CIVILITY BREAKS OUT AT BUSD BOARD MEETING

By Lunch

On Tuesday, there was another packed house at the Bishop Unified School District monthly meeting in anticipation of further culture wars - this time over approval of the high school health curriculum.

Instead, the 874-page textbook (published by Goodheart-Wilcox) recommended by instructors Kelly McMurtrie and Kati Kress was universally praised and unanimously adopted by the BUSD Board - even by gadfly Joshua Nicholson.

The positive outcome overshadowed a rocky start to the meeting, where Mr. Nicholson criticized Board President Steve Elia for removal of a longstanding agenda item, a catch-all titled “Board Reports” where individual board members like Nicholson could range far afield and introduce all sorts of topics not addressed in the regular agenda.

As Nicholson said, “I use this agenda item to talk about things which otherwise don’t get talked about. This is disenfranchisement of myself and my constituents.”

Nicholson said he traced back the existence of the agenda item to at least 2014. Elia said the removal of the item, which he took full responsibility for, constituted an attempt to bring normalcy back to meetings which have too often strayed from actual board business.

He said it’s his goal to have the Board follow its own bylaws and governance handbook.

And Elia noted that Mr. Nicholson has had ample opportunity to place plenty of items and talking points on previous agendas.

And I have listened respectfully to those who would come up here and berate me, he added.

see BUSD, page 2

FIVE MORE YEARS!

Mammoth Council approves TBID extension

By Pike

In the basement of a brewery full of what Mammoth Lakes Mayor John Wentworth called “thought leaders” (one point for me), Town Council Member Chris Bulser stood at the end of a pool table. Wentworth was off in the corner. Between them, a community conversation presentation on TBID and TOT.

This was Monday night at Mammoth Brewing Co.

On the pool table was a packet of papers, and on the papers were graphs depicting where $49 million unallocated Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue had gone since ‘17-’18.

Note on unallocated TOT: the Town generally adopts a low-ball budget. Unallocated TOT = excess revenue left over once the projected budget number has been fulfilled.

$30 million to “Housing Now! Initiatives.” 60% of the unallocated TOT revenue.

$13 million to "Infrastructure/Equipment/Facilities;” 27% of TOT revenue.

$6 million to “Community Investment.” 13% of TOT revenue.

Getting into the weeds…

60% of the Housing Now! Initiatives funding went to Parcel-related purchases.

Land, planning, infrastructure, the project itself. 15% went to Housing Now! Programs, 11% went to the Bridge Program, 9% went to the 4 new units on

see TBID, page 5
BUSD continued from page 1

“We all have the opportunity to speak to the Superintendent and [Board] President at anytime,” added Board member Claudia Moya-Tanner. During public comment, Harold McDonald backed the board, saying “This is hardly a Board that is stifling dissenting opinion … In a civil society, we disagree without being disagreeable.”

Others like Cari Arnal said she wouldn’t let her younger daughter attend BUHS due to the sex ed curriculum. “Our side is being targeted,” she said. She did not elaborate or otherwise define what her side is.

During the middle portion of the meeting, various administrators spoke about the ups and downs on their respective campuses. Dr. Gretchen Skrotzki of Bishop Elementary said reading scores jumped overall from mid- to end of year, however, 2nd and 3rd graders, the ones most impacted by Covid in regard to reading because of its timing, are still struggling. “There are gaps,” acknowledged Skrotzki, and 3rd grade scores were stagnant.


“Does it affect promotion?” followed up Nicholson. “We tell ‘em it’s going to be a difficult year ahead if they don’t,” said Skrotzki.

Derek Moisant of Home Street Middle School said 54 of his charges are enrolled in summer school, but 12 did not show for day #1.

26, he said, are 8th graders who were not promoted to high school.

These students can successfully gain promotion if they complete summer school.

Dave Kalk of Bishop Union High School said he has 80 kids in summer school. On the other end of the spectrum, 75% of BUHS grads are attending 2- or 4-year colleges and another five graduates are heading for the military.

School. On the other end, 75% of BUHS grads are attending 2- or 4-year colleges and another 54 of his charges are heading for the military.

During discussion of the Local Control Accountability Plan, Superintendent Katie Kolker said there has been a “noticeable increase in student behavior needs” and that special education caseloads continue to rise. The local rate is 13.8%. The state average is 15%.

56% are making progress towards goal. Kolker said there has been a “noticeable increase in student behavior needs” and that special education caseloads continue to rise. The local rate is 13.8%. The state average is 15%.

English Language Learning proficiency (up from 30% in 2021). Districtwide, the attendance rate is 91%. However, chronic absenteeism was pegged at 35.6%. Chronic absenteeism is defined as a greater than 10% absentee rate for any one student.

Then it came time for the health curriculum adoption. Kolker said the current textbook was 13 years old and needed replacement.

Shannon Vallejo said the need for sex education is clear in Inyo County. Just look at the stats. She said there are 22.7 pregnancies per 1,000 girls in Inyo aged 15-19.

This is double the state average, she said.

Nicholson said he would have appreciated having the time to digest the proposed 874-page textbook more fully, but was otherwise supportive. “Last month could’ve been avoided,” he said, “If we’d found the same middle ground for our middle school.”

Lynnette Mcintosh concurred, calling the middle school curriculum “obscene” by comparison.

Reminding one of the famous line by United States Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart. When asked what his definition of obscenity was, Stewart replied, “I know it when I see it.”

In other news … Leandra Wright’s scheduled sentencing for June 8 was postponed until July 13.

Wright is facing sentencing on a felony count of embezzlement, to which she previously pled guilty, and also admitted that the amount of theft exceeded $100,000.

She skipped town prior to sentencing 18 months ago, but was recently extradited from New Jersey and is currently residing in the Inyo County Jail.

The original deal was four years probation and one year of jail. Skipping town added a second felony count.

Inyo County District Attorney Tom Hardy said Wright will be sentenced to up to three years in jail on the 13th. Probation is no longer on the table.

She will also be required to pay restitution of $100,000.

Her victim, Penny McCoy, was in attendance at the June 8 hearing because she wished to make a victim statement prior to sentencing.

Wright worked for McCoy for nearly a decade before her embezzlement was discovered.

Wright was an employee of BMI (Business Management Integration), a corporation founded by Tony Romo (now deceased) and Monica Withrow (Bajtala).

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 21 NOON-7PM

PARK IN DA LOT CUZ PARK ON DA HIGHWAY

FELT CUTOUTS 1PM-3PM
DIRTY DECIBELS 3/30PM-5PM
ANTHONY CULLINS BAND 5/30PM+
Poisoning The Well

Dear Mammoth Town Council:

“I am writing to you as an owner of two condos in our beautiful town (one of which I have owned for over 20 years). As is the case with most condos in town, the ability to rent short term is an essential part of being able to afford the property.

I am not sure if you are aware of CA Senate Bill 584 (already passed a Senate vote and now in the State House of Representatives) which looks to add a 15% tax on STVR gross income. This is in addition to the 14% of STVR taxes we already pay: calmatters.org/politics/capitol/2023/05/airbnb-tax-california-housing/.

The additional tax is to fund low income housing (an important issue, but one that the cost of solving should be borne by the entire community).

This legislation singles out STVR owners as the only target it doesn’t apply to hotels or anyone else. The bill also has limited detail about how money would actually solve the issue it is inspired by.

I would like this topic raised at the upcoming Town Meeting and the Town council to form an opinion on this legislation and make representations on the legislation to voting members of the House across the State (all representatives, because our owners and guests are not just limited to the Mammoth Lakes area).

This additional tax will take a bunch of people who rent STVR out of the game and is a pretty egregious high rate tax targeting a single target.

How do we conduct STVR activity with 29% STVR taxes?

I know that level of tax cannot be passed on to guests and there isn’t enough money to be made to simply add 15% to costs.

Not only would this proposed tax reduce owners likely STVR activity but it would also reduce the Town’s STVR revenue, probably depress property prices (and property tax revenue base for the county), reduce the lodging options for vacationers in our community, and likely therefore also reduce in-town spending.

I would ask the Town also highlight this issue in Mr. Brown’s newsletter.

Below is a link for all the State Assembly members.

https://www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers

Thank you for considering this issue and its impacts on our Town.”

Darryl Franklin
2nd homeowner

No Spring Chicken

Dear Editor:

I know everyone in the area is going through their struggles this year. Just like everyone, I attached a photo of the progress (see above).

The spring is buried under an avalanche a mile above our resort and we have measured 20 feet of snow to the ground.

All dug by hand because it’s on Forest Service land. Still haven’t found the spring.

This just shows what places like us have to go through to serve the public and we don’t even have it as bad as most.

Steve Miller
Rock Creek Lakes Resort

A Breath of Bad Air

Dear Editor:

I was reading the May 13, 2023 anniversary issue and found reference to ozone pollution in the Mammoth Lakes area from a 1974 study. GBUA-PCD was required to monitor for ozone for several years in the 1990’s and there was only one violation back then, and it was based on transport from the San Joaquin Valley, not locally generated. That is why if there was tree damage, it was in the San Joaquin drainage. Easy for bad air to come up the valley. I believe the air quality is better now, even over there.

Joann Lijek
Bishop
HARDEN THOSE HOMES

By Storm Patrie

Wildfires have ravaged California for over a decade, destroying over 43,000 structures in that period, to the point where certain insurance companies like Allstate and Statefarm have stopped writing policies for new homes.

Vana Valachovic, the UC cooperative forest advisor for the Humboldt area, spoke about home-hardening methods to keep your home safe from wildfires during a Monday meeting hosted by the White bark Institute.

Valachovic said creating a defensible space around your house is the best way to prevent fires. Such a space mitigates fuel for the fire around your home. Anything from plants and pine needles to even a shed that is too close to your home can be fuel for wildfires. The hope in doing this is to stop a wildfire from entering and destroying a community.

According to Valachovic, plants and vegetation within 5 feet of the house are the easiest for embers to catch. Non-combustible mulch, such as brick or gravel, in the areas touching your house could be the difference-maker when it comes to surviving a wildfire.

And, if you’re a new homeowner, there are still ways to receive fire insurance. Farmers Insurance is still writing policies, but only if the house has fire protection.

There are things that can be done to make the home more appealing to insurance companies. Get a fire-resistant roof made of metal. Replacing your vents. Embers can sneak through the vents, and then the house is as good as gone. Vents with mesh ⅛ of an inch and smaller have been invented to help prevent this situation from happening.

If all else fails, the California FAIR plan can be used for fire insurance; however, it is costly. Your policy can be renewed if you currently have fire insurance with StateFarm or Allstate.

Wildfires are one of the most destructive forces of nature in our state. In 2022 California spent $1.2 billion on wildfires; taking these preventative steps could save your house from a fire. Because, as much as yard work sucks, your house burning down is much worse.

Mono County Health Department

Free Resources for birthing people: Recursos gratuitos para personas que dan a luz:

- Pregnancy testing/ prueba de embarazo
- Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing/ Pruebas infecciones transmisiones sexualmente
- Health Insurance assistance/ Asistencia de seguro medico
- WIC referral/ Referencia para el WIC
- Prenatal vitamins/ Vitaminas prenatales
- Birth Control Counseling and referrals/ Consejería de anti conceptivos y referencias
- Infant Safe Sleep supplies/ Suministros para el sueño seguro de bebés
- Maternal Mental Health Resources/ Recursos de salud mental materna
- Vaccines/Vacunas
- Oral Health Supplies/Suministros de salud dental
- Air purifiers (limited supplies)/Purificadores de aire (suministros limitados)

Call to make an appointment at your preferred Mono County location 760-924-1830

Mono County location
P.O. Box 155

city, state 96001

Mammoth Lakes Location
1290 Tavern Road
Suite 246

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Llame para hacer una cita en su ubicación preferida en el condado de Mono
760-924-1830
In a civil complaint filed in 2019, McCoy sued BMI for Breach of Fiduciary Duty among other charges.

The civil case is scheduled for trial beginning October 30, 2023.

And while I had D.A. Hardy on the phone …

I asked him about his office’s decision to uniformly disqualify Inyo County Superior Court Judge Suzanne Rizo when it comes to hearing felony cases.

Hardy explained, “Any party is entitled to disqualify one judge per case without giving reason, and the D.A.’s office chose to disqualify Judge Rizo for felony cases.”

The Sheet learned from a local attorney that a memo was apparently distributed a few months ago by the Inyo County Clerk (we have not obtained a copy) which stated that Judge Place will be assigned all felony cases and Judge Rizo will be assigned misdemeanor cases.

This attorney said Judge Rizo is also only assigned to family law cases out of Independence.

“I feel for Judge Place,” said the attorney. “He is excellent and nuanced, I worry that we’re going to burn him out [given his caseload].”

In regard to Rizo, the attorney said, “The record [regarding disqualifications of Rizo] somewhat speaks for itself. She’s a very nice person and cares and tries of Rizo] somewhat speaks for itself. She’s a very nice person and cares and tries hard, but I have to do the best I can too advocate for my clients, and if the case is complicated …”

And a few odds and ends …

As a follow up to the road clearing saga … the final humiliation came last Friday when Caltrans announced that it had opened Sonora Pass (Hwy. 108). Further, the press release stated the pass opened four days ahead of when it opened during the last big winter of 2017.

By Sunday, Mammoth Mountain’s Clifford Mann apparently couldn’t take it any longer and started clearing the road to the Lakes Basin.

Mammoth’s Town Manager Dan Holler told the Sheet he anticipates the Basin being open for "administrative access" (no vehicles) by this weekend.

Good news, however, for pedestrians and cyclists.

I also asked Holler about the status of the Community Recreation Center [Ice Rink].

He said the updated schedule forecasts completion by the first part of August.

There has been some back-and-forth with the contractor, Hamel Construction, over liability for some damages.

Holler said there was concrete damage inflicted by loaders, and holes poked in the tent fabric during snow removal. "Some panels need replacement," said Holler.

He added that the Town had paid Hamel in full, but he has heard rumor that perhaps some sub-contractors haven’t been paid “But that’s on his side,” said Holler.

From the Inyo Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Lunch took note of the following:

1. During her presentation, Yana Valachovic, a UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor, had this tidbit regarding the effectiveness of maintaining defensible space surrounding one’s property. "During the Oak Fire," she said, "non-compliant homes were six times more likely to be destroyed."

2. Matt Kingsley observed (Anecdotally, of course. Who knows whether this is true or not) that Inyo County residents are far more accepting of wildfire smoke, particularly during the off-season, than Mono County residents.

3. In his air service presentation to the Inyo County Board, Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Udri asserted that during its final two years of operation, the Alaska Airlines flight from Mammoth to LAX did not require subsidy and actually made money. I’ve either never heard this before or suffer from selective memory loss.

4. Inyo County Supervisor Scott Marcello said he and his constituents want year-round air service, despite Mr. Udri’s warnings that the airline would require a minimum of five days/week service and that the subsidy risk would exceed $2 million to add the spring/fall timeframes.

5. The Round Valley Bridge replacement dedication ceremony was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.
T he first indication that the Lower Owens River Project wasn’t going to be as spectacular as the waves of hype about creating a “new” river came on March 3, 2006. Then-Inyo County Supervisor Susan Cash and then-LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa stood together on the new concrete and steel “intake” structure as a large crowd watched. Cash hit a button and water from the LA Aqueduct started flowing into the once-dry Lower Owens River Channel.

But not much water. The trickle of water coming through the gates didn’t look like the beginning of a mighty river. Noting the disappointment rippling through the crowd at the river. Noting the disappointment look like the beginning of a mighty water coming through the gates didn’t look like the beginning of a mighty river.

Lower Owens River Channel.

The channel itself contained water from numerous tests of the intake gates. That gave the impression that there actually might be a river eventually covering 62 “river miles” as it meandered from the LA Aqueduct Intake by Aberdeen to the edge of Owens Lake. To promote the promise of the “river,” Villaraigosa hopped in a kayak and paddled downstream a bit to claim the symbolic “first descent” of the Lower Owens River.

Little did he or the assembled crowd and dignitaries know that was going to be one of the few successful float trips in the new river.

Now, 17 years later, the Lower Owens River Project is still just a “project,” not an actual river.

That observation is not in dispute. Nor is there much argument about how to try and “fix” the problems with the LORP: Dump a bunch more water into the sluggish waterway.

Since most of the river channel is choked with tules and cattails with limited reaches of open water, the result is “a moving swamp,” said Inyo County Fifth District Supervisor Matt Kingsley at the recent Inyo-LA Standing Committee meeting. “We don’t have a river.”

His assessment was echoed by Marty Adams, LADWP General Manager and Chief Engineer. With nearly 20 years of data on what has happened and, most notably, not happened on the LORP, Adams said it was time to “revisit” the current guidelines for the LORP. In particular, what was not working were the “seasonal habitat flows” designed to clear the river channel and promote wildlife, vegetation and overall river health, he added.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife was more direct, if not downright blunt in a letter addressing the LORP. The initial guidelines for water flows in the LORP “have not been successful at achieving the LORP goals and objectives.”

The seasonal flows of 200 cubic feet per second for up to two weeks “have not proven sufficient to substantially scour the channel … tule encroachment is compromising open-water habitat, slowing flow velocities and inhibiting habitat diversity.” The growth of the tules, uncertainty surrounding the impacts of climate change, and highly varying runoff were not initially addressed, but should be addressed going forward, the DFW letter states.

The solution: Dump the 2004 LORP EIR recommendations for Seasonal Habitat flows and complete a collaborative study to determine what level and duration of seasonal flows would accomplish the intended goals. In big, general terms, those goals are to create a functioning river system.

The EIR anticipated there would be a need to change some aspects of the river project and lays out how those can be accomplished through “adaptive management.” That is consultant lingo for “fixing what isn’t working, or at least trying something new.”

Making changes to the river flows seems simple. But it’s not.

What’s stopping any changes is “infrastructure,” noted Adams. Namely the capacity of the pump-back station that, as the name implies, pumps water at the end of the river back into the LA Aqueduct. That makes LORP essentially a fountain. Water goes in at the LA Aqueduct Intake, runs for 62 river miles then what’s left gets pumped back to the aqueduct.

The issue is the current flow rate, a steady 40 cubic feet per second year round, and the capacity of the pump-back station, 50 cubic feet per second. It’s clear LADWP isn’t going to increase flows to create a river if it can’t recapture that water at the end of the river.

The 40 cfs flows are just enough to see LORP, page 8

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Disposal are hosting a Defensible Space and Community Clean Up Event on June 23-24. Grab a bag on Saturday, June 24 to clean up our streets, parks, trails, multi-use paths, neighborhoods and public spaces. Trash IS NOT collected by staff from properties, but may be dropped off for free at 299 Commerce Dr. More info: TownOfMammothLakes.ca.gov/967/14132/Community-Clean-Up-Event

Help keep your community clean by joining Trashy Thursdays this summer, June 8–Sept. 29. Meet every Thursday at locations around the area from 5–6pm. Prizes for all youth participants and gift cards raffled for the adults! More info: VisitMammoth.com/TrashyThursdays

Mammoth Lakes Recreation and the Town Office of Outdoor Recreation have many volunteer and sponsorship opportunities available through the Adopt-a-Trail, Tangle-free Waters, Trail Days programs, and more. More info: MammothLakesRecreation.org/programs

Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District offers free chipping for residents’ tree trimmings and fallen limbs, which helps to create defensible space (a buffer between structures and surrounding vegetation) around homes, and is crucial for controlling wildfire spread. More info: MLFD.ca.gov/wildland-urban-interface/community-chipping

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**Not Your Grandma’s BINGO NIGHT**

TUESDAY JUNE 20
At The Warming Hut
343 Old Mammoth Rd
DOORS open at 5:00 pm
First BINGO game at 6:00 pm

raffle prizes & winnings galore!

This month’s proceeds go to: Volunteer Eastern Sierra, volunteereasternsierra.org

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**MORE WATER, PLEASE**

What’s the difference between a project and a river?

By Klusmire

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The 40 cfs flows are just enough to see LORP, page 8
grow weeds. The 200 cfs seasonal flow, as noted, doesn’t clear the channel to promote a “riverine ecosystem.” (Note: This year’s huge flows of more than 400 cfs for several months have jumped the river channel and flooded huge areas of the valley floor, so too much water isn’t ideal, either.)

One study suggested dumping both of those flow limits. To create a river, the flows should mimic a natural river: High water for months duplicating spring runoff and high summer flows, then drastically lower levels in the winter. That would entail putting far more water into the LORP than the current rules allow.

It would seem simple to just allow LADWP to spend millions to increase the capacity of the pump-back station so it can release more water into the LORP and then pump what’s left back to the aqueduct.

From what I’ve been told, the stumbling blocks have been the remnants of the suspicion and distrust of LADWP’s motives dating back to the 1980s and 1990s. At that time, Inyo activists (and the Sierra Club, the Owens Valley Committee, and Inyo County), feared a bigger pump station might allow LADWP to export more water, so they were adamant that the pump-back station remain at 50 cfs and not a drop more.

Bishop resident Phillip Anaya voiced those concerns at the recent meeting. To paraphrase, he said there could be a deal to increase the flows and pump station capacity if LADWP made promises not to use pumped groundwater to supply the additional LORP water, which would eventually be exported to LA.

In the parking lot after the meeting (where all good stuff happens) more questions popped up: Who cares if LADWP exports the “extra” LORP water if that means creating a real river instead of a swamp? Do the environmental and economic benefits of a “new river” outweigh the impacts of exporting some more water? Climate change will probably limit aqueduct exports, so why not lock in placing more water on the valley floor valley now? That water is being exported anyway, so why not route it through the LORP before it goes back to the aqueduct?

Good questions. We’ll see if anyone wants to answer them.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop loves to dredge up old water news when “new” ideas pop up.
OBITUARY
MARTIN STRELECK 1936-2023

Martin Strelneck, who as Mono County's Sheriff managed the county response to the big winter of 1969 and the 1980 earthquakes and the 1990 drownings at Convict Lake and the 1997 Walker River flood and escaped German convicts and much more, yet still found time to man the barbecue grills for civic events up and down the Eastern Sierra, died on June 8th. Strelneck was 86 years old and had been living for the past 18 months in a retirement home in Gardnerville.

A Mono County resident for 60 years and a Lee Vining resident for 51 years, Martin knew the difference between a towhee and a titmouse and a blue grouse and a blue winged teal, because he keenly observed birds outside his kitchen window year-round and chased others through the mountains every fall. He could distinguish the likelihood of perhaps every stream and lake in the Eastern Sierra to yield a golden trout or a brown trout or a tiger trout or any other, eagerly sharing the fishing experience with countless first-timers and young people. He knew where to dig for the best grubs in the forest, where to look for mushrooms in Yosemite, and how to disarm a rattlesnake. He had very close dealings with many of the bears and beasts of Mono County over the past 60 years, in the woods or in the wood-fired oven he used to feed gatherings of 100 to 300 people at a time.

Martin was a leadership figure of the Lee Vining water board, the Bishop Elks, the June Lake Lions Club, the Bodie Chapter of E Clampus Vitus, the Lee Vining High School Boosters, and the California State Sheriffs Association, among others. His garden and orchard fed dozens of friends, enhanced meals at the county jail, and continues to inspire many county residents to this day. As sheriff, he was Sean Penn’s jailer; as a trout whisperer, he was Larry Hagman’s fishing guide.

Martin was born in Eugene, Oregon in 1936, where his parents paid the doctor with eggs from their chicken farm. He met his renowned wife Beth in elementary school; the two were married for 55 years until her death in 2013. He was a graduate of Mt. San Antonio College in southern California and, with the support of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Martin was hired as a deputy sheriff from the Azusa, Calif., police department in 1963. He and Beth moved first to June Lake where, in off-duty hours, he cut firewood for Frank Capra Jr. and Walter Lantz (aka Woody Woodpecker). He was appointed sheriff-coroner by the county Board of Supervisors in 1976, was elected to the office in subsequent years, then defeated, and then re-elected overwhelming until his retirement in 1994.

As sheriff, he played a role in the most momentous events in the county’s recent history, including the Convict Lake drowning tragedy of three teenagers and two counselors from a juvenile detention camp and two first responders, all of whom fell through thin ice while trying to save one another. He oversaw law enforcement’s role in the incorporation of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the creation of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, and he helped manage the county’s earthquake responses and participated actively in planning an escape route in Mammoth, which became the Scenic Loop road. He held decision making authority on when to close the highway because of snows, how to manage law enforcement relationships with the Marine Corps base or during military aircraft crashes, and how to handle street rumbles more common outside the bars of Bridgeport, Lee Vining, June Lake, and Mammoth in the 1960s and 1970s.

Martin also found a second career in journalism with the Western Outdoor News, the Mono Herald, and the Inyo Register. They depended on him for updates on fishing season openers and stream conditions, advice on bait, tackle and technique, and deep and wide knowledge of most every place in Mono County and the people that lived there.

Martin is survived by his sons Eric of Oakland, Ca., and David of Bath, Maine and Lee Vining; his daughter-in-law Michelle; and two granddaughters, Isabel and Rose. Martin will reside forever at the Mono Lake Cemetery alongside his parents, wife, and other son John who died in Lee Vining in 1974. In early June, Martin made a final visit to Bridgeport and Lee Vining to see lifelong friends, lunch at the Mono Cone, and survey the county’s streams, rushing with snow melt and setting the tone for this year’s fishing season.
Rick Rubin: “Should we spend two minutes, eyes closed, meditating before we start, just so we can really get here?”

It’s the start of his 60 Minutes interview.

“Sure,” says Anderson Cooper. They do it. Cooper asks if meditation helps Rubin with his process. Rubin says it clears the distractions. Makes way for the creative force.

For those unacquainted: Rick Rubin is a music producer. He co-founded Def Jam Records and has worked with everyone from Run-DMC to the Red Hot Chili Peppers to Johnny Cash. And Kesha.

Rubin barely plays instruments. He doesn’t know how to work a soundboard. “I have no technical ability,” he tells Anderson. “And I know nothing about music.”

Cooper laughs. Rubin smiles. You must know something about music, Cooper says.

“I know what I like and what I don’t like,” Rubin explains. And he’s decisive about it.

“So what are you being paid for?” asks Cooper.

“The confidence that I have in my taste, and my ability to express what I feel, has proven helpful for artists,” says Rubin.

For example: back in the day, Tom Petty sent Rubin some demo tracks. 5 new songs. None of them struck Rubin. But, he heard a warm-up riff between songs. Rubin thought it was the best thing on the tape. He told Petty the riff became the intro to “Last Dance with Mary Jane.”

His studio walls are white and bare. Rubin’s beard is white and long. His hair is white and long and thin. He’s won awards, and he’s not sure where they are. He looks like a guru. When he listens to music, he sits cross-legged or lies down and sways with his eyes closed. Which kind of makes you hate him. A little. Or, as my musician friend Tom says, “He gives me the himbo jimbos.”

Still, there’s no denying his success. The 60 Minutes interview intrigued me. So, I spent one of my mom’s Audible Tokens to listen to Rubin’s book, The Creative Act: A Way of Being. I listened to a lot of it during a walk up Lake Mary Road.

Rubin starts the book by telling the listener to take from the material what is useful and forget what is not. The chapters are small, and he offers practical, simple, and mystical advice on creating art.

Things like...

“The real work of an artist is a way of being in the world.” As in, seeing the world differently. Being open to conceptual deconstruction. Maybe a tree doesn’t have to be a tree. And: “Of all the great works we can experience, nature is the most absolute and enduring.”

This one struck a bell. The rhyme and reason through which nature operates can seem impossible to understand. Rubin tells us we do not need to understand something to appreciate it. There’s a simpleness to what cannot be understood. What the hell is a tree, anyway?

At one point, Rubin says we do not have to be an artist if it isn’t enjoyable. Although all humans are born with the divine spark of creation – i.e. the ability to create – sometimes it’s better to just do something else for a little bit. “If we’d rather not do it,” says Rubin, “let’s not do it … ultimately, your desire to create must be greater than your fear of it.”

What most resonated with me
SNOVCREEK V BLAZE

On Sunday, June 11 at 2:30 p.m., 29 Mammoth firefighters, three engines and two ladder trucks responded to a structure fire in Snowcreek V. The cause of fire is still under investigation. While the popular belief is that the fire was started by a lightning strike, Fire Chief Ales Tomaier said “that’s [a lightning strike] not usually the cause of structure fires.” He added that there had been considerable ongoing construction in one of the units.

Tomaier said Sunday was a busy day. At the same time the Snowcreek V call came, the fire Department was also responding to two medical emergencies. Meanwhile, there was a lightning strike of a tree in Old Mammoth as well as a lightning strike of a tree at Chair 22 at MMSA (which the Forest Service responded to).

Overall, Tomaier said the MLFD has handled 800 service calls to date in 2023. “That’s the number of calls we normally handle during an entire year,” he said.

You can hear a difference when the stakes are lower and the music arrives spontaneously, without judgment. A song is looser, often sloppier. There’s fret buzz, flat and sharp vocals, weird sound level mixes.

And, there’s also an energy to the music. It hasn’t been beaten to death. It came, it gave, it left. There’s a time and place for both spontaneity and meticulousness in music, and Rubin, it seems, wants us to play in the intersection.

Another idea that resonated: “Scrap your palette,” says Rubin. “Use a new one.”

Over time, artists fall back on conventions they found useful and effective when they first began. Or conventions they learned from other artists. Rubin’s point: you can still keep your old abilities. If you’re a writer, try writing in a different voice or style. If you’re a musician, use an entirely different set of instruments. Through the deliberate ditching of the palette, an artist can accumulate more expertise.

A final drifting piece of advice from Rubin… “be patient.”
The Mammoth Sharks splashed into the Bishop City Park Pool during the Bishop Short Course Invitational June 10-11. There are 116 swimmers on the Mammoth Sharks Swim Team.

MHS SHARKS DIVE IN

NEW NIH CHIEF HRO

Press Release

Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) announces the promotion of longtime Human Resources leader Alison Murray to Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) effective June 5.

A 20-year District veteran, Murray’s story is one based on community loyalty, the ability to recognize opportunities from within, and belief in the talents of those around her.

“I am thrilled to have this opportunity to partner with the Executive Team and to oversee the strategies that support the extraordinary workforce at NIHD,” Murray says. “We are committed to providing exceptional clinical care and compassionate service to the community we serve. With a firm belief that talent is the foundation of the District’s success, my focus will be to build a talent strategy that will provide our workforce with the ultimate employee experience and to remain the employer of choice within the Eastern Sierra.”

As CHRO, Murray will be responsible for developing and executing human resource strategy supporting the District’s overall business plan and strategic direction, specifically in succession planning, talent management, change management, organizational and performance management, training and development, and compensation.

Murray joined NIHD in 2003 as a medical transcriptionist. With the arrival of the Affordable Care Act, she saw the healthcare landscape change for transcriptionists. “I started looking at the opportunities available within,” Murray explains. “At the same time, my son – a junior in high school – was taking tests to see what career path was best for him. I took that same test, and the results showed I had an aptitude for Human Resources Management or Social Work.”

Human Resources really hit the mark for Murray. “Being able to advocate for others and help others achieve their goals really spoke to me,” she says. “I want to help people be the best they can be at work and give them a safe environment to excel in.”

Returning to school while continuing her transcriptionist duties, Murray earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master’s in Business Administration with the highest honors. Both degrees hold a concentration in Human Resources Management. Murray also earned certification through the Society of Human Resource Management, recognized and valued as the premier human resources certification.

Just months before earning her MBA, a NIHD HR position opened up, and she got the job. Murray quickly rose the ranks, most recently serving as HR Director, overseeing a team of six.

“Being the advocate for the employee at the Executive Team table is what I am most excited about with this position,” Murray says. “It is what drew me to Human Resources to begin with. My goal is to help build a positive employee culture where people are growing, happy to be here and feel safe and secure in their job roles. We have some work to do to get there, but I will show the team they can trust me and that I have their backs.”

Murray and her husband, Clay, the Superintendent of Operations at Mammoth Community Water District, live in Bishop.
The Town in partnership with Mammoth Disposal, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and Volunteer Eastern Sierra (VES) has scheduled a Defensible Space and Community Clean-Up event. **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.

**COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP EVENT DETAILS**

**Dates:** Friday, June 23 & Saturday, June 24
**Hours:** 8:00am – 3:30pm daily
**Bag Pick-up:** May 22 – June 23 (limit 5/person)
- Town of Mammoth Lakes Office (Minaret Village Mall, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Ste. 230)
- Mammoth Disposal Office (Sherwin Plaza Mall, 625 Old Mammoth Rd. Ste. 2)
- June 24 (9am-12pm)
  - Footloose Sports (bags)
  - Eagle Lodge (bags, donuts and coffee)

**All Green Waste & Trash Drop-off:** 299 Commerce Drive (Town Yard)

**Community Clean-Up Day: June 24**
Grab a bag...or two on Saturday, June 24 to clean up our streets, parks, trails, multi-use paths (MUPS's), neighborhoods and public spaces. Drop by Footloose Sports or Eagle Lodge on Saturday, June 24 from 9:00am-12:00pm to collect complimentary trash bags, a community clean-up map, and recycling information along with helpful trash collection tips.

**Protect Your Property with Defensible Space: June 23/24**
Defensible space is the buffer between your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surrounds your home. This 100-foot space from your home or to your property line (whichever is closer) is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and to protect your home from catching fire – either from embers, direct flame contact or radiant heat. 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).

**What you CAN drop off...**
Pine cones/needles, grass clippings, leaf debris, tree limbs less than 12” in diameter, dog waste and community trash; large bulky items (furniture, appliances, mattresses); metal objects (refrigerators, snow stakes, motorized equipment – no vehicles, all fluids must be removed); recyclable materials, food waste; e-waste (TVs and electronics); and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). No tires will be accepted.

**Volunteer/Event Information**
Contact Jena Carter, Code Compliance Officer at (760) 965-3636 for additional information or to volunteer to help clean-up our Town.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE OF YOUR TIME TO HELP MAKE MAMMOTH LAKES A SAFE AND CLEAN PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY!**
BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour / The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill
Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Tuesday karaoke & Wednesday DJ are now every other week beginning Tuesday May 2nd. More info: see ad p. 9.
Austria Hof Happy Hour 4-6:30 p.m. Sun-Thurs/4-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour every day from 4-7 p.m. Monday happy hour all day. And Taco Tuesdays are back! More info: see ad p. 11.
Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily. $6 dollar menu items, drink specials. More info: see ad p. 18. Roberto’s Happy Hour: 2-5 p.m. daily. The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar with food and drink specials. Lakanuki happy hour 3-6 p.m. daily.

June 16-17/ Mammoth Feel Good Music Festival in the Village at Mammoth. Music starts @ 1 p.m. both days. Free. Beer Tasting Booths and Vendors. For a full schedule of events, visit mammothfeelgood.com.

Friday, June 16/ False Rhythms (Reggae) plays Liberty. Time: 9:30 p.m. Free.
Saturday, June 17/ Local Anthology (From Punk to Reggae) plays Liberty. Time: 9:30 p.m. Free.
Sunday, June 18/ Bluegrass Jam @ East Side Bake Shop in Crowley @ 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Clinton Davis String Band plays Mill Creek Station in Bishop @ 7:30 p.m. $20 suggested donation. Optional potluck @ 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 21/ 9 Year Celebration for JLB @ June Lake Brewing from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. featuring the Felt Cutouts, Dirty Lakanuki, Silver. More info: mammothlakes.ca.gov.
Summer Solstice Folk Fest @ Stellar Lake Brewing from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Local live music and offerings include singing crystal bowls, Elizabeth Petra, Salt River Straights, and more. Outdoor market and speakers, too. For more information, see ad p. 19.

June 23-24/ The Village Summer Jam @ the Village at Mammoth from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. both days. Great live music.

Friday, June 23/ Music in the Woods @ The Gallery at Twin Lakes in Mammoth from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Two tracorum (cosmic gospel thunder funk) plays Liberty @ 9:30 p.m.

BARS & MUSIC

Saturday, June 24/ Big Smooth (rock and roll) plays Liberty @ 9:30 a.m.

TOWN STUFF

June 16-17/ California State High School Rodeo @ the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. Just about lunch’s favorite event of the year. Rodeo performances Friday @ 6 p.m. and finals on Saturday @ 2 p.m.


Friday, June 16/ Sierra Star Golf Course opening day! Book your tee time @ 760.924.GOLF

Saturday, June 17/ Death Valley Brill Car Train Rides @ the Law Museum in Bishop @ 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Vintage 1920s era motorcar rail ride. $5 for adults. $1 for 10 and under. Infants free. Rides are about 15 minutes.

Tuesday, June 20/ Mono County Board of Supervisors meets @ 9 a.m. in the Mono Lake Room of the Mono County Civic Center or on Zoom @ monocounty.ca.gov.
Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets @ 8:30 a.m. in the County Administrative Center in Independence or on Zoom at inyocounty.us.
Not Your Grandma’s Bingo @ The Warming Hut. Doors: 5 p.m. Start: 6 p.m. Proceeds go to Volunteer Eastern Sierra. More info: see ad p. 7.

Wednesday, June 21/ Mono South Lake Tufa Tour from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet in South Tufa Parking Lot. Guided naturalist walk. Reservations encouraged. Call 760-647-6955 for more information.

Mammoth Lakes Town Council convenes in Suite Z at 4 p.m. Zoom info: townofmammothlakes.ca.gov. SEMBA Social Bike Ride from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Ride for an hour, then socialize! Meet @ Distant Brewing.

Thursday, June 22/ Trashy Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Convict Lake (meet in Marina Parking lot). Clean up your local spaces!

June 23-24/ Defensible Space & Community Clean-up from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Drop collected trash at 299 Commerce Drive (Town Yard). For bag pick-up locations and more information, see ad p. 13.

Saturday, June 24/ Flo’s Diner Annual Car Show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Flo’s Diner in Chalfant.
Junior Livestock Show and Auction at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. Buyer Preview & Lunch @ 11 a.m. Auction @ 1 p.m. For more info: tricountyfair.com.
Standup Comedy Night @ Mammoth Brewing Company @ 8 p.m. Tix: $15 in advance, $20 at door. LA comic Austen Silver.

June 23-24/ Flo’s Diner Annual Car Show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Flo’s Diner in Chalfant.
AT THE RODEO

Emily Wilson set the standard on Wednesday in the Barrels, posting the day’s best time of 17.36.

District 2 Rider Remmi Green successfully completed this bareback ride.

District 3’s Riley Smith

Zane George placed third in Wednesday evening’s steer wrestling competition with a time of 6.67. Winner James Mann finished in a stunning 4.02. Too quick for Lunch to get a decent photo!

District 9’s Jake Hurley ultimately prevailed in this battle.

Alexis Molina of District 1 corners the barrel.

Rodeo Finals take place Saturday. Make sure to get out there. A Lunch favorite.

For Rent

Seasonal Rental For Rent 2 Bedroom + loft, 1 bathroom. Single family A Frame close to everything. Large yard and deck. $5000 per month. Please call (949) 309-0544 for information.

For Sale

1999 Lance Camper 1030 10’11” - Bath-room Sink, Shower & Toilet, A/C, Microwave, Oven, Stove, Kitchen Sink, Refrigerator/ Freezer, Queen Bed, Table Bed & Kids Bed, Nice Condition, $8,000, 310/292-5470 No Text.

2006 Chapparal Sunesta 274! $26,000 or best offer. Call Kathy @ 960-914-1275. Proceeds go to Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra.

Country Glass, Inc.

We are looking to hire someone with the following prerequisites: able to show up on time and ready to work, wants the opportunity to learn a specialty trade, takes pride in what they do, wants to be part of a team. No experience necessary in the trades but experience with tools a plus. Pay based on experience, with benefits, bonuses. We make sure this is a great place to work with unlimited potential for growth. 760-934-3587

Mammoth Community Water District’s Engineering Department is Currently Recruiting For One Permanent Senior Engineer Position. For Application Information/To Apply: Please See The District Website  https://Mcwd.dst.ca.us/Employment/.

Request for Landscaping Services/Solicitud de servicios de paisajismo: The MCWD is accepting bids from qualified vendors to provide landscape services for four District locations. For more information, please visit http://mcwd.dst.ca.us and see “Request for Proposals for MCWD Landscaping Services” under “Current Information”, or contact Michael Draper, mdraper@mcwd.dst.ca.us, 760-924-2595 ext. 274.

Steve’s Auto & Truck Parts in Mammoth has an immediate opening for FULL TIME Counter Sales Person. Competitive pay, 401K, Health Insurance, Vacation Pay. Stop by the store at 3280 Main St. Mammoth Lakes for an application.

Steve’s Auto/NAPA of Mammoth is taking applications for a Management position. Competitive pay, 401K, Health Insurance, Vacation Pay. Pick up application at 3280 Main St. Mammoth Lakes, ask for Joe or Robert.

Warehouse Assistant Sierra Warehouse Partners is seeking an individual to assist Operations Manager with stocking, assembly, cleaning, deliveries & other duties associated with maintaining resort warehouse and vehicle fleet. Minimum age 21 with a good driving record and able to lift 50 lbs. Full Time $23 - $23.31/Hr. + Ot’s Bonus + 401(K) + Medical + Ppo + Discounted Restaurant & Other Goods Call 760-934-3800 ext. 49 or email jobs@convictlake.com

Property Manager Established Resort and Lodge seeks experienced individual to oversee quality control, maintenance and upkeep of cabins, hotel rooms, houses, restaurants, and grounds. Must be able to schedule, direct and supervise personnel and outside vendors. Some weekends and evening hours may be necessary. $28.00 - $32/Hr. + Ot’s + Bonus + 401(K) + Medical + Wellness. Also, discounts on restaurants and other goods. Please send resume to jobs@convictlake.com

Upscale Mammoth Restaurant Hiring For Both Line Cooks And Day Prep Cooks. Full-Time Or Part-Time, $18 - $25/Hr + Ot’s + Bonuses + 401(K) + Medical + Ppo + Restaurant And Other Discounts. Call 760-934-3800 X2 Or Email Jobs@Convictlake.com.

Help Wanted

We are looking to hire someone with the following prerequisites: able to show up on time and ready to work, wants the opportunity to learn a specialty trade, takes pride in what they do, wants to be part of a team. No experience necessary in the trades but experience with tools a plus. Pay based on experience, with benefits, bonuses. We make sure this is a great place to work with unlimited potential for growth. 760-934-3587

For Sale

www.thesheetnews.com

NO CLASSIFIEDS
Sierra Employment Services, Inc. is hiring for the following positions:

General Laborers - Bishop and Mammoth Lakes
Bilingual Marketing Surveyor - Lee Vining
Medical Assistant - Bishop
Window Installer - Mammoth
Construction Office Assistant - Mammoth
Retail Clerk - Bishop
Apprentice Carpenter - Mammoth
Apprentice Administrative Assistant - Mammoth
Trimm Carpenter - Bishop
Apprentice Electrician - Mammoth

Call us for details! 760-924-0523
www.SierraEmployment.com

Mammoth Gear Exchange in Bishop and Alpine Approach in Mammoth seek team members. Be self-dependent. Mammoth Mountains including skiing and snowboarding plus 401(k) with company match if employed for 1 year. Competitive pay. Please email resume and application to jobs@mammothgearexchange.com

The Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for a Jack of All Trades. Seasonal and year-round, full time and part time positions available. We are a 24 hour day business looking to add new team members for all shifts including Front Desk, Housekeeping and Maintenance. We offer flexible schedules, competitive wages and some benefits. Housing option may be available for the right individual. Please pick up an application and drop a resume, in person, at 6800 Minaret Rd, Mammoth Lakes.

Mammoth Hospital is NOW HIRING! We have an immediate need for the following positions:

Behavioral Health Clinic Scheduler - $25/hour
Cook/Custodian - $20/hour
Maintenance Technician - $25/hour

To view more open positions and apply, please visit our website at https://mammothhospital.org/ and click on “We’re Hiring” tile. Or visit https://www.paycomo- nline.net/wa/an/web.php/jobs

Mammoth Community Water District is currently recruiting for Temporary/Seasonal Construction Crew positions:

Construction and Maintenance Worker - $25/hour
Construction Equipment Operator - $28/hour
Construction Heavy Equipment Operator - $32/hour

For Application Information: To Apply: Review the job bulletin at the District website https://mcmd.wa.ca.us/employment/ to determine for which position(s) you meet the minimum qualifications

Experienced Server and Bus/Host positions at The Breakfast Club. Please apply in person.

Superior Court of California County of Mono

Job Announcement

The Superior Court of California for Mono County invites applications for the position of

Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help Center Program Coordinator

This is a part-time independent contractor position for a licensed attorney

Annual Salary: $89,328

A job description and application instructions may be obtained on the court’s website: https://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/pe or contact the court at (760)-923-2321 hr@mono.courts.ca.gov

Closing Date: Open until filled

EOE/AA/ADA

Mammoth Verizon
Shilo Inn is accepting applications for PT housekeepers, FT maintenance worker and Front desk/night auditor. Immediate Front Desk opportunity starting at $18/hour. Please email Human Resource Center (at) 725.813.2331 or email your resume to squintero@marquishotelgroup.com.

Elbridge - Family Member Needed

Elbridge is accepting applications for a full-time Sales Associate position.

Wage: Commission + Bonus + Paid vacation

Typical earnings of $20-$27 per hour. No experience is necessary, bilingual English/ Spanish is a plus. Please submit your resume to the employee at 126 Old Mammoth Rd, Suite 109, Mammoth Lakes.

Sweetwater Plumbing Inc.

Full time position for Journeyman Plumber and/or Apprentice Plumber. Full Benefits. Job is located in Mammoth Lakes. Contact 760-914-1266 info@sweetwaterplumbing.com.

Elvir Superfood & Juice is hiring Restauranteur Team Members! We’re looking for fun, loving, enthusiastic and reliable individuals with a passion for healthy living to join our growing team. Apply online at elvirsuperfood.com, and apply right off a resume in person.

Housekeepers & Quality Control Staff

Needed immediate positions available for busy rental management company, both Part-time and Full-time. Previous cleaning experience preferred but not required. Trailing compensation available. Looking for responsible, hard-working candidates with a positive work ethic, clean drivers license and vehicle required. Competitive pay and benefits available. Email resume to laius@marquishotelgroup.com, or contact 760-914-0768 or stop by 1914 Meridian Blvd.

HIGHLAND PLUMBING

Hiring motivated candidates, experience preferred but not essential. Training will be provided. Must have a valid drivers license. Great pay and perks. Full time or part time available, year round. Mon-Fri schedule. To apply, please contact Tarek at 760-914-9184

Reservations Desk Clerk immediate opening at the Double Eagle Resort & Spa in June Lake CA (20 min from mam-moth). Must have excellent customer service and computer skills. Full or part time, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work! Email jobs@ doubleeagle.com

Creekside Spa and Fitness Desk at the Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA looking for an opening for enthusiastic team member. Help in creating a wonderful experience for our spa and fitness center guests. Great pay, service, computer, cleaning, food service. Full or part time, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work! Email jobs@doubleeagle.com

Mammoth Concrete & Mechanical is seeking an experienced laborer with strong work ethic and good attitude. Working on the construction and maintenance of our new building. Must be able to lift and take direction. Experience in general construction required. $18-$20/hour. Please apply to the above.

Mammoth Community Water District is currently recruiting for Temporary/Seasonal Construction Crew positions:

Construction and Maintenance Worker - $25/hour
Construction Equipment Operator - $28/hour
Construction Heavy Equipment Operator - $32/hour

For Application Information: To Apply: Review the job bulletin at the District website https://mcmd.wa.ca.us/employment/ to determine for which position(s) you meet the minimum qualifications

Experienced Server and Bus/Host positions at The Breakfast Club. Please apply in person.
Notice Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber, Minaret Village Shopping Center, Suite Z, to consider the following:

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget.

All persons having an interest in the proposed public hearing are invited to appear before the Town Council either in person or by written statement. Written statements should be mailed to: Town Council Mailroom, Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, or faxed to (760) 962-3661, or emailed to rpatterson@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

In answer thereto, correspondence, including comments on the proposed public hearing, may be received at the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Minaret Village Shopping Center, Suite Z, to consider the following:

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Kyle Schaniel was awarded the Outstanding Senior Award, presented by Pat Powell and Steve Alcorn of American Legion Inyo Post 118.

The US Army Enlistees award presented to Stephan Poole, Noah Beall, Alex Fierro, Aden Arndal, and Nathaniel Montanez. All have enlisted. Presented by Staff Sgt. Michael H. Moret.

In Bishop, the irrepressible Gayla Wolf took photos at the Senior Awards night, while Sarah Taylor submitted the Lee Vining High School senior class photo.


Bruce Lyons won the Film Scholarship award, presented by Jason Brown and James Tyler of Laughing Parrot Productions.

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BAD TO THE BASIN
By Pike

At first glance ... yeah. Everything’s pretty dead. The salt-flat oven cracked hexagonal. The heat exhausted tourists from Scandinavia and Portugal and me. Not much else. But in Death Valley’s Badwater Basin - the lowest point in North America (that recorded the hottest heat on Earth) - there are snails. You probably know this. I did not.

There was, also, a runner. A man, between 50 and 65, wearing a vest filled with water bottles.

“You run all the way from Mt. Whitney?” I asked. He laughs.

He’s training. The Badwater 135. A 135-mile race from Badwater Basin to Whitney Portal, held on July 4th. “Do you know if this is the lowest spot?” He gestures out toward the basin. “I can’t remember where the lowest spot is.”

“I think it’s all the same,” I say. He talks to me and my girlfriend Izzy some more, about how he and his wife hiked across the basin the last time they came. To find the lowest spot. Then, he leaves. The next day, Izzy and I will have pickles and prosecco on a balcony before splitting a $50 plate of salmon and risotto at the Last Kind Words Saloon. A mistake to eat fish in the desert.

Should’ve had the snail. Plus, a kale salad. Dry, like most everything else. We pay and leave and drive to Artists Palette, where iron oxides and chlorite color the sand blue and purple and green. Wandering through the colored hills, a man with a woman – girlfriend, probably - approaches and asks, “Is this the best spot?”

I tell him I’m not sure where the best spot is, and that I think the spot on which we’re standing – a ridge with a pleasant view – is pretty great. He seems nervous. Eager to find the best spot so that he can, perhaps, get on a knee and pull out the ring that’s in his pocket – the one he spent three months salary on – so that he and his girlfriend (who, admittedly, seems disinterested in finding the “best spot”) can agree to (finally, maybe) love each other forever, and the sun will set and the colors will fade and they’ll hold hands back to the car and in the car and throughout the night in bed.

The sun sinks and there’s silence and tinnitus. No one tells you the noise life makes. Leaves in wind, birds in trees, the brush-born crickets. June in Death Valley is heat and rock and the silence they make. Someone – a content creator from Australia, I think – starts up a drone. Two others pose on a rock. The drone drills through the silence and captures the couple for a TikTok, or an Instagram reel, or something else.

Selling tranquility at its own expense. Sunrise, the next morning, Izzy and I walk through the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes, barefoot because it’s dark and the snakes are still under the sand. The sun crests the range and calligraphs shadows on the ridges of the dunes. I do not know Daoism, but this seems to be it.

In the distance, another couple treks back toward the cars. Izzy and I sit for a while. They pass by.

“...because you were complaining the whole time,” says the man.

“Yeah, because my knee started hurting,” said the woman.

Their tone’s of that particular venom that gets stored in the wells of a years-deep relationship and seeps through the fang of forgetting. As in, a thoughtless hurting of the other that comes from tired love.

On the drive out of the valley, Izzy and I stop at Father Crowley Overlook. I hope a jet will come, but the skies stay quiet, and we continue, eating breakfast in Lone Pine, hiking the Arch Loop in the Hills, and driving through the history of Manzanar.

In Bishop I am tired. We get a smoothie, then drive home.
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