

# the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



The Mammoth Shakespeare Festival is underway. For reviews, see pages 17 and 18.

Saturday, August 10, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. McCourty

## IN THE MIX



The Bishop Chamber held its latest mixer @ Laws on Wednesday. The two buildings in the background have been recently restored.

## AT LEAST A ONE-MARTINI LUNCH

By Lunch

I understand now why the late George Shirk was such a fan of ellipses ... because us aging writers just don't want to have to expend the mental energy to place things in their proper boxes and categories. We'd rather just skip to the good parts, and then once we get there, not linger too long. So here we go ...

From the Mammoth Lakes Tourism board meeting on Monday. MLT is pulling the plug on the OCR World Championships after this year's event, which will take place in Mammoth October 4-6.

MLT President and CEO John Urdi said "We have not seen great improvements in year two" in terms of total participants/entries.

The five-year contract with Spartan for the OCR will be

honored, but starting next year, the event will morph into a Spartan Super World Championship in the 10k.

So what's the difference between the two?

OCR (a stand-alone event acquired by Spartan a few years back) draws more internationally, said Urdi, and the thought was you'd get athletes who'd come early for the event to acclimate and stay after to enjoy/experience the area.

Spartan draws more of a domestic crowd. He says a previous iteration of a Spartan 10k championship held in Tahoe drew 8,000 event registrations and 5,000-6,000 people, so that's the hope.

In other MLT news, summer air service continues to struggle. Some of this is attributed to a macro change in

travel trends - at least for this year. Americans are traveling in greater numbers to Europe (up 20%) and in fewer numbers domestically (down 13%).

Mammoth's summer air numbers largely correlate with the domestic drop.

Transient Occupancy Tax revenues came in \$9.4 million over budget for 2023-2024 at \$27.4 million.

This was about 7% down from 2022-2023.

The MLT Board gave Urdi a 3% raise to \$232,000 for next year.

And those monthly community coffee days? Community Engagement Director Betsy Truax said there's gonna be a small change in the program, seeing as MLT was spending \$2,000 on coffee and only

see LUNCH, pg. 2

## RIBBON CUT

... But Sawyer remains unoccupied

By Fisher

Mammoth town officials celebrated the ribbon cutting on the first phase of the Parcel affordable housing project, the "Sawyer," and the groundbreaking of the project's next phase, the "Kingfisher," on Wednesday, Aug 7.

The "Sawyer" includes 80 affordable housing units, one manager unit, a child-care facility, and a public park. The "Kingfisher," upon its anticipated completion, will provide 148 rentable units. Future phases are currently in the planning process.

"With these projects, we hope to address the housing shortage and at least make a dent in that need as we continue to invest in future projects," said Nolan Bobroff, Mammoth's Community Development Director.

Developers expect the entire Parcel project will provide upwards of 500 units at full build-out and will be completed over the next several years.

"The town has not seen any new affordable housing projects completed since 2010," Bobroff said. "However, the need for affordable housing has continued to grow at an exponential rate."

In 2017, town officials identified a need for approximately 600 new units, including 340 affordable units, Bobroff said. The town bought the 25-acre site in 2018.

The build, completed through a partnership with Pacific West Builders has been challenging.

"We've built hundreds of properties, but we've never built one like this before in this

see PARCEL, pg. 7

Merry Wives

p. 17/

Town for sale

p. 10/

Show Me!

p. 4/

Taxeating 101

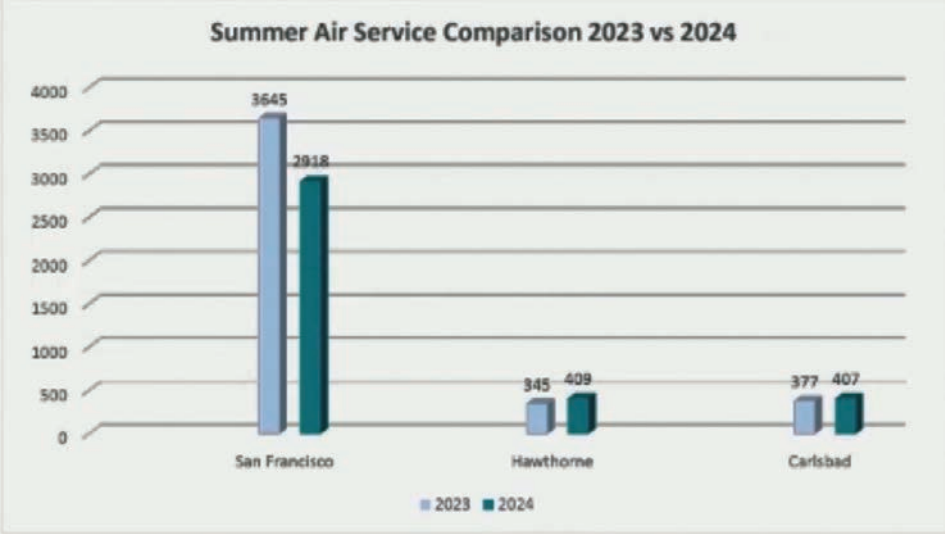
p. 4, 13/

Radar (gun) love

p. 6/

LUNCH

continued from page 1



United service to SFO is down 20% this summer year-over-year while charter service to Hawthorne is up 19% and Carlsbad is up 8%

getting 50 online attendees for the online “conversation” it wanted people to attend (with their coffees).

MLT Board member John Morris asked that the upcoming TOML ballot measure (proposing the TOT rate be jacked two points, or 15.3%) be agendized.

John Wentworth, who is the Mammoth Council’s representative on the MLT Board, has been pushing the board to endorse Council’s tax grab.

But it doesn’t seem like the business community is overly excited about it in what appears to be a slackening economy.

As Urdi said, the Town was at 74% occupancy for Bluesapalooza. Historically, occupancy for last week-end is in the 90s.

And, says Urdi, the experts at Inntopia, which consults for MLT, say this is not the time for a rate hike.

“People are willing to pay higher rates,” said Urdi, “but not a higher tax.”

Passage of the tax measure would result in the exact opposite - lodging businesses having to decrease room rates to accommodate the total 16% (TOT plus TBID) tax hit.

“The [Airbnb post-pandemic] honeymoon lasted longer than I thought it would,” added Urdi. “But it’s over.”

Sure enough, Airbnb stock dove 14% on Wednesday and is down more than one-third over the past four months.

And a Business Insider story on Wednesday said Disney (a pretty good bellwether for a California resort town comp) reported weaker-than-expected results for its theme parks division in its latest earnings.

It blamed the drop on weakening consumer demand, which it said was likely to continue, “another sign that consumers are reining in spending as economic storm clouds gather.

“Disney’s operating profit for its domestic parks and experiences declined 3% from the previous year to \$2.2 billion, while revenues grew 2% to \$8.4 billion.

“The company blamed the decrease in operating income at its domestic theme parks on high costs linked to inflation and a larger drop in consumer demand than expected.

“Disney warned that the ‘demand moderation’ for its parks and experiences would likely continue, and could impact the next few quarters.

“... Comcast also saw revenues from its Universal Studios theme parks fall in its Q2 earnings in July.

“... Fast food chains such as McDonald’s, Burger King, and Taco Bell have all launched discounts and value meals to try and lure in cost-conscious consumers as some reported slowing sales.

“Starbucks also reported a decline in visits due to a ‘challenging consumer environment.”

The Sheet also spoke to John Morris on Wednesday because it appears he’s caught between a rock and a hard place.

On the one hand, he sat on the STR Moratorium and promised he’d support a tax hike for housing if Council would back off on talk of permit caps and the like.

But, he says, the landscape has changed in recent months. “My numbers

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

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

-The Waco Kid  
from Blazing Saddles

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[at Snowcreek] are slow ... and if raising tax has a large overall negative effect, we’re screwed ... based upon what I’m hearing from the business community, I have my doubts as to whether I can support it.”

If Morris had his druthers, he would urge Council to out more of its 9.4 million TOT surplus from FY 2023-2024 into the Placemate “lease to locals” program - currently funded by Council at just \$450,000.

If that proves a winner, then float the ballot measure as a special tax for 2025 once you’ve established some trust and credibility.

The Town’s ballot measure is being floated as a general tax, meaning revenue collected would go to the general fund and could be spent on anything - even if council promises it will be spent on housing.

Many look at the Town’s \$29 million, new town offices project and can’t help but wonder if Council is just so set on doing it all (housing, offices, Arts and Cultural Center, etc.) that it is blinded to fiscal limits.

It wouldn’t be the first governmental body to think there are no limits.

But consider ...

I had a friend tell me he’s got a 22-year old employee who has a newborn child. The employee tried to qualify for The Parcel but makes too much money.

The peril of taking state funds to do anything. You then have to live by their rules.

“If we can’t house a 22-year old with a newborn, just what in the hell are we doing?” he asked.

Now onto some Inyo County scuttle ...  
I spoke to High Country Lumber’s Scott Piercey yesterday regarding High Country’s acquisition of Home Lumber.

Initially, the plan was for High Country to move its lumber operations to Home Lumber’s site in between the Vagabond and Smart ’N Final on Main Street.

But LADWP (Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power) told Piercey it would not allow High Country to assume Home Lumber’s lease.

So the deal became one for inventory only.  
And the Home Lumber site will just sit there as a vacant lot.

Similar to Allen Outdoors/Sierra Saddlery at the opposite end of town.  
“They’re jerked us all around,” observed Piercey. “Our Trends location ... they had wanted to sell it to us, even as of last year, but I’d say within the past six months they’ve changed their tune.”

Bishop’s City Manager Denton Dishion says LADWP has existing leases on thirteen properties located in between the “Y” and Sierra Saddlery.

“We could be a ghost town really fast,” he said, if LADWP lets those leases dry up. “I don ’t think this is coming out of Bishop [LADWP office],” added Dishion. “More likely L.A.”

Inyo County Supervisors met twice this week.  
If only it were double the pleasure like Doublemint gum.  
Wednesday featured the latest budget hearing.  
Where we learned “staff is the most important part of the organization ... we need to take care of staff before embarking on new goals.”

So what we learned on Wednesday is that staff pay and benefits are set to increase a whopping 17% in 2024-2025, from approximately \$50 million to more than \$58 million.

But here’s the kicker - beyond contemplating this massive hike, the  
**see more LUNCH, pg. 13**



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REDUCED TO:

**\$2,999,000**



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### Mammoth Ski & Racquet #H-81

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ASKING:

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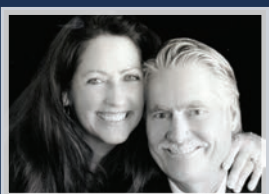


### Juniper Springs Lodge #332

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

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# LETTERS

## Feeling Missouri

Dear Editor,

The proposed County TOT tax ballot measure is a scam! It is a sneaky way to use the affordable housing/workforce issue as cover for a tax hike.

This brought to you by the same Mono County Supervisors who spent \$70,000 on a study to examine the Short-Term Rental industry. This study concluded that if ALL STRs were eliminated, it would result in "maybe" 4 to 6 long term rentals in June Lake.

Some details about Mono County's proposed ballot measure:

-It is being floated as a "general" tax measure. As such, it will only require 50%-plus-one approval to pass.

-Regardless of whatever promises are attached to it (Supervisors claim the monies will be spent on housing), Supervisors can spend general tax revenues any way they want.

-Voters countywide are eligible to vote on this measure, meaning voters in Chalfant, Mammoth Lakes and Topaz will be asked to vote on a tax that is of no burden to them. The burden will fall mostly on business operators in June Lake.

What I think will actually happen ...

If the past is any indication, this measure will pass, and housing will be ignored. If anything is spent on housing, it will be for administration only.

I have personally spent the past 4

years trying to build a 12-unit workforce housing building in June Lake. My Supervisor, Bob Gardner, has not followed through on his promises. Though he has "apologized" for misleading my group to heavily invest time and resources based upon his representations.

At a certain point, you have to ask why so very little has been done, other than talk, to stimulate workforce/affordable housing over the last 10 years.

Here's a hint. It has been suggested by many the way to restrict economic development and growth in Mono County is by restricting housing.

Just look at the Mobil Mart fiasco in Lee Vining, a perfectly reasonable workforce housing proposal torpedoed/NIMBY'd by Gardner, Duggan and the Mono Lake Committee.

Again: The way to restrict economic development and growth is by restricting housing. The way to restrict housing is by throwing up barriers and red tape.

Remove the opposition and the barriers and red tape and maybe I'll support your tax proposals. But right now, I'm feeling very Missouri about it, which, as you all know, is the Show Me State.

Don Morton  
June Lake

# GOOD DAY FOR A RAISE

Mammoth Council pats itself on back

By Fisher

The Mammoth Lakes Town Council approved a new ordinance to increase their own salaries to \$1,131.90 per month, a 10% increase from the current pay rate.

This adjustment will take effect December 4, 2024, or upon the seating of newly elected Councilmembers.

This increase can only be enacted after an election, in order to prohibit retroactive or automatic annual increases.

Pay increases for Mammoth Lakes Town Council were capped at \$300 per month 1985 to 2014, until an ordinance raised the salary by 5% annually for 29 years, increasing it to \$735 per month.

A subsequent ordinance, effective for eight years, further raised the salary to \$1,029 per month. Mammoth Town Councilmembers also receive health insurance through their positions.

The council did not deliberate on the matter and approved the motion unanimously.

Also at Wednesday's meeting, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) outlined the launch of the new Chief's Advisory Committee.

The committee, led by MLPD Chief Dan Casabian and a chosen chairperson, seeks to link the MLPD and the Mammoth Lakes community, offering a platform for the public to provide direct feedback to the department.

It will not participate in departmen-

tal disciplinary actions, legal issues, ongoing criminal or internal investigations or active critical incidents. It also does not make or dictate law enforcement policy.

The application process for the committee is set to begin Aug 14. Applicants will be selected through an interview process and will undergo a basic background check.

Committee members are expected to attend monthly meetings, which will not be open to the public. Their terms will be either one or two years and are renewable.

Casabian is hopeful members of the Latino/a community will apply, and said members of his staff are available to help translate if there is a language barrier.

He will not, however, be in charge of selecting committee members. The town manager, Rob Patterson, will be largely responsible for interviewing the applicants and choosing from them.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## PO-LEASE SLOW DOWN

By Fisher

The Mammoth Lakes Office of Outdoor Recreation is staffing bike path speed-traps and bulk-ing up educational infrastructure in an effort to reduce E-bike speeding and subsequent crashes.

Speed limits for the multi-use path-ways are set at 15 miles per hour. E-bikes are a type of pedaled bicycle with a motor, and their increased popularity and accessibility has created a hazard for pedestrians in Mammoth Lakes, said Lawson Reif, Outdoor Recreation Manager.

“We don’t want to be the fun police out there, but we do want people to behave properly,” Reif said.

But the police are involved. A new ordinance allows for the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) to issue citations for speeding or reckless behavior, so some officers are stationed on weekends to use the ol’ radar gun on bikers.

The main goal, though, of the new legislation is education, Reif said. MLPD will only ticket under egregious circumstances, and will otherwise simply inform riders of the speed limit.

The Mammoth Lakes Office of Outdoor Recreation recently deployed three flashing slow signs on the multi-use pathway, in addition to the existing

signage and stenciled messaging on the pavement.

The biggest area of concern for bike speeding is the steep downhill section between Twin Lakes and Mammoth Lakes Brewing Company, Reif said.

On that stretch alone, there are al-ready seven 15 miles per hour signs.

To further drill in the message, the Mammoth Lakes Office of Outdoor Recreation ordered six speed radar speed monitors. These signs will act as speedometers, flashily alerting bikers of their speed and encouraging them to slow down.

The is also expanding programs to include E-bike hosts and distributing a new recreation map to inform the public about E-bike regulations and safety practices.

“I think some of what we are running into out there is a result of a dearth of opportunity,” Reif said. “People don’t really have anywhere else to go, so they go on the multi-use pathway.”

All bikers, including E-bikers, are allowed to use the roads if they don’t want to be restricted by the multi-use pathways’ limitations, Reif said. But then they must follow the rules of the road, and most people, especially tour-ists, are intimidated by the traffic.





### 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                                                                                 |
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# MAMMOTH Shakespeare FESTIVAL

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

### the Winter's Tale

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

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PARCEL

continued from page 1

environment: through COVID, delays in material supplies, price escalations, and labor shortages,” said Brad Glenn, Director of Construction for Pacific West Builders.

He is hopeful the next phases of construction will go smoother now that they have a better understanding of the land and town.

“We’re a part of your community,” he said. “We’re going to be here for years to come.”

The Parcel seeks to support low-income households, with the majority of units in the “Sawyer” serving households at or below 60% AMI, with rental rates based on the annual income and household size of the applicant.

“This is for the locals; this is for everybody that makes beds, serves meals,” Mayor Bill Sauser said. “This is for the important people of this town.”

Some people, though, think this development will do more harm than good

for the local community. Steve Klassen, owner of Wave Rave Snowboard shop, is one of those people.

Klassen fears this development will draw more people to the town without actually addressing the needs of the people who already live there, he said.

He pays his staff \$20 an hour, meaning they don’t qualify for housing at the Parcel based on income requirements.

“The town’s really proud of it, but it’s maybe not informed by the locals,” Klassen said. “It’s going to turn it into an extremely high-pressure place with not enough parking.”

The town’s Housing Now initiative is a multifaceted program, intended to provide a range of community housing that is available and affordable to those working in the community, Bobroff said.

It aims to provide housing at all levels of affordability, and the Parcel is just one part of that initiative.

STUDENTS INJURED IN CRASH

A high-speed collision involving at least ten people occurred on Friday afternoon, Aug 2.

The collision, between a black Ford F-150 pickup truck and a Ford Expedition SUV, occurred on Highway 395 at the June Lake Junction.

One of the people involved in the crash, Adrian Longino, is a 15-year old high school student, according to a GoFundMe page made by his mother, Bianca Longino. He was life-flighted to Renown Medical Center in Reno, Nevada.

He has undergone several surgeries, including the removal of his spleen, Bianca wrote in the GoFundMe description. He was taken off his ventilator Aug 5 and is still making a recovery.

She is asking the Mono community to raise \$45,000 to cover Adrian’s medical

expenses. Another student involved, Yanzel Figueroa, had an emergency surgery on August 3rd due to internal bleeding. Friends of his mother, Adylene Figueroa, also made a GoFundMe page, hoping to raise \$25,000.

“He had about 10 inches of his small intestine, and the valve that connects to his intestines removed,” Adylene wrote in the description.

On Aug 6, Yanzel was moved from the ICU to a regular hospital room, she wrote in an update.

The California Highway Patrol has not yet released a press release on the crash, and said it was still under active investigation. Fault has not yet been determined for the accident.

-Fisher



A good P.R. firm would have made the tape red.



Jungle gym and playground at “The Sawyer.”

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# GETTING SCHOOLED ON BONDS

By Klusmire

The Bishop Unified School District has rolled out the second bond proposal it will put on the ballot this November.

If approved by voters, the bond would provide \$46.3 million for improvements and renovations to the buildings on the Bishop High School and Home Street Middle School campuses.

The big-ticket item on the “to-do” list is the work to upgrade the historic high school building, which was built in 1921. The building is basically a concrete box with interior concrete walls, so it’s pricey to remodel the interior and modernize its mechanical systems, which include plumbing, wiring, heating and cooling.

The district has projected the work on the three-story high school building will take about \$32.4 million of the proposed total bond funding. That will leave about \$13.9 million for additional work on the high school and middle school buildings.

The district conducted an online survey asking residents their preferences when it came to overhauling the district’s buildings. Tearing down and replacing the high school building was soundly rejected, with respondents stating the imposing structure should instead be brought up to modern standards. The results of the November bond election will reveal whether that level of nostalgia and fond memories of the landmark building will translate into a willingness to increase taxes.

While the hulking high school is the marquee project, virtually all of the district’s buildings are slated for work. The district is also asking for voter ap-

proval for a \$14.2 million bond just for work on the elementary school buildings and grounds. If both bond measures are approved by 55% of those casting ballots, the district will be able to spend \$60.5 million on its buildings. Another roughly \$12.6 million will arrive at some point from the State of California, upping the total cash available to about \$73 million. While that is a hefty sum, a facilities assessment outlined more than \$81 million in improvements on all three campuses.

Most of the work would be familiar to homeowners.

Excluding the high school building, the list of projects for the other buildings on all three campuses is almost identical. New roofs are at the top of list, appropriately, and are estimated to cost \$9.1 million; heating and cooling (HVAC) upgrades come in at \$3.8 million; restrooms will get a \$9.1 million facelift; and flooring, ceilings and walls due for a \$10.1 million rehab.

Separately, the elementary school drop off/pick up area is slated for \$3 million in improvements. At the bottom of list is the track and lighting on John Schwab field. That \$5.6 million project will only be undertaken after all the building and classroom improvements are complete. Potential projects depending on the availability of funding, include replacing the windows on all the buildings and exterior painting.

The school board will monitor the construction budget and progress and can shuffle projects and funding if needed.

Scheduling will be a critical chore. Taking on large-scale remodel projects

on school buildings is complicated by the need to get as much work done during summer break and otherwise minimize disruptions during the school year. So the work will be done in phases over several years.

The proposed timing of the bond sales is configured to provide funds when called for according to construction schedules. The first bond sales will take place in 2025, with \$7.9 million of high school/middle school bonds and \$2.2 million for the elementary school work. In 2027, sales of another \$20.9 million in bonds for the HSMS work and \$5.7 million for the elementary school. In 2030, sales of \$17.5 million in bonds for the HSMS work and \$6.3 million for the elementary school.

The district estimates the HSMS bonds will increase property taxes by about \$51 per \$100,000 in assessed value (not the market value), with the Elementary bond adding \$17 per \$100,000 in assessed value.

The BUSD board went through some legal jujitsu which resulted in proposing two separate bond measures. Residents of Round Valley will not vote on the \$14.2 million elementary school bond question, since the Round Valley elementary school serves that area. Those residents along with the rest of the voters in the entire BUSD district will vote on the HSMS bond.

The district is also banking on millions in funding from the State of California to augment the local tax money. The state match for the elementary school work is estimated at \$2.2 million (bringing total available funding to \$16.4 million), and the state contribution to the HSMS work would be \$10.4 (bringing total potential funding to \$56.7 million). However, the state matching funds can’t even be applied for until the local funds are in place.

The district’s consultants said under

current state fiscal conditions, the matching funds might not show up for 3-4 years because of the huge backlog of requests for state money. It is unclear what impact approval of a \$10 billion state school bond measure (Prop. 2) would have to speed things up.

The district also noted where the bond money cannot be spent: “No funds can be taken away by the state or other school districts, and by law, no money can be used for teacher or administrator salaries or pensions.” Nor can the bond funds be used for “routine school operating expenses.” An “independent citizens’ oversight committee” will be appointed to monitor how the bond funds are being spent, and an “annual, independent performance audit” will be completed.

The “Facilities Master Plan and Needs Assessment” offers the following “assessment” of the work ahead:

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

... Many interior spaces across the district are outdated. These spaces often lack the necessary modern amenities and technology to support effective learning in today’s rapidly evolving educational landscape. To address this issue, it is essential to prioritize renovating and modernizing classrooms, labs and student support facilities. Upgrading these facilities will help enhance the overall educational experience and better prepare students for the challenges of the future.”

Jon Klusmire of Bishop will defer to Thomsas Jefferson for some wisdom: “Educate and inform the whole mass of people ... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.”

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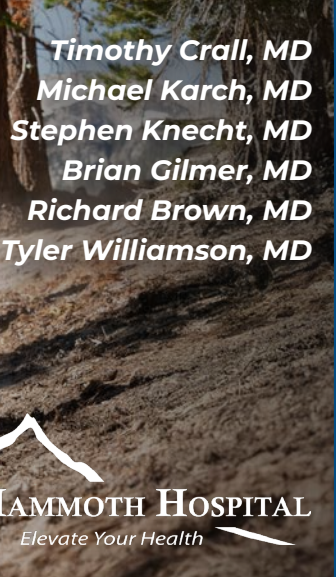
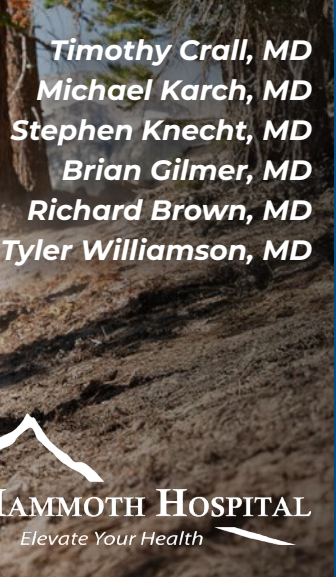
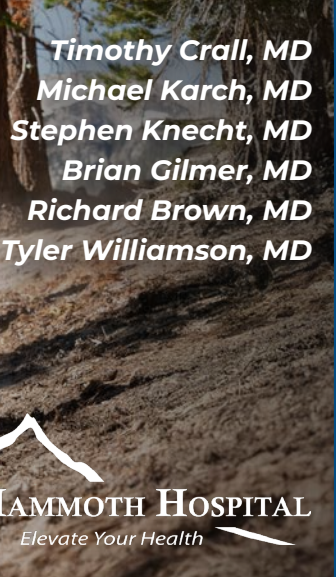


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# the real sheet

## Your Guide to Local Real Estate

### FOR SALE: ONE SMALL TOWN ON 58 ACRES

By Klusmire

**J**ake Rasmuson is looking for a buyer to scoop up another fabled Inyo County mining town, but this one is full of people, not ghosts.

The Bishop realtor seems to have cornered the market on listing entire local, historic towns. In 2018, he was the listing and selling agent for Cerro Gordo, the infamous former silver mining town turned into a modest tourist attraction as a “ghost town” in the Inyo Mountains east of Owens Lake. That sales job generated national media attention and resulted in a purchase for about \$1.4 million, about \$500,000 above the asking price. The new owner, Brent Underwood, then turned Cerro Gordo into a digital phenomenon, with about two million YouTube followers tracking his exploits and efforts to revive the abandoned mines and still-uninhabited town.

Rasmuson’s latest town listing is a bit more modern and definitely more lively: The community of Rovana/Pine Creek Village is on the market for a tidy \$21 million through Bishop Realty, Rasmuson Associates. Rovana, unlike Cerro Gordo, is a functioning town with residents occupying its 85 rental homes. The town has paved streets, water and sewer sys-

tems, and a sense of community based on its somewhat isolated location at the foot of the Sierra just below Pine Creek Canyon about 15 miles north of Bishop.

There is plenty of history, too.

Rovana was built in 1947 as a company town to house the workers of the massive Pine Creek Tungsten mine, located up the hill from Rovana. The huge mine, located at between 8,000 and 12,000 feet, operated for most of the 20th Century, and at one point was the largest tungsten operation in the United States. Production soared during WW II and the post-war economic boom. At its peak it employed about 300 workers. The “Mine in the Sky” was a steady economic engine in northern Inyo County and operated for longer than most of the mines in the county, only closing for good in 2001. (The mine property has completely different owners and is not involved in the Rovana real estate deal.)

Taking on 85 homes originally built in 1947 and then filled with renters for decades might not be as daunting of a chore as it sounds, said Rasmuson. The current owners, the Plum family, “have made a significant investment in upgrading and updating” the homes, he said. They

have new roofs, double pane windows, modernized kitchens and bathrooms, he noted. And the views are striking. “Mt. Tom is in the backyard.”

The \$21 million price tag is nothing to sneeze at. But with median home prices in Bishop at \$535,000, and new construction costs even higher, paying about \$250,000 per home in Rovana “offers an exceptional investment opportunity,” he said. There are 64 three-bedroom, one bath homes and 21 two-bedroom, one bath homes in the community. They average a bit more than 1,000 square feet on lots averaging about 10,000 square feet.

Since the homes are all on a single, 58-acre parcel, any new owners would have to subdivide the town into individual lots in order to sell the homes. Again, sounds daunting. But there are plenty of towns and counties in California that have far more complex, time-consuming and red-tape strewn land use processes than Inyo County, Rasmuson noted, so home sales sometime in the future would be a possibility.

There are also about 30 acres of vacant land that could hold additional, new homes. “That’s not a small parcel of

developable land, especially in Inyo and Mono counties,” which are notoriously short of private land, Rasmuson said.

The marketing plan includes listing the property on regional and national commercial development sites, platforms and services, along with the usual array of videos, webpages and social media. In addition, a number of commercial developers and real estate firms will be contacted directly, he noted.

Although the listing for Pine Creek Village is unlikely to generate the same level of national attention as the sale of a creaky silver mining ghost town, Rasmuson said he anticipates receiving “solid” interest in the property, thanks to the price, the existing homes, the potential for new development, the severe lack of housing in Inyo and Mono counties and, of course, the Eastern Sierra location between Bishop and Mammoth Lakes.

Besides, there aren’t that many historic mining towns for sale.

*Jon Klusmire of Bishop was always amazed at the Pine Creek Mine operation because it was a “bottom up” mine, meaning the miners chased the vein of ore up the inside of the mountain.*

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# OFF THE SLOPES

## AMID THE SUSPENDED DUST

By Milender

**A**long Highway 395 between Independence and Lone Pine is a place that long preceded highways. A place called Manzanar.

Approaching it this past weekend on my way back from Los Angeles, Bowie's *Life on Mars* was playing in the car. He sang, with what was an eerie aptitude, of America's tortured brow.

The dashboard reading was 101. The fault-block mountains were burning new colors in the late afternoon. And from the road, Manzanar looked as desolate a place as any along that stretch of California highway. If it had been a movie set, like much of the rest of Lone Pine, it would have made for an average scene. It keeps a few crouching buildings; a field of shrubby greasewood and sagebrush. A placard with its name.

I have driven, as most of us have, more than once past Manzanar. Knowing half what it was. A part of that most shameful history of this county and this country. A place that lends itself to passing.

Given that it was a free afternoon, given that it was one of my final afternoons, I thought I would go see the place. So for the first time, last Monday I drove in a ways off the highway. To the sign boards, posted out front of the site's visitor center that tell of Manzanar's long story.

The Paiutes, of course, had lived there first. Hunting game, crafting arrowheads, and building willow huts that would be replaced by homesteads when they were marched south to Fort Tejon.

At the turn of the century, it had postured as a land of plenty. Brothers George and Charles Chaffey rigged an irrigation system to gravity-flow water out of Shepherd Creek to sapling fruit orchards. And from there, the settlement earned its name, borrowing from the Spanish word for "apple orchard."

It was a name that did not bear fruit, in either sense of the word. The trees had failed to thrive in the desert. But in 1913, Manzanar and the surrounding areas became useful when they began diverting snowmelt from the Owens Valley through over 230 miles of California to the thriving metropolis of the Angelenos. The water wars ensued. Then the dust. The ruin of the Valley, and its salvaging by Father Crowley. A time-worn story.

Looking out across the plot of country now, only a few trees can be seen. They are congregated in odd assortments and numbers and bent at their spines like the crooked backs of old men. Water certainly has no easy way through Manzanar itself. And the sun, over all of it, is oppressive.

What can be seen is a guard tower. Neat latrines, and long-style barracks stilted over tufts of winter fat and box thorn.

Manzanar, more famously than it is a monument to American prosperity and its failed attempts, was an internment camp for Japanese Americans in the latter years of the Second World War.

Following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in February of 1942, authorizing the forced relocation of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast without due process. Families were given only days to decide what to do with their possessions, homes, businesses. They sold them at a loss, or abandoned them.

Assigned identification numbers, incarcerated were transported under military guard to temporary assembly centers at racetracks and fairgrounds. They were moved to one of 10 relocation centers, including Manzanar. There, 11,070 people were confined within a square mile of desert and barbed wire through the duration of the war.

\*Except for those who snuck out now and then to fish ...

Visit Manzanar, and toward the front of that square mile, the one that faces the sentry post, you will see, immediately, the Block 14 barracks. A plant called guayule—a desert shrub cultivated at the camp, and intended for use as an alternative to rubber in wartime. At the time, Japan controlled most of Southeast Asia and therefore, much of the territory where rubber was grown.

Visit Manzanar, and in the back of that square mile, shrouded in the cover of trees that still remain, there is a place called Merritt Park, and in it is a rose garden.

Before brothers Kuichiro and Akira Nishi were incarcerated in '42, they had owned a plant nursery in the San Fernando Valley. They used the root stock of wild roses to graft on more domestic, and delicate cultivars. With the help of other internees who had been gardeners, arborists, and architects outside the camp, a garden was made with bridges, ponds, and rock structures. It was a place where young couples courted. A place where prisoners could find solitude.

In her memoir, *Farewell to Manzanar*, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston wrote that in the park, "You could face away from the barracks, look past a tiny rapids toward the darkening mountains, and for a while not be a prisoner at all. You could hang suspended in some odd, almost lovely land you could not escape from yet almost didn't want to leave."

Visit Manzanar, and what you will see is a restored replica of Merritt Park. When the incarceration center closed, months after V-J Day, the camp's structures were removed and the site was allowed to return to its original state. The fortunate incarcerated with homes and businesses and nurseries remaining returned to them, with \$25 in their pockets from the War Relocation Association. And over time, Merritt Park became buried by the silt and dust dismantled from the surrounding range.

Monday night, the drive home to Mammoth offered a familiar landscape. There was Owens Lake. The mountains forged behind it in histories of violent sliding along contemptuous faults. In front of it, those things forged by its people. Signs vending beef jerky, olive oil, honey. A hotel shaped like a halved lemon, and a great many others shuttered. A highway.

You have to wonder how the earliest



The rose garden at Merritt Park, Manzanar.

people here—the Paiutes, then the settlers, then the priest and his flock—made sense of this place. How did Dave McCoy, or Troy Patton, or Roland Knapp, Robert Schaubmayer, and Bea Beyer when they inherited it? How did the people that were forced off of it, onto it, and through its rough passes make sense of this place? This life on Mars?

For that reason, the roses I saw growing at Manzanar told the most compelling story of stewardship in the Eastern Sierra that I have learned in my time here.

Because between 2008 and 2009, the National Park Service and a fleet of volunteers excavated the park, and with it, the garden that the Nishi brothers had built. Prior to restoration, it was remarkably intact. The pond shapes could be made out, the stepping stones followed. In it and around it was buried the detritus of peoples' lives. A tube of lipstick. A comb. Kids' toys.

You hear something like that, and you think of those Americans living in a country they could not recognize, in lives that were not their own. They took with them what they could, and planted what they knew. And now these things endure.

This is not an easy place to live. But it is not indifferent, either. How we make sense of it will instruct on how we leave it behind; on how the dust will settle.

Some have made it their pulpit, of both bullying and faith. Some have made their life's work the maintenance of its trails and waterways. There are those that made newspapers. Those that planted roses.

The rest of you remain, with stories enduring and stories to be excavated later down the line.

I'm glad I got to know some of them.

Thank you.



## HARTLEY SIZES UP THE NFC

By Hartley

With the football season so close at hand, it's time to make the calls. Time to put all the offseason drama to rest. The "brilliant" free agent signings and draft fixes which were supposed to cure all your team's ills. Then the training camp hype - HE IS LIGHTYEARS AHEAD OF LAST YEAR. Or WE CAN BE THE BEST DEFENSE IN THE LEAGUE.

The truth-telling starts now  
How the NFC will unfold.

**NFC SOUTH.** A wretched, putrid division. They don't call it the DIRTY SOUTH for nothing.

**Panthers.** New coach, new day, but ... same owner, same lack of talent. QB Bryce Young looks more like a high school freshman than an NFL starter. They brought in the "QB Whisperer" Dave Canales to fix him. But that doesn't fix your whole team. And to be a whisperer, the QB needs to be able to hear. Young was a great college story. And an NFL bust. They finish 5-12.

**Bucs** 8-9. Stop it with the Baker Mayfield Reclamation Project. He isn't a protected wetland. He had a decent year last year and everyone is acting like he is great. The overall career ledger is five

bad years and two decent ones. Funny, I don't see his ass on any commercials anymore. I wonder if the companies he got endorsements from asked for their money back. Todd Bowles is still a bad coach.

**Saints** 7-10. They still have Dennis Allen as head coach and Derek Carr as QB. That is a losing combination no matter how you slice it. And the Saints remain in salary cap HELL with no positive results or success to show for it. They should create an organizational hurricane and tear down the whole thing. Maybe they feel the same way. They signed Chase Young and Nathan Peterman in the offseason. I think they signed Peterman to boost Carr's confidence. Carr knows his job is secure watching that tomato can of an NFL QB suck every day in practice.

**Falcons** 10-7. Favorable schedule = decent season. There is a lot of talent on the offensive side, and Raheem Morris should make the defense better. Of course, drafting some defensive talent in the first round instead of a QB after giving Kirk Cousins a massive contract would have helped. I am actually fine with the draft pick, just not paying Cousins. They easily win the division.

**NFC WEST.** How the West is won.

**'Hawks** finish 9-8. That may be a little rich for most folks but the head coach is very good with defenses and the new OC will bring some energy to this tired franchise. They had a great run with ole Gum-Chewing Pete but it was time for a change. Unfortunately they will realize this year that they need a change from Geno Smith at QB, too.

**Cards** have a lot of hype around them. But let's get realistic. Marvin Harrison Jr at WR is NOT going to fix their problems. They would have been better off drafting a talented DL than a WR. The biggest problem is they still have the MIDGET KYLER MURRAY AT QB. I hear a lot of people wanting to draft him in fantasy. They love the fact that he runs for a lot of yards. Unfortunately, he also gets hurt. And he has a bad attitude. Cards 7-10. They are spunky, but not good.

**Rams** 10-7. I would be higher on them if I thought Matt Stafford's neck, back or shoulder would last all season. McVay has done a tremendous job coaching that team.

**Niners** finish 11-6. There is a lot of noise around the Niners, basically because of WR Brandon Aiyuk, who is trying to force a trade out. Even without him, they'll be talented. This year is the year they need to win it all because they are getting old, beat up and heavy on the salary cap. Besides Aiyuk, they gotta pay Purdy and lineman Trent Williams is at home asking for more money instead of in camp. Usually you see a team win a Super Bowl and then everyone wants money and it falls apart. The Niners haven't even won a Super Bowl and everyone has their hands out. Once they pay Purdy, the party is over. He isn't a 'carry a team' QB. That roster around him makes him better and they can't have the roster with him getting PAID.

**NFC EAST.** It used to be the least. It's still the least entertaining.

**Cowboys.** They've got problems. The coach is a lame duck without an extension, which basically means win or you're gone. The QB and their star WR want contracts and ain't getting them right now. The Defensive Coordinator was brought in on a 1-year contract. Everything with this team screams LOOK AT ME. I don't like what I see. They can't run the ball and brought back Ezekiel Elliott to be the #1 RB. They will go 10-7. Maybe. I can easily see them imploding and going 8-9.

**Eagles.** This team could be in trouble. The head coach and the QB seem to not like each other. That is BAD for business. They brought in Vic Fangio as DC and signed Saquon Barkley at RB, which I think will help them immensely. They still have a frat boy at head coach and I think his time is short in Philly. Time to hire a grown up. They go 10-7, but they are also a noisy franchise. And

noisy franchises tend to not win when it matters. I am waiting for the coach and QB to have a fight on the sidelines and the QB to just flick the coach on the nose and tell him to shut up for once. The coach reeks of someone who was bullied as a kid and now acts like he is tough because he has some power as a coach. Yeah, there is something funky in Philly.

**Washington** ... whatever they call them now. They should rename the team every 4 years after whomever is the President. The Washington Harrises? I hope anyway. I like them drafting Daniels at QB. I don't like the hires of Dan Quinn as head coach and Kliff Kingsbury at OC. 7-10.

**Giants.** Oh boy. You saw 'em on HBO's Hard Knocks. 6-11. They are kidding themselves. You need to draft more than a WR to save QB Daniel Jones.

**NFC NORTH.** The Kings of the North.

**Packers** go 10-7. I wanted to give them more wins but ... I gotta see more from the QB. They got rid of RB Aaron Jones to sign Josh Jacobs. I don't know if that was an upgrade but it ain't a loss either. Their offense is young and fun so they should be an easy watch.

**Vikings** go 7-10. FOr two reasons. First, they will start the season with Sam Darnold at QB and despite everyone thinking he is a good QB because Kyle Shanahan likes him, he is not. I could fucking care less who Kyle Shanahan and Sean McVay like. They have both employed QBs whom they liked who were awful. Just because they like someone, doesn't mean that player is great. Second they will bring in #1 pick JJ McCarthy after they get sick of seeing Sam Darnold be ... Sam Darnold ... and McCarthy will suck, too.

**Bears** 7-10. I have heard people putting the Bears in the "Super Bowl Bubble" of teams that could make it to the Super Bowl. Are they out of their minds? Yes they are. A rookie QB on a mediocre team ain't going to a Super Bowl. Stop it. They should be better next year if their GM decides to draft some defensive players instead of having 18 WRs and drafting another in the first round. Slow your roll on the Bears.

**Lions** 10-7. I keep waiting for this to implode. But they have built a strong team and resurrected QB Jared Goff. McVay hated Goff. Does that make him bad? I guess not. I am sick of the Coach, Dan Campbell, crying and getting over-emotional and saying stupid s&%t. But the team likes him and they play hard for him. Unfortunately for the players, Dan Campbell will make a stupid coaching decision in nearly every game, especially in the playoffs. And they will fall short.

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LUNCH

continued from page 2

County is in the midst of bargaining with its employee unions. And is also implementing a “Class and Comp” policy so that there is “internal equity” between employee groups.

Supervisor Jeff Griffiths understandably expressed a bit of trepidation - given that a budget is being submitted before the outcome of the labor negotiations is known.

He worries the implementation of the labor agreements may force a recalibration and cuts elsewhere. “We don’t want to balance the budget on the backs of our current employees,” commented CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) Nate Greenberg.

Towards the end of the meeting, there was a long discussion regarding parks improvements - so that Supervisors could demonstrate to the general public that they’ll see some return on their tax dollars as well.

The parks improvements, however, are in the low six figures, not the high seven figures or the low eight figures.

What’s a few zeroes among friends?

During public comment at the Board’s regular meeting Tuesday, there was one public comment (from a Josph Beaton) regarding the Lone Pine Unified School District bond measure which will appear on the November ballot.

The argument was a \$9.4 million budget to educate 305 students = approxi-

mately \$31,000 per pupil.

This is more than twice the state average expenditure per pupil.

The commenter believes the LPUSD board is profligate and recommended a ‘no’ vote on the ballot measure.

On Montaigne

I’ve been reading *How To Live: Or, A Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer* by Sarah Bakewell.

The book came out in 2010.

The author spent five years writing it.

As she writes in her author’s note, “I first met Montaigne some twenty years ago in Budapest, when I was so desperate for something to read that I took a chance on a cheap *Essays* translation in a secondhand shop because it was the only English-language book on the shelf.”

I love that.

I also love her opening paragraph to the book.

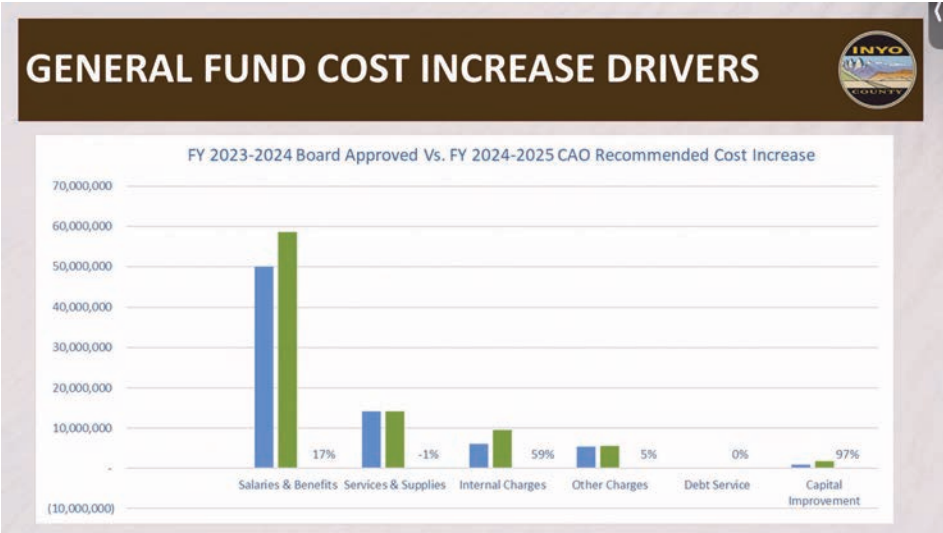
“The 21st century is full of people who are full of themselves. A half-hour’s trawl through the online ocean of blogs, tweets, tubes, spaces, faces, pages and pods brings up thousands of individuals fascinated by their own personalities and shouting for attention ...”

What Bakewell argues is that all these people describing what makes them different from anyone else is precisely

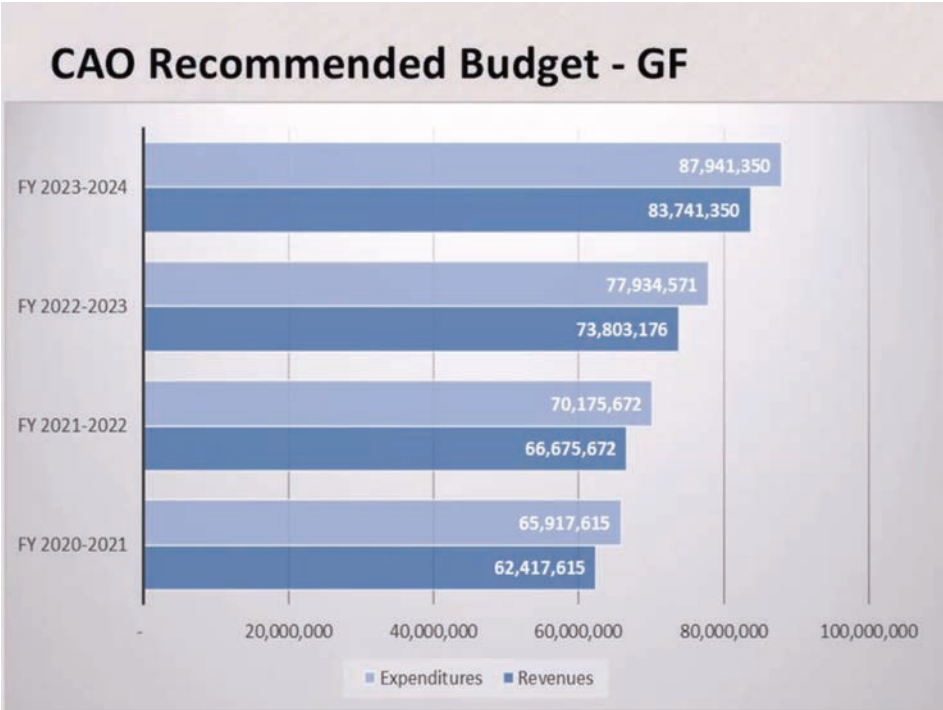
what makes them the same - the shared experience of being human.

“This idea, to write about oneself to create a mirror in which other people recognize their own humanity, has not existed forever. It had to be invented. And unlike many other cultural inventions, it can be traced to a single person: Montaigne [pronounced Mon-tayne].”

see more LUNCH, pg. 16



Inyo County labor costs are soaring ...



... while the recommended budget was up more than 33% over a three-year period. Greenberg was smart not to add 2024-2025 to the slide. But one can assume it's another 10%+ increase if labor constitutes 60% of Inyo County expenses.

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**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.

**August 9-10/**  
**Mammoth Margarita Festival** @ the Village at Mammoth. Music, tequila and more. Info: mammothmountain.com.  
**Planet Caravan, L.A.'s premier Black Sabbath tribute band**, plays Liberty in Mammoth. Time: 9:30 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 8*

**Sunday, August 11/**  
**Live Music Sundays @ Cardinal Village Resort** in Bishop. Time: 1-4 p.m. Drinks, burgers, fries, pizza and drinks available for purchase.  
**Alex Woodfolk** plays Distant Brewing, 568 Old Mammoth Rd., 6-9 p.m.

**Monday, August 12/**  
**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.  
**Open mic night @ Distant Brewing**. Time: 6-9 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 14/**  
**Weekly Pool Tournament @ Distant Brewing**. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Pool from 4:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Weekly trivia @ Main Street Pizza and Tap**. Time: 6:30 p.m.

## TOWN STUFF

**Friday, August 9/**  
**Village Championship Downhill Races**. Location: Follow Me trail. Race start 3:40 p.m. *Info/register at mammothmountain.com.*

**August 9-18/**  
**Mammoth Shakespeare Festival**, featuring two productions on alternate nights ("Merry Wives of Windsor" and "The Winter's Tale") continues outdoors at Eagle Lodge. *For more info, see ad p. xxx*

**Saturday, August 10/**  
**Eastern Sierra Interpretive Assn. campfire program @ East Fork Campground** (Rock Creek). This evening's topic: Mountain Lions. Presenter: ESIA specialist Ashley Anderson. Time: 6:30 p.m. *More info: sierraforever.org.*  
**Community yard sale @ San Joaquin Villas**. 61 Callahan Way. Time: 8 a.m. 'til noon.  
**Summit Sunset Party @ MMSA**. Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Ride the Panorama Gondola to the summit. \$\$\$ *Info/tix: mammothmountain.com*

## TOWN STUFF

**Tuesday, August 13/**  
**Mono County Supervisors** meet. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Bridgeport Courthouse or online via monocounty.ca.gov.

**Wednesday, August 14/**  
**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  
**Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission** meets. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.  
**Make Your Own Tunnel Book - A 3D Diorama**. A crafting workshop with **Marijke IJff**. Location: C5 Studios in Bishop. 210 S. Warren. Starts 5:30 p.m. For ages 11+. \$. *Info/register @ c5studios.org.*

**Thursday, August 15/**  
**"Trashy Thursdays"** - lend a hand to help cleanup your community. Time: 5-6 p.m. Location: Main Street Promenade (aka the former Luxury

## TOWN STUFF

Outlet Mall across from the P.O.)  
**Salsa Dance class with Hallie Vickers @ C5Studios** in Bishop. Time: 6:30-8 p.m. Location: 210 S. Warren St. *Info: c5studios.org.*

**Friday, August 16/**  
**The next Downtown Bishop Market** takes place behind City Hall on Church St. between Warren and Fowler. Entertainment by Giacomo and Friends.

**August 17-18/**  
**Sierra Business Council-sponsored "Forest Entrepreneurship Program"** two-day business bootcamp. \*8:30-4:30 both days. Interested? *info@sierracommons.org.*

## ONGOING

**Mono Arts Council presents: a Silent Auction Fundraiser of local Eastern Sierra Photographers** including Vern Clevenger and Claude Fiddler. Go to [monoartscouncil.betterworld.org/auction](http://monoartscouncil.betterworld.org/auction) for more information. Auction closes August 16th!

\*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
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NO CLASS-IFIEDS/NOTICES

Help Wanted



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

**Retail Sales/Inventory Associate** - Mammoth \$30/hr  
**Construction Office Admin.** - Mammoth \$22-25  
**Maintenance techs** - Mammoth \$21-22  
**Line Cooks** - Mammoth \$20.77  
**Lead Cook** - Mammoth \$25-26  
**Property Mgr. Coordinator** - Mammoth \$25-34  
**Housekeeper** - Mammoth \$20  
**Laundry Attendant** - Mammoth \$20  
**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

PERSONALS

I hope to see you ... at the Mammoth Shakespeare Festival. Maybe swing by my place afterwards so I can show you how they became the Merry Wives of Windsor!

I hope to see you ... at the Margarita Festival this weekend. Just remember, it's supposed to be "... three tequila, floor," not "nine tequila, more."

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:Lodging@doubleeagle.com)

**P/T Wedding Coordinator asst.** Great computer/communication skills essential. Please email interest to: [weddingevents.doubleeagleresort@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Lodging@doubleeagle.com)

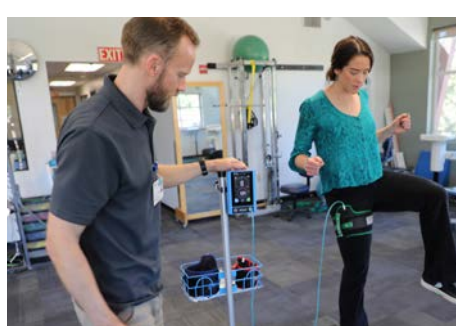
**Restaurant Server for Eagles Landing**

**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)
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- Emergency Registered Nurse - Night Position



- Success Sharing Incentive Program
- Staff Development Programs
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**Openings at [www.mammothhospital.com](http://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 Public Hearing

Mono County Office of Education - Public Hearing Notice for Instructional Materials.

Pursuant to California Education Code 60119 et seq. a public hearing will be held to receive input regarding whether each pupil in Mono County Office of Education programs has or will have sufficient textbooks or instructional materials, or both for the 2024-25 school year.

The hearing will be held on August 22, 2024 at 4:30 pm at the Mono County Office of Education, 451 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA, the Mono County Office of Education, 37 Emigrant Street, Bridgeport, CA and via zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86929994415?pwd=KaksJvZLbiKFefkFpwhssA5OnDlw.1>

Meeting ID: 869 2999 4415  
Passcode: MCOE  
or call 1 (669) 900-6833 Meeting ID: 869 2999 4415 Passcode: 011625.

Parents, teachers and members of the community interested in the affairs of the schools and programs operated by the County Office of Education are encouraged to participate in the public hearing process.

TS #2024-0117

## LUNCH

continued from page 13

So, what inspired Montaigne to write?

In short, a cavalcade of woe.  
Consider this timeline of his life, beginning at age 35.

June 1568 - Dad dies  
Spring 1569 - Brother dies in accident

1569 - Career stalls  
Autumn 1569 - Wife pregnant  
1569-1570 - Montaigne almost dies in an accident  
Early 1570 - Montaigne decides to retire

Summer 1570 - Montaigne retires  
June 1570 - First baby is born  
August 1570 - First baby dies  
February 1571 - Writes bday inscription on library wall

1572 - Starts writing the essays.  
This doesn't even account for the greatest loss of Montaigne's life, which Bakewell contends is the death of his best friend (to plague) in the mid-1560s.

*\*'Course, it does help being a noble - the retirement part. Writing without having to worry about money!*

Basically, he retires to find himself, as the great Stoic Seneca repeatedly urged his fellow Romans, as part of a well-managed life.

Seneca's three-pronged plan being:  
1. Civic engagement  
2. Withdrawal from civic engagement to discover what life is really about

3. Preparation for Death.  
Seneca, in advising for retirement, did warn of its dangers. Idleness and isolation could bring to the fore the consequences of having lived the wrong way. Translation: Oh crap, what have I done?

Which is usually followed by a doubling down. The way to stop worrying about 'Oh crap, what have I done?' Is to keep busy, which, of course, means the person will keep living the wrong way to avoid the despair of having to confront one's choices.

I think this is why people go into politics.

On the beam of his study, Montaigne wrote down a quote from Pliny the Elder for inspiration:

"Only one thing is certain: that nothing is certain.

And nothing is more wretched or arrogant than man."

As Montaigne himself writes, "We must really strain our soul to be aware of our own fallibility." And that this discipline requires constant attention.

As Bakewell writes, Montaigne took pleasure in his own lapses, for it saved him from having to insist he was always right.

The book is divided into twenty chapters with titles such as:

Don't worry about death  
Pay attention  
Be convivial  
Question everything  
Keep a private room behind the shop  
Be ordinary and imperfect  
Live temperately

His philosophy of the back shop resonated.

"We should have wife, children, goods and above all health, if we can; but we must not bind ourselves to them so strongly that our happiness depends on them. We must reserve a back shop all our own, entirely free, in which to establish our real liberty and our principal retreat and solitude. Here our ordinary conversations must be between us and ourselves, and so private that non outside association or communication can find a place; here we must talk and laugh as if without wife, without children, without possessions, without retinue and servants, so that, when the time comes to lose them, it will be nothing new to us to do without them."

So on the one hand, the whole last part of his life (before his death at the age of 59) was about letting go.

"Nothing costs me dear except care and trouble ... I seek only to grow indifferent and relaxed."

At the same time, he kept getting called back to the fray of then here and now by royalty and colleagues who had read his Essays and sought his counsel.

He lived in a time of religious wars and constant upheaval.

Yet he was the only man in the neighborhood who never locked his doors.

His openness was so disarming that many would-be thieves and scoundrels let him be.

In one passage, Bakewell said he was spared because of his "face and frankness."

Montaigne's reputation has ebbed and flowed over the 400+ years since his death.

His Essays were banned in France for a period of two centuries because he was considered a religious heretic.

Which he wasn't. But he apparently didn't "give it up to God" with the proper aplomb.

More likely, he was banned because he didn't like taking sides when two warring religious factions (the Catholics and Protestants) were busy torturing each other.

"Moderation sees itself as beautiful; it is unaware that in the eye of the immoderate it appears black and sober."

But moderation is a tough sell these days.

Especially to a population which often can't be bothered to read.

"One should not try to surpass one's father in diligence; that makes one sick."

-Nietzsche



**JOB OPENINGS**

**FULL-TIME POSITIONS**

**\*Full-time positions include competitive benefits package.**

- Police Officer - Lateral**  
**\$89,889 – \$109,261**

**TEMPORARY PART-TIME POSITIONS**

- Sustainability Coordinator**  
**\$18.50 – \$30.00/hr**

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

**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?**



mammoth

**GEAR EXCHANGE**

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

## ARTS

## MERRY WIVES ...

By Lunch

I have a friend from college named Chris Farrens. During his time at school, I guess you could say Chris, who grew up in Bend, Oregon when it was a town one-fifth the size, was a draw for the ladies. They liked his ballcap-wearing, chew-spitting, flannel charm.

They were young and hardly knew better.

Anyway, there was one term where two lasses whom Chris had a crush on were in London on the same study abroad program.

So Chris decided that he would play the long game, pen regular love letters to both of them, and then determine if one or both had been properly wooed when they returned to campus the following term.

Better yet, he'd save labor by sending the same letters to both.

You can see where this is going.

The ladies eventually figured out his game. And when both returned to campus, one invited Chris over to her dorm room.

He knocked on the door. No answer. He tried the knob. It was open. Inside it was candlelit. There was mood music. A note on the table told him to have a seat and make himself at home.

... And then the music stopped, and the lights came up, and the two girls, who had decided to become room-mates, suddenly appeared.

And they proceeded to take turns ripping him apart.

This ill-fated, two-pronged court-ing strategy represents one of the plot lines in "The Merry Wives of Windsor," directed by Shira Dubrovner, which is being performed at the ongoing Mammoth Shakespeare Festival.

But instead of Farrens, it's Falstaff (played by Michele Dosey), who gets her comeuppance at the hands of Mistress Ford (Kim Stoiber) and Mistress Page (Marlene Piper).

In his day, Shakespeare had all-male casts with men playing women. In this show, it's an all-female cast with women playing men.

And for the most part, it works.

But it's interesting watching women try to mimic the particular arrogance of a strutting male. They've witnessed it. They've experienced it. You'd think they could replicate it with ease.

But I realize that so much of sleaze is in the vocal register. Sleazy men are generally not shrill. Or loud. In fact, like Donald J. Trump, they tend to use the lower register of their voices.

And that's not something many of these actors can access.

But enough of my small peeve.

Onto the things I liked.

1.) The Venue. It's at Eagle Lodge now, instead of Sam's Woodsite. So it's stadium seating now, and even if it's windy, as it was when I saw the show Tuesday, the wind seems to carry the sound towards the audience versus into



Marlene Piper as Mistress Page.

the ether like it did at the Woodsite.

And now the rent doesn't go to Dirk Winter, who conned the Town into fronting the down payment for the Woodsite and then never delivered on his promise for an event venue.

2. The costumes are really great. As Dubrovner says in her director's notes in the program: "Around eight years ago



Jameisha Washington as Master Page.

I walked into a costume rental house down south to rent costumes for my production of The Crucible. I bumped into five racks of beautiful French Restoration costumes that had just been donated from a college that was closing down their costume department. I knew after seeing all those costumes, I had to do a play set in the French Restoration

period."

And so now we have Merry Wives eight years later set in the French Restoration period.

This is Dubrovner at her best, thinking ahead. And what makes her such an interesting director.

As she says, "We have not come that far [since the Restoration] in the sense that there still seems to be a double standard for the behavior of men and women. Falstaff assumes he has a chance to have an affair with the two 'Merry Wives' just because they are 'Merry.' Men can be merry without any repercussions ..."

3.) The actors are solid and know their s\*%t. As Dubrovner observed Wednesday, a same-sex cast seems to have heightened solidarity. There weren't the egos and the drama that she typically experiences putting a show together.

Sheet: Hmmm. But maybe the egos and the drama are important fuels?

Then again, I don't have to see these people every day!

I personally found Dubrovner's performance [she plays Mistress Quickly] to be standout. She delivers her lines without "delivering" them, casually, naturally.

And I also give special kudos to Brenda Belaunzaran, who does the most with her small part as John Rugby.

She is engaged in her every scene, even if the action is taking place on the other side of the stage, and always connected to her character.

Unsurprising, since her bio says she graduated with a Theater degree from Universidad de las Americas Puebla in San Andres Cholula, the oldest city in Latin America.

She has lived in town eight months and currently works for Mammoth Mountain. Hope she stays and we get to see more of her in future productions.

For more info on the festival and which show is playing which night, please see ad page six.



Allison Peeler as Dr. Caius (left) with her servant Brenda Belaunzaran as John Rugby (right)

# A WINTER'S TALE...

By Fisher

Sierra Classic Theater director Allison Page breathed new life into Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* with a modern twist, incorporating contemporary soundtracks and digital-age props into the Elizabethan script.

Written between 1609 and 1611, *The Winter's Tale* is one of Shakespeare's later plays, melding themes of rage, jealousy, loss, redemption, forgiveness, and rebirth.

The show opens with a celebratory scene featuring the royal couple, King Leontes and Queen Hermione of Sicilia, played by Skyler Kenny and

Lianne Salcido, respectively.

The festive mood is set with the pop of champagne, marking the anticipation of their new baby and celebrating the health of their first child, Maximilian, portrayed by Maxine Virginia Kenny.

Young actress Kenny introduces a modern touch early on by playing with an iPhone, a gesture familiar to those born in the digital age.

This prop is pivotal in advancing the plot, as Leontes's irrational jealousy leads him to accuse his wife of infidelity with his best friend, King Polixenes of Bohemia, played by Maurice Co-



Maurice Cooper as Polixenes (left) with Charles Scatolini as Camillo (right).



Skyler Kenny as King Leontes.

per. The iPhone serves as evidence, with social media soundbites underscoring the gravity of the accusation.

Director Page drew inspiration from Hermione's line, "myself proclaimed a strumpet on every post," for this contemporary adaptation.

As she wrote in her Director's notes, "A post, which then meant a poster nailed to a tree, is now an idea, image, happy announcement, silly meme or scathing comment on social media."

As a 22-year-old active on social media, I could tell the direction came from someone of a different generation. However, I appreciated how well the modern elements translated Shakespeare's plot into the present day, making the language more accessible.

The lead actors, Kenny, Salcido, and Cooper, delivered compelling performances, effectively anchoring the contemporary setting and bringing the script to life.

Charles Scatolini as Camillo, Kris Gentry as Antigonus, and Amy Smith as Paulina also gave notable performances, skillfully portraying loyal advisors grappling with their moral and civic duties.

The first act concluded as the sun set and the crew transformed the stage with florals and vines to represent a pastoral setting 16 years later.

The second act featured a striking

contrast in mood to the first, with comedic relief provided by the Shepherd, played by Jeff Fromem, and his son, played by Christopher Cotter.

The costume design for this section was vibrant and whimsical, with asymmetrical and patchwork elements reflecting the time shift into the future, stage manager Lela Hanson said.

The soundtrack included familiar tunes such as "Trouble" by Cage the Elephant and "Home" by Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros.

Because it was an outdoor production, sound and lighting design was tricky, Hanson said.

There are both microphones on the floor and hanging overhead to accommodate child actors, but the crew also had to prepare for elements such as wind.

"The wind is strong and that was definitely a big consideration in set design and in speaker design," Hanson said.

The show's location also added a unique dimension to the performance, allowing actors to speak from and around the audience.

*The Winter's Tale will be performed at Eagle Lodge on August 13, 15, and 17, starting at 6:00 PM. The show is free with a suggested donation of \$15. VIP tickets are also available.*



Christopher Cotter as Yobel.



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

To apply:

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

# GAYLA'S GALLERY

By Gayla Wolf

On August 2, Playhouse 395 presented its kids' performance of "Winnie The Pooh." Even more files are online and available for order at [bishopcommunityevents.com](http://bishopcommunityevents.com)

CAST

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Red .....               | Anibelle Downard                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Orange .....            | Zoey Nicholson                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Yellow .....            | Lucy Huizar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Green .....             | Emera Curry                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Blue .....              | Kadence Scott                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Indigo .....            | Olivia Garcia                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Violet .....            | Eliana Avila                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Winnie the Pooh .....   | Rylee Avila                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Pooh's Tummy .....      | Nate Strutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Tigger .....            | Lacy Warburton                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Piglet .....            | Audrey Richardson                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Rabbit .....            | Emma Harry                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Owl .....               | Lillian Wilson                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Kanga .....             | Elena Lynn Medina                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Roo .....               | Waverly Aguilera                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Eeyore .....            | Augie Warburton                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Bees .....              | Bua Eagan, Sydney Fleming, Chloe Kolker, Serina Mendez, Adelina Michel, Jemma Schlieker                                                                                                                                                    |
| Christopher Robin ..... | Lachlan Huizar                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Animal Chorus .....     | Maverick Scott, Maylani Larimore, Laurel Leising, Allana Smith, Aria Carrillo, Elodie Curry Evelyn Solomon, Autumn Wilson, Isaac Ganoung, Anakin Corrillo-Ortiz, Brooklyn Gonzalez, Emily Loy, Ellie Milos, Roderick Milos, Avelyn Solomon |



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