

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



From left: Elizabeth Root, Kendra Knight, John Mendel, Luan Mendel, Katherine Landau and Kathy Copeland at last weekend's annual "Lands and Legacy" gala hosted by Eastern Sierra Land Trust. For more coverage, see p. 19

Saturday, November 2, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. 44



Every year, Mr. and Mrs. Halloween (Mary and Chet Baker) create my favorite Halloween house. The pumpkins in the branches are a nice touch!

YOU, ME, S & T

By Lunch

So ... I'm sure I'm in the vast minority of those who are more interested in the fate of local ballot measures J, K, L and M than I am in the floating island of garbage of a presidential election.

I read former Gov. Schwarzenegger's take on that, and am largely in alignment.

A pox on both parties, but I'll choose ineptitude over ineptitude AND chaos.

So Mr. Wentworth, I am not going Bezos on you. I'll take Harris.

Now onto local endeavors.

I've found it interesting that those in favor of all four ballot measures haven't engaged in the campaign until the 23rd

hour. Almost as if the measures would pass not based upon the strength of their arguments or the merit of the cause, but rather, because of Groupthink inevitability.

As I've read the letters over the past two weeks, what jumps out at me is that not one person has made an argument based upon any sort of ... well thought out financial calculation. It's all just, 'It's money we're gonna take from other people and spend on you!'

Very seductive.

We're gonna build a wall! Mexico's gonna pay for it!

Which I'm sure makes Stacy Corless recoil in horror, Yes,

Stacy, you and Donald do share some political philosophy.

But I want to pivot here to talk about 2006. Not as much of a non-sequitur as you might think.

2006 marked the last time we considered raising the bed tax rate around here.

**If you don't count the TBID formation, which I don't, because the TBID wasn't a public vote. It was approved by a vote of the business community, and inherently undemocratic because it gave Mammoth Mountain 40% of the vote (the TBID is a business improvement district and the vote to approve is weighted based upon size of business and percentage of local*

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LESS THAN LOFTY

Town gets tough on code enforcement

By Lunch

Mammoth Town officials found themselves in the hot-seat at the Mammoth Lakes Board of Realtors (MLBOR) annual meeting held October 24, facing a group of angry real estate agents in the wake of the rollout of the town's new short-term rental certified property inspection program.

Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Rob Patterson, Building Official Tom Perry, and Nolan Bobroff, Mammoth Lakes Community Development Director spoke at the meeting.

For context, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council placed a moratorium on short-term rentals on October 18, 2023, which restricted the issuance of new transient occupancy tax certificates in specific areas based on zoning to reassess the short-term rental system.

Mammoth's Town Council adopted a set of ordinances, which included a "Certified Properties" program on March 6, 2024 that went into effect on April 22 and requires safety and compliance inspections every four years.

The issue is that when short-term rentals were initially introduced to the town, some units were allowed to be rented without having been inspected. Those units may now have issues — particularly with their lofts not being up-to-code — which may affect the permitted occupancy of those units.

To understand how this happened, we need to rewind to 2015 when Council approved the Quality of Life Ordinance.

When the ordinance was drafted in August of that year, one of the updates requested was to allow lofts to be considered a bedroom, which would allow for more people to stay at

the property at a time.

More capacity, higher rates, more money. Ka-ching.

Council adopted the ordinance on September 16, 2015, with the loft-inclusive language, but by November, it became apparent that those bedroom lofts could pose a fire hazard and were deemed unsafe for short-term rental purposes.

That news "caused quite the uproar," Perry said, and the Town ultimately established building code safety standards for lofts, laying out the necessary head clearance, stair size, and emergency escape routes. The Sheet reported on those building codes in the May 18, 2016 issue.

The code was eventually approved with the distinction that units with lofts that did not meet this compliance could still be rented, but the lofts could not be used for sleeping purposes.

Most units built after the 1980s are code compliant, even with lofts, Perry said. However, he estimated that over half the town's condominiums were built before the 1980s, when inspections were ... lax, to say the least.

"The building department wouldn't even drive down to Mammoth to do inspections; they would do approvals literally over the phone," Perry said at the meeting. "The building department in Bridgeport would get a set of plans, make sure they looked professional, had the stamp of an architect or engineer, and approve them without actually reviewing them."

Mammoth Lakes did not officially incorporate until 1984. Therefore, because there are no

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Lands and Legacy

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More Disaster Lit!

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Oven Lovin'

p. 8/

Last Chance Saloon

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No Special K

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LUNCH

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sales).

That year, in addition to eight candidates running for three council seats, there were two tax measures on the ballot.

Measure S proposed raising Mammoth’s sales tax rate from 7.25% to 7.75%

Measure T proposed raising the TOT (bed tax) rate from 12% to 13%.

T came on the heels of three hikes in the TOT rate, which doubled (from 6% to 12%) between 1997 and 2002.

Seven of the eight council candidates supported the tax hikes (Chris Tolley was against). There was little public opposition.

But there was a simmering undercurrent of general unease.

A battle within the community as to the future of Mammoth and the scale of development.

Sharon Clark wrote in a letter to The Sheet that May, “I quit attending council meetings because members didn’t hear what I said. Ignoring voters flies in the face of our democracy. Leaders who push their agenda instead of the people’s agenda fail us all.”

Clark’s point of view had some evidence to support it. The Council at that time (consisting of Kirk Stapp, Skip Harvey, Rick Wood, John Eastman and Tony Barrett) had commissioned an outside firm to take the temperature of the community.

Which revealed that Council had a 42% approval rating.

Mayor Rick Wood did not seek reelection that year.

In candidate interviews with the paper, there were some interesting comments.

In support of the tax measures, incumbent Tony Barrett said for him, he was focused on transit improvements. That’s how he wanted to spend the money.

“You can’t charge W Hotel prices for vending machine services,” he observed.

Challenger Wendy Sugimura (who is now Mono County’s Community Development Director) was circumspect about the tax measures.

“There hasn’t been enough discussion on what the community wants and

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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no clear consensus or direction.”

She ended up being the top vote-getter.

Barrett lost in his reelection bid.

The top six vote getters in that election were only separated by approximately 150 votes. Among them, there were three pro status quo/full speed ahead candidates, including the two incumbents Barrett and Eastman, and three ‘whoa, whoa, let’s step on the brakes, what about quality-of-life’ candidates in Sugimura, Jo Bacon (who was elected two years later) and Therese Hankel.

As for the tax measures, S (raising sales tax) failed spectacularly, losing 56%-44%.

T (raising bed tax) passed by a 59%-41% margin.

From the June 10, 2006 Sheet:

“Councilman Kirk Stamp, who spearheaded both ballot measures, said this was the first time a ballot measure had ever failed on him. ‘I’m shocked S went down,’ he said, but he also acknowledged, ‘People are tired of bailing out the government.’”

Mammoth Mountain CEO Rusty Gregory’s reaction: “I think people have
more LUNCH, pg. 10

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written by Ruth & Augustus Goetz



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There has been a 28% increase in labor costs at The Town of Mammoth Lakes over the past three years

It plans to spend \$3.84 million more on staffing than it did just three years ago

Measure L, sponsored by Mammoth’s Council, would raise the TOT rate by two points

The tax hike is expected to generate \$4 million per year. Council says it’ll be spent for housing...

BUT WHERE DO YOU THINK THE MONEY IS REALLY GOING TO GO?

One Tequila, Two Tequila, Three Tequila Poor?

Town of Mammoth Lakes TOT (bed tax) budget for fiscal year 2023-2024:
\$18 million

Town of Mammoth Lakes actual TOT revenue for 2023-2024:
\$27.4 million

So with all the excess revenue (\$9.4 million!), why is Mammoth's Town Council pushing **Measure L, a two-point (15.3%) increase** in the Town's TOT rate?

Because Mammoth is drunk on government **SPENDING!**



LETTERS

No Special K

Dear Editor,

Measure K is a tax on the lodging industry. But none of the proposed bed tax increase will help the Tourism economy being taxed. The measure only affects unincorporated Mono County. Under this measure the bed tax (TOT) would increase from 12% to 15% of the nightly room price. This is actually a disincentive for tourists to stay in the County (a 3% increase in the cost of their stay).

Mammoth residents make up roughly 50% of the County population. The tax hike will be imposed outside the Town. And yet, Mammoth voters will be eligible to vote on K and inevitably determine the fate of K. How crazy! Mammoth, being the largest voting bloc in the County, can effectively impose this tax hike on the rest of us. Measure K wouldn't cost anyone anything in Mammoth! In fact, it would make Mammoth a more attractive place to book by comparison.

The County uses 1% (of the 12% bed tax currently charged) to fund the budget for Mono County Economic Development

Department and Film Commission. Little else from the over \$4 million generated each year from unincorporated County bed tax is used to promote Tourism to support the economy. There isn't a similar program like the \$2 million general fund allocation TOML makes to Visit Mammoth nor is there a TID (Tourism Improvement District) in the unincorporated County.

The June Lake Chamber of Commerce has been working to establish a TID for 2 years. The Measure K bed tax hike would likely kill those efforts. If TOT is raised to 15%, adding a TID assessment on top of that would increase the total charge to visitors to 17%. This would put June Lake far above the national average bed tax and one of the top three most expensive places to visit in California.

Wouldn't it be logical to use some bed tax money to improve the tourism experience?

The argument for the hike in bed tax is that County will buy or build workforce housing. But it isn't required to spend the money on housing the way Measure K is worded. What can that 3% buy? One or two townhomes or condos per year? Helping one or two families with somewhat lower rent? Once their income rises to a certain level they then are required to move out? The County shouldn't be in the business of buying or building housing. This is the most inefficient and expensive way to increase workforce housing inventory. Since when did it become the job of government to build houses?

A better way: Let's create a better Tourism economy in the entire County. Towns like Mammoth, June Lake, Lee Vining, Bridgeport and others rely on visitors to sustain their people. Keep the bed tax at 12% and allow the formation of Tourism Improvement Districts (i.e. June Lake or County-wide outside of Mammoth) Why not help hundreds of families with more hours, more pay, less layoffs, shorter shoulder seasons? The County would still get hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional in bed tax that could be used to build housing if they are fixed on pursuing it. For example: If annual bed tax to the County goes from \$4 to \$5 million because of the focused activities described above, the County could still spend \$1 million annually on housing. EVERYONE WINS!

Let's follow the pattern that has worked in Mammoth to build our shoulder season economy! Let's help hundreds of employees AND THEIR FAMILIES instead of just a couple that would have slightly lower rent. Hundreds of families each year would have the opportunity for more hours, more pay, less layoffs and to create their own businesses.

At least 109 other communities and virtually every tourism-based area in CA already are doing this (including Bishop, Ridgecrest, Fresno, etc.). It works!

If Measure K were to pass we should insist on an Investment of at least \$500,000 in advertising, promotions, additional fish stocking and funding of events in unincorporated Mono County annually.

Measure K is the wrong approach to housing at the wrong time and unfairly burdens the lodging industry who brings the people that help every other business! It is being voted on by residents of Mammoth who shouldn't be imposing this tax on the rest of the County.

Ralph Lockhart
June Lake

Small correction, Mr. Wentworth

Dear Editor,

The Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce (MLCC) is made up of nearly 300 local businesses encompassing a wide array of thoughts and opinions on the ballot measures pertaining to our Town and Mono County.

When the discussion about an increase to TOT (bed tax) began earlier this year, MLCC communicated to Town Council and their staff the discussions our members were having with us about this issue. Those include the need for housing local employees, concerns about decreased tourism because of higher taxes, more money going into the Town's General Fund and everything in between. Due to these various opinions, we encouraged the Town of Mammoth (TOML) to look at a special tax measure which would be specifically designated to housing. TOML, concerned about securing a 66% plus vote, ultimately

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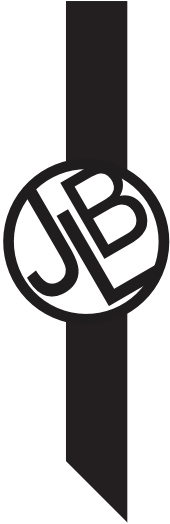
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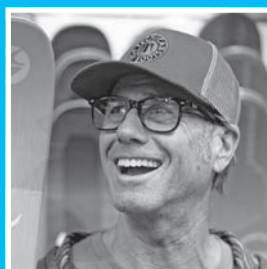
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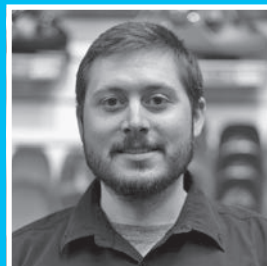
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AUDREY SANTOS



RYAN SELIGMAN



DEAN WOLFE



MILES LAFAYETTE

LETTERS

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opted for a general tax measure (requiring 50% plus one).

The Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce supports an increase in TOT to fund affordable housing. It is our responsibility to be the voice of the business community, and the business community supports funding workforce housing but has reservations about more dollars going into the General Fund.

Turning to Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District's (MLFPD) ballot measure, we are in full support of funding this essential organization through Measure M. Wildfire mitigation and rapid response time by MLFPD is vital in ensuring the safety of our Town and our local economy.

Our Chamber remains dedicated to representing our local businesses by sharing their diverse perspectives on issues that impact our community. We look forward to continued discussions with the Town and our members on sustainable solutions that balance economic growth, resident welfare, and the unique needs of Mammoth Lakes.

Brianna Goico, President & CEO
Mammoth Lakes Chamber

The Last Chance Saloon

Dear Editor,

Very much appreciate your editorial in the October 19th edition. Of particular interest was your journey through

government subsidized housing and the Last Chance Saloon. It gave us The Sheet and we are grateful.

**Ed. clarification: The Sheet was founded three years before I bought an affordable housing unit in 2006 and would have survived regardless. Government didn't found/sustain anything. In fact, some local politicians (you know who you are) actively tried to out me out of business by canvassing my advertisers and asking them to pull support.*

Greater thanks would go to Access Art and Business Center, Brian Knox, and a plethora of local small businesses who believed in the 4th Estate and an untested kid.

Rural independent journalism is a hard road, thank you for taking it on. Your opinions re: Measure L are pretty clear; let me offer a fact check. The new Town Office Building, the shiny one, is paid for. The Town has issued bonds - the equivalent of taking out a mortgage - using its good credit to cover construction costs. Measure L funds won't be needed for this project.

And confirmed that the strange, backwards disincentive regarding income caps when using state and federal funds to build community housing is indeed strange and backwards. This is the price we pay for accepting those available dollars to mitigate our mountain town's housing crisis. The set of tactics in the Town's Housing Now! program addresses this challenge. General funds from TOT paid for by visitors and tourists are not restricted and can provide

community housing for residents at any income level. Measure L will bring in the unrestricted dollars needed to provide housing without state and federal income restrictions. Expensive, yes. Always open to any alternative solutions to secure a community-focused future for Mammoth Lakes.

On Page 19 of the October 19 issue, you indicated that you were pissed on behalf of the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District and Measure M. Perhaps you could endorse Measure M, and on page 2, not on the next to last back page. Fingers crossed the endorsement is already in. Promote what The Sheet stands for, don't go Bezos on us.

John Wentworth
Mammoth Lakes Councilmember

Editor can't resist one more comment: John, when you take out a mortgage on your home, it's yours ... and not yours. Usually, it's a lot more owned by 'them' - the folks who loaned you the money. Something 'paid for' means you paid for it up front with cash.

The \$30 million Civic Center isn't paid for. Not by a long shot.

Tricks, treats and don't be a Scrooge

Dear Jack,

Trick or treat! It's the spooky season, so they say, when the veil between the living and the dead is thinnest; it's getting darker every day.

I'm writing this a couple days before Halloween and in this publication we've seen plenty of the scary stuff already. Letters and ad graphics raise specters of Howard Jarvis and zombie-like taxeaters. These contemptuous, cynical spirits rattle their chains of policies past loudly, trying to frighten us away from investing and believing in ourselves, in our own community, and our power to effect positive change.

To me, though, the scariest thing is despair. Just giving up. Complaining rather than seeking solutions. Let me misquote Halloween film favorite "Poltergeist" a little and jump ahead to December's winter solstice by urging us all to look toward the light.

Here's the light I see, and also a little light shed on few points that the grim editorial reaper might have missed with his anti-tax scourge:

We have the power to create a better future, and we need local, public funding to do that. We can better educate our children. We can prepare ourselves for extreme climate disasters. We can house our workforce. We can build infrastructure to balance the needs of the community and the burdens of tourism. But current public funding (based on 1970s era tax policy) isn't enough. Our local agencies need the funding proposed in Measures J, K, L and M to create this future with us.

Public housing programs serve those among us most in need first. State and federal housing programs, grants and

more LETTERS, pg. 7

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LETTERS

continued from page 6

tax credits subsidize housing for those with less means—that’s the social safety net. Local housing dollars and programs (the kind Transient Occupancy Tax generates) are needed now to subsidize housing for higher income earners—like the so-called “missing middle” that includes teachers.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes (and other agencies) need offices. The Town is currently paying rent at an aging strip mall—this rent money will go toward funding and operating a town building. It makes financial and common sense to office our municipal workforce in a safe, functioning facility. And this plan has been in the works for decades.

Jumping even further ahead in the calendar but sticking vaguely to the ghost theme of this letter, I urge my fellow Mammoth residents to reflect on these dark visions of the past and present and, like Scrooge on Christmas morning, to wake up to the reality that it’s not too late to take positive, responsible action for our collective well-being. Vote yes on our local measures, and statewide Prop 4, for community and climate resilience.

Stacy Corless
Mammoth Lakes

Time to stand up

Dear Editor,

On October 23, the Indian Creek Westridge Community Services District conducted a community public hearing to vote on a proposed water rate increase. The major portion of the increase would have been for the installation of meters at each connection. The vote result was 74% against.

The issue of meters stems from the drought of 2012-2016 when many areas of the State experienced water shortages. In an effort to reduce the risk of inadequate water supply for future droughts, Senate Bill 552 was signed into California law in September 2021. The law contains a package of six requirements with a range of timelines for

compliance. One of those requirements is: “No later than January 1, 2032, meter each service connection and monitor for water loss due to leakages.”

Our District currently has a Drought Ordinance #2015-01 that was voted into effect by the Board of Directors on February 10, 2015. The Ordinance imposes conservation measures on our customers to address four stages of water shortage, Stage Four being the most severe. When we imposed water use restrictions on our customers during the drought, we found that the community complied. We know this because all of our wells are metered and we know how much water is being pumped and distributed during any given time. In light of this, what is the benefit that would justify the installation of meters at such a high cost (\$1.2M for our District in

today’s dollars)?

I think other small districts like ours will struggle to come up with the money for meters as well. It is a big ask of our customers to buy into a large rate increase for meters when the Board cannot justify the cost. Just saying a State Agency requires it is not enough. Each small District will have to do their own analysis and see where they are. If enough people across the State protest a rate increase for meters, then this requirement will need to be reconsidered or modified in some way. Water is a necessity of life, it cannot be unreasonably priced without public protest.

Luis Elias, Chairperson,
Indian Creek/Westridge CSD

What Happens When You Increase Taxes ?

• Shorter stays

• Less business

• Visitors opting for cheaper accommodations.

MONO COUNTY WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

For the benefit of youth and elderly in our county, we are collecting cold weather clothing in children, youth, and adult sizes, all genders. Gently used or new items only please!

These items can be jackets, parkas, thermal layers, sweaters, hoodies, gloves, scarves, beanies, winter socks, boots, pants, etc...

Donations accepted Nov 4 thru Dec 2

Donation Locations:

Bridgeport Library
Coleville Library
Mammoth Library
Crowley Lake Library
Lee Vining Library
June Lake Library
Benton Library
Walker Senior Center

Pick up Locations:

Bridgeport Memorial Hall
73 North School St.
December 9th, 2-6pm

Mammoth Lakes Civic Center
1290 Tavern Rd.
December 11th, 2-6pm

Walker Senior Center
399 Mule Deer Rd
December 12th, 2-5pm

Are you or your family in need of winter clothing?
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Organized by Mono County Office of Education Homeless Children and Youth Program and Community Schools, Mono County Health and Human Services and Mono County Free Library.
Contact: Kevin Lian klian@monocoe.org.



KLUSMIRE

OVEN LOVIN’

Hello, oven. It’s been a while. I missed you. Did you miss me?

What? Silence? You’re giving me the silent treatment? Oh, come on. I know I haven’t paid any attention to you for awhile. Okay, okay, it’s more than “awhile,” you are right. It’s been what, five months? No, I’m not playing dumb or trying to minimize our time apart. But come on, it happens every year, and every year we have to have this little argument, this little spat, this little moment.

And after we make up, every year I give you a tender tune-up. I change the tin foil on the bottom, make sure there isn’t any leftover food on the heat coils, check your lightbulb, give you a test run to make sure you are in good shape and heat up evenly. Heck, I even clean the glass on the door so I can gaze lovingly at what you are so graciously heating up and cooking for me.

Don’t go there. Do. Not. Go. There. I did not completely abandon you over the summer. I didn’t shut you out of my mind. I thought about you, I pondered using you several times, but

it was too hot to fire you up. But that didn’t mean I was ready to ditch you forever. And, for your information, I am coming back to you way before the real cold weather hits, so this is not a “have to do” sort of thing like you imply. Indeed, I am going out of my way to assure you, to care for you, to reinforce how much you mean to me, despite how little attention I paid to you over the summer.

Let bygones be bygones; drop the rock; let it go; move ahead instead of looking back. What do you say?

Oh, this year is different because you heard me cooing and whispering sweet nothings to the stovetop burners after they cooked up a pan full of trout, fried potatoes and corn and everything came out great and at the same time? Yes, I was impressed and said so. It was a heck of a good job.

And the barbeque grill? Really? Yeah, I did say I loved it, but that was after it broiled to perfection a couple of steaks along with veggies and garlic bread. Spectacular effort, so yes, I patted the grill affectionately and paid it some heartfelt compliments.

Come on, those were one-time

flings, as you call them. And now the barbeque grill is parked and out of commission for the winter. The stovetop will still be pitching in and doing some work on meals. But it will once again be a supporting cast member while you are the star of the show. Come on. Can the stovetop turn frozen tater tots into mouthwatering nuggets of golden goodness and an enticing, enchanting palette pleasing plate of pure joy and happiness? No, no it cannot. Only you can work that sort of magic and make such a mystical transformation seem effortless. For that and that alone you are the All Star of cooking appliance and damn near a Hall of Famer.

But there is more, so much more.

It goes without saying that cupcakes, muffins and cake owe their existence to you. I am a slacker baker who uses boxed cake and muffin mix but you come through every time and cover for my lack of skill and organization and make those store-bought delights well, delightful.

Leftovers? Of course you do a magnificent job softly and slowly bringing back to life the often sad and forgotten remnants of previous meals.

Somehow you infuse what should be a mess into something not only edible, but nearly as tasty as it was the first time around. Magical.

Let’s talk about frozen beer battered cod filets that come out crispy on the outside and tender and juicy on the inside. Then there is the almost impossible trick of taking a frozen pizza, wringing the stale taste of cardboard out of the crust and turning the whole thing into a hot, cheese-covered treat. That’s all you, sweetheart, all you.

Can I mention trout? Sure. A little butter, lemon juice, a cluster of my secret ingredients and bingo, you bake up a trout that is tender, mouthwatering and a delicacy. Your effort puts the stovetop to shame and highlights that frying anything in oil is a crude and barbaric cooking technique.

Baking is subtle, intuitive, some would even say sublime. Let’s join hands once again and continue our culinary journey, shall we?

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is working up the courage to have another difficult conversation when he mothballs his swamp cooler for the winter.



LISTEN

To Your Doctor

There needs to be continuity and familiarity with the **Mammoth Hospital expansion**. Mammoth Hospital providers strongly recommend re-election of the current board members of Southern Mono Healthcare District.

Re-elect!

Alex Clowes
Laurey Carlson
Ryan Wood

This advertisement is paid for by members of the medical staff of Mammoth Hospital and was not authorized or paid for by Mammoth Hospital, or a candidate for this office, or a committee controlled by a candidate for this office.



TABLE FOR ONE?

Access Apartments, currently

The Access Apartments under construction will have eleven one-bedrooms and two studios. The estimated price tag for those 13 units is:
\$11 million, or 850K per unit

Meanwhile, The Limelight’s housing mitigation fee for a 150-room five-star hotel which will require at least
100 employees is 746K

That pays for one place to live.
And creates, as Jay Z might say, 99 problems

LOFTY

continued from page 1

building records for properties built before then, those properties were considered “legal non-conforming” or “grandfathered” into legality, according to the Sheet’s reporting in 2016.

But that “grandfather” stipulation is precisely why the town decided to implement the “Certified Properties” program, Patterson said. The Town began seeing issues with the quality of experience and safety within short-term rentals in older units.

“If the building, when it was built, did not conform to the code that was in effect at the time, it never had status of being legal,” Perry said. “That illegal status, if you will, has carried forward all this time.”

That statement didn’t sit well with the crowd. One audience member, dumb-founded, asked if half the town had been built illegally.

Perry backpedaled, clarifying that most of these older buildings are broadly code compliant; it’s just that certain components of those buildings are not, particularly many of the lofts, and specifically those for short-term rentals.

“It all just seems so wrong,” one attendee said. “You’ve essentially said that it’s been a mistake on behalf of the inspectors, and now you’re going to correct that mistake by punishing the homeowners and devaluing the property?”

Because all the loft information has been codified in the Municipal Code, Patterson said this information has been readily available to the public since it was approved over eight years ago. But going forward, he said the Town is hoping to improve consistency and transparency surrounding the inspection process.

“We have a lot of work to do,” he said. “We’re taking ownership of how we can improve this process.”

Transient occupancy inspections are conducted by contract inspectors, not full-time town employee inspectors. Training for those inspections, until recently, was done once a year and provided only a broad overview of the code.

“I thought that the training we were providing was sufficient,” Perry said. “But in recent weeks or months, it’s become evident to me that that was not sufficient training.”

In the future, Perry plans to accompany inspectors to ensure they’re being thorough. He’s also begun developing a “really watered-down, easy checklist that inspectors can use for their inspections, rather than trying to have a copy of the code in front of them.”

“The building code is boring,” he said. “It’s hard to read for a lot of people—it’s tough even for inspectors.”

The dumbed-down checklist has been drafted and circulated among transient occupancy inspectors, Perry said. This checklist is in addition to the checklist that the town already gives to inspectors to use to assess an entire unit, Bobroff added.

The town is hoping to, in time, provide easily accessible information for realtors to use when there is a loft at a property so that buyers aren’t surprised down the line if they find out it their short term rental is out of compliance.

How buyers will react to this news right now, however, is a growing concern for realtors.

“In the real estate world, the first people that get attacked and sued are us,” one of the realtors said at the meeting.

Another attendee asked whether the town understood that these new inspections would change property values, to which Patterson replied, “do you understand this is building code?”

“I think we’re trying to do everything we can to support you,” Patterson responded. “But we’re also not going to go out and say something that is completely nonconforming, ‘yes, we are certifying that property for rental.’”

The loft code only applies to short-term rentals, so properties where the owner lives in the home or rents it out long-term are not under the same stipulations. The board ultimately decided to put together a task force with the town and come back with a drafted document based on their findings.

MEET BANDIT

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HUSKY OF THE WEEK

LET'S CELEBRATE THE HARD WORK & DEDICATION OF OUR LOCAL YOUTH

RIDER PEARCE

Introducing the Husky of the Week, Senior, Rider Pearce. Rider has been an integral part of the cross-country team since his freshman year and is one of the core runners that started three years ago. Despite some injuries, Rider has improved drastically since his freshman year and continues to act as solid foundation for the team. He paces and encourages his peers. Furthermore, he sets a fantastic example for his younger teammates. With Rider set to graduate after this season we will miss him greatly.

Rider has also dabbled in Track & Field activities like shot-put and long jump. Rider is graduating a year early. This year Rider is taking all college classes through Cerro Coso and is ranked in the top 20% of his class despite being a year younger. **Rider, you have a bright future and we cannot wait to see all you accomplish.**

NOMINATED BY ALICIA CHANG AND ANDY LIGETI (MHS CROSS COUNTRY COACHES)

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EST. 1963

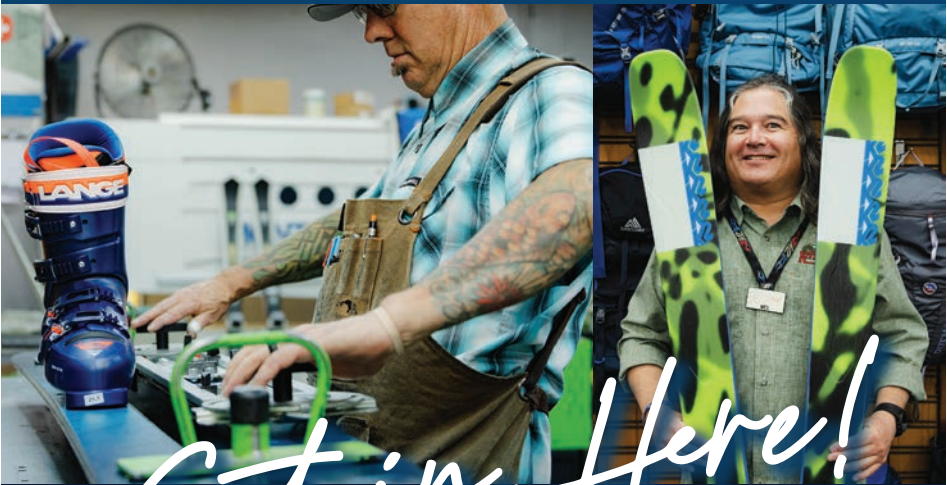
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Offering **special pricing** for all ski team members: race equipment, skis, boots, footbeds, poles, and protection gear until Dec 8TH.

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LUNCH

continued from page 2

had enough.”

Of course, ‘enough’ in 2006 paled in comparison to what the Great Recession brought in 2008.

And the TOT increase of 2006, which promised more money for all sorts of services - that didn’t really pan out. During the Great Recession, overall TOT revenue dropped 22%, sparked mass municipal layoffs, and combined with the airport litigation judgment against the Town, pushed us to the edge of bankruptcy.

“

I want them to drive out as many tourists as possible now that I don’t depend on them.

”

-Yes on L supporter

I asked a friend of mine and former Mammoth business owner how he voted on the Mammoth TOT measure.

He voted yes. The explanation:

“I want them to drive out as many tourists as possible now that I don’t depend on them. Ha. I hope they make TOT 50%! ... Currently, with the new tax possibility (an effective bed tax rate of 16% if passed), we are at about the same rate as NOLA (New Orleans). And of course our restaurants and live music crush that place.”

If Measure L, the effective bed tax rate of 16% would vault Mammoth into the 4th

highest bed tax rate in the state.

And at least 3% above any other ski resort (the highest rate in Tahoe is 13%).

And from Fisher’s desk ...

On October 25, at approximately 11:33 a.m., a driver turned out from the Mammoth Scenic Loop into oncoming southbound 395 traffic, crashing into another vehicle, according to the Bridgeport CHP.

“They accidentally turned into the southbound side, pulled over, did a U-turn, but as they did that U-turn, they turned unsafely right into somebody else’s vehicle,” CHP Officer Parks said.

The driver at fault was a 55-year old male from Croatia

in a 2024 Mazda. He and his passenger, a 50 year old female also from Croatia, were transported to Mammoth Hospital with minor injuries. The other driver was a 29-year old woman from Monument, Colorado in a 2015 Ford Transit.

There were no drugs or alcohol involved in the crash, Parks said. Neither of the vehicles were drivable after the crash and the road was closed from 1:38 to 2:38 p.m. to remove the cars.

TOML

Math

▼▼▼

Build two duplexes on Joaquin (\$3 million)

Sell the duplexes for \$500,000 per unit (\$2 million)

2-3 = ??

MUSD

Math

▼▼▼

\$70 million bond will actually cost \$130 million over 25 years

MUSD estimates it will cost \$2.8 million per duplex to build teacher housing

And \$1,450 per square foot to build a Fieldhouse

WHEN MOORE SAYS LESS

By Fisher

On September 17, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Chief Randy Moore announced in a virtual presentation to the agency’s employees that the USFS will not hire any temporary seasonal employees in the next fiscal year due to expected budget cuts.

Moore began the presentation by congratulating the staff for their fire management efforts over the past year. He then delivered the difficult news, promising to be frank and transparent: “We will not be bringing on any additional seasonal [employees], outside of fire.”

USFS has reduced its staff by about 8,000 jobs over the last 20 years. However, Moore noted that this will be the largest single-year staff cut in recent history.

In March, the Forest Service requested \$8.9 billion in funding, a \$500 million increase from the previous year’s \$8.37 billion. But on August 29, Moore released a statement indicating that the agency was preparing for a reduced budget.

Then, on September 25, the Senate passed a continuing resolution to extend federal spending to avert a government shutdown through December 20, 2024.

What these staffing cuts mean specifically for USFS crews in Mono and Inyo Counties is yet to be determined, said Lisa Cox, Inyo National Forest

Public Affairs Officer. “I probably won’t know until next year,” she said. “The only thing we do know is that it will impact the kinds of services, maintenance, and management we normally provide.”

Those impacts include staffing visitor centers, maintaining trails, and overseeing campgrounds, she said. She hopes partnerships with local nonprofits will help mitigate the loss.

“The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association [now Sierra Forever] has been a key partner in operating our visitor center, and we hope that continues,” she said. “But as for how much we would need to rely on them, I don’t know the exact amount.”

The continuing resolution means that the USFS does not have a budget to spend on operations or equipment, and Cox says she doesn’t know when a resolution will come to help. “Hopefully, when the next budget resolution passes, we’ll be able to purchase what we need to do our jobs again.”

Additionally, due to certain limitations based on geography, Inyo National Forest staff have already been struggling to hire and retain employees for the positions that are available.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) determines locality pay, which allows for certain areas to receive higher pay based on the local cost of living.

In more expensive areas, there is

typically higher locality pay, Cox said. However, in the most recent OPM review, Mono and Inyo Counties received the lowest locality pay available.

This presents a challenge in hiring, even for fire positions, the one type of seasonal employment not affected by the budget cut.

Inyo National Forest is currently hiring seasonal wildland firefighters for the upcoming season.

A saving grace for USFS employees is that the agency has been, and will continue to be, converting temporary positions into permanent ones. Cox is hopeful that transitioning more temporary positions into permanent ones will help with retention.

“Temporary employees are a bit quicker and easier to hire, but in the long run, we weren’t retaining them,” she said. “People didn’t want to keep applying every year.”

I visited the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center on Wednesday to ask if

they knew whether they’d be hired back next season.

But they couldn’t provide much information, even if they wanted to.

“We’ve been given a list of talking points from the region that are pretty bland,” a USFS employee told me. “I can’t really speak on the record about it.”

He told me he wasn’t sure exactly what was in store for the Eastern Sierras.

“My assumption is that, in Mammoth specifically, we do have many partner organizations, so something will happen with those organizations,” he said. “But that’s not going to be the case for the rest of this forest that aren’t in resort destinations.”

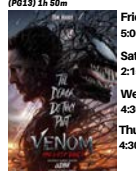
Then, he hushed himself, and said he’d already said too much. He pointed to his uniform, and said as long as he was wearing it, he was restricted in what he could say.



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 Friday 9:45pm	 Friday & Wednesday 7:30pm	

****CLOSED MONDAY 11/04/24 AND TUESDAY 11/05/24****



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DISASTER LIT

IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE

By Lunch
Fire Weather
John Vaillant
Knopf
359 p.

It really is such a stitch in time. As John Vaillant, author of *Fire Weather*, observes, “the idea that our atmosphere could be changed - by us - is not something we have ever, in our entire history, had to consider seriously until a single lifetime ago, which is about as long as we have had to seriously consider the automobile.”

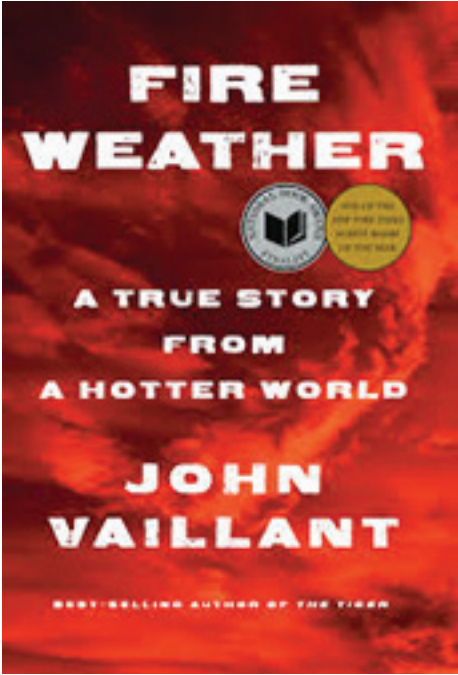
And now, “Our civilization, our engines and our markets are not the only things that have been supercharged by fossil fuels. Our atmosphere is a weather engine, and it has been supercharged, too.”

Unfortunately, while petroleum has allowed people to burn bigger, brighter and faster, “binges are, by their nature, finite.”

Learned that in college.

Vaillant’s *Fire Weather* is part gripping saga of the 2016 fire which wiped out the city of Fort McMurray in Alberta, Canada.

Fort McMurray was a bitumen (oil



industry town, with a population of 90,000.

Its median income was \$200,000/year. Its nickname: Fort McMurray

But \$10 billion of McMurray was wiped out overnight by the blaze - a function of a lingering drought and very unusual weather conditions for early May (high temperatures and low

humidity).

As one firefighter explained, “We had a plan and it was good for forty-five years ... and then the first time that we actually, physically had to do our plan it fell to shit.”

But what’s a firefighter to do when a wildfire, at its peak, is releasing the equivalent of four Hiroshima bombs of energy.

Per minute.

And the wind is blowing so hard that it sends embers jumping across a river that’s two miles wide.

This was not the first such fire in Alberta.

A previous blaze, the Chinchaga Fire of 1950, was so intense that the scientist Carl Sagan wondered if the effects resembled nuclear winter.

Then there was the Chisholm Fire of 2001, whose smoke plume rose eight miles into the atmosphere.

In his narrative, Vaillant describes how firefighters have to alter their strategy to save anything at all.

Given that entire homes were vaporizing in three to five minutes, if firefighters saw one house on fire, they’d start watering down a home five houses down - figuring that’s the one they might save.

A lot of the intensity of modern fire is due to the nature of modern construction.

“When a wildfire enters a residential community, the result - for the fire - is a smorgasbord of kiln-dried fuel topped with tar shingles, garnished with rubber tires and gas tanks.”

Vaillant describes a 2005 experiment by Underwriters Laboratories where they created a pair of model living rooms, one filled with “legacy” furnishings - wooden tables and chairs, couches with cotton upholstery, lace curtains. Stuff that’s considered “antique.”

And then a modern living room, with plastic, wood “products” bound with glues and resins, couches upholstered with polyester and stuffed with polyurethane.

Here’s the passage:

“The fires were started with candles in the sofa cushions and, for the first minute or so, the only difference was in the quality of the smoke, which was

much darker and more acrid. At three minutes, the modern room is clearly in trouble, with the sofa fully engaged. Then, just twenty seconds later, something unexpected happens: the modern living room bursts into flame, engulfing everything ... what only seconds earlier had been a living room with a burning sofa was now raging like a refinery fire. Meanwhile, next door in the legacy room, the smoke is minimal and the fire, while clearly growing, could be doused with a bucket of water or a small fire extinguisher.

Modern homes, he says simply, are petroleum vapor chambers.

Lessons from our ancestors have been forgotten, he says, due to a relatively cool and rainy 20th century and improved fire suppression.

And exacerbated by the inexorable push of real estate into the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

The ancestors would say, “Don’t build your house in the woods, surround it with open fields; not only does this make for convenient planting and pasturage, but those cleared lands also serve as excellent firebreaks. Roofs made of tin or slate go a long way toward foiling embers.”

We ignore them and just keep building. Right next to the forest. In places like Mammoth. And wonder why no one wants to insure any of it.

The book is great on climate science. Great on its description of fire as ... a living organism. Great in describing fire events like “crossover” where air temperature exceeds relative humidity as a percentage and ... look out, for that’s the ultimate multiplier effect.

“The greatest shortcoming of the human race is our inability to understand the exponential function.” -Albert Allen Bartlett

If you want to know how and why the world has changed and why rural towns in the WUI particularly need to pay attention, read this book.

And maybe vote yes on Measure M next Tuesday.

What Happens When You Increase Taxes ?

- Shorter stays
- Less business
- Visitors opting for cheaper accommodations.



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Lo-Inyo 8th-grade students enjoyed the campus at UNR

COLLEGE!

Press Release

On October 15th and 16th, 139 students and 21 chaperones from Inyo County visited Reno, Nevada to tour Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and engage in a variety of activities at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) campus.

This opportunity was made possible by the Inyo County Office of Education with support from Bishop, Big Pine, Owens Valley, and Lone Pine schools. The goal of this overnight field trip is to expose students to post-secondary education and training opportunities.

One teacher chaperone reported, “These trips are about more than the singular goal of post-secondary education possibilities, but how a student sees their life unfolding in the world which is driven by the education purpose,” “to see first-hand the life of a college student - eating locations, hangout spots, fitness center, sports - are the college life extras beyond academics that capture the imagination of possibilities.”

Students began their tours at either the Nevada Art Museum or Edison TMCC campus where staff welcomed students. Students toured the TMCC campus where tour guides and program staff spoke to the students about the variety of certifications and technical training available in machinery, diesel mechanics, and welding. Students then traveled to the Nevada Art Museum in downtown Reno where Museum Educators led students on an hour-long

interactive tour, centered around the major exhibition - all about the ichthyosaur, Sea Dragons of Nevada. The middle school students were able to evaluate the reasons the Sea Dragons of Nevada exhibition was presented by analyzing data in ichthyosaur and other prehistoric fossils which document life forms on Earth.

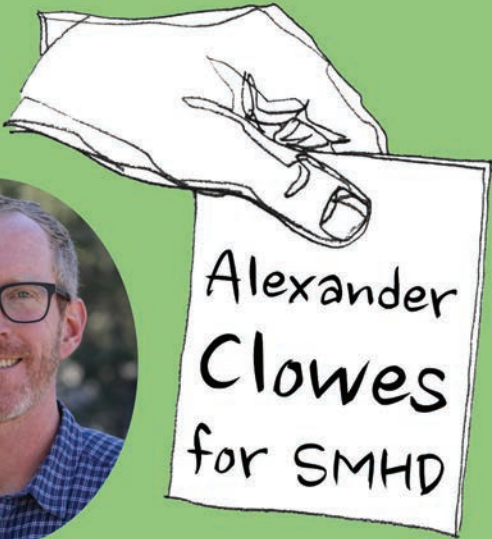
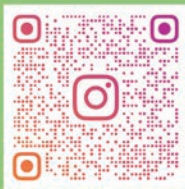
After the tours concluded, students went to the UNR campus for dinner at the Student Union and to watch a Women’s Volleyball game.

The students wrapped up the evening on the gym floor with a Meet and Greet event with the coach and players.

On October 16th, students toured the UNR campus, watched a show in the Fleischmann Planetarium, and engaged in Small Group Tours in Engineering, Natural History, Geology, Indigenous Relations, and Art. They ate lunch with college students in the Pack Place dining commons and traveled back to Inyo County in the afternoon.



Endorsed by:
Dave Anderson
Laurey Carlson
Joanne Hunt
Gary Myers
Yuri Parisky
Amanda Rice
Lynda Salcido
John Wentworth
Ryan Wood
and others!



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MEDIA RELEASE

October 29, 2024

MISSING FOR 1 YEAR, BISHOP POLICE ARE STILL SEEKING THE PUBLIC’S HELP

Missing Person: Jeremy P. Shirley - 49 years old, 6’03”/175 lbs (skinny), short gray hair, blue eyes. Last seen wearing a black jacket and pants, carrying a black/gray backpack and riding a blue bicycle with bright blue milk crate on the back and black basket on the front.

Jeremy was last seen on the morning of 11/02/23 at his residence on Elm Street in Bishop CA after returning from the Sundial Dispensary. Jeremy expressed concern for his safety and said he wanted to hide out somewhere, then turned off his electronic devices, left home and has not contacted any family or friends since. He was suffering from a mental health issue prior to his disappearance and is believed to be off his medication. Jeremy has ties to Ohio, Tennessee, Arizona and New Zealand, but is not known to normally venture far from home.

In late November 2023, Jeremy’s bicycle was located behind the Bishop Airport next to the north fork of Bishop Creek. Multiple searches of that area were conducted on foot, from the air and utilizing canines, but no signs of Jeremy were located.

If you have any information about Jeremy’s disappearance, have had any contact with him or believe you might have seen him since November 2023, please contact the Bishop Police Department at 760.873.5866.



###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Det. Ludovico rludovico@bishoppd.org

Live Music & Pie Auction Benefit Event

Saturday November 9, 2024
6:00-9:00pm

JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL EVENING OF LIVE
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PROCEEDS FROM OUR FIRST BENEFIT EVENT WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THOSE
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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/ The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. extended to 8 p.m. for football on Mondays and Thursdays. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More Liberty info: See ad p. 8*

Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 19*

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.

Distant Brewing happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-5pm. \$1/off beer/wine/cider/seltzer/kombucha

Saturday, November 2/ Chris Baron performs @ Outbound, 164 Old Mammoth Road. Time: 6-8 p.m. All ages welcome.

Sunday, November 3/ NFL Sunday Football @ the Bishop Elks Lodge, 151 E. Line St. Starts 9:30 a.m. Bar open! Public welcome!

Monday, November 4/ Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5/ Taco Tuesdays @ John's Pizza Works. Time: 4-9 p.m. And a great place to watch the game. *More info, see ad p. 19.*

Weekly karaoke @ Liberty! Starts 9 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 6*

Vinyl Night @ Distant Brewing from 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6/ Eric Knight performs in the Bishop City Park gazebo. Time: 3-6 p.m.

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.

Thursday, November 7/ Marissa Leonard plays Distant Brewing. Time: 7-9 p.m. Free

TOWN STUFF

Friday, November 1/ Artist Meet and Greet in June Lake. Time: 5-7 p.m. Location: T-Bar Social Club @ 2588 CA-158. Info: monoarts.org

Volunteer Solitude Monitoring with Friends of the Inyo. Conduct visitor data collection for the U.S. Forest Service. And get outdoors! Time: 8-5. Info: friendsoftheinyo.org

Saturday, November 2/ United Methodist Women annual holiday bazaar bake sale & lunch. Time: 8-2 with the lunch from 11-1. Location: 205 N. Fowler St. in Bishop.

Holiday Craft Fair @ Calvary Baptist Church. Time: 8-4. Location: 1100 West Line St.

Northern Inyo Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Boutique. Time: 8-2. Location: NIH Annex @ 2957 Birch St. in Bishop

Monday, November 4/ Eastern Sierra Community Housing

TOWN STUFF

Monday, November 4 (cont.)/ Board meets. Starts 6 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Inyo County/LADWP Technical Group meeting. Time: 9 a.m. Location: County Office Bldg. in Bishop, 1360 N. Main St.

Tuesday, November 5/ Mono County Supervisors meet. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Bridgeport Courthouse or online via monocounty.ca.gov.

Inyo County Supervisors meet. Time: 10 a.m. Location: Supes Chambers @ 224 N. Edwards in Independence or online via inyocounty.us

Mammoth's Parks and Recreation Commission meets. Time: 2:30 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Wednesday, November 6/ Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meets. Time: 1 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Mammoth Dog Park dedication. Time: 3:15 p.m. Location: New Mammoth Dog Park on College Parkway. All invited. Dress up your dog in a festive costume, and maybe you'll win a prize! The on-site dedication will be preceded by a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. in Council

UPCOMING

chambers, Suite Z, Minaret Mall.

Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets for its regular meeting post-Dog park dedication (~4 p.m.) in Suite Z, Minaret Mall.

Thursday, November 7/ Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Gala. Starts 5:30 p.m. Location: Canyon Lodge. \$\$\$ Info/tix: mammothlakeschamber.org

Sierra Classic Theatre's annual murder mystery kicks off at Tom's Place and features six shows at five different venues through November 18. *More info: See ad p. 6*

Salsa Dance Class with Hallie @ C5 Studios in Bishop. Location: 210 S. Warren St. Time: 6-7:30 p.m. \$. Info: c5studios.org

Mono ARTS Council Art & Wine event. FULL! Weave a Wildflower with Elysia Fischbach. Starts 5:30 pm. Price: \$65. Info/registration: monoarts.org

mammoth

GEAR EXCHANGE

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

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

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP



Superlative East Coast, Thin-Crust Pizza

LUNCH SPECIALS

Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm

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

HAPPY HOUR

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

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

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

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



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

- PT Front Desk Assoc.**
-Mammoth \$20-22
- FT/PT Maint. Tech**
-Mammoth \$20-22
- Housekeeper(s)**
-Mammoth \$20
- Journeyman Plumber**
-Mammoth \$30-45
- Community Integration Partner** - Bishop/Mammoth \$20-25

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



Friends of the Inyo hiring Stewardship Director - FOI's Stewardship Director oversees all aspects of the Stewardship program: budgeting, fundraising, grant applications and reporting, hiring and training seasonal staff, project planning and implementation, overseeing events, advertising, social media, volunteers, etc. Please review the full job description at friendsoftheinyo.org and submit a resume and cover letter to lindsay@friendsoftheinyo.org by October 25th. Starting pay: \$25/hr

PROPERTY MANAGERS WANTED
FT/PT TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE
HOUSING AVAILABLE - WILL TRAIN
SEND RESUME TO:
INFO@SIERRANEVADAPM.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

Help Wanted



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

- **Radiologic Technologist II** – Starting wage \$44.42 to \$53.84 based on qualifications. \$5,000 Retention Bonus.
- **Landscape Maintenance Technician** – Starting wage \$22.24 to \$23.81 based on qualification.
- **Physical Therapist** – Starting wage \$48.72 to \$59.05 based on qualifications. \$5,000 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.

U.S.P.S contractor needs a carrier trainee. \$33/hr., 5/6 days per week 6 hrs./day. Must pass FBI clearance & DMV. Contact

Help wanted **PT/FT retail sporting goods and clothing sales.** Housing may be available. Ski pass may be available. Apply by email, dave@mammothgear.com with resume if you have one.

Licensed T1 & D1 Water Operator wanted, part-time 5-10 hrs. monthly at Sierra Industrial Park. Monthly fee plus hourly, call Chip 951-323-5682



MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT Maintenance Dept. is currently recruiting for **one permanent Line Maintenance Worker I/II/III (DOQ) position.**

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



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.



Black Tie Ski & Bike Rentals is now hiring for both FT/PT winter seasonal positions for the 2024-25 ski season. Seeking proactive and energetic individuals who share our love of the mountains and possess an entrepreneurial spirit. Ideal candidates enjoy working in a great team atmosphere and are passionate about providing impeccable customer service to our guests.

Flexible scheduling is available but **MUST** be able to work weekends & holidays. Competitive compensation includes; generous tips, ski pass, 401k, industry pricing equipment deals, personal use of shop equipment and tools and family & friend discounts.

If you're passionate about skiing and/or snowboarding and enjoy sharing that passion with guests of our mountain community, this could be a great opportunity for you. Please email a resume with references to mammoth@blacktiemammoth.com if you are interested in joining our team.

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



Surefoot Mammoth is hiring bootfitters for the upcoming winter season. We are looking for enthusiastic skiers who want to work hard and play hard. No experience necessary. Paid training. This is a great opportunity to learn a valuable skill in the ski industry. Season pass and custom ski boots provided with employment. Contact Todd at Mammoth@Surefoot.com.



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO

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

Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help Center Program Coordinator

This is a part-time independent contractor position for a licensed attorney

Annual Salary:
\$89,243

A job description and application instructions may be obtained on the court's website, <https://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/ge/neralinfo/employment.htm>, or contact the court at (760)923-2321

hr@mono.courts.ca.gov

Closing Date: Open until filled

EOE/AEE/AAE

PT job oppty. - **Secretary to the Birchim Community Services District.** Job duties include but are not limited to the following: preparing and posting monthly agenda, attending monthly night meetings in Sunny Slopes, preparing minutes, warrants and collecting mail. Familiarity with Brown Act helpful. HS diploma and computer skills req'd. Averages 30 hours/month. No benefits. Interested parties can mail a letter of introduction and resume to Birchim Community Services District, 636 Owens Gorge Rd, Toms Place, CA 93546. Application deadline: November 30.

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



JOB OPENINGS

FULL-TIME POSITIONS

* Full-time positions include competitive benefits package

- **Police Officer – Lateral**
\$89,889 – \$109,261
- **Police Officer – Recruit**
\$30.43/hr.
- **Airport Maintenance Coordinator**
\$58,704.00 – \$82,602.00
- **Sr. Accounting Assistant**
\$54,477 – \$76,654
- **Revenue Specialist**
\$51,320 – \$72,212

TEMPORARY PART-TIME POSITIONS

- **Temporary Snow Removal Operator****
**CDL required
\$29.36 – \$33.99/hr.
- **Temporary Trail Crew Leader – Winter**
\$26.69 – \$30.90/hr.
- **Lodging Support & Enforcement**
\$29.36 – \$33.99/hr.

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



I hope to see you ... on election day. Because even though you think I'm a floating island of garbage, I did you buy you a beer last week.

I hope to see you ... at the Murder Mystery. Even though it's no mystery why people would want to drink to your demise!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice Inviting Bids

BIRCHIM COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
GENERATOR & POWER SYSTEM PROJECT
Project No. 1

Notice is hereby given that the Birchim Community Service District ("District") calls for bids from qualified General Engineering and Electrical Contractors for the GENERATOR & POWER SYSTEM PROJECT ("Project"). The project is state funded under the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Act of 2014. The project will install new 80 kW backup generator and propane tank, upgrade the electrical service from 240 VAC to 480 VAC and install a new electrical system and motor control panel.

No contractor or subcontractor may be listed in a bid proposal or awarded a contract for this project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 (unless one of the limited time extensions set forth in Labor Code section 1771.1 applies, in which case registration must be completed by the time of contract award). This Project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

The Project Manual and Project Plans provide, in detail, the requirements for the Project. The Project Manual, Project Plans, and related Project documents are available from the project engineer. Contact Tim Rudolph at 760 798-4292 or e-mail TimRudolph@cox.net for a Project Manual and Project Plans.

Each bid shall be made on the proposal forms contained in the Project Manual and must be accompanied by bid security in the amount of not less than 10 percent (10%) of the total bid.

In accordance with Public Contract Code section 22038, the District has the option, after receiving and tabulating bids, to reject all bids and perform the work by force account if the District Board determines, by a four-fifths vote, that the work can be performed more economically by its own employees.

The Project and all work must be completed within 6 months (180) days but limited to 45 days of onsite construction from the start date identified in the Notice to Proceed.

Each bidder is required to schedule a MANDATORY PRE BID SITE VISIT to the project site at 636 Owens Gorge Road in Sunny Slopes. The site visit is to be

completed by 5pm Friday November 15, 2024. The site visit can be scheduled by contacting the Project Engineer. Please provide a minimum of 72 hours to schedule the site visit. Efforts will be made to coordinate bidders site visits if possible.

Bids may be mailed to the Project Engineer at Tim Rudolph PE, P.O. Box 652, Big Pine, California, 93513, or delivered to the office of the Project Engineer at, 181 Dewey Street, Big Pine, California 93513 In either event, to be considered, bids must be received by the Project Engineer no later than 3:00 pm Thursday November 21, 2024 ("Bid Submission Deadline").

All bids received as of the Bid Submission Deadline will be taken to The Project Engineer's office at 181 Dewey Street, Big Pine, California 93513, and there publicly opened, read aloud, and recorded. All interested parties are invited to attend. Advance notice will be sent to the bidders list or as requested via e-mail for all interested parties to attend online via the web.

TS #2024-0147

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

GC Firewood

GC Forest Products Inc.
123 Commerce Dr. #E-19
PO Box 9062
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1985. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 1, 2024
File Number 24-086
2024-0148 (10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, **November 13, 2024**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until finished, at the **Town Council Chambers, Suite Z, within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road**, the **Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission** will hear an application request for the following (*a teleconference option via Zoom is available for remote participation by the public*):

Application Request:

District Zoning Amendment (DZA) 24-001, Tentative Tract Map (TTM) 24-003, and Use Permit (UPA) 24-004, for the Outbound Hotel "Villas" Project. The applicant is requesting approval of a subsequent amendment to the Amended Phase 1 Clearwater Specific Plan document to allow the subdivision of five (5) recently constructed four-plex structures "Villas" into twenty (20) condominium hotel units that may be sold individually.

CEQA Determination: The proposed action is within the scope of the project analyzed in the previously adopted 2021 Addendum to the Clearwater Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 2006062154). No additional CEQA review is required.

Location: 164 Old Mammoth Road

Zoning: Clearwater Specific Plan (CSP)

Applicant: Matthew Mering / WH SN Mammoth, L.L.C.

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing.

For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than November 8, 2024, contact Kim Cooke, Senior Planner, at (760) 965-3638 or email: kcooke@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

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

TS #2024-0151



NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION

Pursuant to California Elections Code §12109, the elections official is required to publish the location where the ballots of this election are to be tallied.

ELECTION NIGHT CENTRAL COUNT LOCATION:

Mono County Elections, 74 School St., Annex I, Bridgeport, CA 93517

Pursuant to California Elections Code §12105, the elections official is required to publish the list of polling places designated for each election precinct.

All Poll Places are open Election Day 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Poll Place Location / Voting Precinct Number and Name)	
Walker Community Center 442 Mule Deer Dr., Walker, CA 96107	01 - Antelope
Bridgeport Memorial Hall 73 School St., Bridgeport, CA 93517	03 - Bridgeport
Chalfant Community Center 123 Valley Rd., Chalfant Valley, CA 93514	04 - Tri-Valley
June Lake Community Center 90 W. Granite Ave., June Lake, CA 93529	05 - June Lake
Crowley Lake Community Center 58 Pearson Rd., Crowley Lake, CA 93546	07 - Long Valley
**** MOVED **** Mono County Civic Center 1290 Tavern Rd., Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546"	08 - Mammoth Meadow 09 - Mammoth Minaret 10 - Mammoth Pinecrest 12 - Mammoth View 13 - Old Mammoth

Ballot Drop Box Locations (open 10/8/2024) All Ballot Boxes are open 24 hours a day and are locked at 8 p.m. on Election Day	
Walker Community Center 442 Mule Deer Dr., Walker, CA 96107	Bridgeport Memorial Hall 73 School St., Bridgeport, CA 93517
Chalfant Community Center 123 Valley Rd., Chalfant Valley, CA 93514	June Lake Community Center 90 W. Granite Ave., June Lake, CA 93529
Crowley Lake Community Center 58 Pearson Rd., Crowley Lake, CA 93546	Mono County Civic Center 1290 Tavern Rd., Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Mono County Elections Ballots can be delivered to this office Mon - Fri 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., or Election Day 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.	

74 School St., Annex I, Bridgeport, CA 93517
Elections: 760-932-5537 Main: 760-932-5530

All Vote Locations are Accessible to the Physically Handicapped
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE REFERENCE THE MONO COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE. <https://monocounty.ca.gov/elections>

TS #2024-0145

She's called Honey!

And yes, this young lady is that sweet. She's easy to walk, loving, obedient, ready for happy play with others, and what's not to like?

Take a look at her and others like her that are in search of their forever home - at the Inyo County Animal Shelter, located at 1001 County Road in Big Pine. For more information, call (760) 938-2715. To see more dogs available for adoption, visit www.easternsierradogrescue.com



Save a life.
Adopt a shelter dog.



WOOF!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

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

GC Construction

GC Forest Products Inc.
123 Commerce Dr. #E-19
PO Box 9062
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1985. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 1, 2024
File Number 24-086
2024-0149 (10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16)

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

Mammoth Firewood

GC Forest Products Inc.
123 Commerce Dr. #E-19
PO Box 9062
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1985. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 1, 2024
File Number 24-086
2024-0150 (10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16)

NATIONAL

BEST AND WORST CASE SCENARIOS

By Casselman

As Election Day approaches, there is increasing pressure for pundits and other commentators to make predictions about the major political races — in this cycle, this includes the presidential race, the competitive U.S. Senate races, and control of the U.S. House.

As we learned especially in 2022, however, the political prediction business is quite risky.

So, with that in mind, I will forego specific race predictions, and instead suggest, based on observations so far, the outcomes most likely, as well as best-case and worst-case results.

The presidential race, of course, gets the most attention, and this cycle, it has seen much more than usual surprise, twist-and-turns.

The conventional means to evaluate this race is with the published political polls, of which there are many. These vary widely in the quality of their methods and in the credibility of their results. In addition, public political polling itself has declined in recent years because of increased resistance by voters to respond to pollsters, and the range of subjective adjustments off the raw polling data made by the individual pollsters.

Historically, in recent cycles, many media and other establishment pollsters have routinely underestimated the views of one party in their samples — more often, but not always, of Republican or conservative voters.

The polls of the 2024 political cycle have consistently suggested that the presidential, competitive Senate, and control of the House races are each extremely close, with most of them polling within the so-called margin of error. Since so many of the published polls have a partisan bias, I have consistently

been skeptical of many of these polls — quite a few of which show significantly different results even taken at the same time with similar samples.

A majority of current polls show Kamala Harris slightly ahead in the national polling which reflects the popular vote. In recent cycles, Democrat nominees have won the popular vote even if they don't always win the all-important electoral vote which actually determines who wins and who loses. Since even most establishment polls show Harris ahead by only 2 percentage points or less, the implication is that Donald Trump will win the election — since it is estimated that the Democrat must win by 3-5 percentage points to also win the electoral college vote.

Also, almost all of the non-establishment polls are showing Trump up 2 percentage points or less ahead in the race, or exactly tied. Election betting sites, a completely different measure, show Trump now favored — although not by much.

A best-case result for Republicans would be a slight win for Trump in the popular vote and a decisive win in the electoral college. Conversely, that would

be the worst-case outcome for Democrats. A best-case result for Democrats would be a large margin in the popular vote (more than 4-5 points) and a clear win in the electoral college (more than 290). A conventional outcome, based on current information, would be that Harris wins the popular vote by a relatively small margin but loses the electoral college by a narrow margin.

The latter result, incidentally likely would mean the winner won't be really decided until well after Election Day, as absentee, mail-in and recount votes are tallied. That might be the worst-case outcome for the nation, if the 2000 and 2020 close elections are any marker.

There are about 6-8 competitive U.S. Senate races this cycle, all of them currently held by Democrats. The open seat (held by a retiring Democrat) in West Virginia appears to be a near-certain pick up for the GOP, and the seat held by a Democrat running for reelection in Montana appears to be a likely GOP pick-up. Thus, Republicans are expected to take control by a 51-49 margin. Although this would mean control, several senators in each party have often acted as mavericks and passage of legislation and Senate confirmations may be

up in the air. The best case outcome for Democrats would occur if the Harris-Walz ticket won, giving the liberal-progressives the tie-breaking vote by the vice president who is also the presiding officer of the Senate, and winning all of the competitive races.

For the GOP, its best case result would be the victory of the Trump-Vance ticket, and winning 2-5 more of the seats now held by Democrats.

Finally, there are only a relatively small number of House seats which appear undecided. Currently, Republicans have a slight lead. Best case for the Democrats then would be to win most of the undecided seats and thus win back control by a very narrow margin. Conversely, the best case for the GOP would be to win most of the undecided races, and thus keep control by a slightly larger margin than the last session. Although the presidential race usually does not impact House races very much, the winning presidential ticket this year could have a larger impact than usual.

Barry Casselman is a syndicated columnist who has been covering national politics since 1972. More of his work can be found at barrycasselman.com



Join our dedicated, passionate team! Position available and job requirements:

Outreach Advocate

- *Bilingual/biliterate
- *HS diploma or equivalent
- *Valid DL & reliable transport

Send cover letter & resume to wildiris@wild-iris.org. More info: wild-iris.org/jobs-and-volunteers

Request for Bids

Bid No 2024-01

The Lone Pine Community Services District seeks bids from licensed contractors to assemble and erect a 40' x 44' x 17' metal building w/1:12 pitch on a laid cement slab. All materials are on-site. Please contact Will Wadelton to schedule a site visit and to receive drawings. 760.876.5312 or LonePinesd@gmail.com

Please submit sealed bids by Friday, November 8, 2024 to: Lone Pine CSD, P.O. Box 36, Lone Pine, CA 93545

TS #2024-0147



We Are Hiring!

Join Now

At mono County, we're always on the lookout for talented individuals to join our team. We pride ourselves on offering exciting career opportunities and a workplace where you can thrive.

Why Work with us?

- Endless Opportunities
- Exceptional Benefits
- Professional Growth
- Working as part of a team
- Be part of something extraordinary

Ready to take the next step in your career? Visit our careers page to explore the current opening and apply today!

Visit: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/monocountyca>

Did You Know?

The new

➤ **Dog Park** has more parking spaces (39) than the

➤ **Town Surface Lot** at the Westin (38).

HARTLEY

HEART OF DARKNESS

Aaron Rodgers said this week I've been the darkness. You gotta get in there, make peace with it and then he said we have to go score 30 points.

This from a guy who hasn't thrown for 300 yards since December, 2021.

The Bears need a whole new coaching staff. What did the Bears do during the Bye Week before last week's game against the Commanders? They certainly didn't prepare for an upcoming football game. With the game on the line and trailing by 5 they handed the ball off to a backup guard. Yeah, a guard. As you can imagine, the play blew up and he fumbled ... NO POINTS. Great thing they spent two weeks working that play. After the game the idiot head coach defended the play, saying they practiced it 100 times. At NO POINT did it dawn on any coach or player or equipment manager that the play was stupid? That is the sign of a bad culture. If NO ONE is willing to step up and say it's stupid, they have a lack of courageous communication and a bunch of YES MEN on that staff. Fire the head coach.

To top off the stupidity they let the Commanders complete a Hail Mary pass to win the game on the final play. You can tell they were poorly coached because the Commanders WR was behind the entire defense when he made the grab. The defender tipped the ball up instead

of KNOCKING IT DOWN.

The same defender wasn't paying attention when the play started because he was too busy jawing with the other team's fans.

Now riddle me this. You are the head coach or any coach. WHY NOT CALL A TIMEOUT when you see he is not prepared? FIRE ALL THE COACHES. And if none of them saw it ... FIRE THE COACHES. They are supposed to be watching the game.

Select picks

Ravens laying 9.5 to the Broncos. O/U 46.5. How are the Ravens 9.5 point favorites again? They blow big leads. And they can't stop the pass at all. Their secondary is getting torched. Now the good thing for them is that Bronco QB Bo Nix doesn't throw the ball down the field, he throws from sideline to sideline. The old Windshield Wiper passing game. But that suits the Ravens. It's the downfield stuff which makes them vulnerable. Ravens 30-23.

Bengals laying 7.5 to the Raiders. O/U 46.5. OVER are the Bengals Super Bowl hopes this year, and probably the next two as well. UNDER is the Raiders win total for the year. When has an interim head coach ever worked out for a team? Not this year with the Raiders I can tell you that. Jets ... are you listening??? Ben-

gals 31-20.

Chargers laying 1.5 to the Browns. The Jameis Winston Browns. I have been waiting for this. I love watching Jameis play football then say all kinds of stupid stuff after the game. O/U 42.5. And that is too high. The Chargers are a hard watch. Some boring football going on there. Crazy Coach Harbaugh and his scoring-limited approach make for a boring late game NFL schedule when the Chargers are part of it. You can eliminate that game from Red Zone and just show the score in the ticker at the bottom of the screen as both teams creep towards 13 points. This is a Jameis special. He is gonna eat this W. Because he likes to eat

Cowboys a 2.5 point dog to the Atlanta Falcons. O/U 51.5. So basically neither team will play defense. The Cowboys are not good. Their best RB would be me if I got off this couch, put down my J.T.S. Brown 100 proof bourbon, strapped on my knee braces and put on a Cowboy uniform. The owner does a good job of keeping them relevant to the media and fools that buy into his b.s. Now he is humiliating the coach at will and just making a fool of himself. Falcons 29-24.

Rams laying 1.5 to the 'Hawks. O/U 48.5. The 'Hawks defense is more like the Chickens. They run around cluelessly. Their defense is prey, not predator. Rams have been hammered with injuries but they are still the team. Rams 27-23.

Lions laying 3.5 to the Packers in Green Bay. O/U 47.5. The Lions are crushing teams. Waiting for a close game for Dan Campbell ... to be Dan Campbell. Packer QB Jordan Love is hurt again. That fella is fragile. Made out of popcorn or something. No Jordan Love will be tough to overcome and the Lions are very physical. They might beat up Love backup Malik Willis too. Lions 30-23.

Vikings laying 5.5 to the Colts. This one I might bet. Joe "Flingitandprayforinterference" Flacco is starting for the Colts. I said weeks ago the Colts should bench Anthony Richardson and teach him fundamentals ... like step in the same direction you want to throw. Like the ball should leave your hand and land in the general vicinity of the receiver, not in the Taco Stand on level 3.

But those are higher fundamentals. As opposed to the basic stuff, like ... you are the QB. You can't say I am tired and sit out a play. I have watched football my whole life and I ain't never seen a QB tap out for a play then admit it at the press conference.

I think he runs the ball so much because he thinks that is the best way to get the ball accurately to his receiver - just run 30 yards downfield and hand it to him. Vikings coming back to earth a bit after that hot start. They should still beat the Colts. O/U 46.5. Vikings win 26-23.

Last week the Giants OL Eluminor said this about TJ Watt....he didn't do a damn thing 'til that one play later in the game. Hmm. Before the game, Eluminor said he WANTED WATT ON AN ISLAND SO HE COULD BLOCK HIM ALONE. Well he got him and that one play he was referring to was Watt stripping the ball from the QB

for a fumble and recovering the fumble to seal the game. So that one play.... was pretty significant. He got Watt on an island and Watt busted up his coconuts.

Well, the coaches were smart enough all game NOT to let WATT go after him alone because they were chipping Watt with backs and TEs all day. They knew better until they screwed up for one play and Watt roasted his ass. I don't know how many times Watt came from Eluminor's side but he had 2 sacks, 6 pressures, forced fumble, recovered fumble and 4 other tackles. So yeah, he didn't do a damn thing all day.

Why do the Patriots hate good players? Judon gone. Now they've traded away Uche as well. Well I guess having zero pass rushers is better than having one. The funny thing is Belichick was good at collecting defensive talent - it's the offensive talent that sucks. So they are getting rid of good players he collected. The Patriot Way is to eliminate talent now.

An Idaho senatorial debate took a typical turn. A Republican and a Democratic candidate were discussing discrimination in Idaho and I am sure you can guess which one was arguing race was not an issue in Idaho. Well that is probably cuz there ain't no black folks in Idaho. If you're black, why live there? But the other candidate pushed back ... you can guess which one ... saying discrimination is an issue in Idaho and ...

The discussion was the typical adult candidate ... you can guess which one ... talking to a childlike candidate.

"I pointed out that just because someone hasn't personally experienced discrimination doesn't mean it's not happening," she said. (ADULT).

"I was making my statement, and then he shot up out of his seat and said, 'I'm so sick of your liberal (expletive). Why don't you go back to where you came from?'" (CHILD).

It is interesting to note that the Democratic candidate is Native American. That is comical. This white guy from Idaho who probably descends from somewhere in Europe told a Native American whose tribe has been in the Pacific Northwest for over 11,000 years. Not only is he racist but he is stupid, too. He later said he didn't make any racist comment and stormed out. This is what we get now. Used to be politicians wouldn't say crap like this but now they say it proudly. A lot of this goes back to that Maggot Trump. They say it, get to spread their hate like they want, then deny, deny, deny.

I wish you could punish politicians for the b.s. Suspend their term. Tell them when you grow up you can run again in four years. Then their ignorant backers can have another run at electing them. And they should have a vote deficit. You need to win by a larger margin, so all your idiots better show up to vote. He told her to go back where you came from. Comical. It is sad to be racist and ignorant and just plain stupid. He didn't have anything intelligent to say..... GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM? Across the street?



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OFF THE SLOPES



ESLT Staff at the Lands & Legacy Dinner at Parallax on Mammoth Mountain.

ESLT ROARS INTO THE ‘20s

23 to be exact!
Press Release

BISHOP, CA – Eastside residents were transported back in time to a bygone era of glitz and glamour at Eastern Sierra Land Trust’s (ESLT) 23rd Anniversary Lands & Legacy celebration on Saturday, October 26.

Held at Mammoth Mountain’s Parallax Restaurant, the “Roaring ‘20s” themed gala raised funds to support ESLT’s vital mission of protecting and preserving the Eastern Sierra’s stunning landscapes and critical habitats.

The evening was a dazzling affair, with guests dressed to the nines in flapper dresses and dapper suits, sipping cocktails, and enjoying breathtaking views. A lively auction fueled friendly competition as attendees bid on one-of-a-kind experiences, including private land and birding tours on ESLT’s protected properties, flights over the Eastern Sierra, pack rides, and guided fly fishing trips. Mammoth local Jeremy Goico, teamed up with a Los Angeles auctioneer to keep the energy high, even awarding a coveted “Best Dressed” prize!

But the true magic of the night lay in its purpose: safeguarding the Eastern Sierra’s irreplaceable natural and working lands.

These vital funds will directly support ESLT’s efforts to protect critical wildlife habitat, preserve working farms and ranches, and connect people to the land for generations to come.

“The energy and generosity at this year’s Lands & Legacy celebration were truly inspiring,” said Amy Sturgill, ESLT Interim Executive Director. “The remarkable support from our community empowers us to continue our vital mission of safeguarding this special place we all call home.”

The evening also featured a touching tribute to the late Orrin Sage, a dedicated conservationist and recipient of ESLT’s highest honor, the Legacy Award, presented posthumously to his wife, Cindy Sage. Orrin was a former ESLT Board Member, a member of ESLT’s Lands Committee until his passing, and a renowned conservationist with a profound commitment to preserving working ranch lands and open spaces. He was instrumental in protecting more than 750,000 acres of land through conservation easements all over California, and left an enduring mark on California’s landscapes, particularly in the Eastern Sierra.

ESLT extends its sincere thanks to the

event sponsors, including Sierra Solar, Devil’s Creek Distillery, Polemonium Wines, Eastern Sierra Community Bank, and Skyline Arborists, whose generous contributions were instrumental in making the evening possible.

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Meldina Verdier, Vickie Taton, and Karen Allen winning the coveted “Best Dressed” award for the Roaring ‘20s Dinner.

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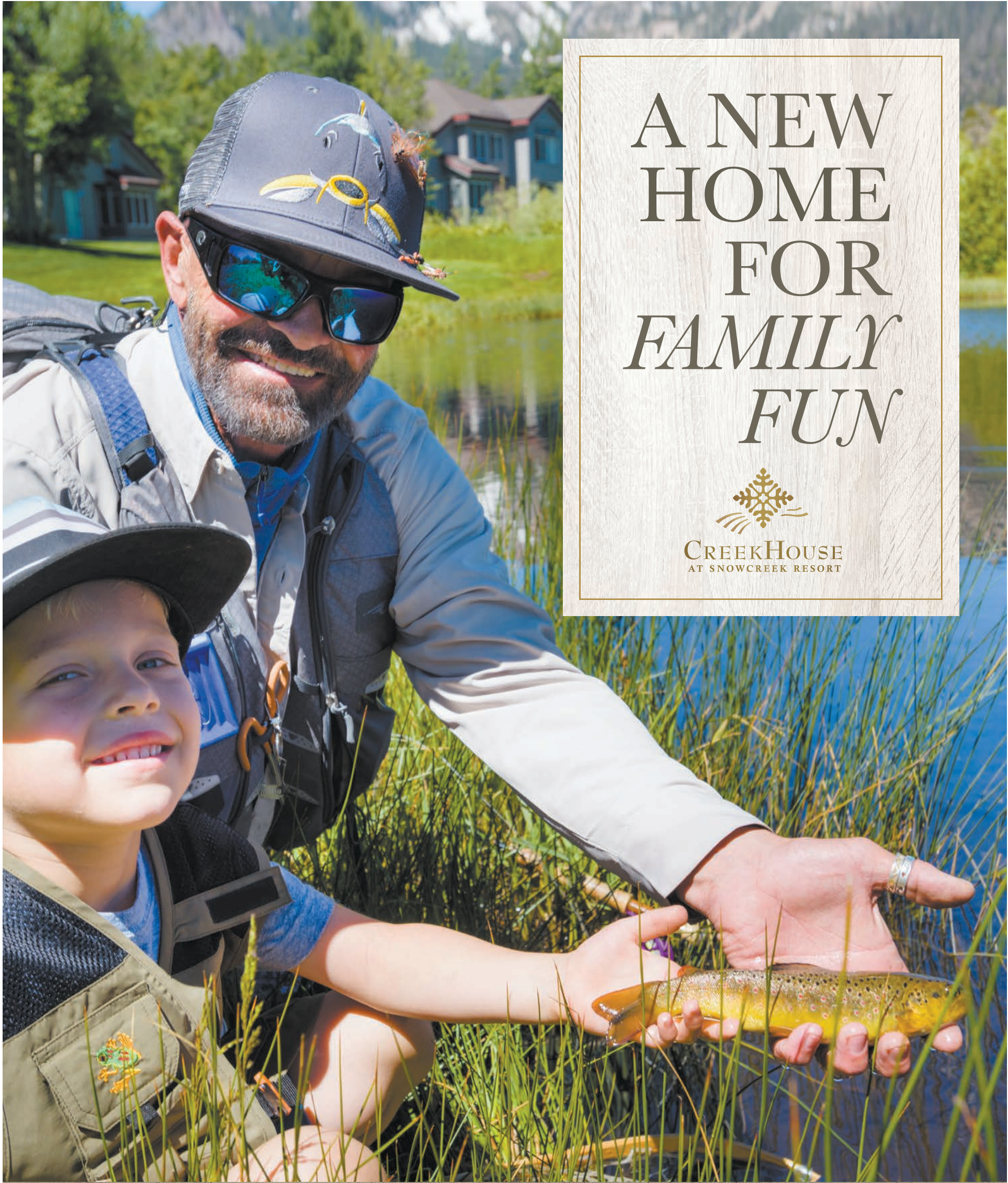


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