

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



PHOTO: FISHER

Skiers and boarders lined up to ride lifts for Mammoth Mountain's opening day on Friday, November 15. For more pictures, see page 6.

Saturday, November 23, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. 47

SOMETIMES A CHEAP SKATE IS A GOOD THING

By Fisher

Mammoth Lakes Town Council held a workshop with the Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday to discuss a way to prioritize locals in services like summer camps and town facilities.

"I love that Mammoth is a tourism destination for everybody, but I feel that we are, in a way, failing our local kids in that they don't get to participate," Councilmember Amanda Rice said at the meeting. "Making [these programs more affordable and accessible to our local families is one of my goals."

Patricia Robertson, Executive Director of Eastern Sierra Community Housing, brought her two elementary school-aged kids to the meeting, and emphasized the need for affordable programming.

One proposed solution to the problem was to implement higher fees on non-residents and for-profit organizations, which got shut down by the USFS because it was likely illegal on the basis of a non-discrimination clause which requires public activities on federal land to be open to all, regardless of residency.

Also, it's not very easy to determine what "residency" really means in Mammoth, considering the concentration of part-timers and second homeowners.

Most of the programs, such

as the Mountain Bike camp, take place on federal land, so that concept was a no-go, unless the town wanted to try to host the programs entirely on town land and update the infrastructure to do so.

The alternative, which was favored by the Commission, suggests town residents utilize one-on-one, in-person registration at selected time periods (such as times during the off-season).

Summer camps were outlined as high demand, low capacity programs. The written goal outlined in the staff report for these camps, under the proposed solution, is to provide a minimum of 1 camp per child with a maximum camp enrollment of 3 camps per child with expanded in-person registration.

This year, the Winter Skate Membership followed this model and offered a 50% discount during the month of October if people registered in-person.

They sold roughly 415 memberships (not including Mammoth Lakes Youth Hockey memberships) under that system this year, compared to 25 last year.

To buffer financial limitations, the alternative includes an expansion of available scholarships.

The Council recommended the Commission come back

more COUNCIL, pg. 16

NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN THE CLUB

Ebersold hands over the keys after 38 years

By Lunch

Sue Ebersold has sold a longtime Mammoth institution, The Breakfast Club, to her longtime cook Zomite Montes and his stepson Sergio Moreno.

Ebersold founded the Club back in 1986. It is located at the entrance to town by the Main Street Shell.

There are restaurants that have been here longer (The Stove and The Mogul to name a few) but only Roberto's has had

a single owner at the helm for longer (1985).

And, of course, Robbie Tani has consecutively owned and operated a restaurant (Shogun, then Yamatani) in the Eastern Sierra since 1980.

When asked about the secret to her longevity, Ebersold laughed, "Heavy drinking?" before citing hard work and working with good friends, among them Marla Wiegand, Alisa Beglau, Mary Jo Huseth

and Zomite's daughter Laura Montes.

It's been a fairly smooth transition thus far - Ebersold is still doing the baking for the restaurant and helping the new owners troubleshoot the usual snags that arise.

But the new owners have already made some changes.

Not to the menu, which has largely stayed the same, save for a more active rotation on the daily specials board according to Moreno. But the restaurant is now open not only later ('til 2 p.m. every day) but also seven days a week.

This schedule, ironically, is lighter than what Moreno is accustomed to.

Married to wife Lizbeth and the father of two children, Moreno said his dream has always been to own his own business. And after 22 years working for Mammoth Mountain, he's made that dream a reality.

At MMSA, his most recent position was as G.M. at Juniper Springs Lodge, which he said had the best metrics of all MMSA's hotel properties.

He was also chosen Young Professional of the Year by the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce back in 2022.

Prior to JSL, Moreno also served as the manager of the Mammoth Mountain Inn rooms division as well as food and beverage manager at McCoy Station.

He and his stepfather are

more CLUB, pg. 9



A changing of the guard. Montes and Moreno flank Ebersold and take the keys

Football teams rolling

p. 17/

Sage remarks

p. 5/

Lunch calls McBS

p. 2/

Here we go again

p. 4/

The Gates of Alabama

p. 10/



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THIN SKIN AND TRIBALISM

So I'd heard through the grapevine that Inyo County Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie had made public comment at the Nov. 12 Inyo Supervisors meeting in rebuttal to the Nov. 9 editorial page.

In that issue, I was critical of the Treasurer-Tax Collector instructing taxpayers to make their checks out to Alisha McMurtrie, Inyo County Treasurer-Tax Collector as opposed to simply instructing people to make them out to the Inyo County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

Why was her name involved? I said it seemed sketch.

In her public comment, she said I called her sketchy (poor reading comprehension - I didn't say she was sketchy. I said the process appeared sketchy). She then quoted a government code (2611) which she said she had followed in advising taxpayers to make checks to her.

As you'll see below, this also involved poor reading comprehension.

She graciously told taxpayers they (her office) will cash checks made out to the Inyo County Treasurer-Tax Collector without her name on it.

She said the money is not going into a slush fund and that the newspaper should be more responsible.

And she ended with a flourish, saying things are divisive enough in this country, etc. A complete non-sequitur. Excellent misdirection.

Supervisors Matt Kingsley and Jen Roeser agreed that the newspaper "needs to be called out" for its reporting.

Below is the letter I write this week to McMurtrie, cc'ing Kingsely, Roeser and my district supervisor, Scott Marcellin.

It received no reply.

Gutless wonders.

Dear Alisha,

I reviewed your public comment of Nov. 12 and then went to look at Government code 2611.

2611.6(h) to be precise.

It reads, under items for inclusion on a tax bill: Instructions on tendering payment, including the name & mailing address of the tax collector.

I don't interpret this to mean that the checks are supposed to be made out to you personally.

And in fact, a cursory Google search shows that no other county in the state of California interprets it this way/takes money this way. Checks are made out to the officer (e.g. Riverside County Treasurer) as opposed to an individual.

In the paper, I did not refer to you as sketchy. Again, read carefully. I call the

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the
sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

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

-The Waco Kid
from Blazing Saddles

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practice sketchy and suggest it needs to be changed.

That Supervisors expressed sympathy with you rather than express curiosity or look at the issue critically is particularly damning.

Final question: Who is Alisha McMurtrie? I notice that Calpers identifies you as Alisha Watts.

Why is it not one or the other?

Thank you,
Ted Carleton, Publisher
The Sheet

Inyo County has a long history of embezzlement. You'd think county leadership would be hyper-vigilant as a result. Nope. Because tribalism (supporting one's own "team" in blind allegiance - think national political affiliations) is so much more important to the Kingsleys and Roesers of the world than doing one's job as a safeguard of the public trust.

As I wrote last week, I've been reading Pacino's biography, and he has this part where he talks about his reputation as being a "difficult" star.

"I noticed this happening on films more and more: when there were delays that were caused by creative disputes - I don't mean some movie star holding out for a bigger trailer, I mean a genuine disagreement about how something is to be executed - stars were taking the brunt of the blame. I've felt it throughout my career. The star gets labeled as being difficult.

Now what is difficult? Someone is saying, I'm interested in making this film. I'm interested in how we build the world of the film and how it comes through. The people shelling out the dough say we're driving them crazy when we do this stuff, but this is our sanity. We do it for the sake of the film.

If you're fighting for the betterment of the film, then you're not being difficult. You're not on a film for perks. The size of a trailer, 14 assistants, lunch breaks every five minutes, demands that bear no relationship to the work - that's being difficult."

I feel like local political boards/local government these days - they've got the money. And the masses vote to give them more because ... they've given up on the idea that they'll ever get ahead on their own. So let's at least soak the rich and see if there's a handout or a winning lotto ticket on the back end.

And anyone in-between who says wait a second, committing to policy at any cost is no policy at all - that person becomes an utter inconvenience. That person is difficult.

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LETTERS

Here we go again ...

Dear Editor,

Well, here we go again. The election didn't go as I'd hoped. What now? Maybe following Hunter S. Thompson's suggestion of only paying attention to the fifty feet around us is the answer.

However I tend not to admire practitioners of this particular dodge.

Maybe blaming the usual suspects for the defeat (i.e. rampant racism, misogyny, stupidity and the like)?

While there is truth there is also negativity and a sort of holier than thou stance which, ironically, is part of the reason we have elected a wanna be tyrant.

It seems the usual guard rails are being destroyed or rendered impotent. The Supreme Court with judges with radical and unconstitutional agendas. The fox is guarding the hen house. The legislature under control of mostly Kool-Aid drinkers. The media cowed. Yet, as the playwright Vaclan Havel wrote "there is only one thing I will not concede: that it might be meaningless to strive in a good cause."

I have decided to support organizations which strive to provide legal and moral guardrails for people and the constitution. ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), Southern Poverty Law Center and Doctors Without Borders are my choices. I just don't think it is a good idea to only pay attention to the fifty feet around us.

Bob Kittle
Sunny Slopes

Does that bother you?

Editor,

In his recent letter to The Sheet, Allen Brown refers to Kamala Harris as a "failed DEI hire of a VP."

Let's review her record. After graduating with stellar grades from Howard University, Kamala Harris earned a law degree from UC and then served in the Alameda District Attorney's Office, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, and the San Francisco City Attorney's Office. She was then elected District Attorney of San Francisco, then elected and reelected as Attorney General of California, then US Senator from California, and Vice President of the United States.

So, Mr. Brown, setting your blatant misogyny and racism aside, what part of her earned credentials do you find lacking and resulting from DEI?

During my 30 years of teaching at our California State University, women and minority students regularly outperformed most of their white male peers, mirroring a nationwide trend in K-16 schools. Yet whenever one—especially a man or woman of color rises to the top—conservative pundits and their misinformed followers trot out DEI to explain their success.

Just wondering why these industrious women and minorities passing you up in education, salary, and professional accomplishment bother you? Inquiring minds want to know.

Stephen Cunha
Mammoth Lakes

More work left to do

Dear Editor,

As one of many affected property owners, I recently read your article addressing local code compliance issues in Mammoth Lakes (The Sheet, Nov. 2 issue, Vol. 22, No. 44).

While we appreciate your effort to shed light on this important matter, the perspective presented in the article primarily reflects the town's official stance.

A broader discussion that includes property owners' experiences and challenges would make the narrative more meaningful and constructive, helping to clarify the "true bottleneck" and fostering productive dialogue.

The core issue stems from inconsistencies in past inspections and a lack of clear documentation. Many property owners, myself included, purchased properties based on compliance determinations made at the time. Years later, these properties are being deemed non-compliant, often without adequate explanation or accountability. This situation undermines mutual trust and places significant financial and emotional strain on property owners who are equally committed to safety and compliance.

While it's noted that local safety codes have been publicly accessible since 2017, the town's approach lacks proactive communication, reasonable processes, adequate training, traceable documentation, and most importantly,

the overall effective management in implementing these codes. Inconsistent inspection practices and insufficient transparency have created a troubling disconnect.

Town officials have acknowledged "practice mistakes," yet these errors, which were previously deemed compliant during purchase inspections, are now treated as violations. This unfairly shifts the financial burden onto property owners who relied on the town's prior legally binding practices and decisions.

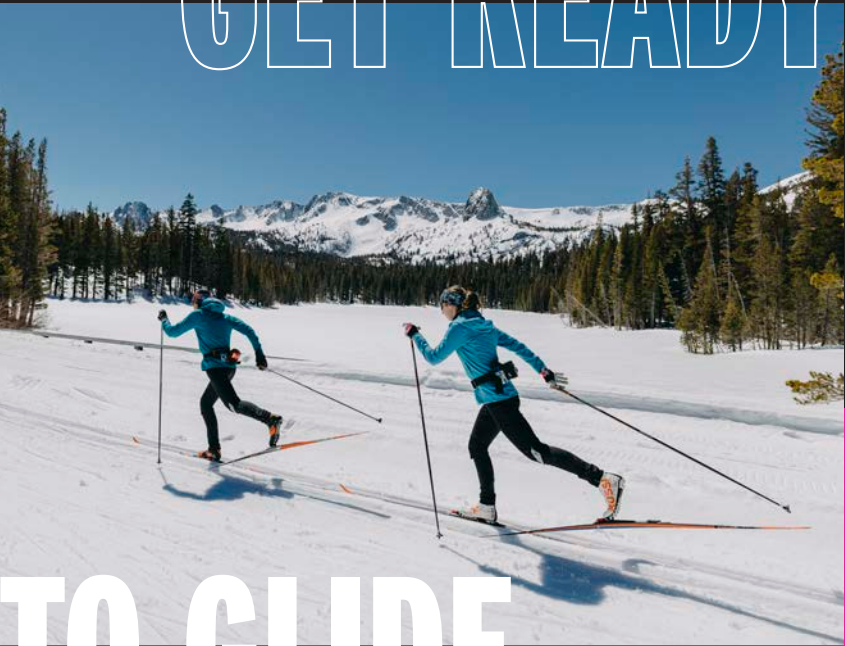
Getting the right voices out there is a shared responsibility, and your role as editors is pivotal in shaping a fair and balanced narrative. Your work can be instrumental in restoring trust and paving the way for understanding and resolution. Let us join together in amplifying the call to rebuild trust where it truly belongs. Thank you for your attention and for your contributions to fostering open and inclusive community dialogue.

Tian Tan
Mammoth/LA





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OP/ED

INHERITED WISDOM

By Don Sage

Don Sage passed away in August. A memorial service was held in Mammoth a few weeks ago. His formal obituary appears on page 17.

At the memorial, a letter Don wrote to his grandchildren was read, and is included in its entirety below.

Don and wife Jodi “retired” to Mammoth Lakes in 1996. According to daughter Peggy Armenta, Don served as Board Chair for Mammoth Hospital from 1997-2010, was an active Rotarian, and was considered the “Founding Father” for Chamber Music Unbound.

“He was a smart, wise man, and he and my mom loved the town of Mammoth Lakes dearly,” wrote Peggy.

And now Mr. Sage’s words of wisdom.

As I was driving home last Monday, I had time to think about life, the world and various other things. It occurred to me that I probably should leave a few comments to my grandchildren. I believe it’s traditional that the aged should try to impart what they believe is wisdom to future generations to forget, distort and misinterpret it all and to continue the mistakes their ancestors made.

Anyway, here it is for what it’s worth.

First of all, learn facts. How do you know they’re true? Check the evidence. If they turn out to be wrong, forget them. Remember Sage’s fourth law: It’s more complicated than that. It seems to apply to everything we think we know.

**For laws 1-3 refer to Isaac Newton or any appropriate laws of nature.*

When you’re wrong admit it and move on.

**“A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.” - Emerson*

Be skeptical of beliefs. When a belief is strongly held, that means ‘Don’t bother me with facts, my mind’s already made up.’

**“If they can make us believe absurdities, they can make us commit atrocities.” - attributed to Voltaire*

Don’t argue unless you particularly enjoy arguing or you’re being paid.

**One convinced against his will/Is of the same opinion still (Quaker proverb)*

erb)

In pipe fitting as in life, start the threads carefully and gently before using a wrench -Grandpa Sage

Be especially skeptical if a new idea seems perfectly logical and obvious at first glance. ‘It’s perfectly common sense’

**“Common sense is the collection of prejudices learned by age 18.” -attributed to Einstein.*

Don’t tell lies unless you have to. A reputation for honesty is both valuable and easily damages.

Be careful to pay all small debts promptly. There’s no cheaper way to earn a reputation for honesty.

Don’t ever be cruel.

Be loyal, but don’t be blind.

Keep your promises.

Don’t make promises you can’t keep or don’t intend to keep.

Learn useful skills. Especially languages. Communication is one of the things that makes us human.

Do good work. Always be the best you can be, not just to be competitive but to be honest and above all do no harm.

Recommended reading:

Kipling: The Gods of the Copybook Headings; If; The White man’s Burden (Irony); Recessional

Yeats: The Second Coming



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PHOTOS: FISHER



Mammoth Mountain Ski Area kicked off its 71st season last Friday, November 15th. The resort gave out over 150 free beanies, the recipients of which were waiting in line well before 7 a.m., said Emily Van Greuning, Public Relations Manager for Mammoth Mountain. At 8:30 a.m., the lifts started spinning and the first riders broke the banner for the new season. A toast was held at 11:00 a.m. on the sundeck, cheering to the fact that it was actively snowing.

“It was a great turnout, especially considering the fact that we didn’t get too much help early in the season with Mother Nature,” Van Greuning said. “We were really happy with the numbers.”

By opening day, the resort had opened up the lower half of the Panorama Gondola with service to McCoy Station, Face Lift (Chair 3), Unbound Express (Chair 6), and Discovery Chair (Chair 11).

“Our snowmaking team is the best in the business and it’s definitely not their first rodeo, so they’re pretty on it in terms of determining what temperatures are needed to make sure the guns are going,” Van Greuning said. “And we’ve been running the guns as much as we possibly can while temperatures allow.”



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LOCAL NEWS

DON'T TREAD ON US

Bishop passes anti-camping ordinance

By Lauren DeLaunay Miller

More than two dozen cities or counties in California have passed anti-camping ordinances since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Johnson vs. City of Grants Pass, Oregon*, in June, and as of last week, the city of Bishop is now one of them.

At the Bishop City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 12, the Council unanimously approved an ordinance that permits the Bishop Police Department to limit camping or sleeping outdoors on city property.

According to the ordinance's stated purpose, public areas should be "readily accessible and available" to the public, and using these spaces for

camping or keeping personal property "interferes with the rights of others to use the areas" for their "intended purposes." The ordinance, which was first introduced at the October 28 City Council Meeting, takes effect in mid-December.

Before the Supreme Court decision earlier this year, a city could not enforce a ban on camping or sleeping in public if no other shelter was available. That is no longer the case, yet, as was emphasized by Inyo County Health and Human Services Director Anna Scott; neither Inyo nor Mono County has an emergency shelter.

"The reality is that not everybody that is currently unhoused has a safe op-

tion," said Scott at last week's meeting.

Noting this lack of resources, Inyo County District 2 Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, speaking as a resident and not in his official capacity, said at the October 28 meeting, "People don't magically disappear when you move them."

One concern discussed is that enforcing this ban within city limits would push individuals onto county or Los Angeles Department of Water and Power land. LADWP representative Elsa Jimenez said the department frequently finds people sleeping or camping on their property in the area. According to Jimenez, LADWP staff who come into contact with homeless individuals should first ask them to leave and provide them with a list of legal camping locations, but they do sometimes need to call the police for assistance. Police Chief Nate Derr confirmed that his department gets approximately one or two calls each week about people camping on LADWP land.

Much of the discussion on homelessness in Bishop concerns the few most visible individuals: those seen frequently in the city park or on the streets of Bishop's downtown, or what experts call "unsheltered homeless." However, they are far from the only

homeless people in the community. In 2023, there were 31 homeless students reported at Bishop Elementary School, 13 at Home Street Middle School, and 13 at Bishop Union High School. The number of "sheltered homeless," or those in transitional or temporary housing, can be difficult to count.

At the October 28 meeting, Griffiths added, "There has definitely been a disconnect between what's going on in the city and what's going on to solve this problem." Citing a "long and frustrating journey" over many years to find solutions to aid the area's homeless population, Griffiths said, "I don't know that we're any closer."

Last Tuesday, City Administrator Deston Dishon said, "The best, probably, outcome that's come from this is that actually the discussion is happening now. A safe parking lot or camping in a tent in the park- that's not an answer to homelessness, obviously." Chief Derr and Dishon reiterated that enforcement of the ordinance is just "one piece of the puzzle" of combating homelessness in our area.

Karen Kong responded, "It is sad that we're in a position that the enforcement piece of it is the first piece that gets worked out."



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When asked how long he's been working at the Club, Zomite smiled and shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know," he said before flipping the 'open' sign to 'closed' and hauling out the vacuum cleaner.

One thing Moreno has promised is an upgrade in 'systems' - taking different forms of payment being one way to facilitate the guest experience. The Breakfast Club for many years has been cash only, with an ATM parked in the foyer for the customers who weren't carrying any.

He also wants to spiffy things up - new glasstops and tablecloths and tidying up the storefront - and focus on making a good first impression.

The food, however, has always been and remains the driver of the Club's success and with the kitchen team intact (Zomite, Fernando, Miguel) that won't change.

Ebersold meanwhile is scaling back her workload but is definitely not retiring. She still does 25-30 wedding cakes a year via her "Cakes By Sue," but says "I don't want to work myself to death. I've already done that."

Ebersold has always been active in the community in a variety of roles, mostly as a 'master of ceremonies.' She ran the 4th of July Parade for ten years, hosted annual Oscar parties, Super Bowl parties, "Chick parties" at Nevada's and then Burgers. She's always up to something.

*One item to mention: The full '47' liquor license was not included in the sale. Ebersold is selling that separately.

Moreno said the Club will still serve beer and wine and mimosas.



Sue Ebersold's mother gave her the plant located behind her when she opened the Club 38 years ago. It started as a single stalk, and has never been trimmed,

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



Mammoth Hospital is grateful for the Albertsons Companies and Vons Foundation's commitment to cancer research and treatment. In partnership with the Mammoth Lakes community and our local Vons store, they have provided \$100,000 in the last 5 years to Mammoth Hospital's affordable mammography program, which offers \$20 mammography services year-round to uninsured patients.

Mammoth Vons Manager Mark Fiddament joined Mammoth Hospital Foundation Executive Director Gardiner Miller, Mammoth Hospital CEO Tom Parker, and Director of Medical Imaging Yuri Parisky, M.D., this week to celebrate Albertsons and Vons' support of our community. Mammoth Hospital performed 200 mammograms in the month of October, Breast Cancer Awareness month.

HUSKY OF THE WEEK

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

LUCA CHRISTENSEN

Introducing the Husky of the Week, Sophomore, Luca Christensen. Luca is a natural when it comes to tinkering with electronics and computers. For this reason, he is a valuable member of the Mammoth High School Robotics Team. He is capable with the programming and an asset when there is troubleshooting needed on a robotics systems.

Luca is a young student performing at the top of his game. He has already taken AP Calculus and Computer Science and scored high marks on those rigorous tests, and he is currently taking AP Environmental Science. Luca will also most likely graduate with an Associates degree in Math or Science at the least.

In addition to Luca's brilliant mind he is a talented athlete. He's on the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team, participating in half pipe, slopestyle, and skier cross. He has been the athlete of the year and has also gone on to compete at national events. Luca also joined the Mountain Bike Team this year. **Wow Luca, you are an inspiration!**

NOMINATED BY JOHN SIMEON (MHS ROBOTICS COACH)

Husky of the Week is brought to you by High Country Lumber

KLUSMIRE

CALIFORNIA'S LITTLE CIVIL WAR

Put together seven knowledgeable people who have been in the thick of the battles over Owens Valley water and environmental issues for years and you get a list. A long list. A long detailed list of the fights that still need to be fought.

Two panels of such folks were convened Nov. 16 and 17 during the Alabama Gates 2024 event in Lone Pine. The occasion marked the 100th anniversary of the famous “occupation” of the Alabama Gates by about 700 outraged Owens Valley residents to protest the land and water gathering shenanigans of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. They stayed for four days. They had a picnic. The county sheriff handed out citations that were ignored while he enjoyed the picnic dinner. They got statewide and national notoriety and glowing press. The occupation was crowned “California’s Little Civil War.” They literally turned the gates and released the flow of the aqueduct into the desert, draining the aqueduct, which was the primary water source for the city of Los Angeles. They eventually left the gates, turned the water back into the aqueduct and went home after “promises” of compromise and change. Those promises never turned into reality.

A familiar story which has been

repeated, some would say, for the next 100 years.

Thus, the eco panel discussions outlining the ongoing “civil war” being carried out rather civilly by direct action, like at the gates, government negotiations, court orders and all the complex trappings of “modern” environmental activism in 2024.

Some high points and low points.

Noah Williams, Water Program Coordinator for the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, outlined the long, frustrating effort to reduce groundwater pumping for the Fish Springs hatchery south of Big Pine. California’s Department of Fish and Wildlife said the hatchery can operate with less water when not producing fish, but DFW and LADWP have floundered for years to install the mechanical systems to reduce flows when not needed. Maybe by 2025, he noted. More work is necessary, he added, to make

sure “tribes have a seat at the table” when questions about LADWP, land and water are addressed.

Kendall Noah, communications specialist for the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, noted the commission purchased the five-acre Three Creeks property and has been forming partnerships and a “network of advocacy” with indigenous and environmental groups in the region and in Los Angeles to make sure indigenous/Paiute history and per-

spectives are aired at decision-making meetings. One long-term unresolved issue is finally delivering the water rights promised to the Lone Pine, Big Pine and Bishop Paiute reservations when they were created in 1939. More recently, the local tribes have been making a push to have LADP provide more land to expand the three reservations, which now total just 1,100 acres.

Rewatering the Owens Lake and the arrival of hundreds of thousands of birds is one of the valley’s unique successes. The massive dust mitigation work by LADWP is legally mandated, but the continued success of the lake as a migratory bird stopover isn’t guaranteed. Mike Prather, of Lone Pine, who has been advocating for the lake and its birds for decades, pointed out “there is no legal settlement” that assures the huge pools of dust-suppressing water on the lake will remain as habitat. “We have a wink and a handshake” agreement with LADWP to maintain the flooded areas as bird and wildlife habitat, he noted. The state land board, which owns the land under the lake, and DFW have provided leases and licenses to LADWP for the dust work, which covers about 50 square miles of the 100 square mile lakebed. But with no legal agreement or court settlement mandating maintenance of about 20,000 acres of habitat, the situation remains “tenuous,” he said, “and needs to be watched.”

Watching LADWP at every turn is one goal of the Friends of the Inyo, according to executive director Wendy Schneider. That attention to detail followed by public protest has netted a few victories. She noted that with help from Mono

more KLUSMIRE, page 12

“

The things you love, you will defend.

-Mike Prather

”



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menu with a chocolate espresso martini,
hot buttered rum, Manhattans and more.

KLUSMIRE
continued from page 10

County, the Friends and partners backed down LADWP’s plan to create ranch leases in Long Valley that left out the current obligation to provide irrigation water. Recently, the department also backed away from a plan to start drilling and testing new wells tapping “deep aquifers” after getting critical comments and publicity. The more sweeping goal, Schneider said, was getting LADWP to provide more backup material and time for public comment, preferably in open county meetings, to address LADWP’s annual pumping plan and before meetings, such as the Technical Group and Standing Committee, where policy and projects are presented.

Nancy Masters of the Owens Valley Committee pointed to a LADWP initial plan to develop a “water banking” site in Rose Valley. The idea is to put “excess water” from big runoff years in the aquifer there, then pump it out when needed. If anything, “water banking” should translate to putting more water in Inyo County aquifers and wellfields, she noted. Plus, “there is no excess water” in the Owens Valley. Years after water started flowing in the Lower Owens River, LADWP needs to be pressed to create “a real river, rather than a slow-moving canal,” she said. Several speakers addressed the need for LADWP to approve the Owens River Water Trail, a dormant plan to open six miles of the river close to Lone Pine to paddling and water sports.



Mike Prather in his element, defending the birds and the revival of Owens Lake.

When it comes to lists, Lynn Boulton, chair of the Range of Light Group of the Sierra Club, has a dandy. The group has been tracking and checking the 64 mitigation projects LADWP committed to completing 33 years ago when the Inyo-LA Long-Term Water Agreement went into effect. Some are done, some are sort of done, some are not performing as planned, and some are floundering, she said. A larger concern is the fate of Fish Slough, the famed springs north

of Bishop where DFG biologist Phil Pister scooped up endangered Owens Valley Pupfish in buckets and essentially saved the species from extinction. Now, the springs could be extinct since the springs are drying up, Boulton said. The springs, initial hydrology noted, are linked to the aquifer in the Tri-Valley area, north of Chalfant, which is pumped extensively for the area’s hay ranches. But Mono County has stalled proposed action to address the pumping’s impacts on and Fish Slough until a large hydrologic study of the region is complete.

Despite the setbacks, long delays,

small victories and frustrations, the fight for “sustainable environmental justice” will continue. “We’re not going anywhere,” said Williams.

And just like when angry Owens Valley residents stormed the Alabama Gates 100 years ago, the same passions drives the locals to keep pressing into the ongoing struggles over water and land in the valley. As Prather pointed out: “The things you love, you will defend.”

Jon Klusmire of Bishop will keep the following wisdom in mind: “Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day.” – A. A. Milne.



MEET
Dizzy!

This sweet girl needs a special home, as she has a neurological condition. That doesn’t slow her down one bit—she still loves to cuddle, uses a litter box like a pro, and is a purr machine. She is looking for a patient, understanding family to shower her with love.

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PILING ON & WINTER SLUSH

By Fisher

As fire season wanes, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced Wednesday that it plans to lift fire restrictions and begin prescribed pile burning.

Fall 2024 conditions are drier than usual, meaning there is still a significant amount of grass crop that could fuel fires if they occur, according to Dawn Johnson, Warning Coordination Specialist for the National Weather Service (NWS). She made this statement during a Seasonal Preview presentation to the Mono County Board of Supervisors on November 12.

Although temperatures are cooler and snow has begun to fall, Johnson says more moisture will be needed to fully write off wind-driven wildfire risk.

However, Inyo National Forest fire management staff plan to lift Stage I fire restrictions on Friday, November 22, since "other conditions are present that meet the criteria for lowering fire restrictions," stated Lisa Cox, Public Affairs Officer for the Inyo National Forest, in a press release Wednesday.

Stage I fire restrictions limit activities such as open burning, fireworks, outdoor smoking, and the use of certain equipment to reduce the risk of wildfires, according to the USFS website.

"We still urge everyone to minimize wildfire risks when recreating on the forest," said Chance Traub, Interagency Fire Management Officer for both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

**After all, the Round Fire of 2015 occurred during the winter (February)*

Inyo National Forest staff also began their first pile burn of the season on Thursday in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, with ignitions expected to continue through the following day, Cox said.

Pile burns are a way of removing green waste produced by long-term forest thinning projects, which are aimed at improving forest health and reducing hazardous fuels, Cox said. The piles include limbed branches, cut logs, and other vegetation debris removed to reduce surface fuels and "ladder fuels," which can carry fire into tree canopies.

"Pile burning is one of the tools in our toolbox for reducing hazardous fuels in a cost-effective way for both the forest and nearby communities," said Jennifer Martin, Acting Prescribed Fire and Fuels Specialist for Inyo National Forest. The USFS explored options to remove the material through timber and fuelwood sales, but most of the piled material is generally smaller in diameter, less desirable in quality, or constrained by resource-related concerns, Cox wrote.

The first burn will account for up to 64 acres out of the projected 700 acres of pile burning across the northern and central areas of Inyo National Forest over the fall and winter months.

Before each prescribed burn operation, the USFS will post an announcement detailing the location and acreage of the burn on both the Inyo

National Forest website's "Alerts" page and its Facebook page. Smoke may be visible for up to a week after the burn, particularly in low-lying areas.

The USFS urges the public not to report or call 911 if they see flames or smoke in a prescribed burn area.

Following pile ignition, hot ash pits may linger in the snow. These pits typically remain hot for several days after the burn is completed. The public and their pets should avoid these areas during the burn and for a few days afterward, as indicated by signage.

As for winter weather projections,

Johnson told Supervisors to, "expect the unexpected."

Winter outlook

The 2024-25 winter outlook suggests a potential La Niña event, though it may be weak and not fully developed, she said.

Historically, La Niña years bring wetter conditions to the north and drier, warmer conditions to the south, Johnson said.

Mono County lies somewhere in between those two extremes, which

means an uncertain winter is at play with variations in precipitation and temperature patterns, depending on shifts in Pacific high and low-pressure systems. There is a possibility of wetter-than-normal conditions through the season.

Johnson emphasized the importance of continued monitoring, as weather patterns can shift quickly and unpredictably and said the NWS is working to synthesize their weather alerts to make them easier to understand and operate accordingly.

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?
Please use QR code to request items and sizes.
Supplies are limited to what has been donated.



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.



calendar of events

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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

Friday, November 22/
Big Smooth plays **Liberty** in Mammoth. High energy rock! *More info: See ad p. 8*

Sunday, November 24/
NFL Sunday Football @ the Bishop Elks Lodge, 151 E. Line St. Starts 9:30 a.m. Bar open! Public welcome!
Cassie Dunn plays **Distant Brewing**. Time: 7-9 p.m.

Monday, November 25/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26/
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. 8*

Wednesday, November 27/
Weekly Pool Tournament @ Distant Brewing. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Pool from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

November 29-30/
Karaoke @ Liberty on Friday and a **DJ Dance Party** with DJ Onezie on Saturday.

TOWN STUFF

Friday, November 22/
BUHS Football hosts semifinal playoff v. **Morro Bay**. Kickoff 6 p.m. **Mammoth High School Football** hosts **Fresno Christian** in CIF Final. Kickoff 7 p.m.
MountainFilm on Tour Shows in Mammoth @ **USFS Welcome Ctr**. Doors 6:30 p.m./show 7 p.m. *Tix: sierraforever.org/mountainfilm-on-tour*

Saturday, November 23/
Geology of Alabama Hills presentation hosted by Sierra Forever. Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Meet at the **Mobius Arch Trailhead** in **Lone Pine**.

Sunday, November 24/
Thanksgiving Community Dinner in Independence. Time: 2-5 p.m. Location: **Owens Valley School**, Multi-purpose room (202 South Clay Street). Bring a Thanksgiving dish to accompany turkey, dressing or gravy. *For info, call 760-878-2594.*
Paint 'n Sip with Tess Marie @ Mammoth Brewing. \$\$\$ Time: 6-8 pm. *Info: tessmarieartistry.biocartel.com*

TOWN STUFF

Monday, November 25/
Bishop City Council Meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: **City Council Chambers @ 377 W Line Street**

Wednesday, November 27/
Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center Opens. Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Location: 163 Twin Lakes Road.
Afterschool Art Program. Grades 3-5. Time: 3-5. Location: **Sierra Wellness Center**, 181 Sierra Manor Road #4 in Mammoth. *To register, email ccarter@mono.ca.gov.*

Thursday, November 28/
10th annual Footloose Sports Turkey Trot. Time: 9 a.m. Register online and save \$5 at www.mammothtrackclub.com. *More info: See ad p. 5*
Thanksgiving Community Dinner in Big Pine Time: 2-5 p.m. Sit and enjoy a free Thanksgiving meal with family, friends and neighbors. *Call 760-937-2951 to RSVP.*

Friday, November 29/
Holiday Tree Lighting in the Village at Mammoth. Time: 5-7:30 p.m. Join **Woolly** and **Santa** for photos, kids activities and live music outdoors before the first lighting of **The Village** holiday tree.

November 29-30/
Train Rides and Open House @ Laws Railroad Museum in Bishop. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. Ride the historic **Death Valley Brill Car!** \$\$\$ 760.873.5950

UPCOMING

Nov. 29-Dec. 14: Cardinal Village Resort Christmas Festival. Time: Saturday/Sunday 10-4. Location: **Cardinal Village Resort**, 321 Cardinal Road in Bishop.
Nov. 30-Dec. 24: MHS Boosters Christmas Tree Lot. Time: 4-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1-7 p.m. Saturday/Sunday. Location: **Outbound Mammoth**.
Nov. 30: Wild Sage Creative's First Annual Winter Bazaar. Time: 11 a.m. -7 p.m. Location: **Outbound Mammoth**
Dec. 1: Winter Bazaar (9 a.m. 'til 2 p.m.) and **Tree Lighting** (Starts 5:30 p.m.) in **Crowley @ the community center**.
Dec. 6-7: Eastern Sierra Community Chorus concerts. *More info: See ad p. 8*
Dec. 7: Bishop Christmas Parade. *More info: See ad p. 7*
Dec. 7-8: Altrusa 25th annual art show @ C5 Studios in Bishop. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 5 p.m. both days
Dec. 14: Night of Lights @ MMSA's Canyon Lodge.

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FT/PT Maint. Tech
-Mammoth \$20-22

Housekeeper(s)
-Mammoth \$20

Journeyman Plumber
-Mammoth \$30-45

Community Integration Partner - Bishop/Mammoth \$20-25

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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

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Both full-time year-round positions, as well as seasonal winter positions, are available. Applicant must be able to work evenings, weekends, and some holidays. We offer competitive wages, a 401(k) option and possible housing option, as well as many other perks. If interested, please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Road.

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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



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Help Wanted



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

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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.



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.

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Help Wanted



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

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

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

Restaurant Server for Eagles Landing



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

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

For Rent

2 BDR/2 BA/2-CAR GARAGE unit in Lee Vining with woodstove & w/d. Cost: \$1,900/mo. Call Dennis @760.914.0492

Now Available! The Acorns village has a vacancy!! These brand new single-family homes are located across from Gull Lake. Walk to the town of June Lake, the Brewery and more. Minutes to June Mountain ski resort. These units are 2BD/1.5BA with a large loft. Full-size W/D and all brand new appliances. Rent is \$2500 a month plus utilities. Text/call 760.807.8975.

2 BDR/one BA, one-car garage, woodstove, one-year lease only. \$2,850/mo. 760.937.7569.

Two bay shop space for rent. Approx. 1,800-sq. feet. No auto repair. Next to Starbucks. \$3,000/mo. 760.937.7569

Nomadness Rentals has three storage spaces for rent, sizes of 38-, 85-, and 130-sq. feet respectively. Location: 306 Laurel Mtn. Rd. For more info, call Michelle @ 970.837.6720

NOMADNESS ALSO SEEKS FT maintenance techs. \$24-27/hour. And a **PT quality control person** - again, call Michelle @ 970.837.6720



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO

The Superior Court of California for Mono County invites application s 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/ADAE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Local Transportation Commission (LTC) will conduct a public hearing on December 9, 2024 in the Mono County Civic Center, Dana Room (2nd floor), 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, and the meeting will be accessible remotely by livecast at <https://mono-county.zoom.us/j/82405632531> or in person at the CAO Conference Room in the Mono County offices, Annex 1, 74 N. School Street, Bridgeport, where members of the public shall have the right to observe, consider and offer public comment on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) no earlier than 9:00 AM.

The RTP is a long-range plan that outlines transportation planning for a minimum of 20 years in a given jurisdiction and provides a clear vision of the regional transportation goals, objectives, and strategies.

The LTC will receive public input on the regional transportation system, which encompasses the highway and roadway system, aviation facilities, public transit, non-motorized activities, the trails network, and other mobility-related activities and facilities. The LTC will also consider comments from interested citizens on desired goals, objectives, and strategies that address the transportation system challenges. The first proposed draft of the Regional Transportation Plan is available for public review online at <https://monocounty.ca.gov/ltc/page/regional-transportation-plan> and hard copies are available for the cost of reproduction by calling 760-924-1800.

INTERESTED PERSONS are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting in-person and to submit comments to the Secretary of the Mono County Local Transportation Commission by mail or in-person at P.O. Box 347, 1290 Tavern Road STE 138, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or by email at cddcomments@mono.ca.gov, by 8:00 AM on Monday, December 9, 2024.

If you challenge the proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Secretary to the Mono County Local Transportation Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

TS #2024-0156

COUNCIL
continued from page 1
with a proposed resolution for approval.
Also at the meeting, the town reviewed their pre-audit 2022-24 Fund Balance, in which they set aside \$1,350,000 to cover projected costs from the Division of State Architects (DSA) for the town's MACC project. The town plans to "continue to work with DSA to determine if this is required," wrote Rob Patterson, Mammoth Lakes Town Manager in his report.
"Our desire is to secure necessary funding and move forward with the purchase and sale agreement to obtain the property and prepare bid documents for construction," he stated. "The anticipated cost escalation is roughly 5% per year so any delays are costly."
Also in the budget, staff put more money towards housing – this time, aimed at reaching a target Area Median

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

Patient Calculator

Kyle Lan Franco
609 Monterey Pine Rd.
PO Box 8928
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by a general partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in January, 2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on October 3, 2024 File Number 24-087
2024-0152 (11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30)

Income (AMI) of 150% to 200% and increasing long-term housing through home ownership.
It pulled from four sources of funding to achieve that goal. The first three sources were \$1.0M allocated from the General Fund, \$1.3M from the Tourism reserve, and \$1.2M from the Housing reserve. The remaining funds pull from the \$5.6M Housing Now! undesignated fund balance.
The town plans to explore options for small site development, either directly through the Town or with an external partnership.
"The Town has been successful in addressing the needs of our lowest income earners with the restricted funding opportunities provided by State grants," Patterson wrote in the report. "These elements were key in the development of the first two phases of the Parcel. However, these programs are limited to 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) which is not a large percentage of the need within our community."
Speaking of that – the Parcel is still having trouble filling up.
"My disappointment is that we started this project when we did and it's now Thanksgiving and we still haven't put people in all those units – it just somehow upsets me terribly," Mammoth Mayor Bill Sauser said.
He said he'd heard of more communication issues with Buckingham Property Management, in which Parcel

applicants are being contacted about their move-in date after they'd already committed to paying the month's rent in their current residence.
Patterson said the issue may be that the Town made the interest list early on in the project's development, but that Sauser's concerns had not been on his radar. They are hoping to make changes to this process for the Kingfisher, the second phase of the Parcel.
The Kingfisher will also cater to 80% AMI and below.
Another Housing Now! program, their Lease to Locals program, which seeks to incentivize second home-owners to rent their properties to long-term rentals rather than short-term rentals, is also experiencing a slow start.
As of November 12, four properties had been leased, six property owners were actively interested and nine said they would be interested in the future. An additional 29 households didn't qualify for the program, and another 23 households reached out to the program but lost interest once they learned more about it.
If the program doesn't pick up soon to meet the Council's goals, Patterson said the goal trajectories could be extended or the funds could be reallocated to another housing program.
Councilmember Chris Bubser said the program may just need a bit of time before people become aware of it.

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Seeking enthusiastic staff to join our team and create an unforgettable dining experience. Offering competitive pay, a modern kitchen, and a professional environment.

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OBITUARY DONALD JOSEPH SAGE 1933-2024

Donald Joseph Sage died peacefully at his home in Mammoth Lakes, CA on August 28, 2024. He was 91 years old.

He was born in Upland, Calif. on March 5, 1933 and grew up in Cucamonga near to where his father and uncles were citrus growers.

Don graduated from Chaffee High School in 1951, Pomona College in 1955 and Baylor University Medical School in 1959.

While in medical school, he met and married Joanne "Jodi" Jirik, an RN from Minnesota. They moved to Los Angeles in 1959 where he completed his surgical residency and internship at County USC Medical Center.

In 1964, he moved his family to Palos Verdes and began his 35-year neurosurgical practice in Torrance.

In his spare time, he pursued many interests including learning to ski and getting his private pilot's license and IFR certification. He and Jodi loved the outdoors and took the family on many camping trips and adventures throughout the western states and Canada. Mammoth was their favorite destination.

When he retired in 1996, they moved to Mammoth where they quickly became active members of the community. Don joined the Mammoth chapter of the Rotary club where he served in a variety of leadership roles for the next 20 years. He was also tapped to serve on the Board of Directors and later as Board Chairman for the Southern Mono Healthcare District overseeing the operations of the hospital and its expansion from 1997 to 2010.

He and Jodi continued their support of the arts with the annual Sierra Summer Festivals, supporting the Felici Trio when it arrived in Mam-

moth in 1998. Don served as chair of Chamber Music Unbound from its founding in 2003, raising funds to support the organization, its concerts and its educational outreach.

Don was a life-long learner always curious and often skeptical. He never took anything at face value but always dug deeper to better understand the facts. Whether the subject was politics, science or human nature, he often concluded his assessment with what he called Sage's Four Law: "it's more complicated than that."

He is preceded in death by Joanne "Jodi" Sage, his wife of 57 years, his sister, Kathleen Sage and their parents, Kathleen and H. Douglas Sage.

Don is survived by his four children: Suzanne Wall (Michael) of Maple Plain, Minn., Tom Sage of Portland, Ore., Peggy Armenta of Mammoth Lakes and Dave Sage (Abby Wyers) of Portland, Ore., his eleven grandchildren and his brother, Lawrence Sage of San Luis Obispo, Calif. All were present along with friends and extended family members to celebrate his life at a memorial service held on November 9th in Mammoth Lakes.

His was a life of many achievements but it was also one of quiet service to others - his family, his community, his patients. He left his mark, and we are all better for having known and loved him. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to Chamber Music Unbound.

TWO HOME PLAYOFF GAMES IN ONE NIGHT



A shot taken by Ehren Goetz during last week's 40-0 Mammoth victory over Orcutt Academy.

Both the Bishop and Mammoth high school football teams will play CIF playoff games this Friday night. And they'll both play at home - Bishop kicking off at 6 p.m. and Mammoth at 7 p.m.

Mammoth (10-1) advanced to a CIF Final clash versus Fresno Christian (7-4). The teams met earlier this year in Mammoth, with the Huskies winning 54-18.

Mammoth has pitched three consecutive shutouts leading up to this final contest.

Meanwhile, Bishop advanced to the CIF semifinals with a 14-7 home win over Santa Ynez last Friday night.

The game was tied at 7 at the half with Bishop getting a touchdown pass from Emory Dondero to Brother Dom.

The Broncos had a chance to expand their lead just before the half, but fumbled on the goal line leaving the game tied at the break.

After a scoreless 3rd quarter Emory connected with Dom yet again on a 48-yard

pass setting up their second touchdown connection from 8-yards out putting the Broncos on top 14-7.

The defense would close out the win with sacks from Malachi Orrick and Garin Pritchard on the Pirates final drive.

Emory Dondero had a big night passing connecting on 13 of 19 passes for 209 yards and the two touchdowns. Levi Derr caught 5 passes for 37 yards. Dom Dondero finished with 3 catches for 68 yards and the two touchdowns. Richie Talavera caught 3 balls for 52 yards. Elijah Reynolds led the way on the ground rushing for 72 yards on 14 carries. Defensively Carlos Suarez and Talavera each had interceptions.

The Broncos will now host Morro Bay in a rematch of last year's semifinal. The game will be played at John Schwab Field at BUHS with a 6 p.m. kickoff.

The Broncos won their opening playoff game at home on Nov. 8 with a 41-6 win over Sanger West.

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We Are Hiring!

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.

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

Movies Starting This Friday 11/22 to 11/28

Movie	Rating	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Gladiator II	(R) 2h 30m	12:15pm 3:30pm 7:15pm	9:00am 12:45pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	3:30pm 7:30pm	12:15pm 4:00pm	12:15pm 3:30pm 7:30pm		
Wicked	(PG) 2h 40m	12:00pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	8:15am 12:15pm 4:00pm 7:15pm	3:45pm 7:00pm	12:00pm 3:45pm 7:15pm	12:00pm 3:45pm 7:00pm		

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ON THE SLOPES

FOR BACKCOUNTRY ACADEMY, NO ONE SITS ON THE BENCH(ETLER)

Mammoth Lakes welcomes Arc'teryx Backcountry Academy this winter (March 7-9, 2025), an event designed to empower outdoor enthusiasts with essential backcountry skills, led by experienced mountain athletes & certified guides. The Academy has already built a strong following, with previous sessions held in Jackson Hole and Whistler. Among the athletes bringing their expertise to Mammoth's Academy is seasoned skier and Arc'teryx athlete Chris Benchetler.

"I've attended the Whistler Academy a couple of times now, and loved each experience," said Benchetler, who says Arc'teryx Academy represents more than just training sessions; it's a chance to impart valuable backcountry knowledge gathered over years of skiing, summiting, and navigating alpine environments. From essential safety techniques to refining their skiing and riding abilities, attendees come away with a deeper understanding of what it takes to be prepared and self-sufficient in the backcountry. "People achieve a massive spectrum of skills," he explains. "As mountain athletes, we never truly master anything in the backcountry; we're constantly learning. Being able to pass down insight and knowledge from decades of mistakes, failures, and experiences is a wonderful gift."

"Every day spent in the mountains is a

day to learn something new, he adds, "so being surrounded by people with experience is always going to foster invaluable insights."

The Need for Backcountry Education

Benchetler highlights that formal backcountry education has become a cornerstone of modern outdoor sports. With the increase in popularity of backcountry skiing and snowboarding, the need for a solid foundation in mountain safety has never been more urgent. "No one is safe in the backcountry, even the most experienced people," he says.

He emphasizes the importance of skills like avalanche awareness, terrain selection, and group communication, as these can be lifesaving. Through real-world experiences and challenges, each of the Arc'teryx world-class athletes and Sierra Mountain Guides are equipped to lead participants and teach them the tools necessary to explore going forward.

Advice for First-Time Participants

Benchetler's advice for newcomers to the Academy is simple but essential: "Limit your expectations and enjoy the moments." He emphasizes that being in the mountains means dealing with unpredictability—from weather to snow conditions. Rather than striving for perfection,



he advises participants to embrace each lesson as it comes, adapting to the mountains and staying open to the experience. "Show up ready to learn from the mountains," he advises.

Backcountry travel inherently involves a degree of unknown, and the willingness to go with the flow is a crucial trait.

A Lifelong Impact

Each academy session, whether in Whistler or Mammoth, reflects the

Arc'teryx ethos: a dedication to the highest standards of outdoor education and preparedness. For locals in Mammoth Lakes and the Sierra community, the opportunity to engage with world-class athletes like Benchetler offers a unique chance to build lasting skills, relationships, and a deeper connection to the natural environment.

Clinic information is now live at mammoth.arcteryxacademy.com and you can reserve your spot in a clinic beginning Wednesday, Nov. 27

LOCALS-ONLY
AIRFARES ARE TAKING OFF.

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

This winter, Eastern Sierra locals get unreal flight discounts. Save up to 40% off Advanced Air with service from MMH four days a week, starting November 27. Or save up to 10% on United with daily service from BIH to SFO starting December 12 and DEN starting December 19. Thank you for being such unreal neighbors. Learn more at VisitMammoth.com/FlyLocal.

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