

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Alicia and Andy Barr want you to own a piece of FiftyFifty Brewing. See story p. 15

Saturday, May 24, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. 21

GUT CHECK

By Klusmire

Sometimes your eyes don't lie and you have to trust your gut.

While traversing US 395 this spring, it felt like there was noticeably less traffic on the road. Fewer cars, fewer SUVs and pickups, and an obvious decline in semi-truck traffic. So what's up? A slow spring? An uncertainty freakout? International politics, tensions and trauma stopping the flow of Europeans? All of the above? None of the above?

I can be deceived by my old eyes, so I started to pay more attention to some obvious "markers" that provide reliable hints of the number of visitors and travelers in the Owens Valley.

First off, it was clear there were far fewer semis on the road and parked at the Caltrans Rest Stop north of Independence. Another visitor barometer is the Copper Top BBQ in Big Pine. Usually on any given Friday and particularly on Sunday afternoon the place is packed. But that wasn't quite the case in the past few weeks. There were still plenty of cars and customers, but it wasn't totally jammed like it was during ski season.

The shortage of semis was immediately noticeable in Bishop. There were days when I hardly saw any big rigs on Main Street instead of the day long parade of dozens and dozens (others noticed the dearth of big rigs and were delighted since that made the Main Drag much more cozy and quiet - can our politicians wake up, take a hint and start lobbying for a bypass?). This is a visible result of the Trump Administration's tariffs on Chinese and Asian imports, which literally stopped the flow of goods into the port of LA/Long Beach then onto semis heading up highways 395 and 6 to the cluster of ware-

houses, from Foot Locker to Amazon, in the Reno/Sparks Metroplex.

There was also minimal traffic while driving through Death Valley (also called The Shortcut to Las Vegas). The Panamint Springs and Stovepipe convenience stores (also called Mandatory Hydration Stations) were pleasantly uncrowded. Some of my Mandatory Caffeine Ingestion Stations in Bishop which also attract highway travelers also felt a little less busy than usual.

So I had to do some actual reporter work. Sigh.

see KLUSMIRE, pg. 21

A SHOW-SHANNAH STOPPER

Filmmaker scores with Matlin documentary

By Lunch

At this weekend's 10th annual Mammoth Film Festival, they're saving the best for last.

The closing film, a documentary titled "Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore" screens at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

It is the directorial debut of Shoshannah Stern, who helms an intimate look at one of her idols and mentors.

Matlin was the first deaf actor to win an Academy Award. She won Best Actress for the 1986 film "Children of a Lesser God."

She was just 19 when the film was shot, and 21 when she

received the Oscar.

The film chronicles Matlin's championing of causes for the deaf community, her tumultuous relationship with "Children" co-star Bill Hurt, her drug addiction, her struggle to make a career in Hollywood following her initial splash, and ultimately, the resilience it took to transform the primary adjective from 'deaf' actress to 'great' actress.

And bookends with Troy Kot-sur becoming the second deaf actor to win an Oscar for 2022's Coda. In that film, Matlin plays his wife

Shoshannah Stern is an accomplished actress in her own right. And has had recurring roles on Grey's Anatomy (as its first deaf doctor), Supernatural, Weeds and more.

Shoshannah also created, wrote, executive produced and starred in the critically acclaimed Sundance Now series, This Close with Josh Feldman, the first show to ever be created and written by Deaf people.

The Sheet interviewed Ms. Stern this week, where she brilliantly turned my lousy

see SHOSHANNAH, pg. 14

MULE DAYS IS HERE!



See ya at Saturday morning's parade.

PHOTO GAYLA WOLF

Oster flows

p. 10/

May the Schwartz be against you?

p. 2/

The Sheet is offensive

p. 4/

Don't tread on me

p. 23/

Rush to judgment

p. 8/

TOUGH CLIMBATE

In April, Bishop Planners voted 4-1 to approve minor code variances which pave the way to allow locals James “Bud” Miller and Eric Bissell to site a 6,600-square foot indoor climbing gym at 168 East Line St., which is currently a vacant lot.

Commissioner Patricia Lew owns a neighboring property so she was conflicted out of participating on the item.

As Bissell explained in his presentation, the lot is quite narrow, so to place parking at the back of the lot would require a driveway that would eat too much into the developable property.

So he asked for a parking reduction (from a required 10 spaces to 8 based on the square footage of the building), as well as a second variance which would allow the parking to be located at the front of the lot (adjacent to Line) with a wall or landscaping to shield it from the street.

Allan Pietrasanta, who’s been a key driver in getting the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center up and running, spoke in favor, as



A rendering of the proposed climbing gym project

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the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

“The main thing you got to remember is that everything in the world is a hustle.”

-Malcolm X

JACK LUNCH

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did Lynne Almeida (though she had some reservations and wants the city to do more parking enforcement). Neighborhood resident Casey Stroud also spoke in favor.

Bishop Councilman Jose Garcia, claiming to be speaking as a mere resident, spoke against. While we need businesses like this, he said, this isn’t the right spot. And then he elaborated further, latching onto diametrically opposing arguments to make his point. On the one hand, he said the fifty people he counted milling about the gym in the marketing materials was way too many, but then, grasping onto Bissell’s statement that the gym may see 10-20 people at one time max, Garcia pivoted and wondered aloud whether a biz with 10-20 customers at one time would even be viable.

As Bishop’s City Council would be the appeal board if such a decision is challenged, Garcia really had no business making any statement, and will undoubtedly be disqualified from hearing any appeal should one be made, seeing as he has made his biases known.

Planning Commission Chair Heather Lind was the only no vote, but gave no explanation as to why.

Sometime after the meeting, the whole decision was thrown out.

more LUNCH, pg. 13



MEET

Martha!

This gorgeous one-year-old is on a grand adventure, discovering the wonders of things like... walls! Having previously reigned supreme in the great outdoors with some doggy pals, this whole “inside” thing is a brand-new puzzle for our sweet girl. What Martha needs most right now is a quiet corner where she can feel like her own little Zen master. Interested? Contact:

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LETTERS

Wake up and slow down

Dear Editor,

I assume you will run an article about the 8th graders who were hit while riding their e-bike on Sierra Nevada Rd. this week.

I just wanted to let you know that my son was also hit by a car on Sierra Nevada Rd. (but 2 blocks away). This happened at 7:50 a.m. on April 15th at the four-way stop on the corner of Sierra Park and Sierra Nevada Rds. My son was walking to school and while crossing the road in the crosswalk, a black car hit the side of him. He went up on the hood until the car stopped about 10-15 feet away and he slid off the hood and hit the ground. The driver did stop the car and asked my son if he was okay, and when my son said yes, the driver left the scene. He didn't offer to help him contact his parents or exchange information or call the police (which is the law) or anything.

I just want to say that safety needs to come first in this town so maybe if you mention this also happening along with the recent e-bike accident, people will wake up and slow down!

By the way, my son was fine and luckily not hurt at all. He also happens to be in 8th grade along with the kids that were just in the e-bike accident.

Ali Kaukola
(your former graphic designer)
Mammoth Lakes

Manifesto for Change

Dear Editor:

We live in a town that was never meant to be a resort. At least not in the way it has become one. Dave McCoy founded Mammoth on joy—on the idea that access to the mountains was a public good, a communal thrill, not a commodity. Somewhere along the way, that vision was sold off, subdivided, and rebranded. What was once a town driven by a shared spirit has turned into one defined by exclusion, by convenience, by transactions.

We're not here to romanticize the past. We're here to take back the future.

This isn't just about the price of lift tickets or the new hotel that looks like it belongs in Aspen. It's about what happens when kids can't join a mountain bike camp because it costs over \$1,000 and assumes they have a nearly new bike with all the right features—as-tronomical for most working families, particularly many in Mammoth's Latino community. It's about what it means to live here and not be able to go out to dinner occasionally, or sign your kid up for something enjoyable, or feel part of the town beyond groceries, gas, and the grind. Jobs remain posted not because no one wants to work—but because the people who would fill them can't afford to stay. And even those who can come—where exactly do they live? What happens when the 5.5 months of tempo-

rary housing promised to new Limelight employees runs out? These aren't abstract problems. They're what's eroding the foundation of a real place with real people doing their best to hold on.

We've built a town where second homes sit empty and service workers live out of their cars. Where luxury is permanent but support is seasonal. And where emotional disconnection is as prevalent as potholes.

There are programs available—resources for mental health, housing, and community care—but too many people are too burned out to seek them. The bandwidth simply isn't there. For some, the only place they reliably find connection is at the bar. That's not judgment. That's a signal. It's where the loneliness goes. It's where the pressure to hold it all together can finally exhale, even if not in the healthiest way. Others are fortunate enough to run into someone at Vons or the post office—having that one genuine exchange that reminds them they're not alone. That shouldn't be rare. That should be the baseline.

Even When Help Exists, Burnout Keeps People Away

Yes, there are a handful of programs. There's a support group here, a rental grant there, and some wellness offerings from the hospital, the county, a nonprofit or two. However, they are few, scattered, and inadequate to address the scale of what the people in this town are enduring.

Even well-intentioned programs fail

to reach the people who need them most because those individuals are overwhelmed, emotionally drained, and lack the energy to manage another form, attend another meeting, or deal with another gatekeeper.

This isn't apathy; it's burnout doing what burnout does: shrinking your world, numbing your hope, and making survival the only priority.

If we want to serve this community, we must stop expecting people to seek out help. We need to go to them. We have to meet people where they are—not just physically, but emotionally.

Otherwise, we're merely providing lifeboats to those who've already sunk.

There are still people here showing up. They are still doing the quiet work of care, still holding it together even when no one's watching. This piece is for them—and for those who feel it all but don't yet have the words.

This isn't a complaint. It's a call. A town that can build high-speed gondolas and luxury hotels can also foster care, trust, and belonging—if we decide to.

And for those who have come here recently—for beauty, escape, or opportunity—please, look closer. What you're drawn to didn't come from nowhere. It came from people who stayed, who showed up, and who built something real. When the chase for “more” ignores the enough that already exists, it breaks us. Quietly. Repeatedly. Until the people holding this place together start to disappear.

Let's not allow that to happen. Let's not lose what we've discovered. Protect what brought us here. Keep Mammoth Real.

Dr. Arianne Weiner
Mammoth Lakes

Offensive, sophomoric and the rest

Dear Editor,

I was just about “done” with The Sheet because of the very offensive sophomoric Personals “feature” at the tail end of the Classifieds. I have been happy to notice their absence for the past few months and strongly urge you to retire this pathetic attempt at dirty jokes. Save for this, I have enjoyed reading The Sheet and keeping up with local news since we bought our Snowcreek condo 4 years ago ... so thank you for that!!

Elizabeth Downing
Mammoth Lakes

Editor's Reply: Four years. Congratulations. Welcome to the community.

Upon receiving your note, I immediately tried to reach Mr. Lunch, but unfortunately, he is on a retreat in Framingham, Mass. with a group of Tibetan Monks and is unavailable to render a decision here.

Instead, the matter will be referred to our editorial board, which consists of Jeff Putman, Clouds McCloud, Jon Eisert, Zachary Smith and the late Bea Beyer, who will be contacted via a medium.

Your opinion is important to us, and I can assure you we will give it the utmost consideration.



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LOCAL NEWS

BLOODY STRAITJACKET

By Klusmire

It's time to throw the baby named the Inyo Los Angeles Long-Term Water Agreement out with the bathwater pumped into the tub from Inyo County's aquifers.

That was the overriding theme presented by the public during the May 19 Inyo-LA Standing Committee meeting in Independence.

Speaker after speaker urged officials from Los Angeles and Inyo County to free the Owens Valley from the Long Term Water Agreement (LTWA) strait-jacket that, they said, has decimated the Owens Valley's environment by only providing basic "management" instead of a more holistic approach that would eventually create a "sustainable" ecosystem.

To get to the "sustainable" level, members of the public threw everything but the kitchen sink on the table: banning exports of Inyo and Mono county water to Los Angeles; doing away with all groundwater pumping; changing the protocols that set pumping levels from vegetation goals to groundwater levels; using only surface water, not pumped water for mitigation measures, environmental projects and agriculture; allowing the public, outside experts and scientists, and nonprofit groups to get

in the middle of determining pumping and other water issues; and giving local tribes water rights and land to implement ancient, historical water and irrigation uses.

Amid the backwash of those suggestions, it was mostly overlooked that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) had listened to previous public comments and county suggestions and lowered its planned groundwater pumping ranges by about 5,000 acre feet. The minimum pumping figure is now 62,160 AF with a max of 83,760. That low end number is close to what the county Water Department initially recommended (61,000 AF), but still above the final "suggestion" from the county to set pumping at last year's level of 48,780 AF. Exports to LA would remain at 269,000 AF.

The one-sentence summation of the problems created by just following the terms of the LTWA came from Teri Red Owl, of the Inyo County Water Commission and a Standing Committee member: The county and LADWP "need to look at the valley as a whole," she said. "We should be stewards of the valley, not just managers."

The most descriptive, and somewhat gruesome analogy describing the de-

cades of water "managing" came from long-time water watcher Ceal Klinger.

Her comments came after LADWP said baseline vegetation levels are pretty much okay for decades, and average groundwater levels are "trending upward," albeit with ups and downs since 1974 when massive pumping to fill the Second Barrel of the LA Aqueduct was stalled while LA and the County and lots of lawyers worked to create the LTWA. Plus, the Water Agreement's "on-off" protocols for which pumps to run would "allow" up to 225,000 AF of pumping this year. But since the Water Agreement, pumping levels have been average around 70,000 AF, which is below the projected and allowable levels of 91,000 AF in the agreement's Environmental Impact Report. In most cases pumping comes in lower than planned, as was the case in at least the last two years.

Klinger, who served for years on the Owens Valley Committee, a signatory on the LTWA, was not impressed. Her colorful take on the decades-long water works: Imagine someone was taking your blood for decades, then decided they want your bone marrow next. Since there is no baseline for sustainable bone marrow, they could say "we could take

it all," both blood and bone marrow, and leave the body behind to dry. When they compromise and just keep taking the blood, that's not really a win. So, we should stop saying "LADWP could behave even worse."

While the audience applauded the case for radical surgery on the Water Agreement, the elected officials set out some simple, little "nip and tuck" moves and a promise to explore how to improve or modify the Water Agreement. The four LA representatives and LADWP staff said they listened to and heard the long list of suggestions and would take those comments seriously and explore how to act on them.

First off, Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths pointed out the huge "allowable" pumping numbers are "nonsense." If that much pumping occurred, he said, the resulting vegetation losses would dictate most of the pumps would move to "off" position and likely would not ever come back "on." LA Aqueduct Manager Adam Perez subtly agreed, noting the department manages groundwater "holistically," and aquifer levels are considered when setting pumping plans. Plus, the department manages pumping "so not to put wells

more WATER, page 6

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WATER

continued from page 5

in off" status.

It was noted that after two nearly 100% of average runoff years following the massive 200% year, only two of 22 groundwater pumping monitoring sites are in the "off" status.

A long-sought fix is a mechanical alteration to the groundwater pumps supplying water to the Fish Springs Fish Hatchery that would reduce total pumping without harming trout production. Griffiths said the goal is getting that project done this year.

Once again, both groups also seemed to agree that the year-round flows and seasonal "flushing" regime for the Lower Owens River Project are not achieving the desired results and need to be revised or updated. George McGraw, an LADWP commissioner, said LADWP would certainly look at higher flows, but they would have to be "water neutral." That would mean enlarging the current pump back station at the end of the river that pumps water back the LA Aqueduct. That has been a sticking point for years.

In general, McGraw acknowledged the Water Agreement "can and should

be updated." But Inyo and LA are also "stewards" of both the Owens Valley and the LTWA. Griffiths agreed, pointing out the agreement provides LA with an assurance of a stable water source from the Owens Valley and in return for the valley getting some environmental protections, and mandated in-valley water uses and mitigation measures.

And therein lies the legal straitjacket. Virtually nothing suggested by the public over multiple meetings that could have a notable impact on the current LADWP operations and pumping plan the Owens Valley is in the legally binding, court approved LTWA, the 1991 EIR, the Green Book technical manual, and the Memorandum of Understanding. The key point is that both LADWP and the county both have agree to any changes to those documents and procedures. Both have veto power over any change, in other words.

So changing any and all of those is a daunting task. But not impossible. Changes to the Blackrock Waterfowl Management Area are the most recent example of "adaptive management" when all vested parties agree to overhaul a Water Agreement mitigation measure to improve results. Instead of flooding 500 acres of land year round (which just created a tule swamp), the changes allow for seasonal flooding aligned with the arrival of migratory birds and the mechanical removal of tules when the land is dried out. The new plan's five year trial period is up this year and those changes are likely to be moved to "permanent" status.

Adrian Nazarian, an LA City Council member on the Standing Committee and former state legislator involved in water issues, noted the city and county are partners, and both "want to see that transition" to a more sustainable and equitable management approach. He added that "we can't use water the way we used to," so change is inevitable. He also acknowledged the large contingent of SoCal and LA residents commenting on the pumping plan. "Those comments are not lost on anyone."

Nurit Katz, LADWP commissioner and Chief Sustainability Officer at UCLA, n

the UCLA Biodiversity Department who also helped author the state's 30-30 land conservation and preservation plan, said she was not in Independence at the meeting "just to check a box ... I'm here to listen." She acknowledge past harm to local tribes and noted "no one can erase the past," but she is looking forward to moving LADWP in "the right direction."

Janisse Quinones, LADWP CEO and Chief Engineer, said the department is looking at "what's possible" moving forward, and is open to changes in the Long-Term Water Agreement. "We hear your passion, and that's important."

ONTO PHASE THREE

The Mammoth Lakes Town Council voted unanimously on Wednesday to approve a contract with Triad Homes and Associates Inc. for the design of infrastructure related to Phase 3 of The Parcel housing development.

The contract, expected to cost approximately \$70,000, is anticipated to fund engineering plans and specifications for roads, utilities, and pedestrian infrastructure, according to Nolan Bobroff, Community & Economic Development Director. Those monies will come out of the Housing Now! fund, as allocated in March.

Phase 3 is expected to introduce ownership housing units aimed at middle-income residents, earning between 120% and 200% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Earlier phases of The Parcel focused on low-income rental housing, including the completed 81-unit Sawyer project and the under-construction Kingfisher phase.

The infrastructure plans include an extension of Inyo Street, storm drain-

age, water and sewer lines, electrical conduits, street lighting, and multi-use pedestrian paths. The roads and paths will be public infrastructure, with plans for no special assessments or HOA ownership.

"It's comforting that the town will be providing the subsidies for this, not the federal government or the state government, anything like that," Councilmember Amanda Rice said during deliberation. "This is money that we can count on."

Covering infrastructure costs directly rather than passing them on to a developer could reduce the final sales prices of the homes by up to \$75,000 per unit, according to the town's staff report.

"We expect interest rates are going to go up, unfortunately, or that's what it looks like," Mayor Bubser said. "So I'm glad we're moving forward because it seems like nothing ever gets cheaper."

The design work is a prerequisite for issuing bids for construction on the project, which the Town plans to undertake this summer.

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Documentary Feature • Sun. May 25, 5:00pm



WT0/99

From November 30th to December 3rd 1999, tens of thousands of people occupied the streets of Seattle to make known their concerns about the existence of the World Trade Organization and its impacts on the environment, human rights, and labor.

Spotlight Feature • Sun. May 25, 7:30pm



Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore

In 1987, at the age of just 21, Marlee Matlin shattered expectations as the first Deaf actor to win an Academy Award® for her groundbreaking performance in *Children of a Lesser God*. She seized the moment to challenge an industry unprepared for her immense talent.

Documentary Feature • Sun. May 25 2:45pm



Land with No Rider

In a remote corner of Southwestern New Mexico, the last remaining cowboys eke out a fragile survival between industrial and protected lands. Their herds diminished, these aging stewards of the land live in a shrinking world of isolation, vulnerability, and rugged beauty.

Shorts Program • Saturday May 24, 2:30pm



Documentary Shorts 2

Montana listeners call into Yellowstone Public Radio in the early 2000s; an unconventional bee rescuer challenges neighborhood prejudice and harassment; donkeys discover an abandoned astronomical observatory and the universe; and the eldest of four siblings works through the trauma of losing both parents to gang violence in Haiti.

www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.com

the real sheet

Your Guide to Local Real Estate

MAMMOTH GOES WITH THE FLOW

By Paul Oster

Q: In your newsletters you often mention the concept of “the flow of capital” into Mammoth like it is unique or something new. Can you give some historical perspective on this concept and what specifically you see today that seems especially relevant?

A: The recent “flow of capital” into Mammoth is indeed profound in the historical perspective. Relative newcomers to the community probably won’t see it, and certainly don’t appreciate it, but there are some of us left who are almost amazed at the current state of affairs. This flow of capital is a gift to the community, it should be appreciated, and is an opportunity not to be wasted. It is a classic “nothing good lasts forever” moment in time.

What do I mean by the “flow of capital?” After decades of being involved with real estate, planning, development, taxation, etc. in the region, it is just something that is naturally on my radar. But for many it is probably just some obscure concept. What it really comes down to is the level of new investment dollars being pumped into the commu-

nity. Some of it is real cash, some of it is borrowed (debt), and some of it is hoped to be “refinanced” by purchasers or new investors at some time in the future.

One of the keys is that while some of the investment dollars are static, there is the creation of what is known as the “velocity of money,” and it flows around-and-around in town and the region.

One thing that also makes this recent trend so profound is that the rest of the world is competing for these investment dollars, and that for many decades Mammoth simply wasn’t competitive at attracting or capturing these investment dollars. And even worse, when the big investors (aka whales) came, we weren’t able to keep them interested compared to what the rest of the world had to offer.

The “velocity” aspect is also one that is greatly underappreciated. This recent flow of capital includes many new projects, major redevelopment projects, and the new purchases of residential properties, both individual single-family homes and condominiums. It also includes the subsequent flow of capital (via taxation) to the public side for major new projects and substantial maintenance. This in-

cludes the confidence for the public side to take on new, long-term debt. All of this creates tremendous velocity, or the repeated expenditure of dollars through the community and region. It trickles over and around to almost every business and person.

Most residents working in the community have their heads down and have busy lives. Second homeowners come and go. They might not have noticed all of the impacts and nuances. There has been tremendous investment by Alterra into the Ski Area enterprise. This capital investment alone is especially consequential because it is the psychological leader that inspires the rest of the investment. In simple terms, money follows money. We saw this in the Intrawest era.

In hindsight we can see that Intrawest was primarily here for the real estate development opportunities. They improved lifts and the ski runs, and they understood the longer-term cash flow concept of the “front desk” and hospitality business. But they had an insatiable appetite to build and sell real estate units. They inevitably found their profit margins squeezed by the high cost of de-

velopment in Mammoth. And ironically, all of the assets they left behind (retained ownership of) are now part of Alterra ownership and umbrella.

The Starwood/Sternlicht ownership era brought great, initial enthusiasm but then turned into a floundering mess. The financial conditions of the times didn’t help, but today there is no real good understanding in what they saw here in Mammoth. They really weren’t ski industry people. And they definitely didn’t influence any flow of capital into the community. They certainly did bail Intrawest out of their ownership position. And ultimately (and almost oddly) they helped do a major (downward) reset of the land values in the Village, which has helped “the numbers” in this new cycle.

Ultimately, the Intrawest and Starwood eras brought no real sustained prosperity to Mammoth. The Alterra ownership structure appears to have a much longer-term vision. And the financial mojo to keep it going. The Limelight is the most obvious example of this. The downstream investors, both large and small, clearly see this. It is evident

more OSTER, page 12




EARLY SEASON PASS SAVINGS

The season is ready to tee off— Sierra Star and Snowcreek open **May 23**. Grab your season pass or punch card now, options starting at just \$149. *Prices go up June 9.*





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- 3-4 B4BC LOVE YOUR PEAKS
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- 31 THE PAMPER PEDAL

JUNE

- 7-8 EASTERN SIERRA PRIDE
- 20-29 MONSTER ENERGY MAMMOTH MOTOCROSS
- 27-28 MAMMOTH FEEL GOOD FESTIVAL

JULY

- 3-6 ARTS ON THE 4TH AND CELEBRATIONS
- 4 4TH OF JULY PARADE
- 4-5 GIDDYUP COUNTRY MUSIC
- 5 SUMMIT SUNSET PARTY
- 11-12 MAMMOTH JAZZFEST
- 18-20 MAMMOTH REGGAE FESTIVAL
- 25-26 MAMMOTH VILLAGEFEST
- 25-27 MAMMOTH LAKES OPEN AIR ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR
- 26 ANNUAL KIDS FISHING FESTIVAL

AUGUST

- 7/31-3 MAMMOTH FESTIVAL OF BEERS AND BLUESAPALOOZA
- 6 FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE VILLAGE
- 8-9 MAMMOTH MARGARITA FESTIVAL
- 15-16 MAMMOTH WINE WEEKEND
- 16 MAMMOTH 50K PEDALPALOOZA
- 22-23 MAMMOTH ROCKS
- 29-31 MAMMOTH ROCK N RYE
- 31 ANNUAL WAVE RAVE SKATE CONTEST
- 31 SUMMIT SUNSET PARTY

SEPTEMBER

- 6 MAMMOTH ROLL AND SOUL
- 6 MAMMOTH GRAN FONDO
- 12-14 FLASH FOXY TRAD FEST
- 12-14 MAMMOTH TUFF
- 18-21 MAMMOTH TRAILFEST
- 20 HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR
- 26-30 THE MAMMOTH

OCTOBER

- 4-5 SPARTAN SUPER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 8 REBELLE RALLY



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ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR CANCELLATION



OSTER
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throughout the region.

What most of today's Mammoth enthusiasts don't realize is that Mammoth had this flow of capital back in the 1970s. Historically, it seems like an odd time for such prosperity—high interest rates and high inflation (and the dreaded stagflation). But look around Mammoth and you will see all sorts of evidence from that era. Thousands of condominiums were built and they evolved from weekend ski crash pads to “resort” properties in a place called Snowcreek. Many of the commercial centers we frequent today were built in the twilight of that era. Dave McCoy and the major developers in town were championing gondolas to move people all around town. The Lodestar master plan (the Sierra Star golf course and surroundings) was in process to have a narrow gauge railroad servicing the entire property, much like a Disney property. Celebrities actually came to Mammoth back then. And the local real estate values were as high as any ski resort in North America.

That prosperity and flow of capital crashed, the result of the early 1980s recessions, earthquakes, volcano scares (thanks Mt. St Helens) and more. The first twenty years I lived in Mammoth the “USGS” was a dirty word. They were the enemy. Back then, many of the remaining local residents blamed the government agency for the economic destruction of Mammoth's success from that era. There was tremendous bitterness. Any significant flow of capital dried up for almost two decades.

Today, the advent of pre-sale season

passes is a godsend for the industry's cash flow. But back in the 1980s it was quite different. It was a big deal around town if “Dave got the bank loan” to build a new lift. The drought years of the late 1980s destroyed all of that. There was no snowmaking and people didn't buy a season pass until the conditions warranted it (the cost for a ski pass back then was basically the same as today, except it was in 1990 dollars). Cheap ski passes have been great for the flow of capital.

Local real estate development was almost non-existent for years during the subsequent post-boom period. Tom Dempsey felt compelled to start construction on Snowcreek Phase IV to keep the development momentum going and keep his crew together. Some of it had to be framed twice because someone took a match to it. That was persistence. John Hooper risked building new, small homes that local residents might be able to afford and maybe a second-homeowner or two might like. He also risked building fourplexes and various multi-unit properties to house local residents (and still do today). The buyer pool was small and skittish. At least he knew he could probably service the debt with rents until he found a buyer. But the level of cash flow in the community through that era was dismal. That's why today's conditions are so profound.

This flow of capital into Mammoth (and Mono County) highlights another discussion that is the ire of many in the community. It is a common complaint from members of the public that the Mammoth Town Council has been too

easy on major real estate developers for workforce housing mitigation. The planners call them exactions. The developers call them extractions. These are the up front, agreed upon contributions to housing made as part of the development approvals. They can be in the form of cash or actual units (or land or anything really). While the requirements are part of the municipal code, they are always subject to negotiation. And the developers always negotiate far less than what is “required.” It just goes with the territory.

The decision makers ultimately have to bend the rules to incentivize the development. Members of the public have made it an issue for years. They point out that projects like the Limelight will employ X amount of people and their housing mitigation costs will cover, maybe, a half dozen of these employees. This has been a hot topic in Mammoth for years. The older, indignant members of the public claim the Council “sold out.” Those without adequate housing claim it is the root of their hardship. There are always the graphs and spreadsheets to substantiate their claims.

So here is where we are today. The available workforce housing grant dollars and tax incentives continue to diminish. Meanwhile the flow of capital is at an all-time high, and this includes incredible government revenues from all of the taxes, from property tax, bed tax (TOT), TBID, sales tax, and even the taxes everyone pays on their electric bill so the Town can justify buying faux climbing walls.

These excess tax revenues, because of

this community prosperity, need to be increasingly allocated to workforce housing. They have been recently, and this needs to continue. And maybe even more so. And this includes the County. The property tax from the Limelight alone should be able to purchase or develop several units every year (assuming it is done prudently). The members of the public who complain about the inadequate housing mitigation on the front end now need to be proactive to make sure the housing is funded here on the back end. This is the one of the beauties of this new flow of capital.

And now the timing is even more important. The proposed “missing middle” housing, the middle income housing for which there has never really been any subsidies, is coming in the near future at The Parcel (and maybe other locations). The Town needs to be a substantial financial partner in its development. Some of the pet projects may need to go by the wayside. The demand for the missing middle workforce housing has been neglected for decades. And the demand has never been higher. The strong flow of capital and sound decision making from our leaders can now make it happen. That is, if the public pays attention.

Thanks to those who we remember this Memorial Day.

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX of Mammoth (celebrating 35 years). For other timely real estate information you can go to www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com. For legal, accounting, or construction advice, please seek out the appropriate professional.



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Mammoth Community Water District

Level 0

2025 WATERING SCHEDULE

SPRINKLER TIMES: 1 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
EVEN Address		X		X	X		X
ODD Address	X		X		X	X	

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LUNCH

continued from page 2

Sources tell the Sheet that two public comments were never presented to Commissioners because the comments went to Michelle Rhew's email, and Rhew just happened to retire two weeks before the meeting.

One of those comments was apparently from Howie Schwartz. He and his wife Karen (another Bishop City Councilmember) happen to own the only local indoor climbing gym. The other person to comment did not identify themselves.

So this coming Tuesday, Planning Commissioners will re-hear the matter.

Will it make a difference? Who knows? But as Commissioner Erik Leitch said at the last meeting, "Are we really gonna turn this down over two [parking] spots?"

May is National Bicycle Safety Month, first established in 1956, according to the League of American Bicyclists.

This time last year, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) released a statement encouraging bicyclists to wear an appropriate-sized helmet.

This year, MLPD had a grimmer bike safety reminder:

"At 3:12 PM on May 20, 2025, officers responded to the intersection of Old Mammoth Road and Sierra Nevada Road for reports of a traffic collision. Upon arrival, they discovered that two juveniles riding e-bikes had

collided with a vehicle. The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is seeking witnesses to this collision. If you have any information about the incident, please contact Dispatch at 760-932-7549, option 7."

Inyo National Forest is proposing to introduce or increase new fees at seven different recreation sites to improve services and protect resources, with anticipated implementation of Spring 2026. The public is invited to provide input in this process by June 30, 2025.

"These fees will help us maintain our sites at the level and quality our visitors have come to expect, especially at a time when we are experiencing increases in operating costs that have not kept up with use," said Adam Barnett, Public Services Staff Officer for the Inyo National Forest.

The proposed changes will increase the permit cost for Mt. Whitney Trail and also introduce new fees for six off-highway vehicle campgrounds located on the White Mountain and Mono Lake Ranger Districts, which currently require no fee at all.

Under the proposal, Hartley Springs, Grandview, Upper and Lower Deadman, Glass Creek, and Big Springs campgrounds will have a new daily single site fee of \$20 and a new extra-vehicle fee of \$5.

The comment period is set to end by close of business on June 30, 2025.

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EASTERN SIERRA UNITED
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MONTH

Please join us! Pride Month is a time to celebrate the diversity of God's creation and a chance to affirm our LGBTQ+ family, friends, and neighbors and their right to live openly and authentically. The Eastern Sierra United Methodist Church advocates for LGBTQ+ equality, stands in solidarity with those who are still fighting for their rights, and seeks to create a safe, welcoming, and affirming space that supports and celebrates the LGBTQ+ community.

SCHEDULE (Bishop events at is 205 N. Fowler St.)

June 1 at 9:30am – Sunday morning service celebrating LGBTQ+ people in Bishop.

June 5 at 6:30pm – Monthly movie night will be showing The Birdcage. This is a free, sober event in Bishop.

June 8 from 10am to 6pm – Come by our table and say hello during the Eastern Sierra Pride Festival Open Market at Canyon Lodge, Mammoth Mountain, in Mammoth Lakes (www.easternsierrapride.org).

June 21 at 6:30pm – What if the word "homosexual" was never meant to be in the Bible? Join us for a free screening of 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture (www.1946themovie.com) in Bishop.

For more information, please contact us at 760-872-7701, office@esierraumc.org, or visit www.esierraumc.org.

BUSINESS

THIS FIFTYFIFTY = GOOD ODDS

And you can actually bet on it

When Alicia Barr and her husband, Andy Barr, first met, owning a brewery in a mountain town wasn't on the horizon. They were engineers, working at Hewlett-Packard, and their time in the Sierra was limited to weekend visits to ski, hike, bike and spend time outdoors.

But over time, they followed the path many consider but few pursue: the path of the burnt-out office workers who actually make a move to the mountains. They made a plan and, in 2005, moved to Truckee. There, they opened Fifty-Fifty Brewing Co., with a focus on flavor in the beer and community in the bar. Together they created their first core line of beers focusing on IPAs, porters, stouts and pales.

The approach worked, and over nearly two decades, the Barrs' vision took off. They've garnered more than 50 awards globally, including GABF Gold, World Beer Cup Gold, European Beer Star Gold, and the GABF 2018 National Brewery Group of the Year. Eclipse, the brewery's barrel-aged stout, has ranked among the best in the world. Drafting on that success (bad pun)—and their love of the Sierra—the Barrs are now expanding their mom-and-pop operation to Reno and Mammoth Lakes.

The Mammoth brewery will be located in the renovated Mammoth Mall on Old Mammoth Road.

Andy Barr sees FiftyFifty Mammoth as a great addition to an already-thriving brewery scene (JLB, Distant, Mammoth, Mountain Rambler). He envisions the new venue as a brewpub, a social club, innovation center and a place where locals and visitors alike can hang out, drink world-class beer, and enjoy a bite and even a cocktail—all under one roof. Most of all, says Barr, FiftyFifty isn't a new competitor in town so much as a new wrinkle in a unique and expanding community.

And with old standbys like Slocums and Nevados having closed in recent years, a welcome replacement.

The new space, says Barr, will reflect what makes Mammoth special. His goal: a little mountain-town soul. And while the FiftyFifty team will be new to Mammoth as business owners and residents, they've long enjoyed the area as enthusiastic visitors. Their arrival in Mammoth, he adds, isn't about expansion for expansion's sake. It's about doing something that builds on the ethos they've already established, and embraces the culture of a new home.

FiftyFifty is also, says Barr, unfurling its unique approach to community engagement and funding. The brewery has launched a crowdfunding campaign through StartEngine, which allows members of the community, visitors to town, and beer-lovers looking to own a piece of business. It's a chance to invest directly in the company and become real equity shareholders in not only the new Mammoth project, but all things

FiftyFifty including Mammoth, Truckee, Reno and distribution. The goal is to keep the project grounded in local roots, keep the capital local, and create an opportunity for anyone to become a partner.

Barr truly means anyone. Minimum investment levels are approachable and come with big benefits.

**To make an NFL comparison, it's like the people of Green Bay owning the*

Packers. Believe it or not, the Packers have more than 500,000 shareholders. They're the only publicly-owned team.

"We've always believed that breweries can be cornerstones of community," says Barr.

"There's something cool about town members having an opportunity not only to be proud of that company or patronize it, but to be equity owners of it."

"And that's why the crowdfunding

focused on locals in Truckee, and now Mammoth, is an important part of how we do business.

"If we're going to do this in Mammoth, we want the people who love this place to help shape it—and benefit from it."

Locals interested in investing can visit www.fiftyfiftybrewing.com to learn how to invest before the window closes.

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STERN

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her and her family. It just so happened that three of her four children lived in other states at the time, as they were all in college, and Sarah was the only one who was local. I knew I would love to have her in the film because there has always been this overarching theme of motherhood present, but I knew she was expecting and how singular that time is, and I'm so very grateful that she asked to be a part of the film.

As a wife of a hearing man and the mother of our child, I know that people are very interested in the inner workings of our family. You'd be surprised at how often people will watch our conversations when we're out in public and then ask questions about the choices we have made.

I really don't mind that observance, but I do mind the amount of access they expect to have. The inner workings of anyone's relationship and their family is just that. If Marlee or I choose to talk about them, that's fine, but none of that information should be demanded unless we so choose.

There is also a tendency for people to define women by their family, and I knew from the beginning it was time for Marlee to reclaim her story for herself, while also showing how deeply invested she is in her family. There were also, of course, so many storylines that we simply could not keep because of time constraints. If we wanted to make this a limited series, we certainly could have!

But I think the important parts are all there, and we still show glimpses at what we don't get into enough where people can get a full illustration of who she is.

Lunch: What parts of Marlee's story did you learn during the process and how much did you already know going into it? What was the biggest surprise?

Stern: I knew almost everything she had gone through, both because I've followed her career and her life since first seeing her win her Oscar at seven years old, and because of her autobiography.

The biggest surprise for me was her bravery and her vulnerability. They've always been two sides of the same coin to me, but I think there was something that came over her when I interviewed her. I think it may be because, for the first time on film, she didn't need to explain her experience to the interviewer or worry about how her words would be interpreted. I told her that I would be there with her in the conversation and that it would be just that, a conversation rather than an interview. Perhaps it was because of that, but she was so honest and so brave in not just re-examining her past, but being able to process them in real time.

Lunch: Who are some of your directorial influences?

Stern: I love Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk's ability to get to the truth in Athlete A and Audrie and Daisy. Jon was my director of photography so he was

there with me for most of those shoots, and Bonni produced the film and really believed in and saw my vision from very early on. I have always loved Ang Lee's use of silence and I loved what Alison O'Daniel did with the captions in *The Tuba Thieves*, so I asked her to do the captions for us. Working with another deaf woman on enhancing the creative potential of captions to add a layer of the story while making them more accessible, in the telling of the story of the woman who largely helped make them possible in the first place was magical.

Lunch: What are some of your favorite films?

Stern: This was my first time stepping into the documentary world, so I was deeply inspired by *Pretty Baby*, *Pamela*, *A Love Story* and *Framing Britney Spears*.

Lunch: Is Henry Winkler the greatest guy who ever lived?

Stern: Yes.

Lunch: If it's a rite of passage for every deaf actress to play Sarah in *Children of a Lesser God*, what is the rite of passage for every deaf actor?

Stern: You'd have to ask a deaf actor that, but while there are other stories about our community, and certainly plays that center deaf men as leads, none have reached the level of familiarity as *Children*, so maybe playing Orin in *Children of a Lesser God*?

Lunch: Were you able to talk Aaron Sorkin into writing the next "Children?" You kind of goaded him about it in the film.

Stern: First of all, I don't think anyone could ever goad Aaron Sorkin into anything! But Aaron was one of my favorite interviews because he's so curious and so open. I think he wanted to ask me questions more than he wanted to answer them, so we ended up going way off book and just having a lovely and lively conversation.

I remember wondering if it was a risk, but something inside me told me just to go with it and let it be. Then, during the editing process, our brilliant editor Sara found a way to incorporate that in a way

that really made the film better.

But because Aaron has a way of listening with his entire being, he did say something among those lines, yes, all on his own.

But he is also kind of busy being one of the best writers of our times, so I will not hold my breath and will instead always remember just how lovely he was. They say never meet your heroes but I am so glad I did.

Lunch: This isn't even a question. I loved the silences the film. So many people fill the silences with noise. Dull noise. Uninteresting noise. Noise for the sake of noise. Talk talk talk. Blah blah blah.

Stern: Thank you.

Lunch: Similarly, I loved Marlee's description of how loud it can be in her brain.

Stern: Thank you.

Lunch: I was interested in knowing how Marlee has learned to resolve conflict within her marriage. She married super young, and on the heels of a relationship (and an upbringing) where conflict wasn't resolved very well, if at all.

Stern: That's really a question for her, and perhaps one that should remain between her and Kevin. But her story has often been a Cinderella story, at least the way it's been told up until now.

While she really was plucked out of obscurity and sent to the Oscars in a beautiful dress, I feel that may be something of a disservice to her, because Marlee has worked so very hard for everything she has ever done.

It was crucial for me to ensure that this film conveyed joy, as she is a truly joyful person. She doesn't live a sad, tortured life, even though she has gone through events that have been traumatic. That's why I knew I had to incorporate her family and her marriage in the film to make sure that joy was captured.

It always makes me tear up when I see Kevin sign his vows to her on her wedding day. To me that is such a simple moment with so much profound depth to it.

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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: Ad p. 2*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 6*
The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar. Food and drink specials.
Lakanuki happy hour 3-6 p.m. daily AND karaoke every Sunday, starting at 8:30 p.m.
Main Street Pizza - *See ad this page for details.*
Distant Brewing happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-5pm. \$1/off beer/wine/cider/seltzer/kombucha

Friday, May 23/
Big Smooth (Esoteric Rock Bangers) plays Liberty. Time: 9:30 p.m. No cover. *More info: See ad p. 2*
Patio Party @ Bishop Country Club. Time: 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, May 24/
Half Hour Late (Groovy Original Jams) plays Liberty. Time: 9:30 p.m. No cover. *More info: See ad p. 2*
Party @ Gull Lake Marina with entertainment by Elizabeth Petra/Tracked Out. Time: 5-9 p.m.

May 24-25/
Weekend apres ski parties @ The Yodler (MMSA) with Lost Kings & WLDCT. Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Monday, May 26/
Open mic @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27/
Karaoke @ Liberty. Starts 10 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

May 23-25/
10th annual Mammoth Lakes Film Festival continues. Info/tix: mammothlakesfilmfestival.com or *see ad p. 9*
Mule Days continues in Bishop. Parade is Saturday at 10 a.m. on Main St.
Calico Quilters of Bishop Quilt Show takes place @ Laws Museum off Highway 6 just east of town. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. daily with the quilt raffle drawing Sunday at 1 p.m.

May 23-26/
Inyo Council for the Arts holiday weekend arts and crafts show at Bishop City Park featuring vendors, live music and more. Time: 9-6 Friday through Sunday and 9-2 on Monday.

Saturday, May 24/
Mammoth Yacht Club boat races!

Tuesday, May 27/
SNARL (Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab) lecture series continues at the Page Center (1016 Mt. Morrison Rd. off Hwy. 395). Tonight: Yosemite wildlife. Time: 7-8 p.m.
Community Ukulele Group - Eastern Sierra Strummers meets. Time: 5-6:30 pm. Location: MAC Gallery, Minaret Mall.
Inyo County Supervisors meet. Time: 10 a.m. Location: Board Chambers @ 224 N. Edwards in Indy or online via inyocounty.us

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, May 27 (cont.)/
Bishop City Council meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers at 377 West Line or online via cityofbishop.ca.gov.

Wednesday, May 28/
Bishop's Planning Commission meets @ 6 p.m. to discuss a variance for a proposed climbing gym to be located at 168 East Line - a continuation/do-over of last month's hearing. Location: 377 West Line or online via cityofbishop.ca.gov. *More info: Lunch column on p. 2*

Thursday, May 29/
Mammoth Sauna Co. hosts community sauna and cold plunge sessions @ Outbound Mammoth. Time: 4-7 p.m. \$25 gets you 30 minutes! Reserve at mammothsaunaco.com

Saturday, May 31/
Eastern Sierra Land Trust Pollinator Garden Inspiration Tour. Meet at the ESLT office at 250 N. Fowler. Time: 8:30 a.m. 'til noon. Info: eslt.org/events/



SIERRA ELECTRIC

Sean Flavin, Owner

760-920-3547
LIC# 923994

TOWN STUFF

May 31-June 1/
Mariachi San Pablo, visiting all the way from El Paso, Texas, will play three shows locally, spreading the gospel mariachi style. Friday show 1 p.m. @ Grace Lutheran in Bishop, and Saturday shows at 8:45 a.m. (Mammoth Lakes Lutheran) and 10:45 a.m. (Grace Lutheran.) Free!

UPCOMING

June 7-8: Eastern Sierra Pride Festival hosted by MMSA. More info: See ad previous page.

June 8-14: California High School State Rodeo Finals @ Tri-County Fairgrounds.

June 15: Most important day of the year



MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT'S Engineering Department is currently recruiting for one temporary Engineering Intern position. FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION/TO APPLY: Please see the District website <https://mcwd.dst.ca.us/employment/>

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP



Superlative East Coast, Thin-Crust Pizza

LUNCH SPECIALS
Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm
• \$2 Off All 10" Pizzas
• 1/2 Off All Salads

HAPPY HOUR
Monday - Friday
3-6 PM
• \$3 Cheese Slice \$4 Pepperoni Slice
• \$1 off all Pints & Tasting Flights
• \$1 off all Wines By the Glass



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

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



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

Experienced Electrician

-Mammoth \$35-46/hr. plus mileage reimbursement

Experienced Concrete General Laborer

-Mammoth \$22-26

Community Integration Partner

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

Journeyman Plumber

-Mammoth \$30-45

Maintenance Tech

-Mammoth \$20-25

General Laborers

-Mammoth \$20-25

Front Desk Receptionist

-Mammoth \$22-25

Journeyman Carpenters

-Mammoth \$35-45

Call or text 760-924-0523



Vegetation Management Inspection, working outdoors evaluating trees along utility corridors. More details and apply at: <https://mgeinc.bamboohr.com/careers/202>.



H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Family Empowerment Center of Inyo/Mono Counties is hiring Family Resource Specialists (FRS). Under minimal direction, the FRS completes Family Empowerment Center implementation activities including but not limited to parent-to-parent support, outreach, training, and IEP assistance. The FRS is responsible for parent support group meetings, parent trainings, distribution of information, IEP assistance (including attending IEP meetings), and public awareness activities. Travel within Inyo/Mono Counties is required. This position is a hybrid work opportunity. Work locations include home, support group locations, and attending IEP meetings at a variety of schools. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, some college background is strongly preferred but not required. Familiarity with community resources and Microsoft Computer Software. Bilingual a plus, but not required. Must have possession of a valid California driver's license, insurance, and access to reliable transportation.

Contact: Ann Bason 661.531.3498

PERSONALS

I saw you ... thought we may have given up publishing personals. Truth is, we haven't run them for months because everyone in Mammoth is well-adjusted and getting laid right now. No need for personals. Except ... I hope to see you ... at the Mammoth Yacht races. Because every Gilligan could use a Mary Ann. Or, after a few beers, a Mrs. Howell. Or, after a case of beer, Mrs. and Mr. Howell.



THE BEST COLD WEATHER APPAREL



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.

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.

Dental Assistant - Registered - Starting \$25.49 to \$30.90 based on qualifications.

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

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

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



MAMMOTH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mammoth Unified School District has the following positions available:

Spanish Teacher - Mammoth Middle School
Salary: \$58,431 - \$106,134 + \$2,122 BASP/ BCLAD + \$1,655 for MA
Complete Health & Welfare Package
Current and appropriate California credentialing/certification will be required 2025/2026 (184 days)

Music Teacher
Salary: \$58,431 - \$106,134 + \$2,122 BASP/ BCLAD + \$1,655 for MA
Complete Health & Welfare Package
Current and appropriate California credentialing/certification will be required 2025/2026 (184 days)

Temporary Teachers (2) - Mammoth Elem.
Salary: \$58,431 - \$106,134 + \$2,122 BASP/ BCLAD + \$1,655 for MA
Complete Health & Welfare Package
Current and appropriate California credentialing/certification will be required 2025/2026 (184 days)

Community School Partnership Program Coordinator
Salary: \$70,135 - \$105,354
Complete Health & Welfare Package
Bachelor's degree in education, public admin., social work or related field - Master's preferred
Experience: Minimum of three years in program coordination, education administration or community engagement
2025/2026 (200 days)

Food Service Worker 1 - MES
Salary \$21.45 - \$27.41 hourly/Step 21
4.0 hours per day/Bilingual preferred

Bus Drivers/CGM I
Salary: \$23.07 - \$30.06 per hour
Step 24/PLUS \$2,130.60 STIPEND
8.0 hours/day/year-round/Training Provided-
Complete Health & Welfare Package
Holiday and Vacation Pay
Commercial license w/school bus endorsement
Bilingual preferred

Paraprofessionals Special Education
Salary \$22.74 per hour/6.0 hours/Step 24
Bilingual preferred

Paraprofessionals - MES
Salary: \$22.10 per hour/6.0 hours/Step 21
Bilingual preferred

Contact: Cathy Molina-cmolina@mammothusd.org/EOE
<http://www.edjoin.org/mammothusd>

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

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

Restaurant Server for Eagles Landing Restaurant at the popular Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA. Experience in restaurant service, computers and working as team member are essential. Full and part time available, health ben-



Whitebark Institute Seeks Forest Health Program Manager
This management role oversees ecological forest restoration projects and staff within the Eastern Sierra communities. Salary \$95K-\$115K/year, benefits, hybrid work. Apply at whitebarkinstitute.org/careers.

Whitebark Institute Seeks Environmental Planner / Senior Environmental Planner
Lead wildfire resilience and restoration planning efforts in California's Eastern Sierra. Full-time, hybrid position based in Mammoth Lakes. Salary \$80K-\$110K/year, generous benefits. Apply at whitebarkinstitute.org/careers.

Help Wanted

efits, fitness membership and PTO. Great 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



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.



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



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



Join Now

We Are Hiring!

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

Why Work with us?

Endless Opportunities

Exceptional Benefits

Professional Growth

Working as part of a team

Be part of something extraordinary

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice Inviting Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Mammoth Lakes (“Town”) invites and will receive sealed Bids up to but not later than 4:00PM, Friday, June 20, 2025 through the Town’s Online Bid Portal at <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1016/Bids> (“Online Bid Portal”), for the furnishing to Town of all labor, equipment, materials, tools, services, transportation, permits, utilities, and all other items necessary for the **TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES MAMMOTH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER** CAP 22-002 (the “Project”). After said time, Bids will be publicly posted on the Online Bid Portal. Bids received after said time shall be returned unopened. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 calendar days after the Bid opening date.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project includes the construction of a new 7,482 square-foot single-story (plus mezzanine) performing arts theater with supportive spaces and utilities as an addition to the existing Edison Hall building, demolition and reconstruction of existing hardscape and parking lot, and associated site work. The Engineer’s Estimate for the project is \$13,000,000.

Bids must be submitted on the Town’s Bid Forms. Bidders may obtain a copy of the Contract Documents by registering on the Town’s Online Bid Portal located at <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1016/Bids>. To the extent required by section 20103.7 of the Public Contract Code, upon request from a contractor plan room service, the Town shall provide an electronic copy of the Contract Documents at no charge to the contractor plan room.

It is the responsibility of each prospective Bidder to download and print all Contract Documents for review and to verify the completeness of Contract Documents before submitting a bid. Any Addenda will be posted on the Online Bid Portal. It is the responsibility of each prospective Bidder to check the Online Bid Portal on a daily basis through the close of Bids for any applicable addenda or updates. The Town does not assume any liability or responsibility based on any defective or incomplete copying, excerpting, scanning, faxing, downloading or printing of the Contract Documents. Information on the Online Bid Portal may change without notice to prospective Bidders.

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.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a certified or cashier’s check, or Bid Bond secured from a surety company satisfactory to the Town, the amount of which shall not be less than ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price, made payable to Town of Mammoth Lakes. The bid security must be submitted in original hard copy directly to the Town prior to the specified date and time for bid opening as set forth in the Instructions to Bidders. The bid security shall be provided as a guarantee that within ten (10) working days after the Town provides the Successful Bidder the Notice of Award, the Successful Bidder will enter into a contract and provide the necessary bonds and certificates of insurance. The bid security will be declared forfeited if the Successful Bidder fails to comply within said time. No interest will be paid on any cash deposited with Town as bid security.

Bidders are advised that mail going to and/or coming from the Town may be slower than the Bidder anticipates, particularly during inclement weather. Accordingly, Bidders sending documents by mail are advised to send any required documents as soon as reasonably possible to avoid late submissions. The Town is not responsible for the Bidder’s late submissions of Bids, Bid securities or any other required Bid Forms or other required documentation.

A NON-MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for 10:00AM on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at a conference room at the Town of Mammoth Lakes office located at 437 Old Mammoth Rd Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, California, to review the Project’s existing conditions. The Pre-Bid Meeting is also available for participation via Zoom, as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/85069930207?pwd=RzNQleLtzSkaXBkUpe2V285eYJ6Fpu.1>
Meeting ID: 850 6993 0207
Passcode: 591641

One tap mobile
+16699006833,,85069930207# US (San Jose)
+16694449171,,85069930207# US

Dial by your location
• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
• +1 669 444 9171 US

Representatives of the Town and consulting engineers, if any, will be present. Questions asked by Bidders at the Pre-Bid Meeting not specifically addressed within the Contract Documents shall be answered via addendum posted on the Town’s Online Bid Portal.

Oral statements regarding this Bid made at the Pre-Bid Meeting should be considered unverified information unless confirmed in writing.

The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Faithful Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond each in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price. Each bond shall be in the forms set forth herein, shall be secured from a surety company that meets all State of California bonding requirements, as defined in California Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120, and that is a California admitted surety insurer.

Pursuant to Section 22300 of the Public Contract Code of the State of California, the Successful Bidder may substitute certain securities for funds withheld by the Town to ensure its performance under the contract. Pursuant to Labor Code Section 1773, Town has obtained the prevailing rate of per diem wages and the prevailing wage rate for holiday and overtime work applicable in Mono County from the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations for each craft, classification, or type of worker needed to execute this contract. A copy of these prevailing wage rates may be obtained via the internet at: www.dir.ca.gov/dlsr/.

In addition, a copy of the prevailing rate of per diem wages is available at the Town’s Public Works Department Engineering Division and shall be made available to interested parties upon request. The Successful Bidder shall post a copy of the prevailing wage rates at each job site. It shall be mandatory that the Successful Bidder, and any subcontractors, comply with all Labor Code provisions, which include but are not limited to the payment of not less than the specified prevailing wage rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract, employment of apprentices, hours of labor and debarment of contractors and subcontractors.

Pursuant to 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 will 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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the contractor registration requirements mandated by Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 shall not apply to work performed on a public works project that is exempt pursuant to the small project exemption specified in Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1.

This Project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. In bidding on this Project, it shall be the Bidder’s sole responsibility to evaluate and include the cost of complying with all labor compliance requirements under this contract and applicable law in its Bid. Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 3400(c), the Town intends to recommend Town Council adopt a resolution on May 21, 2025 making findings designating certain materials, products, things, or services by specific brand or trade name. The materials, products, things, or services and their specific brand or trade names are set forth in the Special Conditions, and the resolution of such findings will be issued as an attachment to the Special Conditions by addendum.

Each Bidder shall be a licensed contractor pursuant to sections 7000 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code in the following classification(s) throughout the time it submits its Bid and for the duration of the contract: Class B – General Building Contractor. The Contractor, and all subcontractors will be required to procure and maintain a valid Town of Mammoth Lakes Business Tax Certificate.

Town shall award the contract for the Project to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder as determined by the Town from the Base Bid Alone. Town reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any Bids or in the bidding process.

For further information, contact Amy Callanan, PE, Engineering Manager at acallanan@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov or 760-965-3657.

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA
Jamie Gray, TOWN CLERK
DATED: May 14, 2025

TS #2025-0059

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity Is Doing Business As:

TheClayCorner

SmithCeramics, LLC.

437 Old Mammoth Rd., Unit 288

P.O. Box 9255

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Co. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on April 30, 2025

File Number 2025–0066

TS #2025–0062 (5/17, 5/24, 5/31, 6/7)



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MAMMOTH LAKES RECREATION BOARD will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Thursday, June 5, 2025, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and continuing until finished, at the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Chamber, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road to consider the following:

Allocation of Measure U Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2025/26.

(Per Municipal Code: Section 3.44.210: The tourism and recreation commission, or such other commission or committee as is hereafter designated by the town council, shall annually conduct at least one public hearing where it takes public testimony as to how tax revenues collected under the Mammoth Lakes Mobility, Recreation, and Arts and Culture Utility Users Tax Ordinance (Measure U) should be expended.)

All persons having an interest in the proposed resolution request may appear before The Mammoth Lakes Recreation Board either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with Mammoth Lakes Recreation 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 Mammoth Lakes Recreation at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, please contact Kim Anaclerio, Executive Director by telephone at (760) 660-4948 or email at kim@mammothlakesrecreation.org.

PUBLIC HEARING ZOOM INFORMATION
Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/95249139779>
Or join by phone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592
Webinar ID: 952 4913 9779
Callers: To Raise your hand Press *9, to Unmute/Mute Press *6
International numbers available: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/abpQMqQPY>
Public comments can also be given through Zoom by logging in and raising your hand.

BY ORDER OF THE MAMMOTH LAKES RECREATION BOARD
Dated: May 14, 2025
Kim Anaclerio, Executive Director

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

TS #2025-0063

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on June 10, 2025, in the Board Chambers, 2nd Fl., County Courthouse, 278 Main St., Bridgeport, CA 93517. The meeting will be accessible remotely by livestream at <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/83537511698>, or via teleconference at the Mono Lake Room of the Mono County Civic Center, First Floor, 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA. 93546, where members of the public shall have the right to observe and offer public comment and to consider the following: No earlier than 9:00 a.m.

Appeal 25-001/Monteverde.

The applicant is appealing the Planning Commission’s decision of April 17, 2025, denying an application to conduct transient rentals at a duplex located at 67 South Crawford Ave, June Lake (APN 015-113-059-000). The property is designated Commercial (C) and is 0.14 acre. The project qualifies for an exemption under CEQA §15301, Existing Facilities, if approved.

Project materials will be available for public review online at <https://www.monocounty.ca.gov/bos> no later than 5 p.m. on June 6 and hard copies are available for the cost of reproduction by calling 760-924-1800.

INTERESTED PERSONS are strongly encouraged to attend online or in person to comment, or to submit comments by mail or at the office to the Community Development Department at 1290 Tavern Road, Ste 138 PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546, by 5 p.m. on June 9, 2025, to ensure timely receipt, or by email at cddcomments@mono.ca.gov. If you challenge the proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at or prior to the public hearing.

TS #2025-0064

Office Space For Rent





Commercial spaces for rent:
-Office/storage ranging in size. 92’ 130’ and 190-square foot spaces available.
Building features incl. 24/7 access, parking, kitchen, bathrooms, common area conference room and heat.
Call 818.307.3698

Office space for Rent
‘-10 ft. X 8 ft.
-13.5 ft X 8 ft.
-24ft’ ft. x 8 ft.
Located in a high traffic area in a Health and Wellness based office environment. Elegant setting that include a bathroom and waiting area with free beverages and nutritional supplements for purchase.
Please call 310-779-8476

NATIONAL

WE LOVE MIDTERMS!

By Casselman

An early survey of next year’s mid-term U.S. Senate races indicates that despite the fact that 22 Republican incumbent seats are on the ballot, and just 13 Democrat incumbent seats, only 6 seats, 4 Democrats and 2 Republicans now appear to be close races.

With the GOP currently holding a 53-47 majority, this is good news for conservatives, but it is always possible that more incumbent seats could become vulnerable, and the usual advantage of the opposition party in a new president’s first mid-term could come into play.

The 6 battleground races are in Georgia, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire and North Carolina.

Although they are usually safe GOP seats, incumbents in Texas and Louisiana are facing intraparty challenges in their primaries, and could provide Democrats with an opportunity. Other states, including Kentucky and Colorado could also develop into closer contests.

One of the most vulnerable incumbents is Georgia Democrat Jon Ossoff who barely won his seat in a run-off in 2020. Georgia is usually a red state, but it sends two Democrats to the Senate. Until he decided not to run for the seat next year, popular GOP Governor Brian Kemp was the heavy favorite to win his party’s nomination and to defeat Ossoff in November. Lacking a frontrunner to oppose Ossoff, Republicans now must scramble if they are to pick up this seat.

Maine Senator Susan Collins is the only GOP senator in the U.S. northeast, and always faces a serious challenge from the Democrats. In the past, she has come out on top on election day, but this might be her most vulnerable race.

Incumbent Michigan Democrat Senator Gary Peters is retiring, and the likely GOP nominee for the open seat, former Congressman Mike Rogers will be formidable after almost winning the previous open seat in 2024. There are numerous Democrats vying for the seat, but no frontrunner yet. Although the state has been leaning blue, President Trump carried it in 2024.

Very blue Minnesota presented Republicans with a pick-up opportunity when Democrat incumbent Tina Smith announced her retirement. Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan and 2nd District Congresswoman Angie Craig, both Democrats, are running. Craig has been a formidable campaigner in her purple district. Meanwhile, Republicans have not yet a candidate in the race whocan win.

Another GOP pick-up opportunity occurred when New Hampshire Democrat Jeanne Shaheen decided to retire next year. This open seat race will probably be

between former U.S. Senator (from Massachusetts) Scott brown, a Republican, vs Democrat Congressman Chris Pappas. Brown moved to this state a dozen years ago. This contest leans Democrat, but it could be a very close race.

Finally, GOP incumbent Thom Tillis of North Carolina is facing a potentially serious challenge in his first re-election. Former Governor Ray Cooper could be formidable if he ran, but there are several other liberal candidates if he does not run. This state leans red, but Democrats are turning the state more purple.

Republicans also have to defend an open seat in Kentucky, where long-time incumbent Mitch McConnell is retiring. State Attorney General Daniel Cameron and Congressman Andy Barr, both Republicans, are already in the race, but CNN commentator Scott Jennings could receive an all-important endorsement from President Trump and win the nomination. When popular Governor Andy Beshear decided not to run, this became a likely GOP race.

In two strongly red states, Incumbent Republicans are facing serious primary challenges from other Republicans.

Texas senator John Cornyn actually currently trails in polls, and Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy is facing a strong challenge. If one or both of these incumbents lost their primaries, these safe GOP seats might become competitive.

Although it’s still early, the 2026 U.S. senate races are now coming into more focus. These races will likely see massive spending, and fundraising for them has to begin as early as possible. Recruitment for candidates against incumbents or for open seats is always a key factor, and as pointed out above, both Democrats and Republicans still have work to do — with time quickly running out.

Barry Casselman is a syndicated columnist who has been covering national politics since 1972. You can find more at barrycasselman.com

Notice/Adoption of Ordinance

CITY OF BISHOP, CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 594 AND
NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

The City Council of the City of Bishop has considered and adopted the following ordinance:

594 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BISHOP, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2.24 OF THE CITY OF BISHOP CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

A copy of the full text of Ordinance 594 is available for review at Bishop City Hall, 377 West Line Street in Bishop.

The proposed ordinance amends Section 2.24.020 of the Bishop Code of Ordinances relating to the Planning Commission. This ordinance would reduce the number of Planning Commissioners from seven members to five members and add language requiring planning commissioners to reside inside the city limits of Bishop.

The City Council of the City of Bishop adopted Ordinance 594 on May 12, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Garcia, Schwartz, Mayor Pro Tem Muchovej, and Mayor Kong
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Freundt
ATTEST: Robin Picken, City Clerk

TS #2025-0065

KLUSMIRE

continued from page 1

First, Death Valley National Park. Park Service data shows things weren’t so hot this spring. Overnight stays in March of 2025 at the Oasis Inn and Ranch came in at about 10,000, down a jaw-dropping 60% compared to March of 2024 which had 25,000 overnights. Overall, for the first quarter, stays at those two high-end spots are down 30%.

If that hotel trend holds, it could hit Inyo County in the wallet. Death Valley accounts for about 90% of the county’s TOT (bed tax). **Note that this number does not include Bishop.*

Campgrounds saw about the same visitation so far in 2025 as in 2024, at about 98,000.

Total visitors year-to-date, however, are only down about 10%. But there’s a catch. In January, the park saw 125,000 visitors, far higher than the post-pandemic averages of about 85,000. February and March saw drops in total visitors that overcame the January surge and brought the total visits to around 370,000.

Historically, peak visitation comes in April and May, according to Park Service data. And typically, about half the park’s visitors in the summer months are international travelers. Last year the park recorded 1.4 million total visitors. Ponder that number for a while, please.

Businesses in Lone Pine are bearing the brunt of the drop in general traffic on 395 and fewer international and Death Valley visitors. With a small population, Lone Pine lives and dies on

tourism.

Conversations with business owners revealed Main Street businesses have seen a dramatic drop in visitors and spending which has put hotels, restaurants and shops on edge. Less traffic on 395 is hurting “drop in” business. For the second year, the big spring event, the Wild Wild West Marathon, which gives Lone Pine businesses a running start, so to speak, to the tourist season, has been shifted to fall.

Peak-baggers heading to Mt. Whitney, usually about 10,000 a year, are another reliable stream of revenue for Lone Pine. Same with hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail. This year, observers are detecting far fewer international hikers and climbers. The Trump administration’s budget cuts and layoffs in national parks and national forests are creating confusion and cancellations. For example, the Pacific Crest Trail Association cancelled all its trail maintenance projects this year due to budget cuts, which could have impacted the drop in total permits for this year.

Visit California and national travel groups have all reduced estimates for the number of international travelers coming to the US this year. Visit California dropped its estimate of visitor spending in the state by \$6 billion. Canadian travelers, in a show of national pride after Trump insisted the nation should become the 51st US state and then imposing tariffs on the country,

more KLUSMIRE, pg. 22



CITY OF BISHOP CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The City of Bishop is accepting applications for the position of City Administrator.

About the Position:

The City of Bishop is seeking an experienced, approachable, and versatile City Administrator who thrives in a small, team-oriented environment and is comfortable “wearing many hats.” The ideal candidate will be a collaborative leader who works directly with a capable staff and a supportive, effective City Council.

This key role is responsible for overseeing all administrative functions of the City, including planning, organizing, and directing operations across departments. The City Administrator provides high-level support to the City Council, exercises independent judgment in managing staff and services, and also serves as Planning Director, Personnel Director, and Community Services Director.

Compensation & How to Apply

The City of Bishop offers a competitive salary up to \$188,941 DOE, along with a generous benefits package including health, dental, vision, vacation, and retirement benefits. A more detailed information packet is available at City Hall or can be requested by contacting Jana Currie.

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply immediately by submitting a compelling cover letter and resume to jcurrie@cityofbishop.ca.gov or applying online at <https://cityofbishop.bamboohr.com/careers/51> no later than June 16, 2025.

Candidates are encouraged to apply early for maximum consideration. This is a highly confidential search process. References will not be contacted until mutual interest has been established. Confidential inquiries are welcomed and should be directed to Jana Currie, at 760-873-5863 ext. 122. The City of Bishop is an Equal Opportunity Employer



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KLUSMIRE

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have been the most pronounced group to “just say no” to vacations in the US. So much so, Visit California has created a targeted marketing campaign, “California Loves Canada,” to entice the Canadians. It’s not working. Canadian travel to the US by car in April dropped 35% and by air by about 20%, according to the Canadian government.

Germans are also dropping vacation plans after several horrifying incidents where German tourists were detained, jailed and even strip searched at the border. That created screaming headlines: “Berlin woman endures ‘horror story’ in U.S. detention center while facing deportation,” wrote one German newspaper. “Is the USA cracking down on German tourists entering the country?”

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wrote another, as cited in the LA Times.

That has resulted in far fewer Germans arriving in California. Travel from Germany this March was down 26% from March 2024, according to the International Trade Administration, a German government agency. Death Valley is always mentioned as one of the most popular California destinations for Germans, who get six weeks of paid vacation a year (ponder that), and rank third in US travel spending, behind the Chinese and Americans.

Everyone commenting on the spring season and the upcoming summer season mentioned the negative impact on international travel created by the Trump administration’s antagonistic, hostile rhetoric about the rest of the world, aggressive approach to immigration issues spilling over to travelers, the upheaval caused by ongoing tariffs and a trade war. Then there is looming inflation and general economic uncertainty. That combo of factors does not help the tourist industry and tarnishes the US “brand” as a warm and welcoming travel destination.

In Bishop, a number of business owners acknowledged general traffic has

been down recently, with some weekends being notably slower. But they also pointed out the town is not as reliant on international or even national visitors. Bishop benefits from tapping the Southern California market for steady business. Plus, since it’s a bigger town, businesses count on locals coming through the doors. That will likely offset a drop in international or US visitors. May is also barely the start of the tourist season, with Mule Days kicking off (literally) the big summer months.

There is definitely a difference this spring in traffic and visitors, said Tawni Thompson, executive director of the Bishop Chamber and Visitors Bureau, who is always more than willing to talk about tourism and marketing. While international travelers are a well-heeled, solid visitor group, Bishop caters to a broader range of travelers and has the steadying influence of locals, she reiterated. That could decrease the impact of a big drop in international visitors. Bishop is in a sweet spot and presents a solid option to numerous California and US travelers looking for comfortable, reliable vacation destination. The area has developed a solid core of SoCal visitors,

she said. And when inflation or economic angst sets in, Bishop and Inyo County are an alternative to longer, more expensive trips. “We’re an affordable, comfortable destination.” Thompson said the marketing effort will continue to pitch Bishop and Inyo County to international travelers.

A notable impact of the staff cuts and uncertainty surrounding the surrounding public lands, Thompson said, is that the Bishop Visitor Center is seeing a big jump in phone calls and walk-ins asking for the latest on road conditions, permits, camping and other issues. Lone Pine businesses said they also are functioning as information sources for public land. People want to talk to someone local, on the ground about those issues, she said.

“We’re a lot better off than other places,” Thompson said, while sounding a cautiously optimistic note about the coming summer season.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop always trusts his gut when it declares it’s time for ice cream.

Hantavirus is a Deadly Threat in the Eastern Sierra

Protect Yourself and Your Family

Deer Mouse – Main Carrier of Hantavirus

Another Mono County resident recently died from Hantavirus.

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is an uncommon but serious illness caused by a virus carried by deer mice, which are common throughout the Eastern Sierra.

The virus spreads through droppings, urine, and saliva—and becomes airborne when disturbed, often during cleaning.

Mono County is a hotspot for Hantavirus, and unfortunately, infections can be fatal.

If you are sick with flu-like symptoms, it’s bad enough to go to the doctor, and you’ve had a mouse exposure you’re worried about, be sure to tell the provider about it.

Prevent Hantavirus

It’s almost always an indoors issue, the risk is very low outdoors.

Keep your eyes open in and around your home and workplace for signs of mice droppings and nests.

If there are signs of mice, open doors and windows for at least 30 minutes before cleaning.

Do not sweep or vacuum rodent droppings. Instead, spray with bleach or other disinfectant that kills viruses, and wipe clean.

Wear gloves and an N95 or better mask when cleaning rodent-infested areas. Mono Public Health offers free N95 masks.

Seal cracks and holes in homes and outbuildings to keep rodents out.

Learn more about protecting your home and health:

Visit CDPH Website or scan the QR code below.

You can also contact Mono County Public Health at (760) 924-1830

OP/ED

SPARE THE THREATS ... AND THE CONDESCENSION

By Fisher

It's been years since I met One-Eyed Jack, but I still remember that night with unsettling clarity. It was the first time I felt scared to camp alone as a woman.

I was nineteen, freshly trained as a Backcountry Caretaker for the Appalachian Mountain Club, stationed at Garfield Ridge Campsite in New Hampshire's White Mountains—twelve days on, three days off. Most of my job involved stirring human waste with a pitchfork, doing trail work, and collecting fees from hikers passing through. I lived alone in a canvas wall tent, with the nearest coworker at least three trail miles away.

That night was my first solo on site. It was a damp, brooding June evening, and the rain had chased away the usual crowd. Everyone, that is, except One-Eyed Jack.

He arrived soaked and smiling beneath a beard so thick I couldn't guess his age. "One-Eyed Jack," he said. It was his trail name, earned from a story he didn't tell. At first, he was pleasant, even charming.

"I've gotta tell all the women hikers who are scared to go solo that there's a nineteen-year-old girl living up here all alone. What's their excuse?"

I laughed. It felt like a compliment until he kept going.

"You're not just any nineteen-year-old. You're an attractive one. People are going to take advantage of you out here. How are you going to protect yourself?"

I hadn't thought of it. I shrugged nervously, and I told him I had an axe.

He nodded, amused, and told me he'd let his buddies, hikers a few days behind, know there was an "attractive, peppy little blonde thing" waiting up at Garfield Ridge for them.

That night, I watched his headlamp from my tent, and I slept with my axe beside me. In the morning, I found a note pinned to my platform with a rock and a playing card: the One-Eyed Jack. "Keep that axe sharp."

When I told my coworkers, the advice was swift and familiar: Don't tell people your real age. Don't wear makeup. Don't smile too much. Lie if you have to. Say you have a gun. Sharpen your tools when someone walks into camp.

But I didn't want to lie. I'm a girly girl. I love pink and exercise skirts. I wear mascara just as much as I wear mud. And I am peppy and smiley.

Over time, I've learned to adapt. I wear baggy clothes. I don't hitchhike, even when my male friends do. I never tell anyone on the trail where I'm camping. I've practiced setting boundaries in the mirror. I clip a bottle of pepper spray to the front of my pack. When I bought it, I said it was for bears until the clerk pressed me. When I admitted it was really to deter men, he was stunned. "You hike alone?" he asked. "What does your father think about that?"

There are many respectful men in the outdoors. I've spent many nights on the trail sharing stories with strangers and made some of my best friends at campsites. I've given my phone number out without thinking twice about it. However, the bad memories linger with me, even when the moments were fleeting. It's not always about what they say; it's the uneasy feelings they leave behind.

Of the uneasy feelings, some come from condescending men.

This includes the random hiker who

corrected my sawing technique while I was on the job, only to snap the blade when I handed it to him. Or the one who got a laugh from his friends when he shouted, "I've never seen a pretty girl with an axe before!" while I was clearing a blowdown.

On a chairlift ride this winter, I told my boyfriend I wasn't feeling like skiing that day, and a man in his mid-fifties interjected, "The more you get into this sport, the more you'll love it. Once you learn how to parallel turn, there's no other feeling in the world."

I learned to ski at two. I live in town. I've worked at a ski shop. But I didn't say a word.

After a few moments of uncomfortable silence, my boyfriend suggested that I might just be frustrated because it was the weekend and there were a lot of people on the slopes.

"Once you get good enough, you can ski in the woods, and then it feels like nobody's around," the man interjected again.

Later, my boyfriend pointed out that I was skiing slower than I usually do. I hadn't even realized it. But when you hear these things constantly, you get used to the feeling of having to prove yourself until you can't focus.

Then there are the scary men. Last summer, I solo-hiked the 270-mile Long Trail in Vermont. Twice, I hiked farther than planned to avoid camping near older men who made sexual comments about me. Once, I picked up my pace because a man kept asking where I'd sleep that night.

I used to get very upset by such comments. I ranted to my male friends. Eventually, I stopped mentioning it. I got tired of the same responses: Why are you complaining about a compliment? Everybody hears stuff like that, not just girls.

However, I recently had a conversation that stirred something deeper. With Stephanie Forté, a professional climber who came forward about being raped by Charlie Barrett, a once-revered name in the climbing world, now sentenced to life.

Her story was part of an investigative piece by Annette McGivney titled "How Did This Climber Get Away with So Much for So Long?" which chronicled Barrett's serial assaults on women before his conviction. She reached out to me after I covered Lonnie Kauk's trial, in which another famous climber was convicted of domestic violence.

Forté first reported her assault in Mono County, but couldn't get justice until he was charged federally. When she began telling people in her climbing community what had happened, many didn't believe her. Some mocked her age. "You should be flattered," one person said. "He's so much younger." Others chalked it up to her being single or out of touch: "That's just how things work now. You don't get it."

We talked for over an hour. I plan to write more about her case and experience with the Mono County DA's office, but we kept coming back to one chilling central

question: Why are there so many men in the outdoors who abuse and harass women, and why do their friends let it happen?

Outdoor hobbies aren't just activities. They're cultures – ski culture, climbing culture, backpacking culture. These cultures pride themselves on peer discipline. Leave No Trace. Etiquette. Safety skills. But the same vigilance rarely applies when women report feeling unsafe, disrespected, or violated.

According to a 2023 Strava Study, Women globally are 9% more likely than men to cite a lack of safe places to exercise as a barrier to working out, and women in the U.S. were 70% more likely than men to cite

belittlement, knowing the culture has protected others in the past, kept their secrets, and taken their word first. There's no pressure to be better.

After that conversation with Forté, I called my dad. He's in his fifties, an active outdoorsman, and, in tandem with my mom, the reason I started engaging with the outdoors at a young age.

He sewed a backpacking pack for me when I was too small for store-bought ones. Took me to the climbing gym. Taught me to ski with a leash and a lot of patience, then taught me how to ski in the backcountry.

When I finished venting, he laughed and said, "Well, it's a good thing you had a dad who overestimated your ability growing up, then, isn't it?"

I laughed too. But then I realized: my dad wanted me to grow up and enjoy the outdoors as an equal; he was excited to share something with me. As I grew older, it was a rude awakening to realize that other men might not share the same feelings about my presence.

I've since chosen my social circles around this idea, ensuring that I'm surrounded with people I trust. Being around men and other women who believe in me emboldened me to take risks, grow, and stand up for myself.

More women need encouragement and respect in the outdoors, not just protection. More men need to encourage one another to challenge their worldviews.

I still love the outdoors. I still go alone. But I'm tired of keeping my axe so close.

I picked up my pace because a man kept asking where I'd sleep that night

- Fisher

this.

These stats make more sense when we remember these spaces have long been male-dominated. Plus, they're competitive. And what happens when women step into a space like that, as they have in recent decades? When they hike the same miles, send the same routes, carry the same packs? Do men accept this without threat? Do they have to?

It seems to me that some men assert their power through dominance, sex, or



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