

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Dude, Where's My Shower? See Fisher column p. 14.

Saturday, August 24, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. Papi



Miss Bishop Paiute Tribe Uriah Martinez presents the future hotel rendering. Photos by Gayla Wolf

PAIUTES ON THE RISE

More specifically, a four-story, 78-room rise

By Lunch

On Friday, August 16, the Bishop Paiute Tribe held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Wanaaha Hotel project.

According to Tribal Chairman Steven Orihuela, the hotel project has long been "on the burner," and had been originally scheduled to coincide with the casino expansion project before getting temporarily sidelined by the Pandemic.

Orihuela touts the project as providing both economic development for the tribe and economic/professional opportunity for its members.

The 78-room property is anticipated to employ between 30 to 50 people, and will also allow for promotional opportunity to management roles.

Orihuela is well aware of the labor issues plaguing many Eastern Sierra businesses, but he is confident the new hotel will attract talent.

"We plan on offering an attractive package with good benefits. We'll be very competitive [in the hospitality space]."

The property is going to be similar to Creekside in terms of service and amenities - on the higher end for Bishop. The property will have the capacity

to host conferences. It will also feature a pool and fitness center and will include several luxury suites on the top floor.

In conjunction with the hotel project, the tribe is renovating the former casino space into a music/entertainment venue.



Bishop's Tribal Council, from left: Jeff Romero, Meryl Picard, Mitchell David, Emma Williams, Steven Orihuela

IS IT AFFIRMATION? OR APATHY?

Mammoth leaders weigh in on lack of Council election
By Lunch

You would have thought there'd be more candidates.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is not far removed from a divisive, six-month STR (Short-Term Rental) moratorium, lifted this spring

In lifting the moratorium, Mammoth's Council announced that, rather than considering a cap on rental permits to encourage/force long-term rental of properties, that it would instead pursue a tax increase with the idea of dedicating the added revenue to building more workforce housing,

Moratoriums, tax hikes ... these are the types of things that generally motivate opposition.

This year, they motivated no one.

There were two council seats up for this election cycle, and two candidates who filed the paperwork. So barring an improbable write-in effort, incumbent Mayor Bill Sauser

and Brent Truax will join John Wentworth, Amanda Rice and Chris Bubser on the dais this November.

Sarah Rea did not seek re-election.

The Sheet asked Sauser what his take is on the lack of an election. Does it reflect affirmation of the current council's direction, or does it reflect community apathy?

"I am somewhat disappointed by my town," began Sauser. "It's apathy. We complain [around here] after it's too damn late to do anything. This is a reflection of that. We hear negativity [directed] to council, but no one is willing to stand up."

Sheet: Do you think people are waiting to express themselves at the ballot box with all these tax measures looming?

Sauser: The 2% tax (Council's proposed two-point hike of the Transient Occupancy Tax rate, which would push Mammoth's effective bed tax rate to a staggering 16% - 2nd highest in the state) ... I don't think people will look into it enough before they vote."

Sheet: Do you support the tax increase?

Sauser: I'm ambivalent about it ... the law of unintended consequences has a way of biting us.

Sauser's concern is that high taxes may tip the scales and drive customers to other destinations.

As for Truax, he views the lack of an election as more a combination of affirmation and apathy. "People are busy with their lives ... and there's no

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Take it to the Bridge!

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Van-ity Fair

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395 closure

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Frank talk

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LUNCH

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burning issue [at the moment].”

“Airbnb is dying its own death,” he said, alluding to lagging bookings and a plunging Airbnb stock over the past six months. Travel habits appear to be normalizing. So whatever war may have loomed over STRs and moratoriums seems like a rushed, premature and distant hallucination.

Sheet: Why’d you run this time? (Truax has run for council twice previously)

Truax said he’d like to expand the conversation beyond housing into areas like infrastructure (lousy internet) and the town’s strained relationship with the Forest Service (“How do we get that partnership back on track?”)

Councilman John Wentworth echoed Truax in that he doesn’t know if it’s apathy or the lack of a burning problem which explains the inertia.

He does think with the hollowing out of the community (due to cost-of-living) that there is not as deep a pool of engaged citizens (and therefore, potential candidates).

And, he adds, ski culture has been replaced by remote work culture - and remote work culture has the view that, “locals will deal with the problems. I don’t have to participate.”

In terms of replacing Sarah Rea with Brent Truax, he says it’s a bummer on one hand just because Council is losing a younger generational voice, but that Truax should appeal to members of the business community who don’t feel represented.

Councilmember Chris Bubser was disappointed by the lack of election simply because election cycles represent “the best time for ideas to be exchanged. It’s super-disappointing more [citizens] aren’t engaging on a deeper level.”

The Sheet caught up with former Mono County Tourism Director Jeff Simpson this week.

Simpson, 40, worked thirteen years for Mono County Tourism, serving as director for the last two after Alicia Vennos’s retirement.

Simpson has moved on to run his own marketing firm, Eastern Sierra Marketing, full-time. His clientele is largely located in Mammoth/Bishop.

“I founded it in 2016 and have been doing it on the side for eight years,” he

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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said of the business. Simpson’s expertise is in social media. “When I was at Mono Tourism, we grew [the social media] to 300,000 followers.

He had visions of perhaps playing out the string at the county until retirement at 55, but said he got burned out on the Pushmi-Pullyu nature of the job.

“Everyone hates you,” he said bluntly. Because people want you to bring business to the area, but then complain in the same breath about tourism’s quality-of-life impacts.

Another burnout factor has been the musical chair lineup of Mono County CAOs, though he was quick to mention that he’s a fan of the current CAO, Sandra Moberly, and hopes she stays and continues to provide stability.

And while he didn’t mention it, the fire which consumed his home in Walker has also weighed on him over the past few years.

Simpson has since relocated to Bishop and has two children enrolled at Round Valley Elementary.

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LOCAL NEWS

395 CLOSURE STARTS SEPT. 4

Press Release

U.S. 395 will fully close for 15 days while crews install two under-highway wildlife crossings near Sonora Junction, providing safe and sustainable passage for mule deer and other area wildlife. The project is scheduled to begin September 4.

U.S. 395 will fully close between State Route 108 and just south of Burcham Flat Road. Construction will be around-the-clock during the closure, and no vehicles will be allowed through. To assist drivers, Caltrans has set up the following detour:

Northbound U.S. 395 in Mono County:

For northbound motorists heading to Nevada or beyond, the detour will start on State Route 182 in Bridgeport which turns into Nevada Route 338 across the state line. At the terminus of NV 338 in Wellington, NV, drivers will turn west on Nevada Route 208 toward Holbrook Junction.

For northbound drivers traveling to State Route 108 (Sonora Pass), follow the detour route above and head south once you reach Holbrook Junction.

Southbound U.S. 395 in Nevada:

Southbound traffic coming from Nevada can turn east on Nevada Route 208 at Holbrook Junction, take the NV 338 south from Wellington and follow it to its terminus at the state line. Here it becomes State Route 182, which connects with Bridgeport. This 54-mile detour is roughly 8 miles longer than the journey on U.S.

395 between Bridgeport and Holbrook Junction.

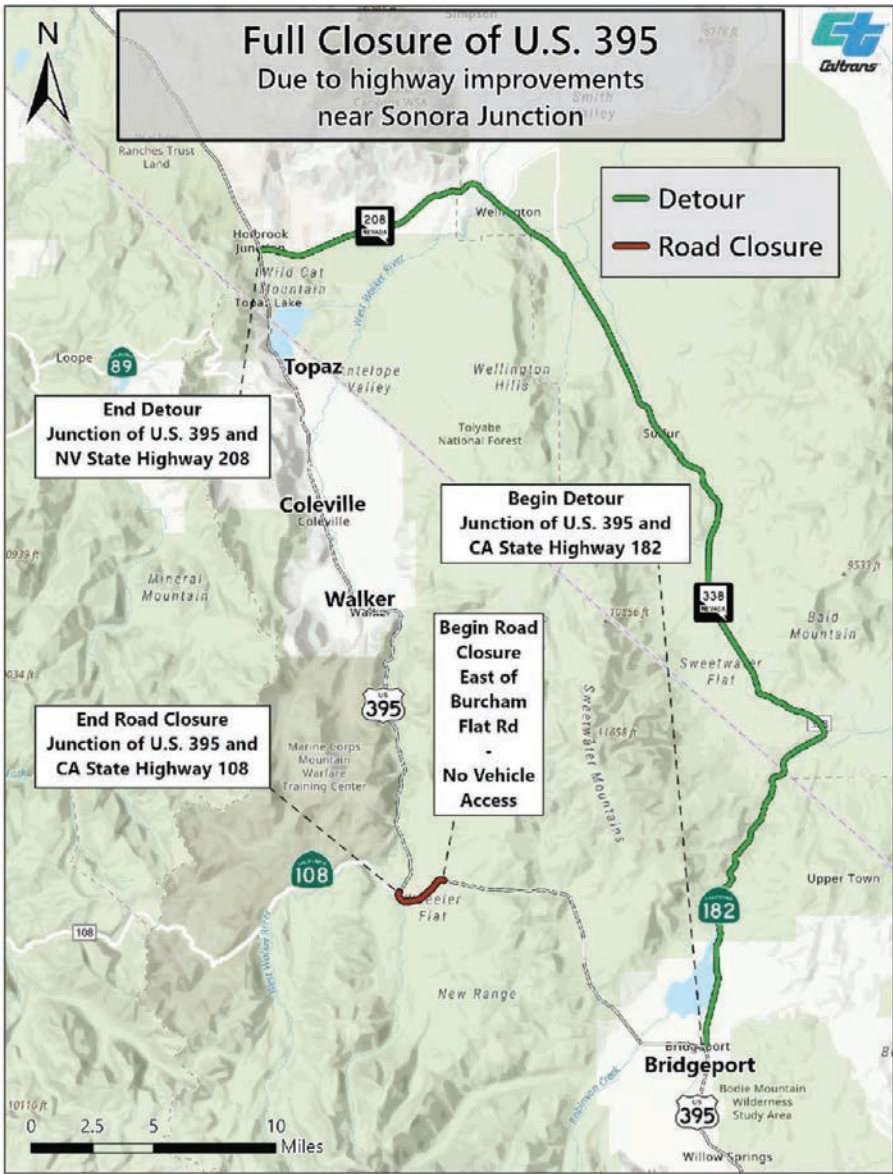
Southbound U.S. 395 from Sonora Pass/Monitor Pass:

Those traveling over Sonora Pass and Monitor Pass toward Bridgeport and beyond must first head north on U.S. 395 through the communities of Walker, Coleville, and Topaz to reach Nevada Route 208 at Holbrook Junction. Head east on NV 208 which connects to NV 338, and travel south on the highway to reach Bridgeport.

Drivers should be aware there are no services available on the detour route. Anyone requiring fuel, food, or a charge should utilize services in Bridgeport and Walker/Coleville/Topaz before taking the detour. All four communities will be open for business throughout the closure.

Drivers should not attempt to drive through the hard closure because large sections of the roadway will be completely missing. Construction crews will be working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until this phase of the project is complete.

Follow us for the latest information on Facebook (Caltrans9), X/Twitter (@Caltrans9), and Instagram (@Caltrans9), or email us at D9PublicInfo@dot.ca.gov. To assist in planning your commute, view live traffic conditions using QuickMap at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>.



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LOCAL BRIEFS

Local CTC allocations

SACRAMENTO — The California Transportation Commission (CTC) today allocated more than \$1.8 billion for projects to improve critical transportation infrastructure throughout the state. These major investments include funding by nearly \$458 million from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, and more than \$1 billion in funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Local projects funded in this allocation include:

Meadow Farms ADA: The CTC approved \$15.315 million in funding for the construction phase of this project, which will improve pedestrian infrastructure on U.S. 395 in Bishop from North See Vee Lane to near North Barlow Lane. The project will expand sidewalks, create new parking opportunities, add a crosswalk, and upgrade curb ramps and driveways to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The Meadow Farms ADA Project is anticipated to begin construction in 2025.

Fish Springs Pavement: The CTC approved \$41.553 million in funding for the construction phase of this project, which will improve safety and ride quality of U.S. 395 near Big Pine. The project will rehabilitate the highway from 1.3 miles south of Fish Springs Road to State Route 168 E. It will also introduce complete street elements and upgrade lighting, guardrail, and facilities to ADA standards.

Since November 2021, California has

received more than \$43 billion in federal infrastructure funding. That includes investments to upgrade the state's roads, bridges, rail, public transit, airports, electric vehicle charging network, ports and waterways. The funding is estimated to have created more than 87,000 jobs.

-Press Release

Rock Creek Boat Launch Rehab Project begins Monday

Inyo National Forest will start construction on the Rock Creek Lake Boat Launch rehabilitation project on Monday, August 26 to address deferred maintenance and improve accessibility.

Construction will take place on weekdays, while still allowing for camping at the Rock Creek Lake Group Campground and restricted day use parking.

Mobilizing and staging of equipment began August 19.

This project will not affect public access to the Rock Creek Lake Campground to the south side of the lake, and shoreline fishing will still be possible via nearby trails all around the lake.

At different phases of construction, the boat launch, parking spots and restrooms will be closed either entirely or partially.

"A schedule is still being firmed up by the contractor and will be communicated as soon as it becomes available," said Acting Forest Engineer, Aaron Amuriat. "We will do our best to maximize public access and the number of parking spaces available throughout the duration of the project."

Construction is expected to continue

through the fall and winter until a weather-ending event closes down operations, and will continue in the summer of 2025.

Improvements will include:

- *Construction of a new boat launch ramp, including a new boarding float.

- *Resurfacing and repaving existing parking areas.

- *Addition of 1 standard handicap-accessible vehicle stall and 1 handicap-accessible trailer stall.

- *Construction of a handicap-accessible path connecting lower parking lot to both restrooms and boat ramp.

- *No net loss of number of parking spaces, of which there are 39.

- *Replacement of flush restrooms with vault restrooms to ensure longer seasonal operation.

- *Installation of a dark sky-friendly light pole.

This project is made possible due to a grant from the State of California, Division of Boating and Waterways and supplemental funding from the Great American Outdoors Act.

-Press Release

MLF names new Executive Director

The Mammoth Lakes Foundation is delighted to welcome Kendra Knight as its new Executive Director, effective August 19.

Kendra brings her extensive non-profit background with the Mono Arts Council, as well as her work in the business sector both as co-owner of Bluebird Imaging and as Sustainability Coordinator for Mammoth Disposal, to her new position with MLF.

From 2005-2008 Kendra also curated exhibits and served as Executive Director for the Mammoth Ski Museum, giving her a special connection with the McCoy legacy.

"It is an honor to once again have the opportunity to advance the mission of the Mammoth Lakes Foundation," said Knight. "I am passionate about continuing Dave McCoy's legacy."

Board Chair Luan Mendel commented, "Kendra is joining the Mammoth Lakes Foundation at a pivotal moment. Renovations on Edison Hall, Phase I of the Dave and Roma McCoy Arts and Cultural Center, will be completed this fall, and MLF is thinking strategically about future projects and programs. Kendra's experience and insight will be critical to that process."

A resident of Mammoth Lakes for 22



Kendra Knight

years, Kendra has volunteered and held leadership roles with a variety of community organizations, including the Public Arts Commission, Mammoth High School Boosters, and the Southern Mono Historical Society.

-Press Release

No time for donuts

Bishop Police Chief Nate Derr wants everyone to know his crew is busy taking calls, writing tickets, checking on folks and otherwise policing Bishop.

Continuing a police tradition that pre-dates donut runs, Bishop Police Chief Nate Derr presented the latest rundown of his department's activity to the Bishop City Council at its regular meeting on August 12. The numbers indicate there is plenty of activity for such a small department patrolling a city with a relatively small footprint.

In July, the department recorded 1,227 Total Incidents, or about 40 a day. There were 745 Calls for Service and 482 Officer-Initiated Incidents. In the Officer-Initiated category there were 53 traffic stops which generated 29 total citations; 13 moving infractions and 16 non-moving write-ups. There were 72 vehicle/pedestrian checks ("hey, how ya doin?"); and the rest uncategorized officer efforts.

Bishop PD officers wrote up 101 Officer Reports in July, topped by 42 misdemeanor reports and 23 felony reports, leading to 25 criminal citations.

The department made 23 adult misdemeanor arrests and 11 adult felony arrests.

Looking over the year-to-date totals, July was a fairly routine month.

For the year, total criminal citations through July stand at 127, with 102 Misdemeanor arrests and 53 Felony arrests. Only one juvenile has been arrested in 2024.

-Klusmire



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JUNE LAKE BREWING

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

... and trouble in Parcel-dise from Mammoth's Council meeting

By Fisher

Eileen Rains monopolized most of the time at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council's meeting appealing a \$3,614.88 charge for illegally renting her property located at 246 Canyon Boulevard.

The Town had identified Rains was renting her property nightly without an permit, and subsequently conducted a sting operation where it was able to make a reservation through an online advertisement.

The rental was identified by town staff in March 2023. Reviews from November 2022 to January 2023 indicated previous rental activity.

The town issued a first citation of \$1,500, sent via first-class and certified mail, and posted at the property on April 7, 2023. The citation required Rains to cease advertising, cancel existing rentals, and provide details on past rental activity.

After a citation is ordered, property owners have 15 days to respond.

The town issued a second citation of \$3,000 April 26, 2023 after receiving no response to the first citation. The town investigated and found \$3,902 in actual rental activity.

"If you had immediately contacted us with the first citation, then there would be no citations," town manager Rob Patterson told Rains. "The fact that the contact occurred after the second one, they're locked in at that point."

The town then sent a final notice of determination to Rains, which listed the

total amount owed as \$5,864.88.

Rains had an administrative hearing on January 10, 2024 with Haislip Hayes, Mammoth Lakes Public Works Director, in which he determined she needed to show phone records of her outreach to the county.

She provided a screenshot of a text message, but the message was not related to the tax citation, according to the enforcement case report.

"Since no proof of communication or phone records were provided, I am not willing to waive the full amount of the citations," Hayes wrote.

Hayes did halve the administrative fees from \$4,500 to \$2,250, lowering the total she owed to the town to \$3,614.88

Rains said Hayes did not give her a fair shake due to personal bias against her. She claimed that another person had been renting out the property without her knowledge.

"The thing that really frustrates me is this is taking staff time - this is costing the town more than the amount we're gonna collect," said Mammoth Lakes councilmember Chris Bubser. "We have a lot of people in this town that don't follow the rules and if you don't follow the rules then you get fined."

Councilmembers voted to give Rains a final 15 days to prove she reached out to the town after the initial citation. If she fails to do so, she is required to pay the \$3,614.88 with no further opportunities to appeal.

... As with most things, leasing out The Parcel has proven easier in theory than in practice.

Buckingham Property Management, the company overseeing the first phase of Mammoth's Parcel build-out, began leasing the new building on Wednesday, Aug. 21, and anticipates the Sawyer will be fully leased by the end of September.

However, of the 36 approved applicants for the Parcel, only three people scheduled an interview to be placed in the new building, said Town Manager Rob Patterson.

"One of my disappointments here is that [Buckingham Property Management] has not contacted at least 65 individuals," Mayor Bill Sauser said. "The occupancy permit has been going on for months and months and we have hollered about the vetting process and getting people into that."

"I think that there's a lot of frustration with people in town who say that the only way to get ahold of [Buckingham] is by email and they don't always respond," said Councilmember Amanda Rice. "It would be unfortunate for Buckingham's email to go to someone's spam folder and that they don't realize that they have this great opportunity."

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

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MONO COUNTY TAKES IT TO THE BRIDGE

By Fisher

If the town of Mammoth Lakes jumped off a bridge, would Mono County do it, too?

The answer is yes — at least when it comes to Bridge Programs.

In a move to address affordable housing challenges, on Tuesday Mono County Supervisors approved a pilot project modeled after the Town of Mammoth Lakes' Bridge Program.

The initiative, presented by Tyrone Grandstrand, Mono County Housing Opportunities Manager, aims to use existing housing stock to improve homeownership in the county.

Here's how the program works: the county buys existing market-rate homes,

resells them to locals at a lower rate, and places them under a deed restriction. If a property is resold before the deed restriction expires, it must remain affordable at the same Area Median Income (AMI) level.

By approving a pilot version of the program, Mono County Supervisors agreed to enter into agreements of up to \$500,000 in subsidies until a more comprehensive plan is developed.

The scope and parameters of the pilot program are still being finalized, and in the coming months, Grandstrand and his staff plan to organize potential contracts, conduct analysis, and explore opportunities to give the project clearer direction.

If all goes well, Grandstrand estimates six units could be converted into affordable homes for every million dollars invested, with subsidies expected to be around \$150,000 per unit.

The Mammoth Lakes Bridge Program targets households earning between 120% and 150% of AMI. The Town has converted twelve units since its inception in 2022. The average subsidy for those sales was \$138,840.

"The Bridge Program in the Town of Mammoth Lakes has benefited many residents and serves as a great example of a program that could work wonders for the County," wrote Mammoth Lakes Councilmember Amanda Rice in support of a county-wide Bridge Program.

Still, the program in Mammoth Lakes is too new to prove conclusive success. It has faced challenges, including high interest rates, spikes in homeowner association fees, limited insurance options, and lending restrictions.

A county program will face a different set of challenges compared to a municipal program.

For instance, infrastructure in the

unincorporated county differs from that in Mammoth Lakes (there are fewer condos), potentially exacerbating issues related to hidden costs in home maintenance and emergency repairs.

The demographics of residents outside Mammoth Lakes are also different. The county program would need to target constituents with a lower AMI compared to the Mammoth Lakes program, as unincorporated county residents generally have lower incomes.

"We have over 32 million different ways we could approach this housing program," Grandstrand said.

The county does not yet have a contract with Eastern Sierra Community Housing (ESCH), which plays a significant role in the town program.

"Securing a contract with ESCH would be crucial for advancing this project with minimal additional burden on County staff," said Elin Ljung, a member of the Eastern Sierra Community Housing Ad Hoc Committee.

Without that contract, the burden on County staff could be substantial—already evident as Grandstrand mentioned he had been up until 2 a.m. assembling the presentation for the board.

Some supervisors expressed concerns that this new program might divert attention and funds from other housing initiatives, and said the dollars for the program must mainly be used for subsidies and not for additional staffing.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors will need to approve any purchases made through the program.

MAMMOTH ROCKS

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THE MAMMOTH OPEN

SEPT 28 & 29

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Celebremos el pasado – construyamos el futuro

Please join us to celebrate the Town's storied past and bright future on **Saturday, August 24 at Mammoth Creek Park.**

The celebration will feature music, speeches, food and drinks for purchase, complimentary mini-cupcakes, FREE play in the Mammoth RecZone, cornhole tournament, a community-wide visioning exercise, and more!

El evento contará con música, discursos, venta de comida y bebidas, mini-cupcakes de cortesía, juegos GRATUITOS en el Mammoth RecZone, un torneo de cornhole, un ejercicio de visión para toda la comunidad ¡y mucho más!

See you there!

¡Ahí nos vemos!

Saturday, August 24 • Sábado 24 de agosto
Mammoth Creek Park • 12~4pm



Scan the QR code for the event schedule or if your organization would like to participate in the festivities.



www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1289/Community-Events

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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.

August 23-24/
Mammoth Rocks! in the Village at Mammoth. Live music 4-10 p.m. both days. Food/bar/merch for purch on-site. Fun! *More info: See ad p. 8*

Friday, August 23/
Giacomo Timbrello plays the
Creekside Club (inside the Creekside Inn). Time: 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, August 24/
Spliff Riff (Thrash Core) plays Liberty as the ideal afterparty venue for the 25th annual Wave Rave Skate Comp. Starts 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Sunday, August 25/
Joslyn & the Sweet Compression (Neo Soul/Funk Swagger) play Liberty in a special Sunday show. Starts 9:30 p.m. No cover.
Jeff Livingstone (singer-songwriter) plays Distant Brewing in Mammoth. Time: 6-9 p.m.
Live Music Sundays @ Cardinal Village Resort in Bishop. Time: 1-4 p.m. Drinks, burgers, fries, pizza and drinks available for purchase.

Monday, August 26/
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 28/
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 23/
Eastern Sierra Interpretive Assn. Campfire Program @ Oh! Ridge campground in June Lake. Time: 6:30 p.m. Topic: Animal Adaptations. *Info: sierraforever.org.*

Saturday, August 24/
Wave Rave's 25th annual Skate Contest @ Brothers Skatepark in Mammoth. Register at liveheats.com/waverave. *More: See ad p. 3.*
The Town of Mammoth Lakes celebrates the 40th anniversary of its incorporation @ Mammoth Creek Park. Time: 12-4 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 11.*

TOWN STUFF

Saturday, August 24 (cont.)/
Hand Car Rides @ Laws Museum off Highway 6 just east of Bishop. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. Cost \$5. *Info: lawsmuseum.org.*



Wednesday, August 28/
H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Parent Support Group meets 9:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Special guest speaker on ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis). For deets, contact Ann @ 661.531.3498/ann.bason@heartsfrc.org.
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

TOWN STUFF

townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
Thursday, August 29/
"Trashy Thursdays" - lend a hand to help cleanup your community. Time: 5-6 p.m. Location: Mammoth Lakes Library
August 29-Sept. 1/
The Tri-County Fair returns in all kts glory, with Friday's music headliner Michael Ray, Saturday's rodeo and Sunday's Demolition Derby. Carnival rides, yummy, greasy food and so much more. *Info: tricountyfair.com*

UPCOMING

Sept. 6-8: June Lake Jam Fest @ Gull Lake Park in June. Music, vendors and more. \$\$\$ *Info: junelakejamfest.org.*



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Help Wanted



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

Maintenance Mgr. - Mammoth \$30/hr
PT Front Desk Assoc. - Mammoth \$20-22
Dishwasher - Mammoth \$20
Line Cooks - Mammoth \$20.77
Lead Cook - Mammoth \$25
Prop. Mgr. Coordinator - Mammoth \$25-34
Housekeeper(s) - Mammoth \$20
Laundry Attendant - Mammoth \$20
General Laborers - Mammoth \$20-25
Journeyman Plumber - Mammoth \$30-45
Trail Surveyor - Lee Vining \$25 plus mileage
Retail Sales - Mammoth \$18
Community Integration Partner - Bishop/Mammoth \$20-25
Line Cook - Bishop \$18
Office Admin. - Bishop \$18

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.

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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.



1. Finance & Administration Director
Whitebark Institute seeks a Finance Director to oversee strategy, grants, policy, and fiscal planning for wildfire resilience programs. An opportunity for a finance leader to boost a growing organization and its network addressing climate change in Eastern Sierra Communities. Apply at www.whitebarkinstitute.org/get-involved/employment.

2. Environmental Planner
Whitebark Institute seeks an Environmental Planner to support wildfire resilience and community project development in the Eastern Sierra. Responsibilities include planning, compliance, and project management. Office based in Mammoth Lakes. Salary: \$60K-\$80K/year. Apply at www.whitebarkinstitute.org/get-involved/employment

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- 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

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footloosesports.com/careers

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Help Wanted



Reservations Desk Clerk immediate opening at the Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA (20 min from mammoth). Must have excellent customer service and computer skills. Full or part time, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work! Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

P/T Wedding Coordinator asst. Great computer/communication skills essential. Please email interest to: weddingevents.doubleeagleresort@gmail.com

Creekside Spa and Fitness Desk at the Double Eagle Resort and Spa, immediate opening for enthusiast team member. Help in creating a wonderful experience for our spa and fitness center guests. Customer service, computer, cleaning, food service. Full or part time, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work! Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Restaurant Server for Eagles Landing

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)

Help Wanted

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

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

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



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- 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>

PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road to consider the following:

Adopt the resolution regarding amendments to the 2024/25 Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule.

All persons having an interest in the proposed resolution may appear before the Town Council either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Town Clerk written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, please contact Stuart Brown, Parks and Recreation Director, by telephone at (760) 965-3696 or email at sbrown@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov. The proposed resolution will be available for review at the Town Offices, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, and on the Town of Mammoth Lakes web site at www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

BY ORDER OF THE MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL
Dated: August 16, 2024
Jamie Gray, Town Clerk

TS #2024-0119

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KNOCK KNOCK. IT'S COACH FLUS!

By Hartley

How the season will end!!!!

AFC Division Winners: Texans, Chiefs, Bills, Bengals

NFC Division Winners: Falcons, Niners, Eagles, Lions

Wildcard Teams in the AFC: Ravens, Dolphins, Colts (When I did my original predictions I had the Chargers at 10-7 and the Colts at 9-8 but no more. I have changed the Chargers and Colts since Justin Herbert is hurt. He has plantar fasciatis. It sounds painful and lingering.)

Wildcard teams in the NFC: Rams, Cowboys, Packers

NFC Championship Game: Niners v. Packers. I don't know why I think this young Packer team will go on a tear. They are fun to watch. I could never say that when led by Favre and Rodgers, two insufferable assholes. I know the world wants the Lions v. Niners rematch. And the Lions look well-built. If only their head coach had a CLUE how to manage a game they would have been in the Super Bowl last year. I think the season again with Dan Campbell crying and the world wondering what he was thinking after another brutal playoff loss filled with MeatHead Campbell bad decisions. In the championship game, Brandon Aiyuk pulls a hamstring after three dropped passes and the Packers pull the upset and go to the Super Bowl.

AFC Championship Game (The Mahomes Invitational): The upstart Texans get to the conference championship. They lose there, too. While America suffers from more Taylor and Travis.

Super Bowl: The Chiefs win their 3rd straight. I know, it's never been done. Until this year.

I gotta tell you something ... the Bears might have a QB. I've been watching

Hard Knocks. This season is interesting to me only because of Caleb Williams. I'm not a believer in the Bears organization, but Williams could become the first Bears QB IN HISTORY to throw for over 4,000 yards. Unbelievable but true. They have never had a 4,000 yard QB passing season.

One of the funniest things on the show was the first episode when head coach Matt Eberflus called one of the draft picks to welcome him to the Bears. He referred to himself as COACH FLUS. Are you serious? Did he nickname himself and then use it to call this kid? Coach Flus?? How about Coach Flush? Because that's what they will do if this season is a disaster after having two first round draft picks. I still think they should have taken a defensive player or OL with the pick they used on another WR.

Hard Knocks has fortunately distracted me from my Steelers, who remain stuck in that 8-9/9-8 purgatory.

The team seems insistent on playing 3-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust offense while praying the defense can hold the other team to 9 points.

The offense has looked awful in pre-season. The line has all the integrity of a colander, and the two QBs they have are cooked. Not Michelin Star cooked - more like Waffle House or Denny's at 2 a.m. cooked. A good friend of mine told me I am being too pessimistic about the Steelers. Sounds a little like 'YOU'RE BEING TOO HARD ON THE BEAV, WARD.'

I admit I am more jaded about the team and Mediocre Mike than most, but this is a wayward franchise lost in space right now. I am praying (won't do much good since I don't believe in religion) for the Steelers to go 3-14 one year and just blow up this quagmire of mediocrity and tradition-based insanity. Otherwise they will keep going like this forever. Neither Justin Fields or Russell Wilson is a franchise QB for ANY team. Stop the madness and hire an offensive coordinator who understands the passing game. And hire a coach who doesn't quote the motto "I like to win ugly." How about just win a playoff game.

Brandon Aiyuk. Done with him. They have offered his ass enough money. He is sitting there telling the Niners what they can do. They need to man up and say, "You have a salary this year of \$14 million. And we have offered you a long-term contract for whatever million. If you don't like it, then play for \$14 million and at the end of the season we will franchise you and trade you or keep you. But we ain't paying you more than you are worth. So play and take the \$14 million or pull a Le'Veon Bell and don't get paid anything."

Why waste time on this guy. He is good, but he is not elite. And you can franchise him after this season and keep his ass another year. They act like he has the leverage. He does not. Tell him to

more HARTLEY, page 13

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HARTLEY

continued from page 12

play for pay, or go home.

Deshaun Watson got some rest from training camp recently and they said his shoulder was fine but a little tired. Tired of what? He's hardly played football over the past two years. Is he tired from groping massage therapists? Tired of masturbating during massages? They said it was nothing until yesterday when they said he might miss the season opener. Huh? Why do they tolerate this guy? Well, it has to do with the massive ontract they gave him. But why don't they have a capable backup QB? Because they don't wanna upset Watson with someone they could use to replace him? Oh boy. Once you start placating egos there's no end to the spiral.

Tua Tagovailoa. What a clown. He got paid and celebrated by doing his ridiculous chat on the sidelines about getting paid with the fans. Now he is openly blasting his former HC Brian Flores. Why? Flores has been gone a couple years - why do you still care?

When adversity arrives, and adversity will, this guy is ill-equipped. Speaking of useless, overpaid QBs ... Daniel Jones. I try to watch preseason games just so I can gauge potential fantasy football value. Most of it is garbage, but some of it is entertaining. Daniel Jones was 11-11 passing. I saw the stat line and was like.....wow. He really did well against some future club bouncers and UFL backup players. Then I saw the game. He was actually 13-13 passing because he threw 2 interceptions as well. One of them was from his own endzone and became a pick 6.

I have always said there should be a qualification exam to reproduce and bring a human being into the world. You take a test for all kinds of stuff, but nothing is required to be a parent.

Here are some questions that should be asked. I'm not talking about physics-level stuff. Just basic common sense:

If it is cold enough for YOU to put on a jacket and a hat, what should your baby be wearing? Answer: The same damn thing. You should not be dressed for winter and be carrying your baby around in a onesie with no shoes on.

Mouthbreather.

If you have to panhandle to make a living, should you be having unprotected sex and bringing another human being into your life to suffer your same miserable existence?

If your kid is very sick, where do you take them? Would you treat them with home remedies?

If you can't answer those three, stop there and get sterilized.

Recently a 12 year old girl died in - guess where - no, it wasn't Florida! It was Texas. She died from suffering serious, life-threatening injuries on Aug. 8. For four dayus, her "parents" tried to feed her smoothies to heal her instead of taking her to the hospital.

But of course! The smoothie treatment is world-renowned.

They called 911 eventually and instead of having the paramedics come to their house, they met them on the ... highway? These are some real winners here. This is not a surprise:

"After calling 911, Balbaneda met police and emergency responders on

the highway with her daughter, rather than having them come to their home. Soward [County Sheriff] called their home "unkempt" and "sort of dirty."

Their house was "sort of dirty?" How nasty is your house if you gotta meet the paramedics on the highway instead of taking care of your daughter in your house? These people were obviously NOT qualified to be parents. If only they would have been given a test when they were young and injected with irrevocable birth control that would render them incapable of EVER having a child. These

two killed a 12-year old and tried to hide it with Dairy Queen Blizzards instead of finding a doctor and some medicine.

If someone could make parental competency testing and forced birth control a real thing I would vote for them regardless of party ... unless that person's name was Trump or was anyone that would vote for Trump. Because then they'd just inject anyone who didn't look or think or lust like them. And it would inevitably morph from a competency test into a fealty/conformity test

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OFF THE SLOPES

VAN LIFE. VAN LOVE?

By Fisher

The number of van-lifers rose from 1.9 million in 2020 to 3.1 million in 2022, an increase of over 63%, according to a Statista report.

For me, this translates to a 63% higher chance of being complimented on my “really chill vibe” by a mustachioed man in toe-thong sandals with dirt and chalk under his fingernails.

I attended college in Burlington, Vermont, known as the dirtbag capital of the Northeast. As a 22-year-old woman with outdoorsy hobbies, I’m no stranger to this dating scene.

The saving grace of my college town was its predominantly female demographic. The University of Vermont has 64% female enrollment, according to the U.S. News & World Report.

This meant there were many women and few men.

It wasn’t a utopia — good luck trying to get a guy to call you his girlfriend — but there was a sense of sisterhood. And through that, there was peace.

So imagine my surprise on my first night out in Mammoth, when, between being swarmed by men in the basement of Clocktower and groped by strangers in Lakanuki, my roommate and coworker Milender advised me that staying single was the best strategy in this small town.

The night was blurry, but her words were clear: the women here are the coolest people you will meet, and the men here think they are the coolest people you will meet.

But I am an optimist and, more importantly, an opportunist. I wanted to make some friends and had a plan to make that happen.

I figured I’d met plenty of men with close female friends in my life, and while that’s usually a red flag in dating, it could be a resource here.

My plan was to go on dates, keep it casual, and when my suitors weren’t looking, make friends with their female acquaintances. So I re-downloaded the dating app, Hinge, and made a profile.

Turns out, I wasn’t the only one with an agenda.

Dating apps are brutal no matter where you live. But in this town full of PCT hikers and van-lifers, I encountered an entirely new breed of dating app users.

Hinge offers three opportunities to showcase your personality through pre-programmed prompts. Some men’s profiles were entirely devoted to requests for showers: “My simple pleasures... taking a shower at your house,” or “I’ll fall for you if... you let me take a shower at your house.”

These were obvious left swipes (No) for me. But the more elusive players were those who didn’t disclose their living situation.

It’s not an option among the other disclaimers offered by the app; you can indicate if you have children or use drugs, but there’s no obvious way to say you live in your car.

And so, I unknowingly agreed to a date with a van-lifer.

We met at Mammoth Brewing, where he proudly showed me his home—a wooden A-frame structure atop his truck.

I felt quite safe, actually, considering

the items in the storage pockets closest to the door were his Social Security card and passport. Clearly, he trusted me, so I trusted him.

The date was pleasant. He was gentlemanly enough: he bought me a beer, we had a nice conversation, and we watched the sunset at Minaret Vista.

He even offered me a choice between two warm beverages, encouraging me to take the IPA over the Coors, the nicer option.

Again, gentlemanly!

He dropped me off at home and asked if he could come inside. I declined but agreed to a second date. We made plans, but I canceled last-minute due to work. His response, though polite, was shocking to me:

“Ahhhh dang! Long day! That’s okay, I have plans with a friend tomorrow anyway, so I might just hit the road. However! I could very much benefit from a shower and maybe a slumber indoors if either of those sounds plausible at your place. Totally okay if not, just thought I’d ask,” he wrote.

Talk about feeling used.

We never went on a second date, and I began viewing van-lifers through a different lens.

I understand the housing shortage; it’s pretty much all I write about. Nomadic life isn’t new to me. I’ve thru-hiked and have friends living out of vehicles.

But I can’t help but wonder about the true independence of van-lifers.

They’ll tell you they’re “free” but it doesn’t seem that way to me, if you’re constantly panhandling for a shower or a bed.

It seems you either need to spend an exorbitant amount of money on a high-end camper (if you don’t want to ask for these types of things) or rely entirely on public resources and the goodwill of others.

And a lot of these folks work remotely. They don’t pay taxes here. Though I suppose they buy lattes. I don’t necessarily feel inclined to accommodate them. But town officials, along with Mono County and Mammoth Mountain administrators, are making an effort to create a “safe” parking lot for van-lifers who work in town.

Granted, this plan seems to have some merit; mainly because it consolidates these individuals in one lot, a few miles away from the rest of the town. Given the lack of hygiene associated with this group, it should help improve air quality in the downtown area.

It could also help ease the renter’s market, provided that these van-lifers intend to reside and work within the town and not simply pass through it.

As for dating, maybe the van-lifers, when joined through proximity, will enjoy each other’s company and bond over the shared experience of life on wheels. Perhaps it will pique the interest of a Hollywood crew and spark a new dating series: Love on the Road? Bachelor in Parking Lot? Love is Noseblind?

... while the rest of us go on with our traditional lives, never quite getting the appeal of the vagabond lifestyle.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

GETTING FRANK WITH YOU

Derek Frank to play two shows at Liberty next weekend

By Lunch

When you interview a guy who grew up in Pittsburgh in the '70s, you can't help but give 'em the old Fred Rogers (of Mr. Rogers fame, who broadcast from Pittsburgh) line, "Won't you be my neighbor?"

But in this case, Derek Frank actually is.

The bassist who's toured with the likes of Gwen Stefani and Shania Twain is bringing his band to Liberty for two shows on August 30 & 31.

And after the shows, he'll sleep in his own bed, as he and his wife have had a second home here since 2005.

But he's never played Mammoth until now.

As he explains, his stuff was never considered quite jazzy enough for the Mammoth Lakes Jazz Jubilee, and never quite bluesy enough for Bluesapalooza.

But if you listen to his third album which came out earlier this year, entitled "Origin Story," you'll find the grooves meditative and mesmerizing.

Thr Origin Story circling back, of course, to Pittsburgh.

His Theme from Steel City ... it sounds like it could be the soundtrack to a Pittsburgh version of a James Gandolfini/Sopranos series.

"Demon on Wheels" gets its title from the old "Speed Racer" anime tv series - and if you grew up in the '70s, Speed Racer was **It**.

Overall, Frank conjures the '70s of chase scenes, fight scenes, blaxploitation films and Curtis Mayfield.

As well as the funky '70s theme music of the Bob Newhart Show and Barney Miller.

Without lyrics (all instrumental) and a five-piece band.

Frank was born in Pittsburgh. His dad worked for U.S. Steel.

Later, when he would visit the Steel City on various tours, he would rent a car and check out the old 'hood.

He was eight years old when MTV debuted. He said those videos were what sparked his interest in music.

His bread-and-butter these days comes from touring with name acts (he spent all last year on tour with Shania Twain). He also played Las Vegas during Gwen Stefani's residency in 2018 and Shania's residency in 2019.

Of Stefani, he said, "She is just an incredible showman ... it's a joy playing music with anybody, but especially with a great artist whom you respect."



Derek Frank

He's also played on a Dancing With The Stars tour.

"It's no secret the industry has changed a lot," he says. "There's no money in recorded music." He says he'd like to license his stuff to television ... but that he writes his own stuff to play [live]. The licensing is more of a perk or an extra, not the goal.

His wife is also a musician - a singer who makes her living on the wedding & corporate event circuit.

Where you can find an intersection

of the pair: At the monthly jam series "Soundcheck Live" at the Lucky Strike in Hollywood.

What Frank loves about Mammoth: The great ski/snowboard hill and low-key town. Taking the dog to Horseshoe. And Black Velvet Coffee, home of the best Restretto shot in the world.

Come out for Derek Frank at Liberty next weekend so he'll continue to play local shows!



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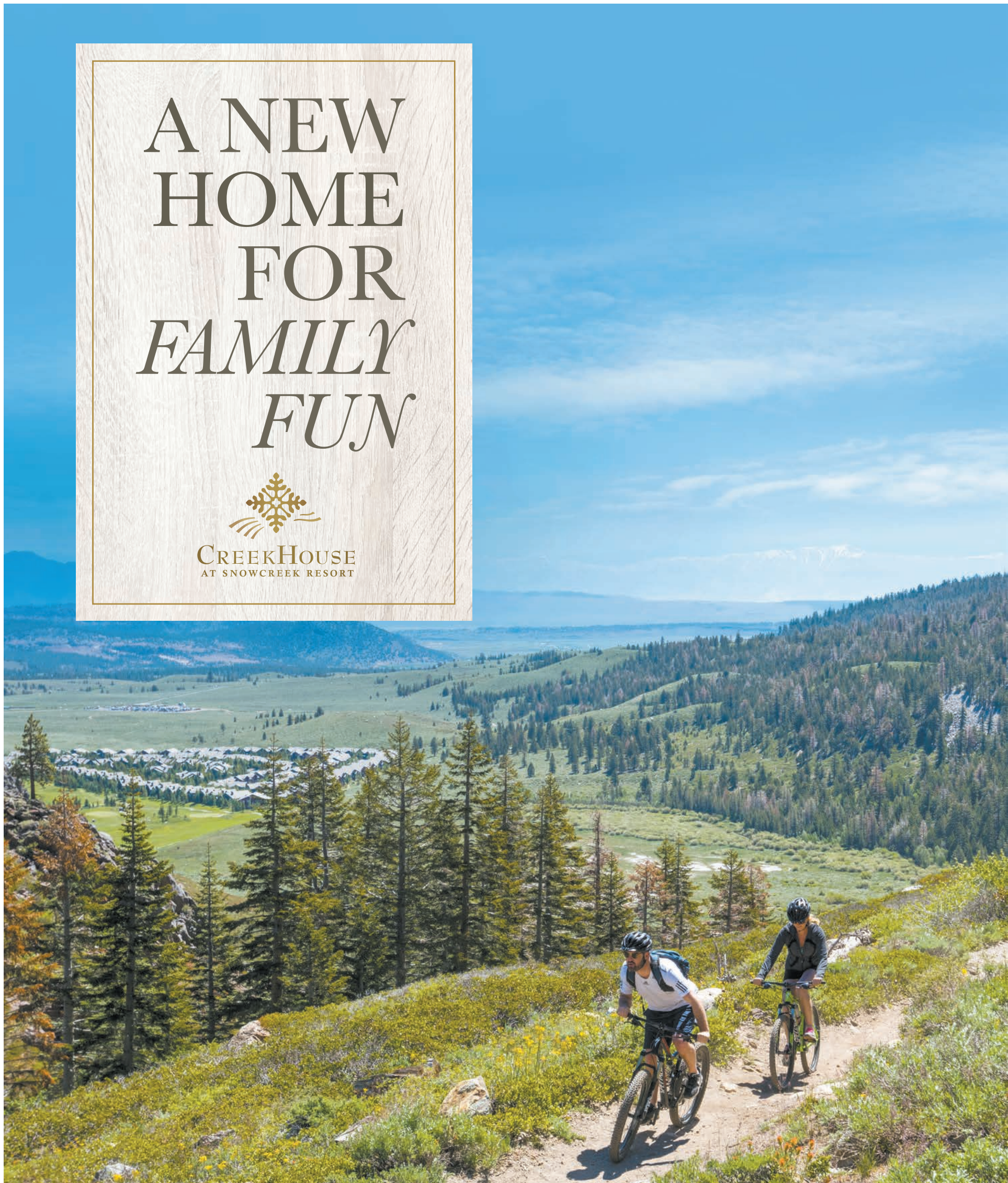
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