

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



PHOTO COURTESY AXIOS

Skiers waited in long lift lines at Park City, Utah last week while ski patrol were on strike. The Sheet gives a local angle on page 4.

Saturday, January 11, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. 2

A GOOD MAN IS HARDY TO FIND

By Lunch

In a small town, you can meet a person at any time and make a connection that will change your life.

A friend of mine spotted a pool table for sale in the Sierra Reader. I said what the heck and called. A very nice man named Jerry answered and we set a time for pickup the next morning.

The table was in great condition. I got the feeling it had been used mostly as a table top for stray papers and such in a

bonus room Jerry had off the living room.

But Jerry was a pretty organized guy. Frankly, it just hadn't been used. He said his kids used to play when they were in high school.

I took a closer look at Jerry. That was a long time ago.

I would soon learn almost fifty years ago.

I had friends with me. And you know how moving a heavy, bulky object goes. There's

see JERRY, pg. 8



Jerry Hardy with a portrait of his family from the early '60s.



Just another boring Bishop sunset - Sunday, January 5.

SENDING REINFORCEMENTS

Local fire personnel head south to aid in fighting L.A. blazes

By Fisher

Multiple massive wildfires tore across the Los Angeles area with devastating force this week, and among the firefighters battling the flames and braving the smoke are some of the Eastern Sierra's own.

Mammoth Fire has deployed two of its nine engines and a chief officer to Southern California to assist with the firefighting effort, Fire Chief Ales (pronounced Al-esh) Tomaier said.

The Sheet spoke with Tomaier around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. At that time, while a significant number of

personnel were in Southern California, the Mammoth station remained fully staffed, and Tomaier did not anticipate any negative impacts on public safety in Mammoth.

"We obviously have a very close relationship with Southern California, so we're very eager to go out and help support friends and family down south," Tomaier said. "We've talked to a couple people that have family members that have lost homes, so this is serving our community as far as we're concerned."

Mammoth personnel were specifically deployed to fight

the Hurst Fire in the Sylmar neighborhood of the San Fernando Valley.

The Hurst Fire was first reported around 10:10 p.m. Tuesday, with CBS News noting that California Highway Patrol officers observed an entire mountainside engulfed in flames. By Wednesday morning, the fire had expanded to 500 acres, forcing the evacuation of more than 3,000 residents.

While Tomaier says wildfire risk in Mammoth is currently low, the town is still responding to numerous medical calls, which are common during this

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Playoff picks

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LUNCH

continued from page 2

travels with a backpack cause he never knows where he's gonna be tomorrow. And when I met him at Findhorn, he said to me, "Where are you from?" I said, "New York." He said, "Ah, New York. Yes, that's a very interesting place. Do you know a lot of New Yorkers who keep talking about the fact that they want to leave, but never do?"

And I said, "Oh, yes." And he said, "Why do you think they don't leave?" I gave him different banal theories.

He said, "Oh, I don't think it's that way at all." He said, "I think that New York is the new model for the new concentration camp, where the camp has been built by the inmates themselves, and the inmates are the guards, and they have this pride in this thing they've built. They've built their own prison. And so they exist in a state of schizophrenia where they are both guards and prisoners. And as a result, they no longer, having been lobotomized, the capacity to leave the prison they've made or to even see it as a prison. And then he went into his pocket, and he took out a seed for a tree and he said, 'This is a pine tree.' He put it in my hand and he said, 'Escape before it's too late.'"

Of course, the problem is where to go. 'Cause it seems quite obvious that the whole world is going in the same direction.

See, I think it's quite possible that the 1960s represented the last burst of the human being before he was extinguished and that this is the beginning of the rest of the future, and that from now on there'll simply be all these robots walking

around feeling nothing, thinking nothing. And there'll be nobody left almost to remind them that there once was a species called a human being with feelings and thoughts and that history and memory are right now being erased and soon nobody will really remember that life existed on the planet.

Now, of course, Bjrnstrand feels that there's really almost no hope and that we're probably going back to a very savage, lawless, terrifying period.

Findhorn people see it a little differently. They're feeling that there'll be these pockets of light springing up in different parts of the world and that these will be, in a way, invisible planets on this planet and that as we, or the world, grow colder we can take invisible space journeys to these different planets, refuel for what it is we need to do on the planet itself, and come back.

And it's their feeling that there have to be centers now where people can come and reconstruct a new future for the world ... In other words, we're talking about an underground which did exist in a different way during the Dark Ages among the mystical orders of the church. And the purpose of this underground is to find out how to preserve the light, life, the culture... how to keep things living."

So Wallace Shawn hears all this and he says to Gregory, "Do you want to hear my actual response?" And that response is not expansive and global with life in the balance, but very personal.

I'm just trying to survive, you know? I mean I'm just trying to earn a living, just trying to pay my rent and my bills.

I mean, I live my life. I enjoy staying home with Debby I'm reading Charlton Heston's autobiography. And that's that.

Occasionally, maybe Debby and I will step outside, we'll go to a party or something. And if I can occasionally get my little talent together and write a little play, well, then that's just wonderful.

... I have a list of errands and responsibilities that I keep in a notebook.

I enjoy going through the notebook, carrying out the responsibilities, doing the errands and crossing them off the list.

And, I mean, I just don't know how anybody could enjoy anything more than I enjoy, uh, reading Charlton Heston's autobiography or, uh, you know, getting up in the morning and having the cup of cold coffee that's been waiting for me all night still there for me to drink in the morning and no cockroach or fly has died in it overnight.

I mean, I'm just so thrilled when I get up and I see that coffee there, just the way I wanted it.

I mean, obviously, if there is a dead cockroach in it well, then I just have a feeling of disappointment, and I'm sad.

But ... I just don't think I feel the need for anything more than all this.

Whereas, you know, you seem to be saying that it's inconceivable that anybody could be having a meaningful life today and, you know, everyone is totally destroyed and we all need to live in these outposts. But I just can't believe ... Even

for you, I mean, don't you find ... Isn't it pleasant just to get up in the morning and there's Chiquita (Andre's wife), there are the children and The Times is delivered, you can read it. Maybe you'll direct a play, maybe you won't direct a play. But forget about the play that you may or may not direct. Why not lean back and just enjoy these details?

And there'd be a delicious cup of coffee and a piece of coffeecake. Why is it necessary to have more than this or to even think about having more than this?

Even if I were to totally agree with you, and even if I were to accept the idea that there's just no way for anybody to have personal happiness now, well, you know, I still couldn't accept the idea that the way to make life wonderful would be to just totally reject Western civilization and fall back into some kind of belief ...

And so here I sit, torn between Andre and Wally.

I think I'm an Andre in my professional life and a Wally in my personal life.

And I am definitely in a bit of mourning this week for those folks in L.A. whose joyful routines have been upended.

Just as I mourned Swall Meadows ten years ago and the death of the home and the place I thought I would die in.

I can't help but cynically think that every time there's a high wind warning in SoCal they may as well be calling a meeting of the local Arsonist/Terrorist Assn.

Why go through the hassle of hijacking planes when you can just find a few guys to toss some matches into the brush?

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THANK YOU!

MOUNTAIN TOWN NEWS

SKI TOWN STRIKE

By Fisher

Ski patrollers at Park City reached a tentative deal with the resort's corporate owner, Vail Resorts, to end a strike and resume normal operations, the Associated Press reported Wednesday. The strike began Dec. 27, and led to closed terrain, long lift lines and national headlines during the busiest time of year.

But in Mammoth, Ski Patrollers haven't made quite as much noise. Or, really, any at all.

The living wage for Mono County is \$23.68 per hour for an adult with no children, compared to \$27.49 per hour, the living wage in Park City's Summit County, according to MIT's living wage calculator. The Park City Patrollers on strike were seeking a wage increase from \$21 to \$23 per hour.

The Ski Patrol at Mammoth Mountain are employed by Alterra Mountain Company, Vail's main competitor. But how much the ski patrollers Mammoth Mountain make "is not a statistic or number that [the Mountain] shares," said Emily van Greuning, the resort's Public Relations Manager.

The Sheet spoke to a few former patrollers at Mammoth to get their take on the issue - one a relative old-timer and the other of more recent vintage.

The old-timer said the resort maintains approximately 80 patrollers on their roster, with the rates starting at \$25 per hour and supervisors making up to about \$40 per hour.

"The guys on the Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrol don't really have too much of a complaint about wages for their job," a former Mammoth Mountain ski patroller said, who asked to remain anonymous.

He'd started on the patrol in the mid-eighties, got paid \$5 an hour with no overtime, and said he couldn't believe, at that time, that he was even getting paid for such a fun job. It was always considered a seasonal position, and one without a long tenure.

But wages are only one part of the story, he said.

When he arrived, he showed up with a couple suitcases and his skis and made it work. But today, that's just not possible, he said. The availability of housing, for one thing, makes it incredibly difficult for seasonal employees to plan, live and rent in Mammoth.

Alterra's acquisition of Mammoth may be part of that issue, but so is the real estate market, fallout effects from COVID-19, and the booming business of short-term rentals.



Poeple on strike for the Ski Patrol in Park City

And those issues - i.e. six people cramming into a two bedroom apartment, he said - are the ones that really plague the Mammoth patrol today. Issues that, frankly, affect a majority of the town's constituents.

The second patroller we spoke with has a bit of a different take. He/she signed on a few years ago at a starting wage of \$22/hour - literally just a few dollars more than a liftie, but requiring far more training and involving a lot more workplace risk.

This patroller maintained there was a lot of dissatisfaction within the ranks - that managers pretended everything was okay, but that there was a lot of frustration in the mid-to-senior level ranks around pay.

He/she said there was some murmuring about unionization but it didn't go anywhere.

One small item which he/she felt spoke volumes about corporate culture.

Two years ago, Alterra finally relented and no longer made patrollers punch out for their thirty-minute lunch breaks.

This patroller concluded by observing he/she feels there's an underlying systemic issue - Vail's CEO is not a skier, has no ski background and has Pepsi, Ford and Kraft Heinz on her resume - and that there's been a divergence of the ski industry from its roots.

The invention of Vail's EPIC pass in 2008 and subsequently, Alterra's IKON pass in 2018 changed the ski industry dramatically. In some ways, for the best, as veteran resort operator Chris Diamond (Mt. Snow) argues in his book, "Ski Inc."

"It is my view that these recent changes have rescued skiing from the trend of becoming, in effect, a rich person's sport," he wrote in the introduction, and later in the prose, "never has skiing been so affordable and the options so varied, if one is willing to commit, well in advance of the ski season, to a pass product like Epic or Ikon."

Diamond also argues that those big resorts have the cash to make investments in the town or in the resort to improve locals' quality of life and the

visitor experience.

But on the other side of the coin, conglomerates have the buying potential to out compete their in-town business competitors, stifling the small business employee base and driving up costs in town.

These acquisitions have also meant people are more likely to travel to several resorts in one season rather than settling on just one, hence a boom in short, transient stays, which have made short-term rentals profitable.

But the overarching argument from the Park City strikes is a feeling that under Vail or Alterra, profit wins over people. Well, it's more than a feeling. In 2022, Vail faced two class-action suits for failing to compensate employees for breaks, meetings, training, and equipment purchases.

**Oh, maybe that's why Mammoth's 30-minute patroller break suddenly became comped.*

One way to approach this problem is through unions, which is a group of employees who use a collective voice to strengthen their ability to negotiate with their employer, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. In fact, the strike at Park City was organized through a union.

Overall interest in organizing outdoor jobs has grown tremendously, stated Ryan Dineen, organizer with CWA Local 7781, the United Mountain Workers.

Staff at resorts such as Arapahoe Basin, Whitefish, Keystone, and Solitude resorts have filed for unionization in the last year.

But, the choice to unionize is a lot of work and isn't necessarily a one-size-fits-all approach.

At Whitefish, resort executives have made scheduling bargaining meetings complicated, according to a report by the local paper, the Whitefish Pilot.

"It sounds like the president of the company has expressed in numerous meetings that it's going to take a long time, which I think essentially means they're dragging their feet," said the union's president, as reported in the article.

TOWN COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!



1/15/25 — 6:00pm — Suite Z

With the holidays and new year celebrations behind us, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council is back to work defining the community's Strategic Priorities and Key Objectives for 2025.

On Wednesday, January 15, Town Council wants to hear from you!

Attend the Town Council meeting in-person from 6:00pm in the Council Chambers (Suite Z), located in the Minaret Village Mall (Vons) above Starbucks.

All previously submitted comments, including those presented at the meeting will broadly guide and inform the Town's strategic planning effort for the following major topics:

- **Housing and Development**
- **Economy**
- **Mobility and Transportation**
- **Public Safety**
- **Parks, Recreation, and Trails**
- **Sustainability**
- **Land Use and Development**
- **Environment**

Thank you to those people who have submitted comments online and for your interest in making Mammoth Lakes a great place to live, work and play!

LOCAL NEWS

MONO SUPES REJECT TRASH RATE HIKE

By Fisher

Mono County Supervisors talked trash for almost an hour at their meeting on Tuesday. No, literally.

Mammoth Disposal Company made a request to the board to raise the service fee floor at the board's meeting on Tuesday. The request was posed as a complicated issue by its presenter, Public Works Director Paul Roten, but it eventually boiled down to the business trying to keep an edge against its competitor, D&S Waste Removal, Inc.

"They're asking us to make a decision that ultimately helps them with their business," Supervisor John Peters remarked.

After much deliberation, Peters made a motion to make zero changes to the solid waste removal floor rate, which was seconded by Jennifer Kreitz and passed unanimously, 5-0.

Now here's the down and dirty of the issue: while rates are set by individual franchisees, there is a mandated "service fee floor" that cannot be undercut. Mammoth Disposal requested a 28.1% increase in this floor rate, citing adjustments for inflation and other costs, whereas D&S did not request any increase.

"I think, with the economy being the way it has been the last 2 or 3 years, people are hurting," said Kevin Brown, owner of D&S. "Daryl [his business partner] and I feel that if we have to have an increase, fine, but don't kill the people."

There have been no increases to the floor rate since before COVID-19. However, Mammoth Disposal has decided to increase its rates by 5% each year, and Roten expects they will raise rates by another 5% this year. This would place them at 20% above the current floor rate.

D&S has not chosen to increase its rates over the last couple years, Brown said. But should the floor rate increase, it would also need to adjust its rates.

"In theory, the franchise agreements are trying to maintain competition," Roten explained.

Mammoth Disposal primarily serves

Mammoth, while D&S covers other areas of the county, including Crowley, he said. Many constituents in Crowley opt for D&S, likely due to the differing rates between the two companies.

"Our prices include everything we need to accommodate our infrastructure and operations," Brown stated. "I don't want to be subject to paying for their operation."

When Kreitz inquired how Roten tends to receive these rate requests, he responded, "they send me an email, make phone calls, hassle me on the street." After the motion to make no changes passed, Roten expressed his gratitude to the board for the conversation, and noted that he "needed" the decision to go that way.

Pay hikes

In another, separate, unanimous decision, the Board agreed to support pay increases for 12 positions within the county's Environmental Health Series and Public Health Nursing Series, which were the only positions identified as below market in the county's salary survey.

"Hopefully, that'll help with some of the recruiting and hiring because they're struggling to get public health nurses," Supervisor Lynda Salcido said.

All other benchmark positions were found to be over market, and no recommendations were made to change or lower the salaries of those considered over market, said Special Projects Officer Mary Snyder.

"It is an acknowledgment that these salaries have been adjusted over time to recruit and fill positions, and it also reflects our Board's commitment to the employees in Mono County," Snyder added.

The fiscal impact for the remainder of the fiscal year is \$47,134, and for a full fiscal year, it is \$94,268, excluding future cost-of-living increases. The calculated fiscal impact does not include unallocated and vacant positions.

Letter to LADWP

The Board also reviewed in the meeting a letter of commitment to maintaining Mono Lake water levels. It moved forward with the letter, with the caveat that it should be addressed directly to Janisse Quiñones, the new CEO of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and Richard Katz, a new commissioner on the DWP Board of Commissioners.

Geoff McQuilkin, executive director of the Mono Lake Committee, made the suggestion to address the letter in this manner. He mentioned having met with DWP staff twice about their decision to exceed the committed water export amount.

The original commitment was for 4,500 acre-feet of water export, which would provide supply for the city while helping preserve recent gains in Mono Lake from a wet year, rather than artificially lowering the lake, McQuilkin stated.

However, DWP recently changed the diversion amount to stand at about 7,800 acre-feet, translating to approximately 2.5 billion gallons of water.

"There was really no communication provided when DWP just reached that

level and then exceeded it," McQuilkin noted. "We were aware that the number had been exceeded before Thanksgiving and spent about two weeks inquiring before receiving a response."

Eventually, DWP gave McQuilkin two reasons for the increased export: potential dry conditions and the need for water in the city, or potential wet conditions and concerns about reservoir management, particularly regarding the Grant Lake Reservoir.

"The key question we've raised but not received an answer to is whether meeting the State Water Board's healthy lake level requirement factored into that decision," McQuilkin said. "The answer was no, not really."

Within the letter, the county requested a meeting with LADWP representatives "to discuss this matter further and to explore mutually beneficial solutions." Additionally, Karen Bass, the Mayor of Los Angeles, was CC'd on the letter, and Supervisor John Peters requested that other legislators also be included on the CC list.



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WORKSHOPS

Jan 15, 2025 10:30am - 12:30pm	Mammoth Hospital
Feb 19, 2025 10:30am - 12:30pm	Family Medicine Clinic Lobby
Mar 19, 2025 10:30am - 12:30pm	85 Sierra Park Road



FIRE WEATHER REDUX

By Lunch

In the November 2 issue, prior to the election, I wrote a book review on John Vaillant’s “Fire Weather,” an account of the 2016 fire which wiped out the city of Fort McMurray in Alberta, Canada.

Fort McMurray was a bitumen (oil) industry town, with a population of 90,000.

The town’s median income was \$200,000/year. Its nickname: Fort McMONEY

I reprint much of the review here because it goes into description of the type of extreme fire behavior that’s manifested in L.A, this week.

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

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

In L.A., relative humidity this week dropped as low as 5%, with temps in the low 70s fahrenheit.

In Fort McMurray in May, 2016, temps were in the high 80s fahrenheit with relative humidity around 15%.

From the November 2 review

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

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

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

Per minute.

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

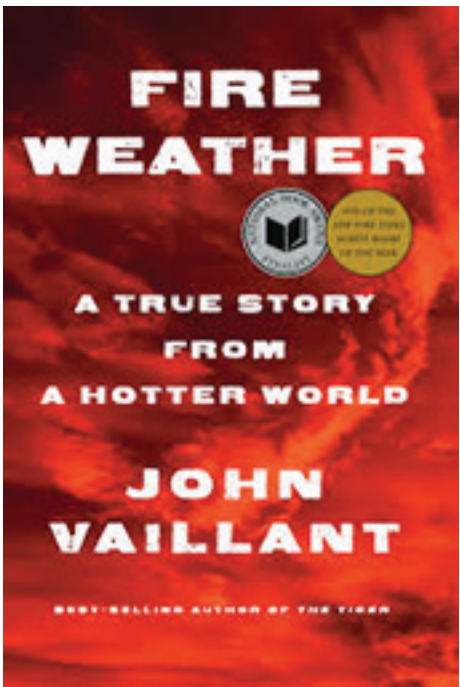
This was not the first such fire in Alberta.

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

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

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

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



one they might save.

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

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

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

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

Here’s the passage:

“The fires were started with candles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Salcido = new Board Chair

On Tuesday, the Mono County Board of Supervisors elected Supervisor Lynda Salcido (District 5) to serve as 2025 Chair, taking the reins from Supervisor John Peters (District 4). Chair Salcido immediately assumed the role, which will run through the year.

"I am honored to have been elected by my colleagues to serve in this capacity, and am optimistic about the year ahead," stated Chair Salcido.

The Board also welcomed Paul McFarland as the newest Supervisor, representing District 3. Supervisor McFarland brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to serving the people of Mono County.

Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz (District 1) was elected to serve as 2025 Vice-Chair, and Supervisor Paul McFarland (District 3) was elected to serve as 2025 Chair Pro-Tem.

Wait, what?

The Sheet called McFarland to ask what a Chair Pro-Tem does.

McFarland: It's like the Vice-Chair-in-waiting. We're very keen on succession planning here in Mono County.

Hiker Dies on Mt. Whitney

On January 4, 2025, at approximately 1 p.m., Inyo County Search and Rescue located Taylor Rodriguez's body approximately half a mile northwest of Upper Boy Scout Lake, at an elevation of 12,000 feet, near the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek Trail. Rodriguez was deceased.

The search was initiated by a report of an overdue hiker on January 2 on Mt. Whitney. It is believed he was attempting to summit Mt. Whitney on December 30, 2024.

At this time, it is unclear which route Rodriguez intended to take, and there were concerns that he was without

adequate gear and had limited hiking experience.

Special thanks to the Army National Guard, CHP Inland Division Air Operations, CHP Central Division Air Operations, CalOES FIRIS (High altitude imaging plane), Mono County SAR, and China Lake Mountain Rescue Group (Kern County) for their mutual aid and dedication. Additionally, we express our gratitude to the kitchen staff of the Inyo County Sheriff's Office for their support to the search teams.

New Capacity Fee Study

Periodically, the Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD/District) conducts a study to evaluate whether the capacity (connection) fees charged for new or expanded water and sewer services properly reflect the cost of the service provided. District staff recently identified the fees currently in place that need to be updated to accurately reflect the asset value and the number of customers utilizing the system.

In June 2024, the District began work with a consultant, Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. (RDN), to evaluate current fees and make recommendations for appropriate changes to the capacity/connection fee structure. The draft report from RDN is now available for the public to review by visiting the MCWD website at: <https://www.mcwd.dst.ca.us/capacity-fee-study>

The MCWD Board of Directors will consider adopting these revised fees at a Regular Board Meeting to be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025. If you have any additional questions, please contact the District at 760.934.2596.

FIRES

continued from page 1

busy visitation season.

"It's a good time for us to be assisting down south," he said.

The Inyo National Forest also sent a Bureau of Land Management engine with five firefighters from the Topaz station, according to the agency's Public Information Officer, Lisa Cox. This crew includes three firefighters from the Bishop BLM unit and two from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

California's Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan is designed to facilitate such assistance, as no single municipality has enough resources to combat large fires independently. Fire departments rely on each other to help as needed.

"The benefit of that [system] is that our firefighters gain experience while they're down there so they can better serve our communities," Tomaier said.

Determining which Mammoth firefighters are sent to assist involves a rotation based on availability. The standard assignment lasts 14 days, which can be challenging for part-time volunteer firefighters to commit to. Mammoth Fire has only four full-time firefighters and approximately 40 volunteer part-timers.

"Some of them have to make accommodations with their current employers," Tomaier said. "They're saying that, actually, because things have slowed down a little bit [since last week], this worked out for them."

According to Tomaier, the strain for resources always lies in firefighters,

not equipment, as these emergency situations do not stretch the station's resources.

The wildfires in Los Angeles, which quickly gained national attention, were exacerbated by warmer-than-average temperatures, dry winds, and a lack of rain, as reported by the Associated Press. Southern California hasn't seen more than 0.1 inches (0.25 centimeters) of rain since early May.

Mammoth Fire has been able to somewhat anticipate wildfire risks by working with California's Office of Emergency Services, which identified particularly dangerous conditions. However, Tomaier noted that the extent of the fires has surprised many.

By early Wednesday, winds reached 80 mph (129 kph), with predictions of up to 100 mph (160 kph) in the mountains and foothills, according to reports by the National Weather Service.





MINARET CINEMAS
437 Old Mammoth Rd
Movie Info Line
(760) 934 3131

Buy Tickets Online
DPlaceEntertainment.com

Movies Starting This Friday 01/10 to 01/16

 A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (R) 2h 20m Friday - Sunday 1:00pm 4:00pm 7:15pm Tuesday - Thursday 4:00pm 7:00pm	 SONIC 3 (PG) 1h 49m Friday - Sunday 1:30pm 4:30pm 7:30pm Tuesday - Thursday 4:30pm 7:15pm
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2025 POPCORN PASSE

****NO SHOWTIMES ON MONDAY 01/13/25****



meet
DUKE

This handsome fella is Duke, a neutered Great Dane who is just over a year old. Duke is a big guy with an even bigger heart, but he needs an experienced owner who can provide him with the guidance and structure he needs to thrive. Duke is looking for a home with a secure, fenced yard and an active and engaged owner.

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Use the QR code at right to view our full menu!



JERRY
continued from page 1

twists and turns and grunts and - well, no swearing, because I didn't know Jerry too well - then eventually removing the legs to better maneuver it into the pickup bed.

Done.
I hand Jerry the money and we go inside to retrieve the bag of 'extras,' cues and racks and chalk and so forth, and he nods to a piano in the bonus room. He asks if I'd like to buy that, too.

I tell him I'll have to ask my daughter if she'd be interested.

-My wife used to play, Jerry offers.
-Is she no longer with us? I ask gently.
-She died in 1977.
-Of what?
-A brain tumor.
-Did you ever remarry?
-She was my high school sweetheart.

I leave and tell him I'll think about the piano, but what I really think about is what it must be like to grieve the person you loved most in your life who died 47 years ago. And how you got through it at the time with two boys in high school. How you coped with loss and how you found meaning in your life in the intervening years.

So I called him back a few days later and asked if I could interview him about exactly what I described above.

By now I can tell you a few other things I had gleaned during the pool table transaction. His name is Jerry Hardy. He's 88-years old. He's the father of former Inyo County District Attorney Tom Hardy. And he taught at Bishop High School and then Cerro Coso Col-

lege for more than three decades.
Now Jerry is of my father's generation - the Silent Generation. By nature, they're reticent. And even at one point during our 90-minute conversation in Jerry's living room on Tuesday morning, he stops and says, "Do we really need to use my full name for this?"

And I said Jerry, once the details of your life and career are revealed, won't everyone know who you are, anyway?

So he relented. And we continued.
Here's the biographical sketch. He was born in the Central Illinois town of Monticello. His future wife was a classmate. They began dating their senior year of high school. After high school, they continued to be long-distance sweethearts. She went to Chicago to train to be a nurse. Jerry? Well, his future wife (Donna) kept gently suggesting that perhaps he might attend college. Jerry wouldn't refer to it as nagging, She was very sweet about it. But the suggestions kept coming until he enrolled at Eastern Illinois University.

"We supported the post office [financially, via letters] for quite awhile," he said of this long-distance period in their relationship.

While "she was the smart one" according to Jerry, it turns out he was no slouch. He was the first member of his family to graduate college - with a degree in business education. He had decided he might like to be a bookkeeper or an accountant - until he did some student teaching, which was a requirement of his major. "I loved teaching from day

one," he said.
The couple married on December 27, 1958, as Donna finished nursing school after the fall term of Jerry's senior year.

Going to California

Jerry had two older brothers, one of whom served at a now-defunct Air Force base in Victorville.

One summer while he was in high school, he visited this brother, his wife and their young child.

A brother-in-law who lived in the area made a living repossessing cars.

Her gave Jerry a part-time job going with him on calls, so instead of having to tow cars home Jerry could drive the repossession home instead.

This afforded Jerry the opportunity to travel all over the Mojave Desert. "I grew up in the flat plains of Illinois. I instantly fell in love with the desert and the mountains."

At the end of his three-year, post-college teaching contract, Jerry convinced Donna to move to California. At the time, L.A. County schools were desperate for teachers and had recruiters canvassing the country looking for potential transplants.

By then, the couple had two small children, Jim and Tom.

Jerry interviewed in Chicago and three days later had a contract offer. First stop: Granada Hills High School. And then later, Bishop.

He bought his Bishop home in August,

1966.
The Illness

Donna worked at Northern Inyo Hospital. She was absolutely dedicated to the hospital, medicine, her career, her patients. In this day and age, says Jerry, she would have been a doctor.

One day she passed out at work. Tests revealed she had a brain tumor. She received treatment at UC-San Francisco.

After her first surgery, she had to go in for daily treatments. The family had a tent camper and camped just north of San Francisco.

Then there was a brief respite. Donna even felt well enough to return to work, though her husband worried about taxing her strength too much. She was still returning to the Bay Area for treatments, and then there was a second surgery. But after the 2nd surgery, she was never the same.

Son Tom recalled that during this period (his mother was diagnosed when he was 14), his father was remarkably composed and present. "Even though he was dealing with all this stuff, he still made time to make sure we were taken care of. It was stressful and traumatic, but Dad made sure that everything we needed always happened."

Tom especially remembers the kindness of neighbors, and the many meals he and his brother shared with football

more JERRY, pg. 9



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Info@WoodSimonetti.com

Mammoth Lakes
126 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 203

Bishop
621 W. Line Street, Suite 206

FELICI & FRIENDS

WINTER
CONCERTS

PROGRAM 3



The
Felicci
Piano
Trio

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Music by Robert Schumann, Louise Farrenc
& Ludwig van Beethoven

SATURDAY
January 18, 2025
7:00 pm
Cerro Coso College, Mammoth Lakes



SUNDAY
January 19, 2025
4:00 pm
Cerro Coso College, Bishop

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Valerie Mackay, In memory of Donald Sage

JERRY

continued from page 8

coach Irwin Spector, who lived down the street.

Jerry recalls all the little things the hospital staff did for Donna - that even though she was in a double room at the end, it stayed a single room. And when another person needed a bed, the nurses moved her to the OB section where they could better look after her.

The Aftermath

The boys were respectively entering junior and senior years in high school when their mother passed. Jerry threw himself into work and the church (Catholic) to keep busy. He wasn't interested in dating, no matter how many of his high school teaching colleagues tried to fix him up on dates.

"At the age the boys were, I wasn't interested in them having a stepmother," said Jerry.

What really threw him was after the boys left on their life paths, the dog died, leaving him by himself. It was almost too much. He never got another dog, probably because he couldn't bear the idea of another future loss.

But loss has a way of finding you.

Jim ended up going to trade school to

become an aircraft mechanic and ultimately taught at that trade school.

Jim passed away in 2005.

Tom was valedictorian of his high school class and attended Claremont McKenna college and then UCLA law. He ultimately returned to Bishop to take a job in Doug Buchanan's office.

He found that he loved small town law.

In terms of advice on dealing with loss, Jerry said, "Just don't give up. There were times I felt like saying to hell with it, but ... I found it helps to lean on

your friends a little bit."

"I think of her nearly every day," he continued. "I find myself having conversations with her."

Sheet: What was the last conversation about?

Jerry: Leaving Bishop. I don't want to leave her alone (she's buried in Pioneer Cemetery).

Son Tom has moved to Oregon and Jerry thinks perhaps he should move there, too. But he's been in his home for 58 years. And he "absolutely loves" Bishop.

We rose from our chairs and shook hands. Jerry pointed to the carpet in the

next room - noting the difference in the color of the carpet where the pool table had stood - for close to fifty years.

And then at the door, "Hey, let me

know if you want that piano. I'll give it to you. But it probably weighs 400-500 pounds. You're gonna need some help."

A little help from some friends.



In retirement, Jerry got interested in stained glass and took some classes. This is his version of the "Wabash Cannonball," the train that used to pass by his town in Illinois. At right, you can see the former indentation of the pool table in the carpet.

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

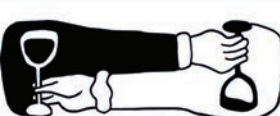
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Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill
Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. extended to 8 p.m. for football on Mondays and Thursdays. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More Liberty info: See ad p. 15*
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

Friday, January 10/
Big Smooth (high energy rock/dance bangers) plays Liberty. No cover. Starts 9:30 p.m.

January 10-11/
Weekend Apres Ski parties @ Canyon Lodge. Starts 2 p.m. both days.

Saturday, January 11/
Good Night Club's hot funk disco party @ Liberty. No cover. Starts 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 12/
Cassie Dunn plays Distant Brewing. Time: 7-9 p.m.

Monday, January 13/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, January 14/
Karaoke @ Liberty. Starts 9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 15/
Weekly Pool Tournament @ Distant Brewing. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Pool from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Saturday, January 11/
Bishop Climbing Rangers hold "Climber Coffee" community meetup. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Owens River Gorge Central Parking.
Sierra Forever offers **free guided snowshoe hikes** in Mammoth each Saturday @ 11 a.m. Snowshoe loaners available. Leave from Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at 2510 Main St.
Woolly's weekend dance party @ the Village at Mammoth. Time: 3:45-4:30 p.m.
Bucky's Saturday bonfire @ the June Mountain Chalet. Time: 2 p.m.
Sage to Summit winter race series @ Millpond County Park. 5K. Register 8 a.m. with race @ 9. Suggested donation \$10.
Sierra Forever Alabama Hills Ranger Programs. Time: 11-12 p.m. and 1-2 p.m. Location: Mobius Arch Trailhead.
Mono Arts Council "Art and Wine" class @ the MAC Gallery inside the Minaret Mall. "Acrylic Landscape painting" with Blair Latos. Time: 3-6 p.m. \$\$\$ *Register at monoarts.org*.

January 11-12/
Unbound Series Slopestyle runs from 8:30 a.m. Saturday through 4:30 p.m. Enter for a chance to qualify for USASA National Championships at

TOWN STUFF

mammothmountain.com.
Full Moon Snowshoe Tours @ Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center. Starts 7 p.m. \$\$\$ *Book at mammothmountain.com*

Monday, January 13/
Bishop City Council meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers @ 377 West Line St.

Tuesday, January 14/
Mono County Supervisors meet. Location: Bridgeport Courthouse or online via monocounty.ca.gov. Starts 10 a.m.
Inyo County Supervisors host a **special meeting** to appoint a new D.A. and Treasurer/Tax Collector. Starts 9 a.m. Location: 224 No. Edwards in Independence or online via inyocounty.us.
Mammoth Soccer hosts **Frazier Mountain**. Girls' game starts at 3:00 p.m., boys' game starts at 5:00 p.m.
Bishop Basketball hosts **California City**. Varsity girls play at 5:30 p.m., followed by the boys ~7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 15/
Bishop Soccer hosts **California City**. Varsity girls play 3 p.m. followed by the boys' game.

Thursday, January 16/
Mono County Planning Commission meets. Location: Mono Lake Room, 1290 Tavern Road or online via monocounty.ca.gov. Starts 9 a.m.

TOWN STUFF

Friday, January 17/
Mammoth Husky Basketball hosts **Frazier Mountain**. Girls' game starts at 4:00, boys' game starts at 5:30.
Foro Latino meeting to discuss federal policy changes and how they may affect the local community. Time: 5-7 p.m. Location: Mono Lake Room inside the Mono County Civic Center, 1290 Tavern Rd.

Saturday, January 18/
The Eastern Sierra People's March for caring, solidarity, kindness and safety. "Books belong in libraries, not on bonfires." Rally begins 1 p.m. with march to follow. Info: Karyle Tong @ 406.224.1572.
Eastern Sierra Wildlife Tracking Workshop with Sierra Forever and Eastern Sierra Land Trust. Join wildlife tracker Phil Johnston for a day in the desert. Location: Bishop area. Time: 9 a.m. 'til 3 p.m. \$\$\$ *Info/register @ sierraforever.org*

mammoth

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

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Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm

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HAPPY HOUR
Mon-Fri: 3:30-6:30 pm
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- \$3 Cheese Slice \$4 Pepperoni Slice
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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
Staff accountant
-Mammoth \$30
Overnight laundry attendant
-Mammoth \$20
Community Integration Partner
Bishop/Mammoth \$20-25 + potential mileage reimbursement
Radio ad sales
-Bishop \$20/hr. plus commission

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



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO

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

Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help Center Program Coordinator

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

Annual Salary: \$89,243

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

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.

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.
- **Clinical Scribe** - Starting wage \$23.85 to \$28.91 based on qualification.
- **Physical Therapist** – Starting wage \$48.72 to \$59.05 based on qualifications. \$5,000 Retention Bonus
- **Hospital Social Worker** – Starting wage \$43.69 to \$52.96 based on qualifications.

To view more open positions and apply, please visit www.mammothhospital.org/jobs

Shilo Inn is accepting applications for FT housekeepers, FT maintenance worker and Front desk/night auditor. Immediate Front Desk opportunity starting at \$18/hour. Please call Human Resources (Sarina Quintero) at 925.813.2331 or email your resume to squintero@marquishotelsgroup.com.



MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT 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/>.



Progress Your Career at Mammoth Hospital!

We're currently looking for:

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



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



Openings at www.mammothhospital.com |    

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

Creskide 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 Restaurant at the popular Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA. Experi-

MARKETING AMBASSADOR MAMMOTH LAKES

H&G Marketing seeks energetic individuals for local events and customer engagement. Must be 21+, valid driver's license required. Weekend/evening availability needed. Duties include: distributing promotional materials, booth setup, event photography, customer engagement, and promoting local business and deals. CA min wage plus success bonuses, fun and flexible schedule. Email resume to Doug@hallandgans.com and ruthie@hallandgans.com.

Help Wanted

ence 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

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

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

Commercial spaces for rent:
-Office/storage 340 ft.
-Office or retail 357 ft.
-Storage spaces 38 & 85 ft.
Building features incl. 24/7 access, parking, kitchen, bathrooms, common area conference room and heat.
Call 818.307.3698 or 970.837.6720



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



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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Agreement to Purchase Tax-Defaulted Property

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with the provisions of Division 1, Part 6, Chapter 8 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code (and the written authorization of the State Controller), that an agreement, a copy of which is on file in the office of the board of supervisors of Mono County, has been made between the county board of supervisors and the County of Mono, and approved by the State Controller, whereby the county will sell the real property described in the agreement and in this notice. All property named in the agreement is subject to the tax collector's power to sell tax defaulted property.

The effective date and time of the agreement shall be February 4, 2025, at 5:01 p.m.

If the property is not redeemed according to law before the effective date and time of the agreement, the right of redemption will cease and the undersigned tax collector, pursuant to said agreement, will sell said property to the County of Mono.

If the property is sold, parties of interest as defined in California Revenue and Taxation Code section 4675, have a right to file a claim with the county for any excess proceeds from the sale. Excess proceeds are the amount of the highest bid in excess of the liens and costs of the sale that are required to be paid from the sale proceeds. Notice will be given to parties of interest, pursuant to

California Revenue and Taxation Code section 3692(e), if excess proceeds result from the sale. For information as to the amount necessary to redeem or other related issues pertaining to the property described in this notice, contact Janet Dutcher, Tax Collector of Mono County in the State of California.

PARCEL NUMBERING SYSTEM EXPLANATION
The Assessor's Parcel Number, when used to describe property in this list, refers to the assessor's map book, the map page, the block on the map if applicable, and the individual parcel on the map page or in the block. The assessor's maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available in the assessor's office.
The properties that are the subject of this notice are situated in Mono County, California, and are described in graphic below:

I certify under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Janet Dutcher, Mono County Director of Finance/
Treasurer-Tax Collector

Executed at Bridgeport, Mono, California, on December 16, 2024.

TS #2025-0001

Item No.	Assessor's Parcel Number	Last Assessee Name
1	008-093-032-000	MICHAEL J GARBARINO



CARSON

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Divorce & Family Law

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Notice of Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is being updated. See survey below!





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OUR COMMUNITY SAFER

TAKE THE SURVEY

PARTICIPA EN LA ENCUESTA



NECESITAMOS TU OPINIÓN
PARA HACER NUESTRA
COMUNIDAD MÁS SEGURA

El plan de mitigacion de riesgos del condado de mono y la ciudad de Mammoth Lakes esta en el proceso de actualizacion
TS #2024-0159

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Julia Eve Baking

Julia Eve Yaris
PO Box 1500
Mammoth Lakes, Calif. 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on December 1, 2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on December 27, 2024
File Number 24-104
2025-0002 (01/11, 01/18, 01/25, 02/01)



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PERSONALS

I see ... L.A. burning, and I think it's important for all of us to remember the healing power of sex in a crisis.

I see ... ski patrollers in Park City are on strike. So I guess Epic now only refers to the lift lines.

I saw you ... were trying to blame the LA fires on the Governor. Makes perfect sense. If he had only built a retractable dome over the city, the wind wouldn't have gotten through!

I saw you ... had a colonoscopy this week. Did they find your head up there after all?

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AMPUTATION: A HORROR STORY

By Jim Reed

My book about the Convict Lake incident (“The Fatal Affair in Convict Canyon”) has been adapted by screenwriters into a screenplay. This is a chapter in a spinoff. A lawman has been ambushed by men who had robbed an express train near Reno. He has been shot in the knee by a high-powered rifle. This is a description of an actual leg amputation in Carson City in November 1870. The names and some minor details have been changed. Imagine the horror of the amputation of a limb before the advent of pain killing drugs.

When he heard that Wells Fargo agent James Helm was in serious condition, federal marshal Jim Ashworth rode thirty miles from Reno to Carson City, where Helm was recuperating.

“Gangrene has infested the leg,” the doctor told Ashworth. “Tissue in and around the wound has died. It’s called necrosis. I removed some dead tissue, but I doubt I got it all.”

“What causes it?”

“Any number of things. After being shot, Mr. Helm scrambled around in dirt dragging the injured knee. Also, I removed miniscule pieces of bloodied cloth that had been blown through his pants into the knee. Either could have caused the infection.”

“What’s the prognosis?”

“It’s difficult to say. Gangrene is life threatening as it is, and it often leads to sepsis. That’s an infection of the blood, generally called blood poisoning. The body overreacts to the original infection and gradually kills the organs, even the brain. It sometimes heals on its own, but there’s no known cure.”

“What comes next?”

“Two other doctors have examined Mr. Helm. We think an amputation of the leg above the knee might save him.”

“Good god, have you told him yet? The pain must be unimaginable.”

“As I explained to he and his wife, we’ll dose him with morphine. It’s the only pain-relieving agent we know about. It was used extensively for amputations during the Civil War.”

“Then he won’t feel pain?”

“He’ll still feel almost unbearable pain, but we can’t make him unconscious. Too much of the drug can cause fatal respiratory and cardiac problems. He may feel relaxed at first, euphoric even, so the experience of pain should be somewhat reduced. We told him that without amputation he will likely walk a slow path to death. With amputation, the chances are still fifty-fifty that sepsis will set in and kill him”

“What did he and his wife decide?”

“We left the room so they could talk. When we returned, she was crying. I won’t forget what he said: ‘Cut the damn thing off, doc, and order me a new one.’”

Helm was given whiskey and morphine and held down by two neighbors. Removal of his leg with keen-edged knives and a hacksaw-like surgical saw took about ten minutes. His thigh was cut five inches above the shattered knee. The bone of the lower leg had been blown open four inches. Completion of the operation was slowed for another half-hour as blood was sopped up, arteries tied off, and a stump fashioned to stave off further infection.

“Gangrene had set in from the ankle to above the knee,” the doctor told Ashworth.

“He’d have died within days. Now he

may recover.”

A local newspaper reported: “Agent Helm bore up well. We are happy to report that the prognosis is good. The doctors say that the vital condition of the patient is what is needed to work a cure.”

The day after the operation, the report was “he is lingering and low, but the good news is that the stump is healing without complications. The pain continues to lessen.”

The next day’s report was encouraging. “He has improved in the last 24 hours. His spirits are high. Without some unforeseen change for the worse, he will probably recover.”

The third day’s news was of that feared unforeseen change. “We are under the painful necessity of reporting the death of James Helm, the Wells Fargo agent. His doctors tell us that sepsis had set in after the amputation of his leg above the knee. There is no known cure. Agent Helm had nerves of steel and a constitution of iron.”

The inquest findings were: “(1) The immediate manner of death was an infection called sepsis that set in after the amputation. (2) The ultimate cause of death was homicide as a result of a wound caused by the perpetrators of the recent express train robbery near Reno.”

The funeral was at the opera house in Virginia City. The parson described Helm as a family man and lawman killed in the

line of duty. The homily concluded: “As it is said in Isaiah 57:2, ‘Those who walk up-rightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.’ Our friend James Helm, who lies before us today, is at peace.”

A sunburned, gray-bearded, long-haired, prospector stood. He wore wrinkled miners’ clothes with knee-high, laced boots and a floppy broad-brimmed hat. He nodded at the parson and said in a nasal voice, “Pard, I ain’t used to followin’ up from a man what owns a gospel mill.” He took out a kerchief, snorted into it, and continued. “I don’t know nothin’ about that god yer talkin’ about. But pard, I knows a good man when I sees ‘im.” He pointed at the casket. “That was a good one. We got a shebang cooked up for ‘im at ol’ No. 1. You can ferget yer gospel book and yer doxology and bring yer dancin’ shoes.”

“Amen” rippled through the congregation.

A slow march to the graveyard was led by the band of Engine Company No. 1 playing a mournful dirge.

A celebration of life ensued at the engine company’s firehouse. There was dancing to a piano and two fiddles. Whiskey flowed freely. A dozen miners and firemen were run in by the sheriff to sober up, including a fire captain and a tuba player and the bass drummer of the band.

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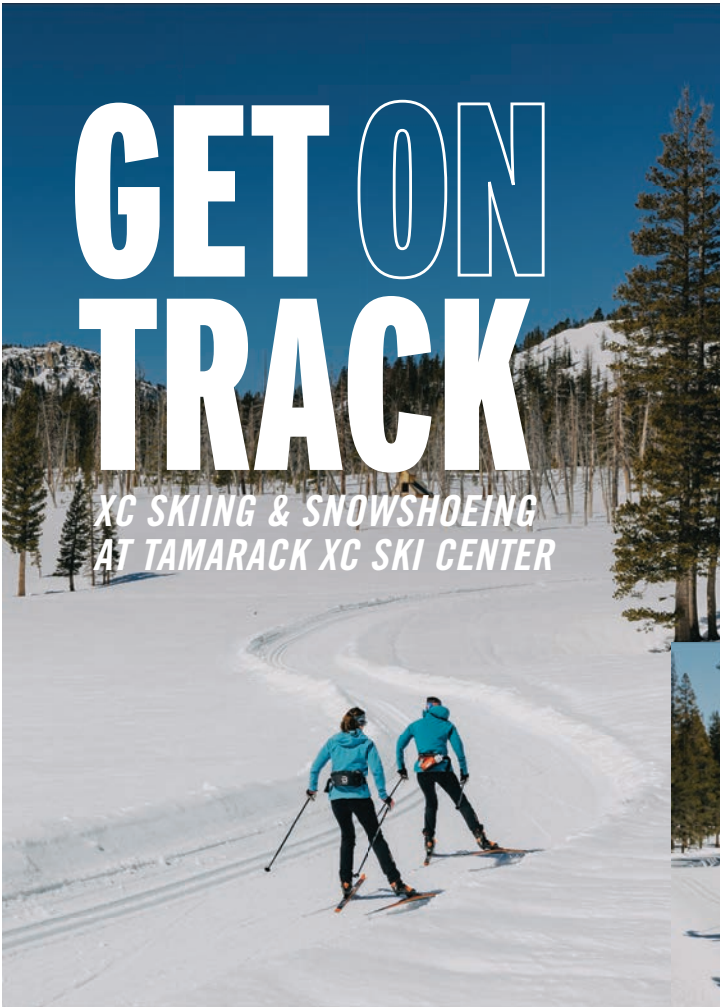


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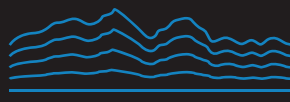


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The Felici Trio: Steven Vanhauwaert, Rebecca Hang and Brian Schuldt

GET SOME RESPECT

Press Release

Just like Aretha Louise Franklin wanted a little “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” from her lover, the 19th century composer Louise Farrenc demanded respect from her colleagues at the Paris Conservatory. Having been denied entrance to the famed institution as a student, simply because she was a girl, did not stop her from developing her outsized musical talents. She must have felt some sense of vindication, when at the age of 38, she was the first woman ever to be hired as full professor at the Conservatory. Not only was Louise Farrenc a brilliant performer, accomplished composer, musical scholar, and dedicated teacher, she also pioneered the idea that women deserve the same pay as their male colleagues. When she found out that she had not received equal compensation, she demanded and got it. Respect, Madame Farrenc!

Featured on the Felici Trio’s upcoming third concert program of the season is Farrenc’s supremely confident Sonata No 2 for Violin and Piano, written in the year 1850.

The German composer Robert Schumann (who struggled less with respecting great female musicians since he was married to one!) had sung Louise Farrenc’s praises decades earlier, complimenting her works for their intrinsic musical logic and sureness of expression. He admitted that her music cast a spell on him with its “charming and subtle aroma of Romanticism.”

Schumann’s compositions are sampled with his “Five Pieces in Folk Style for Cello and Piano,” which pays respect to the Romantic era’s ideal of simplicity and connectedness to nature.

The Felicis then join forces for Beethoven’s “Archduke Trio.” While Beethoven embraced the French Revolution’s calls for “liberty, equality and brotherhood,” he depended on the Viennese aristocracy to make a living and dedicated his trio to the Archduke Rudolph, one of his most reliable supporters.

As a fifteen-year-old, Rudolph had chosen Beethoven to be his music teacher, and the two forged an unlikely friendship that was marked by mutual respect and lasted until the end of the composer’s life.

The “Archduke Trio” stands out from other masterpieces by virtue of its visionary quality (it anticipates numerous features of later musical styles), and its generous and noble character.

Chamber Music Unbound presents the Felici Piano Trio in “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” on Saturday, January 18th at 7:00 PM at Cero Coso College in Mammoth and Sunday, January 19th at 4 PM at Cerro Coso College in Bishop. Tickets are available online at ChamberMusicUnbound.org or at the door 45 minutes before showtime. Also see ad p. 8

nfl

ON ONE-AND-DONE “RENEGADES”

By Hartley

And the playoffs begin. And there are too many playoff teams. The Steelers and Texans certainly don’t belong. They both suck. The Texans need to fix their offensive line. It’s atrocious and it’s making the QB suck, too. He likes a nice clean pocket and their offensive line provides NONE of that. I could get three sacks a game against that collection of fat, lazy potatoes. The Steelers - they need to fix their entire mindset, philosophy and coaching staff.

I watched the in-season version of HBO’s Hard Knocks featuring the AFC North. It confirmed everything I thought about the Steelers. I am convinced Russell Wilson and Mike Tomlin belong together. Talk about two clowns walking around spewing gibberish all day, strutting like they are great and making no sense. Pathetic. I know why the media loves Tomlin. They like the fact that he speaks like them. He takes something you could say in 2 words and makes it into a 100-word soliloquy. It’s exhausting. The season is over, locker clean-out day. Not to Tomlin. “This is a Black Trash Bag Type of Day.” What? Does he say it this way so he can seem clever or have to explain it further? How about you spell out how to create an offense other than run, run bomb. Well, that gets harder. He has to say something like ... the defense needs to create more points and opportunities for the offense to be successful. Great scheme, coach. I bet if Russell Wilson and Mike Tomlin speak in front of the team in the same meeting every player in the room would want to execute them. Couple of idiots pretending to be smart. After losing their 4th straight game Russell Wilson said the team can’t live in the past and worry about that, they have to focus on the playoffs and everyone is 0-0 now in the new season. Hmm. So you can’t worry about the dysfunctional mess you were like ... five minutes ago? Past is prologue. That guy is a little special. He

told DE Cam Heyward, as they walked off the field after losing last week, “let’s go win the next 4 games now.” This after turning in one of the worst games of his life. Delusional. Like every idiot in the home stands singing RENEGADE, which is just an awful song.

I said it was a house of cards. The media still thinks Tomlin is a great coach. Now I hear rumors of Aaron Rodgers to the Steelers. That’s what we need - one more guy who talks too much.

Speaking of the spread of verbal diarrhea ... Safety Minkah Fitzpatrick said other teams were scheming against the Steelers to exploit the defense’s issues. Translation: Oh ... you mean they have the nerve to develop a game plan?

When I see the list of people being interviewed for head coaching jobs it makes me laugh. Rex Ryan and Ron Rivera? I wouldn’t let them coach a pee-wee team. At least Rivera fills a minority interview quota. Steeler OC Arthur Smith getting interviews? Have they seen the Steelers offense? Fun fact: the Steelers didn’t throw a pass on a first down against the Bengals last week until there was 1 minute left in the second quarter. That’s some real forward thinking offense there. Josh McCown? David Shaw the former Stanford coach gets tossed in there every year ... for minority quota. They wanna satisfy some quota, I am black and native american. Interview me.

Dolphin WR Tyreek Hill is stupid. Just stupid. He was on the Chiefs and winning Super Bowls. He wanted to leave to get more money than he is worth so he went to Miami. Now he is bitching that he wants to leave Miami. He basically removed himself from the last game. He “is too good to be just out there.”

Well stupid, you were winning in KC and they were gonna pay you. They just weren’t gonna pay you what YOU think you are worth. And they won 2

see HARTLEY, page 15



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HARTLEY

continued from page 14

straight Super Bowls after trading your ass. Miami is dumb enough to pay you ANOTHER \$90 million for 3 years after winning NOTHING with you and you want out? To go where? Buffalo and KC have given up on disgruntled, overhyped WRs like yourself and Diggs. They are better without you. I guess you can go to the Raiders or Jets or some other losing organization willing to throw money at your ass until you beat up another babymomma. Clown.

Speaking of dumb WRs, George Pickens is allergic to money. He wants to be considered one of the best and get paid and last game he had 6 targets and 1 reception for 0 yards and 3 drops. He had more dropped passes than yards. Then he tried to fight some chirping

fans. Yet another glowing example of how Coach Mike Tomlin is so great at handling malcontents. These things end badly every time.

Does Rex Ryan ever get tired of embarrassing himself? He is openly campaigning for the job with the Jets and already starting a feud with the team's existing QB. He says he will end "the country club atmosphere."

Why was he interviewed anyway? Didn't they fire his ass before? Same ownership group. Stop it. You aren't serious if you interview Rex Ryan.

The Browns being the Browns, they fired Offensive Coordinator Ken Dorsey. Who would think that's a good idea? How about the last several teams that fired him before he got to you.

How about you fire Deshaun Watson and the owner for paying Watson. How about you fire the GM for having one-armed QBs as backups?

Theeee games

Chargers -3 at Texans . O/U 42.5. Texans suck and are hurt. Chargers are okay and not hurt. Chargers 26- 20.

Ravens -9.5 to Steelers. O/U 43.5. Steeler fans and others think this is the best matchup for the Steelers because they always play Ravens tough. I think the best matchup is Pittsburgh's match-up next week when they are sitting on their couches after this ass-whipping. Ravens 30-16. OVER is the Steelers miserable season.

Bills -8.5 to the Broncos. O/U 46.5. I am intrigued by this game. Bills 30-26. Even though I hate Bronco Head Coach Sean Payton.

Eagles -4.5 to Packers. O/U 45.5. The Packers are good but they are hurt. The Eagles are better and will be more physical and beat them. Enough.

Eagles 23- 17.

Bucs - 3 to Commanders. O/U 50.5. I know he is a rookie but I got a feelin' about Commander QB Jayden Daniels in this one. Commanders 30-27.

Vikings -1.5 at Rams. O/U 47.5. The Rams are healthy at the right time. And the QB/Coach combo of Matthew Stafford and Sean McVay is better than Minnesota's Sam Darnold and Kevin O'Connell. Boy, did Pieface (Darnold) turn into PumpkinPie Face last week. Darnold was awful. Missed several throws that could have changed the course of that game.

If he is awful this week he will lose even more money that he thought he could command after the season.

He and Brock Purdy ...

I love the playoffs. Well, I love it for other teams. The Steelers steal my playoff joy.

Harold Hartley has relocated from Seattle to Charleston, South Carolina. Clearly, he is in a better mood as a result.

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