

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Lunch's favorite elves @ Cardinal Village Resort last weekend.

Saturday, December 14, 2024

FREE

Vol. 22, No. 50

PASSED, YET FAILED

Outbound Mammoth specific plan amendment still in limbo
By Fisher

Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Commission held a public hearing on Wednesday morning to discuss allowing Outbound Mammoth's (formerly Sierra Nevada Resort) parent company, Waterton, to convert twenty recently-built villas (five fourplexes located in the middle of the property) into for-sale ownership units.

The amendment to the project's specific plan passed by a 2-1 vote at the meeting, but the result was later invalidated when Sheet Publisher Jack Lunch raised the issue of the vote's incompliance with California government code to Town Attorney Andrew Morris, who confirmed the mistake.

The amendment will have to be re-agendized for a future meeting - likely in February, 2025.

California Government Code 65354 states, "The planning commission shall make a written recommendation on the adoption or amendment of a general plan. A recommendation for approval shall be made by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the total membership of the commission."

Code section 65453 clarifies, "A specific plan shall be prepared, adopted, and amended in the same manner as a general plan."

Translation: If you've got a five-person commission, you need to count to three.

And on Wednesday, the motion "passed" with Commis-

sioners Michael Vanderhurst and Dawn Vereuck in support and Commissioner Greg Eckert opposing.

Commissioners Lana Grand and Cynthia Fleming were absent - but Ms. Fleming is conflicted out on the vote because it is expected she would be the listing real estate agent of the property.

So Ms. Grand will represent the deciding vote.

Eckert was the sole opposing commissioner to the amendment, calling it a "stake in the heart" of the project's original concept. He went on to say the sale of these units would create a sort of legally bound "island" on the project, potentially causing roadblocks for future development.

"The use will be the same, I agree with that," he said. "But, to me, if we're going to take this as just 20 units, I think we're really diluting ourselves as to what we're actually doing."

The land these villas sit on has a long history of planning for future development, and a short history of development itself. The site is a six-acre rectangular parcel bordered by Old Mammoth Rd. to the east, Sierra Nevada Rd. to the south, Laurel Mountain Rd. to the west, and the Mammoth Mall to the north.

The original plan, Clearwater Specific Plan, was conceptualized by Jim Demetriades, who took ownership of the site in 2008 with the idea to turn the site into a mixed-use resort

see **OUTBOUND**, pg. 10



From Mammoth's Town Tree Lighting last Friday, from left to right: Tyler Judge, Bailey Voss, Sarah Kent, Basin Kent, Sierra and Matt Waugh.

MOGAVERO CHARGED

By Fisher

Mammoth Orthodontist Frank Joseph Mogavero was charged with multiple felonies for molesting a young boy beginning when the boy was just four years old. He is also charged with possession of child pornography.

He was arrested in San Clemente on the evening of October 16 and appeared at Orange County Superior Court for arraignment on October 18. He was held without bail

and his arraignment continued to December 9, when he appeared for a bail review and preliminary hearing.

He is charged with five felony counts of committing a lewd act upon a child under the age of 14 and one felony count of possession of child pornography per the Orange County District Attorney's office. He faces a maximum sentence of 16 years, 8 months in state prison if convicted on all counts.

Mogavero is pleading not guilty on all counts.

"The sexual abuse of an innocent child is something that should outrage our entire community and we will continue to do everything we can to continue to protect children from the monsters who seek to prey on them," Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer said.

more **MOGAVERO**, pg. 7

Allen to Allen

p. 15/

The Penn is mightier
than the ...

p. 2/

Gayla's Gallery

p. 14/

Obits

p. 5, 8-9, 12/

Mark's new spot

p. 4/

THE
HELTON
TEAM

Two Amazing Destinations...
One Seamless Experience.

San Diego | Mammoth Lakes

250+
Five Star Reviews

\$500M+
Total Sales Volume

THE HELTON TEAM
760.914.3800
theheltonteam@compass.com
DRE 01784118



theheltonteam.com

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 1527365. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified.

INYO GETS APPEALING

Inyo County Supervisors approved the creation of an Assessment Appeals Board (AAB) at their December 3 meeting, and then staffed that Appeals Board at the December 10 meeting.

The Appeals Board replaces Supervisors, who formerly heard assessment appeals as the Board of Equalization.

Because these appeals ultimately affect tax assessments and county revenue, and because there are unique rules governing these decisions, Supervisors decided it would be best to remove themselves from this task.

There were five applicants for the five spots, and they were approved by Supervisors on Tuesday.

They are attorneys Paul Bruce and Terry Walker, CPA Randy Van Tassell and real estate agents/brokers Jennifer Castaneda and Stan Smith.

Appeal hearings require a panel of three, so not all board members will participate in each hearing - it will be up to Board Clerk Darcy Ellis to establish a rotational system.

City of Bishop Councilman Stephen Muchovej expressed skepticism about the AAB when briefed about the change by Supervisor Jeff Griffiths at Monday's Council meeting.

Muchovej is skeptical A.) Of the Assessor's office, which he said has been inconsistent in applying "catch-up" assessments from previous Prop. 8 reductions (he thinks they've tried to catch up too quickly).

"The Assessor's Office has been non-responsive" to his complaints, says Muchovej, "And I'm not sure they're fair."

Muchovej also doesn't trust having an appeals board being too realtor-



CARSON

LAW GROUP

Divorce & Family Law

(760) 512-7700



WAVE RAVE

snowboard shop

WORLD'S LARGEST SNOWBOARD SHOP

3203 Main St. 760.934.2471 waverave.com

QUAD
PACK+

SHRED ANY 4 DAYS
YOU CHOOSE



Shift into **4XFUN** this winter with a ticket pack that gives you direct-to-lift access any day this season - including holidays and weekends. Save big upfront with the option to reload days at an exclusive 30% off for Quad Pack+ holders only.

No blackout dates +
30% off reloads all season.

MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM



the
sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

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

-The Waco Kid
from Blazing Saddles

JACK LUNCH

PUBLISHER

Ted Carleton Jack of all Lunches
760.937.4613 / lunch@thesheetnews.com

Paige Fisher Writer
sheetfisher@gmail.com

Harold Hartley People Person
hart6399@yahoo.com

Jon Klusmire Curmudgeon
jonklusmire@yahoo.com

Spike Todd Beverage Consultant

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

heavy.

He thinks realtors would have an inherent bias towards higher assessed values, as realtor commissions are based upon those valuations.

Griffiths pointed out that Re/Max Owner/Broker Paul Oster has served on the Mono County appeals board for many years without incident.

Oster, in fact, has served on Mono's board for 21 years and has chaired it for nine. Mono's board is a three-person board which currently has one vacancy.

Oster said Mono averages about 4-5 hearings per year. He thinks Inyo's board composition out of the gate is very solid.

... And old Sheet hand Benham emerged from hibernation in the wake of the Brian Thompson (United Health CEO) killing. His submission:

SHAKE, RATTLE, AND ROLL

There's an opening at United Health Care
You wanna be the next CEO?

The mob has its hero
but the police are gonna get their peace.

Lunch's untitled reply:

It was neck and neck
as to what to do next

I didn't have a job
I had only brief sexts

Please feel sorry for me
My back is a wreck

The Ivies are worthless
If you're not into tech

So I showed the world that
The Penn is mightier
Than the middle aged man
with his back to me



JUNE
LAKE
BREW
ING



Parks &
Recreation



PATINA CON SANTA

SKATE WITH SANTA & WINTER HOLIDAY MARKET



More information
Más información



DECEMBER 19 ❄️ **5:00 – 7:00 PM**

LA KINGS ICE MAMMOTH LAKES — 686 OLD MAMMOTH ROAD

Santa is scheduled to arrive at 5pm. He will stay for skating and photos through 7pm, until he loads up his sleigh and heads to the North Pole.

Inyo/Mono K-12 students are \$5 and adults can skate for only \$9 (rentals and helmet included). All 2024/25 Skate Membership holders are invited to join the festivities at no additional cost.

Santa tiene programado llegar a las 5pm. Se quedará para patinar y tomarse fotos hasta las 7pm, antes de cargar su trineo y regresar al Polo Norte.

Estudiantes de Inyo/Mono de K-12 solo pagan \$5, y los adultos pueden patinar por solo \$9 (incluye renta de patines y casco). Todos los miembros del programa Skate Membership 2024/25 están invitados a unirse a las festividades sin costo adicional.

LOCAL BRIEFS



Mark Drew = new ESLT Exec. Director

With 25-plus years of conservation experience, including at the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pacific, California Trout, and The Nature Conservancy, Mark Drew's leadership promises an exciting new chapter for Eastern Sierra Land Trust.

His official start date: January 8, 2025. Interim Director Amy Sturgill will return to her work in the Lands Program at ESLT.

And Noah Williams steps in as the new Tribal Partnership Program Manager.

SCOTT KONZEN
(818)618-7268
mammothmobilebars@gmail.com
www.mammothmobilebars.com

Weddings, Birthdays, Events,
Fundraisers, Holidays, and More

NO PARTY TOO BIG OR SMALL...WE SERVE THEM ALL!

MAMMOTH MOBILE BARS

Operation Santa coming to your 'hood!

This coming Wednesday starting at 5:30 p.m., Santa will be escorted through the Bishop area by the Bishop Police, Inyo Sheriff's office, Bishop Tribal Police and Bishop Fire.

If Santa is not visiting your neighborhood this season, there are several viewing spots along the route, including: Main and Sierra Streets, N. Fowler and West Pine, and Saniger Lane/Choctaw Drive. Full route outlined in graphic below.

STREET ROUTE

E. Line Street	E. Pine Street	N. Sierra Hwy
Edwards Street	Hanby Street	Rocking W Dr
Lagoon Street	E. Yaney Street	Bar L Lane
Main Street	Spruce Street	Lazy A Dr
Clark Street	Mac Iver Street	Bar M Lane
S. 3rd Street	N. Main Street	Saniger Lane
W. South Street	Sierra Street	Choctaw Dr
1st Street	Coats Street	S. Valley View
Clark Street	W. Yaney Street	Juniper Street
S. 3rd Street	Home Street	Saniger Lane
Short Street	E. Elm Street	Shoshone Dr
1st Street	N. Fowler	Cheyenne Dr
E. Line Street	Grove Street	Saniger Lane
N. 3rd Street	School Parking Lot	Barlow Lane
Willow Street	E. Pine Street	Diaz Lane
Hanby Street	N. Fowler Street	N. Tu-Su Lane
May Street	W. Line Street	See Vee Lane

Bell ringers wanted !!!

The Salvation Army seeks bell ringers for the Vons Mammoth location starting this weekend. Hours 3-7 p.m. daily (except Sunday). Contact Greg Jennison at 760.935.4343 to get on the schedule!

INTERACT CLUB & OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



The Rotary Interact Club at Mammoth High school led by Drea Perry and Peggy Armenta recently packed more than thirty boxes for Operation Christmas Child - a program led by volunteer Debbie Todd in the Eastern Sierra community. These boxes will be sent around the world to children in need, and were packed with essentials like toothbrushes and hairbrushes, as well as pencils, crayons and more. The high schoolers were excited to participate and make Christmas a possibility for children around the world!

TEN YEARS OF TURKEY DONATIONS BY THE WESTIN



Sean Somers and Cindy Dennis from the Westin Hotel delivered 50 turkey dinners to the Salvation Army pantry in Mammoth Lakes for Thanksgiving. This is the 10th year the dinners have been donated. The families from throughout Mono County were referred by Social Services, Behavior Health and the Salvation Army.

OPEN 24 HOURS

HIGH END
TRAINING
CENTER

OFFERING

- Multiple Membership Options
- Special Membership for Second Homeowners
- Day Passes
- Group Training
- Personal and Semi-Private Training
- Brand New Equipment

TEDD

PERFORMANCE TRAINING

info@teddski.com | 760-716-8773 | 126 Old Mammoth Rd. Suite 104

Mammoth

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY

Ring in 2025 with a festive dinner at one of our signature dining spots and finish with a free fireworks show in The Village Plaza.

whitebark

MOUNTAINSIDE
BAR & GRILL

The Lakefront

MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM/NYE

FACILITIES OPERATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INYO NATIONAL FOREST
EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONROE PAUL PRANGE

1971-2024

There was probably not a day in Monroe Prange’s life where he did not experience discomfort, if not pain.

And yet, he loved every minute of his life, and fought for every minute more.

His motto: “One day at a time.”

His gift: He loved other people, taking care of them, cheering on their triumphs. He cared about you, and us, and them.

When the end was nigh and his body failing, Monroe undertook his final round of dialysis, and then he began to make the phone calls. Dozens of phone calls. To say his thank you’s and good-byes. “One more,” he’d say after finishing a call. Then, “one more” after the next.

A call to Mary Mae Kilpatrick. A final prayer in a voicemail from Aaron Schat.

And then, surrounded by loved ones, he made the final call on September 25, 2024 and was called upstairs.

Monroe was born in Bishop in 1971 to Paul and Linda Prange. He enjoyed an idyllic childhood in the small community of Rovana, which housed many of the miners who worked nearby at Union Carbide’s Pine Creek Mine.

It was one of those tight-knit places where mom would shuffle you out of the house in the morning and you’d go hang out with your friends until dark.

Monroe was both one of the pack, and yet, uniquely other.

He suffered from an insidious kidney disease called Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS).

As his de facto (They could not marry



Anna Taplin and Monroe Prange at a Round Valley Elementary STEP Foundation fundraiser at the Arcularius Ranch, 2019

for it would affect Monroe’s access to health care) wife of almost two decades Anna Taplin simplified, FSGS creates a hardening of the blood in the kidneys.

By the age of five, a kindergartner, Monroe had already learned to catheterize himself at school to relieve his bladder.

Nails, this guy.

By the time he reached his senior year of high school (BUHS class of 1990), he’d had 33 surgeries. And his mother, who never left his side, had probably spent the equivalent of a full year at the L.A. Children’s Hospital sleeping in his room in a recliner.

Clearly, he was not built for a future in

the mine like his grandfather and father before him. But what Monroe did possess in spades was that gift with others. He was a one-man charm offensive. And what suited him was the restaurant business - his stops included the old Paradise restaurant, Sizzler (where Schat’s Roadhouse is now), the Village Cafe (since torn down) and Back Alley Bowl.

He started dialysis his senior year of high school.

When he was in his early 20s, Monroe’s father gave him a kidney for transplant. That lasted seven years. His sister Ginelle then gave him another kidney. That worked for five.

After that, it was dialysis. At home. Ten hours a day.

But by then, Anna had entered his life. Monroe’s mother Linda worked in Anna’s Round Valley Elementary classroom as a teacher’s aide. That’s how she was introduced.

And then Anna began frequenting The Sizzler, where Monroe worked.

It didn’t take him long, she says, to figure out why she was frequenting The Sizzler.

Their first date: A roadtrip to the Crystal Cathedral Easter service in Garden Grove.

Wrapped around a medical appointment, but no matter.

Faith was an integral part of Monroe’s life. Both he and Anna were/are active in the Neighborhood Church in Bishop.

The two passages he chose for his memorial service were Psalm 23 and Exodus 14:14

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Exodus 14:14

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Monroe was an eclectic guy. He liked his LEGOs, his M&Ms and his Kansas City Chiefs.

Some affectionately called him “The Mayor” - he knew people, loved people and connected people.

And they loved him back. For example, Lisa Davis and Sierra LifeFlight fulfilled Monroe’s wish (at no charge) to die at home (versus in a hospital in Reno).

He is survived by his loving wife Anna, his mother Linda; sister Ginelle Prange; brother Tye Prange (Stefannye); sister-in-law Sarah Simpson (Brian); and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Paul in 2022.

In his memory please consider a donation to the Neighborhood Church Youth Camps or the National Kidney Foundation.



Recruiting Now!

Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District 2025 Firefighter Academy with Seasonal Wildland Firefighter Opportunities

Please join us for dinner and one of our Academy Orientations:
When? Thursday, December 12th or Thursday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m.
Where? Station 1, 3150 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes

Requirements:

- Must have a minimum of 1 year of residency in Mammoth Lakes
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must pass a background check and physical agility test, and participate in a panel interview
- Other requirements as listed on application

For an application, please scan the QR code above. For additional information, please contact Captain Tyson Kaylor at (760) 924-9012 or tyson@mlfd.ca.gov.



OUTBOUND

continued from page 1

aligned with the town's general plan. Demetriades' ambitious 2009 project proposal included 340 hotel units, retail, restaurant space, workforce housing, and recreational amenities.

The town adopted his proposal, but the development's execution was ultimately hindered by the 2008 financial crisis. Over the years, Demetriades sought amendments to the plan to make the project more viable, including increasing building height and residential square footage, but financing remained difficult.

Demetriades eventually sold the property to Waterton in 2021 and the company got permission from the town to construct the villas, along with other improvements, around the same time as its acquisition of the property. The Clearwater Specific Plan has remained effective since its inception, and the legal changes to the villas would simply amend it.

"My recollection was that we were at a stage in this project where it was going to turn into something along the lines of a more ambitious project, and that these units were meant to be actually temporary," Eckert said. "To me, if there's 20 units that are converted in the middle of this, that's game over."

The Sheet reported on Waterton's

initial request to build the villas in the October 30, 2021 issue. One of the stated goals of the villa construction was to allow for future development of the Old Mammoth Project in accordance with the specific plan "if and when market conditions allow," but the developers did not have any plans for a second development phase in the near future, according to Sheet archives.

"The whole project would work just fine the way it is – all the rentals, all the parking, all the snow storage – it doesn't change because there's 20 deeds," Eckert said. "What changes is these folks may be able to pull out a significant amount of their initial investment, cash it out, but then it's going to have this forever problem to try to develop it going forward"

The purpose of the amendment is "purely" to help offset costs incurred from project and unexpected costs due to the "macroeconomic capital environment," responded Daniel O'Berry, AVP of Hospitality at Waterton.

Mark Carney, Waterton's Land Use Attorney, added that Waterton specifically decided not to vacate the Clearwater Specific Plan because "it does not want to drive a stake into the heart of that big idea."

There was no town requirement

which prompted Waterton to amend the original approval in the Clearwater Specific Plan, but Waterton says it voluntarily requested to do so on the basis that it had received requests about converting these units into townhomes or condos for ownership, but they maintain the main, long-term goal of building out a large number of units.

Even with the villas converted to owned properties, Waterton would still have the opportunity to build 320 condo hotel units on the site pursuant to the "Clearwater Specific Plan," Carney said. They have not built those units because the financials do not pencil at present.

"We don't want to put a 'stake in the heart of it,' quite frankly, because having that optionality in the land increases the value of our real estate," said Matthew Maring.

Waterton still has control over how the villas are managed. The company can require owners to follow certain procedures for rentals, such as checking reservations through the hotel's front desk, said Waterton Attorney Chris Payne.

The primary use of the units will remain as transient occupancy, Payne said. Owners will be subject to occupancy restrictions, ensuring that the units are not used as permanent residences.

Vanderhurst asked if a villa owner could sue for not being allowed to live in or rent the villas permanently, and

Morris said the legal documents created by Waterton would make it very difficult for a homeowner to do so.

Parking was a long-winded concern for the commissioners – namely whether the villa guests would be subject to valet service on busy weekends – but Morris said this was ultimately a management issue rather than a legal one.

There were no public comments made about the amendment in person or online on the day of the meeting, which Vanderhurst described as a surprise.

While this may be technically true, Tom Cage did submit comment Tuesday evening.

He is opposed to the specific plan amendment.

From his submission:

"A summary of my thoughts ... is that this is a typical money grab by a developer that is asking for forgiveness instead of preparing up front for permission in the development of these 20 units and the amendments, tract map and use permit described above.

... Don't let the town be hoodwinked by this proposal. This is a DA that was to stay whole and not get divided into small pieces that will create a big problem while a developer leaves with pile of profit from asking for forgiveness instead of permission."



PEAK IV THERAPY & REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Tis the Season!

Healthy Gifts for One & All

Gift Cards

- IV THERAPY and HYDRATION
- SPORTS RECOVERY
- SPA AESTHETIC TREATMENTS
- REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
- FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE
- IN STORE HEALTH PRODUCTS FOR PURCHASE

Gift Baskets

Holiday Hangover Drip



SCAN ME

Open
Tues. & Wed.
10am to 2pm
Thur.- Mon.
2pm to 7pm
760.923.8991
437 Old Mammoth Rd

FRIENDLY MOUNTAIN ATMOSPHERE

HAPPY HOUR
MIDWEEK: 4-6pm

OPEN DAILY
11:30am - 11pm

OUTLAW SALOON

John's PIZZA WORKS LOCATED INSIDE JOHN'S PIZZA WORKS PIZZA WORKS

WATCH THE NFL GAMES HERE

ON OUR LARGE SCREEN TV'S

HAPPY HOUR FOOTBALL | **MONDAY NIGHT THURSDAY NIGHT SUNDAY ALL DAY** | **SUNDAYS**
HAPPY HOUR DURING THE GAMES | OPEN EARLY AT 10AM | FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

TACO TUESDAYS

Beef, Chicken and your choice of Fresh Toppings!

4-9pm

PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY

(760)934-4065 | **VIEW OUR FULL MENU:**
3499 MAIN STREET | **JOHNSPIZZAWORKS.COM**

MOGAVERO

continued from page 1

Mogavero is the sole owner of his practice, which is based in San Clemente, and he has offices in Mammoth and San Diego.

The charged victim is Mogavero's step son from his second marriage according to the prosecution's opposition to release/bail reduction, which was filed October 21. The boy is now 16 and no longer lives with Mogavero, but Mogavero still lives with two children he shares with his ex-wife.

Mogavero's actions date back to 2001, when Mogavero and his first wife, her son and his 12-year-old friend took a trip to Big Bear.

The friend alleged Mogavero touched him inappropriately during the trip, and San Bernardino District Attorney's Office charged him with a misdemeanor count of child annoyance, according to the document. Mogavero petitioned for and was granted a finding of factual innocence.

The alleged child molestation of his step-son is said to have occurred between January 2013 and July 2020 in Mono County and in Orange County, according to the document.

During 2011 and 2013, Mogavero, his ex-wife, and then 4-year-old John Doe were at the Defendant's cabin in Mammoth, according to the document. His ex-wife exited the shower to find Defendant on the bed with her son with a blanket covering them and when she pulled the blanket off, she saw the defendant had his erect penis in the elastic of the child's diaper.

In 2020, she found pictures on Mogavero's phone of a young boy laying on a bed,

with two additional photos of the photo zoomed into the boy's crotch and the presence of the boy's genitals under loose-fitting shorts. After some investigation, she discovered that the picture of the boy, approximately 10-12 years in age, came from an Instagram profile video for the young boy who was a professional minor tennis athlete and that Mogavero is "following" this child's profile on Instagram.

When confronted, Mogavero left the house, "scurrying out on recorded Ring video holding all of his electronic devices,"

according to the document.

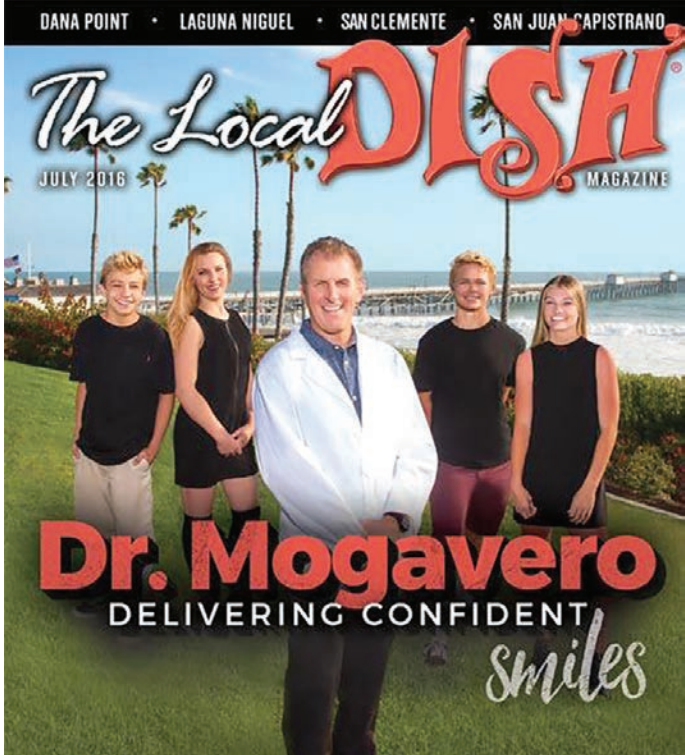
The child disclosed to his mother and then to law enforcement that Mogavero had touched his penis and testicles over his underwear/diaper while he was laying next to Mogavero to sleep, and that such events had occurred 3-4 times while he was 11-12 years old, according to the document.

Juliet Oliver of the Orange County Sexual Assault Unit is prosecuting this case. Mogavero is represented by John D. Barnett, a Defense Attorney based in

Tustin, California.

Barnett has served on a number of contentious trials, including that of the Los Angeles Police Department Officer charged with assault with a deadly weapon upon Rodney King, an incident which incurred city-wide riots over five days in the spring of 1992. The defendant was found not guilty.

The Sheet reached out to Barnett for a statement on Mogavero's case, but he was unavailable for comment.



Mogavero's website includes photos of these local O.C. magazine covers from 2016 and 2018



MAMMOTH INSURANCE
Serving the Community Since 1989

Got Fire Insurance?

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

ERIC OLSON
LIC # 0783148

ALICIA OLSON
LIC # 0i19200

info@MammothInsurance.com

CALL 760-934-2200

MAMMOTH MOUNTAINEERING SUPPLY

Biggest Backcountry Ski Rental Department in **MAMMOTH & CALIFORNIA**

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY!!!
(3-day rental applied towards purchase)

\$50 SKI TUNE SPECIAL
(usually \$70) using our best in the world **Wintersteiger Jupiter!**

20% OFF AVALANCHE EQUIPMENT
Ask and receive 20% off avy air backpacks, avy transceivers, shovels and probes. Proud sponsors of ESAC.

NEVER WAX YOUR SKIS AGAIN
Offering Phantom Wax Treatment!

Best Service, Prices, & Brands

Mammoth Nordic Supply...our store in store for all your skate and xc skiing needs. Offering the best ski package deals in the country!!!! Too good to print!!!! We carry **ATK, Dynafit, Black Diamond, Salomon, Patagonia, The North Face, Arcteryx** and more!



MAMMOTH MOUNTAINEERING SUPPLY
mammothgear.com

f i

MAMMOTH MOUNTAINEERING SUPPLY

361 Old Mammoth Rd, Mammoth Lakes | PH: (760) 934-419 | OPEN 8am-8pm

OBITUARY

JEFF DOZIER 1944-2024

Anyone who lives in Mammoth Lakes is well-acquainted with snow—shoveling it, sliding on it, playing in it. But few truly love and befriend snow the way Jeff Dozier did.

Jeff was a renowned snow hydrologist, environmental scientist, and professor at UC Santa Barbara (UCSB). He turned 80 in August 2024 and was looking forward to months of skiing this winter thanks to Mammoth Mountain’s free season passes to those over 80 - he had finally qualified.

The night before Jeff was to fly out from Reno to attend a scientific conference, he was struck by a truck while in a cross-walk. He suffered multiple injuries that,

despite the expertise and unrelenting efforts of the surgical and ICU teams at Renown Medical Center, resulted in his death. He passed away on November 17, 2014, from injuries he sustained from the incident with family around him.

“Sunday morning eleven of us gathered around him. We cried, we laughed, we told stories about him, about each other, we held his hands and rubbed his feet and hugged and kissed him. We told him things we wanted him to know,” his daughter wrote in a November 18 email to friends and family, which she later posted online. “Then we let him go.”

As a resident of Mammoth Lakes, Jeff



Jill, Jeff and Grayson Dozier in Yosemite overlooking Dozier Dome, circa 2022

was featured in The Sheet over the years for his passion for snow and his willingness to share his vast knowledge.

In February 2015, he gave a presentation on snow albedo at Cerro Coso Community College, where he explained why snow appears white. In 2019, his colleague Bert Davis presented at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL) seminar series about their joint effort to build a snow station designed to measure the energy exchanges that affect the snowpack.

Davis later recalled how Jeff encouraged him to pursue research, fostering not just academic growth but personal

development as well.

“Jeff saw things in me I didn’t see in myself,” Davis said. “The time I spent with him—playing, working, and just hanging out—left an indelible mark [...] I’ve tried to follow his way, keeping kindness and presence above all.

At the time of his death, Jeff had active research projects aboard the International Space Station and had cultivated collaborations with colleagues in Europe and Asia. He worked with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) as the Project Scientist for the Earth Observation System satellites. In recognition of his

more DOZIER, pg. 9

Liberty Sports
BAR

DECEMBER FREE LIVE MUSIC
MUSIC STARTS AT 9:30 PM

6/7 LAZWELL
genre bending soulful sounds

13/14 SANFORD STREET
deep jam band vibe

20/21 RENEGADES OF RAGE
rage against the machine tribute

31st NO COVER NYE CELEBRATION
DJ ONEZIE

KARAOKE WEEKLY EVERY TUESDAY AT 9PM

YOUR NFL HEADQUARTERS SUNDAY, MONDAY, & THURSDAY

Join Now

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.

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>

NOW OPEN
in Mammoth Lakes

EAST SIDE
bake shop

Bakery & Boutique
587 Old Mammoth Rd
Under the Mammoth Tavern
Open 7 Days a Week
Fri-Mon, 8am-5pm
Tues-Thurs, 10am-5pm
eastsidebakeshop395.com

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

DOZIER

continued from page 8

groundbreaking work in snow hydrology, remote sensing, and information systems, he received NASA's prestigious William T. Pecora Award for scientific excellence and leadership.

"Jeff was the brain in our family," his family wrote in his obituary. "He did his best to help us understand his work in ways we could comprehend, showing us the real-world impacts of his research."

Born and raised in Stockton, Calif., Jeff graduated from Stagg High School in 1962. He earned a bachelor's degree from Cal State Hayward, followed by a Master's and PhD from the University of Michigan. He was an accomplished mountain climber, and in the 1960s and '70s, Jeff, along with his father and uncle, Jack and Bill Dozier, led six climbing expeditions to the Hindu Kush mountain range in Afghanistan, making several first ascents.

"Jeff showed me paths in the mountains my entire life," said his brother, Dan Dozier. "We spent most of the summer before going to Afghanistan in Tuolumne Meadows, where I helped him gather data for his dissertation. He also took me climbing and hiking—it was the best summer a pudgy 15-year-old could hope for."

It was actually on a snow-covered slope in Afghanistan that Jeff realized how little he knew about avalanche risks, and decided to embark on his lifelong pursuit of answers in snow hydrology.

In 1971, Jeff joined Cal State Hayward as a lecturer, eventually moving to UCSB in 1974, where he spent the rest of his distinguished teaching career.

In 1994, he was appointed the found-



ing Dean of the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UCSB. Over the next six years, he recruited world-renowned faculty and helped shape one of the top environmental programs in the country.

"The excitement and enthusiasm he brought to my remote sensing education was incredible," said Tim Minor, a former teaching assistant and mentee. "He was one of the toughest people I ever knew. It was amazing how he survived all the physical hardships, always with a great attitude."

After his tenure as Dean, Jeff returned to the Bren School as a professor, mentoring the next generation of earth scientists.

Jeff was a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a Distinguished Scientist in the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He received numerous accolades, including the NASA Public Service Medal and the Jim Gray Award from Microsoft in 2009.

And his expertise extended beyond academia—he helped explain snow's optical properties to animators of the film *Frozen*, which went on to win an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.

"Snowflakes all have six sides ... And you can't set off an avalanche with a scream or a yodel," Jeff remembered he told animators for the film, the Sheet reported.

Jeff's legacy is also remembered through Dozier dome, a rock feature in Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite which is named after him.

Dozier is survived by his wife, Linda, his children Jill, Hayden (Sudathip), Simone, Jackson, and Grayson, his stepmother Shirley Dozier of Stockton, his siblings Julie Nelson (Jamie) of

Sacramento and Daniel Dozier (Ewa) of Stockton, grandchildren Tenaya, Owen, Skyler, and Sasha, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Jack, uncle, Bill, mother, Ruby Phillips, and brother, Bradford. Memorial services for friends and family will be held at a later date in the Mammoth area.

In his honor, the flag at UC Santa Barbara will be lowered to half-mast on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. Memorial services for friends and family will occur in the future in the Mammoth area. Additional information is available at jeffdozier.com, where his family welcomes memories, condolences, and photos.

MEET

POLISH!

An Alaskan Malamute/Husky mix roughly 8 years old, Polish is a sophisticated gentleman, intelligent and loving.

His ideal home would be no cats, but preferably with another dog friend. Polish lived as a part of a large dog pack and would likely thrive with another canine companion.

If you're looking for a loyal and loving best friend, Polish could be the perfect match for you. Contact:

WHITMORE SHELTER
(760) 935-4734

This holiday season,
give yourself the gift of
smoke-free lungs

For free help quitting
tobacco and nicotine.

KICK / T
California

Call 1-800-300-8086
kickitca.org

Sponsored by Mono County Tobacco Education Program

Footloose Sports
is seeking enthusiastic and
passionate outdoors lovers to
fill the following positions:

- Full time Service Manager
- Rental Associates
- Full time yearly positions

If you have a passion for the
Eastern Sierra or just want to get
your foot in the door at one of the best
and largest outdoor shops in the
country, please come see us now!

760-934-2400
footloosesports.com/careers
3043 MAIN ST | MAMMOTH LAKES

calendar of events

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

MAMMOTH LIQUOR
Beer lovers' candy store
Selection of more than 300 beers
EGGNOG TASTES BETTER
IF IT'S NOT JUST EGGNOG

934.6260Main St. Next to Rick's

the Stove
MAMMOTH LAKES CALIFORNIA
A Mammoth Tradition
Since 1970
644 Old Mammoth Road (760) 934-2821

Offices for rent
station81.net

Affordable Italian Wine

BEVI BENE
Bar & Retail
www.bevibenewine.com

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. 6*
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

December 13-14/
Sanford Street (jam band vibe) plays Liberty. *For more, see ad. p. 8*

Sunday, December 15/
NFL Sunday Football @ the Bishop Elks Lodge, 151 E. Line St. Starts 9:30 a.m. Bar open! Public welcome!

Monday, December 16/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.
Tuesday, December 17/
Taco Tuesdays @ John's Pizza Works. Time: 4-9 p.m. And a great place to watch the game. *More info, see ad p. 6.*
Weekly karaoke @ Liberty! Starts 9 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 8*

Wednesday, December 18/
Weekly Pool Tournament @ Distant Brewing. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Pool from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

December 20-21/
Weekend Apres Ski parties kick off for the season @ Canyon Lodge. Starts 1 p.m. both days.
Renegades of Rage play Liberty. Starts 9:30 p.m. No cover

TOWN STUFF

Friday, December 13/
Bishop Twin Theatre's "Whobilation." Cookie contest, costume raffle, screening of the Grinch and more. Film starts 7 p.m.

December 13-14/
Full Moon snowshoe tours @ Tamarack. \$\$\$ Includes equipment. 1.5 hour takes off ~7 p.m. Visit mammothmountain.com to reserve a spot.

Saturday, December 14/
Night of Lights @ MMSA's Canyon Lodge. Fun starts 5 p.m.
Railroad Express @ Laws Museum.
Backcountry Film Festival heads down the hill to Bishop. Location: Bishop Twin Theater. Time: 7 p.m.
June Mountain Ski Area opening day!

December 14-15/
Cardinal Village Resort Christmas Festival in Aspendell over the next three weekends. 10 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. Xmas tree sales, Santa & more.
Alabama Hills Ranger programs on the geology of the area. Starts 11 a.m. Free. Meet Mobius Arch Trailhead. *Info: sierraforever.org.*

TOWN STUFF

Holiday Marketplace at the Minaret Mall in Mammoth. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 6 p.m. both days. Santa, crafting station, treats and more.

Tuesday, December 17/
Inyo County Supervisors meet. Location: Board Chambers, 224 N. Edwards St. in Independence or online via inyocounty.us. Starts 10 a.m.
Mammoth hosts Lone Pine in high school hoops. Girls 5:30 p.m; Boys 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18/
Mammoth's Town Council meets. Time: 4 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Thursday, December 19/
Skate w/Santa and Winter Holiday Market @ the Mammoth Ice rink on Old Mammoth Rd. *More info, see ad p. 3*
Mammoth Lakes Firefighter

MINARET CINEMAS
is DPLACE
437 Old Mammoth Rd
Movie Info Line
(760) 934 3131
f i
Buy Tickets Online
DPlaceEntertainment.com

Movies Starting This Friday 12/13 to 12/19

 WICKED (PG) 2h 40m Friday 4:30pm 7:45pm Saturday - Sunday 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:15pm Monday 4:00pm Tuesday - Wednesday 4:30pm 7:45pm	 RED ONE (PG13) 2h 3m Friday 5:00pm 8:00pm Saturday 1:15pm 4:20pm Sunday 1:15pm 4:20pm 7:30pm Monday 4:15pm 7:00pm Tuesday - Wednesday 5:00pm 8:00pm
 SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG) 1h 49m Thursday 5:00pm	 MUFASA (PG) 1h 58m Thursday 4:30pm 7:15pm
	 75 (NR) 1h 40m Saturday 7:30pm Monday 7:30pm Thursday 7:30pm

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 | orderonline | mainstreetpizzaandtap.com

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



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

- Electrician (Must have own tools/rig)**
 - Mammoth \$30-40
- FT/PT Maint. Tech**
 - Mammoth \$20-22
- Line Cook**
 - Mammoth \$22
- Prep/Dishwasher**
 - Mammoth \$20.77
- Housekeeper(s)**
 - Mammoth \$20
- Journeyman Plumber**
 - Mammoth \$30-45
- Snow shovellers**
 - Mammoth \$25-30 seasonal
- Community Integration Partner**
 - Bishop/Mammoth \$20-25 + potential mileage reimbursement
- Radio ad sales**
 - Bishop \$20/hr. plus commission (after probationary period)

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

NOMADNESS SEEKS FT maintenance techs. \$26-28/hour. And a **PT quality control person** - Call Michelle @ 970.837.6720

State Farm Insurance seeks FT, career-minded, bilingual professional. Willing to train. Call Dave @ 760.934.7575.



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

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.

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.



Eastern Sierra Counseling is recruiting a **licensed psychotherapist** for in-person practice in our Mammoth Lakes office. Make your own schedule and practice the way you want. We value flexibility, autonomy and work-life balance so that you can be the best therapist to your patients. We are the highest paid insurance-based practice in the United States. Contact: EASTERNSIERRACOUNSELING@outlook.com

For Rent

MAMMOTH TWO 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

Office space available on Old Mammoth Rd., ranging in size and price starting at just \$300. Call 760.914.1500.

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

The **Alpenhof Lodge**, Mammoth Lakes, has openings for customer service minded people and we are looking to add to our **front desk team**. 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.



Progress Your Career at Mammoth Hospital!

We're currently looking for:

- Radiologic Technologist II (\$5000 Retention Bonus)
- Physical Therapist (\$5000 Retention Bonus)
- Landscape Maintenance Technician



- Success Sharing Incentive Program
- Staff Development Programs
- Generous Retirement Match and PTO Accrual



Openings at www.mammothhospital.com |    

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JAMES SHEARER KEATING

MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO.: 24PRM23

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JAMES SHEARER KEATING. A Petition for Probate has been filed by THOMAS KEATING, JR. in the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo. The Petition for Probate requests that THOMAS KEATING, JR. be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking

certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: January 2, 2025, 9:30 a.m., Mammoth Courthouse, Department 2, 100 Thompson Way, PO Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Gian Carlo Simonetti, Esq. (SBN.: 279468), Wood Law Group, 126 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 203, P.O. Box 3837, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; (760) 934-5821.

TS #2024-0157



OBITUARY SACHA BERGER STUART 1936-2024

Sacha Berger Stuart, age 88, a resident of Lone Pine, California, for thirty+ years, passed away on December 1, 2024.

On her birth in Bern, Switzerland, cradled in beautiful rivers and the untamable Alps, she was called Ursula—"little-girl bear." And she did adore bears, that love of animals expanding to include many other wild and tame creatures, especially elephants, and dogs.

Growing up in Bern she also developed a keen curiosity about Earth's natural and diverse beauties and cultures. In her nearly nine decades, she travelled the world extensively. As a young adult already seeking the meaning of life, she took an adventurous journey to India—exotically different than her beloved, more sedate Switzerland. This early journey stretched into a year of study and life with an Indian guru, his wife and children; they became, for her, an early "adopted family."

Sacha's own father died when she and her younger sister, Marian, were children, leaving their mother to raise them alone. She saw to good educations for both girls. They each were drawn to the arts. Marian became a well-known painter while Sacha became an actress. From age 19 to 29, she was a member of a highly successful, European repertory company, playing stage shows in major houses of Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. This was when, in Austria, Sacha first laid eyes on her husband-to-be, an actor in the film crew of Hollywood's *The Sound of Music*: Gilchrist Stuart.

Gil was British. Sacha didn't speak



English, and though she spoke French and German, Gil spoke neither of those. On the set, Gil was playing Franz, assistant to Captain von Trapp, played by famous actor Christopher Plummer; the two men had become good friends. Thus Christopher became Gil and Sacha's interpreter.

Sacha and Gil spent five whirlwind, romantic days together! Then boom! Back to the U.S. Weeks of letters ...

Then boom! "Would you consider coming to America to marry an impecunious actor?"

"I didn't know what impecunious meant," Sacha always explained. "But I left the Repertoire, bought my airline ticket, and off to America!"

Some fifteen years of joy and tragedy followed. When Gil became too sick to work, Sacha learned how to be a waitress in English.

But because Sacha's mother had insisted she get a more reliable "skill" than acting as a work back-up, Sacha soon woke up that back-up skill, borrowed \$600, and started "Studio Fotos," a photography business to create elegant ads, posters and other printable promotions for Hollywood's movie industry. Slowly at first, then rather speedily, internationally successful and illustrious filmmakers hired her services, becoming clients and often friends. She once traveled with Jacques Cousteau and his crew on a filming venture in Asia.

In 20 years, Sacha grew her business to 40 employees. The hard work made her think of early retirement.

Where?

Back to Sacha's earliest days in California: Gil saying, "I'll take you to see the American Alps."

"On that fateful day," Sacha said, "I stood at the corner of Highway 395 and Whitney Portal Road and spun in a circle, entranced by the beauty, stunned by the High Sierra. 'One day I'll live here!'"

In the Owens Valley of Lone Pine Sacha deepened her life-long love of beauty, nature and travel, a love not only geographical, but cultural and spiritual, finding and befriending many national and international seekers and leaders in those realms... Sacha's home in Lone Pine became an open-door, open-heart sanctuary she lived in herself, in such a way that she could manage to share it generously with others of diverse faiths. This she did. And thus she generously leaves it.

Neither Sacha nor her sister had children. Sacha's survivors are not "blood" survivors. They are "chosen" survivors: truth seekers and sharers of diverse, divine visions.

Her Service will be held at her home this Sunday in Lone Pine at 631 Thundercloud Ln. from 2-5 p.m. For more info, call 760.258.6320.



Seeking Participants: Mammoth Hospital Physical Therapy/ Occupational Therapy Focus Group

Mammoth Hospital is committed to enhancing the care we provide to our Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy patients. We invite you to participate in a focus group to share your insights and suggestions.

Please submit a brief application via the link below or scan the QR code to be considered for the group. The focus group will meet in person on the following dates and dinner will be provided:

- Monday, January 13, 2025, 5:30 – 7:00 PM
 - Mammoth Hospital, Conference Room A/B
- Monday, March 3, 2025, 5:30 – 7:00 PM
 - Mammoth Hospital, Conference Room A/B

Applications are due by Friday, December 27, 2024. Participants will be notified by Friday, January 3, 2025. If you have any questions please contact 760-965-9954.

Thank you for your interest in helping us improve our services!

MammothHospital.com



McCOY HIGHWAY DEDICATION

Photos Gayla Wolf

By Charles James

In a packed community meeting room at the Inyo County Office building in Bishop on Tuesday, more than 80 local residents gathered to celebrate the naming of a part of Highway 395 leading to Mammoth Lakes as the “Dave McCoy Memorial Highway.”

McCoy was the founder of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. He died in 2020 at the age of 104.

Randy Short of Bishop, a close long-time friend of McCoy spoke saying that, “Last Monday, I was on ski lift chair #2 and a very nice gentleman got on with me. Looking up the mountain, he said, “The man who built this must have had an unbelievably positive attitude.” Short said it made him laugh, as did those in the room on hearing it. It was just so true of McCoy’s personality. He went on to say how lucky he was to have spent so much time with Dave off the mountain and away from work.

“I used to shake my head when I walked away from many of our conversations,” said Short, “because he had a mind unlike others.”

Short went on to share a story about a very cold, windy day that he spent with McCoy on a Rhino ATV traveling towards Tinnemaha. Looking up at the landscape, McCoy said “This land did not belong to the government ...it belonged to us.” In yet another brief story, Short related how strongly McCoy felt about the importance of “community.” When asked at a meeting how he (McCoy) felt about the cost of using professional ski instructors and having a professional ski patrol,



From left Penny McCoy, Mike Sprague, Robin Morning, Clifford Mann, Casey McCoy, Stacey Crockett, Randy Short and Becky McCoy

McCoy stressed that more important than the costs was that the community they created, all working towards a common goal, and being a family, something that was very important to him.

Dave’s wife Roma’s contributions to the community, as well as contributions of the entire McCoy family was noted several times during the celebration.

McCoy’s grandson David Barrett spoke as well. He noted that his grandfather never really felt a need for the accomplishments of the area; always saying “it was the employees that deserve the accolades.” McCoy went on to name many of them saying that “these are the ones that believed in the dream.” He said that because his grandfather was an orphan, he did not have a family—so he made the move to the Eastern Sierra, and its people became his family.

Supervisor Jeff Griffiths described how the idea of honoring Dave McCoy first started several years ago. “Randy Short and I discussed naming the airport at first, but that did not work out,” said Griffiths, “so the idea of

naming part of the highway leading up to Mammoth Lakes in McCoy’s honor came up.” While even this idea was a daunting task, it quickly gained traction from local supporters, the Inyo and Mono counties’ boards of supervisors, representatives at the state level, and Caltrans.

Griffiths introduced State Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil whose office played a key, critical role in getting the Dave McCoy Memorial Highway to become reality through legislation.



Dakota Yates, Lindsy Yates and David Barrett

mammoth

GEAR EXCHANGE

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

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.

UNITED

ADVANCED AIR



GAYLA'S GALLERY

Gayla Wolf was out and about for the Bishop Christmas Parade last Saturday and the after-party at Eastside Guesthouse and Bivy. Wave hello to her this weekend at the Laws Railroad Express!

By Gayla Wolf



Who Says Getting Older Can't Be Fun?



Why should we have to stop doing the things we love just because we get a little older and our bodies get a little slower? That is why Misael Santana (President), Juan Rivas and Francisco Santana (Co-Vice Presidents), worked together and started the Over 40 Soccer League. This league started as Sunday pick up games and has grown into a league of over 60 players. They work together to create competitive teams that play together every Sunday for 2 months, they take a month for rest then recreate new teams to start the League over again.

Misael Santana, said "We love the game but the City League kept getting younger and more competitive. We just wanted a place to have fun doing what we loved. That is why we started this league!"

The Over 40 League is more than just Sunday Soccer, they have created something special. That is why when a team asked High Country Lumber to sponsor them, we whole-heartedly said yes. This League goes beyond the pitch, they regularly hold fundraisers for members of the community that are in need of financial help. Next weekends games will be a fundraiser for fellow player Freddie Acevedo, who lost his home in Lone Pine in a fire on December 9th. These fundraisers have helped a number of locals in tough times. Families of the players come together, prepare food and sell it during their league games and all proceeds are given to the current cause.

Next Sunday between 9am and 12pm, stop by the field at the corner of Hanby Ave. and Spruce St., watch a fun game, eat some great food and support a local cause!

45 or older and interested in playing? Text Misael and get on the wait list (760) 920-2331.
Article brought to you by High Country Lumber, proud sponsor of the El Futbol Club Eastern Sierra HCL Team.



LETTERS

Allen to Allen

Dear Allen Brown,

Although your letter last week was directed to Stephen Cunha (who is quite capable of defending himself) I am prompted by your (and my) vitriol to call for a truce in the STFU wars.

But before doing that I was going to point out that telling our fellows to STFU is not only an ineffective rhetorical device but, in my opinion, un-American. Why? Because when told to STFU, people will generally and understandably do just the opposite. And, in fact, the Thirteen Colonies declared independence from Britain and fought the Revolutionary War because King George III kept telling the colonists to STFU. This, coupled with the Enlightenment philosophy that shaped the Founding Fathers's vision of America - the notion that only through the free and open exchange of ideas can a society thrive - is why the right of free speech is so deeply embedded in its DNA. It is also why, although I did not care for its message, but whomever owned the pickup truck with the "Where's Oswald When We Need Him?" sticker on its back window (see my November 30 letter) had a constitutional right to convey that thought - just as I had a constitutional right to tell him what I thought of the sticker. And so that is why, in my opinion, telling people to STFU is un-American.

Before calling for a truce, I was also going to say that we probably have a lot more in common than we think. For my

part, I agree things are fouled up in the U.S.; but, unlike your side I was going to say that I blame both sides: in a nutshell, I believe the Left has abandoned the Old Testament and the Right has abandoned the New Testament, and each is too busy committing the deadly sin of pride (along with a few other pick 'ems) to admit fault.

Yes, I was going to say all that before offering a truce, But the other night I re-read two letters my grandmother had written to my mother in November,1944; near the end of WWII; the first telling her that her younger brother Patrick - a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army - was missing in Holland; and the second a few days later confirming his death, at 20 years

old, in a frozen hell, a few weeks before the start of the Battle of the Bulge. More difficult to read are the two letters he had written to grandmother a few months before - when he was in the infirmary for an injury he had suffered during boot camp, while undergoing basic training before heading off for the next wave of the Normandy invasion. And he was so lighthearted, joking about the college boys getting extra grief from the drill sergeants. Needless to say how sad to read those letters knowing he would never come back home alive. And thinking about him and all the other brave soldiers, sailors, and marines who have given their lives for this great country,

and for the rights we take for granted - like the right of free speech - I felt pretty rotten about telling you to STFU.

And so, my brother, for that reason and that reason alone - in honor and respect for all those Americans, and for that matter all those who have served and are serving - I call for a truce: you don't tell me to STFU and I won't tell you to STFU, OK?

Allen Berrey
Bishop

RARE MAIN STREET FRONTAGE!

Downtown Mammoth Lakes 0.26 acres property with 860 sq. ft. retail building. Prime redevelopment parcel. Seller financing available. Seller is listing agent.

3439 Main Street
Sierra Valley Sites I, Lot 3
\$983,150





TAMMY HOOPER
REAL ESTATE

TAMMY HOOPER
DRE 01237866
760-937-7300
Tammy@TammyHooperRealEstate.com
TammyHooperRealEstate.com

MAMMOTH JUNE PROPERTIES
DRE 02012341



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

Joe Benigno's

TREE SERVICE

& Consulting



SERVICES OFFERED

- Tree Removal
- Tree Trimming and Pruning

- Stump Grinding
- Fuel Reduction/Defensible Space

SAVE UP TO \$150 ON SERVICES \$1,000 OR ABOVE

Why Partner With Us?

At Joe Bennigno's Tree Service, we are committed to providing top-quality service and results that exceed expectations.

We Are:

- Experienced Professionals
- Compliant and Insured
- Creative, Offering Custom Solutions





(530) 577-1553
www.joebenignos.com
FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Cont. Lic. #893950
ISA #WE-6694A
LTO #A9545



Joe Benigno's
Tree Service

GEAR FOR THE YEAR





TAKE YOUR RENTALS HOME FOR THE WINTER SEASON

Purchase a Season-Long Standard Rental package for only \$329 – \$229 for child rentals – so you can rent once, pick up your equipment, and keep it with you all season long (no storage provided).

Includes a free Wax Card valid for 10 waxes and one free tune-up and binding check at any Mammoth Mountain Tuning & Repair shop.

OFFER ENDS DEC 31

Available Online and the Mountain Center in The Village

MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM/RENTALS
FACILITIES OPERATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INYO NATIONAL FOREST

A NEW HOME FOR *FAMILY FUN*

ONLY TWO HOMES REMAIN!
SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR TODAY.



CREEKHOUSE
AT SNOWCREEK RESORT

ONLY TWO HOMES REMAIN! CALL FOR CURRENT AVAILABILITY.

Our Final Two Luxury Mountain Retreats Are Selling, Close to Miles of Trails, Open Space & Near Mammoth Mountain.

3 Bedrooms W/ Flex Room • 3.5 Baths • 2,152 Sq. Ft. of Living Space • SALES (760) 934-3334 • [LIVECREEKHOUSE.COM](https://livecreekhouse.com)



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

ANOTHER LUXURY DEVELOPMENT BY THE CHADMAR GROUP



SNOWCREEK
RESORT