

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Photographer Gayla Wolf was out far and wide shooting community events this week, including the St. Pat's Dinner @ the Bishop Elks Lodge on Monday. Her photos appear on pages 12 & 14

Saturday, March 22, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. Brady

CENTURY CITY

By Fisher

Next month, on April 22, Robert Schimmel, affectionately known as "Schim," will join the elite, less than one-tenth of 1% of the United States population, who have reached triple digits.

On Wednesday, I sat on a couch in the house he and his wife had built 34 years ago. Schim, slightly slumped in a large upholstered lounge chair across from me, looked comfortable but unassuming.

"Are you excited for your birthday party?" I asked. Dressed entirely in black—a Columbia puffer, slacks, and Crocs—he shrugged and replied that it would be "just another day."

His wife, Mary, had reached out to share the news with us, seemingly more excited about this centenarian milestone than Schim himself. She hadn't told him I was coming.

Behind him, a snow covered mountain landscape stretched beyond ceiling-high glass windows. Most of the blinds were open, except for one, which featured a taped-up poster reading "100 Years Young," adorned with a mosaic of photos his daughter made. In the corner, their cat hid behind a TV stand, and Mary placed a plate of cookies on the side-table by the couch.

Schim described his life as existing in "phases," with memories grouped together by significant events. Together, Mary, Schim, and I pieced together these phases, lamenting the challenge of summarizing a century in just an hour. Then, Mary pulled out a brown-covered photo album, and Schim's eyes lit up. She brought it over, and a couple black-and-white frames fluttered to the floor.

He opened the album and pointed to a photo of an 11-foot brown bear, held up by several

uniformed men. This picture was taken during his Navy "phase." He enlisted at eighteen during World War II. The war ended before he saw combat, but he spent years training and ferrying airplanes across the country.

"I can still see myself the first time I flew a Corsair," he recalled. A Corsair was a prominent fighter plane during World War II and the Korean War. Schim said it was huge. He remembered getting into the cockpit, starting the engine, and rolling down the runway, he said. He pushed the lever, raced down the strip, and then pulled back to shoot into the sky.

The Navy was a good experience for Schim, and he found a lot of camaraderie within his Squadron. Despite the looming threat of deployment to Japan and some "close calls" during training, he cherished the work.

He recounted a particularly harrowing moment during flight training in Memphis, Tennessee, when his instructor simulated an engine failure at an interval of 500 feet.

As the instructor cut the engine, Schim spotted a fire-house and a large field ahead. Instinctively, he steered toward the field, focusing intently on keeping the nose of the aircraft down.

The rush of speed blurred his surroundings, making it difficult to gauge the proximity of obstacles. Suddenly, he realized he had flown through telephone wires, the adrenaline peaking as the wire sliced through the air above the cockpit.

Though the engine managed to sever the wire, it draped across his chest before fully snapping as he landed.

"My life was just full of those little incidents," he told me.

see SCHIM, pg. 8

ROCKY ROAD

MLR recommends purchase of \$350,000 faux rock

By Lunch

"Boy, I got vision, and the rest of the world wears bifocals."

That was Butch Cassidy (played by Paul Newman) in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

And the sentiment appears to be shared by Mammoth politicians, who may not be bank robbers like Cassidy, but they sure spend money like 'em.

So without further ado, let's walk our way through three different recommended expenditures totaling \$400,000 approved by two Mammoth boards on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rocking 350K

Town of Mammoth Lakes Asst. Engineer Colin Brownlee made the presentation on the prefab rock climbing boulder to both the Mammoth Lakes Rec-

reation board and the Town's Parks and Rec Commission.

The two boards held a joint meeting on Tuesday afternoon in Suite Z.

Brownlee said \$350,000 would pay for the purchase, foundation and site work of an approximate 30' long by 16' wide by 11' high prefab boulder.

He explained that routes can be customized so that even the least athletic among us can successfully climb a rock.

The climbing rock is the centerpiece of an \$850,000 plan to build out Mammoth Creek Park as a Town Recreation Hub.

MLR is being asked to fund the rock out of Measure R funds - but Council must ultimately approve the expenditure.

Board Members Heather Schaubmayer, Danielle Torrance, Craig Albright and Brent Truax voted in support, while

Scope of Work

- ▶ Prefabricated Boulder purchase and installation
- ▶ Shade structures
- ▶ Synthetic turf
- ▶ Grass lawn area
- ▶ CRC railing
- ▶ Park identification sign
- ▶ Bike racks
- ▶ Landscaping
- ▶ Hardscape
- ▶ Safety surfacing
- ▶ Park Amenities

▶ Estimated Budget: \$850,000

Eric Wasserman was the lone voice of dissent.

Wasserman argued that it seems a bit absurd to buy a climbing rock in an area that boasts thousands upon thousands of rocks which kids can climb for free - and which can be accessed, in the case of the Lakes Basin, via a free transportation system.

He also noted that the town see LUNCH, pg. 2



A similar boulder in Bend, Oregon.

When is a tree a tree?

p. 6/

Cry poverty

p. 2/

Bad Apple

p. 15/

Liars!

p. 3/

Busy signal

p. 9/

LUNCH

continued from page 1

rock would compete against private business (The Monkey Bar climbing gym in the industrial park) and the Mountain’s wall at its Rec Zone at Main Lodge.

But those cost money and this one will be free to the public, countered Heather Schaubmayer.

Except for the \$350,000.

Wasserman also brought up the issue of maintenance costs, but that question was sidestepped by Town Recreation Manager Stu Brown, who suggested the climbing community would embrace the new boulder and take care of it themselves.

This approval came on the heels of a \$25,000 grant to Wind Drift Studios, the brainchild of Kimmy Fasani and Chris Benchetler, your 2025 Mammoth 4th of July Parade Grand Marshals.

This one was a bit confusing because Fasani and Benchetler are opening a ... well, it sounds like they’re doing a bit of everything. They’re renovating 94 Old Mammoth Rd. and turning it into Chris’s art studio/an Arcteryx retail space/a community art space and gathering spot. Honestly, it wasn’t very clear, and the delineation between private business and public space was also unclear.

As board member Craig Albright observed, it is not MLR’s purview to help a private business with a capital project.

The \$25,000 ask is purportedly for the purchase and installation of audio-visual equipment, which will be made available for public use.

Board member Brent Truax suggested a minimum number of public use days be included in the motion, which Fasani didn’t object to, but ... the idea really isn’t fleshed out enough to know what that number should be.

But some number will be included in the ultimate ask.

Look for this to appear on a Council agenda in April.

Then on Wednesday, it was the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board’s turn to hand out \$25,000 - this time to Omega Events, which owns the annual Bluesapalooza event.

In a rare display of dissent, the vote to approve was 5-3.

Board members John Morris, John Mendel, Tom Parker, Cristi Quesada-



DON'T FORGET CLAIRE MURPHY

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94 OMR next to and just below Nik ‘n Willies, the former site of a reservation company and the future site of Wind Drift Studios

Costa and Kirk Wallace voted in favor, with Pat Foster, John Wentworth and Mary Beth Ericson voting against.

When Sherman appeared before the Board last month, he said event attendance dropped from 8,787 in 2023 to 7,253 in 2024.

At Wednesday’s MLT Board meeting, he said the event lost \$230,000 in 2024.

This year he’s asking for \$70,000 in public assistance to further market Bluesapalooza, which may very well be in its final year at Sam’s Woodsite, as the property is currently in escrow.

There is already a low murmur about moving Bluesa to the Bell-Shaped Parcel in 2026. Since one Board Member asked where the Bell-Shaped parcel is located - it is bordered on one side by Minaret Road across from Starwood and on another side opposite from the 16th and 17th holes of Sierra Star golf course across Meridian Blvd.

MLT had already handed Sherman \$25,000 in special event funding for 2025. On Wednesday, the Board added another \$25,000.

Board Member Tom Parker had a pretty funny observation about the transaction, saying Sherman wants money to get the wider word out about the event and then adding, and I paraphrase, ‘Hmmm. Isn’t that what we [MLT] do?’

Indeed, MLT Executive Director John Urdi said MLT already markets Bluesa and other summer events “very heavily.”

Nevertheless, Board member John Morris suggested the ROI [Return on Investment] on the additional funds being handed to Omega, “will be pretty strong.”

In other news ... Greg Rollison has reached a settlement agreement in his legal matter stemming from a November, 2023 incident which involved felony domestic violence and assault upon a police officer.

The seven-hour preliminary hearing was held in April, 2024 in the Bridgeport Courthouse and covered by Milender on the front page of our May 4, 2024 issue.

While Rollison’s final sentencing is not scheduled until May 13, it is expected he will be sentenced to nine years and four months in state prison. It is also expected he won’t serve nearly that much time, given bonuses for good behavior and time already served in the Mono County Jail.

The most serious charge, assault on a peace officer with special

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LETTERS

Pants on Fire

Dear Editor,

Frame a county wide general election issue (County's Measure K, raising the room tax rate) as charging tourists to pay for workforce housing. It's only a 3% raise!

*Actually, going from a 12% tax to a 15% tax is a 25% tax increase, but who's gonna notice the pesky math. Other people will pay it!

The actual deceptive intent, from the beginning was to make it a general issue and general tax increase, allowing the county to spend the bounty any way it wants to.

Now the county has gone on record (see last week's front page story in *The Sheet*) to confirm the deceptive, deceitful tax increase.

I saw through the deceitful lies as they were being spun and even went on record at a supervisors meeting saying so.

So big deal, I was right. They're a bunch of liars!!

Don Morton
June Lake

Response to Rogitz #1

Dear Editor,

Want to balance the budget?
Tax the rich. Make them pay their fair share.

No cap on Social Security. Make people who make more contribute more.
Stop subsidizing oil companies.
Make all corporations pay their fair share of taxes.
Close loopholes on Hedge funds.
Stop developing new fighter jets that cost \$2 trillion dollars and will be obsolete because the next wars will be fought with drones.

Karen Roseme
Bishop

Response to Rogitz #2

Dear Editor,

This is in response to John Rogitz's comments (*letters section, March 15 issue*) on my recent letter regarding indiscriminate and unvetted federal budget cuts, which will negatively affect the local economy, as well as the health, safety and welfare of businesses and residents of the Eastern Sierra.

To be clear, no one opposes government efficiency and cost cutting measures, the elimination of waste and fraud in government, and a reduction of the federal budget deficit. The problem is, that is not what co-Presidents Trump and Musk are doing.

A genuine, good faith effort to efficiently cut spending and reduce waste would require a thoughtful, careful investigation of the agencies and jobs in question. With a colossus like the U.S.

Government, this should take months, if not a year or more. Reports would be prepared, cost-efficiency analyses would be completed, and alternative plans would be proposed. Then, after a deliberative process, action would be taken.

Trump and Musk aren't doing anything like this. For example, before even beginning their work, Musk said the congressionally approved and funded USAid agency should be "put in the wood chipper" and that it was a "criminal organization." That statement was made without ANY investigation or analysis whatsoever, prior to beginning his random destruction. It was purely an ideological belief. USAid only accounts for less than 1% of the Federal budget.

Without getting into details, USAid provides charity and donations around the globe. It is America's number one means of exercising "soft power" to positively influence and assist countries and people in need, internationally. After freezing congressionally approved funds, Musk gleefully proclaimed the agency had been "put in the wood chipper." Moscow hailed the action, eliminating U.S. intermeddling in international affairs. If feeding starving kids in Somalia is intermeddling in another country's affairs, that should be laudable.

It is interesting that Musk's first target was USAid. Shouldn't charity and "good will" be something that everyone engages in, when able to do

so? Shouldn't affluent nations provide assistance for the hungry and needy around the world?

And yet, here, the richest man in the world is literally attacking the poorest and most needy, supported by his billionaire co-President in the White House. The lack of sympathy and empathy in these so-called American "leaders" should be shameful and embarrassing.

USAid was a congressionally created agency. Unless Congress orders otherwise, the executive branch has no right to shut the agency down.

As I've commented before, the Trump/Musk Administration has repeatedly rehired people that it had just fired in agencies too numerous to list here. Their initial decisions to terminate federal employees were unvetted and indiscriminate. This is not government efficiency. These mistakes actually cost money and are very expensive to the taxpayer. It is not the goal of cost cutting that is objectionable here, but the irresponsible, reckless and chaotic methods being employed.

And if Trump and Musk were truly concerned with cost cutting and efficiency, millions of dollars would not have been wasted on flying a handful of deportees to Guantanamo Bay on huge military transport planes. It was a political stunt for television. And they were all returned later because, apparently, it was an untenable plan, again at great

more LETTERS, page 4

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LETTERS

continued from page 3

cost on nearly empty military transports.

If Trump and Musk were concerned with government efficiency, they would not have sent out generic termination notices, saying people were fired due to poor performance. In reversing these actions, a judge noted evidence that employees had just received stellar, excellent performance reviews.

Trump and Musk are not trying to balance the budget through this sledgehammer, wrecking ball, chain-saw approach to cutting government. We know this, because both of them are supportive of renewing the tax cuts that were enacted back during Trump 1.0. What they are doing is trying to reduce the negative effect of the newly proposed tax cuts on our budget deficit

(the deficit being Rogitz’s main point), among other goals, like eliminating government oversight for things like, well, Musk’s SpaceX business when it has rockets exploding in our skies.

Finally, our national parks and NOAA are not sacred cows. Our Parks are essential to the mental and emotional well being of millions of visitors. NOAA is essential for the safety and welfare of business and residents in the Eastern Sierra. If there is a sacred cow that wasn’t mentioned, that is not being discussed, it is the military and its budget; there must be plenty of waste there.

Daniel J. O’Connell
Mammoth Lakes

The Inconveniently Unreal Real

Dear Editor,

Two weeks ago, I wrote about the growing safety concerns in Mammoth—on the mountain, in town, and on our roads. A week later, Paul Rudder added his voice. And yet, here we are. Another busy weekend ahead, another wave of people coming, and still no response.

This isn’t just about being a longtime local. I worry not only for myself but for my friends and family who visit, those who love this place as much as I do, and anyone who comes here expecting a safe and well-managed experience. Speed is everywhere—on our streets, on our mountain, in our approach to handling the increasing volume of people. And still, where is the effort to slow things down?

I’ve decided I won’t be skiing on Saturdays anymore. Not because I can’t navigate the crowds, but because I don’t want to be part of the problem. I can out-ski and work around reckless riders, but that’s exactly the issue—when we all take that approach, we normalize the chaos rather than demand a better system. And what is mountain safety doing to rein it in? Where were they last weekend, slowing people down? A big sign with no backup isn’t a deterrent.

Parking? A constant battle. Van life is in full force, yet there’s little effort to manage where long-term campers set up while businesses struggle with their overcrowded lots getting poached. Shuttle stops, Vons, the “Luxury Outlet

Mall” (now Main Street Promenade), and Snowcreek are all affected. We know the numbers. We know the pressure. And yet, we keep pretending we don’t.

And if you need law enforcement over the weekend? Better hope it’s serious enough for 911—because otherwise, you’re on your own. You can use the police department’s online directory, but it will only lead you to a voicemail that vanishes into the void—because the system won’t accept the call. The number is non-working, so your request never even reaches an officer. How does that serve a town with this traffic, risk, and responsibility level?

But the most glaring issue remains: our silence when tragedy strikes.

Claire Murphy’s death should have been a moment for reflection and learning, a chance to prevent future heart-break. Instead, the details are buried. Why? Fear of liability? Of public scrutiny? Since when did protecting an image become more important than protecting lives?

In a few weeks, it will be April 6th—the anniversary of the deaths of Mammoth ski patrollers James Juarez, John “Scott” McAndrews, and Charles “Walter” Rosenthal, who lost their lives in a volcanic fumarole during safety operations in 2006. Their sacrifice is remembered. Will there be a memorial for Claire? Or will her passing remain another story that’s too inconvenient to tell?

Silence is no longer acceptable.

Arianne Weiner, PhD
Mammoth Lakes

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

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TOWN MAKES IT RAIN FOR WHITEBARK

By Fisher

In an effort to support wildfire mitigation efforts amidst federal grant freezes, the Mammoth Town Council approved a Town budget Wednesday which would allocate \$610,000 of its Tourism reserve this quarter to Whitebark Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing wildfire risk.

The motion to approve the budget passed 4-1, with Councilmember Brent Truax on the dissent.

Though the Tourism reserve has historically been used to fund housing, Town Manager Rob Patterson recommended using it for wildfire mitigation work for the next three years. “While we have invested a great deal in housing, we really need to do things that are going to protect those investments,” he said.

Of the funds needed to execute Whitebark’s Fire Mitigation efforts, two thirds of them are suspended because of federal grant freezes under the Trump Administration, said Janet Hatfield, Forest Resilience Program Director at Whitebark. The Town’s \$610,000 allocated this quarter would supplement one of those thirds.

“The timing of this probably couldn’t have happened at a worse time,” she said. “We’re mid-term and mid-contracting with entities and contractors that don’t know if they’re going to have work, and to me, maybe more importantly, is that we communicated to the Town via Community Coffee, ‘we’ve got your concerns addressed.’”

Whitebark was a featured guest of Community Coffee in January after the L.A. Fires occurred.

“Every delay that we have in the season,

it doesn’t just increase the wildfire risk in this Town, it also increases the cost per acre of how much it costs to implement,” said Ryan Bobik, Whitebark’s Finance and Administration Director.

Patterson said the allocation could potentially function as a loan to Whitebark, wherein the funds could be reimbursed to the Town if the federal freezes are released, but, he said, “the concern is that the funds are likely not designated as a reimbursement.” Translation: the funds are sunk.

Truax opposed the expenditure on the belief that the Tourism Reserve should continue to support Housing efforts as a commitment to Mammoth Lakes Tourism, which works to market the Town’s assets to tourists. He wanted to instead fund the fire mitigation efforts through monies in the General Fund.

The approved budget allocated \$1 million from the General Fund towards housing, roughly equal to what the Town has historically allocated from the Tourism Reserve to housing.

Patterson said he could rearrange the funds to make it consistent with past years (i.e. switch the dollars in the tourism reserve with the dollars allocated to housing from the general fund), but that he didn’t think it was a good idea.

“I am recommending we look at how we will continually fund wildfire efforts in subsequent years, and the only dollars I have to play with are the Tourism Reserve,” he said.

Councilmember John Wentworth argued in favor of the switch, and said funding wildfire mitigation efforts could

be a marketable asset for MLT. Aside from Truax, the other Councilmembers agreed.

The approved Budget also included a separate allocation of \$50,000 to form a wildfire task force between the Town, Whitebark Institute, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, Mammoth Disposal, and the Mammoth Community Water District.

The taskforce intends to work on a parcel level, wherein the agencies work together to assess green waste and other fire hazards on every land parcel in Town over 2-3 years, and facilitate ways for people to remove the dangerous material.

Salary Boost

In what Town Manager Rob Patterson stated as his “favorite part of the meeting,” Council voted unanimously to boost his salary 5% based on his annual performance evaluation. His previous salary was \$209,103, and it got bumped up to \$219,558.

“I believe that, while I have been probably the stingiest Councilmember in increasing pay for our executives, the job that Rob has done in the last year, the amount of time that he has put into this effort, I think a 5% bump is certainly not overcompensation,” Councilmember Bill Sauser said.

Mayor Chris Bubser echoed Sauser’s sentiments. Next year, Patterson’s contract is up for reapproval, which Councilmember John Wentworth said he hoped would prompt a return of the “S.O.B.,” or “Stingy Old Bill.”

Outbound

The Council, following the Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission’s (PEDC) recommendation, held a public hearing and green-lighted to convert their five recently-built fourplexes, (“villas”) into for-sale ownership units.

The villas were built in accordance to an amended version of the Clearwater Specific Plan, originally conceptualized by Jim Demetriades, who took ownership of the site in 2008 with an ambitious project proposal, which included 340 hotel units, a retail shop, a restaurant space, workforce housing, and more.

He never built it.

Waterton bought the property in 2021 and built the villas soon after, in part to allow for development in line with the Clearwater Specific Plan “if and when market conditions allow,” slated as an “interim development” of the larger project. Waterton began renting the units in December 2023.

Matt Mering, Executive Vice President Hospitality at Waterton, said the proposed change would put the company “on equal footing with their competitors.”

Andrew Morris, the Town’s Attorney said he was “skeptical at first” of the arrangement, but that Waterton’s lawyers convinced him “that this can be done and that this really is a valid approach. They’re very restrictive CC&Rs [or Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions]”

Wentworth made the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

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ADVANCED AIR





CELL TOWER APPEAL HEARD IN SUPERIOR COURT

By Fisher

On Friday morning, March 14, Mammoth residents filled a Mono County Superior Courtroom to observe a case challenging the Town’s approval of an AT&T cell tower at Fire Protection District Station No. 2 on Old Mammoth Road.

The case was brought forward by the Snowcreek VII Condominium Owners Association, who appealed to the Court in November in response to Mammoth Town Council’s denial of its use-permit appeal in April, 2024.

The proposed tower is an 80-foot tall “stealth monopine.”

Lead attorney for the plaintiffs, Ivo Keller, argued the Town and AT&T manipulated local and state codes to approve the tower’s size and location, and the defendants’ lead attorney, Alisha Winterswyk, countered that residents were “writing in words” to the codes that didn’t exist.

At the hearing’s conclusion, Judge Mark Magit took his ruling under submission and has yet to release a statement on his decision.

The main grievance involved the

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which requires assessment of potential environmental impacts. The Town deemed the tower exempt from CEQA due to its “small” size, which Keller contested, emphasizing that the tower’s height could increase to 100 feet without further approval.

“The tower will be more than twice as tall as any man-made structure in its vicinity, taller than any tree in the neighborhood, and it will be one of the tallest structures in the entire town,” Keller argued. “This tower is enormous, and if it is enormous, it cannot be small.”

Winterswyk countered that the CEQA exemption defines “small” by floor area, not height, citing the precedent of “Don’t Cell Our Parks v. City of San Diego,” where a similar tower received a categorical exemption.

Keller differentiated the cases, stating that the San Diego tower was only 35 feet tall and blended into its environment, while the proposed tower would be highly visible from Old Mammoth Road.

By avoiding CEQA evaluation, Keller argued the Town skirted legal concerns about the tower’s safety in winter for

nearby residents and the aesthetic impacts on the nearby environment. Keller also raised issues regarding the Town’s Municipal Code and General Plan, drawing into question the Town’s application of its own values and laws.

First, he argued the tower violates a requirement in the Municipal code for a 20-foot setback from the fire station property line and referenced a project layout graph.

Specifically, he said the faux branches of the tower and aspects of the transmission equipment would overreach the boundary, even if the trunk was set back appropriately. The Municipal Code states only plant matter can cross the setback line, so the “violation is plain as day,”

Winterswyk disagreed. She countered, rather, that faux branches could reasonably be construed as plant material, since “the code does not specify that ‘trees and plant material’ must be natural and come up from the ground.” In the benches, some attendees shook their heads in disbelief at this assertion.

She continued that the graph Keller referenced was “not a construction level drawing” and therefore cannot be relied on for evidence, and she assured Judge Magit that the building and planning process for the tower would keep infrastructure beyond the 20-foot setback.

“I think what is happening is a misread of the plan, and also a misunderstanding of the purpose of these particular plans that petitioners have cited,” she said.

Keller rebutted that if the drawings presented are unreliable, there is no

substantial evidence showing the tower complies with setbacks, as the same graph was presented to the Town’s Planning Department for approval.

“If nobody should rely on those drawings, we think it’s significant that the town relied on them,” he said, prompting a laugh from the attendees.

Lastly, he argued the Town was negligent in its application of the General Plan. The Town approved the use-permit for its slated improvements for cell service and emergency response, but Keller argued, “the Town also emphasizes aesthetics, views, and maintaining the character of the town as a village in the trees with small-town charm.”

The tower is inconsistent with the latter values, he said, and therefore not fully compliant with the General plan.

The opposing counsel rebutted that conflicts within the general plan are inevitable. “We aren’t looking for perfection or a sort of checklist of every single policy in the plan and whether the project conformed to it,” Winterswyk said.

Keller sustained his argument for aesthetics and views in his closing argument. He pointed to the full benches in the courtroom, and quoted townspeople’s remarks from public hearings. He claimed that if as many people were upset as they are, there’s surely wrongdoing on the Town’s part.

“We really appreciate you taking the time to get it right,” he said to Judge Magit, who collected his notes and adjourned the hearing.





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LEE VINING
APRIL 14TH, 2025
14 DE ABRIL DE 2025
10:30AM-11:30AM
LEE VINING ELEMENTARY
132 LEE VINING AVE

BRIDGEPORT
APRIL 15TH, 2025
15 DE ABRIL, 2025
1:00-2:00 PM
BRIDGEPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
205 KINGSLEY ST.

COLEVILLE
APRIL 16TH, 2025
16 DE ABRIL, 2025
1:30-2:15 PM
ANTELOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
111527 HWY 395

BENTON
APRIL 17TH, 2025
17 DE ABRIL, 2025
1:00-2:00 PM
EDNA BEAMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
25541 HWY 6



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Antelope Elementary School
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25541 Hwy 6, Benton

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CELL TOWER APPEAL HEARD IN SUPERIOR COURT

By Fisher

On Friday morning, March 14, Mammoth residents filled a Mono County Superior Courtroom to observe a case challenging the Town’s approval of an AT&T cell tower at Fire Protection District Station No. 2 on Old Mammoth Road.

The case was brought forward by the Snowcreek VII Condominium Owners Association, who appealed to the Court in November in response to Mammoth Town Council’s denial of its use-permit appeal in April, 2024.

The proposed tower is an 80-foot tall “stealth monopine.”

Lead attorney for the plaintiffs, Ivo Keller, argued the Town and AT&T manipulated local and state codes to approve the tower’s size and location, and the defendants’ lead attorney, Alisha Winterswyk, countered that residents were “writing in words” to the codes that didn’t exist.

At the hearing’s conclusion, Judge Gerald Mohun took his ruling under submission and has yet to release a statement on his decision.

The main grievance involved the

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which requires assessment of potential environmental impacts. The Town deemed the tower exempt from CEQA due to its “small” size, which Keller contested, emphasizing that the tower’s height could increase to 100 feet without further approval.

“The tower will be more than twice as tall as any man-made structure in its vicinity, taller than any tree in the neighborhood, and it will be one of the tallest structures in the entire town,” Keller argued. “This tower is enormous, and if it is enormous, it cannot be small.”

Winterswyk countered that the CEQA exemption defines “small” by floor area, not height, citing the precedent of “Don’t Cell Our Parks v. City of San Diego,” where a similar tower received a categorical exemption.

Keller differentiated the cases, stating that the San Diego tower was only 35 feet tall and blended into its environment, while the proposed tower would be highly visible from Old Mammoth Road.

By avoiding CEQA evaluation, Keller argued the Town skirted legal concerns about the tower’s safety in winter for

nearby residents and the aesthetic impacts on the nearby environment. Keller also raised issues regarding the Town’s Municipal Code and General Plan, drawing into question the Town’s application of its own values and laws.

First, he argued the tower violates a requirement in the Municipal code for a 20-foot setback from the fire station property line and referenced a project layout graph.

Specifically, he said the faux branches of the tower and aspects of the transmission equipment would overreach the boundary, even if the trunk was set back appropriately. The Municipal Code states only plant matter can cross the setback line, so the “violation is plain as day,”

Winterswyk disagreed. She countered, rather, that faux branches could reasonably be construed as plant material, since “the code does not specify that ‘trees and plant material’ must be natural and come up from the ground.” In the benches, some attendees shook their heads in disbelief at this assertion.

She continued that the graph Keller referenced was “not a construction level drawing” and therefore cannot be relied on for evidence, and she assured Judge Mohun that the building and planning process for the tower would keep infrastructure beyond the 20-foot setback.

“I think what is happening is a misread of the plan, and also a misunderstanding of the purpose of these particular plans that petitioners have cited,” she said.

Keller rebutted that if the drawings presented are unreliable, there is no

substantial evidence showing the tower complies with setbacks, as the same graph was presented to the Town’s Planning Department for approval.

“If nobody should rely on those drawings, we think it’s significant that the town relied on them,” he said, prompting a laugh from the attendees.

Lastly, he argued the Town was negligent in its application of the General Plan. The Town approved the use-permit for its slated improvements for cell service and emergency response, but Keller argued, “the Town also emphasizes aesthetics, views, and maintaining the character of the town as a village in the trees with small-town charm.”

The tower is inconsistent with the latter values, he said, and therefore not fully compliant with the General plan.

The opposing counsel rebutted that conflicts within the general plan are inevitable. “We aren’t looking for perfection or a sort of checklist of every single policy in the plan and whether the project conformed to it,” Winterswyk said.

Keller sustained his argument for aesthetics and views in his closing argument. He pointed to the full benches in the courtroom, and quoted townspeople’s remarks from public hearings. He claimed that if as many people were upset as they are, there’s surely wrongdoing on the Town’s part.

“We really appreciate you taking the time to get it right,” he said to Judge Mohun, who collected his notes and adjourned the hearing.





HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR

FERIA SOBRE SALUD Y SEGURIDAD

A free event promoting health and safety awareness for children ages birth-5.

Un evento gratuito para promover la conciencia sobre la salud y seguridad de niños de 0 a 5 años.

- CAR SEAT INSTALLATION SIGN UPS
- BIKE HELMETS
- CHILDREN'S BOOKS
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RIBBON CUT ON ESCH'S INNSBRUCK LODGE PROJECT

PHOTOS: TODD ROBERT-



On Wednesday afternoon, Mammoth town officials and representatives from Eastern Sierra Community Housing (ESCH) cut the ribbon on the Innsbruck Lodge affordable housing project. The 15 units are expected to be fully leased by April 1.



LIMITED-TIME DEAL

June
MOUNTAIN

LEARN FOR LESS

MID-WEEK ADULT GROUP LESSONS FOR JUST \$150

Learning to ski or snowboard this winter? Get off to a great start with a \$150 group lesson at June Mountain. This limited-time price is available for a 4-hour group lesson on select Tuesdays and Wednesdays for riders age 13+, and includes a lift ticket. Set a foundation with expert instructors and build on your skills for years to come.

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SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY
Rentals not included.

Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre
presents

POTUS:

Or, Behind Every Great
Dumbass are 7 Women Trying
to Keep Him Alive

by
Selina Fillinger

March 14-30, 2025

Fri & Sat @ 7pm Sun @ 4pm

WARNING! Adult Language and Mature Themes

Mammoth High School MPR
365 Sierra Park Rd.

for tickets MammothLakesRep.org
Gen admission \$20 Seniors \$18 online only
All at the door ticket price \$25.00 no Discounts

This production has no affiliation with Mammoth High School or MUSD

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POWERED BY
MAMMOTH RECREATION

SCHIM
continued from page 1

“They were always happening.”

We looked at a few more photos before Schim closed the book. There were pictures of his friends, of planes, mountain landscapes, and beaches. “How does it feel to look at pictures of yourself from that time?” I asked. A small smile graced his lips.

“It feels good, reminiscing,” he said.

Once the war ended, Schim attended UCLA on the GI Bill and joined the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, ultimately graduating with a degree in engineering. He quickly found a job in the aerospace industry and excelled in his career.

Along the way, he built a family: his first marriage brought him a daughter, Heidi, who had two children before sadly passing away from breast cancer. His second marriage to Mary added four stepchildren to his life, all teenagers when they wed.

Now, after 45 years together, the couple has eleven grandchildren and a great-grandson, Cal, with another on the way. The children have all planned visits to celebrate his birthday.

As they shifted into retirement, Schim and Mary bought a sailboat—one of Mary’s favorite memories. They initially had no sailing experience, but they learned quickly, and Schim began competing in races. Together, they would sail, enjoying the open water.

“We used to sail to Catalina, turn off the engine, and let the wind guide us, with porpoises swimming beside us,” Mary reminisced. “Wasn’t that peaceful?” Schim nodded in agreement.

The couple finally moved to Mammoth in 1991, drawn by the allure of land they



Schim in his favorite armchair

had first viisted during a trip to Yosemite’s High Sierra Loop Camp. In that era, Mammoth looked different—less developed. Schim skied on wooden skis with bear-claw bindings and leather boots, gathering with friends at the Tavern.

They love living in Mammoth, especially since it provides their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren another reason to visit.

As I put my notebook away and stood to leave, I realized that Schim hadn’t offered any secrets to longevity (he actually said that maybe he had lived too long.) He didn’t give me any life advice, either, even when I asked.

Yet what he did express was pride in his “ability to get along” in life. He cherished all his “phases” — his Navy service, college years, career, family, sailing, and skiing in retirement. He embraces life as it comes, so it makes sense to me that turning 100 feels like “just another day” to him.

OLBF TURNS 10

Press Release

Friends of the Inyo’s Owens Lake Bird Festival, a live birding and exploring event, returns for its 10th Year April 11-13, in Lone Pinee.

Since 2015, Friends of the Inyo’s Owens Lake Bird Festival has been celebrating the migration of thousands of birds as they alight at Owens Lake to replenish their strength before continuing on their hemispheric journey along the Pacific Flyway, which extends from Alaska to Patagonia.

But the Festival is more than just about birding, and outings are designed to cover topics that also include botany, photography, geology, local history and culture, and more, to complement the experience, as well as to inform the public about Friends of the Inyo’s work to protect and care for the public lands of the Eastern Sierra, with a focus on our work in Southern Inyo County.

“We are thrilled to be celebrating the ecosystems and species of Payahuunadu with our 10th anniversary OLBF! This year, in addition to our traditional popular birding outings, history tours, we have added plein air painting as well as an outing especially for kids,” said Wendy Schneider, executive director of Friends of the Inyo. “Please come and join us.”

This year, Friends will be offering five half-day birding tours (three in the morning and two in the afternoon) to Owens Lake, Cartago Springs, and the Alabama Hills and two all-day desert/mining-history tours to Conglomerate

Mesa and Cerro Gordo. Half-day tours are \$25, full-day Conglomerate Mesa tours are \$50, and full-day Cerro Gordo Tours are \$55 per person. The Introduction to Birding for Kids tour, new this year, is FREE for children ages 6-12, with materials provided, and their parents are welcome to join. Kids must be registered via the ticket sales page to join.

All trips will be led by knowledgeable birders, naturalists, and photographers, many of whom have been affiliated with the Bird Festival since its inception.

The fun will begin and end at the parking lot of the Museum of Western Film History, at 701 S. Main Street in Lone Pine, from which outings will start off, and where attendees can enjoy an optional dinner catered by the delicious Coachwhip Cafe for an additional price at the end of the day on Saturday the 12th, accompanied by our keynote speaker and a silent auction.

Friends of the Inyo acknowledges the sponsorship support of AltaOne Federal Credit Union, whose generosity allows us to bring back this popular event to the community of Inyo County for another year.

To learn about tour descriptions and times, as well as dinner options, please visit www.friendsoftheinyo.org/bird-festival, where you can also purchase tickets using a major credit card.

Questions? Write to info@friendsoftheinyo.org.



Meet
Bjorn

Bjorn is a Doberman mix roughly two years old and is basically a comedian in a dog suit.

If your life is missing a fun-loving, zoomie-powered, people-loving sweetheart, congratulations — Bjorn is here to fix that!

Bjorn is looking for an active family that enjoys outdoor adventures!

Contact
WHITMORE SHELTER
(760) 935-4734

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

LUNCH

continued from page 2

circumstances, carries a five-year term.

In other legal news, The Sheet has learned that Inyo County Superior Court Judge Susanne Rizo is currently under investigation by the California Commission on Judicial Performance.

That investigation was launched in October, 2024.

Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission unanimously approved the extension of the Snow-creek Development Agreement at a special meeting on Tuesday morning.

The chief benefit to the Town appears to be the 47-units in the deal which will be deed-restricted to 175-200% of AMI (Area Median Income).

However ...

Community Development Director Nolan Bobroff explained that further safeguards are in place to avoid a repeat of 2008-2009 (when the Town lost several income-based deed restrictions because it didn’t have the funds/resources to buy back units in the downturn), but ... the safeguards are not guarantees.

In the Great Recession, if an owner of a deed-restricted unit wished to sell,



Mike Bodine

the Town had 30-days to either back a unit or find a qualified buyer. If the Town passed on this right of first refusal, the deed-restriction was removed and the owner was then free to sell the unit to anyone.

In that era, the market tanked so violently that deed-restricted prices ended up being higher than market rate, so there was no incentive for to preserve the restrictions.

This time around, the Town has built in a 120-day buffer to either buy back the unit or facilitate a deal with a qualified



2025 Parade Marshals Fasani and Benchetler at the film premiere of Fasani’s ‘A Butterfly in a Blizzard’ held March 8 at the Arcteryx Backcountry Academy in Mammoth.

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.

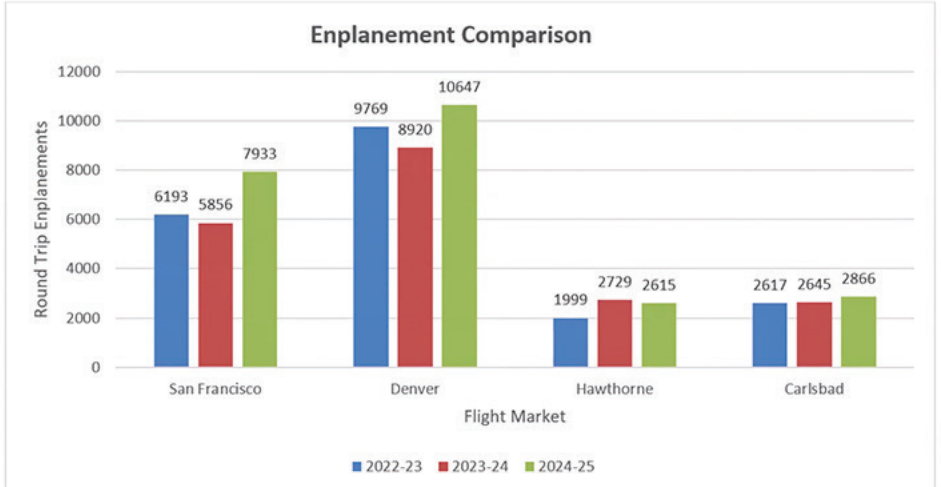
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<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/monocountyca>

Air Service Update 3-19-25



buyer. And, said Bobroff, it has amassed a revolving loan fund balance of approximately \$1.3 million.

But as Lunch pointed out during public comment, the Town would appear equally vulnerable to another Black Swan event and history could very well repeat itself.

This elicited a collective, disinterested yawn from commissioners and staff alike.

Oh well. Can’t let bad policy interfere with our day. We’ve got things to do!

PEDC Chair Mike Vanderhurst, for example, exclaimed “Hey Tom, see ya at lunch!” after MMSA Senior V.P. Tom Hodges made a brief public comment. That sure seemed inappropriate.

And then there was Cynthia Fleming calling in from out of town and name-dropping that she just so happened to be at a house staying with Laurentius Harrer.

Who knew that the Mammoth PEDC had so much social cache?

Mike J. Bodine Celebration of Life
Mar. 25, 1970 - Mar. 29, 2024

This just in ... In honor of Mike’s passing, we invite you to share memories, laughter, and music this Sunday, March 23, at 11 a.m. at Izaak Walton Park in Bishop. Please bring a chair and an instrument for a jam session. The family also welcomes photos, food, mementos, or anything else you’d like to share in memory of Mike. All are welcome! Mike’s daughter, Diana, is organizing this open event. bodinediana@gmail.com.

Mike spent part of his long writing career at The Sheet. He was a good and savvy veteran with a highly sensitive b.s. detector ... and he was also excellent company!

SUNSET SIPS & SLIDES

HAPPY HOUR DEALS AT WOOLLY’S ADVENTURE SUMMIT

Woolly’s Adventure Summit is all about big smiles and even bigger fun— and now there’s even more to love. Every Thursday through Sunday from 3–5PM, enjoy Happy Hour perks through the end of the season:

- 25% off 1-hour tubing and snow play sessions
- 25% off items in the café
- Live music select Sundays
- Bonfire & free s’mores kits on Saturdays, plus a chance to spot Woolly

MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM

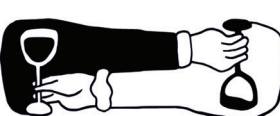
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calendar of events

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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill
Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More Liberty info: See ad p. 4*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 8*
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, March 21/
Pidder Padder (rockin' covers for no cover) plays Liberty. Music starts 9:30 p.m.

March 21-22/
Weekend Apres Ski parties @ Canyon Lodge. Starts 2 p.m.

March 21-23/
Sunset Sips and Slides @ Woolly's Adventure Summit. Happy hour 3-5 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 9*

Saturday, March 22/
Chuck Briseno (country grit and Americana) plays Liberty. Starts 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Monday, March 24/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26/
Weekly Pool Tournament @ Distant Brewing. Hosted by Eastern Sierra Pool from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Saturday, March 22/
Annual Blake Jones Trout Derby. Registration begins 6 a.m. @ Tri-County Fairgrounds. 3 p.m. weigh-in deadline.
Free interpretive walk with Sierra Forever, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management in Lone Pine, focused on the **1872 Lone Pine Earthquake**. Time: 11 a.m. Location: Whitney Portal Road Entrance Station.

March 21-23/
"POTUS: Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive" by Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre continues at the MHS MPR and runs weekends through March 30. Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 7*

Monday, March 24/
Nümü Social Dance Presentation and Intro Class for all ages! Time: 5:30-6:30 pm. Location: Mono Arts Council & Community Arts Center in the Minaret Mall in Mammoth. \$5 Donation suggested. Register at monoarts.org/performing-arts-programs. Drop-ins also welcome
Women in Business speed-mentoring session sponsored by the Mammoth Chamber @ Mammoth Lakes Library. Time: 5-7 p.m. \$10 fee for non-members.

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, March 25/
After School Art Explorations Program for Kids ages 6-10, Tuesdays from 3:15pm-4:45 pm at Mono Arts Council & Community Arts Center. Runs from March 25th to May 20th. Scholarships available. *See monoarts.org for more info.*
Inyo County Supervisors meet. Public session starts 10 a.m. Location: Board Chambers at 224 N. Edwards in Independence or online via inyocounty.us.

Wednesday, March 26/
Inyo and Mono Master Gardeners present a workshop on Monarch Butterfly Garden design. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: White Mountain Research Station @ 3000 East Line (South Classroom). Info: melyeager@ucanr.edu or call 760.873.7854

Friday, March 28/
Rat Pack Tribute @ the Elks Lodge in Bishop. Doors 5:30 and show 6:30. Call 760.873.3221 or grab tix on Eventbrite. Cost: \$25.

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



Progress Your Career at Mammoth Hospital!

We're currently looking for:

- Radiologic Technologist II (\$5000 Retention Bonus)
- Physical Therapist (\$5000 Retention Bonus)
- Administrative Assistant to CEO
- Hospital Social Worker
- Clinical Informatics Nurse Specialist

**MAMMOTH HOSPITAL**
Elevate Your Health

UPCOMING

March 29: Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance Run/Walk for colorectal cancer awareness. Start location = Brown's Town Campground. 8 a.m. Register (or register online at escanceralliance.org) and 9 a.m. start.

March 30: Annual Wild Spirits fundraiser to benefit Wildcare Eastern Sierra. Time: 6-8 p.m. Location: Bishop's Cerro Coso community college @ 4090 West Line St.

ONGOING

ONGOING: Free tax help! The AARP Foundation Tax Aide programs in Bishop and Mammoth using IRS-certified volunteers prepare federal and state tax returns online without charge to low- and moderate-income residents. Call for an appt./more info

Bishop (760) 938-0468
Mammoth (760) 914-4352

**SIERRA ELECTRIC**
Sean Flavin, Owner
760-920-3547
LIC# 923994



Progress Your Career at Mammoth Hospital!

We're currently looking for:

- Radiologic Technologist II (\$5000 Retention Bonus)
- Physical Therapist (\$5000 Retention Bonus)
- Administrative Assistant to CEO
- Hospital Social Worker
- Clinical Informatics Nurse Specialist

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



Openings at www.mammothhospital.com |    

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



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

Line Cook

- Mammoth \$22

Prep/Dishwasher

- Mammoth \$20.77

Community Integration Partner

- Bishop/Mammoth \$20-25 + potential mileage reimbursement

Journeyman Plumber

- Mammoth \$30-45

Member Service Mgr.

- Bishop \$68-92K annual

Member Service Rep.

- Bishop \$16.50-21

PT Housekeepers

- Mammoth \$20

Apartment Maintenance Tech

- Mammoth \$25

PT Building Maintenance

- Mammoth \$23 (8 hrs./week)

Swim Instructor

- Bishop & Mammoth, pay negotiable

Call or text 760-924-0523



Eastern Sierra Counseling is hiring:
Licensed Psychotherapist for in-person practice in our Mammoth Lakes and Bishop offices. Make your own schedule and practice the way you want. Earn up to \$155,000/year working just 20 hours a week.
Associate therapists working towards licensure are compensated at \$60 per clinical hour.
www.EasternSierraCounseling.com or send resume to easternsierracounseling@outlook.com
We value flexibility, autonomy, and work-life balance so that patient care is of the highest quality possible.



Mammoth Roots Dispensary is hiring budtenders. Please email info@mammoth-roots.com with resume/references



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.



Whitebark Institute Seeks Environmental Planning Program Director
Whitebark Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to environmental resilience in California's Eastern Sierra, is hiring an Environmental Planning Program Director. This leadership role will provide strategic leadership for Whitebark's environmental planning initiatives. Salary \$115K-\$135K/year, benefits, hybrid work. Apply at whitebarkinstitute.org/careers.

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



MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT's Operations Department is currently recruiting for one permanent Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. I/II/III (DOQ) position. **FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION/ TO APPLY:** Please see the District website <https://mcwd.dst.ca.us/employment/>



wild iris
FAMILY COUNSELING & CRISIS CENTER

Position: Fiscal Director
Pay Range: \$53.01-\$71.10
Job Type: Full-time, salary, exempt

Qualifications/Requirements:

- Dedication to Wild Iris's mission, vision, and values.
- At least 5 years of progressively responsible successful experience in financial administration or accounting supervision
- Current and valid CPA license; BA/BS in business, accounting, finance, or related field.
- Experience in working with government guidelines and regulations.
- Proven experience in producing and maintaining accurate financial records including preparation of government audit.
- Knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and federal and state legislation affecting non-profits.
- Ability to perform a wide range of accounting tasks including general bookkeeping, accounts payable and receivable, payroll processing, project/grant management, auditing, and human resource management.

For Rent



Commercial spaces for rent:

- Office/storage 340 ft. and 157 ft.
- Office or retail 357 ft.
- Storage spaces 38 & 130 ft.

Building features incl. 24/7 access, parking, kitchen, bathrooms, common area conference room and heat.
Call 818.307.3698

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

Crescent 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. Experience in restaurant service, computers and working as team member are essential. Full and part time available, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great

BRAND AMBASSADOR
MAMMOTH HOLISTICS

Mammoth Holistics is seeking 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. Hourly pay plus success bonuses, fun and flexible schedule. Email resume to Doug@hallandgans.com and ruthie@hallandgans.com.



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

Help Wanted

place to work. Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Restaurant bartender for Eagle's Landing Restaurant at the popular Double Eagle Resort and Spa. Experience in restaurant bartending, computers and working as a team member are essential. FT and PT work available. Health benefits, fitness membership, PTO. Great place to work. Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Cooks and Prep Cooks 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



Tioga Green Dispensary is hiring an asst. manager and budtenders. Please email tiogagreen@gmail.com with resume/references.

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

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

John's Pizza Works seeks energetic, motivated, reliable individuals, to work in the FOH or cashier position. PT/FT positions. Experience preferred. Come in to apply.



Papich Construction is **HIRING!** Seeking experienced Heavy Equipment Operators and Construction Laborers. Please visit www.papichco.com for more info or email your resume to HR@papichconstruction.com.



"We are seeking a motivated and detail-oriented Reservationist/Administrative Assistant to join our growing vacation rental management company in Mammoth Lakes. As a Reservationist/Administrative Assistant, you'll be responsible for handling guest inquiries and bookings, offering local area advice, providing phone support for in-house guests, and responding to emails/digital messages. You will also support our Executive Team and assist with administrative tasks such as phones, scheduling, scanning, drafting/editing emails, and filing. To succeed in this position, you'll need to be a reliable self-starter, work well under pressure, and be flexible in changing roles or jumping in where needed. 1-2 years experience in reservations/guest service (or hotel front desk) and a strong comfort level with modern tech (especially mobile apps) is required. Experience using StreamlineVRS or similar is preferred. Weekend availability may be required. We offer hourly wages commensurate with experience and (once eligibility requirements are met) health club memberships, health plan, and 401k. If you're ready to join our team and help us deliver outstanding service to our owners and guests, please fill out our online job application today at www.fivestarlodging.com."

PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber, Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, to consider the following:

In accordance with Government Code Section 3502.3, and under Assembly Bill 2561 ("AB 2561"), a public agency must present the status of vacancies, recruitment, and retention efforts at a public hearing before their governing body prior to the adoption of a final budget for the fiscal year.

All persons having an interest in the proposed schedule may appear before the Town Council either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Town Clerk written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, please contact Human Resources Manager Amanda Pelham by telephone at (760) 965-3604 or email at apelham@townof-mammothlakes.ca.gov.

BY ORDER OF THE MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL
Dated: March 14, 2025
Jamie Gray, Town Clerk

TS #2025-0030

Request for Bids

Mono City Waterline Replacement Project

In general, the Work consists of constructing the Mono City water system improvements, including but not limited to water main totaling approximately 10,500 linear feet of 6-in PVC C900 pipe, one-inch water service connections, fire hydrants, together with all fittings, valves, and appurtenances, and abandonment of existing water mains as shown on the plans. The new water main will connect to the existing water distribution system at multiple connection points as shown on the plans.

1. Sealed bids will be received by the Lundy Mutual Water Company prior to 2:00:00 p.m. (local time) on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, and following said deadline all bids will be publicly opened and read. Bids shall be submitted by mail to P.O. Box 323, Lee Vining, California 93541, or hand delivered to the Mono City Fire Department Building at 1057 Silver Lake Way, Mono City, California 93541, only during the last hour before the specified deadline. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Mono City Fire Department Building. Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope with the name of the bidder, the name of the project and the statement "Do Not Open Until the Time of Bid Opening." Bids received after said deadline will be returned unopened to the bidder.

2. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting and project site tour will be held on Monday, March 31, 2025 beginning at 1:00 PM. This meeting shall be held at the Mono City Fire Department Building at 1057 Silver Lake Way, Mono City, 93541. Contractors shall personally examine the project site prior to bidding.

3. Bidders must submit all questions no later than 2:00 P.M. (PST) Thursday, April 17, 2025.

4. Bidding Documents may be obtained in electronic format from Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group at no charge. Only registered plan holders are eligible to bid on this project. Bids received by contractors not on the plan holder list will be rejected and will not be opened. The official plan holder list will also be used to distribute addenda (if any), RFI responses, and information on how to join the pre-bid meeting and the public opening of bids. In order to be placed on the plan holder list, contractors must contact Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group at (559) 449-2700 ATTN:

Juliet Benson jbenson@ppeng.com to register as a plan holder and receive the documents.

5. Prevailing Wage Rates: Pursuant to Section 1770, California Labor Code, the successful Bidder shall pay not less than the prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of California Department of Industrial Relations. A copy of such prevailing rate is on file at the offices of the Lundy Mutual Water Company, which copy will be made available for examination during business hours to any party on request: Prevailing wage rate information is also available on the internet at the following website address: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlsr/PWD>.

6. This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

7. Bidders shall furnish a Bid Security with their Bidder's Proposal in the amount of 10% of the base bid amount.

8. OWNER reserves the right after opening Bids to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality or non-responsiveness in a Bid, or to make award to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder and reject all other Bids, as it may best serve the interest of the OWNER.

9. Contractor's License Classification: In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code, Section 3300, Lundy Mutual Water Company has determined that bidder shall possess a valid Class A Contractor's License issued by the State of California at the time of Bid opening and for the duration of the contract. Failure to possess the specified licenses shall render the Bid as non-responsive and shall act as a bar to award of the contract to any bidder not possessing said license at the time of Bid opening. The Contractors' State License Board may be contacted at 9821 Business Park, Sacramento, CA 95827; PO Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826; (800) 321-2752.

TS #2025-0029

GAYLA'S GALLERY

ST. PAT'S AT BISHOP ELKS



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

Buy Tickets Online
DPlaceEntertainment.com

Movies Starting This Friday 03/21 to 03/27



Friday
4:15pm 7:00pm
Saturday - Sunday
11:00am 1:30pm 4:15pm 7:00pm
Tuesday
4:15pm 7:00pm
Wednesday
4:15pm
Thursday
4:15pm 7:00pm



Friday
4:30pm 7:15pm
Saturday - Sunday
11:15am 1:45pm 4:30pm 7:15pm
Tuesday - Thursday
4:30pm 7:15pm

CLOSED MONDAY 03/24/25

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice Inviting Bids

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

AIP NO. 3-06-0146-____-2025
Multipurpose Building - Site Work Phase 1
Base Bid - Reconstruct and Extend Service Road
Alternate 1 - Relocate Taxiway A3

Sealed proposals for the work shown on the plans entitled:

Construction Plans for
Multipurpose Building - Site Work Phase 1
Mammoth Yosemite Airport
Base Bid - Reconstruct and Extend Service Road
Alternate 1 - Relocate Taxiway A3

in The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California

Bids will be received through the Town's eProcurement Portal at:

Online Bid Portal
<https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1016/Bids>

until 2:00 pm PST on Friday, April 4, 2025, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contractors can attend the bid opening by Zoom (information will be posted on the Online Bid Portal page). Proposal forms for this work are included in a separate book entitled:

Contract and Bid Documents for Mammoth Yosemite Airport
Multipurpose Building – Site Work Phase 1
Base Bid - Reconstruct and Extend Service Road
Alternate 1 - Relocate Taxiway A3 In
The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California

Each bidder must supply all the information required by the bid documents and specifications.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The project generally consists of the following work:
Base Bid – Reconstruction and extension of the service road from the airport entrance to Taxiway A (24’ x 1,750’) including grading, drainage, utility stubs, paving, marking, and fencing.
Alternate 1 - Construct new Taxiway A3 connector taxiway between Taxiway A and the runway (35’ x 225”) and remove existing Taxiway A3 including pavement removal, grading, drainage, paving, marking, lighting, and signage.

This project will be partially funded by the Airport Improvement Program of the Federal Aviation Administration (F.A.A.).

The Engineer’s Estimate for the construction cost of the Base Bid only is \$1,400,000 to \$1,500,000.

The Engineer’s Estimate for the construction cost of Alternate 1 is \$500.000 to \$600,000.

The Engineer’s Estimate will be made public at the Bid Opening.

OBTAINING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS:

Plans and specifications can be obtained from the Online Bid Portal.

Questions or requests for clarifications should be submitted through the Online Bid Portal under the project’s Question and Answer section. The contact is Sierra Waugh, Deputy Airport Manager, Mammoth Yosemite Airport, via email swaugh@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov or 760-965-3654. Oral clarifications are non-binding, and any changes shall be issued by written addenda only.

CONTRACT TIME:

This work shall be constructed in accordance with details as shown on the plans and described in the specifications for this project. The contractor will be allowed 40 (forty) working days to complete the project if the Base Bid only is awarded and within 60 (sixty) working days if the Base Bid plus Alternate 1 is awarded.

BIDDER’S BOND:

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier’s check payable to the order of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, or by a bid bond executed by a corporate surety authorized to do business in the State of California in the sum of not less than 10% of the total amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into the proposed contract if it be awarded him/her.

CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS:

The contractor shall have a valid Class A Contractor’s license, a current Town of Mammoth Lakes Business Tax Certificate, and shall maintain all required licenses throughout the duration of the Contract. The contractor shall demonstrate their qualifications by having adequate equipment in good working order, experience, and ability to perform the work.

AWARD OF CONTRACT:

The contract will be awarded on the basis of UNIT BID price and will provide for progressive payments and liquidated damages as fixed in the specifications. All proposals must be made on the forms as contained in the specifications for the previously described project and shall in all respects comply with the Instructions to Bidders and Contract Documents. Bids must be in writing and signed by or on behalf of the bidder.

The contract will be awarded on the basis of the Base Bid only or the Base Bid plus Alternate No. 1. The award of this project is contingent upon a grant offer from the Federal Aviation Administration and acceptance of the grant offer by the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Each bid shall remain good for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days.

BONDING REQUIREMENTS:

The successful bidder shall furnish a payment bond and a performance bond for 100 percent of the contract price to secure fulfillment of all the bidder’s obligations under such contract and to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract. All bonds shall be executed by an admitted surety insurer meeting the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120.

FEDERAL PROVISIONS:

The work to be done is being financed in whole or in part by means of a grant made by the United States acting through the Federal Aviation Administration of the Department of Transportation. This project is subject to the Federal provisions, statutes and regulations as set forth in the project specifications.

This project is under and subject to the Equal Opportunity Clause, the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, and Wage Rate Decision contained in the contract documents.

The requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 apply to this contract. It is the policy of the Sponsor to practice nondiscrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin in the award or performance of this contract. The Sponsor encourages participation by all firms qualifying under this solicitation regardless of business size or ownership.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that for any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and no businesses will be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), creed, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age, or disability in consideration for an award.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION:

The Sponsor has established a Small Business Element in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26 to facilitate competition by small business concerns, taking all reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to their participation and to create a level playing field on which small businesses can compete fairly. While there is no specific numerical goal assigned to small business participation the prime contractor should make every effort to solicit small business concerns (as defined in 13 CFR Part 121) to participate as subcontractors, service providers, suppliers, etc.

The Bidder must submit the Small Business Participation information with its proposal on the forms provided herein (Fostering Small Business Participation & Non-Certified Small Business Verification Form).

SOCIALLY/ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

The Sponsor encourages Contractors and Subcontractors to utilize the services of financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the community. You can find a link to Minority-Owned Financial Institutions and their branches on the FDIC website: <https://www.fdic.gov/regulations/resources/minority/mdi.html> or the U. S. Department of Treasury – Bureau of the Fiscal Service <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/mbdp/>.

CARB CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS:

The California Air Resources Board (“CARB”) implemented amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations (“Regulation”) which are effective on January 1, 2024 and apply broadly to all self-propelled off road diesel vehicles 25 horsepower or greater and other forms of equipment used in California. A copy of the Regulation is available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2022/off-roaddiesel/appa-1.pdf>. Bidders are required to comply with all CARB and Regulation requirements, including, without limitation, all applicable sections of the Regulation, as codified in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations section 2449 et seq. throughout the duration of the Project. Bidders must provide, with their Bid, copies of Bidder’s and all listed subcontractors’ most recent, valid Certificate of Reported Compliance (“CRC”) issued by CARB. Failure to provide valid CRCs as required herein may render the Bid non-responsive.

WAGE REQUIREMENTS:

Pursuant to Section 1770, and following, of the California Labor Code, the Contractor shall pay not less than the prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. Copies of such prevailing rate of per diem wages are on file at the Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Works Department, which copies shall be made available to any interested party on request.

All labor on the project shall be paid the higher of the minimum wage rates as established by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, or the California Director of Industrial Relations. If a discrepancy exists between these two determinations, then all labor on the project shall be paid the higher of the two minimum wage rates.

DIR Registration: In accordance with Senate Bill 854 (SB 854) and Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors and subcontractors that wish to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, or enter into a contract to perform public work must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. No bid will be accepted nor any contract entered into without proof of the contractor’s and subcontractors’ current registration with the Department of Industrial Relations to perform public work. If awarded a Contract, the Bidder and its subcontractors, of any tier, shall maintain active registration with the Department of Industrial Relations for the duration of the Project.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE:

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in the Airport Manager’s Office at the Mammoth Yosemite Airport, 1300 Airport Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. Contractors may attend in person or may participate via Zoom. Information will be posted on the Online Bid Portal page. For those who can attend in person, a site walk will be conducted after the pre-bid meeting.

RETAINAGE FROM PAYMENTS:

Monthly progress payments shall be made to the Contractor for the value of the work completed during the preceding month, less a five percent (5%) security withhold pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 7201.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 4590, at the request and expense of the Contractor, securities equivalent to the amount withheld shall be deposited with the Town or with a state or federally chartered bank as the escrow agent, who shall pay such monies to the Contractor upon satisfactory completion of the contract. Securities eligible for investment under this section shall include those listed in Government Code Section 16430 or bank or savings and loan certificates of deposit. The Contractor shall be the beneficial owner of any securities substituted for monies withheld and shall receive any interest thereon.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids or to utilize any alternative procedures authorized by the Public Contracts Codes Sections 20166 and 20167 and accept such bids as are

Notice of Vacancies



NOTICE OF VACANCIES - MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board (MLT) has two seats with terms expiring as of June 30, 2025, which are available for candidacy: one from the Retail Industry, and one At-Large position. The term of appointment for the Retail position will expire three years after appointment to the Board, and the At-Large position will expire two years after appointment to the Board.

The Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meetings are scheduled at 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. Interested parties should file a letter of interest with Mammoth Lakes Tourism Office Manager, Jetsabel Aleman, via email at jaleman@visitmammoth.com no later than 5:00 p.m. March 28, 2025. Applicant interviews will be conducted by the MLT Nominating Committee in April and May. Recommendations and Board vote will take place in June and new Board Members will start their service at MLT’s July 2025 meeting.

Dated: March 3, 2025
TS #2025-0026

to the best interest of the Town. The Town reserves the right to waive any informality, or irregularity in a bid.

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA
TOWN CLERK: Jamie Gray
TS #2025-0025

Notice of Vacancy

NOTICE OF VACANCY - MAMMOTH PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a vacancy in an unexpired term exists on the Planning and Economic Development Commission due to a resignation. The term of appointment will expire on July 31, 2026. The Planning and Economic Development Commission meetings are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Interested parties should file an application with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, March 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Application forms (“Application for Public Appointment”) may be obtained from the Town’s website, www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov; Town Clerk at the Town Offices, Minaret Village Shopping Center; by writing to P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, Attention: Town Clerk; or by phoning 965-3602.

Dated: February 12, 2025
Jamie Gray, Town Clerk

TS #2025-0017

Notice of Intent to Purchase Property

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the Mono County Board of Supervisors’ intention to approve a purchase of a certain real property in Mono County.

The property proposed to be purchased is described as Assessor’s Parcel Number 008-092-006-000, located at 85 Kirkwood, Bridgeport, California.

The purchase price is \$430,000.
The vendor (seller) is Jonathon & Jessica Rockwell.

The Board will meet to consummate the purchase on April 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., in the Board Chambers of the County Courthouse in Bridgeport, California 93517.

TS #2025-0028



Notice of Public Hearing Amended and Restated Snowcreek Development Agreement (DA) 23-001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the **Town Council Chambers, Suite Z, within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road**, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council will hear a request for the following:

Application Request: Amended and Restated Snowcreek Development Agreement (DA 23-001). On March 18, 2025, the Planning and Economic Development Commission adopted Resolution No. PEDC 2025-03 recommending that the Town Council approve the Amended and Restated Snowcreek Development Agreement (DA 23-001).

CEQA Determination: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed action is within the scope of the projects analyzed in the previously certified Snowcreek VIII, Snowcreek Master Plan Update 2007 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH #2006112015) and the adopted Snowcreek VII Mitigated Negative Declaration. No additional CEQA review is required.

Location: Approximately 260 acres consisting of the Snowcreek VII and VIII (Snowcreek Master Plan Update) project areas (Lots 1-18 and Lots A-G of Tract Map 2009-002 [Snowcreek VIII] and Lots created by Tract Map 36-236 and 36-236A [Snowcreek VII]).

Zoning: Resort (R) - Snowcreek Master Plan Update (2007)

Proponent: Snowcreek Hilltop Development Co, LLC [Snowcreek VII] and Snowcreek Investment Company II, LLC [Snowcreek VIII] (Applicant / Property Owner)

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Town Council either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than March 28, 2025, contact Nolan Bobroff, Community and Economic Development Director, at (760) 965-3631. Facsimiles may be sent to (760) 934-7493, or email at: nbobroff@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

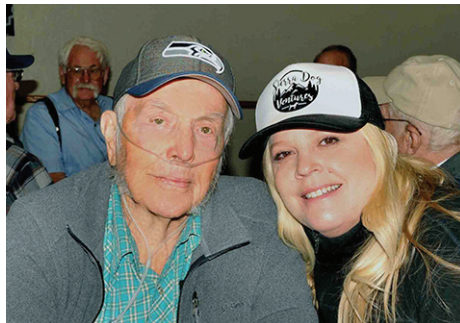
TS #2025-0031

MORE GAYLA ...

VETS FAIR



On March 15, the Bishop Elks hosted a Veterans Fair which featured a free sandwich lunch and presentation booths from local organizations serving veterans.



BLOOD DRIVE



Bishop Elks hosted a blood drive this week at the Lodge

WATERFOWL DINNER

The 18th annual California Waterfowl Assn. dinner was held at Tri-County Fairgrounds on March 15. Per usual, it was sold out.



Star of the dog park, TRISTAN!

If the dogs could vote, Tristan would be their Class President! Small and large dogs all love playing with this social, young boy. Cats like him. No issues. Why this loverboy remains without a home is a mystery. Please come and meet Tristan - and others like him that are in search of their forever home - at the Inyo County Animal Shelter, located at 1001 County Road in Big Pine. For more information, call (760) 938-2715. To see more dogs available for adoption, visit www.easternsierradogrescue.com



Save a life.
Adopt a shelter dog.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

HARTLEY

APPLE CRISP

The free agency period, the period that anyone cares about anyway, is done. And the money is spent. Now the last people picked to play in the dodgeball game in elementary school are the only free agents left. Their self-proclaimed value has been deflated, but their overinflated egos remain intact.

Myles Garrett demanded out of Cleveland because he wants to win. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY. He didn't see Cleveeland's plan to win. The owner refused to trade him or meet with him. Then he signed an extension with Cleveland for \$40 mil a year. It's always about the money. Just take it and shut up. You don't get the right to come back next year and bitch about not winning.

The Bears signed and traded for line-men on both sides of the ball. I don't know if the coach will be good, but he has the right idea. Now they can draft what they need instead of patching holes there. I wonder if **Ashton Jeanty**, the top RB, is headed to Chicago now.

Cooper Kupp. Too much money. These GMs that pay the money for a player who could play 5 years ago is stupid. Kupp isn't the same player. The Seahawks traded **D.K. Metcalf** (27) and signed Kupp (31). At least with **Sam Darnold** they got White Geno at QB. With Kupp they did NOT get White Metcalf. Nice for him, he got overpaid to come back to his natural habitat since he grew up in Yakima, Washington. He will be able to go home pretty often and quickly when he misses 6 games each year due to injury.

Dan Moore Jr sucked in Pittsburgh. Oh, they define him as SERVICEABLE. As long as he doesn't play a high level DE he is ... SERVICEABLE. When he plays a high level DE then he is absolute garbage. So the Titans gave him \$21 million a year. Ouch.

Joey Bosa to the Bills. That was an outstanding signing. I don't know how some other teams let him get to the Bills. He could be questionable with his health but they didn't throw the house at him. Good signing. And I dislike the Bills.

Steelers sign **Mason Rudolph**. Smart. Now let him be the QB this year so they finish 6-11 and can move up for a legitimate QB.

Speaking of the Stalers, er, Steelers. They are waiting on QB **Aaron Rodgers**. Despite hearing all the time about Coach **Mike Tomlin** wanting a mobile QB. The same guy who decided to let **Ben Roethlisberger** decay in the QB position like a corpse now wants to bring in another corpse. Meanwhile, **Kirk Cousins** is still out there. Don't count the Steelers out on that as a fallback plan. At the same time they are signing over 30 defensive players, and with their current roster construction that is actually decreasing the average age of the defense. But it's still old and stale. Tomlin is not good with young players. They eat him alive. So he keeps stacking older players he feels comfortable with. The Steelers should change the name of the stadium to Cocoon Stadium, like the

old movie where all the dusty old people find the fountain of youth. Or the Crypt. They could have Ben's dilapidated elbow in there as the first crucial artifact that led us to this mess. Then they can roll **Cam Heyward** right in there after this season. Toss in **Darius Slay**, who they just signed as a 34-year old CB. They said he played well last year so he has gas left in the tank. He was also surrounded by a tremendous team last year. He is not now. They said the same thing a few years ago when they signed **Patrick Peterson**'s old ass - before accepting he couldn't play anymore and letting him go after the season. Darius "Big Play" Slay ain't made a big play in a couple years. Just call him Big Pay instead. A one year rental. The Steelers are an Airbnb football team. Stay for awhile, overpay and then you're gone.

Right now the Steelers are the NFL team getting the most bets for the Super Bowl in sportsbooks. What? Guess which team was number 1 last year? The Jets. Why? Because there are a legion of mentally challenged people who follow Aaron Rodgers and believe he is actually something. They believe adding Rodgers to a decrepit, poorly run franchise will somehow carry them to a Super Bowl. The same people voted for Trump.

Check out this little nugget from the **Colin Cowherd** show regarding Aaron Rodgers stats the last 3 years and the comp with **Russell Wilson**.

Rodgers		Wilson
Record	14-21	17-24
Comp. pct	63.7%	64.3%
YPG	268	263
TD	54	58
Rating	89.7	90.7
Playoffs	0 wins	0 wins

They are the same player. Deciding between them is asking if you want someone to stab you to death or drown you.

Cowboy DE **Micah Parsons** is still taking jabs at the Niners. He likes to troll the Niners despite the fact that the Niners beat the brakes off the Cowboys when the teams play. He is talking smack about how the Niners and **Brock Purdy** look like they are coming back to reality because they have to release players since the QB won't be on a rookie contract. He may as well be talking about his own team and his own QB. He's like a poor toothless hillbilly in Tennessee making fun of a poor toothless hillbilly in Mississippi. The Cowboys were 7-10 last year and the Niners were 6-11. They are the same teams now. But the Niners have a better coach.

The Colts signed **Daniel Jones** to compete with **Anthony Richardson**. So they don't really want a QB. This is a 40 yard dash competition. They can both run. But they couldn't even be in a relay race. If either had to pass the baton to another person ... they'd throw the baton in the stands or to another relay team. I heard some analysts say it was a great idea and because Daniel Jones had leadership skills. Huh. He led the Giants to a 24-44 record. Akin to General Custer

leading his troops into the Battle of Little Bighorn ...

Apple. Those soulless bastards. The brief rundown is the whole family had Apple phones, except my stubborn son, who had an android. I am one to keep a phone until it's life is completely over. I keep it 'til it will barely get on the internet and you can almost hear this when you try to use it.

So we had iPhones and one day one of them just wouldn't do anything. Another one was significantly impacted. So I contacted the company, and they wouldn't take phone calls. Email unanswered. Finally a chat person told me to buy a new phone, because their upgrades kill a certain percentage of the phones based on age, etc. Or I could make an appointment at the Apple store and see what could be done. Went to the Apple store they said buy a new phone, the upgrade killed yours. Why would I buy another one so you can break it with an eventual "upgrade?" So I switched to androids. Never had another problem. Never.

Most recent mistake. I signed up for Apple TV to watch a few movies and series. Binge them and then turn it off. Well, when I decided to turn it off, I couldn't remember my password for

Apple+. No problem, just reset it. Can't reset it. They say the birthdate I put in doesn't match. Get on a chat and they say can't reset via chat or email, etc. since I created the record and need an Apple device to reset it. Okay. Now I am irritated. More great Apple service. They recommend go to a friend with an Apple device and they can HELP A FRIEND. I sit with someone and they try to use the HELP A FRIEND and it asks for my birthdate. I am like ... that is the whole problem. They recommend visiting an Apple store. I inquire why. So I can log into an Apple device there. Motherfu**er, I can't log in. That's the problem. Only solution was to cancel the credit card it was being charged to.

Sad part is the first computer I ever had was an Apple. It was amazing. You want to do something, open it up and it will let you click and do it. But their service and methods are absolutely hostage-taking.

If you own an Apple product and never have a problem, life is good. If you need something fixed, you might want to drive to whatever godforsaken part of California that cultish compound is located in and go full psycho on them. I considered it.



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