final say on anything. In addition, many recommendations are modified by county staff before implementation.

If commissioners recused themselves, Simpson added, “you’d end up with a very eviscerated commission.”

Their expertise is very valuable but it’s not the fish experts being consulted and not of interest that we’re trying to avoid,” he continued.

MCFGC Chair Gaye Mueller joined the meeting to discuss Simpson’s presentation. She said that the commission had been working on bylaws for the past couple of years and referenced one line that reads “commissioners shall ac-

knowledge the health and safety of county employees and the public … and shall refrain from abusive comments and statements”

“These problems have escalated,” Mueller said. “As we saw at the January meeting, something really needs to happen because we have one commissioner who’s very contentious, disrespectful.”

According to Mueller, the commis-

sioner in question made derogatory comments towards CDFW during a meeting, which resulted in CDFW barring representatives from attending future meetings.

Mueller, the commission chair for the past six years, said that while her strengths didn’t necessarily align with running meetings, she felt that the chair position was still important and didn’t want to see a seat to rotate it on a yearly basis.

Commissioner Don Morton followed Mueller’s comments and opened by stating, “We’ve got to run meetings by bylaws. As Gaye said, her strength is not in running meetings. By definition, the chairperson’s responsibility is to run meetings.”

“I also believe it would be a conflict of interest for non-residents [of Mono County] to be commissioners,” Morton added. Mueller currently lives in Bishop.

Morton also took issue with the differ-

ence in stakes for Inyo and Mono coun-
ties. He referenced the Conway Ranch fish rearing project, calling it a “fasco,” and questioning why Mono County would stock Rock Creek Lake (in Inyo) when it provides no benefit to Mono.

Commissioner Jim King felt that the commission should return to record-

ing minutes at meetings, a practice he says stopped when Simpson took over as lead. In regards to Simpson taking on responsibility for running meetings, he said: “With all you have going on, I kind of hesitate to see you take over anything else as far as trying to run the meet-

ing, you pretty much run the meeting anyway. I just don’t feel we should add anything else to your plate.”

King also rejected Morton’s take on Rock Creek Lake, stating that there had been estimates that 90% of the people fishing on that lake were camping or staying in Mono County. Furthermore, the county counsel at the time said that the decision was justified as Rock Creek Lake had influence on the local economy.

Crowley Lake-based Commissioner Sue Burak said she was “dismayed by these petty conflicts and disruptions to the important issues we have to deal with as a commis-

sioner,” and expressed her opinion that the commission should be focusing on climate change and its impacts to local fish populations.

“Being the new kid on the block, one of my frustrations has been reading bylaws and then people on the com-

mission choosing which bylaws we’re gonna do and which we’re not gonna do,” said Commissioner Jim Rick. He advocated for rotating the chair and vice-chair positions each year, and con-

sidering term limits for commissioners.

“Yes some of the meetings have been contentious but it’s not just one,” Rick said, “it’s back and forth. I’ve heard commissioners sit there and call fisher-

men and supervisors ‘idiot’s’ and the chairperson sitting there and not saying anything.”

“Nobody wants the job, but we have gone through the motions [of elections] every year.”

He continued: “If we have somebody that really enjoys the job and doesn’t want to change, why not let her keep doing the job?”

“I am the guy who walked out of the meeting,” Parker said, “There is one indi-

vidual on the commission who keeps trying to tell us about sustainable fish-

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Supervisor John Peters suggested not disbanding or suspending the commis-

sion, as meetings have been delayed for the next two months, and advocated for Simpson to manage the meetings. With Simpson in charge, there would be time to assess the bylaws and align them closer to the Board’s values.

“We’ve got to take a step back here,” said Corless, “This commission is ad-

visory to the Board of Supervisors, and I don’t think there’s any consensus on what they’re advising on.”

“The thing that rose to foreground to me is the lack of civility,” said Board chair Jennifer Kreitz, “It’s hard to focus on work when emotions run so high.”

I’d be in support of disbanding the board.”

Kreitz said that she’d never heard MCFGC weigh in on fish kills, adding “it seems that you might’ve been con-

cerned about salmon on Wilson creek, but it seems to be very much still focused on stocking.”

With the support of three supervi-

sors (Gardner, Kreitz, and Corless), the Board instructed Simpson to draft a reso-

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On May 17, 2021, at an unknown time, the driver of a black Dodge Ram pick-up truck was traveling northbound on US 395, north of SR 168. For unknown reasons, the driver allowed the vehicle to travel onto the right shoulder, where it collided with the guardrail. The driver swerved back to the left, causing the vehicle to travel across the northbound and southbound lanes and onto the southbound shoulder. The ve-

hicle collided with the concrete guardrail, overturned and rolled into the canal to the west of the highway. The driver, identified as Tori Schell, 22, sustained fatal injuries as a result of the collision, which is still under investigation.

Jeff Parker was the last of the commis-

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sion approximately 5 years ago just as a concerned fisherman,” he said, “I’ll admit I’m extremely unprofessional but I don’t think I’m rude.”

Regarding the chair positions, he said “Nobody wants the job, but we have gone through the motions [of elections] every year.”

VEHICLE DEATH IN BIG PINE

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uring.
This room ... leaks like a sieve.

-Lloyd Young

Young, who has lived at Sterling Heights for the past 14 years, grew up in Bishop. He enlisted for WWII at the age of 17, and participated in eight invasions in the Pacific theater, including Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

Post-service, he made a professional career as a technical artist for companies such as Boeing and Firestone.

One claim to fame: He designed the first Mule Days belt buckle.

Anyway, Young let drop that “Every room leaks,” and that his room in particular, “leaks like a sieve.”

Maybe that’s why some parts of the floor of his room have a bit of a warp.

And makes one wonder what else might be going on with the building, which Smith said was built in the mid-1970s.

What’s interesting is that in the company’s press release announcing the closure a few weeks back, it states, “Like many businesses, [Sterling Heights has] been hit hard with both staffing losses and increasing costs of running the building.”

And certainly, deferred maintenance can make things mighty expensive.

Young currently pays $3,200/month. Family members said the reason he is moving in with them (versus heading over to the Care Center) is because if one doesn’t qualify for MediCal, the Care Center cost would be triple what Young is currently paying.

Young’s Grand-Niece Jamie Moore said her grandmother lived at Sterling Heights before passing away at 98.

“The staff is great,” she remarked.

While some left as soon as the closure was announced, folks like Trudi Lee are committed to the end. “We’re here for the residents,” she declared. At least for the next six weeks.
THE WRATH OF KHAN
Old Mammoth residents protest Woodman turnaround

By Lunch

Wow, it made you miss in-person meetings. Mammoth Public Works Director Haistip Hayes and Associate Engineer Amy Callanan hosted an on-site workshop on Thursday at the intersection of Old Mammoth Road and Woodman Street to discuss the proposed bus stop/shelter/turnaround for the site.

The pair caught an earful from neighborhood residents, the vast majority of whom are opposed to the project.

An informal poll conducted by Hayes showed that four people were supportive of a shelter/turnaround project which could potentially accommodate 40’ buses providing transportation access to as far as Woodman.

24 people were against. Many vociferously so. Mayor Bill Sauser said he’s been contacted by folks on both sides of the issue. He attributed the large turnout of anti-project sentiment to a “phone tree” campaign.

Suggesting he believes the community sentiment is more of a toss-up than what he confronted Thursday.

Mitch Dutko owns the home on Woodman immediately adjacent to the project site at the corner. The Sheet overheard Dutko ask Mayor Bill Sauser bluntly, “When’s reelection, Bill?” Dutko then promised to make Sauser’s life miserable if the project goes through.

Sauser and Mayor Pro-Tem Lynda Salcido attended the workshop - one supposes to provide protection for the clearly irritated Hayes, who has all the bedside manner of Genghis Khan.

Hayes told the assembled group that the bus turnaround at the Athletic Club is going away because of the development of Snowcreek VII.

A condition of approval is that the developer, Chadmar, would fund this project.

Hayes indicated that Woodman represents the only opportunity to have a bus turnaround on Old Mammoth past Snowcreek.

The majority of those gathered would rather have no bus service.

“We live out here for the quiet and the solitude” said one resident.

“If any of you lived out here,” said another, gesturing to Hayes, Callanan, Sauser and Salcido, “You wouldn’t support this.”

What’s interesting is that there’s still no concrete answer as to what the level and frequency of service may be.

Those questions may be tackled by Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission at its June 9 meeting - the next step in the process.

“The Sheet did ask Callanan at the workshop if the site plan might look different if it wasn’t being engineered for a 40’ bus - a point that neighborhood resident John Guatelli was quick to pick up on.

The issue, he said, is more about the Town designing a turnaround for a big bus versus designing something more closely tailored to demand. A 2019 Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) “Limited Route Service Analysis” determined that previous Old Mammoth service drew a whopping 3.7 riders per trip.

The same analysis also noted that Mammoth’s Council shifted resources away from Old Mammoth Road in 2016 because of limited demand past Aspen Village.

Callanan said that hypothetically, bus size and site plan could be correlated. Smaller bus = smaller footprint.

Callanan did say that previous attempts at Old Mammoth service have been affected by schedule and frequency, suggesting demand may be higher than previous ridership has indicated.
Masks Stay On For Now

On May 13, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to wear masks or practice social distancing indoors or outdoors, except under certain circumstances. Subsequently, on May 17, the State announced maintaining the mask mandate in California until June 15, 2021. If you’re Fully Vaccinated:
- Face coverings are not required outdoors except when attending crowded outdoor events, such as live performances, parades, fairs, festivals, sports events, or other similar settings.
- In indoor settings outside of your home, including public transportation, face coverings continue to be required regardless of vaccination status.

As defined in the CDPH Fully Vaccinated Persons Guidance, fully vaccinated people can:
- Visit, without wearing masks or physical distancing, with other fully vaccinated people in indoor or outdoor settings.
- Visit, without wearing masks or physical distancing, with unvaccinated people (including children) from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease in indoor and outdoor settings.

If you’re Unvaccinated:
- Face coverings are required outdoors any time physical distancing cannot be maintained, including when attending crowded outdoor events, such as live performances, parades, fairs, festivals, sports events, or other similar settings.
- In indoor settings outside of your home, including public transportation, face coverings continue to be required regardless of vaccination status.

Gathering for the Dispersed

Mono County is hosting a virtual Dispersed Camping Town Hall to address community concerns about camping and campfires outside of developed recreation areas. At the meeting, there will be a presentation of the Eastern Sierra Dispersed Camping Collaboration’s (ESDCC) five-point campaign to improve management of dispersed camping this summer. Convened by Mono County Supervisor Bob Gardner, the ESDCC worked through this winter to develop near-term solutions to address negative impacts of dispersed camping. The Town Hall will be held Tuesday, May 25 at 5:30PM via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Following a dramatic increase in dispersed camping in the Summer of 2020, the group of agencies, organizations, and individuals met to address growing community concern with the impacts of recreation in the Eastern Sierra. The ESDCC began with a survey to identify the main problems - wildfire threat, human waste, trash, community disturbance, damage to wildlife habitat, impacts to cultural resources, and a lack of agency resources.

“Through our collaborative efforts, we have identified real actions to implement this summer to protect our communities and public lands, while preserving our forests, water, and way of life here in the Eastern Sierra,” stated Supervisor Gardner. The ESDCC will present its campaign, answer questions and listen to community feedback during the Town Hall. Spanish translation services are available during the meeting. Zoom: https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/9938589625

Patch Me Through

Smokers who call the California Smokers’ Helpline can now get an additional tool to help them quit smoking: free nicotine patches.

Adult smokers in California, who are medically eligible, can receive a two-week supply of nicotine patches mailed directly to their homes at no cost. This limited-time offer is available through funding by the University of California’s Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program.

Smokers who used NRT in combination with counseling had higher success rates of quitting and staying quit than if they used only one method.

“Through our collaborative efforts, we have identified real actions to implement this summer to protect our communities and public lands, while preserving our forests, water, and way of life here in the Eastern Sierra,” stated Supervisor Gardner. The ESDCC will present its campaign, answer questions and listen to community feedback during the Town Hall. Spanish translation services are available during the meeting. Zoom: https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/9938589625

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Spring Savings

It’s time to pull the clubs out of the closet as California’s highest golf course opens May 28. Find the lowest prices of the season on our frequent player program card, the Sierra Star Unlimited Pass, and the Couples Pass now before prices go up.

Options Start at Just $199 – Prices go up June 23

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AWARD WINNING OFFICE

COLDWELL BANKER MAMMOTH REAL ESTATE

Celebrating Decades of Real Estate Service in Mammoth!
COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how important it is to practice healthy habits. Smoking is still the #1 cause of preventable disability, death, and disease in the U.S. Now is a great time to quit! To get free nicotine patches (while supplies last) or to find out more information, call 1-800-NO-BUTTS or chat at nobutts.org with the California Smokers’ Helpline.

Farewell to Hathaway

The Eastern Sierra Foundation honored Dr. Nickoline Hathaway yesterday with a tile placed along the Pioneer Pathway at Cerro Coso Community College’s Bishop Campus. Dr. Hathaway, who retired earlier this month after 35 years of patient care from Northern Inyo Hospital, was recognized for her generous contributions to the Eastern Sierra Foundation. Through donations from community organizations and local residents, the ESF awards full scholarships to any Inyo County resident who attends Cerro Coso’s Bishop Campus full time. Since 2003, the ESF has awarded approximately 1,400 scholarships worth nearly $1.4 million.

The Pioneer Pathway – the entrance to the Bishop Campus – celebrates major donors with one-of-a-kind tiles. Ceramics Professor Theresa Otto designed and created the tile presented to Dr. Hathaway.

Dr. Hathaway said, “Without the help of scholarships, I wouldn’t have been able to get through college, so this contribution in my name is near and dear to my heart.”

Jeff Griffiths, past president of ESF gave a little background on how the Eastern Sierra Foundation was created to help construct the Cerro Coso Community College in Bishop. Applications for Summer and Fall 2021 ESF Scholarships are currently available at https://www.cerrocoso.edu/studentservices/financial-aid/eastern-sierra-foundation-scholarship. For more information call (760)972-5300 or visit www.easternsierrafoundation.org.

Pfizer Pfor Teens

On May 12, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced opening Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (Coronavirus) vaccination appointments for Californians in the 12-15 age group following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) emergency use authorization. This expanded eligibility comes after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) vaccine safety review panel and the Western States Scientific Review Workgroup recommended that the vaccine is safe and effective in protecting this age group against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

“Effective immediately, all Mono County clinics will be prepared and equipped to provide the Pfizer vaccine to all children aged 12-17 who wish to receive it,” stated Bryan Wheeler, Mono County Director of Public Health. “This expanded eligibility will allow for our community to further protect itself as we head into the often-busy summer months.”

Mono County Public Health is partnering with local school districts on upcoming clinics specifically for school-aged children, and all individuals aged 12 and up are able to visit any of Mono County’s upcoming walk-in clinics. Parents/Guardians are required to sign a release form that will be available at each of the upcoming clinics. The schedule for upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Mono County can be accessed here: https://coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov/pages/vaccinations. The CDC’s interim public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people can be accessed here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html.

Dr. Nickoline Hathaway (L) with Jeff Griffiths and Julie Faber, current Eastern Sierra Foundation President
Mammoth and Bishop Union High Schools faced off in softball and baseball on Monday, May 17.

Bishop came out on top in both meetings, with the boys picking up a 7-4 win to remain undefeated and Softball upped its record to 5-3.

Both Mammoth teams were back in action again on Thursday, hosting Boron at Whitmore. It was the final home game of the season for seniors Isla Lackey, Jessie Bonich, Cecilia Bassler, and Bailey Sokol.

Mammoth Baseball was tied in the fourth inning of its contest.

Kate Anderson sends one to the outfield
Mammoth’s Kate Gray makes a snag off of a pop up
Garin Anderson
Mason Georgeson slides into third for an RBI triple
Bishop’s Lauren Allen readies for an at-bat
Q: We’re new 2nd homeowners in Mammoth and want to know your best suggestions as to how best to settle in.

A: Welcome to Mammoth and congratulations on owning your own piece of the Mammoth dream. It would be fascinating to also hear the perspectives of other long-time local residents — to each their own. I’m sure I’ll miss some things but here are my highlights.

When I moved to Mammoth in the early 1980s I had a local mentor who taught me “Mammoth’s 11th Commandment” — Don’t set yourself up for disappointment. It still works for me today. Mammoth can be a humbling place.

For instance, there are so many world class athletes, known and unknown, just hanging out in the region that bragging or showing-off is asinine. But people still come and do.

Without a trust fund or some brilliant remote economic strategy, just surviving for several segments of our business sector. In the 1980s the local economy (including a booming construction and development phase) died and there was no summer tourism business. It was a great time to be poor and play in the great outdoors. And having trout to eat was a godsend. But many residents simply had to leave to find greener meadows. The weather can be humbling too, especially if you have ever been “caught” in it.

For new real estate owners the most important thing to remember is that Mammoth Lakes is a small town in a remote area with limited resources – including human resources. Getting improvements completed at your property can be challenging, especially in a mini-boom period like right now, because of the availability (or lack thereof) of service people and contractors. There is also a seasonal effect — the closer to the year-end holidays, the less likely something will happen. And acting like a jerk will definitely cause you delays. It does pay to call around and ask various people for recommendations.

Mammoth has more immediate availability to hardware store items than it has ever had. The two current stores carry a wide variety of items large and small to complete an array of jobs. But even the local contractors often make runs to Carson City and Reno. Getting items shipped into Mammoth has certainly been a godsend, even though there appears to be new hiccups in this system.

Many second homeowners bring contractors in from out-of-the-area. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn’t. Sometimes owners have had previous relationships with these contractors; other times it is simply a matter of availability. And sometimes cost is the driver, but this can be a bugaboo. This can be a good strategy for kitchen and bath remodels, flooring, etc. But I wouldn’t recommend it for something specialized in Mammoth, like roofs.

One of the secrets, if you have the time, is to head to Carson City for things. Barring any serious delays, you can be at Costco in less than 2.5 hours. There are all the big box stores and plenty of specialty suppliers. The selection improves even more if you drive 20 minutes north to Reno. Many people from SoCal have never done the drive. For the most part it is spectacular. The northern part of Mono County has an amazing variety of terrain and beauty. There are interesting stops to take in, short hikes, bike rides, etc. There are other entertainment opportunities in Reno that are often worth spending the night for. And gasoline is typically a dollar cheaper per gallon than Mammoth so that math can work if you plan right.

The other remote area/limited resource consideration to spending extended time in Mammoth is having adequate supplies in your new home.

Society as a whole is beginning to experience supply chain interruptions but this has long been a way of life in Mammoth. In the past, blizzards and wind storms and power outages (including loaders taking out transformers) and the like have all caused interruptions in Mammoth. In the 1990s when earthquakes were common it was advised to never let your gas tank go below half full. I still live by this rule. If nothing else I know I will have some gas for my generator (hint, hint).

So having some food supplies, extra water, basic emergency supplies in your new Mammoth home is a good idea. And maybe some sleeping bags if you don’t have a wood burning heat source. We’ve become overdependent on electricity. Snow removal operations are also a good thing to understand. In the ‘80s and ‘90s you always moved your vehicle when the loader came. Otherwise you might be towed, buried, pushed on top of some snow mound or who-knows-what. Today unmoved vehicles are treated with fragility. The fun is gone.

Irresponsibility is rewarded. Snow removal operators carefully and artfully work around them. The lessons of the past are lost on this new generation of Mammoth-ites. But new owners should...
Another good thing to understand is that roofs can shed snow. There are signs attached to buildings in Mammoth that say “Caution Roof Sheds Snow.” But just like the “No Overnight Parking” signs they are generally ignored. Mammoth’s history has unfortunate incidents of roof-shedding instances where persons were seriously hurt or died. Snow and ice/Thaw can do lots of weird things. Heavy masses falling from above can do serious damage. In an era of lack-ing situational awareness, this should come high on your priority list during Mammoth winters. And not necessar-ily just in “big” winters. A 3-4 foot storm in the middle of a drought winter can create unpredictable conditions. Just like having your Tips Up when getting off the ski lift, looking up and paying attention while hanging around roof lines is a wise decision.

And the “Don’t Feed Our Bears” thing is for real. It is far more than signaling from the rear of your vehicle that you spend lots of time in Mammoth. Bears have caused significant property damage to homes and vehicles. Trust me, you don’t want one getting ahold of a big bag of chocolate covered coffee beans and then getting lost in your house.

This happened to one of my neighbors in Old Mammoth. Bears are also amaz-ing climbers and can make their way into second story accesses. They also have acute senses of smell. Best advice is don’t invite them into your house, or get close enough for a selfie. You’d be surprised at what people do.

The good news in Mammoth is that our bears aren’t typically predators like you find in more northern latitudes. Most are just looking for a snack and a comfortable place to take a snooze. If there is one under your deck, just let him or her be. I had one under my deck for weeks but the snoring got so loud I fin-ally had to roust him. But otherwise he was welcome. Momma bears with cubs can be especially entertaining but com-mand extra caution. Like all moms they can be ultra-protective. And cubs alone are super cute but momma is certainly lurking somewhere close by. I certainly don’t advise letting your dog chase any bears. Dog owners have paid local veteri-narians large sums to sew their pets back together.

Speaking of wildlife, there are deer hanging in town throughout the warmer months. It is a good reason to slow down in your vehicle. They don’t use the cross-walks or abide by signals. And don’t be surprised if they come by and eat your freshly planted flowers. Some people come upon deer and look in amaze-ment. I still do sometimes. They’re cool but I’ve come to think of them as almost like giant rodents. And when people are checking out a nice buck, I like to say “check out the moose.” Of course there aren’t any moose around here but they’ll have a good story to tell.

Don’t put your fireplace ashes (or BBQ coals) in a paper bag and put them on a wood deck. If you look north up to the hillside above the Village you can see what happens when people do this. The summer of 2021 was the most critical Fire danger period I’ve experienced. But it is amazing how the forest regenerates after 30+ years. Let’s try to avoid this. The Knolls loop is a nice walk or bike ride from town. The forest has regenerated nicely in the past three decades. And then some driving tips. Mammoth has periods of no clear traffic lines on the road due to snow cover or worn-out paint in the spring due to excessive snow removal. This doesn’t mean you can just drive down the middle of the road. Try to conceptualize where the lines might be, and tend to stay a little right. In white-out conditions navigate by the snow stakes and tend to stay right. And just because you have the latest and greatest four wheel drive (yes, you with the new Range Rover) please don’t think you are invincible. Four wheel is great for traction but isn’t so great for stopping, especially once things get really icy.

The post office parking lot is coun-terintuitive, but it was designed by the federal government so what would you expect? The Yield sign got taken-out and wasn’t replaced. If you display that you don’t know how it flows you are certainly a newbie.

Please enjoy riding bikes on our won-derful bike path system and the access out to endless dirt trails. You don’t have to be some world class athlete to enjoy all of them and electric bikes are turning it into a somewhat crazy scene. Many of these new riders seem to be in their own little world and oblivious to cars and traffic and common courtesy. You can’t “hear” electric cars. All of it spells the need to pay attention. Riding opposite the traffic makes you blind to left-hand turning vehicles, so plan to get taken-out eventually. In the summer there are accidents waiting to happen all over Mammoth, so wear a helmet. Find a nice dirt road to go off on to get away from the mayhem. Take your cellphone in case you get lost. And don’t forget there are mountain lions in the area. They do, fortunately, prefer venison.

Most of Mammoth survival is common sense. I am often reminded that visitors and second homeowners are “just excited to be here” so we need to give them a break for doing something stupid. This is a good thing to keep in mind. And after all, I’m still excited to be here.

Ultimately, the Keep It Simple rule works very well in Mammoth. And don’t set yourself up for disappointment: your kitchen remodel will get done sooner or later. Go for a hike in the meantime.

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX of Mammoth (celebrating 30+ years). For other timely real estate infor-mation you can go to www.MammothRe-alEstateBlog.com. For legal, accounting, or construction advice, please seek out the appropriate professional.
Sierra Employment Services, Inc. is hiring for the following positions:

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  - Housekeeping Worker - B | $15-$19
  - Medical Ass - B | $16-$20
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  - Housekeeper - M | $17-$18
  - General Laborers - B & ML | $16-$22
  - Call Us Today: 760-924-8552 or 760-873-8599
  - www.SierraEmployment.com

Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We now have immediate openings for a maintenance technician and an office position. These are Full Time Positions (Monday through Friday). These positions offer vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Basic computer skills are required. Please call 760-924-3091 or stop by the store located at 1401 Tavern Road Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Resumes can be e-mailed to mammothspas@msn.com.

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

**Housekeepers Wanted in Mammoth Lakes**

- **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. **Housekeeping**

- **Mammoth 80/50 PRC** is hiring! Mammoth Crewhaven Seeking experienced cashier/customer service associate. Must be honest, personable and a team player making customers smile! Day and evening shifts available. $12/HR per hour starting pay & vacation benefits for qualified individuals. Apply in person or call 760-934-8111.

- **East Side Bake Shop** seeks experienced staff passionate about community and good food. Bakers, counter associates, dishwasher. Pay dependent on experience. Please submit a resume to eastsidetownshop@gmail.com, or call 760-914-2696.

- **Front desk** Mammoth Mountain Chalets. Seeking courteous, efficient, service representative who will also be responsible for housekeeping and maintenance. See above for contact info.

- **MAMMOTH CREWHAVEN**

  **Mammoth Crewhaven** Seeking experienced cashier/customer service associate. Must be honest, personable and a team player making customers smile! Day and evening shifts available. $12/HR per hour starting pay & vacation benefits for qualified individuals. Apply in person or call 760-934-8111.

- **East Side Bake Shop** seeks experienced staff passionate about community and good food. Bakers, counter associates, dishwasher. Pay dependent on experience. Please submit a resume to eastsidetownshop@gmail.com, or call 760-914-2696.

- **Sweatwater Plumbing Inc.** Hiring for 2 full time positions. Journeyman Plumbers Number and Plumbers Apprentice. Job is located in Mammoth Lakes. Call 760-934-2366 for details. **Shilo Inn** is accepting applications for:**

  - Full time housekeepers
  - Part time Maintenance Worker
  - Front desk/night auditor

- **Mammoth Mountain Chalets**

  **Seeking** courteous, efficient, service representative who will also be responsible for housekeeping and maintenance. See above for contact info.

- **ASCENT** THE ART OF CANNABIS now hiring retail sales agents. Please email resume to info@ascentmammoth.com.

- **FRIENDS OF MAMMOTH HOSPITAL**

  **Communications Director** Duties include development communication strategies, write and distribute media, create printed materials, and coordinate events. The position is Full-time & starting pay is $23/HR with benefits. Please submit a resume and cover letter to info@friendsofmammoth.com.

- **Jail Tie** works hard selling Pizza Sales Associates and Pizza Makers for T-Bone Bar & Grill. Our team. $15 hour plus tips (average $10 per hour). Benefits include free pizza and entry to T-Bar Social Club concerts. Send resume to info@balancedrocksaloon.com.
TOWN STUFF

Saturday, May 22/
Looking From A Different Perspective Charcoal Drawing Workshop hosted by C5 Studios. For adults and kids ages 13+, time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For registration and info, visit c5studios.org.

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

Adios Covid Dance Party at the T-Bar in June Lake, hosted by DJ Fresh Tracks. Proof of vaccination required. Event starts at 8 p.m. Entry is free. By registering for the digital health wallet at www.joinbindle.com or $5 when showing vaccination card at the door.

Monday, May 24/
MHS Baseball hosts Coleville @ Whittmore. Time: 2 p.m
MHS Softball plays on the road @ Coleville. Time: 3 p.m.
Bishop Girls Softball takes on Desert @ Bishop City Park. Time: 3 p.m.
Mono County Dispersed Camping Town Hall starts at 5:30 p.m. Attendance via Zoom at https://monocounty.zoom.us/99358500625

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group 5 - 5:30 PM, 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. For questions, please call (760) 934-2551.

Bishop City Council meets 6 p.m. Viewing available online via https://www.cityofbishop.com

May 25-30/
Mule Days is back at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Time: 3 p.m.
Bishop Girls Softball takes on Desert @ Bishop City Park. Time: 3 p.m.
MHS Softball plays on the road @ Whitmore. Time: 2 p.m
MHS Baseball hosts Coleville @ Whittmore. Time: 2 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Superheroes and Comic Book Art Class hosted by C5 Studios. Intended for kids ages 9-14. Time: 3 -4:30 p.m. For registration and info, visit c5studios.org.

May 27-30/
K-12 Student Art Show featuring works from Mono County students created via the Mono Arts Council’s programs. Viewable online and in person at the MAC gallery in the Minaret Mall.

May 28-31/
Inyo Council for the Arts Memorial Day Arts and Crafts Show at Bishop City Park from May 28-31. Approximately 100 artists sell photography, jewelry, woodworking, watercolors, sculpture, clothing, and much more. Social distancing measures will be in effect, and masks are required. Sierra Design Studio blowout Inventory Liquidation sale @ the old Bass store within the Main St. Promenade in Mammoth. New/lightly used furniture.

Friday, May 28/
Sierra Star Golf Course opening day.
More info: See ad p. 9

Saturday, May 29/
Making Sense of a Chaotic World A Collage Workshop with Naomi Hart Johnson hosted by C5 Studios. Time: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Info: 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 a.m - 4 p.m. Train rides begin May 30 Info: 760.873.5950/ lawsrailroadmuseum@gmail.com

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

Upcoming/
TOML Youth Summer Program Pre-Registration will take place from June 2-4. This registration period 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 29: Mammoth clinic @ Mammoth High School. Time: 1-3:30 p.m.
My Turn: https://myturn.ca.gov/ Inyo County vaccine registration can be accessed via the county website @ www.inyocounty.us.

AT THE MOVIES

Movies Playing This Week 05/21 to 05/27

- **MAMMOTH LIQUOR**
  - Beer lovers’ candy store
  - Selection of more than 300 beers
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- **TOWN STUFF**
  - Scott Christensen Floors
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  - 760.937.3529

- **TOWN STUFF**
  - Mammoth Gear Exchange
  - 106 S. Main St., Bishop (760) 873-4300

- **OWNERS/BROKERS**
  - Eric Olson LIC # 0783148
  - Alicia Olson LIC # 0119200

- **MAMMOTH LIQUOR**
  - 595 Old Mammoth Rd - 760-934-4112
  - Mammoth Lakes, CA - sierradesignstudio.com

- **INHERITOR REMODELING**
  - Sierra Design Studio
  - 559 Old Mammoth Rd - 760-934-4112
  - Mammoth Lakes, CA - sierradesignstudio.com

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  - Mammoth Real Estate Blog
  - A Resource for Buyers & Sellers
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Notice of Property Tax Delinquency and Impending Default

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENCY AND IMPENDING DEFAULT

16 I THE SHEET | Saturday, May 22, 2021

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENCY AND IMPENDING DEFAULT (Rev & Tax. Code, Sections 3351 & 3352)

I, Janet Dutcher, Mono County Finance Director/Treasurer-Tax Collector, State of California, certify as follows:

That at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2021, by operation of law, any real property (unless previously tax-delinquent and not redeemed) that has been delinquent on taxes, assessments, or other obligations for the fiscal year 2018-2019, and/or any delinquent supplemental taxes levied prior to the fiscal year 2018-2019, shall be declared tax-delinquent.

That unless the tax-delinquent property is completely redeemed through payment of all unpaid amounts, together with penalties and interest prescribed by law or an installation plan is instated and maintained, the property will become tax-delinquent and may be sold subsequently at a tax sale to satisfy the tax lien.

That a detailed list of all properties remaining tax-delinquent as of July 1, 2021, and not redeemed prior to being submitted for publication, shall be published on or before September 8, 2021.

That information concerning redemption or the institution of an installment plan for redemption of tax-delinquent property will be furnished, upon request, by Gerald A. Frank, Mono County Assistant Finance Director/Tax Collector, P.O. Box 495, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Inquiries by phone may be directed to (760) 932-5480, or by email to treasurer@mono.ca.gov.

I certify or (declare), under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

P.O. Box 495, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Inquiries by phone may be directed to (760) 932-5480, or by email to treasurer@mono.ca.gov.

NEW Bishop Sunrise Rotarian Jackie Garcia was born and raised until her high school years - in Bishop. After completing her BS at Chico State and Kedge Business School in Bordeaux, France, she lived in San Francisco for a year. Now, she’s glad to be back living in Bishop, with her partner Seth Blackamore, and has recently obtained her real estate license.

“I graduated in Marketing and International Business,” Jackie notes, “so I do enjoy creating all sorts of marketing and enjoy traveling.” As she joined Rotary, she spoke, “Growing up, I’ve always been involved with the community. I enjoy helping, learning, and meeting new people.”

One of Jackie’s favorite outdoor sports is fishing, which she proved recently by landing a 30 pound White seabass.

Michigan native Jessica Johnson will tell you that Bishop reminds her very much of her Michigan native Jessica Johnson. “I once won first place in a track and field 200 meter hurdle race in 7th grade. There were only four races, and two of them tripped and disqualified.”

Nancy O’Sullivan moved to this area from Simi Valley after buying a house in Lone Pine four years ago. Nancy has made her career in education and is now the Lone Pine High School Principal. She shared that she is joining the Sunrise Rotary Club to “better serve Lone Pine” and other local communities.

“I feel I have been given so much in my life and I want to give to others.” Nancy has a wonderful Labradoodle named Shaylee and loves “to travel, hike, fish, golf, and take photos.” She marvels that she can “wake up every morning and see Mount Whitney out my front window and door!”

The Bishop Sunrise Rotary Club is delighted to have these three dedicated, community-minded folks as new members. This growing Rotary club works to foster leadership, create positive change in the world, and lend a hand to people in need at home and beyond our borders. The Sunrise Club always welcomes anyone who would like to join them for a meeting or learn more about its projects. Meetings are held weekly at 7:30 a.m. on the first four Wednesdays of the month. During the pandemic, these meetings take place online via Zoom and guests are always warmly greeted. Please email bishopsunriserotary@gmail.com if you are interested in attending/learning more.
Prepped Her Spot, a Male Will Approach Eggs. So Once the Female Has Picked and Wooing Before She’s Ready to Release Her

 locale, the female trout will use her tail already carrying their compliment of faithful to places, not partners. While humans have all kinds of wacky names for the first step in the reproductive process ("making love," "bumping uglies," "pulling the goalie"), for trout the first step is simply called "spawn-
ing." And as is sometimes the case with human copulation, with trout it’s more about being in the right place at the right time than it is about romance.

Both brown and brook trout (Dr. Tom’s area of fishy expertise) spawn in the fall, whereas rainbows, cutthroats and golden trout tend to spawn in the spring. For the typical brown trout—first brought in late September or early October, when mature males move into the spawning grounds to anxiously await the arrival of their potential mates. The spawning grounds are actually the most important aspect involved in trout reproduction. "The real constraint on reproduction is having enough space, with good gravel for eggs to be placed and space for fingerlings to grow," Dr. Tom explained.

Even if they spend the rest of their lives in lakes, browns (like most trout) prefer to reproduce in the moving waters of creeks and rivers. Browns also are known for their fidelity—though they are only faithful to places, not partners.

The female trout eventually arrive in the spawning grounds, or rearing areas, already carrying their compliment of eggs with them. Once she finds a suitable locale, the female trout will use her tail to dig out a nest in the gravel, usually between six inches and a foot deep. It’s at this point in the process when the spawning grounds really start to resemble watering holes in the human world.

"The females come up and they choose the actual place where reproduction will occur, and then the males sort of come in and buy ‘em drinks," as Dr. Tom described it.

The female usually needs some serious wooing before she’s ready to release her eggs. So once the female has picked and prepped her spot, a male will approach her, often a big and brilliantly colored one (male trout significantly change color and can develop a hook jaw to help attract females; but unlike other salmo-

nids that are essentially starting to rest during spawning, trout don’t die after rearing). Using a technique that is usu-

ally less successful for amorous guys in nightclubs, the male trout will then start to vibrate against the female to help get her in the mood.

Sure, trout don’t have bars, but they basically do what people do, "just shut off their frontal lobes, show off their muscles and try to get after it," Dr. Tom said.

Eventually, the fickle female will decide it’s time to get busy. She will then arch her body together with her selected mate in the shape of an S and will release her eggs as the male releases his milt. The instant fertilized eggs will then fall to the nest, which the female will bury under gravel. At least that’s the idea.

Oftentimes, just as the big moment finally arrives, a smaller male, referred to as a "sneaker" will zoom in and deposit his milt without even bothering to buy any drinks or do any wooing.

"Each trout is only out for itself," Dr. Tom said.

The female will then move upstream and repeat the process, creating what’s called a "trout redd." Each time she digs up a new nest, it helps bury the previous one and she’ll keep going until she’s either out of suitable gravel or out of eggs.

After copulating the spawners, natural-

ly, are hungry and tired, have lost interest in one another and may feel like having a smoke. But their part of the life cycle is complete. Some will stay in the area, oth-

ers will look for more promising water. Under the gravel, the future trout will develop in their eggs for a few months before hatching into what are called "alevins" or "sac fry." The fry can be as small as 18 millimeters and will feed on their sac until it’s gone—and that’s when life gets really interesting for the mini-

fingerlings.

Sometime in the spring, the tiny trout, or "young of the year," will begin to emerge from the gravel in search of a meal just slightly lower on the food chain than they are.

"It’s the most dangerous time in a trout’s life. Everybody wants to eat them and there’s lots of competition for food so it’s easy for them to starve to death," Dr. Tom explained. Trout lucky enough to survive will then spend the next two years in the stream, even if their parents came from a lake, before these juveniles finally get going down stream in search of adventure or better feeding grounds.

"Juvenile trout are a lot like juvenile people—especially when it comes to the way we reproduce. They do, after all, call pictures of anglers holding trout "fish porn."

Indeed, it turns out that the biggest distance between the way our two spe-

cies reproduce is that while trout partake in every aspect of the process in water, humans only sporadically have water in-

volved (water births, waterbeds and the occasional alcohol-induced incidents in hot tubs).

"Just like humans, trout have to listen to their hormones and when they get the urge, they can’t fight it," explained Dr. Tom Jenkins, a gray-bearded, semi-re-
tired fisheries biologist from June Lake.

"Biology matters," declared Dr. Tom, who earned his Ph.D. from UCLA and has served as an advisor for a couple Eastern Sierra non-profit fisheries founda-

tions. "Knowing when spawning takes place matters to those who manage the fisheries, and to those who fish them."

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THE WAITING IS NOT THE HARDEST PART

By Hartley

L
et’s start this off with some rich, white guy entitlement anger. Ron Wolf, the former General Manager of the Green Bay Packers, is mad about diva QBs.

Oh, Ron Wolf. You are Clint Eastwood in Gran Torino. Stop it. The NFL has OWNED these players for years. Players who get the “guaranteed” contracts that ownership can cancel at will. Rookie contracts where a team OWNS the player for 5 years if drafted in the first round and can franchise the player for one more ...

Ron Wolf is upset about players having a voice and getting some power. Screw Ron Wolf and anyone that agrees with him. If you agree because “THEY [Players] MAKE A LOT OF MONEY,” screw you, too.

You wouldn’t want your company to OWN you without any chance to move on for a better opportunity, would you? Problem is, the NFL owners have won for a better opportunity, would you? 

OWN you without any chance to move too.

MAKE A LOT OF MONEY, “screw you, if you agree because “THEY [Players] have season tickets. Furthermore, there is a 4th group that should sue. A kid who has a parent who bought Lions season tickets should be allowed to sue and file for emancipation.

Dan Campbell is just the new Wayne Fontes for that organization. How can they continuously make bad hires and bad decisions? They traded Matt Stafford for Jared Goff. The NFL should relegate the Lions to the Big 10 of the NCAA.

The Steeler offense is apparently “fixed.” By a “dynamic” running back. #1 draft pick Najee Harris carried the ball like 600 times in college, but only had about 3 runs of 30 yards or more. That is behind the best line in college and more WRs to spread the field than you can imagine. I am so pissed off about the pick, I still cannot calm myself.

Texan QB Deshaun Watson posted workout videos this week. Now excuse me for laughing so hard, but why is this guy posting workout videos that don’t include him wearing prison clothing? Seriously. Does he think he is playing football this year? He should call Cosby for advice.

My son wanted to try Wagyu beef. So I obliged. First thing I noticed about buying Wagyu beef: IT is insanely expensive. The kind of expensive reserved for Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates.

Terror! The second thing I noticed about Wagyu beef is I DON’T KNOW WHAT THE HELL WAGYU beef is supposed to look like. It looks like the raggedy beef you find at MEAT DEPOT or some discount grocery store. It wasn’t red. It was pink and veiny. I Googled it. Sure enough, the photo and the actual lined up. But the price was still staggering. So I thought to myself, well, I am at Costco and this is the $400 store. The place you go to buy peanut butter and you leave with $40 worth of peanut butter, some liquor (you knew that was coming), $50 worth of dried mango, a $300 tool kit you didn’t know you needed, a space heater, a massage chair and .... WAGYU beef. So I take it home. Wondering why I bought Wagyu beef for an unemployed college student.

We prep it. Have the daughter swing the leftover Wagyu and it’s like taking the fat off the top of a meat broth you made and it’s just fat. So if you buy cheap meat, it’s too much fat so they charge you less. But if you buy Wagyu and it’s MORE fat than meat, you are supposed to crave and love it.

Marketing geniuses triumph again.
I picked up *The Stand* thinking that it would be a solid summer read, something to keep me occupied for a few weeks or a month, and featuring some relatively topical themes (i.e. global plague, collapse of society, etc.) That was about July of 2020. I took it on vacation twice thinking I would knock it out in a few afternoons. Again, the finish line eluded me.

And so here we are, ten months later, and the book is finally complete. It didn’t help that I was reading the “Complete and Unabridged” edition of the novel, which adds back about 400 pages to a novel that sits at 820 pages when edited.

This version, King writes in the preface, is “as its author originally intended. All its chrome is now intact, for better or for worse. And the final reason for presenting this version is the simplest. Although it has never been my favorite novel, it is the one people who like my books seem to like the most.” At its heart, *The Stand* is about a plague that eliminates 99.4% of the world’s population and the communities that form in the wake of the devastation; people who are caught in a constant pull between the good and evil forces remaining in the world.

The novel begins with a patient escaping from a testing facility, carrying a variant of a “super-flu” that comes to be known as Captain Trips. King’s characters begin their respective journeys through the coming apocalypse disparately, in Ogunquit, Maine, New York City, Arnette, Texas, and the Maine shore. Even in plague time, it remains “America the Beautiful.”

And he includes, in between chapters, music lyrics that become oh-so-sinister for a reason. In his hands, things that are taken for granted can become much more sinister.

*The Stand*, that same commuter tunnel becomes a nightmare. Pitch black, chock-full of vehicles and their formerly-living drivers, and all manner of creatures that lurk in the dark. Ordinary people are now untrustworthy at best and downright lethal at worst.

The end of the world, it seems, brings out the darker side of a whole lot of things.

Like many King books, *The Stand* is something best read while the sun is up. King’s imagination and skill with words can leave images lingering longer after the lights go out. Yet it’s by no means his most frightening novel. This is a blend of genres, pulling from sci-fi, romance, westerns, to create an epic that unravels slowly.

A note here: there is some seriously heavy and unsettling content in this book. It is not for the faint of heart. King’s vision of America is grand in a way; he stops to describe the beauty of the landscape, the view from the Rockies, the Maine shore. Even in plague time, it remains “America the Beautiful.”

And he includes, in between chapters, music lyrics that become oh-so-sinister within the context of *The Stand*. One of the issues with a novel on this scale is the pacing. At times, it starts to trip over itself with internal monologues and thought. But true to his talent as a storyteller, things always take off again.

“Finally,” King writes at the end of the preface, “I write for only two reasons: to please myself and to please others. In returning to this long tale of dark Christianity, I hope I have done both.”

where at once, Abagail beckons through dreams.

It seems to make sense that in the aftermath of a catastrophe, humanity is essentially boiled down into a sort of binary, a choice of good versus evil.

While this world may seem new, the stage is set for what amounts to a final confrontation between the two forces. Flagg gathers his forces in Las Vegas, Abagail in Boulder, Colorado. People are drawn to them, to these places, and attempt to begin society anew.

King is considered a master of horror for a reason. In his hands, things that are taken for granted can become much more sinister.

Take tunnels; the Lincoln Tunnel in New York sees over 100,000 vehicles a day. It’s part of a routine, a trip into or out of the city.

In *The Stand*, that same commuter tunnel becomes a nightmare. Pitch black, chock-full of vehicles and their formerly-living drivers, and all manner of creatures that lurk in the dark. Ordinary people are now untrustworthy at best and downright lethal at worst.

The end of the world, it seems, brings out the darker side of a whole lot of things.
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