

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

Saturday, June 22, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. 25



The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

IF IT'S YELLOW, LET IT MELLOW

Endangered frog making comeback

By Milender

“We live in a world of unintended consequences,” says Roland Knapp, PhD—renowned research biologist, and, as it turns out, articulate historian.

For nearly three decades, the focus of Knapp's career has been the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. But to understand that species and its story spanning the past half-century—one which Knapp describes as a “roller coaster”—we are impelled to start at the beginning.

According to Knapp, the mountain yellow-legged frog has called the Sierra Nevada home for a million years, give or take. They were then pushed out of that home by the same glaciers that eroded the landscape into its shapes of horns and cirques and U-shaped valleys before recolonizing the range following glacial retreat.

“But they're here,” says Knapp, “despite everything that, in those days, Mother Nature was throwing their way.”

And then came the Gold Rush, and with it, the Euro-Americans with their own

ideas of what the Sierra Nevada ought to look like, says Knapp.

“They thought the Sierra Nevada should look like the Alps, where the Europeans had been stocking non-native trout into their lakes for 400 years ... which are also historically fishless,” explained Knapp.

These stocking efforts—the earliest of which sometimes occurred by the transfer of one coffee can-full of trout at a time, from one watershed to the next—was viewed, initially, as an innocuous boon for fishermen and recreationists.

But there were other implications, too. Less immediate. But with no lack of severity.

“Of course—no blame intended—all of this was being done without any understanding, or I suspect any thinking, of what the consequences would be of introducing a very effective predatory fish into these lakes, which have their own assemblage of native species.”

What initially began as a pioneer effort was later formalized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

through their aerial stocking program—a practice which continues to this day.

Fish stocking in front-country waters, where lakes are easily accessible, is straightforward. Trucks drive up, and fish are poured into the lakes. However, in the backcountry, the logistics are not so simple. Historically, fish were transported by hand, horse or mule. Now, airplanes are used to stock those furthest-removed lakes, often located within National Parks or designated wilderness areas. These regions have received high levels of protection, some specifically aiming to maintain natural processes, yet these protections come with carve-outs that allow ongoing fish stocking activities.

Reconciling these conflicting mandates—protecting native ecosystems and the species that team within them (i.e., the mountain yellow-legged frog) while maintaining recreational fisheries—presents a time-old challenge.

more FROG, pg. 8



Lunch was back east last weekend dropping the kid off for summer camp & some good old fashioned brainwashing about the greatness of New Hampshire and its denizens. Find out which old friends he saw on p. 15

FISH AND GAMES

Locals, 'crats, diverge on mule deer woes

By Lunch

It had been talked about for months. At length. In Inyo County Supervisor board meetings.

The subject: A perceived diminishing of the local mule deer herds.

The suspected culprit: A burgeoning mountain lion population, protected by the state of California via Proposition 117, passed by California voters in 1990.

At these meetings, many pointed to a future opportunity to sound the alarm - the June 19 meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission which was scheduled to take place in Mammoth Lakes.

The future became the recent past this Wednesday, as scores of Eastsiders made the trek to MMSA's Mountainside Conference Center to attend the meeting and make public comment on agenda item 21b: Department presentation on bighorn sheep, deer and mountain lion.

The presentation was made

by Dr. Tom Stephenson, a Senior Environmental Scientist and Program Leader for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program.

He talked about the overlap of the species, and presented data which showed that the size of the Round Valley mule deer herd has declined significantly since 2018.

He said deer mortality (based upon the collared females) indicated that 44% were killed by lion. The second-leading cause of death? The automobile, at 20%.

Mortalities ran significantly higher during the big snow years of '17 and '23.

The population graphs Stephenson presented still showed the Round Valley herd, for example, numbering more than 1,000.

As for the bighorns, their population increased steadily from 1999-2016 before the winter of '16-'17. The 2022-2023

see F&G, pg. 2

TIOGA THURSDAY



Whoa Nellie! The Mobil Mart brought in live music by Tracorum, local spirit, and no shortage of fish tacos to Lee Vining last Thursday.

Taxeaters on the prowl

p. 4/

Taxeaters on the prowl

p. 5/

Fighting over Air

p. 14/

Wicked Smaht

p. 13/

Game talks Tag

p. 2, 15/

F&G

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winter further knocked the population back to 2007 levels.

He said “lion predation is a serious issue” in certain areas, citing the Mt. Langley herd, which has been reduced to 13.

In regard to lions, Stephenson said 22 were killed (because of demonstrated threat to bighorn sheep, which are also protected) between 1999-2010.

But then there was a fallow period where just two lions were lethally removed from 2010-2019.

Since 2019, the Department has translocated 19 problem lions within the region.

Stephenson said he could have gone on for hours but was told to keep it brief because of the long agenda.

The long agenda also prompted Commission Chair Samantha Murray to trim public comments on the item from the standard two minutes to one minute (because there were 18).

This irritated the locals who had sat for more than five hours waiting to have their say.

Murray assuaged the crowd by saying this was not the last bite of the apple and that no commission action would be taken.

Commissioner Eric Sklar described it as a “conflicting, challenging issue” and urged the public to focus less on complaining about why the current circumstances sucked and focus more on direction as to how to proceed.

With that, Brian Tillemans approached the lectern. He had presented the initial petition to the Commission which led to the item being agendized.

He said “hands-off” management does not work. That the Goodale herd numbers presented by Dr. Stephenson were way off (3,000? More like 300).

He also questioned the Round Valley herd numbers, saying 1,200 is unrealistic. “The deer are simply not there. We haven’t suddenly lost our local ability to count.”

Kevin Petersen of Hot Creek Ranch said he typically/historically sees 20-30 deer per day. This year: Less than ten. He advocated for wildlife crossings along Highway 395.

Lynn Greer suggested Gov. Newsom and Fish and Game Director Chuck Bonham were documented lion lovers and therefore biased.

Dr. John Wehausen of the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation, who

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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

Ted Carleton Jack of all Lunches
760.937.4613 / lunch@thesheetnews.com

Kendall Milender Writer
kendallatthesheet@gmail.com

Harold Hartley People Person
hart6399@yahoo.com

Jon Klusmire Curmudgeon
hart6399@yahoo.com

Spike Todd Beverage Consultant

P.O. Box 8088
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.924.0048/jacklunch@yahoo.com
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has studied bighorn populations since 1974, said the sheep recovery plan he worked on called for a separate plan for predation management which has been sitting in Sacramento on a shelf somewhere gathering dust. Act on the plan, he said, and place decision-making authority on the lion/deer/sheep question back in Bishop.

Duane Rossi said we’re right back to where we were in 1872 with lions running through Big Pine every night. He said you can’t even adopt an animal out of the Big Pine shelter anymore. “If you do, you better keep ‘em in the house.”

Inyo Supervisor Jen Roeser reminded the Commission that her Board had sent a letter. She urged a restoration of ecological balance.

Warren Allsup, a former local game warden, said he would like to see a hunting season for lions in the Eastern Sierra.

So what kind of reaction did all this comment generate?

Not much.

Commissioner Eric Sklar, who throughout the meeting Wednesday (and not just on this topic) displayed a thin skin, asked that Fish and Game be treated “like a partner versus an enemy.”

He said this after he watched at least twenty people file out of the room during his remarks.

*He must’ve felt like Dean Wormer in Animal House yelling in frustration as the Deltas walked out on their disciplinary hearing whistling the national anthem.

“I wish folks who spoke [during public comment] would stick around to listen to what we have to say.”

But what he said next displayed such broad ignorance that maybe he should be glad people left.

He said that in southern California, a lot of money had been privately raised to build highway animal crossings. You could do that here, he suggested.

Yeah, with literally one thousandth of the population.

Commissioner Darius Anderson had a bit more empathy for the many speakers who had attended the meeting in person.

“Sometimes,” he said, “I feel like I need to be caustic because I feel like no one is listening to me ... but there’s a willingness to work with you ... and [Fish and Game Director] Chuck Bonham is the best bureaucrat in the state.”

By best bureaucrat, Anderson explained that Bonham actually listens to people.

During his remarks, Bonham suggested that a regional approach to lion management may be considered.

But, he said, “To suggest there is no management [of lions currently] is just ... false.”

It should be noted that the Fish and Game Commission decided to place this item 21st out of 22 total items. Seems like an insult to people who actually bothered to attend in person versus online.

During the morning session (the commission finally took the local item out of order just before 2 p.m. to begin the afternoon session), there was a pretty interesting discussion about the mule deer herd on Catalina Island.

A group called the Catalina Island Conservancy (CIC) wishes to eradicate the herd, which was introduced on the island about 100 years ago, calling it an “invasive species.”

Dr. Lauren Denhardt, Acting Director of the CIC, testified that there are 60 wildlife species found on the island that aren’t found anywhere else in the world.



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LOCAL NEWS

TAXEATERS EDGE CLOSER TO DINNER

By Milender

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has all but decided to float a ballot measure to increase the transient occupancy tax rate (TOT) from 13% to 15%—a hike staff estimates will generate \$30 million annually.

A draft of the official ballot language, prepared with the assistance of consulting firm TeamCivX and prepared by representative Jeremy Hauser, was presented to the Town Council for review at its meeting Wednesday night.

Town Manager Rob Patterson introduced the draft language by “remind[ing] folks that the town is seeking a general tax initiative, which means that it is not tied to something specific ... it is tied to general revenue of the Town in the performance of the core services that we have.”

Translation: Voters have to trust Council to spend the money to fulfill its promises because the revenue goes into the general fund and can be used for any purpose.

Patterson then read the language aloud for the benefit of Council, introducing the purpose of the tax increase being, “to support general town services without increasing taxes on Mammoth Lakes residents, such as providing affordable workforce housing to sustain the local economy, support public safety, enhancing wildfire protection, fixing potholes,

and improving roads and sidewalks. Shall the town of Mammoth Lakes measure increasing the transient occupancy tax by 2% be adopted, generating approximately \$30 million annually until ended by voters paid only by hotel and short-term rental guests and annual audits of all funds staying local.”

Hauser explained the recommendations behind the draft language.

“We’re required to show the total tax collected by this tax entity, not just the incremental amount. As discussed earlier, the 2% increase should generate between \$3.5 to \$4.2 million annually, depending on the year. However, the \$30 million total revenue must also be listed,” said Hauser.

He explained that the basis for the recommended draft language was dependent on the goals of the tax increase, and its proposal as a general tax requiring 50% plus one voter threshold for approval, unlike a special tax which requires ⅔ support.

“In the ballot question, there are several requirements. We need to specify the tax rate increase, which in this case is 2%. We must also state the total annual revenue generated, including the entire transient occupancy tax (TOT)—that \$30 million annual number.” And then you also have to include a term in your measure. Here,

it’s ‘until ended by voters.’ That means it would be a measure in perpetuity without sunset.”

Hauser affirmed that comparable language had been used throughout the state for similar tax initiatives.

“I was encouraged by the language,” said Councilman Wentworth. “From a technical perspective and from a campaigning perspective, I think you immediately get the points that you need to get to move it forward.”

Councilman Bubser also discussed the possibility of modifying the language to better reflect the specific needs of the Mammoth Lakes community, adding more localized examples to the ballot language, and clarifying the purpose of the tax increase.

Councilman Rice similarly asked whether workforce housing could be included as a purpose for the tax hike on the ballot.

“So this is a slightly tricky thing,” said Town Attorney Andy Morris. “You’re not required to have any purposes ... I think that would blur the line between a general and a special tax.”

John Morris, a former chairman of the Short-Term Rental (STR) Advisory Committee assembled during the Town’s recently expired STR moratorium, voiced his support for the tax increase, but

emphasized the importance of using the additional revenue for housing projects.

“I am definitely not a fan of what I call pork barrel politics,” he said, “I understand there’s language that has to be in this in order to get this thing through. But if this is the way it’s going to be written, it is going to need a full-court press to be sure that our community understands that we’re proposing this 2% increase ... to create money for housing, for rental subsidies, for purchase assistance. Not to fill potholes.”

Morris also raised the idea of including a sunset clause in the ballot language, and pointed to the potential impact of the tax increase on local businesses as another concern.

“An extra two percent of TOT might, in some instances, hurt our business in town. I don’t think it will, but it could,” he said. “We need to ensure our community understands the reason behind this proposal ... I hope you guys do move forward with it.”

The second iteration of the proposed tax increase will be presented at the July 3rd meeting, which will then be followed by a second reading and the adoption of the ordinance. Once adopted, the finalized language and supporting documents will be submitted to the County before inclusion on the November ballot.



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EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

... INYO TAXEATERS ALSO PERUSE THE MENU

By Charles James

At Tuesday's regular Inyo County Board of Supervisors Meeting (June 18) the topic of looking into establishing a business licensing program within the county fell to County Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie.

Currently, business licenses are not required within the county except for commercial cannabis businesses.

The City of Bishop does have its own business licensing program.

The idea has never been one that has seemed to generate great interest from county supervisors in the past ... or for that matter, even now.

The topic of business licenses came up several years ago during discussions that led to the creation of the county's commercial cannabis licensing program. At the time, supervisors skirted the issue.

With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, McMurtrie did a rather good job of outlining what steps would need to be taken to implement such a program; perhaps a little too thorough. It reminded several supervisors of just what they didn't find compelling about the idea in the past—largely that their constituents, many of whom are business owners—do not support the idea.

Then there are also non-business owners, i.e. the public, who simply do not want more government and more regulation.

Yet here again, the supervisors are discussing the topic. And no doubt, they'll keep coming back to it despite the lack of enthusiasm from business owners and the public within the county.

**Could be AC/DC fans. Listen to the money talk ...*

McMurtrie outlined how communications, compliance, and consumer protections would be served by a business licensing program. None seemed especially critical to the operation of the county which—after all—has never had a compelling reason or need to establish such a program in its history.

Perhaps the most compelling reason why many might find the idea of business licensing objectionable is that the process would include reviews and approvals from the Clerk/ Recorder, Planning, Public Works and Building Safety, and Environmental Health before a license would be issued by the Treasurer-Tax Collector.

Non-compliance issues from any one of the departments could delay, if not deny, issuance of a license.

Another issue is, "Who would be required to get a license and how much might that license cost?" There are many small, home-based businesses, online businesses, independent contractors, etc. in the county who might not be able to afford yet another expense on top of their already narrow

profit margins.

Second District Supervisor Jeff Griffiths pointed out that, "We need to hear from businesses and the public, and we shouldn't rush the public process." Fourth District Supervisor Jenn Roeser agreed saying, "There are businesses that have been around a long time and perhaps out of code compliance." She wondered if they might be shut down. Fifth District Supervisor Matt Kingsley suggested that if the program went into effect, "it should be free for the first couple of years."

And yet another question, "what would be the penalties for non-compliance?"

None of the supervisors seemed particularly supportive of the program, yet

McMurtrie was asked to come back with more information, and how and when public meetings might be scheduled if it is decided to go ahead.

The amount of tax or how much revenue it might generate didn't come up during the entire discussion.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be found online at the County Board of Supervisors Meeting website, as well as in the video of the meeting. The public is encouraged to let their supervisors know what they think of the idea of a business license program.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Dr. Stacey Brown on Men’s Health

In honor of Men’s Health Month, Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) invites you to join us for a Healthy Lifestyle Talk titled “Taking Charge of Men’s Health” with Dr. Stacey Brown. This informative session is set for Thursday, June 27, at 6 p.m. and will provide essential tips and insights to help men maintain a healthier life.

Dr. Brown, who has been treating patients in the Eastern Sierra for 27 years, will highlight the importance of screenings and early detection. He will offer practical advice to help men take proactive steps toward better health. With extensive experience in addressing a wide variety of men’s health concerns in primary care practice, Dr. Brown will share his insights during this interactive and informational session.

NIHD’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Adam Hawkins will host the talk. A question and answer period will follow Dr. Brown’s presentation.

June is National Men’s Health Month, dedicated to raising awareness about preventable health issues, reminding men of their unique health challenges, and encouraging early intervention and treatment. This talk offers men a chance to learn and take proactive steps toward better health throughout the year.

This free event will be available online via Zoom and the NIHD YouTube Channel, making it accessible for everyone. To attend, find the Zoom connection information by visiting the home page of



NIH.org and clicking on the blue banner at the top of the page. You can also see it broadcast live or watch it on replay at the NIHD YouTube Channel.

VSO will be in Bridgeport June 27

Inyo/Mono County Veterans Service Officer Gordon Greene will be at Bridgeport’s Memorial Hall (73 North School St.) on June 27 from 10 a.m. ‘til 1 p.m. to meet with veterans, veteran family members and members of the community to address any issues or questions you may have regarding Veterans Benefits.

If you would like to call/email your question(s) in advance, you can reach him at ggreene@inyocounty.us or call

760.937.0431

Mono County Childcare Quality Scores Continue to Climb

Each year, First 5 Mono County (First 5 Mono) and the Mono County Office of Education work with childcare and education sites within Mono and Alpine Counties to support childcare quality through the Childcare Quality System (System). This System is a comprehensive approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. Participating State Preschool sites can earn ratings (1-5). State funders no longer fund ratings for other sites, but since ratings are valid for 5 years, some other sites’ ratings remain valid. This year, three Mono County sites are rated at the System’s highest rating (5: Highest Quality), and three sites are rated at the System’s second highest rating (4: Exceeding Quality)!

“Childcare Quality System participation is a tool for the public to recognize sites’ high quality and completion of professional development, and also for parents to take into consideration when choosing a childcare,” said Molly DesBaillets, Executive Director of First 5 Mono County. “This year, several participating sites earned or maintained a rating of five, including Mammoth Lakes State Preschool, Mono County Office of Education Inclusion Preschool, and Little Lupins. In addition, three

participating sites earned or maintained the second highest designation, including Bridgeport Elementary State Preschool, Mammoth Kids Corner, and Mountain Warfare Training Child Development Center. Other participating sites included Little Toes Preschool, Garcia Family Daycare, Cherubs Academy, Carmen Garcia Family Daycare, Vasquez Family Daycare, Garcia Family Daycare, and Family Friend and Neighbor Provider.”

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Summer Voucher Program

This summer, Mono County is rolling out a new program that allows for residents to reserve free tickets on the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) into and through Yosemite National Park and surrounding communities. To receive free rides, individuals must fill out an application and show proof of residency, and then will receive a voucher number that must be entered when making a reservation online. Applications may take up to five days to process. This free voucher program will begin on July 1st and continue until the end of the summer season.

YARTS offers multiple routes throughout Mono County. This program can be utilized for residents of all ages, and adults traveling with children (17 and

see LOCAL BRIEFS, pg. 13

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FROG
continued from page 8

Outside National Parks, explains Knapp, the US Forest Service manages habitats, while the CDFW oversees wildlife, including fish—two government entities that often have overlapping jurisdictions and differing agendas.

The Sheet: So the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing?

Knapp: Or, even if they know what the other hand is doing, each point to their own mandates.

In the '90s, however, scientific research—much of it conducted out of the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Library (SNARL)—began to highlight the substantial impacts of introduced trout on aquatic ecosystems. The findings, in revealing that non-native trout adversely affect endangered amphibians and the overall aquatic ecosystem, helped actuate the CDFW to reduce the intensity of fish stocking in the region, and exclude certain lakes from stocking altogether, to prioritize native species' habitat.

"Take Rock Creek for example," says Knapp. "in that basin, probably 80% of the water bodies still contain non-native trout. So the small fraction that have been set aside—that's a judgment call. How many fishless lakes do the frogs and the other species need? How many lakes do the anglers need to keep everybody happy? It's an amazing juggling act that everyone has to come to consensus over."

(Inside National Parks like Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite, where CDFW has no jurisdiction, it's a different story. In the early '90s, the CDFW actually decided to halt fish stocking altogether within the parks. Still, many fish populations within these parks are self-sustaining—a lasting and irreparable legacy of earlier stocking efforts.)

And while the cessation of stocking did not eliminate fish from all lakes, it allowed many water bodies to revert to their natural, fishless state—a state vital to the survival of the yellow-legged species and the other natives of its ecosystem.

But by the end of the 20th century, just as strategies were being developed to mitigate the impact of non-native fish, a pathogenic threat emerged.

In 1999, a team of Australian scientists published a paper on a new fungal pathogen called amphibian chytrid fungus, which reported cases on their home continent, the US, and Central America.

"It was the first chytrid fungus found to attack a vertebrate host," said Knapp, who also recounted that his own mentor, David Bradford, had earned his PhD studying the physiology of the

mountain yellow-legged frog in Sequoia National Park back in the '70s. According to Knapp, Bradford had been witness to his test subjects dying off at exorbitant rates while conducting his research.

"It turns out that almost certainly what he was witnessing, 20 years prior, was the beginning of the invasion of the amphibian kitchen fungus into the Sierra Nevada."

Since then, the amphibian chytrid fungus has spread worldwide, likely originating in Asia and spreading through the pet trade. According to National Geographic, the fungus has driven the decline of approximately 500 amphibian species. Of these, 90 are presumed to have gone extinct.

Combining the effects of fish introductions and the chytrid fungus, then, created a dire situation for the species—already vulnerable and spatially fragmented due to the nature of the region's topography.

By 2000—5 years into Knapp's research on the species—it appeared as though the species was nearing extinction.

"But I wasn't willing to give up on them," recalls Knapp. "This is a crea-

ture that was by many accounts, the most abundant vertebrate in the Sierra Nevada... We can't ignore—we can't pretend—that when these frogs go away, the mountains will look as they always have."

By 2005, 80% of the frogs Knapp had made contact with at the start of his research in 1995 had been lost. But the key piece, he says, in the species' recovery, was that certain individuals had evolved in response to the fungus in a way that made them less susceptible to its effects—an inability to thermoregulate the body and respire due to destruction of the skin's epidermal layer, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources).

For these individuals, the symptoms resulting from fungal infection, while extensive in their impact, are not necessarily fatal.

And that's rare. "You have to remember," says Knapp, "that when a fungus shows up for the first time in a completely naive population, the chances are, that population of frogs is going to get wiped out completely—not a single individual left. But in about 5% of cases, the population declines dramatically, stays at that low level without going extinct, and then, if you're lucky, within 15 or 20 years, begins to recover."

And says, Knapp, more than 40 years after his mentor saw the first signs of the fungus's impact, the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog is one of those

more FROG, pg. 9



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FROG
continued from page 8



Yellow-legged frogs awaiting reintroduction into native habitats.

outlier cases, recovering on its own. Well, mostly.

“That evolutionary change was key to everything we’ve done since,” says Knapp. “And when I first saw that, I immediately thought, can we use frogs in those recovering frog populations that are more resistant [to the fungus] to perform reintroductions?”

Reintroductions—the intentional translocation of individuals in a species to parts of its natural habitat where it has suffered decline as to restore new, viable populations—begin with identifying healthy donor populations.

“We’ve been following these populations for decades, knowing which ones are still chytrid-free,” Knapp says. The selection of donor frogs from healthier populations is critical to ensure genetic diversity and the potential for recovery in those populations that are suffering.

Once a donor population is identified, the team collects a sample of frogs—maybe about 50, of which each gets weighed, measured, and swabbed to analyze their infection levels and establish a baseline prior to reintroduction.

Each individual is then tagged with a small glass-encased Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag, which allows Knapp and his team of field researchers to track each frog, monitor its survival, and observe “recruitment of new individuals,” Knapp explains.

And, with no lack of irony, much like those first fish-stockers traversed by foot into the backcountry to bring non-native life into its waters, Knapp and his team travel in much the same way to bring home its native species.

“We often have to backpack them into remote sites because roads don’t always get us there,” Knapp notes.

Each frog, then, is placed in a ventilated plastic cup, which is then secured in a larger container to prevent crushing. This container is surrounded by snow-filled dry bags to maintain a suitable temperature for the amphibian. The team then hikes to the reintroduction site, with each person carrying up to 20 frogs on his or her back. Distances vary, from a one-hour hike to a full day’s trek.

Alongside frogs, more recent expeditions have transported tadpoles or egg masses—raised by the Oakland and San Francisco Zoos—in ice chests with aerators.

Upon arrival, and following 30 minutes of rest on the shoreline to recover from the “ruckus,” the frogs are released into their new lake habitat. From there, the team will revisit the site once every year, for the next 10 years, to monitor the reintroduced individuals.

Says Knapp: “It’s quite a thing to see.”

Knapp—who will be conducting his 100th reintroduction this week—acknowledges that the road to recovery for the mountain yellow-legged frog is long. Due to both habitat loss and the decimation wrought by disease, the species has disappeared from more than 90% of its historical localities.

“We’ve got a long way to go,” he says. “But we can use those recovering populations to speed up recovery with more reintroductions. Frog populations are beginning to rebound.”

Knapp says that the first field trip

of the season will be to visit a population that has been under the ice since last October—frozen in the water, in suspended animation. It’s a population which the scientist fears has been hit, significantly, by the fungus.

The Sheet asked if he was nervous heading into the trip; if he felt an emotional connection to these amphibians that have become the mainstay of his career.

“I unfortunately have seen so many populations disappear,” he said. “It’s a horrible feeling. But now, I know the other part of the story—which is that, maybe, in a few years that frog population will actually recover. Maybe, there’s still some hope here.”

He recalled the first time he reintroduced frogs into Yosemite’s lakes—that those landscapes felt weirdly quiet; that there was a piece missing.

“But,” says Knapp, “over 20 years, I’ve watched these frog populations reestablish themselves. Birds and garter snakes are feeding on them again. There are tadpoles swimming in the shallows of the water... It’s amazing to see the cycle of population crash and recovery; the whole web of life...”

... So when I get to that lake in a couple of days, I’m sure I’ll have a little bit of a pit in my stomach... But what really helps me is knowing that, as far as I can tell, those lakes probably look a lot like they did 150 or 200 years ago. That is, they are so alive.”



LOCALS-ONLY AIRFARES ARE TAKING OFF.





This summer, Eastern Sierra locals get unreal flight discounts. Save up to 40% on Advanced Air with Friday and Sunday service from MMH, June 28 – Sept 2. Or save up to 10% on United with daily service from BIH to SFO, July 1 – Sept 2. Thank you for being such unreal neighbors. Learn more at [VisitMammoth.com/FlyLocal](https://www.visitmammoth.com/flylocal).

Terms and conditions apply. Rates and dates subject to change without notice.

calendar of events

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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill
Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap.**
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m.
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.
Main Street Pizza - See ad pg. 6 for details.

Fridays/
Check out Friday evening fun @ Bishop Country Club. Weekly entertainment. 4-8 p.m.

Friday, June 21/
Gem Auset plays the Gallery at Twin Lakes. Time: 6 p.m. Location: 2749 Lake Mary Rd. Suggested donation \$\$

June 21-22/
Live music returns to Liberty with **Anthony Cullins** (blues rock) for two nights. *More info: See ad p. 2*
Consummate entertainer, pianist Joe Gray, plays Tamarack Lodge. Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 22/
Live music @ Stellar Brew in Mammoth. Time: 2:30-5 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25/
Eddy Evans kicks off summer wine Wednesdays @ Liberty starting at 4 p.m. 1/2 off wine by the glass!

TOWN STUFF

June 21-23: Mammoth Yoga Festival continues (ticketed event). *Info: mammothyogafestival.com*
You can still attend the **Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua.** While 60 events are full, 39 have space! *Info/register at birdchautauqua.org.*

June 21-30: Mammoth Motocross returns for year ... well, it's been happening since 1968 so you do the math. More info: mammothmountain.com.

Saturday, June 22/
Death Valley Brill Car Train Rides @ Laws Museum east of Bishop off Hwy. 6. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. Experience a vintage train ride on a 1920s era motorcar. Adults - \$5. Seats for under 10 years old - \$1.

Monday, June 24/
Bishop City Council meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers at 301 West Line or online via cityofbishop.com.
Six-week kids "Golf-Ready" program kicks off @ Sierra Star. Ages 5-11. Time: 4-5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25/
Special meeting of the **Inyo County Board of Supervisors** in Bishop. Time: 10 a.m. Or attend online via inyocounty.us.
Bishop Twin Theater summer matinee series. \$2 crowd-pleasers. Time: 1 p.m. This week: How to Train Your Dragon.

Wednesday, June 26/
Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) meets.

TOWN STUFF

Time: 8:30 a.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.
Give Kids a Smile event @ the Toiyabe Indian Health and Dental Clinic. FREE Dental clinic for children 1-18. Services may include oral health education, screenings and preventive treatment. Time: 9:30-12 and 1-3. Location: 250 See Vee Ln. in Bishop.
Pickup Ultimate Frisbee behind the Bishop Elementary School. Time: 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 27/
VSO in Bridgeport this week to meet with veterans, and answer questions about Veterans Benefits. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. at Memorial Hall. See page 6 for more details.
"Trashy Thursdays" at Mammoth Lakes Library. Starts 5 p.m.
Healthy Lifestyle Talk at NIHD with Dr. Stacey Brown. Come by for

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TOWN STUFF

essential tips and insights in honor of Men's Health Month. Time: 6:00 p.m. See page 6 for details.
Bishop Twin Theater summer matinee series. \$2 crowd-pleasers. Time: 1 p.m. This week: How to Train Your Dragon.

Friday, June 28/
"Portrait and Environment" workshop taught by artist **Jenna Gibson** at the Legion Hall in Independence. Time: 9 a.m. 'til noon or 1-4 p.m. \$\$\$ RSVP/Info at owensvalleyarts@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 29/
Mammoth Lakes Friends of the Library is throwing itself a birthday party and you're invited. Time: 1-4 p.m. Come for games for children & adults and some cake!

mammoth
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- Animal Services Manager
- Animal Shelter Attendant
- Appraiser I/II
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- Deputy Sheriff I/II
- District Attorney Investigator
- Eligibility Specialist Trainee I/II
- Emergency Medical Technician - Reserve
- Health Program Manager- Community Health Nurse
- Human Resources Specialist (TEMPORARY)
- Maintenance Worker I/II/III (Roads)
- Paramedic I/II
- Solid Waste Equipment Operator
- Supervising Integrated Case Worker
- Wellness Center Associate

To apply:

<https://www.monocounty.ca.gov/jobs>

NO CLASS-IFIEDS/NOTICES

Help Wanted



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

- Heavy Equip. Operator** – Mammoth
- Permanent Technician I** – Mammoth
- Journeyman Drywall/Paint Repair** – Mammoth
- Journeyman Plumber** (4 years experience) – Mammoth
- Journeyman/Apprentice Carpenter** – Mammoth

760-924-0523 / 760-873-8599
www.SierraEmployment.com

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

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 an application.

Bookkeeper Needed. FT Position. Looking for a friendly team player. Duties incl. Accts. Payable/Receivable, Bank Reconciliations, Preparation of Financial Reports and General Office Duties. Experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate. Pay depends on experience. Please email resume to info@butnerhoaservices.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



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

- Full time Service Manager
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- Full time yearly positions



If you have a passion for the Eastern Sierra or just want to get your foot in the door at one of the best and largest outdoor shops in the country, please come see us now!

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footloosesports.com/careers
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Help Wanted



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

- Dental Hygienist – Starting wage \$50.21 to \$53.76 based on qualifications. \$5,000 Retention Bonus.
- Physical Therapist (Bishop and Mammoth locations) – Starting wage \$44.07 to \$47.19 based on qualifications. \$5,000 Retention Bonus.
- Physical Therapist Assistant (Bishop and Mammoth locations) – Starting wage \$30.87 to \$33.05 based on qualifications. \$3,500 Retention Bonus.
- Cook/Food Service Worker – Starting wage \$19.83 to \$21.23 based on qualifications.

\$2,200 Retention Bonus.
To view more open positions and apply, please visit our website at 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@marquishotelsgroup.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.



FT/PT, Year-Round: Front Desk PM Security (11pm-7am) and Front desk agent (3-11pm)

Prior experience a plus. Basic computer skills. Must be 100% reliable. Must be capable of working alone and in a team environment. Good customer service. Positive can-do attitude is a must. Competitive Start Pay + Benefits!

*All FT Positions Include Full Medical Benefits, 401k with Employer Match, Ski Pass, Paid Time Off. Stop by for an application- 50 Canyon Blvd! or call (760)924-4400

Experienced help wanted. Ski tech, Nordic ski expert, Alpine Approach store, Mammoth Mountaineering Supply. Apply to jobs@mammothgear.com

Line Cooks - Full-time or Part-time - \$24-\$28/hour based on experience + Benefits and Employee Discounts. Please send resume to jobs@convictlake.com or call 760-934-3800x49.

Prep Cooks - Full-Time or Part-time - \$22-\$27/hour + Benefits and Employee Discounts. Please send resume to jobs@convictlake.com or call 760-934-3800 extension 49.



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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 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

HELP WANTED FULL-TIME

The **Olancha Cartago Fire Department/ Olancha Special Services District** is now hiring for the position of:

FIRE CHIEF

The Department and District are looking to fill this position immediately. Please send a letter of interest to Olancha Special Services District, P.O. Box 64, Olancha, CA 93549; or olanchafd.secretary@gmail.com.

HEAD BARTENDER or BAR MANAGER
Fast paced well established Mammoth restaurant seeks FT individual to oversee bar services. Must have experience in inventory and personnel management. \$16.00-\$21/HR + tips, bonuses, discounts, 401(k), health and welfare and other employee benefits. Send resume or email to jobs@convictlake.com

SERVERS-SHIFT MANAGER
Well, established Mammoth Lakes dining establishment seeks experienced server. \$16.00-\$21.00/HR + tips, benefits and discounts. Send resume or email to jobs@convictlake.com



In search of ... someone to live with for the summer. I can handle a wrench and change a tire and will pay for gas - and I'm only a perv when asked. If interested, smell for me inside the Minaret Mall on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

I hope to see you ... on the Solstice. Unless you're super(sol)stitious and stay inside and get super stoned to Syd Barrett records

Help Wanted

The following positions are available:

2024-2025 (1) K-8 Teacher at Lee Vining Elementary School. FT position for a total of 183 day to provide a planned instructional program, engaging learning experiences, and promote a classroom environment that is conducive to student growth. 2024-2025 Certificated Salary Schedule; \$51,540-\$103,410, an additional stipend will be paid for a Masters. Employer pays pro-rata portion for employee and dependents of medical, dental, and vision insurance, with co-pay paid by employee. Open until filled.

2024-2025 ASES Aide at Lee Vining Elementary for 3 hours with 2024-2025 Classified Salary Schedule of \$16.00-\$22.51 per hour depending on experience.

For details/to apply, call Lisa Kelly @ 760.932.7443 or apply online via edjoin.org.



JOB OPENINGS

FULL-TIME POSITIONS

*Full-time positions include competitive benefits package

- **Airport Maintenance Coordinator**
\$58,704 – \$82,602
- **Payroll/Human Resources Specialist**
\$71,269 – \$100,282

TEMPORARY PART-TIME POSITIONS

- **Recreation Program Assistant – Summer Camps**
- **Recreation Instructor – Basketball**
\$18.50 – \$30.00/hr

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

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

Doe Ridge Services

Howard Schau
P.O. Box 8926, 587 Old Mammoth Rd.
Mammoth Lakes, CA. 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on May 6, 2024.
File Number 24-038
2024-0093 (6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29)

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF FRANCES E. YORK

MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 24PRB13

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of FRANCES E. YORK.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by MICHELE TILTON in the Superior Court of California, County of Mono. The Petition for Probate requests that MICHELE TILTON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of decedent.

The petition requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: July 11, 2024, 9:30 a.m., Mammoth Courthouse, Department 1, 100 Thompson Way, PO Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Gian Carlo Simonetti, Esq. (SBN.: 279468), Wood Law Group, 126 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 203, P.O. Box 3837, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; (760) 934-5821.

TS # 2024-0095

Notice of Public Meeting

Notice if hereby given that the Mammoth Lakes Community Services District out in Old Mammoth will hold a public meeting on the 25th of July at 4 p.m.

The meeting is open to the public and is being held at Mammoth Lakes Fire Station #1, located at 3150 Main Street.

The agenda will be mailed out to each member of the district. Anyone else who might wish an agenda can email 19goliveira58@gmail.com.

TS #2024-0098

Notice Inviting Bids

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - HILTON CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

A Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Crowley Lake Community Center, South Landing Road, Crowley Lake, California, on the Delinquent Accounts Report as of June 30, 2024 for Sewer Use Fees and Juniper Drive Road Maintenance Fees. A copy of said report is included in this Notice.

At said public hearing, the Board of Directors will hear and consider all objections and protests to said written report. If the Board of Directors adopts said report, or revises, changes, reduces, or modifies any change thereon, the delinquent charges, together with penalties and interest thereon, as stated in the adopted report, shall constitute a lien against the respective parcels of real property described in the adopted report, and shall be included by the County tax collector bills for taxes levied against the respective parcels of real property and be collected in the same manner, at the same time, and by the same person as taxes for the Hilton Creek Community Services District.

The Secretary of the Board of Directors is directed to publish this Notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the District. Such publication shall be for not less than once a week for two weeks prior to the date set for the hearing. This Notice of Public Hearing shall be sent to each person listed on the Report.

HILTON CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
By: Lorinda Beatty, Secretary of the Board

TS #2024-0099

Notice of Public Hearing

A Public Hearing for the Mono County Office of Education’s 2024-25 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget will be held at 4:30 PM on Monday, June 24, 2024 at the MCOE-South office, 451 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA.

The proposed LCAP and Budget can be viewed starting on Wednesday, June 12th during open hours at the MCOE-South office and at the Mammoth Lakes Library, 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes and online under the “Current Agenda” tab at www.monocoe.org/.

Members of the public may attend the meeting to make a comment, or may submit written comments to MCOE, 451 Sierra Park Rd, Mammoth Lakes or via email to board@monocoe.org or to PO Box 130, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546 for delivery prior to June 24, 2024.

The governing board is scheduled to take action on the proposed LCAP and Budget at the regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 10:00 AM at MCOE-N, 37 Emigrant St, Bridgeport, CA 93517.

TS #2024-0094

Notice of Vacancies

NOTICE OF VACANCIES. MAMMOTH’S PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that three terms of office on the Planning and Economic Development Commission and three terms of office on the Parks and Recreation Commission will become vacant.

The terms of appointment are for four years and will expire on July 31, 2028.

The Planning and Economic Development Commission meetings are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

Interested parties should file an application with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Application forms (“Application for Public Appointment”) may be obtained from the Town’s website, www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov; Town Clerk at the Town Offices, Minaret Village Shopping Center; by emailing jgray@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov or by phoning 965-3602.

Dated: May 31, 2024
Jamie Gray, Town Clerk

TS # 2024-0089

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity Is Doing Business As:

Mark of the Feral

Daniel Wiese

2204 Tam O Shanter Ave.

Bishop, Calif. 93514

This business is conducted by a Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on June 3, 2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on June 6, 2024
File Number 24-052
2024-0097 (6/22, 6/29, 7/6, 7/13)

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - HILTON CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT.

A Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Crowley Lake Community Center, South Landing Road, Crowley Lake, California, on the Standby Fees (Availability Fees) Report as of June 30, 2024 for Sewer Standby Fees (Availability Fees). A copy of said report is included in this Notice as “Exhibit A”

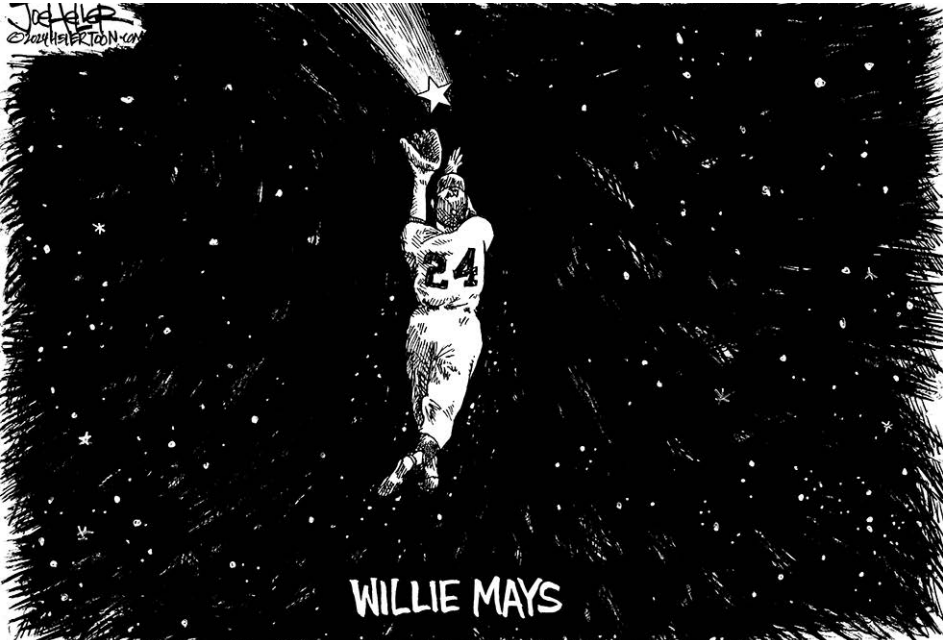
At said public hearing, the Board of Directors will hear and consider all objections and protests to said written report. If the Board of Directors adopts said report, or revises, changes, reduces, or modifies any change thereon, the delinquent charges, together with penalties and interest thereon, as stated in the adopted report, shall constitute a lien against the respective parcels of real property described in the adopted report, and shall be included by the County tax collector bills for taxes levied against the respective parcels of real property and be collected in the same manner, at the same time, and by the same person as taxes for the Hilton Creek Community Services District.

The Secretary of the Board of Directors is directed to publish this Notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the District. Such publication shall be for not less than once a week for two weeks prior to the date set for the hearing. This Notice of Public Hearing shall be sent to each person listed on the Report.

HILTON CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
By: Lorinda Beatty, Secretary of the Board

TS # 2024-0101

HILTON CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT EXHIBIT A JUNE 30, 2024			
APN	UNITS	Acres	Balance
060-120-004-000	VACANT	0.32	10.00
060-120-010-000	VACANT	1.80	20.00
060-120-011-000	VACANT	1.82	40.00
060-120-012-000	VACANT	1.71	20.00
060-120-015-000	VACANT	5.02	60.00
060-120-017-000	VACANT	1.67	20.00
060-130-003-000	VACANT	0.46	10.00
060-130-013-000	VACANT	1.26	40.00
060-130-014-000	VACANT	1.74	20.00
060-130-015-000	VACANT	0.33	10.00
060-130-016-000	VACANT	0.22	10.00
060-130-018-000	VACANT	1.57	40.00
060-140-003-000	VACANT	0.15	0.00
060-140-004-000	VACANT	1.52	20.00
060-150-004-000	VACANT	1.04	40.00
060-150-005-000	VACANT	1.00	20.00
060-150-007-000	VACANT	0.94	10.00
060-150-008-000	VACANT	0.98	10.00
060-150-014-000	VACANT	0.17	10.00
060-150-021-000	VACANT	0.49	20.00
060-150-022-000	VACANT	0.32	20.00
060-150-024-000	VACANT	0.59	10.00
060-160-015-000	VACANT	0.69	10.00
060-170-001-000	VACANT	0.97	10.00
060-170-005-000	VACANT	0.69	10.00
060-170-012-000	VACANT	1.04	20.00
060-170-024-000	VACANT	1.03	20.00
060-170-025-000	VACANT	0.20	10.00
060-170-028-000	VACANT	0.32	10.00
060-170-031-000	VACANT	0.47	10.00
060-180-001-000	VACANT	1.09	20.00
060-180-005-000	VACANT	1.31	40.00
060-180-013-000	VACANT	1.09	20.00
060-180-022-000	VACANT	0.36	10.00
060-200-006-000	VACANT	1.85	20.00
060-200-016-000	VACANT	0.28	10.00
060-210-008-000	VACANT	1.31	40.00
060-210-025-000	VACANT	1.10	20.00
060-210-026-000	VACANT	0.91	10.00
060-210-027-000	VACANT	1.24	20.00
060-210-031-000	VACANT	8.95	0.00
060-210-043-000	VACANT	0.42	10.00
060-210-045-000	VACANT	0.43	20.00
060-210-052-000	VACANT	0.38	10.00
060-210-057-000	VACANT	2.11	30.00
060-210-058-000	VACANT	1.99	20.00
060-210-066-000	VACANT	0.82	10.00
060-220-006-000	VACANT	11.69	240.00
060-220-008-000	VACANT	59.42	1,200.00
060-230-033-000	VACANT	0.23	10.00
060-240-001-000	VACANT	1.96	40.00
060-250-012-000	VACANT	2.00	20.00
060-280-002-000	VACANT	2.64	30.00



Notice of Public Hearing/ Preliminary Budget Adoption

The Hilton Creek Community Services District Board of Directors has prepared a preliminary budget for the fiscal year July 1, 24 to June 30, 2024.

The proposed preliminary budget is available for inspection with the District Secretary at the District office located at the Sewer Treatment Plant on Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California during normal business hours by appointment only (760) 965-9696 or on our website hiltoncreekcsd.com.

The Board of Directors will meet to adopt the preliminary budget on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Crowley Lake Community Center, Crowley Lake, Calif. Any person may appear and be heard regarding any item in the budget or regarding the addition of other items.

TS # 2024-0100

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity Is Doing Business As:

BW Painting

Briant Wells

340 Chaparral Rd., P.O. Box 8054

Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business in 2013 under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on June 13, 2024
File Number 24-054
2024-0096 (6/22, 6/29, 7/6, 7/13)

Notice of Sale of Surplus Goods

Notice is hereby given that Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) will sell the following surplus items:

Item Number: 062724-22

Make: Ford

Model: Ranger XL SuperCab 4X41

Year: 1999

VIN #: 1FTZR15V2XPB91252

Minimum Bid: \$1,000

Odometer Reading: 40,757

1 DISCLAIMER: THIS VEHICLE DOES NOT PASS SMOG AND CANNOT BE REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. THIS ITEM IS BEING SOLD FOR THE VALUE OF ITS PARTS AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR ON-ROAD USE.

Item Number: 062724-72

Make: Tucker Sno-Cat

Model: 2000BXL-26-5 Terra

Year: 2013

Serial Number: 2013R604

Minimum Bid: \$75,000

Hour Meter Reading: 1,029

Includes: Bentley 10k Trailer with VIN #1B9BS1628A1908023

Bid forms are available at the MCWD office or on our website and must be received at the District offices no later than 4:00 pm on Thursday, June 27, 2024. Each bid form must be submitted in a sealed envelope labeled with the item number.

Bids may be submitted to the MCWD offices, located at 1315 Meridian Boulevard or mailed to PO Box 597, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. To view or inquire about the items listed above, please call the MCWD Purchasing Office during regular business hours at 760-934-2596.

MCWD makes no express or implied warranties or representations with respect to the condition of the vehicles and/or equipment listed above. All items are sold as-is.

TS #2024-0102

Hilton Creek Community Services District Delinquency Report June 30, 2022 Updated: 6/30/2024 DELINQUENCY									
ACCT	NAME	Sewer	Late Fees	Total Sewer	Juniper	Late Fees	Total JD	Admin. Costs	Grand Total
6014007	Lonsdale	1,209.66	476.81	1,686.47	1,771.56	737.80	2,509.36	50.00	4,245.83
6014012	Perry	438.90	43.90	482.80	590.52	59.04	649.56	50.00	1,182.36
6019006	McMillian	968.62	287.70	1,256.32	1,050.58	524.10	1,574.68	50.00	2,881.00
6023029	Cherry Moore	976.10	285.91	1,262.01	-	-	-	50.00	1,312.01
6023031	Yzaguirre	434.31	42.99	477.30	-	-	-	50.00	527.30
6032001	Ronci	534.88	72.70	607.58	-	-	-	50.00	657.58
6033009	Orozco	731.50	146.36	877.86	-	-	-	50.00	877.86
		5,293.97	1,356.37	6,650.34	3,412.66	1,320.94	4,733.60	350.00	11,683.94

*Administrative Costs subject to change dependent upon publishing costs

LOCAL BRIEFS

continued from page 6

under) only require one voucher per adult.

Applications are available online, by emailing CommDev@mono.ca.gov, or in person at the Mono County Community Development offices. Vouchers can be picked up in person at either the Bridgeport or Mammoth Lakes Community Development office or delivered via mail or email.

Karen Johnston Donates 10-Acres in Walker for Affordable Housing

On June 4, 2024, the Mono County Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution authorizing the receipt of nearly 10-acres of donated real property (undeveloped) on Eastside Lane in Walker, California. The nearly 10-acre parcel was donated by Karen Johnston, widow of former Mono County Supervisor Larry Johnston. Supervisor Johnston served eight years in office before his untimely passing on March 13, 2018.

“Former Supervisor Johnston was a dedicated public servant, and his legacy lives on through this donation,” said Supervisor John Peters, Chair of the Mono County Board of Supervisors. “Words cannot express our gratitude to Karen Johnston for this generous gift that will increase local supply, and support housing for our county’s most vulnerable.”

The County intends to use this donated land to provide affordable, market rate, veteran, and other housing identified as a need within the county.

WICKED SMAHT



Driven by a passion for sustainability, Mammoth Lakes native Amanda Kirkeby has embarked on a path focused on a greener future. After gaining valuable experience from Middlebury College, local High Sierra Energy Foundation, and the National Renewable Energy Lab, she went on to pursue a master’s degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She recently graduated from MIT’s School of Architecture and Planning with an emphasis in Building Technologies and is eager to continue using her innovation, creativity, and drive to design energy-efficient buildings and create a greener future.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



A Celebration of Life for David Holl (12/6/1965 – 1/14/2024) will take place at 4 pm, Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the Lee Vining Community Center. All friends and family are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will remember Dave with stories and laughter.

Por favor complete la encuesta de bienestar del Condado de Mono



Tómese unos minutos para compartir sus pensamientos sobre la salud y el bienestar. Su información ayudará a Salud Publica del Condado de Mono a comprender y atender mejor las necesidades de la comunidad.

¡Gracias!



Utilice el código QR o haga clic en este enlace para realizar la encuesta: <http://encuestadelcondadodemono.org>

Las encuestas en papel también están disponibles en las oficinas del condado.



Please Take Mono County Well-Being Survey



Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts on health and well-being. Your information will help Mono County Public Health better understand and meet community needs.

Thank you!



Please use the QR code or click on this link to take the survey: monocountysurvey.org

Printed surveys are also available at county offices.



HOW MUCH DOES THAT FLIGHT COST?

Inyo Supes talk updates on Bishop Airport

By Charles James

Inyo County Administrator Nate Greenberg and Ashley Helms, the county's deputy Public Works director in charge of airports, presented on the Eastern Sierra Air Alliance Update and Air Service Contribution before the Inyo County Board of Supervisors at Tuesday's June 18 meeting.

What would seem on the surface to be a simple slam-dunk approval of the county's share contribution of \$196,000 under the Winter 2023-2024 Commercial Air Service Revenue Guarantee Cost Sharing Agreement with Mammoth Lakes Tourism, turned out to be a bit more complicated as two county supervisors took issue with certain aspects of the agreement.

The payment, notably, has a 4/5th vote requirement for approval.

Greenberg started by giving a brief reminder of the importance that the partnerships and support of Mammoth Mountain, Mammoth Lakes Tourism, and other supporting agencies have to the continuation and future success of the commercial air service being offered at the Bishop Airport (BIH).

Helms told the supervisors that the airport has been successful considering the "challenges" brought by a slower start to last year's ski season, the passenger, cargo and weather limitations of the CRJ-700 regional passenger aircraft used by United Airlines and a major problem with construction at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). There was also an untimely failure of an NWS visibility sensor at Bishop Airport (BIH) following a power outage at the start of a major winter storm, resulting in loss of several days of service.

The NWS visibility sensor was replaced and in December 2024, United Airlines plans to introduce a new regional passenger aircraft, the Em-

braer 175, which has much improved weather capabilities, flexible seating, and a larger cargo hold to store ski bags and other luggage.

The summer service runs from July 1 through September 2 with daily direct flights from San Francisco and in the winter season, direct flights from both San Francisco (SFO) and Denver (DEN). Locals are eligible for 10% discounts.

Reliability of flights being completed were at 90% while 64% of flights were "on time." There were slight decreases from the previous year because of the aforementioned challenges. Flight loads averaged 52%. The goal is to have 10,000 enplanements per year, which has not yet been reached.

Helms then concluded her report to the Board with a review of 2024 and 2025 airport improvement and infrastructure projects.

CAO Greenberg followed Helms' presentation with almost 18 minutes of what is difficult to describe. It was baffling, even confusing if you were a member of the public. It may have been less so for the supervisors who at least had the benefit of seeing documents beforehand and in front of them during the meeting.

Basically, it boiled down to giving approval to pay an invoice while, at the same time, approving the Commercial Air Service Revenue Guarantee Cost Sharing Agreement under which the invoice was generated. For some reason, the Agreement had not ever been officially voted on and approved beforehand. It was "the cart before the horse." The "governance" aspect behind the agreement itself has also yet been decided.

The invoice for \$196,000 was presented by Mammoth Lakes Tourism to Inyo County as its share of the minimum revenue guarantee (MRG)

that provides an incentive should an airline generate a specific amount of revenue from ticket sales associated with the air service. Without it, there might be far fewer commercial flights or perhaps even none.

The invoice represented only 10% of the total MRG amount total being paid out by all the parties involved in the sharing plan. Greenberg said during the meeting that normally there would be an MOU between the parties that went along with the invoice. He also noted later in the meeting that the other parties contributed a significant sum of \$2 million towards the total cost sharing agreement.

In a sense, it was a good deal for Inyo County. It paid out more than that last year.

When discussion from the supervisors began, Third District Supervisor Scott Marcellin started by saying "As you know, I am a proponent of commercial air service." He shared some ideas of how he would like to see the numbers of passengers increase, and that it will take time to build it up.

First District Supervisor Trina Orrill reiterated her concerns from last year that, "... in paying these invoices, we're not seeing any solid return on that investment because the majority of the enplanements are passing through to Mammoth (and spending their money there). It is hard to justify to my constituents why we are doing this." She wants to see more money to advertise and promote activities in Inyo County. She wants the significant costs associated with operating the airport by Inyo County to be taken into consideration and perhaps shared by all those that benefit from its existence—rather than being paid, solely, by Inyo County residents.

Orrill also emphasized her belief that the Oversight Committee is too

Mammoth-centric.

"We need a better representation; maybe include the City of Bishop," she said. "We need a greater share of the governance in decision-making, and more help in cost-sharing," she added. Later she also noted that there was supposed to be a detailed breakdown of the expenses included in the invoice and that "was not done."

Greenberg said he would take care of it.

Second District Supervisor Jeff Griffith felt the invoice was "fair" and looking at it as a "passenger-only cost sharing agreement" and not infrastructure cost sharing, he was "comfortable with [it]."

Fourth District Supervisor Jen Roeser expressed support for the airport for reasons of economic development and quality of life, but she was concerned Inyo County has borne 100 percent of the standup costs for the airport. Roeser is concerned about some of what she called "assumptions" in the agreement that should be challenged now and not later. She stated that, "Without our airport Mammoth does not have any other commercial air service, especially reliable service. They (Mammoth) tried that, and they failed." She questioned the tiered funding and made several suggestions that seemed to make better sense, in her opinion. She also noted that "God and snow are what determine enplanement; not subsidies." Having said all that, Roeser still supports the airport but not the current cost sharing agreement. Her position is: Inyo County's share is the airport, which is significant contribution.

Fifth District supervisor Matt Kingsley supports the airport as a valuable long term economic development project and a really good investment for the entire county both for visitors and residents who now have access to commercial air service.

A vote was finally taken. It passed unanimously.

[In many ways, this agenda item was a mess. It really should have been better presented.]]

Supervisor Griffiths characterized this discussion aptly when he said toward the end of the meeting, "This should not have come as a surprise." Yet it did.

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Operating under permit from the Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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

Five Star Cleaning

Araceli Reyes
451 Commerce Circle, Apt. 5
P.O. Box 7361
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business starting April 25, 2024 under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on April 26, 2024
File Number 24-034
2024-0102 (6/22, 6/29, 7/6, 7/13)

LUNCH

continued from page 2

The item before the Commission was whether or not to increase the number of deer-hunting tags on the island from 500 to possibly up to 1,000.

Which set up a really interesting, almost Twilight Zone discussion whereby the conservationists were advocating for more tags and the hunting community and residential population of the Island advocated for less.

One critic complained about too many armed people roaming around carelessly.

And again, the critics said there wasn't enough science to justify the increase in tags.

Commissioner Sklar pushed back. "There is science. It's disingenuous to say there's not."

"Please evaluate the science with some level of integrity," chimed in Commissioner Erika Zavaleta. "The level of civil discourse has slipped quite a bit on this issue."

"There's plenty of science," said Director Bonham. "People just have a difference of opinion about the science."

Bonham supports regulated hunting versus "aerial slaughter" (eradication of deer via helicopter).

Commissioner Anderson, who works in the industry (he said he owns a hunting club) chastised his own constituency.

"The hunting industry has enough problems in California," he said. "How

THE WRITING FRATERNITY



Lunch met former Sheet staffers Owen Page (left) and Emily Crocetti (center) for a game of beer pong last weekend. Lunch was attending his 35th college reunion. Serendipitously, Page and Crocetti were there for their 5th. For those keeping score, the boys defeated the girls on the final cup, despite the fact that Mara Stewart (right) was a complete ringer.

can you want more tags in one place but you don't want more tags here?"

"It's destructive to call people liars," he said, referring to some of the testimony he had heard on the issue.

"We've all got to play in the same

sandbox."

The Commission voted unanimously to increase the potential number of tags.





Mammoth Community Water District

Level 0

2024 WATERING SCHEDULE

SPRINKLER TIMES: 1 - 11 am & 4 - 11 pm

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
EVEN Address		X		X	X		X
ODD Address	X		X		X	X	

Hand-watering allowed **BEFORE 10 am & AFTER 5 pm**

All hoses must be equipped with an Automatic Shutoff Device

Rebates available!

Replace turf grass and receive \$2.00/sf.

Install an Energy Star toilet, dishwasher or clothes washer and receive \$200-\$400!

Help recharge our groundwater aquifer by conserving water.

For more information visit:
WWW.MCWD.DST.CA.US
760-934-2596



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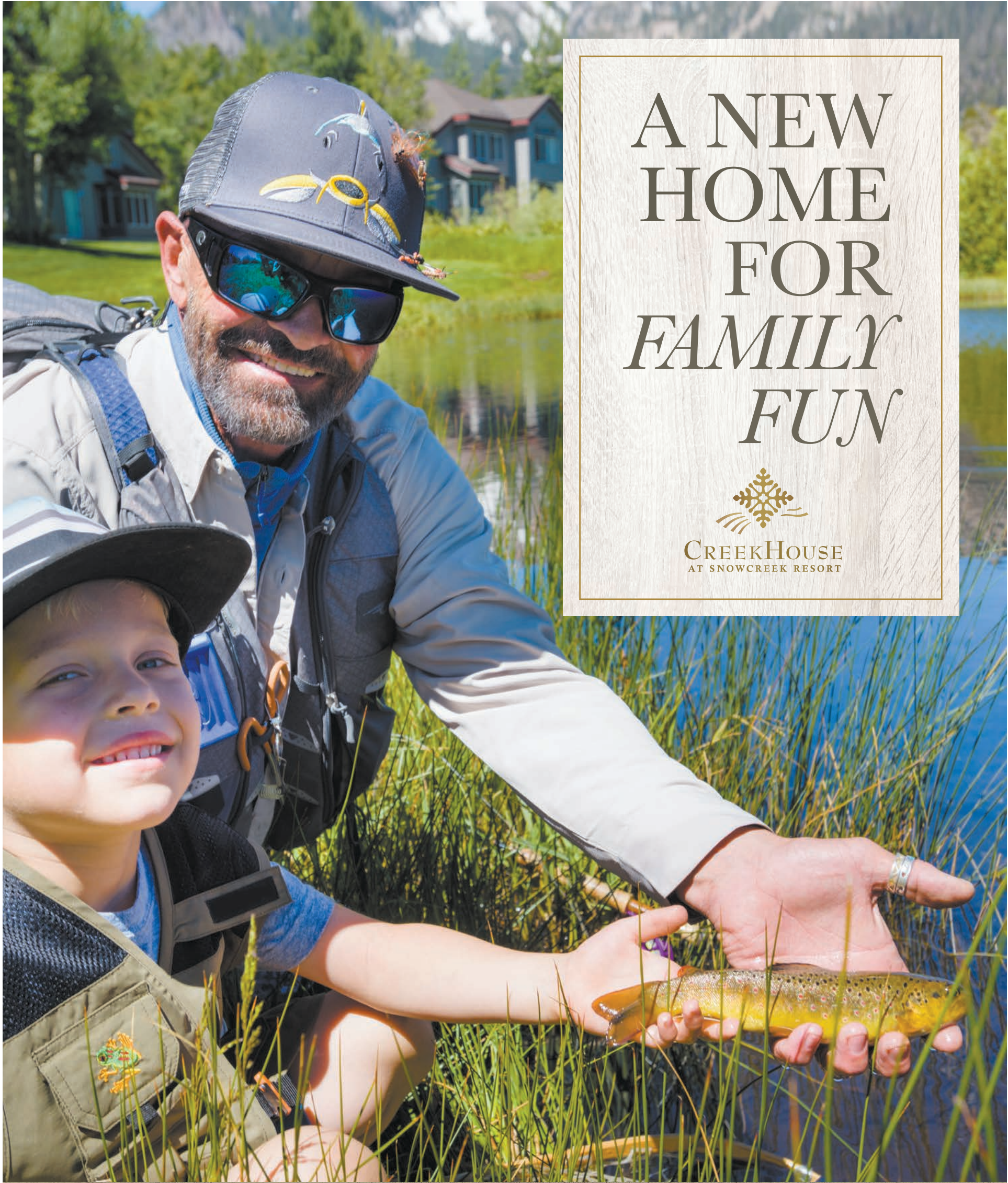


We honor this anniversary with grand appreciation & heartfelt gratitude. We could not have done it without

all of you. We look forward to another 15 years of serving this amazing community!!

5:30am-6pm daily

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