

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



PHOTO FISHER

Motivation came in unique forms at the Mammoth Trail Fest 50k race on Saturday, September 21.

Saturday, September 28, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. 39

A BIG MACC ATTACK (ON THE BOTTOM LINE)

Town goofs on project estimate

By Fisher

Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Rob Patterson gave an update on the Mammoth Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) at the Mammoth Lakes Recreation Board Meeting on Tuesday evening.

Looks like the cost estimate for the project could be as much as \$2.5 million short.

Oops.

Plans for the MACC project, located east of the existing Edison Theater, include a new performing arts theater, a new outdoor amphitheater and a new parking lot. It was approved by the Planning and Economic Development on Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

The town of Mammoth Lakes is currently negotiating a Purchase and Sale agreement with the Mammoth Lakes Foundation to acquire the property. But the project is undergoing some legal hiccups which may drive up costs and stall construction, Patterson explained at the meeting.

"As we started to dive deeper into the available funding for the construction of the MACC, we kind of came across a couple of elements that were not known to us while we were working through the Purchase and Sale agreement," he said.

Because the project is funded through school bonds, the project qualifies as a Division of the State Architect project, meaning the agency has to review the designs for the project and enforce a higher set of standards for the building.

This is a meaningful oversight, and Patterson estimates

it will drive costs up 15-20%.

Furthermore, because the MACC project builds off the existing Edison Theater, that building would too be subject to DSA standards, he said.

The Mammoth Lakes Foundation is currently redesigning and rebuilding that theater now, and it is in the construction phase.

So some changes may need to be made 'on the fly.'

The theater construction had been slated for completion by the end of September but given recent developments, the completion date has been moved out to late November or December.

The most likely outcome is that the Town will have to come up with additional funds - either via its general fund or private donations - to pay for anticipated cost overruns due to the DSA issue.

That price tag could be as high as two and a half million additional dollars.

"It's disheartening, I'm really frustrated," Treasurer Heather Schaubmayer said. "It's been three years [...] since those funds were originally asked for and now we're getting to the point we're at the drawing line and there's an increase."

Schaubmayer elaborated in a phone conversation Thursday.

"The hot potato has been passed on. Kendra [new Mammoth Lakes Foundation Executive Director] is now walking into the shitshow - I don't mean to be rough but that's what it is.

... It was an oversight. I'm

more ATTACK, pg. 6

RODEO QUEEN



The Town of Mammoth Lakes held its annual "Bike Rodeo" this past Tuesday at Shady Rest Park. For more of Fisher's photos, see p. 8.

BLOODIED BUT STILL UPRIGHT

By Lunch

The great Jon Eisert was in town this week for my birthday Tuesday. Which involved 18 holes at Bishop Country Club. And which went straight downhill (or uphill, depending upon one's perspective) after the first, tasty Bloody Mary.

So blame the following post-hangover cranky on the Ski Surgeon.

I was forwarded a story this week which appeared approximately six months ago in the Tahoe Daily Tribune.

Turns out the city of South Lake Tahoe had also considered a two-point TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) increase for placement on the November ballot.

But South Lake Tahoe's council elected not to pursue a

ballot measure.

Here's an excerpt from the story:

"People who come to Tahoe still, will come to different parts of Lake Tahoe. They will not come to the South Shore as much as they did," said Jerry Bindel of Forest Suites Resort. He explains the increase would make the city higher than North Tahoe and Nevada casinos.

'Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg - tourism,' Sheron Kerrigan of the South Tahoe Association of Realtors said. 'It's what we depend on.'

Bindel says raising TOT by 2% would put it upwards of 16% when adding the Tourism Improvement District fee.

North Lake Tahoe and Truck-

ee's TOT is currently between 10-13.25%."

Whereas Mammoth's Council insisted on putting a TOT rate hike on the November ballot once it passed on capping or regulating nightly rentals.

The solution to the housing shortage reduced to 'raise money, spend money, drill baby drill.'

Councilmember Chris Bubser did indicate at the time the STR Committee wrapped up, that if a tax increase wasn't passed, Council would reassess its options, including a revisitation of the STR issue.

I say bring it on.

Anything's better than embracing default bad policy just because you're desperate to

see LUNCH, pg. 2

Getting a Clowes

p. 4/

Making history

p. 9/

More disaster lit

p. 14-15/

Good wolf

p. 13/

New Brew at MHS

p. 6/

LUNCH

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'do something.'

Councilman John Wentworth has suggested I'm on a 'smear' campaign regarding the Town's ill-conceived TOT ballot measure.

Nah. I'm on a truth campaign.

And the truth is, politics is about the collection and spending of money, and it's absolutely the right and healthy thing to argue about both.

Saying you care about housing and will do anything for housing is just conformist and weak and exceptionally unoriginal.

Because it's sure easy to make decisions when everyone can praise you for your humanity and you don't have to prioritize anything and there's no price tag.

And with housing right now, it sure feels like a buy high/sell low scenario.

Although I did appreciate this little story John Mendel told (Mendel always has a fable for every occasion).

And in regard to housing, he told this story about a whole slew of starfish washing up on the shore in some unfortunate natural event. And they're all beached and destined to perish, but there's some guy walking along the shore, and among these thousands upon thousands of beached starfish, he's tossing them back in the water one at a time.

So another guy approaches and says, you know, what you're doing is pointless. It's a mere pebble in the ocean. There are too many. It's not gonna matter.

And the guy replies as he tosses another starfish back in the water, "But it mattered to that one."

On a personal level, my story would be this.

I used to travel a lot more - particularly to places like Reno and Vegas for a quick getaway. But I pay attention to the receipts, and the resort fees and the room taxes ... everything about it has skyrocketed. And the impact has been that I just don't travel much anymore, and if I travel, I stay with friends. So yeah a percentage point or two, you may think it doesn't mean much, but it can actually at some point tip you into a whole set of new behaviors.

This is a time to tread carefully.

The snarky ad on the opposite page - refers to an approved project that was ultimately torpedoed due to the Great Recession. Further, money set aside for that project was absorbed into the general fund and then squandered to shore up a series of budget deficits. That parking structure still needs to get built and it's the town's responsibility. Don't hear much about that these days. Because the folks who would benefit (business owners and visitors) - we too often treat

the
sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

"These are people of the land. The common clay of the New West. You know ... morons."

-The Waco Kid
from Blazing Saddles

JACK LUNCH
PUBLISHER

them as nothing more than ATMs.

And from Klusmire's desk ...

It's time to bite the bullet and admit that the Eastern Sierra Fall Colors Extravaganza marketing effort is a classic case of selling the sizzle not the steak. Compared to the country's premier fall color locations, the Eastern Sierra offers slim pickings, if not a downright starvation diet when it comes to "spectacular vistas bursting with color when Mother Nature paints our stunning landscape with fall colors."

Egad. Give it a rest.

In the Rocky Mountains and New England, folks can drive on numerous highways for hours on end and see a smorgasbord of hills and mountains covered with reds, yellows and oranges. Hours. It's an all-you-can-eat buffet.

In the Eastern Sierra, the menu is meager. Folks can enjoy 15 or 20 canyons or creeks or lakes with some assorted clumps of trees with magical color. While that is thin gruel for jaded locals it is an impressive feast for the beach and desert dwellers from SoCal that are the area's bread and butter, which means the best fall color is the color of money spilling out of visitors' pockets as they ooohh and aaahh and fork over one last hearty serving of cash for local mountain resorts to feast on before winter.

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FELICI & FRIENDS

WINTER

CONCERTS

PROGRAM 1

The Felici Piano Trio & guests,
Wendy Richman, viola
& Sophia Schuldt, violin

TRAIL
BLAZERS

Music by
W.A. Mozart, Francis Poulenc & Elfrida Andrée

SATURDAY
October 5, 2024
7:00 pm
Cerro Coso College, Mammoth Lakes

SUNDAY
October 6, 2024
4:00 pm
Cerro Coso College, Bishop

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Starts Oct 5!
Mon-Sat 9-5
Sun 10-4

Games, Firetruck, Fall Flowers
Autumn Picture Area
Fall Bulbs & Garlic
Picnic Area

And Now For Some Good News



Fortunately, the Town of Mammoth Lakes planned ahead and built this **FOUR-STORY PARKING GARAGE** in the North Village to accommodate current and future development.

Where do 20-plus year unmet needs and obligations fit on the Town of Mammoth Lakes priority list?



**Invest in Education,
Empower Our Students'
Future!**

Thank you for investing in our local schools! Your support is vital in keeping campuses safe, improving accessibility, and continuing to modernize aging facilities across the Mammoth Unified School District.



Join us for a Community Meeting
October 14, 2024 6:00 PM at
Mammoth High School
Multipurpose Room



MEASURE J ON THE BALLOT NOVEMBER 5, 2024



**Invierte en la Educación,
Fortalece el Futuro de
Nuestros Estudiantes!**

Gracias por invertir en nuestros escuelas locales! Tu apoyo es vital para mantener nuestros planteles seguros, mejorar el acceso, y continuar la modernización de nuestras actuales instalaciones dentro de Mammoth Unified School District.



Acompáñenos para una Junta de la
Comunidad
Octubre 14, 2024 6:00 PM en la
Escuela Preparatoria de Mammoth
Multipurpose Room



LA MEDIDA J EN LA BOLETA ELECTORAL DEL 5 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2024

ELECTION

SMHD HAS A CLOWES

By Lunch

Alec Clowes (pronounced Clues), is running for a second term on the Southern Mono Hospital District board this November.

Clowes moved to Mammoth in 2019 with his wife Jolynn Khamky. The couple met as undergrads at Stanford University. They have a three-year old son named Sasha.

Clowes moved to Mammoth pre-pandemic - both he and his wife had jobs they could do remotely - so he's a man ahead of the curve.

His remote job at the time was with Clover Health, a company which provides Medicare Advantage insurance plans. Clowes, a software engineer by trade, works on quality measures and is well-versed in healthcare industry issues.

He says his impetus to continue on

the board is to see the North Wing project to completion, while continuing to focus on financial management and quality care.

As Clowes notes, the past five years have been hugely profitable for Mammoth Hospital, which has allowed the District to embark on the North Wing project without going to the voters for a bond.

He agrees with fellow board member Ryan Wood in that it's important for the board to have diversity of membership. If you have people on the board tied to the hospital, you get tied to operational matters and "inside baseball." He's concerned that SMHD candidate Jennifer Burrows wants to interfere in operational matters, and as a board member, he says "that's not our job."

"I think the CEO [Tom Parker] is doing a great job and I am confident in his decision-making."

Ms. Burrows husband, Dr. Craig Burrows, formerly served as the Hospital's Chief Medical Officer.

The CMO position, which had paid \$450,000/year, will be reduced to a half-time position.

Clowes says the CMO also typically is a working physician with his/her



Alec Clowes

own practice - the implication seeming to be, don't fret, we'll find a half-time CMO and he/she won't starve.

Clowes disagrees with candidate Burrows' opinion that the new hospital wing should have more in-patient beds.

"The national trend and the trend in Mammoth has been towards shorter in-patient stays." - largely due to improved technology and surgical techniques - "In the high season, we might have five people on average [staying overnight]."

The hospital currently has 13 in-patient rooms. The new wing will have 18. And Clowes thinks 18 accommodates projected growth for the next 3-4 decades.

Some things the hospital is doing well: Adopting best practices, quality teaching, more pro-active scheduling and follow up ... overall, says Clowes, the place is growing up, professionalizing, and that's always going to meet with a certain resistance from those who liked the old ways.

On the to-improve list, Clowes says SMHD and NIHD are still working out the kinks of the labor and delivery handoff. "There hasn't been as much coordination between providers as we'd like," he says.

That said, he still thinks it was the right decision, particularly from a safety perspective (Mammoth wasn't delivering enough babies for providers to keep their skills up). Secondarily, it wasn't financially viable.

In addition to their remote jobs, Clowes and his spouse own Station 81 (office rental space on Old Mammoth Road) and within that space, Bevi Bene wine bar, which operates during the ski season.



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MORLEY MAKES ANOTHER RUN FOR BUSD BOARD

By Lunch

Last time, he fell about 70 votes short against double the number of candidates.

This time, he hopes he gets the opportunity to serve a community he grew up in (proud Bishop Union High School graduate, class of 1999).

Jamie Morley, father of two daughters who attend the Bishop schools, is running for a seat on the Bishop Unified School District Board this fall.

His principal motivation: "I'm running because of the lack of leadership I saw [during the pandemic period of 2020-2022] ... and as time passes, we're seeing the impact of that."

Exhibit A - chronic absenteeism. In 2018-2019, the District had a chronic absentee rate of 13.6% (chronic absenteeism defined as less than a 90% attendance rate or missing more than 18 school days in a year).

These days, he says that rate is now 33.6%.

Morley would posit that the desultory implementation and execution of distance learning programs during then pandemic simply turned kids off of school in particular and education in general. He observed this firsthand in his own children.

"The system is doing okay for what it is [right now]," he added. "But there's room for improvement."

And room for some new voices. As he says, the same superintendent and largely the same board remain in place.

"Elected officials need to be strong leaders, and act in the community's best interest, not the state's best interest."

Broken down, he said leadership is largely a function of being engaged, interested and asking questions.

Too often, says Morley, he'll see elected officials opening their agenda packets for the first time as they're walking into meetings.

A seminal experience for Morley came when he joined his union's negotiating team (he works for the Mono County Road Dept. as a District Supervisor out of its Crowley office).

This showed him how possible it is to make a positive difference if you put in the work and ask a lot of questions.

He is supportive of the local school bond measure on the ballot. While sensitive to tax increases, he notes that not a lot has changed or improved since he was in school 25 years ago. "The kids deserve upgrades. Personally I will vote 'yes.'"

If you wish to learn more about Jamie Morley and the other candidates, Inyo350 is hosting a BUSD candidate forum on October 10 @ the Methodist Church on Fowler St. in Bishop. Time: 6:30 p.m.



Jamie Morley

DISTANT BREWING HAS BEER AND CIDER AND SELTZER AND KOMBUCHA AND WINE AND BEER AND SODA AND SOUPS AND SALADS AND PIZZAS AND COOKIES AND SANDWICHES AND APPETIZERS AND BEER AND COFFEE AND LIVE MUSIC TWICE A WEEK AND AN OPEN MIC EVERY MONDAY AND BEER AND A POOL TOURNAMENT EVERY WEDNESDAY AND A MONTHLY VINYL NIGHT AND OH YEAD DID WE FORGET TO MENTION ALL THE BEER?



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LOCAL NEWS

FRESH BREW FOR MHS

By Fisher
Last Monday, September 16, Mark Brewer was hired as principal at the Mammoth High School – the third principal current seniors have known during their high school careers.

Although he is new to Mammoth Lakes, Brewer hopes his hiring will mark the end of the recent administrative changes, aiming for stability in the school's leadership. He plans to stay in this role for at least four years.

"I want to stay here," he told me eagerly, smiling. "I want to be in this community and do good work here."

I interviewed Brewer at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, just under two hours after the first bell rang, signaling the start of "Zero Period."

Notebook in hand, I sat in a plastic slatted classroom chair in his mostly bare office. He kept the door open, offering a nonverbal invitation for students to come in and say hello.

It was his seventh day on the job, and it was a minimum day, meaning students were released early so he could discuss his vision for the district with the staff.

"I don't have any silver bullet or magic plans," he said. "I've got thoughts and ideas and will contribute when asked, but it's important for me to be asked rather than to tell people what I think."

Brewer, who found the principal position through an online job listing, was drawn to Mammoth because of its small



MHS Principal Mark Brewer

size (under 400 students) and its resemblance to his hometown of Susanville.

"I was looking to be in a small community again, where it's less hectic and has a different pace of life," he said. "And I enjoy fly fishing and skiing."

Brewer earned his undergraduate degree at Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo and then pursued his graduate degree at the University of Colorado. After graduating, he spent over two decades in education in Colorado, focusing on science education.

He retired early in Colorado after purchasing Social Security credits early in his career, he said. Still wanting to work, he moved back to California to remain eligible as an educator.

Most recently, he served as principal in the Amador County Unified School District, a position he began in April 2023. The district planned to consolidate high schools, and Brewer was hired to be the first principal.

He announced his departure in a letter to staff on August 23 and was released from the role on September 13. His position in Mammoth began the following Monday, giving him just a weekend to settle into town, the school year already three weeks old. On his first day as principal, he met the staff and superintendent, and he has been working hard to familiarize himself with the students.

"It's a different kind of transition, for sure, just different," he said. "But it's been nice because the people here are so excited to have me."

Brewer's hiring comes just two months before the November election, during which the community will vote on a school bond measure that would authorize the district to issue \$70 million in bonds for constructing and improving classrooms and building teacher and staff housing.

Housing is the most significant hurdle to hiring qualified employees, Brewer said. He hopes the bond will be passed to keep the school competitive.

ATTACK

continued from page 1

going to assume it was from a former town manager - I'm assuming but I don't know for fact ... this was the first I'd heard of it. You could maybe tell in the meeting. I was a little frustrated."

Former Mammoth Lakes Foundation Executive Director Betsy Truax, who recently left the position to take a job as Community Engagement Director at Mammoth Lakes Tourism, chose not to comment, suggesting we speak with her successor Kendra Knight, who was also unavailable for comment.

Also at the meeting, the board approved a 2-year contract which would allow for a 6% salary increase and an additional 7% bonus on the 2023-2024 fiscal year to Mammoth Lakes Recreation Executive Director Kim Anaclerio.

Kim Anaclerio started with Mammoth Lakes Recreation in January 2019 and has been the sole employee since September 2020. This raise would reallocate about \$7,000 in the budget, Board President Craig Albright said.

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Mono County Public Health

Community Flu Vaccination Clinics

2024

only Flu vaccinations available at community clinics

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH	11am – 2pm	WALKER COMMUNITY CENTER
TUESDAY OCTOBER 1ST	Noon – 2pm	WHEELER CREST FIRE STATION (Swall Meadows)
THURSDAY OCTOBER 3RD	4pm – 7pm	CROWLEY LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
TUESDAY OCTOBER 8TH	4pm – 6pm	LEE VINING COMMUNITY CENTER
THURSDAY OCTOBER 10TH	5pm – 7pm	MAMMOTH LAKES (MONO COUNTY CIVIC CENTER) 1290 TAVERN ROAD
TUESDAY OCTOBER 15TH	Noon – 3pm	BRIDGEPORT MEMORIAL HALL
THURSDAY OCTOBER 17TH	2:30pm – 3:30pm	BENTON COMMUNITY CENTER
THURSDAY OCTOBER 17TH	4:30pm – 6pm	CHALFANT COMMUNITY CENTER
TUESDAY OCTOBER 22ND	4pm – 6pm	JUNE LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER

Salud Publica Condado de Mono

Clínicas Comunitarias de Vacunación Contra la Gripe

2024

sólo habra vacunas contra la gripe disponibles en las clínicas comunitarias

FECHA	HORARIO	UBICACIÓN
MARTES 24 DE SEPTIEMBRE	11am – 2pm	CENTRO COMUNITARIO DE WALKER
MARTES 1 DE OCTUBRE	12pm – 2pm	ESTACIÓN DE BOMBEROS WHEELER CREST (Swall Meadows)
JUEVES 3 DE OCTUBRE	4pm – 7pm	CENTRO COMUNITARIO DE CROWLEY LAKE
MARTES 8 DE OCTUBRE	4pm – 6pm	CENTRO COMUNITARIO DE LEE VINING
JUEVES 10 DE OCTUBRE	5pm – 7pm	MAMMOTH LAKES (CENTRO CÍVICO DEL CONDADO DE MONO) 1290 TAVERN ROAD
MARTES 15 DE OCTUBRE	12pm – 3pm	CENTRO MEMORIAL DE BRIDGEPORT
JUEVES 17 DE OCTUBRE	2:30pm – 3:30pm	CENTRO COMUNITARIO DE BENTON
JUEVES 17 DE OCTUBRE	4:30pm – 6pm	CENTRO COMUNITARIO DE CHALFANT
MARTES 22 DE OCTUBRE	4pm – 6pm	CENTRO COMUNITARIO DE JUNE LAKE

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WINTER

EXPO DE INVIERNO

EXPO

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3

JUEVES 3 DE OCTUBRE 5-8PM



Photo: Samantha Lindberg/MLT



Fall Season Special

Enjoy a limited-time, 50% off
Winter Skate Membership
discount from Oct. 3-31

Disfruta de un descuento del 50% en la
Membresía de Winter Skate por tiempo
limitado, del 3 al 31 de octubre

- ➔ **FREE Public Skate** from 5-8pm
Including admission and rentals – subject to availability
Patinaje público GRATUITO, incluye entrada y alquiler – sujeto a disponibilidad

- ➔ **Information** on local winter recreation opportunities
Including gymnastics, basketball, cooking and ice sports
Información sobre actividades recreativas de invierno, Incluyendo gimnasia, baloncesto,
cocina y deportes de hielo.

- ➔ **In-Person Registration** for winter recreation programs
In-person registration limited to one product per child
Online registration opens October 7
Inscripción presencial para programas de invierno. La inscripción presencial está limitada a un
producto por niño. La inscripción en línea abre el 7 de octubre

- ➔ **Lucky Door Prizes** include a Winter Skate Membership,
an Ice Skating Party for 20, and LA Kings game tickets
Los premios incluyen una Membresía a Winter Skate, una fiesta de patinaje
sobre hielo para 20 personas y entradas para un partido de los LA Kings



Parks & Recreation

686 Old Mammoth Rd. — LAKingsIceMammothLakes.com

760-965-3695 — LAKingsIceMammothLakes



THIRD ANNUAL MAMMOTH BIKE RODEO

By Fisher



HUSKY FEST 2024

thanks our community sponsors, golfers, volunteers, & participating teams.



\$80,000

**Raised for MHS
Student
Programs**

Special thanks to our
organizers: MHS Boosters,
Grant Duff & Ryan Clark

For more info on Husky Fest visit
www.mhsboosters.org



ENJOY A PIECE OF HISTORY!

Press Release

Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) invites the public to attend the 9th Annual Eastern Sierra History Conference, scheduled for Oct. 25 -27, at the Bishop Campus of Cerro Coso Community College, at 4090 W. Line St. Tickets are available for purchase at sierraforever.org/eshc.

The conference features two days of lectures and presentations, plus educational field trips on the third day.

ESIA Board Member Dr. Char Miller, an award-winning teacher and writer who is a professor of environmental history at Pomona College in Claremont, said, “The Eastern Sierra History Conference offers a unique moment when historians—both ‘buffs’ and ‘profs’—gather to celebrate, explore, and deepen our understanding of this remarkable region’s captivating and complicated stories.”

Miller himself will open the conference by presenting one such complex story focused on wildfire and wildfire management, which is the subject of his new book, *Burn Scars: A Documentary History of Fire Suppression, from Colonial Origins to the Resurgence of Cultural Burning*.

Other presentations will include:

- A history of the Pine Creek Tungsten Mine, plus a guided visit to the mine, by author Joe Kurtak;
- A history of the Grant Lake Reservoir by author and historian Robert Marks, PhD, including the drama behind the building of the first Grant Lake Dam in 1915 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power;
- A look at the life and work of acclaimed European-born Eastern Sierra ski instructor Hans Georg, by author and historian Dana Miller;
- A snapshot of the local Paiute language and culture presented by Owens Valley Career Development Center Yahoda Language Program Coordinator Brian Poncho, Language Specialist Amara Keller, and Language Teacher Lavina Bengochia; and
- A tribute to legendary Mule Man Bobby Tanner, who died this past June.

Altogether, 15 presentations will be offered on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26, at the college.

The outings scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 27 are a Tungsten Mine Tour at Pine Creek and a Mono Basin Scenic Area Tour, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of its designation.

Ticket prices range from \$50 to \$140 for adult three-day, senior, student, single day, outing only, and video recording options. There are special perks for attendees thanks to the partnership of local businesses, including:

- Free breakfast and lunch on Days 1 & 2 of the conference thanks to generous discounts ESIA receives from popular caterer Pupfish Café; and ESIA has received generous sponsorship support from the Los Angeles Department of

Water and Power and Perry Motors for this year’s conference but is still seeking sponsors interested in helping to offset such conference costs as speaker honoraria, venue rental, food, and scholarships for students.

The history of the Eastern Sierra, Gabriel said, which begins with the Indigenous people who are the original inhabitants and land stewards of our region, can be a beacon of hope to us all. “Understanding what happened in the past is critically important to guiding us into the future.”

“Join us,” Miller said, “and add your voice to the conversation.”

Again, to purchase tickets, visit sierraforever.org/eshc. For questions, or to purchase tickets over the phone, please call 760.872.1220.

Meet
TAHOE

This handsome guy is a sweet and playful pup with a rough-and-tumble side. He might be shy at first but is full of love and energy!

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Extended Breast Cancer Screening Hours for Women ages 40 & up

Who should get a mammogram?

- Women with a family history of breast cancer
- All women who are 40 and above

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on **WEDNESDAYS**
OCTOBER 2, 9, 16 & 23
each evening from 4 to 8 pm

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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/ The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. extended to 8 p.m. for football on Mondays and Thursdays. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More info: See ad p. 12*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 15*
The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar. Food and drink specials.
Lakanuki happy hour 3-6 p.m. daily AND karaoke every Sunday, starting at 8:30 p.m.
Main Street Pizza - See ad this page for details.
Distant Brewing happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-5pm. \$1/off beer/wine/cider/seltzer/kombucha

Sunday, Sept. 29/ Sierra Giant, a local band featuring singer and multi-instrumentalist **Giacomo Timbrello**, plays Distant Brewing. Time: 7-9 p.m.
NFL Sunday Football @ the Bishop Elks Lodge, 151 E. Line St. Starts 9:30 a.m. Bar open! Public welcome!

Monday, Sept. 30/ Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, October 1/ Taco Tuesdays @ John's Pizza Works. Time: 4-9 p.m. And a great place to watch the game. *More info, see ad p. 4.*
Sports Trivia night @ Mammoth Brewing Co. Starts 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 2/ Weekly Pool Tournament @ Distant Brewing. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Pool from 4:30-9:30 p.m.
Weekly trivia @ Main Street Pizza and Tap. Time: 6:30 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Sept. 27-28/ Annual Pabanamanina Pow Wow @ the pow wow grounds across from the Wanaaha Casino.

Sept. 28-29/ Mammoth Open Golf. 36 holes @ Sierra Star and Snowcreek. Three divisions. *More info: 760.924.GOLF/ sierrastargolf.com.*

Tuesday, October 1/ Mono County Supervisors meet. Location: Board Chambers in the Bridgeport Courthouse or online via monocounty.ca.gov. Starts 9 a.m.
Inyo County Supervisors meet in Board Chambers @ 224 N. Edwards in Independence. Time: 10 a.m. or online via inyocounty.us

Wednesday, October 2/ Bishop City Council Candidate Forum hosted by INYO350. The event is free and open to the public. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Bishop United Methodist Church @ 205 N. Fowler.
Sierra Classic Theater 25th anniversary party @ Mammoth Brewing Company. *More info: Ad XXX*
Moonlight Mammograms by appointment @ Northern Inyo Hospital. Time: 4-8 p.m. *More info: See ad 9*
Mammoth Lakes Town Council

TOWN STUFF

meets. Time: 4 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meets. Time: 1 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
October 2-5/ Eastern Sierra Mountain Film Festival @ the USFS Auditorium in Mammoth, 2510 Main St. \$12 suggested donation nightly but no one turned away. *More info: easternsierraarts.org/ESMFF or see ad p. 2*

Thursday, October 3/ LA Kings Ice at Mammoth Lakes Opening Day and Winter Recreation Expo! Join us for FREE admission and rentals during Public Skate, learn about recreation programs in Mammoth Lakes this upcoming winter and purchase our DISCOUNTED 50% off Winter Play Membership! *More info: See ad p. 7*
Mono Arts Council presents 'Kids Art Explorations' After School Program on Thursdays starting October 3. Time: 3-4:30pm. Open to kids ages 8-11. Register at Monoarts.org/after-school.

UPCOMING

October 5: June Lake Autumn Beer Festival @ Gull Lake Park.
October 5-6: The Felici Piano Trio holds concerts in Mammoth and Bishop with guests Wendy Richman, viola, and Sophia Schuldt, violin. *More info: See ad p. 2*
October 6: A Celebration of Life for Bobby Tanner. Time: 2 p.m. Location: Laws Railroad Museum. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the following organizations: Mule Days, BUHS Football and the Bobby Tanner AGR Memorial Scholarship Fund via Western Skies Advisory, 20885 N. 90th Place, Suite 120, Scottsdale, AZ 85255 , (480) 652-9422
October 9: Mammoth Lakes Restaurant Assn. mixer @ Toomey's. Time: 4-6 p.m.

mammoth

GEAR EXCHANGE

106 S. Main St., Bishop (760) 873-4300

*WEEKLY TRIVIA RETURNS TO MSP! WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30



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Mon-Fri: 3:30-6:30 pm
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Help Wanted



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

- Electrician** - Mammoth \$30-40 (must have own vehicle & tools)
- Asst. Plumber** - Mammoth \$20 (DOE -willing to train)
- PT Front Desk Assoc.** - Mammoth \$20-23
- Dishwasher** - Mammoth \$20
- Line Cooks** - Mammoth \$20.77
- Housekeeper(s)** - Mammoth \$20
- Journeyman Plumber** - Mammoth \$30-45
- Retail Sales** - Bishop \$16-17
- Community Integration Partner** - Bishop/Mammoth \$20-25
- Medical Assistant** - Bishop \$DOE
- Licensed Vocational Nurse** - Bishop \$DOE
- Licensed Vocational Social Worker** - Bishop \$DOE

Call or text 760-924-0523

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

John's Pizza Works seeks energetic, motivated, reliable individuals, to work in the FOH or cashier position. Oppty. for year-round employment. PT/FT positions. Experience preferred. Come in for application.

FRONT DESK PERSON NEEDED FOR BOOKKEEPING OFFICE. Customer service, secretarial and computer skills necessary. Heavy phone duties. Competitive pay, 401(k) profit sharing, paid vacation, holidays. Please send resume to info@butnerhoaservices.com



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DV/SA Programs Coordinator

- *Bilingual/biliterate
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- *One yr. mgmt. experience
- *Valid DL & reliable transport

Outreach Advocate

- *Bilingual/biliterate
- *HS diploma or equivalent
- *Valid DL & reliable transport

Send cover letter & resume to wildiris@wild-iris.org. More info: wild-iris.org/jobs-and-volunteers

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT – QUALITY CONTROL \$26.00-\$28.00/HOUR

Luxury resort and lodge seeks detail-oriented individual to assist with quality control and safety inspections, guest maintenance and supply requests, and administration of maintenance and equipment records. Great working environment. Full-time with benefits.

Text to 951-757-0463 or email resume to jobs@convictlake.com



Mammoth Mountain Reservations is Looking for a part time office help in Mammoth. Must live in Mammoth. At least 20 hours/week. Please email resume/work experience to info@mammothres.com.

Ski tech at Mammoth Mountaineering Supply. Tech work for skis and snowboards, not backcountry specific. Pay dependent on experience. Housing could be available. Ski pass available. Please email dave@mammothgear.com

Help Wanted



Elevate Your Career At Mammoth Hospital! We have an immediate need for the following positions:

- Maintenance Technician** – Starting wage \$24.59 to \$26.32 based on qualifications.
- Landscape Maintenance Technician** – Starting wage \$22.24 to \$23.81 based on qualification.
- Licensed Vocational Nurse – Chemotherapy** – Starting wage \$28.31 to \$30.31 based on qualifications.

To view more open positions and apply, please visit www.mammothhospital.org/jobs

Shilo Inn is accepting applications for FT housekeepers, FT maintenance worker and Front desk/night auditor. Immediate Front Desk opportunity starting at \$18/hour. Please call Human Resources (Sarina Quintero) at 925.813.2331 or email your resume to squintero@marquishotelgroup.com.

U.S.P.S contractor needs a carrier trainee. \$33/hr., 5/6 days per week 6 hrs./day. Must pass FBI clearance & DMV. Contact Mike @ 760-914-1463



Finance & Administration Director

Whitebark Institute seeks a Finance Director to oversee strategy, grants, policy, and fiscal planning for wildfire resilience programs. An opportunity for a finance leader to boost a growing organization and its network addressing climate change in Eastern Sierra Communities. Apply at www.whitebarkinstitute.org/get-involved/employment.

PROPERTY MANAGERS WANTED

FT/PT TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE
HOUSING AVAILABLE - WILL TRAIN
SEND RESUME TO:
INFO@SIERRANEVADAPM.COM



Black Tie Ski & Bike Rentals is now hiring for both Full-Time and Part-Time winter seasonal positions for the 2024-25 ski season. Seeking proactive and energetic individuals who share our love of the mountains and possess an entrepreneurial spirit. Ideal candidates enjoy working in a great team atmosphere and are passionate about providing impeccable customer service to our guests.

Flexible scheduling is available but MUST be able to work weekends and holidays. Competitive compensation which includes; generous tips, ski pass, 401k, industry pricing equipment deals, personal use of shop equipment and tools and family & friend discounts.

If you're passionate about skiing and/or snowboarding and enjoy sharing that passion with guests of our mountain community, this could be a great opportunity for you. Please email a resume with references to mammoth@blacktiemammoth.com if you are interested in joining our team.

Help Wanted



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

P/T Wedding Coordinator asst. Great computer/communication skills essential. Please email interest to: weddingevents.doubleeagleresort@gmail.com

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

Restaurant Server for Eagles Landing



Surefoot Mammoth is hiring bootfitters for the upcoming winter season. We are looking for enthusiastic skiers who want to work hard and play hard. No experience necessary. Paid training. This is a great opportunity to learn a valuable skill in the ski industry. Season pass and custom ski boots provided with employment. Contact Todd at Mammoth@Surefoot.com.



JOB OPENINGS

FULL-TIME POSITIONS

*Full-time positions include competitive benefits package

- Police Officer – Lateral**
\$89,889 – \$109,261

TEMPORARY PART-TIME POSITIONS

- Multiple Recreation Position Openings – Ice Rink**
\$18.50 – \$45.00/hr.
- Temporary Snow Removal Operator****
\$28.51 – \$33.00/hr.
**CDL required

For more information and to apply:
townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
(760) 965-3604

Help Wanted

Restaurant at the popular Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA. Experience in restaurant service, computers and working as team member are essential. Full and part time available, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work. Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Maintenance Supervisor needed to manage a small maintenance team at the Double Eagle Resort & Spa in June Lake. You will be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of upkeep and repair. Must be reliable, have technical skills and knowledge of various crafts such as carpentry, plumbing etc. Leadership and knowledge of administrative tasks such as scheduling are also essential. The goal is to ensure that facilities are in good condition at all times. Compensation based on experience and references. We offer health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. A great place to work! Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Cooks and Dishwasher jobs available at the famous Eagles Landing Restaurant in June Lake. We offer health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. A great place to work! Email lodging@doubleeagle.com

For Rent

Available October 1st. The Acorns village has a vacancy!! These brand new single-family homes are located across from Gull Lake. Walk to the town of June Lake, the Brewery and more. Minutes to June Mountain ski resort.

These units are 2BD/1.5BA with a large loft. Full-size W/D and all brand new appliances. Rent is \$2500 a month plus utilities. Text/call 760.807.8975.

Two bay shop space for rent. Approx. 1,800-sq. feet. No auto repair. Next to Starbucks. \$3,000/mo. 760.937.7569



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO

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: \$89,243

A job description and application instructions may be obtained on the court's website, https://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/ge_neralinfo/employment.htm, or contact the court at (760)923-2321

hr@mono.courts.ca.gov
Closing Date: Open until filled
EOE/AEE/ADAE

PERSONALS

I heard you ... think Lunch is behind a 'smear' campaign against Measure L. It's actually a smear campaign. Wishing you Lox of luck!

I heard you ... say Fall is your favorite time of year. You can make it my favorite time of year if you'll drop your foliage in my lap.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Sierra Home Management Solutions LLC

Nicole Bragia
286 Old Mammoth Rd., #92
PO Box 9422
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on September 9, 2024
File Number 24-080
2024-0135 (9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Mammoth Pet Products

C.B. Worldwide, Inc.
38 Laurel Mtn. Rd., PO Box 1645
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on January 1, 2007. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on July 29, 2024
File Number 24-065
2024-0125 (9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28)



SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO

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

Deputy Court Clerk

in the Mammoth Lakes
Courthouse

Hourly Salary Range:
\$21.76 - \$34.66 DOE
with excellent benefits

Application and job description
available at:
<https://mono.courts.ca.gov>
or call the court at (760) 923-2321 or
email: hr@mono.courts.ca.gov

Open Until Filled

The Mono County Superior Court
is an equal opportunity
employer

Notice of Budget Adoption

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District's Board of Commissioners adopted the District's 2024/2025 preliminary budget on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

The preliminary budget is available for inspection Monday through Thursday, from 8:30am - 4:00pm, at Fire Station 1, 3150 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes.

The MLFPD Board of Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. to adopt the final budget. Any person may appear at the meeting to be heard regarding any item in the budget or regarding the addition of other items.

TS #2024-0136

Notice of Intent to Purchase Property

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the Mono County Board of Supervisors' intention to approve a purchase of a certain real property in Mono County.

The property proposed to be purchased is described as Assessor's Parcel Number 008-134-014, located at 158 Kingsley Street, Bridgeport, California.

The purchase price is \$300,000.
The vendor (seller) is Michael Curran.

The Board will meet to consummate the purchase on November 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., in the Board Chambers of the County Courthouse in Bridgeport, California 93517.

TS #2024-0137

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Breakfast Club

The Delicious Breakfast Club Corp.
2987 Main St., PO Box 8827
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on August 5, 2024
File Number 24-070
2024-0134 (9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Mammoth/June Publishing

Travis Thompson & Jill Marie Stein
122 Horseshoe Dr.
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by co-partners. The registrants have not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on August 23, 2024
File Number 24-079
2024-0126 (9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28)



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FROM 3PM-6PM**

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THURS. NIGHT FOOTBALL**

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Happy Hour extended 3-8pm

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LIKE ITS 1974**

**50 YEARS OF
MHS**

**SATURDAY
26
OCTOBER**

MAMMOTH ROCK-N-BOWL

6:30PM TO 9:30PM

**DINNER, DRINKS
RAFFLES, SWAG**

FOR TIX
AND MORE
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MHSBOOSTERS.ORG

**MAMMOTH HIGH SCHOOL
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
HOSTED BY THE MHS BOOSTER CLUB
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THIS MATERIAL WAS NOT PREPARED BY THE MAMMOTH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT. ANY PROGRAMS AND/OR EVENTS DESCRIBED HEREIN ARE NOT NECESSARILY ENDORSED AND WILL NOT BE SUPERVISED BY THE MAMMOTH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.



ARTS

A GOOD WOLF

By Fisher

A good wolf is a dead wolf,” was the running philosophy in early wildlife management in Denali National Park, when biologists were concerned about the livelihood of sheep populations and the stronghold of trapping culture in arctic frontier communities.

And while that sentiment still survives among some Alaskan locals today, feature-length film *A Good Wolf* explores the nuanced and tense interactions that wildlife stakeholders manage along the Stampede Corridor, a section of land adjacent to the park, while determining a path forward for the state’s public lands.

“If you are a wildlife activist, a good wolf is probably a wild one, free to live its life unhindered by human interference,” Director Ramey Newell wrote on the film’s website. “To a scientist, good wolves might be the ones that provide useful data.”

The film will screen on the final day of the upcoming Fifth Annual Eastern Sierra Mountain Film Festival running from October 2-5. The festival will take place in the U.S. Forest Service Auditorium in Mammoth Lakes.

The festival, run and organized by the Eastern Sierra Arts Alliance, is a mountain-centric expansion of the

Mammoth Lakes Film Festival (MLFF), which is held every spring, Executive Director Shira Dubrovner wrote in a press release.

“Even though [these films] did not make it into the MLFF they deserved to be seen and celebrated,” Dubrovner stated. “That is how the Eastern Sierra Mountain Film Festival was born. We need some of these stories to be heard now more than ever.”

A Good Wolf examines a 40-year struggle between state and federal authorities, fur trappers and wildlife advocates and competing human interests on public lands. The film crew features representatives from each of the three stakeholders.

“Why are you letting me film you?” the videographer asks her subject, a disgruntled trapper, 20 minutes into the film. The trapper replies, “I mean, nobody else is gonna tell this side of the story but me and I’ve been doing it for 30 years. If the truth hurts, I’m here to deliver some pain for you.”

The film also follows the story of an elderly, injured and lone female wolf, scientifically dubbed 1202 as she attempts to survive the harsh Alaskan winter.

The film observes natural scenes with tall, clouded-in mountains, caribou



Alaskan wolves are the subject of the closing feature film, *A Good Wolf*, at the Eastern Sierra Mountain Film Festival.

grazing on lichen and, of course, wolves sprawled across the rugged landscape. But it also cuts to meeting rooms filled with concerned faces and cushioned chairs.

Nuanced, picturesque and complicated, the 93 minute film is worth the watch. It premieres on Saturday

The festival will show seven other noteworthy films in the days before. It opens Wednesday, October 2 with a feature-length screening of *Ashima*, which follows a 13-year-old elite rock climber as she balances fame, career, and childhood.

Thursday evening focuses on climb-

ing-related films, screening full-length feature, *Yamnuska: The Ragged Edge* and two shorts, *Jamrock* and *Ian*. Friday evening, the festival will showcase three environmental films, *Chasing Time*, *A Fighting Chance* and *To See The Sky*.

Screenings begin at 7:00 p.m. each night. Tickets to the event are free with a suggested donation of \$12 per evening. Trailers and additional information are available at www.easternsierraarts.org/esmff

OCTOBER 2ND!

AT MAMMOTH BREWING CO

THANK YOU for

25 YEARS

FOOD & DRINK ON US!

RSVP!

FOUNDED 1999

“We can no other answer make but thanks and thanks, and ever thanks...”

-Twelfth Night
by W. Shakespeare

Come Party LIKE IT'S 1999!

5pm to 10pm!

SierraClassic Theatre

RSVP TO SCT@SIERRACLASSICTHEATRE.ORG



HUSKY OF THE WEEK

LET'S CELEBRATE THE HARD WORK & DEDICATION OF OUR LOCAL YOUTH



NAOMI BRIBIESCA

Introducing the Husky of the Week, Senior, Naomi Bribiesca.

“As the new 2024-2025 cheer coach, Naomi welcomed me with open arms! From day one she has been so kind to me and her fellow cheerleaders. Not only is Naomi a talented cheerleader physically, she is a vital piece of our stunt base team, but she is committed, focused, a leader, hardworking, and always has a smile on her face. She is a true athlete, and I am honored to nominate her” proudly stated Head Cheer Coach, Allyson Tapley.

Naomi’s athletic ability goes beyond cheerleading, she also enjoys playing basketball and plans on representing MHS on the Varsity basketball team for her 3rd year and final year as a Mammoth Husky! **Congrats Naomi, don’t ever change!!**

NOMINATED BY ALLYSON TAPLEY (MHS CHEER COACH)

Husky of the Week is brought to you by High Country Lumber



DISASTER LIT

BREAKING OUT THE MOLLY HATCHET

By Lunch

**The Great Displacement:
Climate Change and the
Next American Migration**
Jake Bittle
Simon & Schuster
285 p.

As another Hurricane (Helene) bears down on the Gulf Coast ...

The Great Displacement, as defined by the author: "When climate change makes it too risky or expensive for people to stay somewhere."

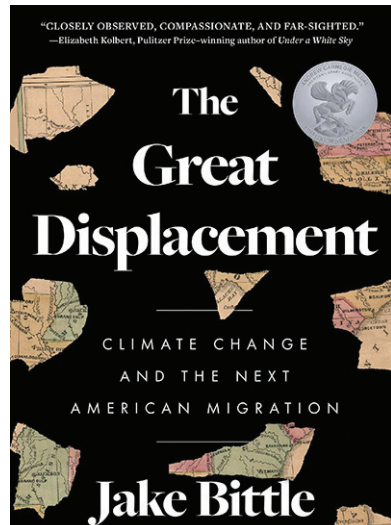
Which logically leads one to the next question: Well, then they gotta go somewhere else. So who funds the bailout/gets left holding the bag? The homeowner? The insurance company? The American taxpayer?

Bittle examines Displacement with firsthand accounts from regions affected by drought (Arizona), fire (Santa Rosa, Calif.), flood (Houston, Tex., Norfolk, Va., the Florida Keys) to paint the picture of what's already occurred and what may lie ahead.

And contemplates whether the retreat will be coordinated or just a mad scramble to higher ground.

The bookends of Bittle's tale are the Florida Keys and coastal Virginia.

While both areas are deemed lost



causes in the long run, the issue in the Keys is more immediate.

The estimate is \$1.8 billion ... just to protect the roads through the year 2045.

"A truism in the field of climate adaptation is that you can save money later if you spend money now."

Everywhere except the Keys.

\$1 spent in Miami is estimated to be worth \$6 later. In the Keys, it's estimated worth is \$0.41.

As for Norfolk, the chapter begins with a tale of a young couple who buy a duplex near the water for about \$200,000. And within four years, their flood insurance premium increases to \$13,000/year.

As one realtor observes with gallows humor, "If a street name ends in 'Crescent,' I would run away. Either run away or get a kayak."

So the reality is, this poor young couple got caught in an expensive game of musical chairs where the music finally stopped.

Which will ultimately hold true, to some extent, for the 30% of the U.S. population which lives in coastal real estate markets.

The destabilization of such markets, if synchronous, could have cataclysmic financial impact.

In Norfolk, the key stats are as follows.

It's a city that's 5' above sea level.

The standard loan is 30 years

The median length of home ownership is 13 years

And climate scientists believe it'll take 70-100 years for the sea level to rise 5'

So move that ass cheek closer to the chair, because as anyone who's been victim of a disaster can attest, the music can stop without much warning. And as much as we all may bitch about insurance, consider this observation in the aftermath of the Tubbs fire in Santa Rosa:

"The Mattsons thought their new annual premium was outrageous, but the insurer was saying it was outrageous for them to live where they did."

The Tubbs Fire of 2017 had precedent (much like the Round Fire of 2015 which burned Swall Meadows).

The Hanly Fire of 1964 essentially traced the same path as the Tubbs Fire of 2017. But Hanly destroyed just 100 homes because the area had still largely been undeveloped at that time.

In the aftermath of Hanly, city leaders didn't support construction of whole new subdivisions and neighborhoods in the largely rural fire zone. But as memories of fire faded, the city ultimately reversed its policy.

The Tubbs Fire a half-century later took 5,000 homes.

So here's what happens in events like Tubbs - unsurprisingly the wealthy fare better than the not-so-wealthy.

A few factors.

Fire = reduced housing stock = price surge for the homes that remain.

Adding fuel to the fire so to speak, homeowners typically have policies which provide for "rental cost equivalent." Translation: Insurers pay for up to two years of displacement - at the equivalent value to what it would have cost to rent one's home. So it created bidding wars fueled by the insurance payouts.

"As the bidding war continued, some landlords in Sonoma County began hiking their prices to absurd heights, setting

see **DISPLACEMENT**, next page



Footloose Sports

is seeking enthusiastic and passionate outdoors lovers to fill the following positions:

- Full time Service Manager
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DISPLACEMENT

continued from page 14

rent at \$8,000/month because they knew the victims out there had insurance policies that would allow them to pay that much or even more.”

Result: In a place where the overall housing vacancy rate had been 3%, “the already frenzied bidding war collapsed into a state of outright turmoil. Prices jumped 10, 20, 30 percent overnight. Then buyers outbid each other buy hundreds of thousands of dollars, families drove two hours to view apartments that wouldn’t even fit them, displaced homeowners emptied their savings to place deposits on condos they hadn’t even seen.” In short, if a thousand fire victims are scrambling for 200 vacant apartments, the richest 200 renters win.

I compare this scenario (which I would perceive as common) to the local Round Fire which burned 25 homes in 2015.

Back then, the local real estate market was not as tight as it is now. And we were lucky that in a small community like this, people offered homes and places to stay within hours.

I personally recall learning my home had burned while I was grabbing a bite to eat with my family at Great Basin Bakery. Maybe that was 10 a.m. By that evening, Steve Searles had rented me a house he owned in Chipmunk Canyon - and we were moved in.

The Houston chapter was illuminating because in good old Texas, there really are no rules. Each acre developers plowed under to create the latest cookie-cutter subdivision further and further out from the city’s core became one more acre of asphalt and one less acre to absorb water and runoff.

“There were no zoning laws in Hous-

ton, nor were there any real restrictions on permitting. The county government had never conducted flood studies of the bayous and officials had no interest in limiting development in those areas, not with the city going through such boom times.”

And get this. “Under state law the seller of a home had no obligation to disclose flood history or flood risk to prospective buyers. The seller had to disclose if there was lead paint, asbestos, or a fire history, but they could omit flooding.”

God Bless Texas.

As is typical with books like these, the anecdotal stuff is great. But the conclusions are always sort of tacked on and weak because frankly, no one knows how the hell to really fix it.

Author Bittle gives two examples of displaced folks who leave for higher ground, so to speak.

But hilariously, one moves from New Orleans to Tucson. This is considered an improvement, even though Tucson is plagued with (lack of) water issues.

A second person moves from an exurban place in California which has burned to ... an exurban “much cheaper” home outside Boise, Idaho, “surrounded by lakes and streams that have never been touched by fire.”

Not yet, anyway.

As Bittle writes, “Does the government owe its citizens the freedom to live wherever they want, no matter the risk, or does it have a responsibility to move them out of the most vulnerable places?”

... While we all look on in fascination and horror as Helene promises the usual, gory storm footage and teary aftermath.

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