

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Bishop Fire Department mainstay, Pat O'Neil, has retired. For story, see page 22.

Saturday, August 3, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. 31

MISTY MOUNTAIN HOP



The "Last Picnic" was probably not the last based on turnout. For more photos, see p. 21.

FAIR GAME

By Klusmire

There are two versions of the recent upheaval at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop that resulted in the resignation of the CEO and dismissal of the volunteer fair board.

According to the former board members, the nit-picky city folk and annoying bureaucrats from Sacramento dug up petty financial and personnel "problems," that were either unavoidable if the bean counters knew how a fairgrounds operated – volunteers do much of the bookkeeping and record keeping, so things get misplaced -- or just so small they were not worth mentioning – who keeps all their credit card receipts? Plus, the state folks were mean and rude and overbearing and didn't listen to the locals and generally picked on the well-meaning, experienced board and fair staff because of "politics" or personal conflicts.

The state audit at the heart of the dispute has a rather dry take on the situation, as

expected from accountants and auditors. The audit points out 26 separate issues with the fairgrounds management and finances that range from rather small mistakes -- \$11,000 from a horse show going to the wrong account – to some eye-popping items – about \$100,000 in money from beer sales over the years that never got to the fairground's bank account. Then there is the list of issues with cash handling, expense reimbursement, free tickets, credit card documentation (for \$267,000 worth of purchases) and personnel issues. Taken as a whole, it would be easy to understand how the state folks concluded the fairgrounds fiscal operation was sloppy and not up to basic bookkeeping standards.

The audit and the board agreed on one thing: There was no embezzlement or theft, and not even a hint of misuse of funds.

The former board members' side of the saga got a full airing

at a public meeting in Bishop on Wednesday.

The group (called board members in this story for convenience, even though they aren't) focused almost exclusively on what they said was the unfair and biased handling of what became, essentially, the forced resignation of CEO Jen McGuire. She cited health reasons for resigning from the Tri-County Fair post and the same job at the Ventura County Fair. That the state suggested and approved her taking on both jobs is confirmation that she was seen as a rising star in the state fair world, it was duly noted.

The former board and the community in general had nothing but praise for the job McGuire has done since being hired in 2018 to dramatically increase use and revenue at the fairgrounds.

The auditors were not as complimentary.

One topic that got plenty

more ALL'S FAIR, pg. 8

ACCESS-IBLE

By Fisher

Eastern Sierra Community Housing (ESCH) celebrated a big win on Tuesday.

Construction for the Access Apartments, a small-scale housing initiative, began this week.

The project aims to create 13 new long-term rental units to house people who make less than 80% and 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI), the latter being a generally unaided group of people within the housing spectrum.

"[Access Apartments] does allow for some higher AMI units," said Nolan. "We definitely have the need for those units, but not every state program allows for that."

In fact, it took a lot of work and time to get the state to even comply with this project.

For perspective, Executive Director Patricia Robertson was on maternity leave when the nonprofit started working with the state on Access Apartments. Her son was four and a half by the time of the July 30 groundbreaking event.

ESCH initially purchased the land for the units in October 2017 after it received a partial donation of the property from the former tenant, Mammoth Country Glass. ESCH submitted a grant application to the state in 2019, but it wasn't awarded until 2021.

Some of the delay was caused by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on construction and labor markets. Costs soared, plans were revised, and the project seemed perpetually on the brink of stalling, said Robertson.

State grants are complicated because most of the requirements are established for urban communities like San Francisco or Los Angeles, which have entirely different landscapes and needs than a rural destination town like Mammoth Lakes, Robertson added. People without housing in those cities look different than they do here; many in Mammoth are working, and many are making more than 80% AMI.

more ACCESS, pg. 9



From left: ESCH staffers Diane Doonan, Isaura Ocampo, Patricia Robertson, and Erik Guzman.

What Price Fashion?

p. 2/

It's the Lease You Could Do

p. 6/

What's Changed?

p. 12/

On the Record

p. 14/

Artisanal Music

p. 15/

FINAL DESTINATION

My poor daughter.
She's just learning the price of fashion.
This week she comes to me and says she's identified six items online that she absolutely "has to have" for school. Will I buy them? All it takes is a credit card.
She pouts. She pleads. She tells me she's got a "style."
But I am resolute. Which is a change in the face of such an onslaught.
Maybe my attendance as the local "Doormats Anonymous" meetings is paying dividends.
We develop a list of chores for her to complete.
And then I make her come on a research drive-along.
You see, it's been my impression lately as I drive through town and through the state that I'm seeing a lot of vehicles with expired registration tags. And I thought to myself, if we would spend just a modest amount of time on enforcement, the state could raise money collecting fees owed from the scofflaws versus inventing new ways to make law-abiding citizens pay more.
So I said, c'mon daughter, we're gonna canvass a few parking lots and see how many expired registration stickers we can find.
She looks at me like I'm the biggest dumbass who ever lived. But she's got shopping to do. So she humors me and comes along.
At the Mahogany Smoked Meats parking lot we check the eight cars currently parked.
Seven are current.
At the Grocery Outlet, the ratio is 22-2.
At Smart and Final, it's 31-3.
By then time we get to Vons, she refused to leave the car. Tells me to keep the AC on while she texts her friends and watches TikTok videos.
60-4 at Vons.
The overall ratio of compliant/non-compliant is 12-1.
Much better than I expected.
So much for hypotheses.

But at least I didn't punish my daughter further by making her attend my annual Mountain Shadows HOA meeting last Saturday.
The most interesting part of the meeting came when current HOA board member Michael Tikunoff talked about what was happening at Hidden Valley Condos, where he owns two units.
The complex has a total of 84 units.
It was non-renewed by State Farm, forcing it to shop for new insurance carriers.
The result? The complex's annual premium increased by almost 1,000%, rising from \$31,000 to approximately \$294,000.
The existing \$31,000 policy had provided \$30 million in coverage.
What this means to complex owners: An assessment this year, and then a 20% hike in his HOA fees for next year.
The issue with State Farm was in how state law is written regarding rate increases.
State Farm can only raise the rate by a certain percentage each year. It had just gotten done paying a \$900,000 claim to replace roofs at Hidden Valley. But had only received permission from California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara to raise rates 20% in 2024.
Which means it could have only increased the Hidden Valley premium by \$6,000.
So the conversation at the Mountain Shadows HOA meeting was: Barring Armageddon, we can't make a claim lest we get dropped, too.
What else did I learn at my annual meeting? That spas, per the health

the
sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

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

-The Waco Kid
from Blazing Saddles

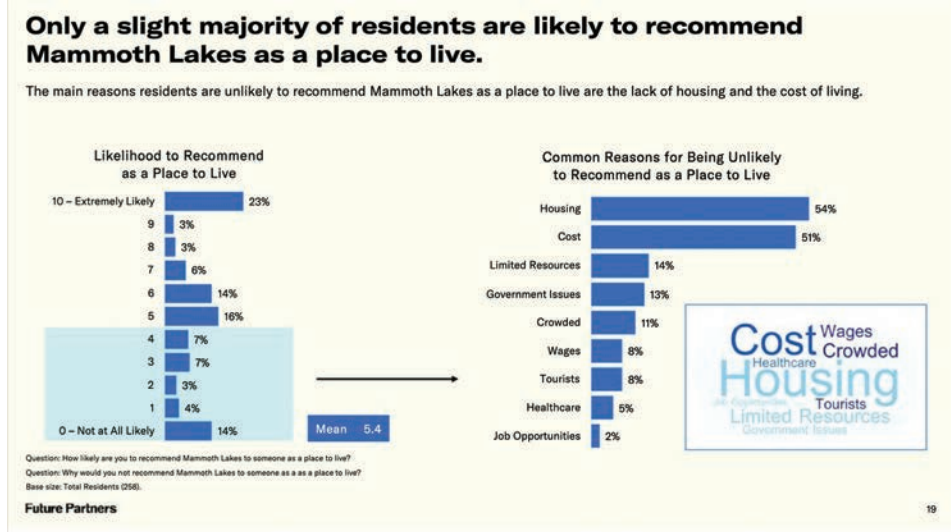
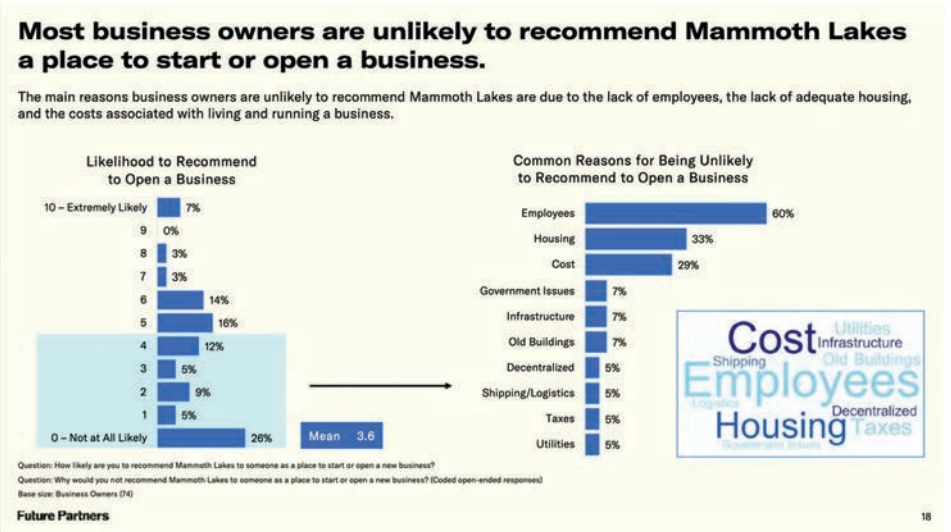
JACK LUNCH
PUBLISHER

- Ted Carleton Jack of all Lunches
760.937.4613 / lunch@thesheetnews.com
- Kendall Milender Writer
kendallatthesheet@gmail.com
- Paige Fisher Writer
sheetfisher@gmail.com
- Harold Hartley People Person
hart6399@yahoo.com
- Jon Klusmire Curmudgeon
hart6399@yahoo.com
- Spike Todd Beverage Consultant

P.O. Box 8088
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.924.0048/jacklunch@yahoo.com
An adjudicated paper of general circulation. © 2024 The Sheet, all rights reserved.

department, can only be set at a maximum for 102 degrees.
That there are 128 units total in Mountain Shadows, 84 of which have STR permits.
That ten units in the complex are long-term rentals.
Er, make that 11, since Tikunoff told me this week that he'd decided to rent his Mountain Shadows unit long-term.
He said the bloom is off the rose in terms of the Pandemic heyday of Airbnb.
That his units, which formerly rented for 180 nights a year, had rented 280 nights/year coming out of the pandemic but that has retreated back to the norm (~180).
In 2022, he said he rented one unit for all 31 days in May.
This year, he rented that same unit for zero days. Zilch. Nada.

The graphics below are from the Resident Sentiment survey conducted by Mammoth Lakes Tourism in late 2023.
Complete survey findings are expected to be presented to the MLT Board at its September meeting.
The survey, conducted by a firm called Future Partners, was advertised for via a postcard mailing and received 261 responses.
Focus Partners also held three focus groups with residents, business owners and second homeowners.
Overall, 74% of survey respondents were property owners and 82% live here full-time.
In summary, "residents are very likely to recommend Mammoth as a place to visit for a leisure vacation, but not as likely to recommend it as a place to live and not likely to recommend it as a place to start/open a business."
"Most residents feel that their voice is not heard and suggest that MLT focus more on resident needs."
Which is perhaps why Betsy Truax was hired by MLT as Community Engagement Director.
But I still don't quite get it. If you feel your voice isn't being heard, that's a town government/leadership issue. It's Council's job to set budgets and priorities - not MLT's job to backfill areas of neglect. Although I suppose that's exactly what we've done ... by redefining MLT's mission from Destination Marketing to Destination Management.
As a Final Destination, that sure seems like a horror movie. Marketing seems a whole lot easier to track and quantify.





CELEBRATING 21 BAGEL MAKING YEARS IN MAMMOTH!



*On behalf of our entire
Old New York team, thank
you for your patronage!*

The Village at Mammoth | (760) 934-DELI



oldnewyork.com



LETTERS

Have a little rizzpect

Jack,

Originally from New York City, I am usually a fan of cynical humor and often roll my eyes at the sunny Californian disposition. However, and I think I speak for many, I believe this week has been one of the most hopeful weeks in American politics in my lifetime: a hope we need and crave and your remark about that hope - "Kamala has all the rizz of the wallpaper in your grandmother's living room. I imagine she'll be hardly tolerable by November" - is not only in bad taste but not what a local paper should be about. I have often wondered why Mammoth as a town seems stuck in the mud, that for the 17 years I have lived here we often go in circles, build tents instead of pools and can't seem to hold onto the good people that could make us better. I thought, it must be our remoteness or our climate, or the fact that people come here to escape. But I think it's remarks like this. It's a local paper that kills hope. Why would anyone run for town council if the paper will cut you down days after you announce? It's true that we don't know if Kamala will live up to that hope but hope is already fueling positive action and generosity and spirit and community. Why kill that?

Allison Page
Mammoth Lakes

Defining millenia

Lunch,

The latest edition of the Sheet contains a full page ad from the Town featuring a photo of the Hot Creek swimming hole. The gist is that nothing has changed in milenia and we should keep it that way. Well, something has changed. That used to be the best swimming hole in the Eastern Sierra, and one of the top swimming holes in California. The Forest Service shut it down because they said the danger of swimming in the hot spring had increased after a big winter sent more water through the underground plumbing. I always suspected that they shut it down because they built changing rooms at the swimming hole, encouraging swimming and creating an attractive hazard that they could be used for if someone got burned. If you go there now, the hot springs look like they always have. Swimming looks like it always was, clean water flowing through the hot springs. My favorite thing to do was to get hot in the upper spring, then swim out into the cold water and drift down to the lower spring. Ask any old locals, it was the best, and you had to wear a bathing suit so there would be no Donald ducking old men with the straw hat and sunburned nose (and other parts) like at all the other local hot springs. I bet people have been swimming in Hot Creek for milenia. It was a big change when they shut the swimming down.

Tom Woods
Bishop, CA

MORE CARS TO GO THROUGH CARTAGO

By Milender

In May, paving resumed on the southern end of the Olancho-Cartago 4-Lane Expressway Project after suspending construction for the winter. Led by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the project aims to convert a 12.6-mile stretch of U.S. 395 from a two-lane highway into a modern four-lane expressway. Scheduled for completion in the fall of 2025, this effort seeks to meet current highway standards and accommodate future traffic demands.

The project began with the installation of a desert tortoise fence to mark Caltrans' Right of Way boundaries and is currently in a critical phase, said Michael Lingberg, the project's public information officer. Crews plan to lay approximately 120,000 tons of asphalt this year, following the 85,000 tons already laid. A significant milestone will occur later this fall when southbound traffic shifts to the new southbound lanes, although the exact date is yet to be announced. Another traffic switch is anticipated by the end of the year, moving northbound traffic to the newly constructed southbound inside lane using a crossover north of the aqueduct bridges. This configuration will remain until the northbound lanes are completed.

The Olancho-Cartago project encompasses sensitive environmental zones, particularly around Olancho Creek and the Los Angeles Aqueduct, requiring enhanced precautions. Olancho Creek,

usually dry, experienced unexpected swelling due to thunderstorms in August 2022 and Tropical Storm Hilary in August 2023, leading to erosion and damage to drainage structures. In response, the project adapted materials and methods to prevent further erosion, including the use of 84-inch reinforced concrete pipe.

The current two-lane highway through Olancho and Cartago, with a speed limit of 55 mph, often leads to congestion and risky passing maneuvers. This stretch of U.S. 395 has a higher collision rate than the state average because it has multiple access points and limited sight distances.

Key safety features of the new expressway will include 10-foot shoulders for emergency stops, at-grade intersections and wildlife undercrossings for enhanced connectivity, a non-motorized multi-use undercrossing for pedestrians and cyclists, and 100-foot unpaved median to separate lanes.

Expected to handle 7,300 vehicles daily, including 639 trucks, with a traffic growth rate of 3.17%, the expressway will be crucial in broadening U.S. 395's capability as a critical artery within Southern California.

The project, initially awarded to Fisher Sand & Gravel for \$69.7 million in 2020, received an additional \$38.3 million in May 2024, funded by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the State Transportation Improvement Program.

End of Summer

BIKE SALE

2024 RENTAL BIKE PRE-SALE

AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW

PICK-UP YOUR BIKE FROM SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 9

ONLINE ONLY

FootlooseSports.com



ALL BIKES MUST GO! PREVIEW BIKES NOW AT FootlooseSports.com

Footloose SPORTS

760-934-2400

3043 MAIN STREET | MAMMOTH LAKES | FOOTLOOSESPORTS.COM



CALL MICHELE HANSEN FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS!



The Historic Sierra Inn

IN BEAUTIFUL JUNE LAKE

Presenting a unique property in one of California's unexploited mountain communities. This iconic building has been a long-time fixture in the "Alps of the Sierra". Property includes three successful businesses; a pizzeria, a restaurant/bar/nightclub and a Latin restaurant. Operated by one owner with long-term lease. The building has been renovated & modernized. Don't miss this HISTORIC COMMERCIAL PROPERTY with steady cash flow and a Type 47 full class liquor license.

ASKING:

\$2,650,000



The Acorns

5 HOMES- SELLER MOTIVATED

These five, newly-constructed, June Lake homes are located on a .43 acre lot and only steps away from Gull Lake! One block to downtown, each home is equipped with new appliances including refrigerator, stove/oven, microwave, dishwasher, washer/dryer and pellet stove. Abundant storage below ground. Zoned multi-family residential - high density. Possible tract map for condo project, or nightly rentals.

REDUCED TO:

\$2,999,000



136 Red Fir Road

INCREDIBLE LOCATION

This location is one of Mammoth's Best kept secrets! Large, nearly flat lot is south-facing and flooded with sun and some views toward Mammoth Mountain. Highly desirable location and neighborhood. Build your Mammoth Lakes dream home.

ASKING:

\$399,000



Mammoth Ski & Racquet #H-81

Remodeled 1261 sq.ft, 2+L/2.5 Bath backs to US Forest Service and the Ski Back Trail from Canyon Lodge. Can you say ski-in, ski-out? In addition to the utility of this unit, there is abundant owner storage, as well as four large ski lockers. Enjoy the picnic /BBQ area, as well as the hot tub, sauna and outdoor pool.

ASKING:

\$730,000



653 Mountain View

PRICED LOW

Best Buy in Inyo/Mono counties! Priced to sell at \$288sqft. Only a 30 min. scenic drive to Mammoth & world-class skiing. Climbing, fishing, and hiking only minutes away! Stunning views from this quality **custom 3819 sq.ft home**. 4 Bedroom/4 Bath, quality finishes, huge basement and additional room with ADU potential.

ALL OF THIS FOR:

\$1,125,000



Juniper Springs Lodge #332

Conveniently situated at Little Eagle Lodge, this spacious 1 bedroom/1 bath unit has great views of the Mountain, underground parking and ski-in, ski-out benefits. Well maintained and an excellent rental! Must see to fully appreciate.

REDUCED TO:

\$625,000



Mammoth Village Properties

MICHELE & CARY HANSEN

DRE Lic. #01117688/01840635 • (760) 914-0582 • micheleh76@gmail.com



LOCAL NEWS

PAY TO PLAY

By: Fisher

A new approach to alleviate the housing crisis in Mammoth is set to launch this week, and it's not a new construction project.

"Lease to Locals" uses existing housing stock to create permanent and semi-permanent homes. It launches Monday, Aug. 5, and offers financial subsidies to property owners who lease their properties to people who live and work within the town.

The program operates under a year-long contract with Placemate, an external company that uses a platform similar to Zillow. On that website, tenants create renter profiles to browse properties and communicate directly with owners.

"The program really is meant to unlock underutilized properties," said Chase Janvrin, General Manager at Placemate. "The town has indicated to us it wants to bridge the gap between the immediate [housing] needs right now, and the new projects to come"

Rent caps for qualified units range from \$1,000/mo. for a private room to \$3,500/mo. for a three-bedroom or larger unit.

To participate, property owners must be within town boundaries and cannot already be renting their properties year-round or long term.

Eligible properties include single-family homes, condominiums, townhomes, mobile homes, accessory

dwelling units, and rooms within an owner-occupied property.

Seasonal leases can be converted to long-term leases to receive the full incentive amount.

Multi-family properties, like hotels, are not eligible.

Owners who meet these criteria can discuss their property with Placemate and choose tenants themselves or list their property on the Placemate website.

Subsidies are limited to one per property. However, an owner with multiple properties can receive a subsidy for each unit rented long term.

Tenant eligibility is straightforward: earn below a specified income and work locally.

The income limit is set at 150% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Mono County. For 2024, the 150% AMI limit for a one-person household in Mono County is \$111,200.

Since the cap is averaged across all adults in a household, a family could still qualify even if one person's

income exceeds the limit.

Single-parent households with more than 50% child custody receive a 50% increase in the income limit. For 2024, this means they can earn up to \$166,800 and still qualify.

One child counts as a qualified tenant. Two children count as one tenant,

and three or more children count as two tenants.

Income limits are adjusted annually, usually in the spring.

Tenants must work at least 30 hours per week for a local employer, which they must prove with pay stubs or a W-2 form.

Self-employed individuals must have a business tax certificate in Mammoth to demonstrate they operate locally.

The program requirements will be reassessed every six weeks.

"[Lease to Locals] allows for the targeting of higher AMI households than other traditional housing programs," said Community Development Director Nolan Bobroff. "The funding has more flexibility since it's not state or federal."

This housing incentive addresses a critical group left out of other initiatives based on income.

The Parcel, for example, is a proposed rental housing option for those earning 80% or less of the AMI, while the Bridge program assists higher-income individuals in achieving homeownership.

This program supports people who fall somewhere in the middle.

Mammoth's Town Council allocated \$450,000 in their budget for this year for the project but estimates spending \$425,000.

Of these funds, \$105,000 is dedicated to administrative and marketing costs, including a \$7,500 monthly fee to Placemate. The remaining \$320,000 will be used for rental subsidies.

The Council unanimously approved the action during their July 17 meeting.

"I look forward to the day when you come back and ask for more budget because it was so successful," said Mayor Pro Tem Chris Bubser at the meeting.

Placemate, based in Truckee, has a dedicated market manager for Mammoth named Timea Gricet. Mammoth residents who call in or schedule a call will speak with her each time.



Jennifer Lanners

DRE license #01731067

Sue O'Brien

DRE license #01245936

The Leading
Real Estate Agents
in Mammoth Lakes

Call and make an
appointment today:
(949) 285-7333
(760) 914-2535



mammoth-realty.com

mammoth.realty.group

Mammoth Realty Group, Inc.

If your property is currently listed with a broker, please disregard the solicitation.



70 N Buckeye Drive, Bridgeport

Views of the Sierras, quiet street, blend of comfort and tranquility. A must see!

\$499,000

HOUSE
BEDS: 2/Loft
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1,665



2443 Sierra Nevada Road

Cozy condo in the heart of town. Remodeled kitchen, washer/dryer, and lots of storage.

\$490,000

CONDO
BEDS: 1
BATHS: 1
SQ FT: 695



2289 Sierra Nevada Road

Great location and move-in ready. Remodeled kitchen and bath and EPA pellet stove.

\$483,300

CONDO
BEDS: 1
BATHS: 1.25
SQ FT: 713



2 Arrowhead Drive

Spacious 1-bedroom condo. Most convenient location in full amenity, park-like complex.

\$530,000

CONDO
BEDS: 1
BATHS: 1
SQ FT: 834



3253 Meridian #F28 Boulevard

Super convenient location next to Eagle Lodge! Underground parking- no shoveling out your car.

\$849,000

CONDO
BEDS: 2/Loft
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1,211



1425 Boulder Creek Road

This stunning townhome offers an unparalleled blend of luxury, comfort, and natural beauty.

\$1,670,000

Townhome
BEDS: 3
BATHS: 2.5
SQ FT: 2,145



Elevated Ownership at a Fraction of the Cost

80|50 | MAMMOTH
PRIVATE RESIDENCE CLUB | CALIFORNIA

Mammoth Village

Luxury Condos

Fractional Ownership starting at \$50,000

(800) 421-7005 | 8050mammoth.net



ALL'S FAIR ...
continued from page 1

of attention was the auditor's claim McGuire had inappropriately applied for and received a PPP (Payment Protection Plan) grant of \$59,000 during Covid. The fairgrounds was not eligible for the grant because it's basically a state operation. The board said other fairs got the money, no one complained, etc. In the board's response to the charge in the audit, the board said it would be contacting a lawyer to sort things out. The state replied it has lawyers and it thinks it's right.

That highlighted one of the points of conflict and confusion about what "our fair" is and isn't. It isn't a local operation. It is a state operation. To quote the fair webpage: "The Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fair is also known as the 18th District Agricultural Association, a State Agency, part of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and Division of Fairs & Expositions."

In all, the board members confirmed that all 26 items in audit were basically correct and didn't flat out deny the findings in their official response

to the audit. The responses did say the board was taking steps to correct the numerous alleged infractions, including creating new policies and procedures and increased training of staff and volunteers.

Confirming there were legitimate concerns and issues outlined in the audit was Leslie Chapman, former Inyo and Mono counties CAO, Mono Treasurer and Inyo Auditor Controller.

"They need to fix a lot of stuff," she said when asked by the board members to speak on her take on the audit, which she looked over as a citizen. The problems brought up in the audit "need to be corrected," she added.

In reference to the last two fair CEOs before McGuire, Chapman called the financial operation "a shit show," since both former CEOs were nabbed for embezzlement.

The fair needs "good controls in place" to govern issues around cash, payments, credit cards (the lack of receipts was "concerning") and the whole list of financial issues in the audit, she said. The board can and has put a number of those new policies and procedures in place, she said. "Those

issues are fixable."

"Jen was an operations person," Chapman said, "not an administrative person, that's not her expertise." So going forward, while the fair needs a CEO it "needs an accounting person, too."

The audit noted several times that the separate, non-profit Friends of the Fair group was not operating completely independently, as required by CDFA regulations. Fair staff worked on Friends

projects and several fair board members were also on the Friends board.

The audit also laid out numerous personnel moves that violated one or more the confusing multitude of state labor or employment laws or regulations for the CDFA.

During the meeting the board members defended

the way the fair staff and volunteers operated. Board member Jaque Hickman noted that when McGuire was hired she didn't have extensive experience in fairgrounds management, but the state did not offer training to her or the board. There is "no handbook" outlining the dos and don'ts of fair operations for the board or staff, she said. Thus, the board relied on its past experience. Several current board members have served for more than a decade and worked with the last four directors. The audit, however, cites numerous state policies and laws and CDFA procedures in its assessment of the issues it highlighted.

Regarding those audit issues, board member Judy Waggoner said the audit included "half-truths and a lot of lies."

Waggoner and Hickman went into excruciating detail about the back and forth between the staff and board and various members of the California Department of Food and Agriculture over the entire audit process. Waggoner said the auditor that came to Bishop was "unprofessional" and asked "inappropriate questions." Waggoner said she contacted the state Civil Rights Division to inquire about filing a complaint about the auditor but only requested a new auditor. That didn't happen. "Then everything went sideways with the

audit."

After the audit was complete, a staffer at CDFA looked at it and said it was not that bad and he had seen worse. He helped devise the board's answers to the audit points and predicted it would "be put in a drawer" and that would be the end of it, Hickman said.

That didn't happen.

Another round of torturous phone calls and emails and lobbying without much of a response from the CDFA folks ensued. Finally, on June 24, the CDFA crew arrived, escorted by two California Highway Patrol Officers, and a two-hour meeting ensued. "I told them if they come with a noose and a branch, don't come," Hickman said. They did both.

The local board made clear there was no way it was going to fire McGuire, said Hickman, but it did offer to put her on a six-month leave.

The CDFA group already drafted a letter to terminate McGuire, said Hickman. "That play was written beforehand," she said.

But there also seems to be a local co-playwright, since the board arrived with McGuire's resignation letter, citing stress-related health issues.

As for the future and the fate of the fairgrounds, things remain unsettled. The state Civil Rights Division is looking into the entire situation. That has stalled the state taking action to appoint new fair board members and recruit and hire a new CEO.

The former board members said they want McGuire rehired as CEO and want to be reinstated as board members. Long-term, they floated the idea of the city of Bishop or Inyo County buying the fairgrounds land from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, cutting ties with the state and creating a truly local fair operation.

What is known is there is a state-appointed interim fair CEO in place and that the 2024 Tri-County Fair will go on as scheduled, since McGuire had planned and organized the massive event before her resignation.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is sure of two things in this mess: Jen McGuire was great at reinventing the fairgrounds as an event space and the fair board members are dedicated and hard working. But how everything went off the rails is a mystery that might never be solved.



Celebrating 15 Years & Counting!!



We honor this anniversary with grand appreciation & heartfelt gratitude. We could not have done it without all of you. We look forward to another 15 years of serving this amazing community!!

Nutritious & Delicious Food
Fair Trade Coffee
Healthy Smoothies
Local Eggs
Local Grown Produce
Grab & Go

5:30am-6pm daily

www.stellarbrew.life | @stellar_brew





JUNE LAKE BREW

ACCESS

continued from page 1

Robertson read really carefully through the fine legal print, searching for loopholes and work-arounds.

“It’s just so complicated in trying to fit the pieces of the puzzle together when the puzzle is made for a different environment,” she said. “I think the state always raises an eyebrow when they see me coming.”

At first, the team identified ten different sources of funding, each with its own set of requirements. All the while, the anticipated start date for the project was pushed back further and further.

To address the escalating costs and sustain momentum, a major fundraising campaign was launched.

Their goal was to raise \$100,000 in private donations—a figure that was nearly doubled, reaching nearly \$190,000.

The fundraising process helped garner support from the local community. ESCH estimated Tuesday’s turnout for the groundbreaking was around 50 people.

Still, the most important funds were federal sources.

Currently, the project is 65% funded with CDBG and Section 4 Federal funds, amounting to more than \$7 million. The rest of the funding for the \$11 million project comes significantly from the town, the county and that raised during their fundraising push.

Under the new funding composition, the building is only required to make seven of the units serve people making below 80% AMI. The rest will serve people making below 120% AMI.

ESCH has absorbed a lot of the carrying cost over the past many years—property taxes, operating expenses, and snow removal — since they couldn’t secure reimbursements for those outlays.

The project will convert the former Mammoth Country Glass building into 11 one-bedroom apartments and two studios. It caters to young professionals, small families, and individuals looking to settle into the community.

The project is slated to take 18-24 months, with a tentative total completion between December 2025 and summer 2026.

Looking forward, the nonprofit plans to manage the property in-house, covering costs through a management fee. Robertson hopes this approach will help maintain the property and cover ongoing operational costs, so they can continue to provide affordable housing without overburdening their budget.



The project site on Sierra Manor.



Patricia Robertson and MMSA Senior V.P. Tom Hodges raise a glass



ANNUAL PELLET SALE

PRICES VALID AUGUST 1ST - SEPTEMBER 15TH

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

THE SAME GREAT QUALITY IN A BRAND NEW PACKAGE

Golden Fire Pellets

ON SALE \$460

Price per ton (50 Bags)
\$480/ton with curb side delivery



KEEP YOUR PELLET STOVE EFFICIENT
Schedule Your Annual STOVE MAINTENANCE
----- BEFORE FALL WITH TRENDS INSIDEOUT -----

OUR FULL SERVICE STOVE & HEARTH DEPARTMENT CAN HELP:
Installation - Delivery - Maintenance - Repairs - Parts - Venting

**ACE BISHOP** 444 South Main St
(760) 873-5874
Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 9am-3pm

**HCL**
HIGH-COUNTRY LUMBERS
BISHOP • MAMMOTH

**ACE MAMMOTH** 243 Sierra Manor Rd
(760) 924-8876
Mon-Fri: 7am-5pm Sat: 8am-3pm, Sun: 8am-1pm



ALPINE APPROACH
The Village At Mammoth

THE BEST COLD WEATHER APPAREL



MAMMOTH PEDC HAS BIG TURNOVER

By Fisher

Three new Planning and Economic Development Commission members take office this month, two of whom are familiar faces in the community and one who is ... an enigma.

Paul Chang, Jessica Kennedy and Jen Burrows stepped down from their posts after the July meeting. Cynthia Fleming, Dawn Vereuck and Lana Grand are to take their places at the next meeting on Aug. 14.

Leaving office was bittersweet for Burrows, who said she was incredibly proud of what the commission accomplished throughout her eight year tenure.

"It's a small town, so we already knew each other for the most part," Burrows said. "But we all got along really well; we respected each other's differences and found a way to work together."

Commission Chair Michael Vanderhurst said he had nothing but praise for the three commissioners who did not renew their terms.

Over the last few years, the commission has approved a number of large-scale development projects, some of which will now be in the hands of the incoming commissioners. The Lime-light, the Parcel and the Snowcreek Resort projects will all carry over into the next term.

Also on the horizon is the redevelopment of Main Lodge at Mammoth Mountain, Vanderhurst said. That will require massive investment, and is just

a few years out.

"I feel very optimistic and excited that I am working with people that have a history of longevity here, with the exception of this new person, who I don't know," incoming commissioner Cynthia Fleming said.

Vereuck has previously served on the commission, so she's familiar with the role and its scope. Fleming is new to the role, but friends with former and current commissioners. Grand, on the other hand, is a mystery to her colleagues, with nobody quite knowing what she does for work or who she is.

Fleming said she'd met Grand because she was friends with her boyfriend, but she hasn't found the time to get to know her. Burrows recalled seeing her at one meeting, but assumed she'd joined online for the others.

The Sheet reached out to Grand multiple times asking for an interview, which she refused via email July 18 and again July 31.

She is still acquainting herself with the expectations and responsibilities of the role, she wrote in the email.

"I've been selling real estate here for over a decade and I only recently feel like I have the depth and the education to hold this role," Fleming said. "But maybe a brand new person who's only been here six months has a fresh set of eyes that I don't have."

Vereuck and Fleming are hoping to arrange a short, casual meeting with

Grand soon. Vanderhurst also hopes to meet with Grand.

Mammoth constituents generally hold some distrust for the town government, Vereuck said. This has been a challenge for the commission in the past.

In the next term, Vereuck hopes to ease this tension, but he job requires making many controversial decisions, often in favor of growing and changing the town.

"I think a lot of the locals can be anti-development," Fleming said. "But at the end of the day, they really need to

honor our general plan, honor our zoning and recognize that we are a resort community."

The commission has to toe the line between maintaining the local community while supporting the tourism industry, a tension which takes shape in tangible decisions such as housing and commercial projects.

This can put them in the public eye, often making them vulnerable to criticism, Burrows said. That exposure can deter people from running for a public position.

KIDS SCORE AGAIN



Could last weekend have been any busier? It also featured the 35th annual Kids Fishing Festival at the Snowcreek Ponds sponsored by Snowcreek, MMSA, Berkley, CA Fish and Wildlife and Desert Springs Trout Farm.

*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.



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

HARTLEY

BITE THE BIG APPLE/DON'T MIND THE MAGGOTS

I can't believe it. The NFL season starts this week. Tonight, in fact, the NFL Hall of Fame game is played. It's joker football but for the first time this season they will put on pads and play.

Dolphin QB Tua Tagovailoa just got paid. He got a 5 year, \$212 million contract. Meaning, he just got paid an infinite amount of money for every playoff win. If you tried to find the winning percentage of his playoff wins you would get an ERR message. Or UNDEFINED cuz he has NEVER won a playoff game. In fact, he can't beat playoff teams during the regular season. He is an average QB. The Dolphins will regret this contract. And WR Tyreek Hill already wants more money. He is worth more than Tua. And he knows it.

Packer QB Jordan Love got a massive contract, too. I ain't mad at that but why pay him after only one season as a starter? They had him for another year on a reasonable deal and could have let him finish one more season before doing anything. These teams feel stuck at the QB position instead of constantly drafting and developing one and they just cost themselves a ton of money and pain in the long run. Someone said that the Daniel Jones contract doesn't look so bad now with the new numbers being QBs. Yes it does. He is still grossly overpaid. Draft and develop. Teams do it at every other position except QB. They get a QB and lock in like he is the only QB they will ever find that can play.

With these contracts I keep hearing people allude to the fact that the formula for winning a Super Bowl is to have a QB on a rookie deal and pay everyone else around him. The rookie contract QB they think is the secret sauce to winning a Super Bowl. Here is a list of the most recent Super Bowl winning QBs:

Super Bowl 48: Russell Wilson
Super Bowl 49: Tom Brady
Super Bowl 50: Peyton Manning
Super Bowl 51: Tom Brady
Super Bowl 52: Nick Foles
Super Bowl 53: Tom Brady
Super Bowl 54: Patrick Mahomes
Super Bowl 55: Tom Brady
Super Bowl 56: Matthew Stafford
Super Bowl 57: Patrick Mahomes
Super Bowl 58: Patrick Mahomes

Only Russell Wilson (48) and Patrick Mahomes (54) were on rookie contracts.

Raiders have their new head coach. And he is acting like a clown, so his team is acting like clowns. First the head coach is traveling the media circuit telling folks he has the MAHOMES RULE on how to beat the Chiefs. Now one of his players has decided to show his idiocy by mocking Mahomes. Why are you riling up the player and team that has owned you the last decade and is in your division? The coach thinks he is modeling the Raider Way. No one even knows what that means. And he is rolling Aidan O'Connell out at QB.

I don't think you can lay enough points for the ass-whooping the Chiefs are gonna give the Raiders this season.

I don't watch a lot of the Olympics anymore but love to catch a few swim-

ming and track and field events. I have to say watching Katie Ledecky dominate her sport is unreal. Take a look at the margin of victory in this OLYMPIC FINAL. These are the best swimmers in the world, the best of the best, and she looks like she is in the pool by herself they are so far behind her. That is unreal. But when I see these swimmers ... they spend too much time in water. They all look like these pasty, water-logged river creatures. It's odd as hell. They are almost translucent.

Oh boy. Deshaun Watson doesn't have a PR person at all, does he? He opens up the training camp with this stuff to say at his first press conference:

"I think... it's really just blocking out all the bullshit, honestly, outside," Watson said. "It was tough coming in two years [ago] — different environment, different team, different all that. So you come in and your character has been mentioned this way and then it kind of flips on you and you're trying to ... the biggest thing is you're trying to get people to like you or improve.

"But now... it's two years in and you're going to like me or you have your own opinions and, yeah, it is what it is. So I think blocking out all the noise and focusing on me, and focusing on what I need to do to be the best Deshaun Watson I can be for myself, my family, and my teammates.

"My character was getting challenged," Watson said. "And like I said, I know who I am, and a lot of people never really knew my history or knew who I really was so they're going based off of other people's opinions and whatever other people are saying. But, yeah, I'm a person that likes to have people like me. And I feel like a lot of people are like that. So, sometimes things in your brain you've got to turn and you've got to forget it."

Now that Watson is healthy — he noted that his shoulder is right on track — he's looking forward to putting the disappointment of 2023 behind him.

"Not just because I couldn't show exactly what I can do for this organization — I understand that they put a lot into me, but sometimes the injuries you can't control," Watson said. "So a lot of things didn't fall in place the last two years, but praying and taking it one day at a time that everything [does] this year."

"Just being the best Deshaun Watson [I] can be for this team so we can get that ultimate goal. And maximizing my potential, my talent — that's my motivation," Watson said. "I don't have anything else that's going to motivate me."

Okay Deshaun, the bullshit was YOU. You caused all the bullshit and your character was being challenged because you molested a bunch of women. Another example of an athlete or star wanting sympathy for all their self-induced crises.

The Browns still owe this clown a ton of money and he sucks now. He's saying he sucked because his character was questioned, and because he was on a new team and because he was injured. Stop making excuses and grow up and

shut up and play football.

New Steeler QB Russell Wilson missed the first 4 days of training camp with a calf injury. And everyone talked about his extensive offseason training. Well, how'd that work out for you?

The 2020 NFL Draft now has produced nearly \$1.25 billion in quarterback contracts:

Joe Burrow: Five years, \$275M
Tua Tagovailoa: Four years, \$212.4M
Justin Herbert: Five years, \$262.5M
Jordan Love: Four years, \$220M
Jalen Hurts: Five years, \$255M

I'm reversing my vasectomy for another kid and I'm gonna train him to be a QB.

The Kraft family and Eliot Wolf of the Patriots want everyone to know the Belichick era is over and things are changing in New England. Well they certainly are. Matthew Judon wants a new contract. So he is doing the new "hold-in" that players do. They come to practice so they don't get fined, but don't practice. So he comes to practice and sits on an upside down trash can and watches practice. Hilarious. Apparently the coach Mayo didn't like it and they got in an argument with him on the field. Judon leaves and comes back and is arguing with some front office folks

too before he leaves for good. Well that certainly wouldn't happen to Belichick so you got that correct Kraft and Wolf ... it ain't like the Patriot Way anymore.

Trump claimed during a rally speech in Harrisburg on Wednesday that a friend of his had presented Helen Comperatore, Corey's wife, with a check for \$1 million and that crowdfunding efforts were now in the millions.

"But you know what?" Trump said to supporters. "Corey's wife said, 'I'd rather have my husband.'"

"Isn't that good?" Trump continued. "I know a lot of wives that would not say that, I'm sorry. They would not say that."

The audience lapped up the comment and laughed. This guy is a stain on our country's history and our present. He is a horrible human being and despite being very rich and good at business, he is not socially adept at all. It wouldn't surprise me if they said he was more on the spectrum than Jim Harbaugh. What a chump. And the worst part are the mouth-breathing sister-marrying inbreds who follow him as their leader. Because he is just like them.

MAGA people should add some letters and call themselves MAGGOTS.

Harold Hartley lives outside Seattle and desperately hopes the Steelers will fire Mike Tomlin.

TRI COUNTY Fair
AUG. 29 – SEPT. 1, 2024

THURSDAY, AUG. 29TH
BANDA CUISILLOS
WITH BANDA ZETA

FRIDAY, AUG. 30TH
MICHAEL RAY
WITH RAE LYNN & LILY ROSE

SATURDAY, AUG. 31ST
RODEO

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1ST
DEMOLITION DERBY

TRICOUNTYFAIR.COM

INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

TRI COUNTY Fair EVENT CENTER, BISHOP, CA

COSO

NATIONAL

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

By Casselman

What has changed since President Joe Biden withdrew from the 2024 presidential race? Obviously, the name at the top of the Democrats' ticket is now the former running mate and incumbent vice president. Shortly, there will be a new running mate, but the record and policies to be debated will be much the same.

Joe Biden will remain in office until January 20 of next year. While Kamala Harris presents a new personality, she must now defend the administration she was part of during the past three-plus years.

As President Lyndon Johnson demonstrated in 1968 when he suddenly withdrew from his re-election effort, and was replaced with his vice president, Hubert Humphrey, his presence and policies act

as a constraint on his replacement.

Although the establishment print and broadcast media have begun, as expected, a massive effort to promote Harris in her new role, as the party establishment has coalesced around her — permitting no serious opposition to her nomination as they permitted none against Biden in the 2024 primaries, the political environment has been upended by the sudden realization that both the party and the media had deceived the public about the president's deterioration until the debate with Donald Trump.

The political opponents to Mr. Biden, of course, already knew because their media venues had repeatedly shown video after video making his frail condition irrefutably clear.

The reality is that the Democrats' base and the Republicans' base are going to vote for their party's ticket. What possible change that can occur between now and Election Day would take place among undecided voters, most of whom are independents,

A big question that remains concerns what dissatisfied Democrats and Republicans will do. This election an unusually large number of relatively well-known third party candidates will be on most ballots, most notably Robert Kennedy, Jr.

As long as Joe Biden was at the top of his party's ticket, Democrats were increasingly pessimistic about 2024. His departure from the race has given them hope, for now, and re-energized many of them.

But many Democrats would have preferred another nominee, and certainly would have preferred to have some say in the choice. Both Biden initially, and now Harris, have been imposed on the ticket by the party establishment.

If after the current honeymoon period, Harris does turn out to be a disappointing candidate, the voters' buyer's remorse could be devastating on Election Day.

But all is not rosy for the Republicans.

They risk not only overconfidence, as happened in 2022, it is possible that Kamala Harris will turn out to be a much better candidate than she was in the past. In that case, the race might well become closer than it appears now.

A new Rasmussen Poll, a poll which has a very good track record, shows Trump leading Harris by seven points, with third party candidates included.

Other recent polls show Trump leading or tied by smaller margins in the key toss-up states of Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia., Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Carolina, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. The 2024 election will be decided in these states — all of which were, except for North Carolina, carried by Biden in 2020.

To paraphrase the old saying, things have changed, but remain much the same. With little more than three months to go, the question is will there be more change or more of the same on Election Day.

Barry Casselman is a syndicated columnist who has been covering national politics since 1972. You can find more of his work at barrycasselman.com



Mammoth's MINARET CINEMAS
437 Old Mammoth Rd
Movie Info Line
(760) 934 3131
Buy Tickets Online
DPlaceEntertainment.com

Movies Starting This Friday 08/02 to 08/08

DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (R) 2h 07m Friday 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm 10:00pm Saturday 10:00am 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm 10:00pm Sunday 10:00am 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm Monday 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm Tuesday 1:15pm 4:15pm 7:15pm Wednesday-Thursday 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm	THWISTERS (PG13) 2h 02m Friday 1:15pm 4:15pm 7:15pm 10:10pm Saturday 10:15am 1:15pm 4:15pm 7:15pm 10:10pm Sunday 10:15am 1:15pm 4:15pm 7:15pm Monday 1:30pm 4:15pm 7:15pm Tuesday 1:45pm 4:30pm 7:30pm Wednesday-Thursday 1:30pm 4:15pm 7:15pm	TEENAGE KRAKEN (PG) 1h 30m Monday-Thursday 11:00am Just \$2.50 at the door
---	---	---



MAMMOTH INSURANCE
Serving the Community Since 1989

Got Fire Insurance?

We specialize in business insurance, FairPlan policies, Covered California, Senior Insurance products including manufactured homes, Medicare supplements and we are your authorized AARP insurance representatives for the Hartford auto insurance program. Combined 40 years experience insuring communities of the Eastern Sierra. Customers only talk to licensed brokers at Mammoth Insurance, mobile appointments are available..

ERIC OLSON
LIC # 0783148

ALICIA OLSON
LIC # 0i19200

info@MammothInsurance.com

CALL 760-934-2200



4 DAYS YOUR WAY

SAVE UP TO 32% WITH A QUAD PACK

Experience the ultimate mountain biking adventure at Mammoth Bike Park with the Quad Pack and save up to 32% on four anytime tickets. Perfect for a long weekend or a few trips.

Only \$175

MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM

FACILITIES OPERATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INYO NATIONAL FOREST

You're Invited to THE PARCEL Affordable Housing Project

OPENING CELEBRATION

Estás invitado a la Celebración de Inauguración de THE PARCEL



Wednesday, August 7 • 12-2pm

1730 Tavern Rd. • Mammoth Lakes

On **Wednesday, August 7, 2024, from 12-2pm**, the Town of Mammoth Lakes in partnership with Pacific West Communities, 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.

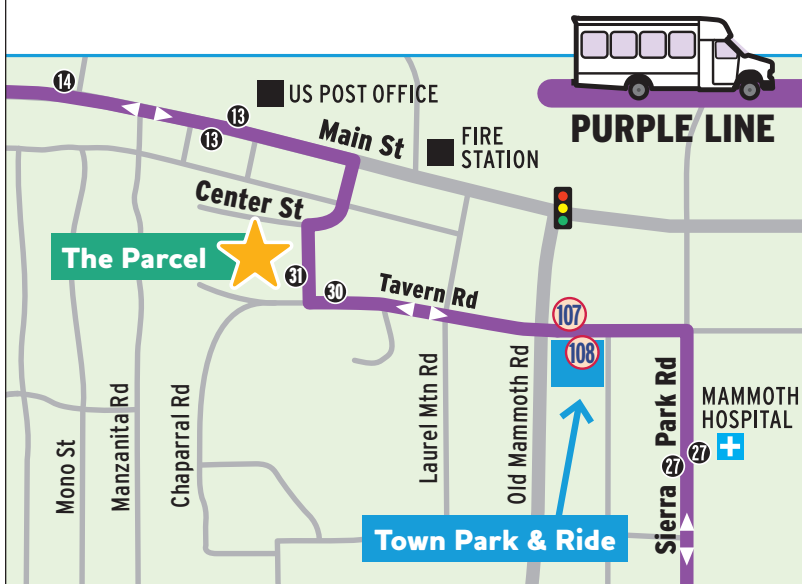
The event will take place at the Parcel Park and attendees are encouraged to arrive to the site via public transit (**Purple Line** from the **Town Park & Ride**), bicycle, or by foot, as public parking will be limited.

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 Parcel housing project, 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.

El **miércoles 7 de agosto de 2024, de 12-2pm**, el Pueblo de Mammoth Lakes, en colaboración con Pacific West Communities, celebrará la inauguración de “The Sawyer” – Fase 1 del proyecto de vivienda asequible The Parcel y colocación de la piedra angular para “The Kingfisher” – Fase 2 del proyecto The Parcel.

El evento tendrá lugar en Parcel Park y se anima a los asistentes a llegar al lugar en transporte público (**Purple Line** desde **Town Park & Ride**), en bicicleta o a pie, ya que el estacionamiento público será limitado.

La comunidad está cordialmente invitada a asistir a las festividades que incluirán charlas, además de comidas y bebidas gratuitas ofrecidas por el Departamento de Policía de Mammoth Lakes, recorridos por el proyecto de vivienda The Parcel, el área de juegos y la guardería, así como puestos informativos de los colaboradores del proyecto que destacarán la participación en este tan necesario proyecto comunitario y los servicios que se prestan.



Please scan the QR code for additional event and parking information

www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/882/The-Parcel

Escanee el código QR para obtener información adicional sobre el evento y el estacionamiento



Katten



BLUESAPALOOZA

EXCELLENT COMPANY

By Lunch

If you're looking for company this weekend, may I suggest The Record Company.

The band, which will perform at Bluesapalooza on Sunday, is a power trio featuring Chris Vos on lead vocals/guitar, Alex Stiff on bass and Marc Cazorla on drums.

As for the sound, there's a pot pourri of influences, but I'd say the best comp is ZZTop with shorter beards.

The Sheet spoke with Vos on Wednesday as he was preparing for a show in Portland, Maine.

Vos hails from Wisconsin - he's from a family of dairy farmers. This is the 5th generation. His brothers went into that business.

Vos went into music.

Which did run in the family. His grandfather was a singer and accordion player and growing up, they'd sing Willie Nelson songs together.

His dad's tractor soundtrack? Mellen-camp.

And Vos's scene was Milwaukee until 2010, when his wife (whom he met in college in Milwaukee) got a job at the L.A. Times. "I couldn't stand in the way of my wife's opportunity," he says.

**Do not worry. She got out of the newspaper business in time. Vaulted over to the*

film industry. Now works at Sony Pictures.

So he moves out to California. With his wife's prodding, he puts up a post on Craigslist, looking for some new band-mates.

And magic happens. The right guy (Stiff, who had been playing in a band with Cazorla) responds. They meet. They hit it off.

"I had a bunch of songs (already written) I came in with, so we already had a template ... The three of us all write. Alex produces the records [of which there are now four]." They were a band.

The name was borne of the time period.

"In L.A. in 2011, the big question was whether record companies would even exist anymore ... and we never figured we'd get signed ... so calling ourselves The Record Company was our [tongue-in-cheek] way of saying we'll cut out the middle man."

Their music has no shortage of roots influences. And as Vos says, "There's always gonna be a sticks and strings fan base."

In terms of his approach to writing, he doesn't get caught up in genre. It's melody, song, story and see where it goes.

And while some criticize the smartphone as the downfall of civilization, Vos

says it's an extremely useful tool for him.

"What I love about the phone is that I can wake up and record the first melody that comes out of my head. It's like dream capture ... it reminds me of the story of how McCartney wrote Yesterday. He woke up with that song in his head and had the presence of mind to write it down. There's a magic and a purity in that. What if he'd just gone back to sleep that day?"

When you get into your day, Vos continued, there are so many inputs and distractions and one's phone becomes a dopamine accelerant. So he cherishes the quiet moments on the front end and back end of sleep.

As for content, I noted that his lyrics tend toward, well ... here's a sampling:

There is no antidote for this disaster ...
I got this life to fix/threw it all out in a ditch ...

I'm filled with trouble baby/it's such a grind, grind, grind ...

Sheet: You must be a tough guy to be married to.

Vos (laughs): Just 'cause I'm writing it doesn't mean I'm living it. You can channel the reservoir of your past, access it to keep things real.

One obstacle the band did have to overcome was in December, 2022, when, six days before Christmas, its record label, Concord Records, called to say it was rejecting the band's 4th album and dropping the band.

As an additional kick in the groin, a tour was cancelled due to poor ticket

sales.

That's a dark place.

Sheet: So how'd you climb out of that ditch?

Vos: Our songs rescued us. The truth rescued us.

The band got new representation, a new label, and new momentum. "You just have to grit your teeth and go," said Vos of the experience.

Spoken like the son of a woman who worked as a nurse for a half-century.

Spoken like the son of a man who still wakes up at 3:45 a.m. every day.

Spoken like the grandson of a man who was atop a tractor two weeks before his death at the age of 92.

In an interview with *relix.com*, the band explained that it decided to empower Stiff as producer, and set up shop in the living room of his Beachwood Canyon residence, similar to the home-grown recording they'd done on the first two albums.

"We still love drums, bass and guitar," Cazorla says. "That's what draws us to what we do."

The Record Company will play here Sunday, but you never know when and where you might see the band.

Last time in Mammoth, Vos struck up a friendship with Robert Schaubmayer when he hung out at the Clocktower Cellar after his set.

Schaubmayer gifted him a vintage, all-red Coors original trucker hat.

As Vos says, "Sometimes, on the road, you make lifelong friends in one night, even if you don't see somebody again for years."



Matthew Lehman
REAL ESTATE

RESIDENTIAL | LAND | COMMERCIAL



LISTING AGENT:

JULIE RAIMONDO

LIC# 01974441

C: 805.207.8484

Julie@HomesMammoth.com



301 Twin Lakes Lane

ASKING \$3,000,000

4 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHROOMS | 2,889 SQ FT

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Only 2 blocks away from Canyon Lodge and 3 blocks from The Village.

This highly desired Graywolf subdivision includes only ten custom home sites (in this project).

Enjoy this custom home located on a large sunny corner lot with views of the Sherwin Mountains. Upscale amenities including a new metal roof, new solid maple hardwood flooring with in-floor hydronic heating.

A gourmet kitchen with stainless appliances and knotty alder cabinets, a stone paver driveway, travertine throughout the home, new outdoor spa, whole house surround sound system, backup home generator, large 3 car garage, large decks with views of Lincoln Mountain, beautifully landscaped and immaculate original owner maintained.

JULIE@HOMESMAMMOTH.COM | MATTHEWLEHMANREALESTATE.COM

TOUR THIS LUXURY HOME



CALL JULIE AT 805-207-8484

A TRUE ARTIS

By Milender

Jack Johnson has called his voice “amazing.” Joan Baez dueted on one of his original songs at Sweetwater Music Hall in Mill Valley. He’s co-written a soon-to-be released track with John Oates, of the eponymous Hall & Oates. The Rolling Stones, personally, have given him a friends and family pass.

For most recording artists, such would make for lampposts of a career well-trodden. For Ron Artis II—performer at this weekend’s upcoming Bluesapalooza Festival—that’s just been the past few weeks.

The Sheet caught up with Artis (pronounced Ar-teese) in a phone interview while the singer-songwriter was home in Nashville, working on his latest album release in the Sputnik Sound studio with Grammy-winning music producer, Mitch Dane.

Of the title and release date, Artis was more or less ... elliptical. But he said that, in Nashville there was a “rich air, musically.” That, for the record, they had “decided to go all vinyl,” releasing only 3 or 4 of the tracks, digitally—an unconventional move in today’s streaming-heavy music environment. And that the theme of the album was to be focused on what Artis referred to as the human experiences of love, and healing.

“That’s all I can say about it, without letting it out from under the wraps,” said Artis. “And really, that’s all it comes down to.”

Because for Ron Artis II, it’s all about the love.

“I don’t have a formula,” says Artis. “I don’t really have a genre. Not one. I call my music therapy music. It’s more of a style. Rocky. Laid back. Sensitive acoustic. Punk or bluesy. The overall picture of it is therapy—trying to process experiences, and then encourage others to process their own.”

Artis learned the value of that encouragement, growing up on the North Shore of Oahu in a town called Hale’iwa. He says that his parents, Victoria and Ron, instilled early the ideas of love and mutual respect and using the gift of music as their mouthpiece. It wasn’t until he went out “into the real world” to launch his career, though, that Artis confronted harsher realities in the absence of what his parents had taught him.

“In a way, I felt like the character from



Ron Artis II plays Bluesapalooza Saturday.

Elf, just walking around New York City like, ‘Aloha everyone!’ and just seeing, you know, not everyone grew up in such a loving environment. So I didn’t always have the best encounters out in the world. And then I felt like I was kind of faced with a choice to dig deeper into what it meant to pull from love and give love or to succumb to the pain and bad experiences that one encounters.”

In many of his performances, Artis will ask his audience to look down at their hands. To think of their hands, again, when they’ve gotten out of something really dark and really heavy. To see them, in those moments, as capable of “holding a torch to light the way for the next person.”

And certainly, Artis is a man who practices what he preaches. Listen to any of his work—*Shine*, played live at The Fillmore in San Francisco, *Before You Go* as played and recorded in the Maui “jungle,” or his set with Jam in the Van at last year’s Whale Rock Music Festival—and you’ll hear a musician that plays the technical parts of his instrument, masterfully.

But there, too, is the inflection in his phrasing. The dissonance in his aching cords, and then their resolution. Both vocalist and lyricist, Artis’ music is written and performed with his audience in mind. The point is not to impress, but to connect.

“You learn the rules so that you can throw them away,” he says, of his creative method to playing and songwriting. “The countless scales, different modes, all that stuff—You learned all those skills, first, so that you could actu-

ally speak the language to someone. But what if, every time I had a conversation with someone, I never used the same word twice just to show them I’d studied the dictionary?”

The approach of an artist who sings and strums as both musician and torch bearer.

For Artis, every performance is an opportunity to make a lasting connection; to make good on that therapeutic pact between listener and artist.

“Some folks spend like five, maybe six or seven hours preparing to go watch a 90-minute or two-hour concert,” he reflects. “A lot of people come to this festival in Mammoth—and they have child care they’ve hired out, or they’re spending accumulated days off from

work. They’ve prepared. Made a big roadtrip out of it.”

It’s a commitment that he doesn’t take lightly.

“I’ve got just two hours to perform, and who knows? I may never get to see you again. What can I offer you? In what form, so that you’ll receive it? I never want to go on a stage and take that aspect for granted.”

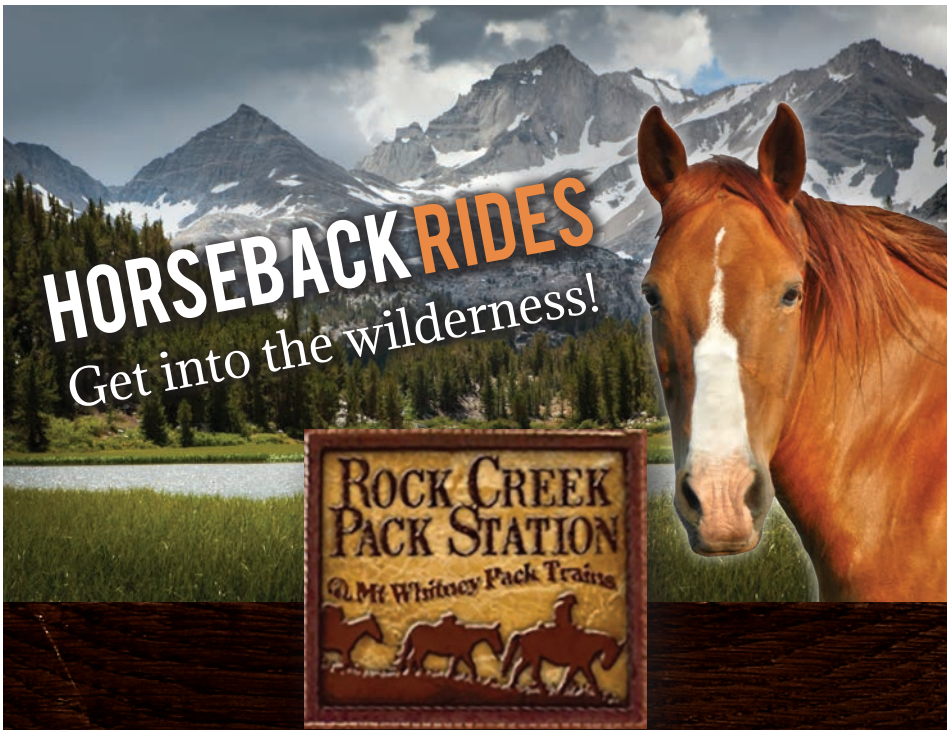
His return to Bluesapalooza this Saturday, August 3rd, marks Artis’ second showing at the event—a celebration of music and community that Artis acknowledges is a “recharge” for both himself and festival-goers.

“I’m just beyond honored that they invited us to come back” says Artis, who will be joined by Ernie Ecraela Jr. on bass and Andrew Rosales on drums. “We’ve done a number of tours together, and it’s just an honor to be working with guys like these, in a place like that.”

Artis says he never makes a set list. That the music and its order comes from a more internal place—one that conveys the reminder that “just because love is right, doesn’t make it easy.”

“And,” he says, “we’ve got Trombone Shorty this year,” said Artis, who’s looking forward to playing alongside the New Orleans-based brass player. “If you’re not happy already, you’re gonna be very happy after Trombone Shorty, right?”

For tickets to Bluesapalooza—the best party in Mammoth, since ‘96—visit tickets.mammothbluesbrewsfest.com



Join us for a day in the Sierra...

Spend a leisurely day on horseback exploring the beauty of Rock Creek Canyon and Little Lakes Valley. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our favorite picnic spot with our guides!

Just 35 min. from Mammoth/Bishop



BOOK ONLINE OR CALL (760) 935-4493

RockCreekPackStation.com

★ RIDES

- Rock Creek Lake (2hr) \$90
- Panorama Ride (2hr) \$90
- Little Lakes Valley Overlook (2.5 hrs).....\$120
- Half-Day Scenic Ride (4hr)....\$145
- Day in the Sierra (6hr + lunch)\$165
- All-Day Fishing/Scenic Ride (8hr + lunch)\$195

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?

ARTS

SHAKESPEARE KIDS PERFORM A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By Lunch



Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theater held its 14th annual “Shakespeare Kids” camp at Shady Rest Park from July 15-26. A few of the performers have attended every single camp! Pictured clockwise from top left: Connor Moberly; Edyn Neale; Margaux Carleton; Maddie McCabe, Jovie Plum and Charlie Perry; the entire cast; Lily Anderson, Maxine Kenney and Emma Chavez as three fairies; L-R on the bench are Jovie Plum, Charlie Perry, Imogen Plum, Edyn Neale, Maddie McCabe and Violet Spezzia with Margaux Carleton standing behind. For more Shakespeare, attend Mammoth’s Shakespeare Festival, which opens Tuesday. For more info, see ad this page.



Sierra Classic Theatre & Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre Present



August

6th-18th

TUES. - SUN. @ 7PM

FREE PRE-SHOW INTRO @ 6PM



Merry Wives of Windsor

AUGUST 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18

the Winter's Tale

AUGUST 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17

NEW LOCATION!

Outdoors at Eagle Lodge

MAMMOTH LAKES

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION VISIT

MammothShakes.com

SPONSORED BY





#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).



calendar of events

www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com
A Resource for Buyers & Sellers
Hundreds of Articles & Videos
Visit today!



MAMMOTH LIQUOR
Beer lovers' candy store
Selection of more than 300 beers
THE RECORD COMPANY IS COOL,
BUT THE BEER COMPANY IS BETTER

934.6260Main St. Next to Rick's



the Stove
MAMMOTH LAKES
CALIFORNIA

A Mammoth Tradition
Since 1970

644 Old Mammoth Road (760) 934-2821



CARSON
LAW GROUP

Divorce & Family Law
(760) 512-7700

Offices for rent
station81.net



STATION 81

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, August 2/
Giacomo Timbrello performs at
Creekside Club in Bishop. Time: 5-8 p.m. Live Music.
Rockin' Rocky's All Star Jam Sessions at the Gallery at Twin Lakes. Kevin Marcy plays 6-8:30 p.m. Bring a chair and \$10.

August 2-3/
Bluesapalooza After Party Jam @ the Liberty Bar in Mammoth with Crooked Eye Tommy. Starts 9:30 p.m.

August 2-4/
Mammoth Festival of Beers and Bluesapalooza continues at The Wood Site in Mammoth. For tickets and more information, visit mammothbluesbrewsfest.com

Sunday, August 4/
Live Music Sundays @ Cardinal Village Resort in Bishop. Time: 1-4 p.m. Drinks, burgers, fries, pizza and drinks available for purchase.
The Felt Cutouts, fresh off the Bluesapalooza stage, will play an encore show at Distant Brewing, 568 Old Mammoth Rd., 6-9 p.m.

Monday, August 5/
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, August 7/
Weekly Pool Tournament @ Distant Brewing. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Pool from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Friday, August 2/
Evening Campsite Program: All about Bears. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: New Shady Rest and Robinson Creek campgrounds. For more info, see sierraforever.org/events

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

Monday, August 5/
Eastern Sierra Community Housing Board meets. Time: 6-9 p.m. Location: Coucil Chambers, Suite Z.

August 6-18/
Mammoth Shakespeare Festival, featuring two productions on alternate

TOWN STUFF

nights ("Merry Wives of Windsor" and "The Winter's Tale") plays outdoors at Eagle Lodge. For more info, see ad p. 16.

Tuesday, August 6/
Mammoth Parks and Recreation Commission meets. Time: 2:30-4:30 p.m. Location: Coucil Chambers, Suite Z.
Mono County Supervisors meet. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Bridgeport Courthouse or online via monocounty.ca.gov.
Inyo County Supervisors meet. Time: 10 a.m. Location: Board Chambers at 224 N. Edwards St. in Independence or online via inyocounty.us

Wednesday, August 7/
Parcel ribbon-cutting/ groundbreaking event. Location: The Parcel. Time: 12-2 p.m. Refreshments provided courtesy of the MLPD.
Women's Wednesday Rides @ Mammoth Bike Park. Time: 4:30-7:00. Meet at the bottom of chair 11 to ride with supportive female instructors at any skill level. Free for women with Mammoth Bike Park passes, \$5 for those without.
Wednesday Worknights. Join the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Trail Crew to help with trail construction and maintenance. Trail work 5-7 p.m., beverages and food 7-8 p.m. Sign up at townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

TOWN STUFF

Wednesday, August 7 (cont.)/
Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meets. Time: 1 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.
Family Fun Day @ the Village at Mammoth. 2-6 p.m. Free! Features "inflatable adventures." Hmm.
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. Time: 1 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Thursday, August 8/
Mammoth Trails Committee meets. Time: 3-6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, Suite Z.
"Trashy Thursdays" - lend a hand to help cleanup your community. Time: 5-6 p.m. Location: Community Recreation Center.
Annapurna: Dreams and Nightmares screens at BishopTwin Theater. Don Bowie will do a Q & A after the viewing. All proceeds go to Inyo Search and Rescue. Tickets \$10 online or \$15 at the door. Presented by Bishop Rotary. Tix available at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/f7f91895-91a9-43eb-8915-b23cf21b85fc>

Friday, August 9/
The Village Championship Downhill Series @ Mammoth Bike Park. Race plate pick-up from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Adventure Center, race begins at 4 p.m. at the Follow Me trail.

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

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP



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

Happy Hour Specials!

Lunch Specials!

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.

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



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:

Five Star Cleaning

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

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business starting April 25, 2024 under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on April 26, 2024
File Number 24-034
2024-0102 (8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24)



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 |    

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.

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

Notice of Offices (cont.)

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

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

mammoth

GEAR
EXCHANGE

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

SIERRA
ELECTRIC

Sean Flavin, Owner

760-920-3547
LIC# 923994

OP/ED

TOWN TO TRAILS - FOR WHOM?

By Lynn Boulton

If you haven’t heard of the Towns to Trails Project, it is an ambitious project that will affect everyone in the Eastern Sierra and our wildlife.

It was initiated by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) with a Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to the tune of \$370,443 for “a planning project that will develop a regional trails plan to create a multi-use network of trails, which will connect Eastern Sierra communities to each other and to public lands throughout the region.”

The end product will be a set of maps showing two multi-use routes where one would be the backbone route and the other an alternative route. The project will also provide direction for future projects needed to make the routes a reality. A key question: Who is this Towns to Trails Project for?

I think we have to assume a multi-use trail means it will be for motorized and non-motorized use. That means one trail for dog walkers, hikers, road bikes, gravel bikes, mountain bikes, e-bikes, equestrians, pack train trips, dirt bikes, motorcycles, green sticker vehicles/OHVs, and street vehicles. Those are not compatible uses, especially mixing OHVs, the fastest, noisiest and dustiest of them all, with other recreational uses. Will this project really serve all users? It is important to be clear on the goal because different recreational users will want different routes and trails. This grant came from public funds from Proposition 68.

The staff report in the minutes of the October 8, 2021 ESCOG meeting state, “The Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trails Plan will build upon existing trail and soft-surface infrastructure in the region and will take advantage of conceptual routes that have been drafted by trail advocates, such as “The Sierra Camino,” a proposed 550-mile trail from Taylorsville to Lone Pine, Calif., and the “Orogenesis Trail,” which seeks to establish multi-use trail connectivity from Mexico to Canada via conceptual routes identified in the Eastern Sierra.” It seems that other regions of the Eastern Sierra envision a mountain bike PCT.

The Orogenesis Trail is an ongoing effort to create a single-track mountain bike route from the tip of Baja to Canada where the Sierra Camino part would go through Olancha, cut over to Panamint Valley then back over to Bishop, across the Tablelands, through the Glass Mountains, around the east side of Mono Lake, and across the Bodie Hills, the Sweetwater Mountains to Hope Valley. It bypasses most of the towns, so it will contribute little economic stimulus. Travelers will disperse camp throughout the public lands along the way where there’s little water.

The T2T project is part of the conceptual Sierra Camino route which would connect to the Sierra Buttes Trail Connected Communities Project, which would connect 15 mountain towns with a single track trail network. It also has a goal to provide a “multi-use signature route highlighting these communities ... the Lost Sierra Route”. The Lost Sierra Route sounds like it is an OHV route. Is the backbone route through Inyo and Mono Counties that serves OHVs going to inspire mountain or gravel bikers?

The staff report goes on to say, “Eastern Sierra communities connected by a multi-use alternative to U.S. Highway 395 will be provided opportunities to collaboratively envision, create and sustain a vibrant outdoor-recreation economy and to ensure that connections are made to “schools, neighborhoods, campgrounds, parks, retail centers and trailheads” as envisioned by a similar Trails Plan in Plumas County.” (i.e., the Sierra Buttes Trail)

Using existing roads and trails, the only communities that are presently connected by dirt roads are Mammoth Lakes and June Lake. To make an OHV route from Olancha to Markleeville, many existing roads and trails will need to allow motorized use and new roads will need to be added. The grant states, “the Trails Plan will use existing public lands system trails as a baseline for the development of desired trail alignments and identify connectivity gaps that may require new infrastructure.”

So, the next steps will be to close those gaps, to change segments of the routes to allow OHVs that don’t allow them now and to add infrastructure such as armoring a stream crossing or building a bridge across a ravine. It also means Inyo and Mono Counties will need to designate streets and roads as combined use allowing non-street vehicles on streets. Since the routes are to go through the towns in the Eastern Sierra, many streets will need to be designated combined use. Since it is extremely difficult to know which streets OHVs are allowed on and which ones they are not, the restrictions will not be enforceable and OHVs could be anywhere. We saw this in Bishop with the Adventure Trails program. Closing the gaps will be expensive.

Whether the backbone route is for OHVs or mountain bikes, my main concern is that the draft routes in the maps presented at the public outreach meetings follow deer migration routes, go through bi-state sage grouse areas, undo decades of efforts to protect various species and habitats. Some go into the last remaining wild areas in Mono County. There are good reasons why some of the existing routes are not open to motorized use or a lot of people passing through. It is important to know if the goal is to create a biking or an OHV mecca for many reasons.

Until OHVs are electric, increasing the number of OHVs visitors will add CO2 to the atmosphere and add to global warming when we should be lowering our CO2 footprint. OHVs stir up the most amount of dust and will degrade our air quality, obscuring the views of the mountains for all of us who live here or visit. We have to keep in mind that the Mammoth and county tourism marketing machines will get the word out and that visitation will increase at least 10-fold. Yet enforcement, maintenance, services, and cleanup will not increase. ESCOG representatives said in the June board meeting that they are committed to seeing the project through to completion. Talk to your county supervisor and find out what his/her understanding is of the project or attend the next ESCOG meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 8:30 am at the Bishop City Council Chambers or via Zoom (<https://escog.ca.gov/>). For more information on the project, email info@townstotrails.org.



JOB OPENINGS

FULL-TIME POSITIONS

Full-time positions include competitive benefits package

- Payroll/Human Resources Specialist
\$71,269 – \$100,282
- Parks/Public Works Maintenance Worker - Hybrid
\$53,144 – \$74,779
- Revenue Specialist
\$51,320 – \$72,212
- Police Officer - Lateral
\$89,889 – \$109,261

TEMPORARY PART-TIME POSITIONS

- Sustainability Coordinator
\$28.50 – \$32.99/hr

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

NOT THE LAST PICNIC

By Fisher and Lunch

Given the turnout last Sunday at Shady Rest Park, it's hard to imagine the last Fireman's Picnic has taken place. The beer sold out. The food sold out. And there were probably 25 egg-toss teams. Other games included first to thaw and wear the frozen shirt, sack race, dunk tanks and more. I imagine they'll call it the Last Picnic from now on. Good way to draw a crowd!



Protect the Sierra. Prevent wildfires. Quit smoking today.

Kick It California
Call **1-800-890-1668**
Text **"Quit Smoking"** or
"Quit Vaping" to **66819**
www.kickitca.org

Sponsored by Mono County Tobacco Education Program

OFF THE SLOPES

BISHOP'S ASST. FIRE CHIEF PAT O'NEIL RECEIVES SEND-OFF

By Milender

The Bishop Fire Department has bid farewell to Asst. Chief Pat O'Neil, who officially retired on July 21, 2024, after a 53-year career.

"He knows the department. He knows the area. I mean, he's a wild-land guy," says Chief Ray Seguire, who tapped O'Neil as Assistant Fire Chief in 2007. "But I think the best thing is that he's a good friend. He's always ready to step in there, and get the job done. No matter what it was, he could get the job done."

After joining the department as a volunteer firefighter at the age of 18, O'Neil rose through the ranks, becoming an engineer, captain, and eventually a battalion chief. In 2007, he was appointed as Assistant Fire Chief, where he played a crucial role in guiding the department through transitional periods, including acting as Interim Fire Chief during recruitments for past Chiefs Dell and Russell.

"To say he will be missed is an understatement," said the department, in a Facebook post announcing the end of his tenure. "We hope Chief O'Neil has a fun and relaxing retirement; we'll take it from here."

Pat O'Neil's journey with the Bishop Fire Department began in the summer of 1971 when he joined the service, just

after finishing high school.

"It's a family thing, for a lot of us," O'Neil told The Sheet. "My dad was on the fire department. My brother, too ... I have pictures of me being down at there having dinners when I was just five years old. So, I kind of grew up down at the station."

It was that deep-rooted, family connection to firefighting and public service that inspired him to join his father and brother, Jack and Mike, and dedicate his life to the Bishop Fire Department.

In 1973, O'Neil went to work for the U.S. Forest Service, "cleaning toilets and campgrounds, picking up garbage." But it was around that time, as he recalls, that the USFS had begun building a fire program.

"And so I did that, for a few years," he says. Few being 27, all the while volunteering for Bishop's department.

His wealth of knowledge as a wild-land firefighter and experience with

the region, says Chief Seguire, are what made him the ideal candidate for leadership positions.

"I was a volunteer, but Pat taught me how to be a volunteer firefighter," said Chief Ray Seguire, who worked alongside O'Neil. "And when it came to [choosing the new Assistant Chief],

he was the right man for the job; the best man for the job."

As Seguire explained, he knew the structure fires side of things, while O'Neil understood the wildland. His promotion was made in an effort to increase

the knowledge of local firefighters in combating the unique challenges of wildfire in the Eastern Sierra.

And, says Chief Seguire, O'Neil wasn't a 'yes man.' He questioned decisions. He thought critically about managing the department. Seguire says he was a better leader because of it.

On July 19, the Bishop City Council held a special meeting to honor Pat O'Neil's exceptional service. During the meeting, officials and community members expressed their gratitude for his decades of hard work.

"Pat's been a great mentor to many of us, and I think in turn, he's allowed us to be good mentors as well," said fellow firefighter, Captain Hector Martinez.

Reflecting on his 53 years of service with The Sheet, O'Neil recalled having witnessed significant changes within the department and the community.

"If you go down to the station, there are, I think, six photos of the fire chiefs, and I've worked for all of them but the first," says O'Neil. "It's kind of weird to look at that."

Weird though it may be, O'Neil can admit that the Bishop Fire Department's history is deeply intertwined with his own life. It's a history, he says, he hopes will continue.

"Not many people want to volunteer anymore. I worry that the younger generation doesn't want it. But it's a commitment you have to make to provide the service," he says.

O'Neil's message to the next generation of firefighters is clear: commitment and dedication are essential. Serving your community is essential—maybe it's never been more so.

Even now, he says, when he hears the sirens wailing in the middle of the night, he'll get that familiar adrenaline rush. It might be another two, three hours before he can get back to sleep. The feeling of commitment remains.

When asked what he would miss most about the department and his service to it, O'Neil said it would be the pots of coffee, put on to brew after just such a late-night siren.

"The camaraderie of that," he says. "Sitting there, BS-ing, talking, until six in the morning when it was time to go home. Time to go to work. Time to go."



NOW OPEN

in Mammoth Lakes



EAST SIDE

bake shop

Bakery & Boutique

587 Old Mammoth Rd
Under the Mammoth Tavern

Hours: 10am-4 pm Thurs-Mon
Closed Tues/Wed

eastsidebakeshop395.com

- Organic sourdough
- Fresh-baked goods
- Grab-and-go salads, sandwiches, quiche and more!
- Organic coffee
- Retail items for women and home

MAMMOTH'S PREMIERE SPORTS BAR & COMMUNITY FREE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

Liberty Sports BAR & Grill

9:30 SHOW TIMES!

8/2 8/3

BLUESAPALOOZA AFTER PARTY VIP JAM

CROOKED EYE TOMMY

8/9 8/10

PLANET CARAVAN

LA'S PREMIERE BLACK SABBATH TRIBUTE

8/16 8/17

THE ROAD TO JAMFEST

MATHEW CURRY

"THE NEXT GUITAR HERO" - PETER FRAMPTON

8/24

WAVERAVE SKATE COMP

SPLIFF RIFF

THRASH - CORE

SUNDAY 8/25 9PM

JOSLYN & THE SWEET COMPRESSION

NEO-SOUL / FUNK SWAGGER

8/30 8/31

DEREK FRANK

70'S INSPIRED INSTRUMENTAL GROOVES

FROM THE BASSIST W/ SHANIA TWAIN, GWEN STEFANI & KELLY CLARKSON

WEEKLY KARAOKE EVERY TUESDAY AT 9PM

WEEKLY WINE WEDNESDAY'S

WITH JAZZ SAXOPHONISTS EDDY EVANS ON THE PATIO 4-7PM

WITH 1/2 OFF WINE BY THE GLASS

GAYLA'S GALLERY

Bishop's Friday Night Market is in a new location (behind the courthouse) but drew the same, sizable crowd last Friday. The next market is scheduled to take place on August 16.
By Gayla Wolf





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



A NEW HOME FOR *FAMILY FUN*



ONLY THREE RESIDENCES REMAIN! CALL FOR CURRENT AVAILABILITY.

Luxury Mountain Retreats with Miles of Trails and Open Space. Clubhouse & Outdoor Spa Now Open.

3 TO 4 BEDROOMS. UP TO 2,742 SQ. FT. • SALES (760)-934-3334 • [LIVECREEKHOUSe.COM](https://livecreekhouse.com)



All information subject to change. The Snowcreek Property Company. CalDRE #01812140.
2024. All rights reserved.

ANOTHER LUXURY DEVELOPMENT BY THE **CHADMAR** GROUP



SNOWCREEK
RESORT