

THE TIGER TRIBUNE

Student news from LVHS and the surrounding area.

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LVHS Basketball Season Wraps Up with a Bang

By Sophia McKee, Reporter

The Lee Vining basketball season has come to an exciting end, and what a season it was! Both the boys and girls team came out strong in the pre-league games, the boys taking the win against Owens Valley and the girls placing 2nd in the Coleville Tournament. Isabel Calderon, post for the Lady Tigers, said about the Tournament, "Before we started, every one of us looked into each others' eyes with such determination and such hunger...Points were made back and forth and we played, not only with each other as a team, but as a family."

With this exciting rush, both teams started league with high spirits. Unfortunately, right off the bat, almost every home game and even some away games were canceled due to the weather. The canceled games were all rescheduled, but they were all placed only a day or two apart from one another. This resulted in a lot of traveling and tired basketball players. Despite these inconvenient delays, both teams went into every game with pride and great sportsmanship. Caelen McQuilkin, post for the Lady Tigers, talks about the best part of the team, saying, "Unlike other bigger teams, we have a super close bond because we do so much together. We are all best friends and we know we can depend on each other, which is a really big advantage on the court."

Throughout the season, there

were many memorable moments, one of these being the girls' basketball game in Big Pine. Starting the first quarter behind 15 to 0, the Lady Tigers ended up beating Big Pine in overtime by 6 points! Then, one of the most rewarding wins for the boys was the away game against Bakersfield. Even with one player who could not make it to the game, the Tigers played the whole game at 110 percent. Tying it up during the last quarter, the boys went into overtime and ended up winning by 2 points! When asked about the Baker win, Sawyer Beck, team captain, remembered, "It was an intense game! I could feel the energy of the crowd because it was really loud in there. It really pumped up the team." The entire girls' team was there and cheering the boys on, which meant that, unlike most away games, the Tigers had fans in the crowd.

All in all, this season of basketball was a success. Augustus Burch, a player for the boys, talked about the season in general, describing, "We were all supportive of each other and worked well together." The Lady Tigers placed third in league, going to playoffs against Mammoth Lakes. Even though the girls lost 51-33, they were all still proud of themselves and their teammates. With big hearts, high spirits, and lots of teamwork, both the boys and girls basketball teams played with Pride, Respect, Hustle throughout the whole season.

350 Mono Plans Solar Structure for Lee Vining

By Ben Trefry, Editor

In the state of California, green is good. So it's no surprise that 350 Mono, the Mono Basin's climate action group, is working on plans to build a solar pavilion and shade structure in Lee Vining's Gus Hess Park.

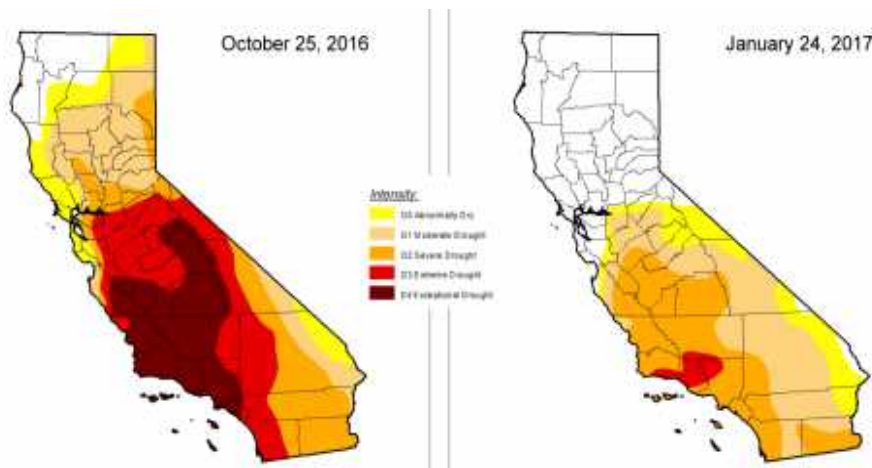
Though the plans are only in the preliminary stage, it's likely that the installation would be a shade structure with solar panels on the roof. The electricity from those panels would power lights for nighttime gatherings, as well as power outlets to charge phones and devices. It could possibly even be wired to the community center across the street, covering a decent chunk of the center's electricity needs.

The group is looking for a design that will benefit both tourists and community members, and one idea for developing it is to reach out to local students by holding a design contest. According to Janet Carle, former park ranger and leader of the 350 Mono group, reaching out to students will help create "something that reflects the personality of the Mono Basin." As of press time, the contest has not yet been started, but several ideas are being discussed at 350 Mono's meetings.

"We hope visitors will be inspired by the Mono Lake story and community efforts to move toward a renewable future... We have inter-

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Thanks to Winter Storms, Mono Lake receives some Much-Needed Precipitation



Above: A map drought severity, before and after this winter.

By Caelen McQuilkin, Reporter

Due to the latest flurry of winter storms in the Eastern Sierras, Mono Lake, which was recently at a dangerously low level, has risen considerably. From December to February 14th, the lake has risen eleven inches, and it is expected to rise two feet or more during the rest of the winter.

Starting in November, the Mono Basin was bombarded with a succession of heavy winter storms. From October to January, a total of 15.84 inches of water fell in Lee Vining. At the end of January, the year was already one of the wettest years recorded since 1989. And by early February, Lee Vining already exceeded its annual average of precipitation. In addition, all the forecasts show that the rest of the year is predicted to bring even more precipitation. All the snow, which had become something of a foreign concept during the intensive five-year drought, had many positive effects on the community.

The local ski mountains im-

mediately got to work grooming down new runs and advertising the idea of fun ski vacations to Los Angeles tourists. After five years of drought, June Mountain was finally able to open all its runs and welcome in large crowds of skiers. Because of June Mountain's extra business, the other local businesses began thriving again, providing rooms, food, and other services for ski tourists.

Local students rejoiced with every snow day—a concept practically unheard of by students younger than seventh grade. Parents groaned at the prospect of even more shoveling, but were secretly happy to see all the positive effects of new snow.

But perhaps most importantly, in six weeks of storms, Mono Lake rose eleven inches. This is crucial because the effects of a low Mono Lake are disastrous. When the lake loses water, it becomes dangerously salty, so that the brine shrimp and alkali flies—which are crucial food sources for the millions of migratory birds

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Big Winter Strains Infrastructure

By Ben Trefry, Editor

As Caelen McQuilkin reported in another article, the Eastern Sierra is now out of the five-year-old drought thanks to our miraculous winter weather. People who depend on water for their livelihood can breathe a little easier now, and environmentalists no longer have to watch the Mono Basin waste away, but the effects of these storms have not been all good.

A closer look at California will reveal that the heavy rains and snow after so much drought have had many unexpected effects: vast floodplains suddenly filled with water, trees being ripped out of the wet soil, and water flowing next to and undermining roads.

Even in the Eastern Sierra, the weather that many once wished for

has now become a burden. In Mammoth Lakes, where record amounts of snow fell in January, the snowpack has been straining infrastructure, ac-

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Need Advice?

Although many of you may not know me, I know you and what you may be going through. I have lived your life, experienced your experiences, and I know. I know. Questions are your thing, and answers are mine, for I've got all the answers. Need advice? Don't know how to ask that girl or guy you like out on a date?

Dealing with too much homework? Send your questions in to toni@tigertribunelv.tk and I'll give my best help. You are not alone. This message has been approved by Toni the Tiger.

About this Issue

This issue was created with Scribus desktop publishing software, v. 1.4.6.

Contributors:

Ben Trefry: Layout, Articles
 Caelen McQuilkin: Articles
 Sophia McKee: Articles
 Claire DesBaillets: Articles
 Andrew Sindel: Articles

If you want your name to be on this list, go to

www.tigertribunelv.tk for more information. Your help will be appreciated!

About The Tiger Tribune

The Tiger Tribune is student-published school publication that is (hopefully) published monthly. It aims to help keep students and the community informed.

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Below: The Oroville Dam's epic fail in March illustrated how vulnerable infrastructure is.

Pavilion, from Page 1

national exposure that most small towns don't have," Carle adds. The purpose of the pavilion extends beyond just saving energy in Lee Vining; it could serve as an inspiration to other municipalities looking to go green. In fact, Lee Vining's solar pavilion plan is by no means an original idea. The idea was first put into practice in a small town in England, Ashton Hayes, which became carbon-neutral about twelve years ago. Duncan and Ellen King, also members of 350 Mono, visited the village last December and shared ideas with the local climate-action group.

Based on these shared ideas and a vision of a greener Lee Vining, 350 Mono plans to discuss the project with Mono County staff in search of funding. Additionally, private companies such as Barefoot Wine and Patagonia have expressed interests in environmental projects in the Mono Basin, and could possibly be tapped to fund this one. No matter what the eventual source, 350 Mono is confident that it can get funding for this project, because of the high appeal of green energy.

The solar pavilion is a very intriguing idea, but it's not very far down the path to completion yet. In the next few years, we'll truly see whether Lee Vining, a one-street town without a traffic signal, is really ready to step into the future of renewable energy.

LVHS Holds Speech Contest

By Ben Trefry, Editor

Does love conquer hate? What is the power of perseverance? Does protesting and persevering for what you know is right pay off? These questions were all explored by LVHS students this February in the annual speech contest. Based on the Eastern Sierra Unified School District's official virtues, these topics were meant to get students to think about their values and explore their world in a deeper sense.

Though the actual speech contest, held on February 10th, was only for the top-scoring students, every student wrote and gave a speech in the weeks before as part of Ms. Taylor's English classes. The four students who were chosen by the staff as the best speakers went on to the next level, giving their speeches in front of community members and parents. This year, those students were Sophia Mckee, Claire DesBaillets, Karli Duro, and Caelen McQuilkin. Judges scored these participants' speeches, and the first and second place students were announced.

This year, the speeches were very close; one judge chose a com-

Strain, from Page 2

ording to a recent Mammoth Times article. Several explosions and fires have occurred as a result of the snow's heavy load on pipes and chimneys. A few roofs have collapsed, displacing many families in Mammoth. On January 31st, Mono County declared a state of emergency, joining much of the state in seeking aid to clean up after the storms.

By Ben Trefry, Editor

One of the most challenging aspects of the storms was the rain falling on snow, which is becoming a bigger and bigger problem due to climate change. Though it's not possible to relate one storm event to climate change, it's undeniable that the Eastern Sierra has been seeing higher snow levels than are common for this area. As climate change intensifies, and rain starts to fall regularly on the huge snowpacks above 8500 feet, people living in the Sierras will have to adapt to constant flooding concerns or be washed away.

Since climate change is likely to cause more climate extremes, this January was just a look at what's to come. California's weather has always been unpredictable, but as climate change advances, it will become more and more common to see a year of record drought followed by unparalleled rains.

One surprising aspect of this is that pikas, which were previously thought to be stressed by drought and benefited by lots of snow, actually fare much differently than most

people think. When scientists like Dr. Connie Millar, biologist for the United States Forest Service, tracked pika abundance patterns during different years, they found that pikas were more abundant and active during the summers after drought winters than the summer after 2010. This seems to be counterintuitive, as heavy snow cover protects pikas from cold temperatures and, when it melts, helps grow more food for them. Millar and her team are investigating whether climate change is changing pikas' ideal conditions (the conditions under which the population fares the best). "Temperature is no doubt part of the story, and much of this is at the early hypothesis stage," says Millar. "There is much to be said about pikas' climate resilience." In the summer after this year's record winter, Millar and her team will collect more data to test this hypothesis. You can help collect data by observing pika haypiles and sending your observations in; for more information, contact Connie Millar at cmillar@fs.fed.us.

For now, California is coping fairly well with this extreme weather. Most of the water is draining away to safe locations, mudslides are being prepared for and mitigated, and snow is being moved efficiently. But as climate change continues to ramp up climate extremes, who knows what next year will be like?

Robotics in Math

By Joye Lehen, Contributor

As high schoolers, it is hard to know what skills we will need for the next generation of jobs. According to Popular Science and many other news outlets, many students in school today will be employed in jobs that don't exist yet. In order for me and my peers to be successful in the jobs of the future, we need to learn skills that are transferable. Problem solving with robotics and programming is one of these transferable skills.

In my Precalculus class, I have been using a robot called a GoPiGo to explore how polar coordinates are used in the real world. The GoPiGo is a robot made from a Raspberry Pi 3 board, extra circuitry, motors, and tires. While my class gave the funny nickname of Rick Javier Solomon to our robot, the coding to get the robot to move is quite difficult. We all had to learn the basics of Python programming and get familiar with the

GoPiGo code library in order to utilize the commands to make Rick turn at a specific angle and go forward a specific length. These commands are directly related to what we have been studying in class: polar coordinates are composed of a modulus and argument.

There were numerous challenges along the way to making our robot successfully navigate a maze. The largest challenge was the inconsistency when trying to make the robot go in a straight line. We tried sanding the tires and putting balloons over the tires for better traction, but we ended up having to change parts of the code to get it to go straight.

These are the types of skills I want to know for the jobs I will apply for after college: how to collaborate with my peers and problem solve with technology.

```
18 #Print out the voltage to see what the correlation is with distance in 1 sec
19 volts=volt()
20 print "Voltage at start = %0.2f" %volts
21
22 #Function that goes forward for a # of seconds
23 def tfwd(myTime):
24     fwd()
25     time.sleep(myTime)
26     stop()
27     return;
```

Above: Lines of the code that powers Rick Javier Solomon.

Continued on Page 4

Speeches, from Page 3

petitor as their first choice, while another placed the same student in fourth place. In the end, first place went to Claire DesBaillets and second went to Caelen McQuilkin.

"It was inspirational to see how eloquently you all performed in front

of a big crowd," says Jeanne Sassin, LVES teacher and one of the three speech contest judges. Though a few parents did show up at the mandatory school speeches, the biggest and most unfamiliar crowd by far was found at the actual contest, and it was a true test of students' public speaking skills.

Claire DesBaillets, speaking about the power of perseverance in desegregating schools, said, "When the Constitution was initially written, it referred only to rich white men, but people persevered until 'We, the People' meant all the citizens of the United States." The Little Rock Nine, nine students who were selected to be the first black students to go to Central High school in Arkansas, were a central part of this speech as it followed their difficult journey to finally graduating from the school despite all the

racism and tradition that had kept them at a horrible school for most of their lives.

Caelen McQuilkin's speech had a similar theme about using perseverance to overcome discrimination, but it was about the perseverance of women who fought for equal rights rather than the integration of schools. "What makes the United States such a successful country is its core belief, that all people deserve liberty and justice. Through the democratic process, all people have the opportunity to use the power of perseverance to change their government and to earn more rights for all," she said in her speech.

Claire Desbaillets, a freshman, was the second 9th grader in a row to win the final speech contest; Caelen McQuilkin, who was a freshman at the time, won last year's contest.

Overall, this year's speech contest was a memorable one, with both the current political situation and the remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr providing many insightful topics. Next year's should be even better, with the upcoming influx of freshmen!



Above: The four finalists

Tiger Tips

By Toni the Tiger, Contributor

Q: I really want to play a sport this season, but I'm worried I'm going to get too stressed out. What should I do?

-Stressed Out Softball Wannabe

A: Stress is a normal aspect of life, my friend! In fact, stress can even be healthy, if directed in a positive manner. Don't let the fear of stress stop you from participating in something you want to do. I even find that if I am doing something I love, the stress minimizes. If you ever do feel stressed, try to take a step back and do something you love, just like playing that sport. For example, if I am ever stressing out, I find it soothing to go and hunt some elk or wild boar, especially since hunting my prey is something I love to do.

Q: I have been a snowboarder for all of my life, and recently I have wanted to try skiing because it seems like fun. But, I am scared I will suck at skiing once I try it and my friends will judge me. What should I do?

-Bummed Out Boarder

A: Personally, as a tiger, I have never been skiing or snowboarding, but I imagine it is a lot like swimming! If you never try skiing, you will, not only never know if you will be good at it, but if you will even like it! There is no harm in trying. As the saying goes, "Take risks. If you win you, will be happy. If you lose, you will be wise." (unknown) If your friends are true friends, then they will support you, even if there are a few laughs along the way.

Q: I did something extremely embarrassing at lunch the other day and everyone looked at me weird and started laughing. What will I do?

-Blushing Bloke

A: There is no way to avoid embarrassing situations, no matter how hard you try. The best thing you can do is to laugh at yourself. Then, if people do laugh at the situation, they are laughing with you not at you. And, in a couple days, the whole thing will have blown over. For example, one time I heard a female tiger roaring over and over again, which is usually a mating call. Me, being the tiger I am, approached her, ready to lay down some moves, when I realized she was calling to her father. So humiliating! My friends teased me for a while, but then they forgot! So, trust me, it will get better.

Need advice? Don't know how to ask that girl or guy you like out on a date? Dealing with too much homework? Send any questions you have into toni@tigertribunelv.tk and I'll give my best help. You are not alone.

Poetry Out Loud



By Claire DesBaillets, Reporter

Poetry Out Loud was held on the 5th of February in Bridgeport at Memorial Hall. Caelen McQuilkin, Sophia McKee, and Claire DesBaillets competed for Lee Vining High School. Caelen Recited the poems Every Single Day by John Straley and Part for the Whole by Robert Francis. Sophia recited poems The Darker Sooner by Catherine Wing and Self-Portrait by Chase Twichell, and Claire DesBaillets Recited Snow Day by Billy Collins and Please Don't by Tony Hoagland. Sophia McKee got first place and went to Sacramento on the 12th of March. The runner up was Brayan Garcia from Coleville High School. All of the students who participated received a \$50 Visa gift card.



Winter, from Page 2

that stop at Mono Lake every year—start to die off. Overall, a saltier lake disrupts the Mono Lake ecosystem’s delicate balance.

Furthermore, when the lake drops, a land bridge that connects the shore to Negit Island becomes exposed, giving coyotes access to the gull nesting colony on the island, where they eat the chicks and eggs before they can fly. Especially because Mono Lake is one of the largest gull nesting colonies in the entire world, this is no small matter.

And finally, when Mono Lake drops, it exposes the dusty lakebed, and during high winds, dust storms form and are a serious health hazard to the public. During the five-year drought, 6.5 square miles of lakebed were exposed, and dust storms became much more common. All of these effects on Mono Lake hurt our community, as the dust is a serious public health hazard.

Considering that the lake dropped seven feet during the five-year drought, these recent snowstorms have been crucial for the survival of Mono Lake’s ecosystem. If the precipitation patterns we’ve been seeing this winter continue, the future of Mono Lake looks good. As shown on the graph, this winter has already exceeded the precipitation levels of the past biggest winters. However, there’s no saying whether next winter will bring more precipitation.

In an interview, Geoff McQuilkin, the executive director of the Mono Lake Committee, a local non-profit dedicated to the protection and restoration of Mono Lake, said, “If Mono Lake hadn’t been protected from L.A.’s water diversions, it would be more than 20 feet lower today, and the ecosystem would have collapsed

and huge dust storms would be common. We have a good plan for protecting the lake in place, and it’s exciting to see new progress towards achieving that level.”

However, the five-year drought has done damage to Mono Lake that cannot be repaired with a few big storms. Because of L.A.’s historic water diversions, before the five-year drought even began, Mono Lake was already seven feet below the legal management lake level that will sustain a healthy ecosystem. But the drought caused Mono Lake to fall seven feet, causing the present day lake to fall fourteen feet below management level. So despite all the winter storms, Mono Lake still has a long way to go before being truly healthy. “First, we have to get back what we lost, then keep going to get to that management level,” said McQuilkin. It’s clear that a long succession of wet winters, not just one, is needed in order to bring the lake up to the level it should be at.

Another disastrous effect of the drought that won’t be fixed by the re-

cent storms is the danger of an exposed land bridge. Despite these recent storms, the lake isn’t going to rise fast enough to cover the exposed land before gull nesting season begins. In order to keep coyotes off the land bridge, the Mono Lake Committee is running a fundraiser to build a temporary electric, mesh fence that will protect the baby gulls from coyotes as long as the land bridge isn’t covered by water.

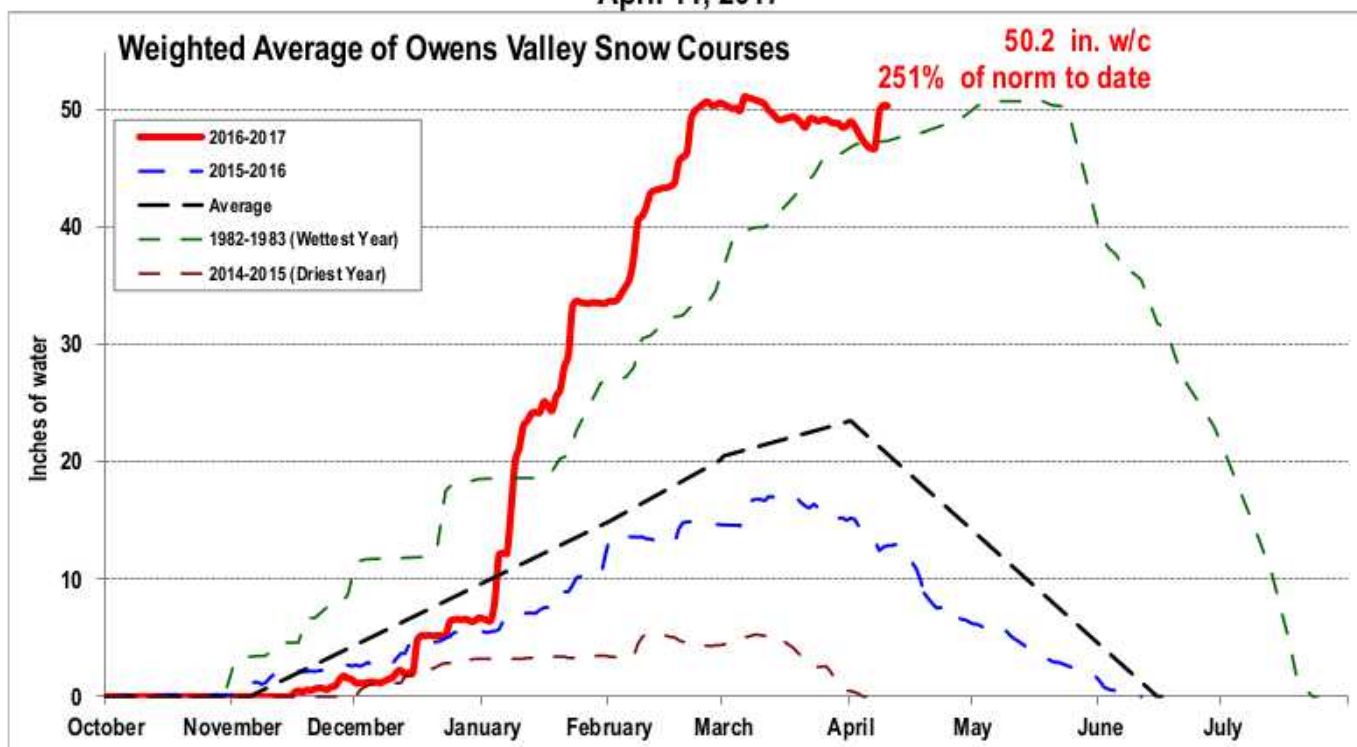
The land bridge, however, is only one of the drought’s devastating effects, and despite the fact that heroic efforts like the Mono Lake Committee’s will make a huge difference in the lake’s health, the only long term solution to these problems is more precipitation.

The forecasts for the rest of this winter do look promising, but nobody really knows what the winter of 2017-18 will be like—it could be another drought year. And as our planet continues to grow warmer due to climate change, the weather is only going to become more unpredictable.



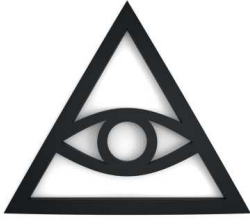
Above: Gull researcher Kristie Nelson works on one of the fence sections that extends into Mono Lake. Photo by Geoff McQuilkin.

EASTERN SIERRA CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS April 11, 2017



Above: The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's snow survey results

Satire: is the Illuminati Real?



By Ben Tre-fry, Editor

Across the nation, signs of the Illuminati, a cult group that hopes to create a new world order, are showing up and being construed as proof that the group exists. While it's true that the Illuminati's symbol, a triangle with an eye in the middle, can be found everywhere—just look at the first letter in my article, a triangular-shaped capital A—the group's existence is still being debated.

Though most government leaders are not yet on board with the Illuminati theory, a brave few have reached the conclusion that the group is real. One such example is independent senator John Schmidt from Rhode Island, who is strongly opposed to the Illuminati, as well as having the distinction that the number of letters in his name (11) is not divisible by 3.

"The Illuminati is confirmed every day," says Schmidt. "Nobody'll tell you this, but Texas is actually a giant triangle with an eye in the middle. They photoshop the satellite images so nobody realizes this. I'm an inde-

pendent because both the political parties are Illuminati reptiles."

"Just look at Donald Trump," he adds. "He's had three wives— Illuminati confirmed!"

On his Twitter feed, Donald Trump blasted Schmidt over these claims. "I'm not Illuminati like this FAKE NEWS LOSER says," he said, "but look at Obama. Tremendous Illuminati influence! I alone can clean the White House of all triangular shapes."

During an upper-atmosphere skydive above Mt. Everest, Barack Obama responded to Trump's claim. "When they go low, we go high--- I mean literally!" Obama declined to respond to claims that the pyramid-shaped mountain is an Illuminati hideout, and was seen disappearing into a strange opening in the top of the mountain a few minutes later.

Democratic senator Tim Tri-fectus, from Oregon, said about these "outlandish claims": "Our esteemed leader was not, is not, and will not be associated with the Illuminati." Suspiciously, the total number of characters in his address is divisible by 3, as are the total number of words, as well as the number of punctuation marks, whether or not spaces are included in this tally. After making this short speech, he mysteriously disap-

peared through a triangular hole in the wall that was not formerly there.

"The evidence is all there," says Schmidt. "But the government lies to you every day. Remember when they told you that Obamacare let you keep your current doctor?"

Schmidt then proceeded to do a complicated anti-Illuminati incantation, involving lip balm and primordial chants.

Russian president Vladimir Putin, who has also been accused of being an Illuminati member, was not available for comment but was defended by Donald Trump in a press conference. "Putin/Illuminati talk is FAKE NEWS pumped up by the Illuminati Liberals," Trump said. "A leader of his greatness would never be involved in the Illuminati. SAD!"

Vladimir Putin was not available for comment; a junior staffer in Moscow told us that he was busy trolling new users on StackOverflow. After placing this call to Moscow, I did notice exactly three shadows following me everywhere I went, but who cares?

In conclusion, the Illuminati is, for now, only a wacky conspiracy theory. But how much did the Illuminati pay me to write that? Illuminati Confirmed!