

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



A rendering of the current design for the new hospital building. See story, page 4.

Saturday, July 20, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. 29

WHO LET THE MOTHS OUT?

Miller moths vex Aspendell residents

By Milender

Randy Short, homeowner in Aspendell (pop. estimated 500), has lived in mountain towns all his life.

But never has he seen anything quite like miller moth season in that small foothold of the Eastern Sierra.

"I find it humorous, actually," said Short who described to The Sheet those trials and tribulations associated with the late spring and early summer in the small community outside of Bishop—one that boasts an elevation even higher than that of Mammoth's (at 8,409 ft.), and, as it turns out, a much higher per capita population with which to share the views.

"I might open the door to my shed out back, and a couple hundred of them just haul ass out of it," said Short, who has run the gauntlet through old wives' tale remedies to control the intruding moths.

"My place was one of the first ever built in Aspendell, and the guy who built it did a really good job of sealing the place up," said Short. "But if you're smart, you have a broom (the first line of defense) or a dust buster (the second line of defense) waiting at the storm door to vacuum up the few that make it in ... They make an unbelievable mess."

And while entomologist and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Professor, Randy Lloyd, refers to the millers by their proper, scientific taxonomy—owlet moths—he also concedes that, to the average homeowner, the insect is a "tremendous nuisance."

As Lloyd explained, the moths that invade Short's and other homes have reached the adult stage of what's called a cutworm's life.



Spaelotis moths—courtesy of local lepidopterist, Leslie Goethals.

"The name cutworm—the [larva pupate] will actually feed on plants. Cut the vines off tomatoes, cut off corn stalks, whatever. Then, they cut through their little cocoons and emerge as adults; as moths."

Says Lloyd, the adult moths have a knack for getting into the crevices and the crawl spaces both outside (think splintered tree logs, and gaping rock beds) and inside the gaps of our homes and vehicles.

"You might open your car door," says Lloyd, "and a dozen pour in... It's [something] out of Stephen King."

And to use Short's terminology, that propensity for "hauling ass" into the spaces they're least wanted can be explained by the insects' biochemistry.

According to Entomologist and University of Connecticut Professor, David Wagner, the more specific taxonomy of this species is the *spaelotis clandestina*—a moth of the family Noctuidae, and one capable of releasing what's called an aggregation pheromone—an emitted chemical substance used to induce group forma-



tion among a species.

Meaning, where one moth leads, others, surely, will follow.

"Particularly if a house has cracks or windows without screens, it's basically this invisible chemical calling out that there's safety in numbers; Something that's saying, 'Hey buddies, there's a party in here. Let's spend the summer together.'"

Says Wagner, after the caterpillars mature in early spring, they hatch from their chrysalises before immediately abandoning the native lowlands from which they mature for higher elevation in the warmer months.

"It's called estivation—the summer equivalent of hibernation," says Wagner. "They don't care about sex. All of their reproductive organs are either atrophied or without hormones. It's just about getting through the summer until the rains come in early fall, things green up again, and they can migrate back out of the houses and back out of the mountains."

This moth season peaked in

more MOTHS, pg. 7

WE WILL, WE WILL TAX YOU

By Fisher

On Wednesday, Mammoth Lakes Town Council voted, with consensus, to move forward with a ballot question to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) in Mammoth.

They also voted to set up license plate tracking cameras, create subsidiaries for long-term rentals, and allocate funds towards updating the Community Recreation Center volleyball courts.

A TAXING DEBATE

The Council discussed raising the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), a type of tax levied on travelers or tourists, in Mammoth Lakes from 13% to 15%. The collected funds from the tax could be allocated towards housing development.

The council members debated whether the issue should be a general tax or a special tax.

A general tax measure requires a simple majority to pass and provides flexibility in how the funds can be used for general town services—including initiatives such as Housing Now—whereas a special tax measure requires a two-thirds supermajority to pass and must be dedicated to specific purposes, which could include more narrowly defined housing initiatives.

Advocates for a special tax, including council member Amanda Rice and commenter John Morris said many townspeople do not trust the local government to properly allocate funds, and thus, would likely vote against a general tax.

"I think that we have tried to

put all of our unallocated dollars towards housing, and this will get us to our housing goals faster," Rice said. "If our community says no, and if they're not supportive of getting us to our housing goals, maybe housing is not as important to our community as we all think it is"

Supporters of a general tax, including Chris Bubser, said the supermajority vote would be too risky.

Sarah Rae, who said she felt agnostic towards the issue, brought up a question of Area Median Income (AMI). Money from the tax would not be subject to AMI restrictions.

"Everyone in my boat—with a kid or a normal job or what have you—nobody where I'm at is getting any help with housing except for our Bridge Program," Rae said.

The Council did eventually reach a unanimous vote to move forward with the ballot question as a general tax, provided it included a mention of funds specifically allocated to the Housing Now program, involved a thorough campaign, and would expire after 10-years.

LICENSE TO SCAN

Council members voted to proceed with implementing Automatic License Plate Reading (ALPR) technology in Mammoth Lakes.

ALPR cameras are solar-powered, weather-resistant cameras designed to capture and compare license plates against a "hot sheet" of wanted

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Life's Un-Fair

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Measure by Measure

p. 6/

School House Bond!

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Playing to the Heart Strings

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Take a Breath

p. 14/

PARSLEY SAGE ROSEMARY ... AND CRIME?

The Sheet sat down with Tri-County Fair board members Judy Waggoner and Jaque Hickman on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the current state of afFairs following a state audit and the resignation of former Fair CEO Jen McGuire.

Hickman’s demeanor could best be described as defiant during the two hours we spent in the Alta One conference room in Bishop.

Combative. Generally pissed off.

She feels the audit performed by CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture, which serves as overseer of the state’s county fairs, was a hit job, undertaken more to further political careers than get at the truth or improve fair operations.

And she declared bluntly, “Jen McGuire did not steal money.”

This from a board member who has, on previous occasions, busted Fair CEO’s who were stealing money.

Hickman knows the difference.

The Sheet has read the 46-page audit in its entirety. Taken on its own, it does not paint a pretty picture.

It implies slipshod bookkeeping, employee double-dipping, the unwarranted granting of employee benefits, attempts at obfuscation and a lack of cooperation with auditors ... the full gamut.

For example, the state believes it is owed \$84,500 in back rent because McGuire lived rent-free at the Fairgrounds (occupying two lush RV spaces) from December, 2018 through February, 2024.

Hickman said the Board had signed off on the free rent as part of McGuire’s compensation package to augment her relatively low salary (Approx. \$7,000/month) and make the position more attractive.

But apparently, the board wasn’t authorized to grant the free rent.

Fair auditors told the board, “Not knowing is no excuse” said Hickman.

But as she points out, the state provides no training, no manual, no support for Fair boards.

Well, not quite. They make you watch sex harassment awareness videos, and they’re really focused on educating boards re Brown Act violations, but there are no classes on, say, fiscal management, or accounting, or oversight, et. al.

State auditors also believe McGuire was trying to hide the fact that she was involved in a personal relationship with a fellow Fairgrounds employee.

There’s a form you have to fill out for that.

And that this partner was apparently “double-dipping” (doing freelance



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

-The Waco Kid
from Blazing Saddles

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work in Ventura while on the clock in Bishop).

Waggoner and Hickman said the part about trying to hide the relationship (exacerbated by the state trying to confiscate and examine the employee’s work laptop during Mule Days) was bs.

The state auditor claims McGuire and her partner conspired to give her the wrong laptop to take back to Sacramento.

This, following a tense conversation where the state auditor asked McGuire’s partner where she sleeps at night.

McGuire’s partner, understandably, is said to have replied, “None of your business.”

Waggoner said the relationship with CDFA pretty much headed down the rabbit hole from there. And accelerated when Waggoner suggested to CDFA leadership that a civil rights case be opened in connection with the audit report - which she deemed harassment.

So where do we stand today?

CDFA’s local branch chief Mike Francesoni is now serving as the Fairgrounds Interim Director, at least through the Fair (Labor Day weekend).

McGuire, if she wishes to challenge the report and events leading ups to her resignation, will have to hire her own labor lawyer - but with no income coming in to do so.

Though she had served as CEO of both the Tri-County and Ventura Fairgrounds simultaneously over the past year, her salary had never been adjusted to reflect the increase in responsibility.

The state, claimed Hickman, also reneged on a verbal agreement to have McGuire’s mileage between Bishop and Ventura reimbursed.

So there are compensation issues.

The Board, says Hickman, may also have to lawyer up.

Hickman, who said four other large Fairs have crumbled in the wake of recent audits (she thinks CDFA Deputy Secretary Michael Flores, a close friend of Gov. Gavin Newsom, is trying to make a name for himself by saying he ‘cleaned up the Fair Industry’) is herself stepping away from public life.

“This is why people are terrified of serving on boards,” said Hickman. “I’ve always been an advocate of community service, but community service has become punitive.”

My impression, as I read the state auditor’s report, was thus.

Some people are really great administrators. Some are really great salespeople. Rarely do you get both qualities in the same package.

Inyo County owes a debt of gratitude to Jen McGuire for what she did to build up the Fairgrounds and make it more relevant than it’s ever been.

She may not have been so diligent in micromanaging the books, but what’s interesting is that the Fair board, according to Hickman, traditionally paid the state to do the accounting for the Fairgrounds.

So whatever issues the state has with the Tri-County Fairgrounds have been hiding in plain sight. The state had last performed an audit back in 2009. So if you’re gonna critique mismanagement ... it’s a target-rich environment up-and-down the chain.

Even a Fairgrounds Director like Jim Tatum at one point mismanaged a PERS issue which cost the Fairgrounds tens of thousands of dollars in restitution.

What makes me nervous is what happens after Labor Day. Will a Fair Board be reinstated? Will anyone wish to serve on it? Will a permanent Fair CEO be hired? Who would take the job? This is a dark moment.

It takes a guy like Leonard Cohen to sum up a moment like this.

If you are the dealer, I’m out of the game
If you are the healer, it means I’m broken and lame
If thine is the glory, then mine must be the shame
You want it darker
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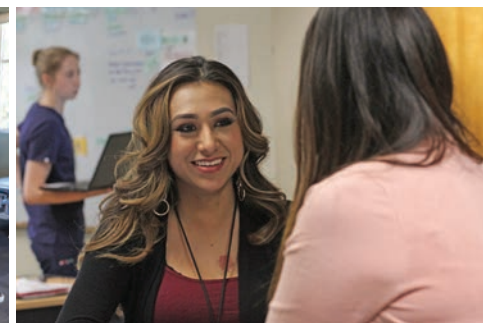
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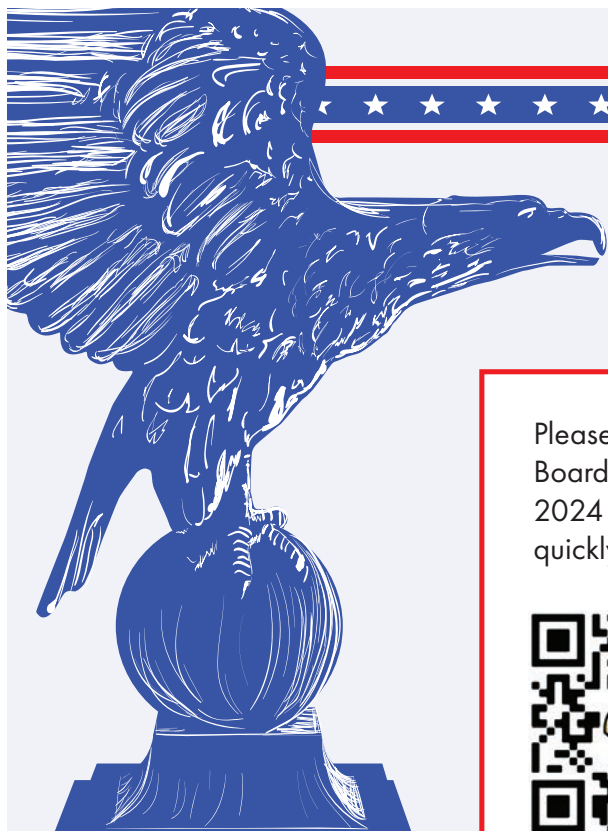
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YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us at our upcoming board meeting, where the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners will consider placing a local Fire Protection Measure on the November 2024 ballot to ensure the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD) is equipped to respond quickly and independently to emergencies.



DATE: Tuesday, July 23, 2024
TIME: 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Mammoth Lakes Fire Station #1,
3150 Main Street

How to Join Online: Board meetings are open to the public in person or via Zoom. The link to access the online meeting can be found at mlfd.ca.gov/administration/board-documents/ or with this QR code.

Visit www.mlfd.ca.gov/potentialmeasure for more information.

Escanea aquí para recibir esta información en español.



LOCAL NEWS

NORTH WING TAKES FLIGHT

By Fisher

The Board of Directors of Southern Mono Healthcare District unanimously approved a resolution on July 15 to proceed with the proposed design for a new hospital building.

Scheduled to commence in May 2025, the construction of the new building, known as the North Wing project, is expected to be completed by 2028. It will relocate the hospital's inpatient and ancillary services to the new facility.

The need for a new building was driven

by California seismic code policy, which mandates closure of non-compliant medical buildings by January 1, 2030, according to the California Hospital Association.

The resolution was approved under a guaranteed maximum price of \$153.6 million with additional costs for furniture, fixtures, equipment, and regulatory fees. Initially priced at \$166.2 million, the project cost was reduced through "value engineering."

Funding for the project comes from hospital reserves, philanthropic contributions, and an estimated \$50 million revenue bond, avoiding the need for approval of a General Obligation bond from taxpayers.

"Our projections show that we will be able to service the debt while continuing to invest in the people and equipment needed to provide the care our community's residents and guests expect," the hospital stated in a July 17 Facebook post.

Also in the meeting, the Board amended the Design Build Agreement to include a Shared Savings Incentive Plan. This plan entails that any savings between the contract price and actual costs will be equally distributed between the district and the designers.

"[This amendment will] further encourage the design build team members to continue to drive innovation, best value, and efficiency into the project furthering the district's interests and contributing to the overall economic success of the project," according to the printed resolution.

Though the design was generally well received, some meeting attendees called for revaluation and cost estimation for potential future bed capacity expansion. Flexibility will be possible through change orders.

George Vangelatos, Director of

Healthcare Design at HMC Architects, highlighted that the current proposed layout focuses on accommodating varying patient acuity levels, with flexibility between ICU and Medical Surgical beds as needed.

The design involves a total 16 beds, including four semi-private, nine private, and one isolated private room.

Data presented at the meeting indicated that the current hospital rarely exceeds 10 occupied beds at a time. Last year, there were only 13 days with 11-13 beds filled, and none with 14 or more occupied beds.

Vangelatos' plan involves larger rooms and more working space for physicians and nurses, with hallways designed for both optimal circulation and operational efficiency. The design also incorporates a new Outpatient Services Center, expanded ambulatory services, and enhanced cafeteria and kitchen areas.

Aesthetically, the building plan integrates both slanted and flat roofs, complementing the surrounding area. It features a mezzanine entryway, fully-windowed bridge, and a central courtyard with landscaping.

The new building is designed to withstand heavy snow loads, with roofs facilitating controlled snowdrift.



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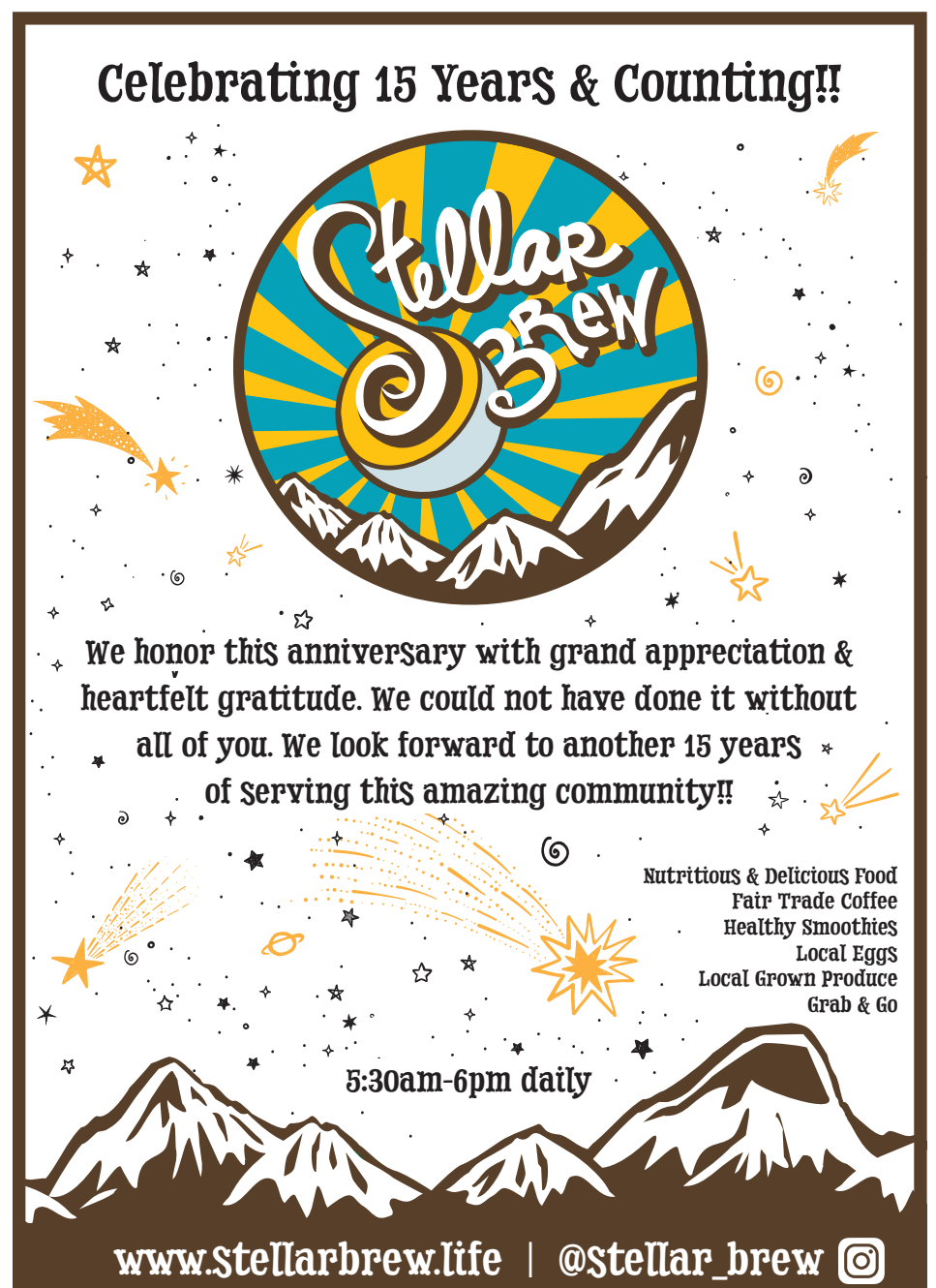
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COUNCIL

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vehicles. The system does not connect to personal data or use facial recognition and is positioned in public areas.

If a match is found, law enforcement is alerted to locate the vehicle. If no match is found or the data is not used for investigative purposes, the information is deleted after 30 days.

Police Chief Daniel Casabian and Sergeant Jason Heilman, who brought the motion forward, ensured ongoing transparency through annual reports to the Town Council and a public transparency portal.

They estimated the cost for the cameras to be around \$25,000.

Council members expressed support for the technology, noting that the tracking service in and out of town could also be essential in an emergency situation.

LEASE TO LOCALS

The Lease to Locals program, originally pitched in May 2024, aims to convert existing housing into long-term rentals through owner subsidies. It was approved in last week’s Council meeting.

“I just want to thank you for being so thorough and coming back with all of these requests that we had,” Councilwoman Chris Bubser said. “And I look forward to the day when you come back and ask for more budget because it was so successful.”

Subsidy amounts range from \$2,000

to \$18,000 per property, depending on tenant qualifications and lease duration.

Eligible properties must be within urban growth boundaries and meet specific occupancy criteria. The program, launching in August 2024, targets households with incomes below 150% of the area median income (AMI).

It’s set to be evaluated biannually during its one-year pilot phase with a proposed budget of \$425,000, covering rental subsidies and administration costs.

The proposal was supported unanimously by the council.

FUNDS SERVED UP

The council discussed allocating \$25,000 to replace the flooring at the Community Recreation Center with a Snap Sports overlay which would accommodate volleyball activities properly.

The current floor, though durable, is not deemed suitable for the diving and sliding necessary for volleyball.

The proposal received positive feedback from the board members, emphasizing the importance of allocating funds for such targeted projects rather than deferring them.

Public comments supported the initiative, with John Morris, local volleyball coach, stressing the safety and functionality benefits of the proposed flooring.

“It could be a great potential resource of revenue for the town, and other gym spaces in town can be really difficult to secure,” Morris said.

With consensus, the council approved the allocation of funds.

RECREATION UPDATES

The Council also discussed plans with the board of Mammoth Lakes Recreation to consolidate recreational community foundations.

In the public comment section, Phil Moores, Executive Director of Eastern Sierra Transit (ESTA), apologized for re-

cent service and communication issues that led to poor reviews last weekend.

To mitigate issues going forward, Moores said he would close the stop at Rainbow Falls and consolidate stops 9 and 10.

Although the buses would still be overwhelmed, they could staff the stop with a host who could provide information on bus delays, cancellations and overflow situations.

He also reached out to the historic society to provide education and entertainment at busy stops to keep tourists entertained if a bus is unavailable.



Mammoth Community Water District

Level 0

2024 WATERING SCHEDULE

SPRINKLER TIMES: 1 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

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

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COUNTY SET TO FLOAT 25% TOT RATE INCREASE

By Lunch

It's getting to the point where you'll need a scorecard to keep track.

At its regular meeting of July 9, Mono County Supervisors became the latest local government entity to embrace a potential tax hike.

They'll join the Town of Mammoth, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District and Mammoth Unified School District in placing a tax measure on the ballot.

Supervisors signaled their support for a November ballot measure which would hike the TOT (transient occupancy tax) rate in unincorporated Mono County from 12% to 15%.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes would thus be unaffected by the measure, though Mammoth voters will get to vote on it.

Mammoth already has an effective TOT rate of 15% (14% plus 1% TBID). But the Town is seeking to hike its own TOT rate two more points in November.

The county's ballot measure, if passed, is expected to raise \$1.1 million in revenue annually.

Which will, promise Supervisors, be spent on housing.

It is being floated as a "general" tax measure, so will only require 50% plus one for passage.

Meaning, you have to trust Supervisors to spend it as promised.

Supervisors believe the measure has excellent odds of passage based upon a survey of 285 local residents which was

conducted by EMC Research between June 20 and June 30.

Sara LaBatt of EMC Research presented the survey results to the Board.

She said the electorate is in a "generally good mood" and supported the TOT hike, as presented, with 60% support.

The survey's margin of error is estimated to be plus/minus six points.

Coincidentally, 61% believe Mono County is "on the right track."

Voters support the measure because it's paid for by other people (visitors paying room tax).

Housing affordability is the electorate's top concern. 46% say affordable housing is the county's most important problem. Between 6-8% also cited roads, (over) tourism, cost-of-living, climate change/environment and politicians/government.

"Support for the tax measure does increase with [the provision of] additional information, but it also shows some vulnerability to opposition," cautioned LaBatt.

Meaning, voters support the measure 65-35 if provided pro-tax propaganda, but that support falls to 53-46 when provided opposing arguments.

Erica Walters is a partner in "Props and Measures," a political consulting firm which is advising the county on the potential ballot measure. If there's well-funded, organized opposition, she warned, it could be close.

For example, when read the statement "Taxes are already high enough. I'll vote against any tax measure on the ballot," voters agreed with the statement by 55-45.

When read the statement, "Instead of asking for money, the county should tighten its belt," voters agreed by a 62-38 margin.

And when read the statement, "I trust the county to manage its money," the tally was about even. 48% agreeing with the statement.

Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz said it's important the county tout its record as holding to its political commitments.

Supervisor Lynda Salcido asked the consultants how multiple tax measures on the ballot would affect voter support.

LaBatt opined, "We don't find tax measures elicit a competitive scenario."

Walters, however, was a bit more honest. "More is not better," she said bluntly.

"Props and Measures is also repping the Fire District as a consultant, and produced the ad which appears on p. 3"

Supervisors spent some time trying to wordsmith the 75 words of ballot language, figuring a golden adjective or two might boost their cause.

"Is there a reason why [a reference to] economic development is not included?" In the list of items the money would be spent on, asked Supervisor John Peters.

Walters replied, for every word or

words you add, you've got to remove the same.

"When we get a positive response on a 50% measure," she continued, "we tend to go with the [final] language exactly as we presented it."

The consultants will come back with the final ballot language for approval in a few short weeks.

In other action from that meeting, Mammoth Lakes Tourism Executive Director John Urdis provided an air service update to the board.

He said summer season-to-date, enplanements are down 21% on 14% less capacity.

Winter numbers were also generally flat, though he noted a strong end-of-season uptick, particularly from the Denver flight, which boasted an 80% load factor in March.

A few good signs moving forward.

1.) United is moving away from the CRJ-700 planes to the Embraer 175s. This means the introduction of 12 first class seats (and the concomitant revenue enhancement).

2.) San Francisco airport construction is winding to a close. Construction factored into the late start of the summer flight season and reduced summer capacity.

The summer charter service via Advanced Air, by contrast, is up seven points in load factors.

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MOTHS

continued from page 1

late June/early July.

And then, the moths retreat back to the lowlands. They mate, lay their eggs. The cycle begins anew.

And that “mess” referred to by Short was described by Wagner as a mere byproduct of the estivation phase.

“All they really do is take short flights out to get nectar, or water. Then they’ll often poop or release, you know ... liquid excrement. That may stain the walls and plaster,” says Wagner. “So it’s not just seemingly unsanitary, and a little unsightly. It can cause actual damage.”

The moths do not, however, pose any danger to human health.

And, according to Jake Rasmuson—real estate broker and owner of Bishop Real Estate Rasmuson & Associates—they pose no real danger to the Aspendell housing market, either.

“Especially in Aspendell, a lot of houses tend to be vacant because they’re second homes,” says Rasmuson. “Moths can pile up inches deep if not taken care of... and all the excrement, too.”

Homeowners, said the broker, must remain cognizant. Cleaning professionals may be called in weekly—even daily—to stay on top of the pests.

“But the good news is that, in Aspendell, we tend to sell a lot of homes around the same time [as the moth season]. People aren’t necessarily shocked ... The beauty of the Eastern

Sierra far outweighs the small nuisance of moths. If moths are going to keep you from purchasing, it’s probably not the right area for you.”

And for Wagner, however unsavory the miller moth visitation in Aspendell may be for residents, it’s a migratory stage necessary to the continuation of the species; necessary to its limb on the inextricable “tree of life” in this region of California.

“You’ll read about the downside of this species in any newspaper,” says Wagner.

But the upside, he says, is that the sheer number of individuals in these populations provides an abundance of biomass to the Eastern Sierra. Because, as mentioned by Lloyd, moths use their pheromones to aggregate in tight spaces like logs, rock formations, and other abiotic elements of their landscape. There, as a viable source of protein for predatory animals, Wagner estimates that miller moths in peak season are responsible for a greater nutrient energy transfer than any other species in their system.

“The Forest Service has fought these forest pests for 150 years,” says Wagner. “But what we have to do, now, is to stop thinking about these very, very important pests as ‘bad.’

Insect abundance is part of the food chain. It’s how you make songbirds, and baby birds, and mammals, and

all the raptors that eat those insectivores... This extraordinary number of what people call ‘millers’ are essential for ecosystem function. They’re essential for the Sierra, and everywhere else.”



ALPINE
APPROACH

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2024
SUMMER OF STEWARDSHIP

TRAIL
DAYS

SATURDAY
July 27, 9am-12pm

Meet the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Crew at 9am at Horseshoe Lake Trailhead for a free breakfast, safety talk, and work assignments – including trail maintenance landscape restoration, and general cleanup activities!

PLEASE DRESS FOR TRAIL WORK!

FOR DETAILS ABOUT TRAIL DAYS:

✉ outdoorrecreation@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

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BIG BUCKS FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Bishop Unified School District eyes Elementary improvements
By Klusmire

Bishop Unified School District will ask voters in November to approve a \$14.2 million bond issue to fund a wide range of improvements, renovations and repairs to the Bishop Elementary School buildings and grounds.

If approved, the bond money will be supplemented by matching funds from the State of California, but the timing of that funding remains a bit fuzzy.

The total cost estimate for the planned work at the Elementary School came in at about \$17.5 million, so the district is banking on the state cash to arrive at some point during the renovation and rehab project.

The district board of trustees approved the specifics of the bond measure, including a long list of construction and upgrade projects, at its July 8 meeting.

The \$14.2 million effort for the Elementary School is just the first and smallest bite of the facility improvement apple being eyed by the district. An outside consulting firm identified about \$81 million in upgrades, renovations and new construction on the four district campuses.

According to the text of the resolution for the Elementary School bond measure, money will go to basic repairs of the aging school facilities and infrastructure, fixing deteriorating, leaky roofs, replacing doors and windows, repairing or replacing inefficient heating and air-conditioning systems, upgrading plumbing, restrooms and electrical systems, modernizing and upgrading school

classrooms (which includes technology upgrades and new classroom furniture), plus “enhancement of campus safety and security.” Improvements to parking lots and outdoor facilities and landscaping are also included.

The Bishop Elementary School campus consists of permanent classroom buildings constructed in 1963, which provide 39 classrooms and cover 63,000 square feet of space. An additional eight portable classrooms are 34 years old and amount to 7,680 square feet.

The General Obligation bond measure must be approved by 55% of those voting. If approved, the district estimated that the bond would increase residents’ property taxes by about \$18 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation (not market value). That would generate about \$873,900 annually to pay off the bonds, which have a 25-year payback. Those are just estimates and could change based on interest rates and other factors.

An “independent citizens’ oversight committee” will be appointed to monitor how the bond funds are being spent, and an “annual, independent performance audit” will be mandated to assure the money is being spent on the list of projects outlined in the bond measure.

The district also pointed out how approving the local bond measure could open the door for additional state funding. “The millions of dollars potentially available through the state match allows local taxpayers to benefit from the tax dollars they already pay to Sacramento.”

(Sarcastic Aside: Mentioning the evil, money sucking pit of “Sacramento” is always a winning marketing ploy.)

However, the timing of any state matching funds is still up in the air. The district’s consultants said under current state fiscal conditions, the matching funds might not show up for 3-4 years because of the huge backlog in requests for state money. The consultants estimated the state match for the work on the elementary school could be about \$5.4 million. That estimate was made without calculating any possible speedier state payments if voters approve Proposition 2 at the ballot box in November, a \$10 billion bond issue for school facility renovation projects across the state.

In a general statement about the need for the bond, the district documents note: “It is imperative that our students are housed in educational environments consistent with the District’s priority to provide school facilities that are safe, attractive, and appropriate for learning.”

The “Facilities Master Plan and Needs Assessment” is intended to provide an overview of the state of the district’s buildings and grounds to be used for planning future upgrades and renovations. The plan offers the following “assessment” of the work ahead:

“Critical systems are in need of major modernization or replacement. Bishop Unified schools experience leaking roofs, failing heating and cooling systems, deteriorating restrooms, and outdated electrical, plumbing, and utility systems. Safety

is always at the forefront of the District’s concerns. Many of the systems critical to the health and safety of students and staff are outdated. Fire and intrusion alarms are in need of enhancements or replacement to bolster health and safety measures across the district.

“Many interior spaces across the district are outdated. These spaces often lack the necessary modern amenities and technology to support effective learning in today’s rapidly evolving educational landscape. To address this issue, it is essential to prioritize renovating and modernizing classrooms, labs and student support facilities ...”

That future will be pricey. The consultants estimated the cost of improvements at the Home Street Middle School and Bishop High School campuses and came up with some eye-popping estimates. The Middle School modernization estimate on existing buildings came in at about \$13 million, with another \$10 million in new construction, primarily for a new gym. Modernizing the century-plus old high school building and the 11 other buildings on the high school campus could cost in the range of \$34 million.

The various resolutions, text of the ballot question and the facility assessment are available on the district website, bishopschools.org.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop will defer to Benjamin Franklin for some wisdom: “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

TRI COUNTY

AUG. 29 – SEPT. 1, 2024

THURSDAY, AUG. 29TH

BANDA CUISILLOS WITH BANDA ZETA

FRIDAY, AUG. 30TH

MICHAEL RAY WITH RAELENN & LILY ROSE

SATURDAY, AUG. 31ST

RODEO

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1ST

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DID YOU
KNOW?

→ Did you know that the Town of Mammoth Lakes holds an election to elect members to the Town Council?

- This year's municipal election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.
- Two Town Council seats will be on the November ballot.
- The nomination period for members of the Town Council is from July 15 to August 9, 2024, with the potential to be extended to August 14, 2024 if any of the two incumbents do not run for Town Council again.
- The Town's Candidate Guide and Local Contributions Ordinance can be found on the Town's website at:
www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1156/Elections
- Anyone wishing to learn more information about the process to run for Town Council or who is interested in pulling papers should schedule an appointment with Town Clerk Jamie Gray at 760-965-3602 or jgray@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

For more information scan QR code or visit:
www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1156/Elections



 TownofMammothLakes.ca.gov

 Town of Mammoth Lakes

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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.

Friday, July 19/
Giacomo Timbrello plays the newly renovated **Creekside Club** in Bishop @ 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 20/
Road to Jam Fest: GrooveSession @ the Mountain Rambler in Bishop. Time: 7 p.m.

July 19-July 21/
Mammoth Reggae Festival 2024 @ The Village. Live reggae, art vendors, shopping, food & drink. Free for all ages. No tix necessary. Starts 6:00 p.m.

Monday, July 22/
Bishop Community Band plays at **City Park** starting 8 p.m. If you play an instrument, pick it up and come play along. Join the tradition that's been around 100 years!

Tuesday, July 23/
Rockin' Rocky's All Star Jam Sessions @ The Gallery at Twin Lakes, recurring weekly on Tuesdays. Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24/
Trivia @ Main Street Pizza. Starts 6:30 p.m.
Eddy Evans plays the Liberty patio starting 4 p.m.

Sunday, July 28/
Live Music with Hay Blackbird @ Cardinal Village Resort from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No cover charge.

TOWN STUFF

July 19-28/
Chamber Music Unbound Festival continues. First week features Debussy, Bach, Mozart & more. Location: Cerro Coso College. For details/tix, see ad p. 9 or visit chambermusicunbound.org.

Friday, July 19/
Nature-Based Yoga at Pokonobe Marina Come by 8:30 a.m., every Friday through August 30. All you need is a mat.
Artist reception at C5 Studios. Fiber Artist Roberta Lagomarsini presents work. Time: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 20/
Rhiannon's Kids Pickleball tournament fundraiser starting 7 a.m. at the Pickleball Complex and the Community Center Tennis and Pickleball Courts.
Lakes Basin Interpretive Hike and Cyanotype Creation with Friends of the Inyo from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The hike is a 1.5 mile loop with ~500 feet of elevation. Meet at Heart Lake trailhead and parking lot. Free to all.
Eastern Sierra Book Festival will be at the Hayden Cabin all day

TOWN STUFF

with books, new and used, speakers, games, drinks, music, vendor booths, the Author Variety Show, and more!

July 22-26/
Intensive Spanish Summer Program @ Mammoth Lakes Library. Free to all. Classes include Cooking, Spanish for Travelers, Business Language, and Dance. Attend one, or attend them all. Visit: mammothlakeschamber.org for details.

Tuesday, July 23/
Inyo County Supervisors meet in a rare evening session. Location: Board Chambers in Independence, 224 N. Edwards St. Or online via inyocounty.us. Public session starts 5 p.m.
The Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District Board encourages the public to attend its next board meeting, where the upcoming ballot measure to raise revenue for fire suppression will be discussed. Time: Noon. Location: Fire



SIERRA ELECTRIC

Sean Flavin, Owner

760-920-3547
LIC# 923994

TOWN STUFF

Station #1 on Main. More info: See ad p. 3

Wednesday, July 24/
Mammoth's Planning and Economic Development Commission meets. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall. On the agenda: Snowcreek VIII, Phase One. See p. 12 legal notice for details.

Thursday, July 25/
Mono County Collaborative Planning Team meets @ 9 a.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall, Mammoth.

Friday, July 26/
Swing by the **Downtown Bishop Market** for live music, artisans, products of the region, food booths, beer/cocktails, local produce, farmer's market and fun for the whole family! New Location - on Church Street, between Warren & Fowler. Behind City Hall.

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



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Sat-Sun: 8pm-Close

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- \$1 off all Pints & Tasting Flights
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NO CLASS-IFIEDS/NOTICES

Help Wanted



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

FT/PT Retail Sales Associate - Mammoth

General Laborers - Mammoth

Reservation/Receptionist (Oct.-March) - Mammoth

Property Manager Coordinator - Mammoth

Ad salesperson - Bishop

Community Integration Partner - Bishop/Mammoth

Call or text 760-924-0523

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

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

Bookkeeper Needed. FT Position. Duties incl. Accts. Payable/Receivable, Bank Reconciliations, Preparation of Financial Reports and General Office Duties. Experience preferred, but willing to train right candidate. Pay based on experience. Please email resume to info@butnerhoaservices.com



MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT Operations Department is currently recruiting for one permanent **Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator** position.

FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION/ TO APPLY: Please see the District website <https://mcwd.dst.ca.us/employment/>.



FT/PT, Year-Round: Front Desk [AND] PM Security [AND] Housekeeper/Housemen

Qualifications:

- 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 Full Time 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

FT/PT, Año Redondo: Recepción y Seguridad de Noche y Personal de Limpieza

Calificaciones:

- Experiencia previa un plus- podemos entrenar!
- Habilidades básicas de computación
- Debe ser 100% confiable.
- Debe ser capaz de trabajar solo y en un ambiente de equipo.
- Buen servicio al cliente.
- La actitud positiva de poder hacer las cosas es imprescindible.
- ¡Pago de inicio competitivo + beneficios!

*Todos los puestos de tiempo completo incluyen beneficios médicos completos, 401k con igualación del empleador, pase de esquí, tiempo libre pagado.

Pase por 80/50 para recoger una aplicación.

50 CANYON BLVD, MAMMOTH LAKES

O Llama al (760) 924-4400

Help Wanted



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

- Physical Therapist - Mammoth - Starting wage \$48.72 to \$52.16 based on qualifications. **\$5,000 Retention Bonus.**
- Physical Therapist Assistant - Mammoth - Starting wage \$32.20 to \$34.48 based on qualifications. **\$3,500 Retention Bonus.**
- Cook/Food Service Worker - Starting wage \$20.23 to \$21.66 based on qualifications. **\$2,200 Retention Bonus.**

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



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.



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

- Full time Service Manager
- Rental Associates
- 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!

760-934-2400

footloosesports.com/careers

3043 MAIN ST | MAMMOTH LAKES

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

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

Black Velvet Coffee Village

Timbercreek Hospitality Group LLC
9201 Minaret Rd. W2-24
PO Box 7404
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a limited partnership. The registrant has yet to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on June 24, 2024
File Number 24-057
2024-0109 (7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27)



JOB OPENINGS

FULL-TIME POSITIONS
*Full-time positions include competitive benefits package

- Finance Director****
\$157,472 – \$192,903
**To apply, visit:
<https://www.affionpublic.com/position/finance-director-mammoth-lakes-ca/>
- Revenue Specialist**
\$51,320 – \$72,212

TEMPORARY PART-TIME POSITIONS

- Outdoor Recreation Host**
\$19.43 – \$22.49/hr
- Sustainability Coordinator**
\$28.50 – \$32.99/hr
- Airport Administrative Analyst**
\$25.91 – \$29.99

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

Help Wanted

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

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

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

Statement Of Abandonment
Of Use of Fictitious Business Name
Statement:

Mike Kenney Roofing

The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name:

Mike Kenney Roofing Inc.
P.O. Box 7840, 420 Commerce Circ.
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a Corporation. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on January June 13, 2024.
File Number 24-050
2024-0105 (7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27)



Shit Talk

“Print is dead,” they said.
And you know what they say
about what they say?
They say a lot.
And very little.
And they insist on repeating themselves. They’ll tell you
and anyone else in earshot--shit,
I caught a guy who’d cornered a
light switch and was waxing on,”We
don’t fly commercial and we’re
looking at purchasing
a pied-à-terre in Paris.”

-JB 7.14.24



I hope to see you ... at this weekend's Reggae Festival. Because no matter how much secondhand smoke is blowing, you always look very edible.

I hope to see you ... at the Book Festival, because I know how riled up you bookish types can get swapping double entendres.

I saw you ... are signed up for Saturday's pickleball tourney. Which just makes my cucumber happy. Hope you wear short shorts!

For Sale

2008 Ford Edge AWD . Silver/taupe. Runs great, minor condition issues. New transmission, stereo, USB & CD. Receipts available, M&S tires, tow pkg \$8000.00 firm

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Offices for Election

NOTICE BY MONO COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICES FOR WHICH CANDIDATES ARE TO BE ELECTED AT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that offices for which candidates are to be elected at the General Election to be held on the 5th day of November, 2024 are as follows:

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES*

Qualification: Must be a registered voter residing in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Council Member – 2 Seats (4-year term)

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Qualification: Must be a registered voter residing in the district or trustee area as applicable.

BISHOP UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
2 Seats (4-year term)

EASTERN SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1 Seat – Trustee Area #2 Bridgeport (4-year term)
1 Seat – Trustee Area #3 Lee Vining (4-year term)

MAMMOTH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
3 Seats (4-year term)

MONO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION BOARD
1 Seat – Trustee Area #1 Coleville, Walker, Bridgeport (4-year term)
1 Seat – Trustee Area #3 Mammoth Lakes/Crowley (4-year term)

ROUND VALLEY JOINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
1 Seat (4-year term)

HOSPITAL DISTRICTS

Qualification: Must be a registered voter residing in the district.

SOUTHERN MONO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
3 Seats (4-year term)

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Qualification: Must be a registered voter residing in the district. The available seats listed below are based on information received from the Special Districts.

Notice of Offices (cont.)

Antelope Valley Fire Protection District -3 Seats
Antelope Valley Water District -5 Seats
(two 4-year terms, three 2-year terms)
Birchim Community Services District -2 Seats
Bridgeport Fire Protection District -2 Seats

Bridgeport Public Utility District -3 Seats
Chalfant Valley Fire Protection District/CSD -3 Seats
Hilton Creek Community Services District -3 Seats
June Lake Fire Protection District -3 Seats
June Lake Public Utility District -2 Seats
Lee Vining Fire Protection District -3 Seats
Lee Vining Public Utility District -3 Seats
Long Valley Fire Protection District -3 Seats
Mammoth Community Water District -3 Seats
Mammoth Lakes Community Services District -4 Seats
Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District -3 Seats
Mono City Fire Protection District -3 Seats
Paradise Fire Protection District -3 Seats
Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District -4 Seats
Wheeler Crest Community Services District -3 Seats
Wheeler Crest Fire Protection District -3 Seats
White Mountain Fire Protection District -2 Seats

Candidate forms will be available from July 15, 2024, to August 9, 2024, and may be obtained from the Mono County Clerk's Office at 74 N. School Street in Bridgeport, CA.

*Candidates wishing to run for Mammoth Lakes Town Council must speak with the Town Clerk at 760-965-3602, or via email at jgray@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

If an incumbent has not filed by 5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2024, any qualified person, other than the incumbent, may file by no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 14, 2024.

If by 5:00 p.m. on August 14, 2024, an insufficient number of persons have filed for the Hospital District or Special District Offices, and a petition for an election has not been filed, appointments will be made pursuant to Elections Code §10515.

If by 5:00 p.m. August 14, 2024, an insufficient number of persons have filed for the School District Offices, and a petition for an election has not been filed, appointments will be made pursuant to Education Code §5326, §5328, §5328.5.

Dated: July 15, 2024
QUEENIE BARNARD
MONO COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
TS #2024-0113

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

Mammoth Mobile Bars

**Konzen LLC
P.O. Box 416
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546**

This business is conducted by a limited liability co. The registrant has yet to commence to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on June 28, 2024
File Number 24-059
2024-0112 (7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3)

Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is 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



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO

IMPROVE MONO COUNTY GOVERNMENT!

APPLY FOR THE 2024-2025 GRAND JURY TODAY

The Superior Court of California, County of Mono, is recruiting applicants interested in serving on the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury is composed of citizens from Mono County seated from July thru June, annually. Grand Jurors are charged with local government oversight through investigations, addressing concerns, and making suggestions for improvements.

Mono County needs your participation.

Members are reimbursed for trainings, meetings, and travel. The group decides amongst itself the best meeting times and locations. Committees operate the same way. The Court is equipped to facilitate virtual meetings.

"The honor of being selected and serving on the Mono County Grand Jury has been just that, an honor," stated Richard Sanfillippo, former Mono County Grand Jury member. "Step up and say yes to serving on our Grand Jury! You have my word you will see it as an honor too!"

For more information on the Mono County Civil Grand Jury, including past final reports, and an application to serve, please visit

<http://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/generalinfo/jury-grandjury.htm>

or

Contact: Nancy Licari, Deputy Jury Commissioner at, GJ@mono.courts.ca.gov

Submit your application today!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road, the Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission will hear an application request for the following:

Application Request: The 'Snowcreek VIII – Phase I' development application includes a Tentative Tract Map (TTM) 23-002 and Use Permit (UPA) 23-003 for a proposed residential condominium subdivision comprised of 159 condominium units within 41 buildings.

The proposed development will be broken into three sub-phases (Snowcreek VIII - Phase(s) 1A, 1B, & 1C). The Phase 1 tentative map area has a total size of 107.06 acres consisting of 15.42-acres of Residential area (TM 09-02 Lots 1, 2, & 3) and 91.63-acres of Recreation area intended for the future expansion of the Snowcreek golf course (TM 09-02 Lots 17 & 18). Development of the Residential area will include: (1) subdivision of Lots 1, 2, and 3 of TM 09-02 for residential condominium purposes; (2) construction of the road and multi-use path network for Phase I; (3) completion of all required subdivision improvements (i.e., utilities, stormwater management, etc.).

Construction of the actual residential units will require approval of a subsequent use permit and design review application prior to the commencement of construction. Development of the Recreation area is limited to the installation of stormwater retention basins and recycled water pond(s) for landscape irrigation purposes. No additional development of the Recreation area is proposed as a part of this application.

CEQA Determination: The proposed action is within the scope of the project analyzed in the previously certified Snowcreek VIII, Snowcreek Master Plan Update 2007 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH #2006112015). No additional CEQA review is required.

Location: Lots 1, 2, 3, 17, and 18 and Lots A – G of Tract Map 2009-002 (Snowcreek VIII). Located south of Old Mammoth Road between Fairway Drive and Sherwin Creek Road
Zoning: Resort (R) – Snowcreek Master Plan Update (2007)

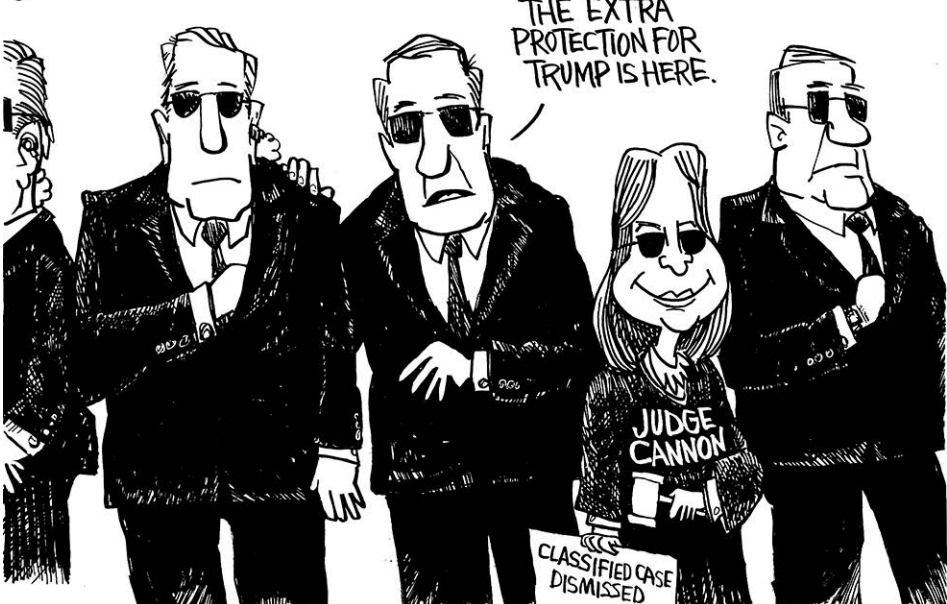
Proponent: Snowcreek Investment Company II LLC (Applicant / Property Owner)
Project Information Webpage: <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1236/Snowcreek-VIII>

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than July 19, 2024, contact Nolan Bobbroff, Community and Economic Development Director, at (760) 965-3631 or email: nbobbroff@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission
PO Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

TS #2024-0111

Joe Heller © 2024 HELLERTRON.COM



ARTS

GIVE DAVID PORTER A HALL PASS

By Lunch

There are some folks who come across as genuinely nice. So nice that you kinda wonder if they're real.

Rebecca Hang and Brian Schuld of Felici Trio/Chamber Music Unbound renown fit that description.

My kids have studied violin with Rebecca for fifteen years. I can't recall a single time I've dropped off for a lesson where Rebecca hasn't been on her 'A' game and genuinely excited to teach.

So she's either real ... or the greatest actress who ever lived.

David Porter, who studied music at Indiana University with the pair, can attest that Rebecca and Brian are indeed real and never dropped him ... even after he dropped them.

"I played viola in a string quartet with Rebecca [at school]," recalls Porter. "And I just stiffed them. Quit. Put 'em in a spot. I'm the villain of the story ... and yet, they forgave me. And then invited me 20 years later to come play their festival."

And Porter has been returning ever since - this is his sixth year.

He visits with his wife Mercedes Smith. Both are members of the Utah Symphony based in Salt Lake City. He plays the violin and viola; she plays the flute.

They played the festival's opening concert on Wednesday and will also play the Friday and Sunday concerts this weekend.

Porter grew up in a musical family in Northfield, Minnesota, the youngest of four. His parents were both academics.

Everyone in the family was expected to play an instrument.

As his Utah Symphony bio states, "David spent the first dozen or so years of his



David Porter

life in a mostly intact Victorian house, infested with musical instruments, newspaper clippings, paper bags, pets of all shapes and sizes, New Yorkers, old books and mice. There was a flutist, a cellist, an oboist, two violinists and a pianist."

As a youth, Porter swore he wouldn't become a musician.

As fate would have it, he became the only professional musician among his siblings.

He naturally married a woman who swore she would never marry a musician.

Two examples that anything is possible.

Maybe that's why Porter is politically active. He believes that good things can be manifested.

Exhibit A: MOTUS (Musicians of the

Utah Symphony) after dark. He and his fellow musicians bring classical music, in the form of shorter sets, to bars and clubs in Salt Lake City. Which helps raise awareness that classical music is hip and relevant and awesome - and MOTUS also raises money for charity in the process.

Exhibit B: Porter has been active in his quest to save Abravanel Hall.

The Hall was named after the conductor who put the Utah Symphony on the map, and voters passed a civic bond to pay for its construction.

Now, however, a billionaire group which has purchased Salt Lake's professional sports franchises wants money and land from the city to keep those franchises in Salt Lake.

Some of the land they wish to appropriate and redevelop is land upon which the Hall sits.

The developers promise they'll build another Hall somewhere else.

Porter is dubious.

He wrote a letter to the editor of the Salt Lake Tribune last month urging locals to save the Hall.

The county owns the Hall, so much of the battle will be fought in the court of public opinion.

They do have a petition which has garnered 45,000 signatures.

"I love sports, especially hockey (having grown up in Minnesota) ... but I don't support giving massive quantities of money (in the form of land and subsidies) to those who have massive quantities of money."

Why should you attend the Unbound Chamber Music Festival? Here's the pitch.

"The great thing about Brian and Rebecca is that they put programs together for the average music lover. They're accessible."

On Sunday, a highlight will be the Dvorak piano quintet. Says Porter, "It is one of the all-time great chamber pieces with unforgettable melodies."

On Friday, he cites two pieces. One by an African-American composer named Florence Price who's been "rediscovered."

"I've played the piece once before. It's really fun, expressive, melodic."

And then there's a Mozart string quintet which, again, he places in his top five.

As for Brian and Rebecca, Porter considers them geniuses, because they managed to carve out a life in the Sierra.

"I love to ski, hike, bike ... I love coming here. I am envious of their lives."

For info on times/tix, see ad p. 9

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BOOK REVIEW: BREATH

James Nestor blows fresh air into the “lost art” of breathing

By Milender

It's warm milk doctrine. In the same vein as counting the ceiling tiles above you, or having a good smoke.

Well, maybe, the opposite of that last one.

Take a breath, we've been told, is requisite to a calm mind and a regulated body. Take a breath, we're told, is a simple fix. Take a breath, we're told, is that act which makes us most fundamentally human.

But, says *Breath* author James Nestor, the act of being human is, paradoxically, what has so bungled our respiratory function as a modern race. Breathing may very well be the elixir of life, but Nestor argues the abuse of that process is the culprit of chronic illness, sluggish facial features, the scourge upon mental health, sleep disorders, and even bad teeth.

Breathing has become a “lost art,” Nestor repeats throughout his 214 pages. To understand how to find it,

we must start at the beginning. Not even our beginning, really. But of our ancestors.

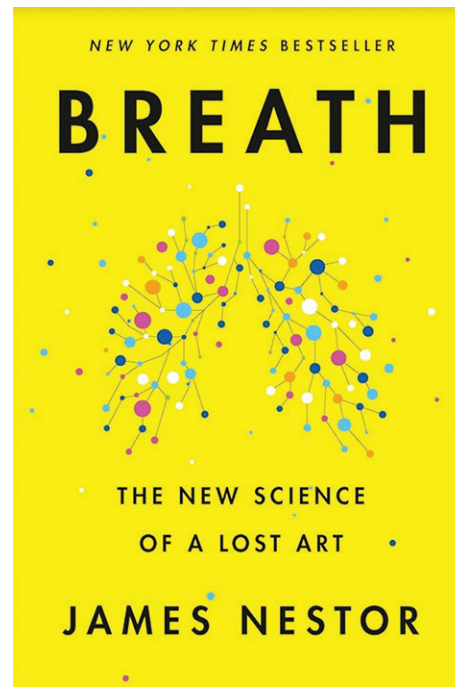
Nestor explains ancient humans had larger nasal passages and mouths, which facilitated better airflow and more efficient breathing. Theirs was an anatomical structure supported by a diet rich in hard, unprocessed foods that required vigorous chewing—an action which helped develop strong jaws and wide dental arches, further promoting optimal respiratory health.

Our ancestors also lived in environments where they were more physically active and engaged in natural, diaphragmatic breathing.

As human civilization progressed, changes in lifestyle and diet led to a decline in our respiratory efficiency. The advent of agriculture brought softer, processed foods, which reduced the need for extensive chewing. This dietary shift caused our jaws to become smaller and dental arches to narrow, leading to crowded teeth and obstructed airways.

This, combined with more time indoors exacerbated the breathing issue.

What follows from that evolutionary tale is a 10-part pseudo instruction manual, tracking Nestor's travels across the map from the Haight-Ashbury to the catacombs of central France and as he uncov-



ers what it means to restore sound breathing from the people who know best—pulmonauts, so-calls Nestor. Or, those who “have used breathing to straighten scoliotic spines, blunt autoimmune diseases, and superheat themselves in subzero temperatures.” Those who have, in other words, made the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide their currency. Nestor takes us through the hospital wings of emphysema patients, and to the start lines of Olympic gold medalists. He explains

the techniques and adjustments made to remedy our (pardon the pun) bad breath. And then, with equal care, he instructs us on those seemingly menial adjustments and techniques that brought those patients back to health, or carried elite athletes across the finish line.

But if 214 pages sounds ambitious, no sweat. Take a breath, in fact. Here's the abridged version of what you need to know:

Nose breathing: It filters, warms, and humidifies the air we breathe. Do it all the time

Exhale: Expel toxins, and maintain the sweet spot between oxygen inhalation and carbon dioxide exhalation

Breathe slow: An ancient and obvious secret that lowers your heart rate and reduces stress;

Less, on occasion: Reducing breath intake may enhance oxygen utilization and increase carbon dioxide tolerance

Chew: Hard, unprocessed foods strengthen your jaw, widen your dental arches, and improve airway structures.

More, on occasion: Practices like Tummo may boost lung capacity and enhance performance

Fast, slow, and all of the above: Incorporating any number of Nestor's suggested techniques offer various

see *BREATH*, page 15



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BREATH

continued from page 14

techniques which offer various health benefits, and how to tailor them to individual needs.

Simultaneously, the book conforms to something of an anecdotal memoir during some of its chapters, as Nestor recounts his own journey from sleep apnea to effective breathwork, and his self-conducted 2018 study conducted through Stanford’s Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Center. It was an experiment to discern the disparity in health between individuals that breathe properly through their noses, and their lesser counterparts, mouth-breathers, who are guilty of that sin which their name implies—one that “changes the physical body and transforms airways, all for the worse.”

If Nestor is to be accredited with one achievement in *Breath*—and there are many—is that the book, itself, reads something like a meditative exercise. Nestor doesn’t pander. Rather, he instructs.

While some of the techniques he explores are perhaps better left to the privacy of one’s home (i.e., covering one nostril while exhaling intentionally from the left, or contorting one’s body in such a way as to inflate one lung instead than the other), the majority are those which can be easily incorporated while driving to Vons, washing the dishes, or reading a book. As a resident mouth-breather (I come from a long, proud line of them), I was impelled by Nestor’s

writing to pick up a \$3.94 roll of paper tape to cover my mouth at night, so I might begin to breathe through the my nose as opposed to catching flies when I sleep. Call it the placebo effect, call it desperation, but I’ve noticed a difference. And what are self-help books for, if not to shame us into spending money for incremental/mental personal improvement?

In lieu of spoiling the outcome of Nestor’s experiment—or boring you further with the ongoing efforts of my own—I will offer that *Breath* is to be commended for its holding of the Western and Eastern Medical traditions in the same hand. Nestor’s work is a diamond in the rough of its peer texts in that it resists the “woo-woo,” quack-healing stereotypes that we in the West tend to associate with Eastern practices. Nestor calls out the hyperelitism and stubbornness of so-called “modern” medicine, and laments its ability to put out fires while failing to “blow away the smoke.”

He profiles the choir director who was scoffed at in VA wards for coaching patients in the same manner he coached his singers. He recounts the life of the young girl in Germany with a crooked spine who used the strength of her lung capacity to reorient her back. These pulmonauts and others were pioneers, he says, but they did not blaze the trail; the majority of their modified breathing practices were rooted in ancient doctrine.

But what Nestor admits at the end of his book is a final, necessary disclaimer: there is no cure-all when it comes to the human body. A deep breath, a held one, a left or right-nostril inhale, or proper breathing can’t fix the most sinister maladies.

Still, we should adjust the valve where we can.

As authors tend to do, James Nestor says it better:

“As I breathe a little faster, go a little deeper, the names of all the techniques I’ve explored over the past ten years all come back in a rush.

Pranayama. Buteyko. Coherent

Breathing. Hypoventilation. Breathing Coordination. Holotropic Breathwork. Adhama. Madhyama. Uttama. Kevalla. Embryonic Breathing. Harmonizing Breath. The Breath by the Master Great Nothing...

...They give us the means to stretch our lungs and straighten our bodies... To sleep better, run faster, swim deeper, live longer, and evolve further.”

And so, we beat on. We breathe on.

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

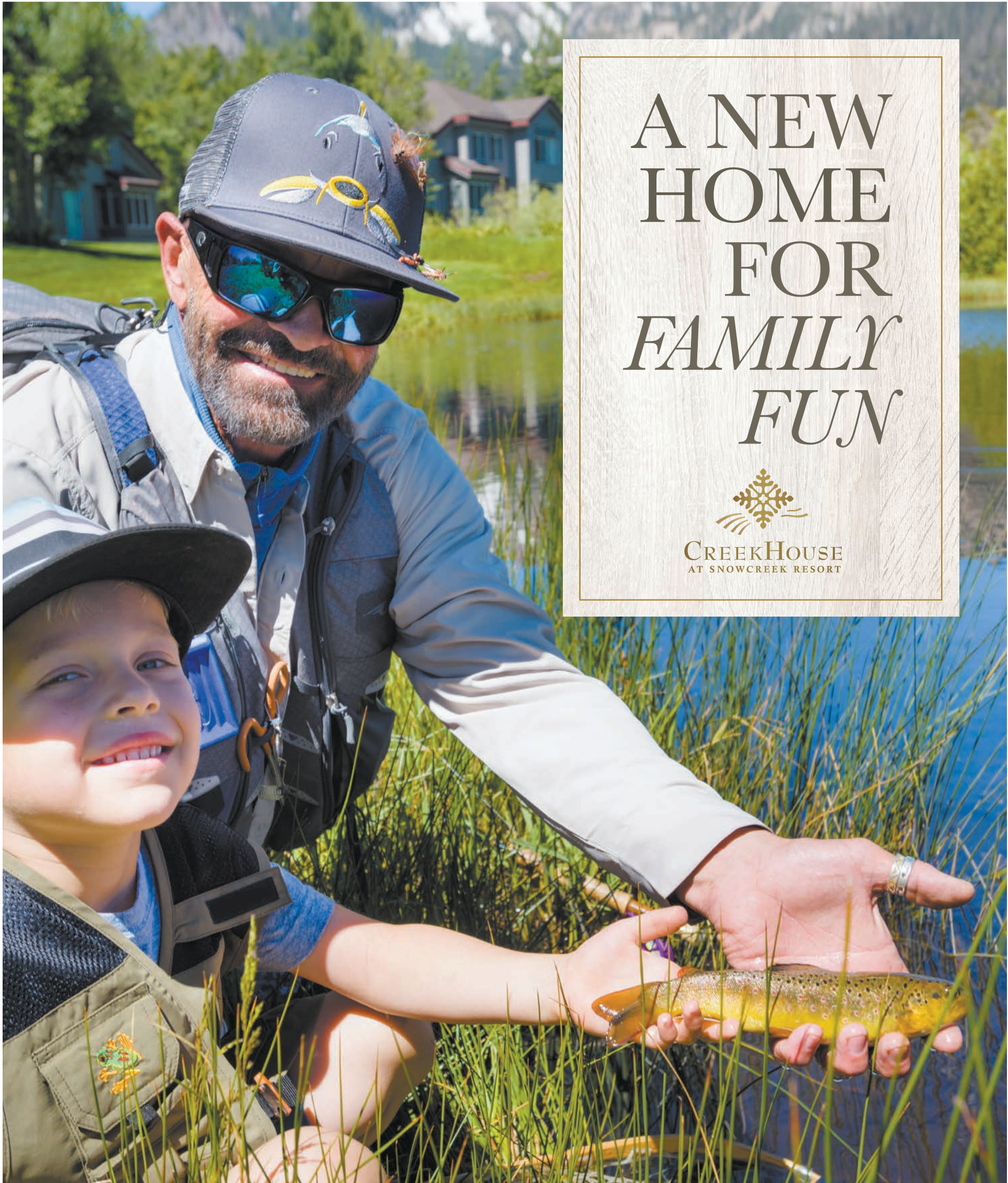
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