

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Last week, Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) volunteers and participants explored Mammoth Mountain's terrain for two adaptive mountain biking camps. For more photos, see page 13.

Saturday, July 27, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. 30

HOT UNDER THE COLLAR

Dog sled business fate hangs in the balance
By Fisher



In the quiet outskirts of town, 16 dusty huskies and their caretaker comprise the core crew of Mammoth Dog Sled Teams, one of California's last bastions of mushing tradition.

But this town relic may soon become a parking lot for van-lifers.

The lease between Ouimet and Mono county expired in late December, and the land was earmarked for a safe employee parking area, said Sandra Moberly, Mono County Administrative Officer.

"I've always thought 'I want to end on my terms,'" owner Jim Ouimet said. "But I might be ending on somebody else's terms."

The county is seeking lawful return of possession, Moberly said.

Delays from the eviction process have pushed back the construction start date beyond its anticipated start this winter, said Public Works Director Haislip Hayes.

The project is a joint effort involving Mono County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

"If [Ouimet] were to leave to-

morrow, we'd pull it together," Hayes said. "But it's not looking like that's going to be the case."

The County offered Ouimet \$3,000 to assist in his move, but he did not accept the funding, Moberly said.

The stakeholders are considering an alternative site as a pilot program, but it's not set in stone yet.

Ouimet has occupied the land for over two decades. He first signed the lease in 2003 and the county renewed it in 2014 with a stipulation that it cannot be renewed again in the future.

He was required to vacate on January 1 and was served a notice of termination on February 21, Moberly said. County staff has since spoken with him several times about the cessation of the lease.

Under the lease, Ouimet paid \$500 monthly rent plus property taxes and utilities, maintaining the property solely for his sled dog business.

"I thought the terms were negotiable to restart the lease," Ouimet said. "I'm not trying to start a war here - not yet, at least."

more DOGS, pg. 8

FIRE ON THE BALLOT

MLFPD approves resolution for special tax measure
By Milender

On July 23, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD) held a public meeting to discuss a potential ballot measure aimed at fortifying the community's defenses against the threat of wildfires.

The meeting, led by Fire Chief Ales Tomaier, highlighted those challenges faced by the district concerning emergency response and protection services, and the proposed solutions made viable through a special tax measure. The Board voted in favor to adopt a resolution

requesting a vote on that special tax in November.

The measure will ask:

"To reduce the risk of wildfires, maintain and improve rapid response times for 9-1-1 emergency services, attract, retain, and train qualified firefighters, and fund defensible space programs to improve wildfire prevention, shall the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District ordinance levying \$98 per parcel for nine years be adopted, providing approximately \$925,000 annually in locally

controlled funding, an optional yearly increase not to exceed CPI, with senior and low-income exemptions, independent oversight, annual audits and all money spent locally?"

"The most significant long-term threat to the Fire District, community members, and the economic driver for the region is catastrophic wildfire," stated Chief Tomaier in a staff report for the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, produced after the meeting. He emphasized that the district lacks the

see MLFPD, page 7

THE LAST PICNIC



This Sunday, the Mammoth Lakes Firefighter's Foundation hosts the 52nd Annual Firefighter's Picnic... and the last. See letter (page 4) and calendar (page 10) for details.

Family Truckster

Hot Feet

FiftyFifty

A Fair Competition

A Better Business

p. 2/

p. 4/

p. 5/

p. 6/

p. 14/

GRAND ENTRANCE

I've used this reference before, but what the hell, I'll use it again.

The Kamala Harris honeymoon over the past week makes me think of the scene in National Lampoon's Vacation where Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) is haggling with a car dealer played by Eugene Levy.

And Levy is trying to sell Griswold a "Family Truckster," but Griswold is dubious.

Levy: "If you think you hate it now, just wait'll you drive it."

Kamala has all the rizz of the wallpaper in your grandmother's living room. I imagine she'll be hardly tolerable by November.

And yet, she's vastly superior to the alternative.

In regard to Biden's stepping down, I think it's pretty funny ... the idea that Republicans want to sue to keep Harris off the ballot.

Yet the same folks contend Biden is unfit for office and should resign the presidency immediately.

Yet, yet, yet ...

Get over it. Gamesmanship is an element of politics. Like Mitch McConnell squashing/delaying what should have been Obama's last supreme court pick until after the 2016 election.

No one wants a game decided by forfeit. So it's time for Republicans to put on their big boy pants and play the damn game.

And they can't blame J.D. Vance on anyone but themselves.

Myself, I'm stuck in no-man's land politically because I give a shit about debt-fueled excess and worrying about debt is just so passé.

Because politicians of both stripes have long abdicated that responsibility - of managing finances and balancing a budget.

On the federal level, they just kick that can down to the Fed, which prints more money.

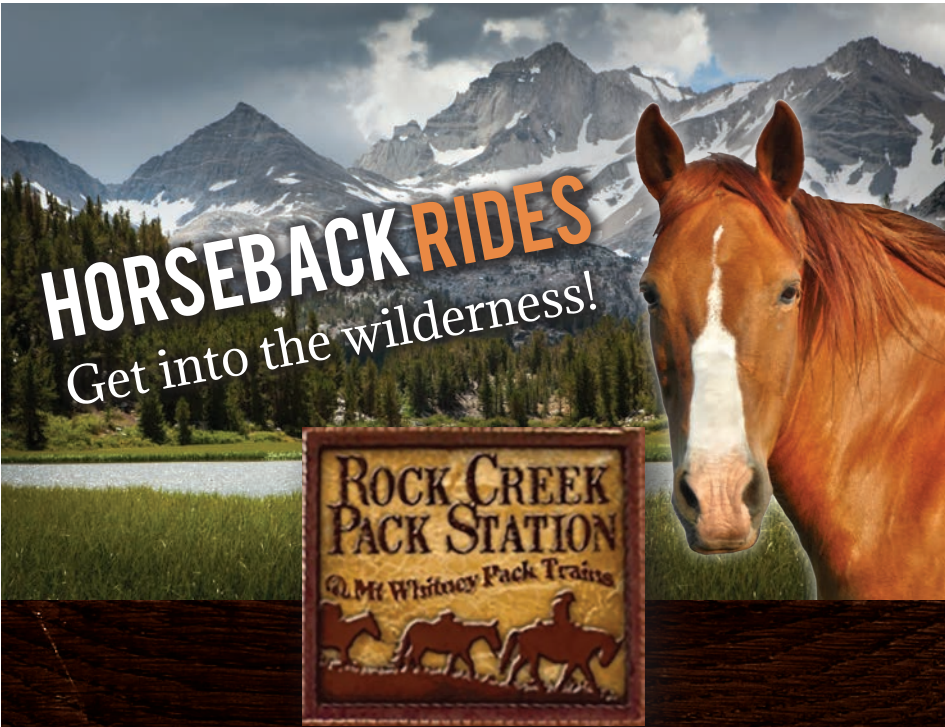
On a local level, we simply invent new taxes to feed our appetites.

Taxes, which we insist, are best "paid by other people."

As if those other people don't respond by jacking the taxes "on other people" in their own towns ... Mr. Rogitz has it right in his letter on page four.

Tax hikes are boomerangs. So ... instead of raising the rate, maybe temper your political aspirations. Does the Parcel really have to get built at Mach 7 speed?

I mean, I shave with a Mach 3 and it works just fine.



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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

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I had an interesting conversation this week with a person who suggested to me that voting for Harris will "save democracy."

My response: Hardly.

If you have a guy elected to run the country who is no longer up to the task, by definition his advisors step into the breach and set the agenda and run the government. So you have unelecteds running the country.

Is that any more democratic than having an elected demagogue/tyrant run the country?

Grandstand

A woman named Lana Grand applied for and was appointed to Mammoth's Planning and Economic Development Commission. The Sheet has reached out to Grand multiple times asking for an interview.

She turned us down.

"Being newly appointed to the Planning and Economic Development Commission, I'm focusing on getting familiar with the position, understanding all aspects of my new responsibilities, and beginning my work effectively," she wrote in an email.

In her July 8 application to the commission, Grand listed two critical civic experiences: her role as a small business owner from 2016-2020 and her current role as an E-commerce business owner.

She did not list the names or addresses of either of these entrepreneurial pursuits. She also did not include any relevant experience or expertise.

She left the box asking how long she's lived in Mammoth empty.

Her administrative business position does not seem to deter her from making meetings, as she marked she was available for both morning and evening time slots.

On her application, she said she had attended roughly five Planning and Economic Development Commission meetings so far, and wrote she is "particularly interested in sustainable development and community growth."

She named her top three priorities as affordable housing, smart growth and urban planning and economic development incentives.

"While I'm enthusiastic about the majority of activities undertaken by the Commission, I find administrative tasks less engaging," she stated in her application. "However, I recognize the importance of these activities and I am fully committed to performing these duties diligently."

Grand lists her residential address as Lupin Street. She will take office August 14 and immediately be asked to vote on a 176-unit development at Snowcreek.

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?



#KEEPMAMMOTHUNREAL™

– NOTHING HAS CHANGED –
HERE FOR MILLENNIA.
LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.



THE REAL UNREAL™

Mammoth Lakes, California, has been the Real Unreal since the beginning. And it remains one of the most extraordinary natural landscapes around, offering endless opportunities for adventure. Let's all make sure it stays just as awe-inspiring for future generations by being responsible stewards of the land throughout our journeys. Learn how you can help #KeepMammothUnreal at [VisitMammoth.com/sustainability](https://www.visitmammoth.com/sustainability).



LETTERS

Circle jerk of a scam

Jack,

I've been absent minded of late and haven't visited The Sheet for a while. Glad I checked in.

Seems the Town and the County are both in the tax-grabbing business – but it will be OK, because TOT comes from them flatlanders, not from us. Except for one thing. Every other jurisdiction does the same thing, telling its locals that the tourist taxes are being raised not on them but on “outsiders”. It's a circle jerk of a scam government is pulling, raising taxes and telling the gullible locals that only others will be on the hook while the locals skate, until the locals travel elsewhere where they must pay the tourist taxes sold by other towns to other gullible citizens. It's a perfect con and no one ever seems to catch on. Don't believe me? Next time you leave town check out your hotel bill and read the fine print.

The Sheet then reports on something the Town is doing a little more novel – starting us down the road of a surveillance state using cameras to find hot cars. But trust us, no face recognition! And we swear the data will be dumped after 30 days if not used. It's for a good cause – who doesn't want to find hot cars? And when face recognition is added (give it a year or two) it also will be for a good cause, namely, catching crooks or helping with Amber alerts. You got anything against catch-

ing crooks or finding lost kids? There are indeed manifold excellent reasons for mass surveillance, starting with public safety. Which is fine, so long as government can be eternally trusted not to misuse the information, at which point public safety flips and becomes public peril. But that won't happen. Not in Mammoth. Don't worry, be happy. We have loads of marijuana dispensaries to keep you chill. Just remember to smile for the camera. It's for your own good, you know.

John Rogitz
Mammoth Lakes

The Last Picnic

Hello Sheet News,

On Sunday the 27th, the MLFD (Mammoth Lakes Fire Dept.) will host "The Last Picnic."

Originally founded after the historic winter of 1969, the local volunteers of the MLFD created the "Fireman's Picnic," a fun, family-style event featuring classic Picnic events: tug o' war, three-legged races, greased pole climbs for \$\$\$, greased pigs, money in the hay, pie, watermelon eating, et. al. with the Fire Dept. playing host.

All the local kids were entertained for a day. And the Picnic grew. We added a day of canoe racing on Horseshoe Lake ... a full weekend of events that began the summer of 1970. Longest running event in Town. Fifty Four Years. Now it's ending. The FOG (Funny Old Guys/Girls) will be here to say goodbye.

James Quinby
Grants Pass, Ore.

LOCAL BRIEFS

College student dies on Half Dome

From an NBC News wire report from Wednesday ...

Grace Rohloff, 20, described as an Arizona college student, died following a slip-and-fall on the Half Dome cables during her ascent.

Her father Jonathan Rohloff told NBC she slipped on a wet portion of the rock and fell down the side of the mountain during a sudden thunderstorm and downpour.

"She told me it was something that was on her bucket list, that she always wanted to do, and she was so happy about it ... There's no way ten minutes before, when she was up there smiling ear to ear, that I thought I only had ten minutes left with her."

Hiking Half Dome requires a permit. A roundtrip hike to the summit covers approximately 14 miles.

Man rescued after burning feet in sand dunes

DEATH VALLEY, Calif. – A man was rescued after suffering full-thickness burns on his feet at Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes in Death Valley National Park on Saturday, July 20.

Park rangers believe the man (42, from Belgium) was taking a short walk on the sand dunes when he lost his shoes. Due to communication challenges, park rangers were not able to determine if his flip flops broke or were lost in sand. The ground temperature would have been much hotter than air temperature, which was around 123°F.

The man's family called for help and recruited other park visitors who carried the man to the parking lot.

Park rangers determined the man needed to be transported to a hospital quickly due to his burns and pain level. Mercy Air's helicopter was not able

to safely land in Death Valley due to extreme temperatures, which reduce rotor lift. Park rangers transported the man in an ambulance to a landing zone at higher elevation, which was 109°F. Mercy Air transported the man to University Medical Center in Las Vegas.

Park rangers recommend that summer travelers to Death Valley National Park stay within a 10 minute walk of an air conditioned vehicle, not hike after 10 am, drink plenty of water, eat salty snacks, and wear a hat and sunscreen.

Parcel Ribbon-Cutting/Groundbreaking

The Town of Mammoth Lakes in partnership with Pacific West Communities, Inc. is celebrating the opening of "The Sawyer" – Phase 1 of The Parcel affordable housing project and the groundbreaking for "The Kingfisher" – Phase 2 of The Parcel.

The event will take place on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, from 12-2 p.m. at The Parcel Park and attendees are encouraged to arrive to the site via public transit (Purple Line from the Town Park N' Ride) as public parking will be limited.

The community is cordially invited to attend the festivities that will feature speeches, complimentary food and drinks hosted by the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, tours of The Sawyer, playground, and childcare facility, and informational booths from the project partners highlighting their involvement in this much-needed community project and the services being provided.

Purchased by the Town in 2018, The Parcel affordable housing project will have multiple phases built over several years. More than 500 units are contemplated at full build-out. "The Sawyer" (Phase 1) includes 81 units (80 affordable units and 1 manager's unit), a child-care facility, and a public park. Funding came from a variety of sources, including the State Infill Infrastructure Grant program, the California Housing Accelerator program and town and county matches.

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

📞 (760) 923-8723

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7/12 JUNE LAKE JAM FEST PARTNERSHIP: THE ROAD TO JAM FEST!

7/13 JOE MARCINEK & GROOVE SESSION

7/19 THE HINGES
FUNK ROCK SOUL FROM THE BOYS FROM FISHBONE

7/20

7/26 CLAY COLTON BAND
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LOCAL NEWS

MASTER OF THE MALL

By Fisher

If there's one thing Mammoth needs more of, it's breweries. Or at least, that's what BISON Partners thinks. It is the retail investment company renovating a portion of the Mammoth Mall into the "Outpost," which will house FiftyFifty brewing, a restaurant and tavern based out of Truckee under the parent company Truckee Craft Ventures.

"I think that this is going to be a meaningful upgrade for the town that's going to help activate old Mammoth Road similar to the way the Outbound hotel has," project manager Philip Voorhees said.

BISON Partners, based out of Irvine, recapitalized their partnership on the property in early 2023, but had plans for this renovation in the fall of 2022, Voorhees said.

The renovation has a price tag of more than \$5 million.

Mammoth Mall, located at the intersection of Old Mammoth Road and Tavern Road, is occupied by Good Life Cafe, Verizon, Yosemite Axe throwing, and other local businesses.

Construction has affected business, said Good Life Cafe server Oscar Carrillo. Above their storefront is a temporary sign which reads "OPEN NOW" in

capitalized red letters.

"A lot of people think that we're closed," he said. "That's part of the problem. I mean, it's not the whole problem, but it's a big factor."

Building management has shifted many times in Carrillo's time at the Good Life Cafe, and the vision for the property changes with each new acquisition, he said.

Most of the businesses currently housed on the property plan to remain open throughout and beyond construction, said Nolan Bobroff, Community & Economic Development Director.

"There's one or two [businesses] that were sort of drains on parking and didn't really add much to the overall project," said Voorhees. "I'd say we kept probably 95% of the existing tenants here."

Voorhees refused to name the evicted businesses.

The permit for the renovation was approved July 10 and construction began shortly after.

Vorhees expects the exterior portion of the project to be substantially complete between October and November, with the brewery open and operating by summer 2025. The offices in the building are on track to be finished by fall of



Odds are on FiftyFifty at the Mammoth Mall

2025.

"The city has been extremely supportive of the project and provided us great feedback, which is why I think we're going to be able to execute the project in a pretty compressed time," Voorhees said.

The renovation replaces the building's rotten exterior wood with hardy board, a concrete material that is fire-resistant and more durable though snow.

The brewery will cover approximately

6,700-square feet over two levels with an additional 2,800-square foot outdoor area.

"I don't want to see Mammoth grow, but I want to see the very best version of it come through," Voorhees said.

This project is just the beginning for BISON property's vision to revitalize Mammoth. They already have other plans in the works, Voorhees said.



EASTERN SIERRA

COMMUNITY HOUSING

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE GROUNDBREAKING OF ACCESS APARTMENTS

Tuesday, July 30 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

at Access Apartments (238 Sierra Manor Road) immediately followed by a champagne toast and appetizers at the Warming Hut (343 Old Mammoth Road) - for a celebration!

This is a free community event!



Now we've got some groundbreaking news...

Eastern Sierra Community Housing is thrilled to announce that construction is starting on Access Apartments. This project will convert the old Country Glass building into 13 apartments serving households earning below 80% and 120% of the Area Median Income. We want to give a HUGE thank you to our Board of Directors, staff, and community members; our local and State partners, including the California Department of Housing and Community Development; and lastly, our incredible donors - with a special thank you to Sharon Alper.

This project would not be possible without all this incredible support!

We invite the community to celebrate with us on Tuesday, July 30 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. We will meet on-site at Access Apartments for the groundbreaking and move to the Warming Hut afterwards for a toast.

For more information, please contact staff at 760-934-4740.

4 DAYS

YOUR WAY



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FAIR COMPETITION

It's time to indulge your crafty and creative self! Enter to win at the upcoming Tri-County Fair in any one of several categories.

The fair book can be found online at the Bishop Tri-County fair website (tricityfair.com). Hard copies can be obtained at the fair office. Enter online at tricounty-fairjla.fairview.com before August 18, 2024 at 5 p.m. If you prefer to enter in person, entry forms can be dropped off at the southwest door of the main office from 8/12/24 through 8/18/24 from 9-5 daily.

This year, the always popular Baking Contests are the Oatmeal Cookie contest and the Cherry Pie contest. Social Media Videos is a new category in the computer department. You can do a lip sync video, a duet, funny pet video and much more! You can have sound or not - just keep it short and snappy for about 30 to 90 seconds.

The Agriculture Department is where you would enter your fruits and veg-



After much hand-wringing and despair, the traditional Wednesday Farmers Market at the Promenade has returned. Rick Devore (dark windbreaker, center, facing camera) said his Apple Hill Ranch has been back for two weeks, following mall owners Steve and Dennis Park's generous decision to pay off the town (some \$700) for "permit fees." How the town could cash that check in good conscience is beyond me. -Lunch

etables as well as honey, seeds, grains, hay bales and your scarecrows! The scarecrow contest might be a fun thing to do with your family. You can also enter any unusual garden item as long as it is not a weed. *Lunch addendum - or weed

There are a couple of categories where you don't have to make anything - such as Antiques and Collections.

For those who sew and make things with fiber, there are two departments that might be of interest: Clothing and Textiles and Quilts. These are the departments to enter if you sew, weave, crochet, spin, knit, etc.

Other categories include Floraculture, Fine Arts and Photography, Preserved Foods, Handicrafts and more. See you at the Fair over Labor Day weekend.

MARKET RATES

PEDC POSTPONEMENT

Mammoth's Planning and Economic Development Commission postponed the main agenda item, the approval of the "Snowcreek VIII Phase I" project at their meeting on Wednesday, until August 14 due to improper public noticing.

The notice documents had stated the project contemplated 159 units versus 176. Oops.

Current PEDC Commissioners Paul Chang, Jessica Kennedy and Jen Burrows will thus miss out on the fun, as their commission terms expire July 31.

They will be replaced by longtime locals Dawn Vereuck, Cynthia Fleming and a woman named Lana Grand who has refused a Sheet interview - so ... I guess we'll meet her in August. Her application stated that she is an e-commerce business owner and has attended approximately five PEDC meetings. *More about her application on page two.*

As a result, Wednesday's discussions primarily focused on the 2024-2025 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Staff presented the current CIP projects to the Town Council during budget hearings in June. The Council approved the plan, procedures, and projects, which were then reviewed and funded on June 21. Many of these projects have carried over from previous years.

"There are currently about \$150 million [in projects] that the town is facilitating going on right now," Public Works Director Haislip Hayes said.

Here's where that money is going: the new Town Civic Center, which will house the new town hall and offices. Construction is scheduled to commence this week.

Located on Tavern Road, the building is conceptually divided into three parts: public, semi-private, and business operations, according to the building plan.

Public areas include a main lobby, restrooms, and conference rooms. Additionally, there will be Town Council chambers, meeting rooms, and a two-story administrative office supporting various town departments' operations.

The project will be funded by a \$29.5 million bond and general fund allocation for basic construction, an increase from the initial estimate of \$27 million due to insurance costs.

"Parcel Park" is nearing completion, with a ribbon-cutting scheduled for August 7. The park features playgrounds, restrooms, a shade structure, a barbecue area, and informational signs.

The park will be open to everyone, not just Parcel residents.

Construction is also underway for a climbing area at Mammoth Creek Park and for adding public restrooms to the Dog Park and Shady Rest Park.

The Mammoth Arts and Cultural Center (MACC), a proposed \$15.5 million theater project, is expected to go out to bid in August with an anticipated contract award in October.

-Fisher

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PICKLE BALLERS!



The Mammoth Hospital Foundation hosted its first pickleball tournament on Saturday, July 20 at the Mammoth Lakes Pickleball Complex. All proceeds of the event benefited Rhiannon's Kids which offers financial aid to families of pediatric patients needing specialized medical and dental care outside the area. Results below.

A Division Champions: Bruce Burton & Carey Sigmen (pictured above left)
A Division Runner-Ups: Karen Kasten & Laura Burton
B Division Champions: Tom Gaunt & Steve Clark (pictured above right)
B Division Runner-Ups: Julianne Liles & Adam Gaunt

MLFPD

continued from page 1

necessary resources to tackle this stressor effectively. An inability of the federal government to staff fire engines within the region has exacerbated the issue, highlighting the urgent need for increased local response capacity and enhanced mitigation tactics.

Moreover, says the chief, “Mitigations help reduce risk primarily through fuels reduction and structure hardening. In addition to the impacts on life and property in the event of a wildfire, market realizations have led to changes in insurance premiums that are unsustainable.

In other words, by reducing risk, cost may similarly be reduced.

In response to increasing wildfire risks, the MLFPD established its Wildland Program in the summer of 2023, supported by a three-year CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Grant. This program focuses on the mitigation of wildfire risk through defensible space work and maintaining a qualified workforce to respond to wildfires.

Further funding from the proposed tax measure would allow the continuation and expansion of the Wildland Program—a necessity, according to the MLFPD’s administration, given the area’s vulnerability to natural disasters including wildfire, as well as earthquakes and propane explosions.

Recent fires in Mono County, such as the 2015 Round Fire and the 2020 Mountain View Fire, have demonstrated that vulnerability to wildfire within surrounding communities. A similar incident in Mammoth Lakes, says Tomaier, could severely disrupt the lives of residents and the region’s economic stability.

With a jurisdiction spanning 24 square miles, 1.5 million square feet of commercial development, and serving a population between 7,500 and 40,000 depending on visitation, the District has reported a strain on its resources. Despite those service-level stresses, the MLFPD does not benefit directly from the Town’s transient occupancy tax (TOT), which contributes significantly to the town’s revenue.

The July 23 meeting featured extensive public comment between residents and the MLFPD Board regarding the special tax intended to compensate for the District’s resource shortfall.

Longtime resident David Smith

raised concerns about the definition and criteria for low-income and senior exemptions. Chief Tomaier clarified that seniors aged 65 and older would qualify for exemptions regardless of income, provided they complete the necessary application.

“We are providing essentially two provisions,” said Chief Tomaier. “Anyone who is 65 and over ... is exempt. Separate from that, if you meet the requirements as low-income, you can be exempted. Anyone who fits both of those categories is also exempt.”

Brian Guizot asked about the tax’s applicability to condominiums and the potential impact of inflation on the measure’s efficacy. Chief Tomaier confirmed that the tax would apply to all parcels, including those with condominiums, and explained that the measure’s built-in Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment would account for inflation.

Firefighter and EMT Captain Michael Payne, speaking both as a local resident and as a member of MLFD, emphasized the need for transparency and clear communication about the measure’s benefits and costs before the public. He advised focusing on the tangible improvements in wildfire safety and emergency response that the tax would fund, rather than relying on fear-based messaging.

“I think if we’d done that the last time we flew this, it would have passed,” said Payne, referring to a special tax previously proposed by the District, but falling short of approval by 2 votes in 2020.

If approved in November, the special tax measure would expire after nine years and could not be renewed without voter approval. This sunset clause provides a mechanism for the community to reassess the district’s performance and the continued necessity of the tax.

UNBOUND CHAMBER

music

2024

festival

ALPINE APPROACH

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Hilda Herrera Adler, Jo Bacon, Roy & Jane Gillam, Joyce P. Kaufman & Robert B. Marks, Roger & Ruth MacFarlane, Valerie Mackay, Donald Sage

DOGS

continued from page 1

The Mammoth Dog Sled Teams office building was a retired sheriff substation when Ouimet first moved to the property.

The county is unsure whether they will demolish the building or reuse it once they repossess the land, Moberly said.

"I brought in power, got the water system working, gas, propane," Ouimet said. "With my time, my energy, my work, my money"

The building's past life shines through, from its concrete floors to its acoustic ceilings. The old freezer has been reappropriated to hold meat for the dogs, and the winter staff meets in the former morgue.

Ironically, though, framed cutouts of luxury brand catalogs and movie scenes adorn the walls of the humble shelter; their subjects are all former and current generations of Ouimet's dogs.

Mammoth Dog Sled Teams is among the last Californian mushing companies, and is the sole canine sledding service provider in the area.

The rural kennel's proximity to Hollywood has made it a ready photo opportunity for big production companies such as Vogue, Animal Planet and Ralph Lauren.

Despite increasingly harsh winters, the unique attraction has kept business steady.

"If we had Mother Nature cooperate with us, we would be killing it," Ouimet said. "I have more phone calls than I can do work in a day."

This land dispute isn't Ouimet's first

relocation challenge—it's his fifth.

He left his first property because he had too many dogs, which violated a town ordinance.

He then moved to an industrial park, then to Sierra Meadows for a year before the Forest Service ordered him to move.

He moved again to a different industrial park, but was displaced when the landowner turned the land into a gas station.

He left his penultimate property due to financial constraints.

He's currently on the hunt for new land that can accommodate his dogs' needs. He requires at least an acre, but the options are bleak.

Even if he secures new land, rebuilding would remain a formidable challenge for Ouimet.

"I would be starting all over again, basically going right back to being a cave-man," he said. "I mean, I would basically, once again, be starting all over again."

Ouimet has received backlash and complaints on his business for years, though Animal Services has yet to find an issue with his caretaking.

The dogs stay outside most of the time, regardless of weather. Adult dogs are chained to individual shelters with water bowls, unless pregnant or injured.

"I've kept a clean kennel all these years. My records are up to date: I run a clean ship," Ouimet said. "It's just, I don't know. Other people think it's cruel."

This month, Mono County Animal Services received two reports alleging that Ouimet's dogs were chained in the hot



sun without adequate water, prompting an investigation by Field Services Officer Emily Hartman.

The investigation stalled initially because the agency couldn't locate the contract between Ouimet and the county signed by the previous owner, Hartman explained. This contract was a special memorandum of understanding granting Ouimet certain privileges due to the leased land.

After a few days, they did find the contract, but it had no expiration date, letterhead or signage.

If Mammoth Dog Sled Teams survives

the drama, Animal Services wants to amend and update the memorandum for the future, Hartman said.

Regardless, in a June 6 visit to the facility, Animal Services found the conditions of the contract were being met and the dogs were found in good health.

"They had shade and water and [Ouimet] told me that they were frequently swapped out into the yard," Animal Services wrote in their case notes. "He told me that they were not chained for longer than 3 hours in a 24-hour period. All dogs were healthy and had good temperaments."

*SUMMER AIR SERVICE EXTENDED THROUGH OCTOBER 6!



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 and extended fall service running on Fridays and Sundays, Sept 6 – Oct 6. 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.

End of Summer

BIKE SALE

2024 RENTAL BIKE PRE-SALE

PURCHASING BEGINS AUGUST 1 @ 8 AM

PICK-UP YOUR BIKE FROM SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 9

ONLINE ONLY

FootlooseSports.com

760-934-2400

3043 MAIN STREET | MAMMOTH LAKES | FOOTLOOSESPORTS.COM

ALL BIKES MUST GO!

PREVIEW BIKES NOW AT FootlooseSports.com



Hole in the Wall - Christian Pondella



Autumn on the Lake, Convict Lake - Blake DeBock



Crowley Sunset Fireworks - Bob Kent



Clearing Summer Storm, Cathedral Peak, Yosemite NP - John Dittli

The Eastern Sierra Collection

A Silent Auction of Traditional and Digital Images from Sierra Nevada Photography Pros benefitting:

MONO ARTS COUNCIL

Bidding runs August 1st - August 16th

Sign-up for free using the QR code



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							
ODD Address							

Hand-watering allowed BEFORE 10 a.m. & AFTER 5 p.m.

No hand-watering or irrigation on Fridays.

All hoses must be equipped with an Automatic Shutoff Devices

Rebates available!

Replace turf grass and receive \$2.00/sf.
Install an Energy Star toilet, dishwasher or clothes washer and receive \$200-\$400!

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



calendar of events

www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com



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Hundreds of Articles & Videos
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Beer lovers' candy store
Selection of more than 300 beers
AT A CERTAIN POINT, IT'S TIME TO
RETIRE JOE AND MOVE ONTO BEER!

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CARSON
LAW GROUP
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(760) 512-7700

Offices for rent
station81.net



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 AND karaoke every Sunday, starting at 8:30 p.m.
Main Street Pizza - See ad this page for details.

Friday, July 26/
Clay Colton Band (Americana, Country, Rock) plays Liberty in Mammoth. Time: Night.

Saturday, July 27/
Mammoth All Stars play **Liberty**. Come for the music, stay for the Mountain Funk Soul Dance Party. **"Party on the Mountain" @ JMSA**. Time: 3-8 p.m. Brews, BBQ and the Clay Colton Band. 12 & under free. Free shuttles to/from Mammoth. Info: junemountain.com

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

Monday, July 29/
Free Concert in Bishop City Park under the gazebo 8 to 9 every Monday evening. Bring a chair, picnic dinner & friends. Dancing encouraged! And, if you ever played an instrument in high school, pick it up and come play along, no practice needed.

Wednesday, July 31/
Weekly Pool Tournament @ Distant Brewing. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Pool from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

August 1-August 4/
Mammoth Festival of Beers and Bluesapalooza is a 4-day music and beer festival located at The Woods Site in Mammoth Lakes, CA. For tickets and more information, see ad p. 14.

TOWN STUFF

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. Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Creative Tap @ 1903 Taphouse & Co. in Bishop. Come join, and make a mini art gallery—This is an opportunity to collaborate and create a temporary art installation as a community. There will be paint available and all styles are welcome! Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

July 26-July 27/
Mammoth VillageFest @ The Village Plaza. Enjoy delicious food and drinks from local vendors, while listening to live rock 'n' roll! Come by Friday and Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

July 26-July 28/
50th Annual Open Air Arts & Crafts Fair @ Kittredge Sports from 10:00

TOWN STUFF

a.m. to 5:00 p.m., everyday. Shop for handcrafted treasures, get to know the artists, and learn the stories behind each piece they make. Live music from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 27/
35th Annual Kids Fishing Festival in Mammoth Lakes @ Snowcreek Resort Ponds from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. FREE for kids 14 & under. Rods, reels, & tackle provided - or bring your own.
Mammoth Lakes Trail Day hosted by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo National Forest. Meet at 9:00 a.m., Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, for free breakfast and coffee, and work on trail maintenance, landscape restoration, and general cleanup.
Death Valley Planetarium Tour FREE at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM. Join a ranger during the day for a tour of the night sky in the park's planetarium! Meet at Furnace Creek Visitor Center.

Sunday, July 28/
"The Last [Fireman's] Picnic." Location: Shady Rest Park. Time: 11 a.m. 'til 3 p.m. For a little background, see letter p. 4.

Tuesday, July 30/
Eastern Sierra Community Housing groundbreaking ceremony for the Access Apartments (former Country Glass site) in Mammoth at 238 Sierra

TOWN STUFF

Manor Rd. Time: 3-5 p.m. For more info, see ad p. 5

August 1-5/
Golden Trout Wilderness Fence Removal Join Friends of the Inyo and USFS on a Volunteer Work-Week to remove defunct grazing structures from alpine meadows. This is a 5 day, 4 night overnight remote trip. FREE and intended for those who are familiar with the backcountry and have their own camping gear. See friendsoftheinyo.org for details.

Saturday, August 3/
Death Valley Brill Car Train Rides @ Laws Railroad Museum. Experience a vintage train ride on a 1920s era motorcar rail ride. For more info, see lawsmuseum.org

August 6-18/
Mammoth Shakespeare Festival, featuring two productions on alternate nights ("Merry Wives of Windsor" and "The Winter's Tale") plays outdoors at Eagle Lodge. For more info, see ad p. 14.

August 7/
Parcel ribbon-cutting/groundbreaking event. Location: The Parcel. Time: 12-2 p.m. Refreshments provided courtesy of the MLPD.

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



Superlative East Coast, Thin-Crust Pizza

LUNCH SPECIALS
Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm

- \$2 Off All 10" Pizzas
- 1/2 Off All Salads

HAPPY HOUR
Mon-Fri: 3:30-6:30 pm
Sat-Sun: 8pm-Close

- \$3 Cheese Slice \$4 Pepperoni Slice
- \$1 off all Pints & Tasting Flights
- \$1 off all Wines By the Glass

3399 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, Family Friendly!
(760) 965-0321 | order online | mainstreetpizzaandtap.com

NO CLASS-IFIEDS/NOTICES

Help Wanted



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

Retail Sales Associate - Mammoth \$19 plus tips
General Manager - Mammoth \$30 plus tips
Maintenance techs - Mammoth \$21-22
Line Cooks - Mammoth \$21-22
Lead Cook - Mammoth \$25-26
Property Mgr. Coordinator - Mammoth \$25-34
Staffing Coordinator - Mammoth \$25
General Laborers - Mammoth \$20-25
Journeyman Plumber - Mammoth \$30-45
Trail Surveyor - Lee Vining \$25 plus mileage

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 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.



SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO

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

Deputy Court Clerk

in the Mammoth Lakes
Courthouse

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

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

Open Until Filled

The Mono County Superior Court
is an equal opportunity
employer

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

Mammoth Off-Road Adventures

RBH-Services LLC
456 Industrial Circle
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability co. 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 27, 2024
File Number 24-058
2024-0109 (7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17)
TS #2024-0117

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

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 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/>.



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)

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)



Progress Your Career at Mammoth Hospital!

We're currently looking for:

- Physical Therapist (\$5,000 retention bonus)
- Cook (\$2,200 retention bonus)
- Behavioral Health Provider (\$5,000 retention bonus)
- Emergency Registered Nurse - Night Position



- Success Sharing Incentive Program
- Staff Development Programs
- Generous Retirement Match and PTO Accrual



Openings at www.mammothhospital.com | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [v](#)

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 -3 Seats
Lee Vining Fire Protection District -2 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 Availability/ Public Hearing

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF 2024-2025 MONO COUNTY RECOMMENDED BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING BY THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Notice is hereby given that the Recommended County Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 will be available to members of the public on July 29, 2024, on the Mono County website at <https://www.monocounty.ca.gov/auditor/page/2024-2025-budget>

Notice is also hereby given that the Board of Supervisors will meet at 9:00 A.M. for a special board meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2024, in the Board Chambers, 2nd floor, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California, 93517 for the purpose of conducting a public hearing regarding the fiscal year 2024-2025 Recommended Budget, prior to adoption on September 17, 2024.

Any member of the public may appear at the hearing and be heard regarding any item in the recommended budget or for the inclusion of additional items. Members of the public may provide testimony in Bridgeport, at the address above, or at the Mammoth Lakes Civic Center Mono Lake room located at 1290 Tavern Road, or via zoom. All proposals for revisions to the budget shall be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors before the close of the public hearing.

Meeting details and Zoom link available online here: <https://monocounty.ca.gov/bos/page/board-supervisors-special-meeting-budget-hearing-0>

Sandra Moberly, MPA, AICP
County Administrative Officer

TS #2024-0114

Notice of Ordinance



Notice is hereby given that on July 17, 2024 the Town Council introduced an Ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RENEWING THE TOWN'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE POLICY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 7071 (AB 481).

A copy of the complete text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, and/or a copy may be obtained from the office of the Town Clerk at a nominal charge.

Dated: July 17, 2024
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes

TS #2024-0115

Notice of Ordinance



Notice is hereby given that on July 17, 2024 the Town Council introduced an Ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 3.12.040 OF THE MAMMOTH LAKES MUNICIPAL CODE INCREASING THE RATE OF THE TOWN'S TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX FROM THIRTEEN PERCENT TO FIFTEEN PERCENT.

A copy of the complete text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, and/or a copy may be obtained from the office of the Town Clerk at a nominal charge.

Dated: July 18, 2024
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes

TS #2024-0116



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!



**WE'RE
HIRING!**



- Animal Services Officer I/II
- Appraiser I/II
- Appraiser Aide
- Correctional Deputy I/II
- Court Screener
- Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
- Deputy Probation Officer I/II/III
- Deputy Sheriff I/II
- Emergency Medical Technician - Reserve
- Equipment Mechanic I/III (Temporary)
- Maintenance Worker I/II/III (Roads)
- Paramedic I/II
- Social Worker Supervisor I/II (Adult Services)
- Solid Waste Maintenance Worker
- Wellness Center Associate (Benton & Mammoth Lakes)

To apply:

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

ROLL WITH IT

Photos By Jacob Myhre

This past weekend, Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) hosted two adaptive camps where 12 participants experienced the thrill of mountain biking. Participants navigated scenic trails on adaptive bikes with the help of instructors. DSES aims to provide inclusive sports programs, year round, for differently-abled individuals. *For more, visit disabledsportseasternsierra.org.*



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

DEMOLITION DERBY

TRICOUNTYFAIR.COM

INYO COUNTY

SIERRA COUNTY

EL DORADO COUNTY

COSO

TRI COUNTY Fair EVENT CENTER BISHOP, CA

Inyo County Animal Shelter and

EASTERN SIERRA DOG RESCUE

NEED YOUR HELP!

The Inyo County Animal Shelter in Big Pine is FULL of dogs!

If you are able to adopt or foster a dog, please visit the shelter at:

1001 County Road, Big Pine

Eastern Sierra Dog Rescue is paying all adoption fees for the month of July!

Shelter Hours:

Tues-Fri 10am-3pm, Sat/Sun 11am-4pm, Mon- closed

Shelter Phone: (760) 938-2715

Please help save the life of a dog...

by adopting or fostering! Spay or neuter your pets- it saves lives!

BUSINESS

A BETTER EXPERIENCE

By Milender

For the Voss family, home is where the hearth is. Walk into their storefront tucked behind Main Street (at the end of Center St.), and you'll see many of the fireplaces you recognize—maybe it's the pellet stove that got your mom through the tough winter of '22-'23. The five fireplaces installed in the Scripps house, or the one in the Star-

bucks lounge further down the road on Main. The masonry work that you covet in thy neighbor's house.

Here, says Shelby Cottrell, is the warmest place to work in town. Her two daughters—in hot pink, matching, company-issued shirts—dart in and out of their pop-up castle, set in the middle of the shop. Shelby's parents and owners of the business,

Lisa and Scott Voss, dart in and out of the back stockroom with similar enthusiasm. Shelby's sister, Bailey, fields phone calls and children with a likeness of ease.

This is a family business. This is A Better Fireplace.

The story of A Better Fireplace begins in the 90s, back when Scott was managing what was formerly known as Mammoth Lakes Building Materials. According to him, he got to know the owner of the local stove shop because his company was the "only one in town with a forklift" to handle stove deliveries. When High Country Lumber later sought to buy Mammoth Lakes Building Materials, Scott transitioned to working for the fireplace company, Clean Sweep. Under his management, the business flourished, doubling its revenue in the first year and tripling it the next. In '99, the owner of Clean Sweep offered to sell the business to Scott, with the advice he obtain a general contractor's license to expand their services. Finding contractors for small jobs was challenging, even then.

So Scott got his license. Bought the business. Renamed it "A Better Fireplace."

"Those were the Yellow Pages days," he says. "I wanted us to be first in the alphabet."

But Scott didn't just want to be the number listed first in the phone book. He also wanted to redefine the business's scope. Not only would they maintain previously installed fireplaces. They would sell them, too. Be a one-stop-shop for all things hearth and heating.

It was a floor to ceiling operation that a young Shelby Cottrell admired, often sitting in the store's office to complete her homework as a kid and getting familiar with the inner workings of the business. After working a corporate job in San Diego, Shelby and her husband Colin—who manages the company's field operations as the lead installation technician while Shelby minds the store—moved back to Mammoth with daughters, Lily and Peyton.

Shelby—who can speak fluently of the ports and crevices within a pellet stove, the full service of an appliance's internal body, or the merits and setbacks of liquid propane versus natural gas—says the success of the company is owed all to her father.

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BETTER

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“He’s made this business what it is because of his hard work,” reflected Shelby. “I just want to continue that legacy—this little fireplace legacy that my dad’s got going on.”

And that staying power has proven vital, given the limited availability of local appliance service and vendors.

The recent Alpine Stove saga, which left many clients without fireplaces (and their deposits) and unable to reach the company, highlighted the resilience and commitment of A Better Fireplace to effective customer service.

“We’ve been contacted by almost every single one of their clients,” Shelby explained. “We’ve probably helped out almost 15 to 20 of their clients.”

Despite already having a heavy workload, Shelby, the family, and the nine employees currently staffed stepped up to assist those former clients of Alpine Stove, leveraging a local program that offers significant discounts on new appliances.

“I feel terrible for these people,” says Shelby. “But there is a silver lining. There’s now a program through the Town of Mammoth Lakes where you can get \$2,000 to \$4,000 off a new stove. And we’re the only approved retailer in Mammoth.”

The program, as part of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District’s effort to reduce emissions, provides financial relief to households replacing old, pollution-heavy stoves.

“It’s called a wood smoke reduction program,” Shelby explains. “They’re trying to eliminate old wood stoves that put out tons of emissions; giving people an incentive to replace them with a more efficient stove.”

And as industry standards have evolved, so has the business.

Over the past 30 years, the Voss family has witnessed significant shifts in aesthetic preferences and has adapted its services, in lockstep, to meet evolving customer demands.

In those early Yellow Pages days, traditional wood-burning stoves with rustic designs were the norm, but today, there is a growing trend (especially amongst second homeowners) towards modern, sleek, and minimalist fireplace designs. Clients frequently request “mountain luxury” in

the way of linear fireplaces with clean lines and contemporary finishes, often paired with custom stone and tile work—much of which is designed by Scott.

He says it’s all just about the feel of the rock; the fitting together of a mantel’s pieces. Like a puzzle.

Shelby, though, insists that her father’s stonework is nothing short of art.

“He has the eye for it,” she says. “He wants the job he does, done perfectly.”

And that reputation has reached well beyond Mammoth Lakes.

Recently, said Scott, the business received a request from a client in La Quinta, California, who wanted a six-foot gas fireplace installed despite the 130-degree heat.

“It’s like selling ice cubes to the Eskimos,” he joked. “But we’re selling heat to Palm Springs.”

“We’ve been flown out to Hawaii to install fireplaces,” said Shelby. “It was a general contractor who used to live here. He just liked our work.”

And certainly, for the Voss/Cottrell family, the commitment to a job well done is a shared gene. Shelby says that, to manage the 125 service calls on the business’s list through the summer, Saturdays will be sacrificed (“We can’t help everyone now, but we can help everyone eventually,” she says). Colin (who has braved snowstorms to install fireplaces for elderly residents



The Voss family, seated in their showroom off Main Street.

across the county) wasn’t present for The Sheet’s after hours interview. Instead, he was on site for a call. According to Scott and Shelby, Lisa’s bookkeeping leaves nearly a number out of place. Even young Lily and Peyton were running a “sticker business” out of their castle, with familiar diligence.

For Shelby Cottrell, it’s the values

instilled by her family—loyalty, steadfast work ethic, and accountability—that make A Better Fireplace a family business, enduring.

“My thought is—our thought is—this is heat for somebody. It’s somebody’s well-being; how they survive. We have compassion for that. We just want to help.”

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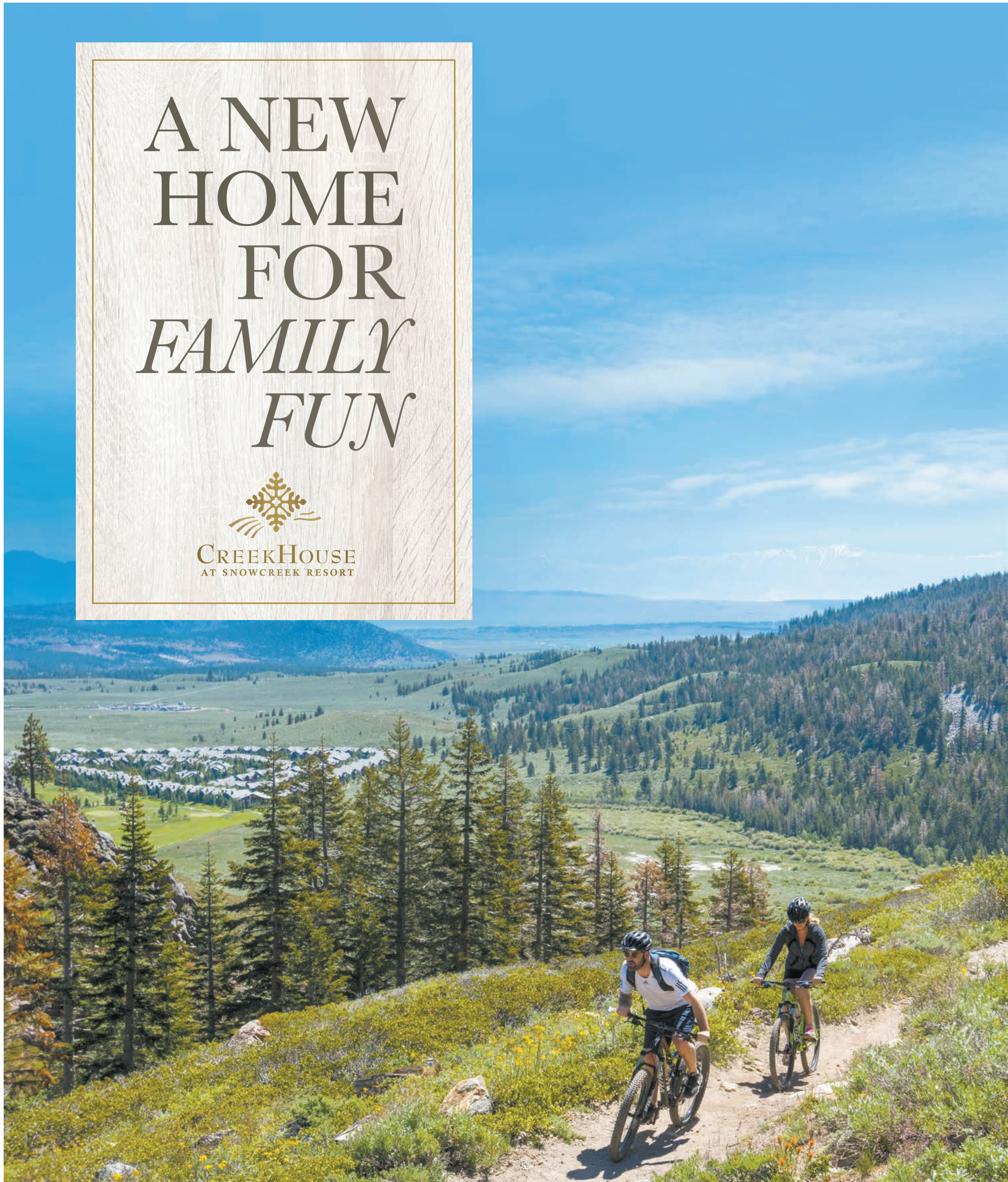
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