

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



A whole lot more about bears, p. 4-5, 14

Saturday, July 26, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. 30

INYO COUNTY (DIS)HONORS VETS

Indy memorial derailed over parking, maintenance excuses

By Lunch

Inyo County Supervisors talk a great game when it comes to honoring veterans.

But in practice, it appears that only Supervisors Jennifer Roeser and Will Wadelton walk the walk.

Supervisors Orrill, Marcellin and Griffiths, when pressed, are more concerned about the burden and sacrifice honoring vets might involve. Will a memorial force our county employees to have to park further away from the Mothership? Will another project to maintain prove burdensome and require more work!

Clearly these are more important considerations than honor, courage, sacrifice and service above self.

The issue at hand at the Supervisors regular meeting on Tuesday in Independence was a proposal by the Independence Civic Club's Memorial Park Committee to install a small park on a dirt lot just down the street from the

courthouse. The park would honor two native sons, the late Major General John "Jack" Singlaub and the late Captain James Birchim.

The project has the support of the Special Ops Assn. of America, which is "all-in" on the Memorial according to SOAA past-president Rick Estes, who was in attendance.

Singlaub, for the uninitiated, was born in Independence in 1921. He served in three different wars during his 35-year career in the U.S. Army from 1943-1978, working in the OSS (the precursor to the CIA) during WWII, embedded with the French resistance.

Singlaub was a founding member of the CIA. His list of military honors can be found on the jump page to this story.

Captain Birchim was declared MIA and is presumed dead following a combat mission in Laos in 1968. He made sure all his men had been removed from the area before he fell to his death trying

to hold onto a rope from a transport helicopter. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Birchim grew up in Independence and attended the Owens Valley Elementary and High Schools.

Lone Pine resident Travis Powell, who owns the Best Western, was a member of the Memorial Park Committee.

He pushed back against comments by Supervisors who suggested the memorial should honor all veterans and not just single out two for special mention.

Powell served as a medevac pilot for eight years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was unconcerned with the larger vet population needing any particular award or recognition, and thought that a generic memorial was politically safe. It's okay, he opined, if not everyone gets a trophy.

"These guys did something unique," he observed. A small



Inyo Supervisors do honor dirt parking lots

town producing this type of talent (Singlaub and Birchim), he added, is rare and should be lauded.

In his presentation before the Board, committee member

Don Bright noted that Maj. Gen. Singlaub actually already has his own memorial - in South Korea. That's what the South Koreans thought of him.

see VETS, pg. 8

BACK OF THE LINE!

MMSA delays Main Lodge project

By Fisher

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) has indefinitely postponed its Main Lodge renovation project, after running into "roadblock after roadblock" in the design process, CEO Eric Clark told The Sheet Wednesday.

The project was once pitched as a sweeping transformation of the Main Base area — rerouting Highway 203, demolishing the existing ski lodge and Mammoth Mountain Inn, and replacing them with a "ski beach," boutique hotels, and new retail shops — but MMSA has now told its partners to put the plan on hold.

"We're not ready to put a new plan out there," Clark said of MMSA's message to the Town of Mammoth Lakes. "So in that sense, we discontinued that process. But we're still going through our process, and we just know it's going to take a

little bit longer."

MMSA first submitted a conceptual plan in 2021, triggering a joint environmental review led by the Town and U.S. Forest Service, as required by both state and federal law. Though the review began in 2022, it never progressed past the public scoping phase.

Internally, MMSA has redesigned the project multiple times and scaled it back significantly.

"We refer to it as 'Evolving Main,' and it's certainly been just that," Clark said. "Constantly evolving in the design process."

The company has abandoned plans to create a full commercial center at the base, worried it would compete with the existing Village at Mammoth. It also dropped its proposal to reroute Highway 203, which Clark said introduced "an

see MMSA, pg. 6

BANANZA



To find out why the MHS Cheer Team is bananas, see story p. 12

Five Star Sabbath

Far Side

Things Have Changed

Check it

Bananas Foster

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p. 2/

p. 2/

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THINGS HAVE CHANGED

People are crazy and times are strange
I'm locked in tight, I'm out of range
I used to care, but things have changed

-Bob Dylan

I received a screenshot from Dave Leonard over at the Booky Joint this week. It was from a one-star yelp review from some guy who calls himself Cody J.

"I've been a Mammoth person for 15 years. This year we came to book [sic] joint. First trip we spent \$500 on awesome stuff. Came back the next day - met the owner. What a dang joke of an owner. We spent another \$150. The owner is a joke. He pushed us out of the store. I am at a loss. We won't be back. And we won't spend more money with an owner who can't tell his face from his ass."

Lunch: This is the fucking best. Can I print as part of our one-star reviews story? (We've been planning to compile the best one-star reviews of local businesses for a humor column).

Leonard then kindly told the full story.

"So I dropped by the store on my day off to bring a treat that I had made for my staff. I couldn't help noticing that this guy was trying to bully Tanner into selling him a small display because it had a price on it. Tanner explained very politely that the price was for some jewelry that we had sold out of, which is why it was empty. This would normally be sufficient for any reasonable person. Unfortunately, this jackass would not take no for an answer and must have pestered Tanner ten times in a row. He kept saying that he had spent hundreds of dollars here, as if that entitled him to buy fixtures. I could tell that Tanner was starting to get really uncomfortable so I stepped in and explained that not everything is for sale, including me.

There were a number of people who commiserated with us once he had left. Two of them actually wrote complimentary reviews because they were so appalled by his behavior. I suspect that he just felt angry because he had made such a fool of himself. I honestly couldn't care less about the negative review. My staff should never have to put up with such boorish behavior. Fortunately, it is very rare and the vast majority of our customers are very polite, reasonable people. Which is why I come into work every day.

People like him always remind me of that Fitzgerald quote from the Great Gatsby: "They were careless people, Tom and Daisy. They smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness or whatever it was that kept them together and let other people clean up the mess they had made."

Hopefully, your article might cause people to think about the consequences of their actions and be a little more considerate. I wouldn't bet on it though ...

Lunch: My articles hardly shame local politicians into better behavior

That was Tuesday. On Wednesday, Leonard had a short addendum.

"I guess that I really made an impression on this guy. One of my employees pointed out that he wrote another very similar and equally unpleasant review elsewhere. The odd thing is that they are not reviews of the store at all - they are reviews of me personally and it's clear that this guy really hates me. His weird personal vendetta seems completely out of proportion to our extremely brief encounter. I think he's harmless enough but can't help thinking of this old Gary Larson cartoon."

Lunch: We forget how good Larson was
Leonard: Yes. Genius.

"I'm planning on only playing Sabbath and Ozzy in the store today. I can feel all those five-star reviews rolling in already."

"Things Have Changed" was a single released by Dylan which appeared on



Dave Leonard and his carved wooden hands jewelry display (which is not for sale!)

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

"I think I'm maintaining the quality, but internally I'm paying for it."
-Gary Larson

JACK LUNCH

PUBLISHER

the soundtrack of the "Wonder Boys" film from 2000, which starred Michael Douglas as a washed up, one-hit wonder of a novelist and university professor. It's like a movie about my alternate universe.

But people are indeed as crazy as they've ever been and times just as strange.

And it's funny that bears are always right in the middle of it.

When I moved here, Mammoth was universally acknowledged to be good at two things. 1.) Ski lifts. We'd always get docked for being a dumpy little ski town without much night life, but our lift system at MMSA was always ranked #1. 2.) Bear management. Everybody was on board, and Mammoth Lakes Police really cared about it.

I think it's remained a touchstone because how we treat our bears ... represents a delineation between past and future, old and new.

People used to come here because they liked the vibe and they wanted to share it, live it, fit in with it.

Now, people come here with the idea of bending the community to their own will.

One of the sure signs someone is NOT a local is a person who insists on telling you how long they've been here, been coming here, et. al.

And you're definitely not a local if you think it's other people's jobs to accommodate you and your "needs."

What are we good at now? Well, obviously we're good at lots of things, particularly booze, weed, beer, coffee - we're definitely good at stimulants. And pizza. And cool places to take selfies.

I guess we're good at providing what our guests and newcomers want.

But I think it's disappointing that we don't try to aim a little higher and expect a little bit more.

A final letter that just came in from Tyler Beadle of Bishop and will serve as a teaser for next week.

Howdy Editor,

The City of Bishop's plan to evict our Chamber of Commerce from its iconic A-Frame at 690 N. Main St. by October 30, 2025, threatens our tourism economy—Mule Days, visitor services, and local businesses could take a big hit.

The City claims the A-Frame's unsafe, which might be true, but that doesn't change that Tawni Thomson emailed me, "I recently offered Chamber funds to repair the A-frame, but Deston Dishion and Jose Garcia refused, saying it's 'not up for discussion.'"

Why not donate the A-frame to the Chamber for self-funded repairs, especially since builders I've consulted say it's fixable? I have reached out to the city with a Public Records Act request for an engineering report, but have not been sent one so far.

I reached out to Mayor Karen Kong. She told me, "We get various requests from local residents for a recreation center at the park, and that is the only parcel where such a structure could go," believing the city owns it. My Inyo County GIS and Assessor's Map show it's LADWP-owned. My grandma's talks with LADWP confirmed 23 years remain on their lease, but the city hasn't shared a copy. Why no public debate? If the true goal is to tear it down to replace it with a Recreation Center, why was there no public comment before evicting the Chamber? After further discussion with Tawni, she warned, "Relocation costs will force cuts to fish stocking and Climbing Ranger programs," impacting anglers and climbers. If you enjoy fishing, climbing, Mule Days, or local shops, you should be upset with this decision. I may start a petition for transparency. Join me at the July 28th Council meeting to save our A-Frame and demand the truth!

- Ted Carleton

Jack of all Lunches
760.937.4613 / lunch@thesheetnews.com
- Paige Fisher

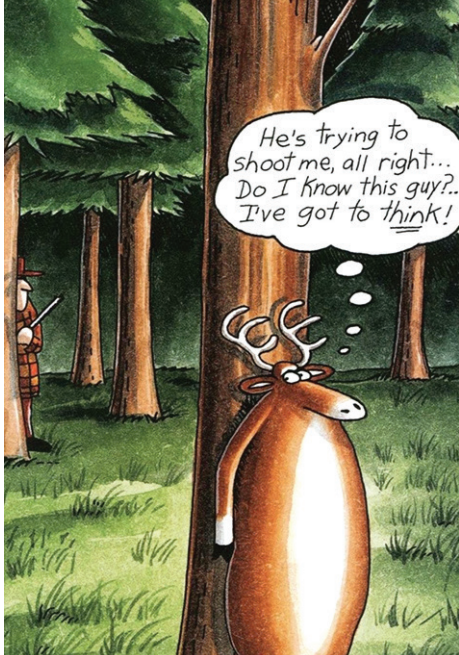
Writer
sheetfisher@gmail.com
- Harold Hartley

People Person
hart6399@yahoo.com
- Jon Klusmire

Curmudgeon
jonklusmire@yahoo.com
- Spike Todd

Beverage Consultant

P.O. Box 8088
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.937.4613/jacklunch@yahoo.com
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MAMMOTH LAKES EVENTS — 2025 —

JUNE

- 7 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
- 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 POPS IN THE PARK
- 4-5 GIDDYUP COUNTRY MUSIC
- 5 SUMMIT SUNSET PARTY
- 11-12 MAMMOTH JAZZFEST
- 16-27 THE UNBOUND CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL:
WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SUNDAYS
- 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



LETTERS

Where are my bears?

Dear Editor,

Oh! That's right, the two or three Old Mammoth Bears, have been captured in a cage, "tagged" (a death sentence) and transported out to Glass Mountain (an area that is highlighted by its lack of vegetation and no water), because they got into someone's trash container/car/garage, and made a mess.

Such a "simple minded solution" to a minor problem.

Getting into someone's trash and making a mess, is not a Capital Offense. The problem is not with the animal itself. Instead, the problem is with the city people who are living in the mountains, and not adjusting accordingly.

It's actually very simple. If you leave food/trash in your car, you are at risk of a bear breaking into your car. If you don't lock your car, you risk a bear opening the car door, and getting inside your car. Same thing with your garage or trash can. If food/garbage is not secured a bear will quite naturally enter and make a mess while getting the garbage/food. If YOU don't secure your trash, it is not the bear's fault. It's YOUR fault, and displays a personal lack of responsibility.

So, don't blame and relocate the animal. Blame PEOPLE for any mess. If you live in Mammoth Lakes, the Lakes Basin, MMSA, Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, or backpacking anywhere in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, don't leave your food/trash unsecured.

Over the years, many of us have had a bear break into our garage, into our trash can, or into our car, because we left our smelly trash/food in a condition of being un-bear-proofed. So, any destruction or any inconvenience caused by a bear under these circumstances is not the Bear's fault, it is OUR fault.

How many times do we need to learn the same lesson? Additional confusion comes from my inability to square the fact the we are relocating one specie of animal (Bear), out of our community, while on the other hand we are re-introducing another specie (Wolves). Huh?

Whether you liked, or agreed with Steve Searles or not, the FACT is that under Steve, Mammoth Lakes had the BEST wildlife management of BEARS in the WORLD. Steve educated both the Bears and the Public. Today, we have negligible education of either people or bears. And DFG's method of "trapping and relocating" a bear for creating a trash/garbage mess is not only prehistoric in today's world, it is cruel, counter-productive in many aspects, and often deadly to the bear. Meanwhile in other populated areas in the Sierra, like Lake Tahoe, they are creating better solutions in helping both the bears and the public.

Today, in Mammoth Lakes, we just relocate bears (doesn't work), or KILL the Bears.

And people like Chris Bubser and her husband just don't get it.

John Eastman
Mammoth Lakes

A fan of numbers

Jack,

You published two responses to my letter breaking down who pays income taxes. I appreciate Ms. Zelaya's information on "working labor" and CA GDP. Of course, GDP is different than income taxes, both theoretically and practically, as the people contributing to GDP get paid to do so. Taxpayers just pay out. But it was a thoughtful letter with some interesting data.

Mr. Phillips' response consisted primarily of ham-handed snark and grievance about income inequality. I do plenty of snark on my own so I'll leave that part aside. As to the relevance of what Mr. Phillips had to say, my letter said nothing about the fairness or lack thereof in the current income distribution of the country. I merely pointed out who is paying the tax bill.

On a positive note, since Mr. Phillips appears indignant over what he perceives to be the unfair economic treatment of "real Americans" whom he identifies as "ranchers, farmers, and newspapermen" (and here I concede that two out of three ain't bad), I have some good news. He has plenty to sink his teeth into right here at home. California has the highest poverty rate of any state. Moreover, as of 2019, among the 50 states California ranked fifth worst in income inequality (by GINI coefficient) and since then it has gotten even worse, with newer estimates from 2023 indicat-

ing only two other states now have more income inequality. Mr. Phillips' indignation can find plenty of outlets right here in California, should he care to do anything about it.

Intriguingly, the top five states with the least income inequality are all solidly red states; eight out of the ten states with the least income inequality voted for Trump last year. Probably just a coincidence, but thought I'd throw it in for those who, like me and Ms. Zelaya, like numbers.

John Rogitz
Mammoth Lakes

The real Mammoth is not this quiet

Dear Editor:

There are bears in my neighborhood. There always have been.

I've lived here long enough to know the rhythms—when the trash goes out, when the moonlight stirs a rustle in the brush, when you hear the soft thud of paws, not footsteps. I'm not afraid of the bears. I'm afraid of what will happen to them.

Recently, a five-year-old male bear and a young yearling were trapped on private property and fitted with collars. That property belonged to our mayor, Chris Bubser, and her husband, David Baron. Baron followed up with a letter to this paper last week defending their decision to set the traps, citing advice from the California Department of Fish

more LETTERS, pg. 5



MAMMOTH LAKES

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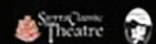
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LETTERS

continued from page 4

and Wildlife (CDFW). He said the bears weren't euthanized. He insisted theirs was a responsible decision.

But here's what wasn't said: this was the first strike for both bears under CDFW's two-strike euthanasia policy. If either one returns or becomes "too comfortable" around humans, they may not get another chance. And relocating so close to home only ensures they will come back—confused, hungry, and now marked.

And here's what else wasn't said—because no one from the Town said anything at all:

- No advance notice.
- No townwide statement.
- No educational outreach.
- No plan was in place to prevent this kind of intervention in the first place.

And how interesting that the Mayor said absolutely nothing about this event at the last Council meeting - not even in her Councilmember report.

When the mayor sets a trap on her own property without informing the public, she's not just a concerned homeowner. She's sending a message about what kind of town this is. One where decisions are made quietly, then justified after the fact. One where leadership skips the hard work of engaging the public and instead turns to the convenience of containment.

I know people can act with good intentions and still cause harm. But intention doesn't excuse silence. Especially not when you hold public office.

From 2nd home to center of power

Mayor Bubser and David Baron were second-homeowners before they became permanent residents. That matters. Living here full-time means learning not just the landscape, but the culture. It means understanding what it takes to navigate fire seasons, blackouts, shoulder months, and yes—bears.

It's one thing to love a town. It's another to lead it.

When your home becomes a site for state-authorized wildlife control, while you're serving as mayor, the optics and the accountability must follow. They have yet to take any public responsibility.

So, I filed a Public Records Act request to determine what internal communications or planning, if any, preceded this. Because what we got was a bear trap. What we didn't get was leadership.

We once had a program and a voice

Years ago, this town had a wildlife program. Steve Searles—known to many as the "Bear Whisperer"—was part of our civic infrastructure. He knew how to deal with bears, and more importantly, he knew how to deal with people. He educated, showed up, answered questions, and took calls. Did he play by the rules? Not always. However, he kept bears and people safe, and he gave this town a public voice on wildlife issues.

Now, that program is gone. In its place, a hollow system: seasonal interns, a hotline, and a shrug.

The Town claims that it has educated 1,300 campers and posted signage. But where's the public presence? Where was the outreach before this summer began? Where was the clear townwide message about bear safety, trash management, and living in a wild interface?

I didn't see it. I live here full-time. And this matters to me. So I wrote a letter weeks ago—published right here in The Sheet—urging the Town to invest in real wildlife education and coordinated response before we see more preventable deaths. That letter went unanswered.

For the record, I also sent a separate letter to the Mono County Board of Supervisors, urging them to reject the proposed contract with USDA Wildlife Services. In it, I outlined the need for actual enforcement of trash rules, more visible public education during peak tourism, and smarter coordination in known wildlife hotspots. I called out the absurdity of contracting to kill animals like beavers and wolves, when wolves don't even exist here, and beavers are being reintroduced statewide to repair ecosystems. That letter, too, was ignored.

Wildlife doesn't read policy. It's on us to create a culture of shared responsibility. And it starts with the people we elect.

If I could have ...

If I could have picked up that yearling and taken him deep into the forest, I would have. Not out of fear. Out of care. To protect him from us.

But that's not legal. And that's not the

system we live in. So we're left with bear traps on the mayor's lawn, no warning to the community, and the uncomfortable sense that what was once a town with character is now a town with protocols—cold, quiet, and clean.

The killing or relocation of our bears hurts in the same way the threat of wild-fire does in the same way that the sale of public land does. Similarly, seeing this place marketed to outsiders while long-term locals are priced out does.

And now, the silence hurts most of all.

We can course correct. But not if our leaders continue to hide behind state agencies and skip the public. Not if the mayor and her husband set the tone with private actions and public denial. Not if we let bear management become another bureaucratic shadow fight instead of the shared, visible responsibility it should be.

We are not just a mountain resort.

We are not a gated town.

We are a wild, flawed, beautiful place that still belongs to those who care enough to show up.

The Real Mammoth doesn't wait until the second strike.

The Real Mammoth doesn't trap before it teaches.

The Real Mammoth doesn't let silence do its talking.

Let's make sure the next bear doesn't pay the price for our inability to lead.

Dr. Arianne Weiner
Mammoth Lakes



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LOCAL NEWS

BANANAS! IT'S FOSTER!

Press Release

The Bishop City Council is pleased to announce that, following a nationwide recruitment process, it has extended a conditional offer of employment for the position of City Administrator to Ms. Pamela Foster, pending, you know, paperwork and such.

Council is expected to formally consider the employment agreement at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 28, 2025. If approved, Ms. Foster is anticipated to begin her tenure on September 2, 2025.

Ms. Foster is a proud Bishop native and brings with her an impressive track-record in public service. She currently serves as the Court Executive Officer for the Inyo County Superior Court and formerly held the position of Senior Deputy County Administrator for Inyo County, where she oversaw multiple divisions and managed cross-functional teams.

Additionally, she served as the second Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing.

Ms. Foster holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and has consistently demonstrated the ability to lead teams, manage complex budgets, and collaborate effectively with agencies at the local, state, and federal levels.



With nearly two decades of service to Bishop and its surrounding communities, Ms. Foster is a proven leader and respected voice in regional governance. The City Council is confident she will be an outstanding addition to Bishop's leadership team and looks forward with enthusiasm to the future under her guidance.

**Ed. note: Quite the presser. Does she walk on water? We'll find out!*

MMSA

continued from page 1

amazing amount of hurdles" that became apparent during the fall and winter of 2023-24.

That's when MMSA first hit pause. Now, Clark says, the latest pullback is simply a continuation of that pause as the company works internally "to answer some of the questions that need to be answered."

But the hold also comes as MMSA's parent company, Alterra Mountain Company, is investing in resort expansions elsewhere in North America.

At Deer Valley, Alterra plans to add over 3,700 acres of skiable terrain, 16 new lifts, and upgraded skier services at the base area. Construction is set to begin next year at Winter Park to expand terrain and redesign its base village, and Steamboat recently unveiled a brand-new base area featuring an ice rink.

Clark said he doesn't see the pause as a sign Alterra is shifting its focus away from Mammoth.

"We're learning a lot from Deer Valley, Winter Park, Steamboat," he said. "And part of those learnings has led us to take an even greater pause in our redesign. It allows us to make better decisions about what the best possible project could look like for our employ-

ees, our guests, our community, and our stakeholders."

But, plainly speaking, he also suggested that the potential revenue gains from the investment may not justify the project's steep price tag. At least not for the time being.

"These projects are really hard to make work, and you're lucky if you break even on them," he said. "The risks today are extraordinarily high, construction costs are continuing to jump, and there's uncertainty in the macroeconomic environment."

Mammoth Mountain is already one of Alterra's most profitable resorts. It has 1.3 million skier visits annually, a figure Powder magazine estimates makes it the 6th most popular resort in the nation, and Wall Street Journal placed it the 7th best ski resort in North America this year.

And significant development is already underway in town, with the Lime-light Hotel & Residences, set to open this winter and Rocksprings condominiums under construction.

So for many, MMSA's decision to step back isn't exactly a surprise. But when, or if, the company will return to the Main Lodge project remains to be seen.



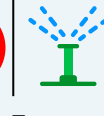
Mammoth Community Water District

Level 0

2025 WATERING SCHEDULE

SPRINKLER TIMES

1 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

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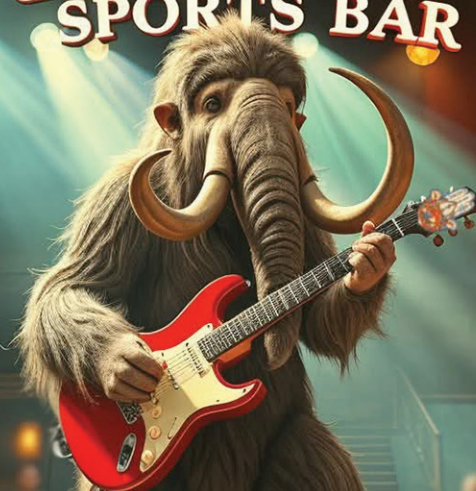
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Friday August 1st

Saturday August 2nd

Bluesapalooza Afterparty

with

Crooked Eye Tommy

Let the Party Begin



3399 Main St
Mammoth Lakes Ca 93546

LITTERING CONVICTION

By Fisher

A small pickup truck. A juvenile elephant. Sixty cinder blocks. A grand piano with two people sitting on it.

Each of these items weigh roughly the same as the mountain of trash people hauled out of Convict Lake last month: 2,921 pounds. The five-day cleanup effort, led by the Tahoe-based nonprofit Clean Up the Lake, pulled 6,010 items from the bottom of the lake between June 2 and June 6.

“Convict was one of our favorite projects to date,” said Colin West, the organization’s founder.

Clean Up the Lake formed in 2021, when West and a team of divers circumnavigated the entire 72-mile shoreline of Lake Tahoe, removing 25,000 pounds of trash. Since then, the organization has expanded to other regional lakes, including Donner Lake, and, more recently, to Mono County.

Before launching a full-scale cleanup at Convict, the team first dove the lake in 2023 to gather preliminary data. Based on what they found, they estimated they might pull around 1,000 pounds in a full effort. But this year’s haul tripled that number.

“We were finding so much more trash than we expected,” said Jenny Uvira, project manager. “It really slowed us down.”

Over five days and 13 dives, the team covered nearly three miles of lake bottom. Diving at altitude is difficult, and Uvira said and they can typically only manage 0.2 miles per dive. Volunteers helped by

using kayaks and jetskis to ferry waste up from divers below.

The effort is about more than just cleanup. It’s also a form of underwater surveying. As divers work, they track GPS locations, sort waste into 83 distinct categories, and look for signs of invasive species. The team then works with local governments to suggest changes in signage, infrastructure, and even create public art from salvaged materials.

Among the items pulled from Convict Lake, the divers found 70 tires, making up more than a third of the total weight and 2,066 beer cans, most of them found near the marina.

“That’s where people are coming back from their boat trips, so it’s not so surprising,” Uvira said. “Now we’re able to work with the marina and put signage or recycling bins there.”

Also during the dives, the team collected samples of aquatic plants, confirming an infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil, an aggressive invasive species that disrupts ecosystems. Clean Up the Lake is now working with the U.S. Forest Service to explore possible mitigation strategies.

They also sampled the lake for invasive species, and confirmed there is an infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil, an invasive plant which is harmful to aquatic ecosystems. The organization is now working with USFS to determine ways to reduce the species’ presence.

Next, the team will turn its focus to McLeod Lake, with a cleanup scheduled for September 15. Though more remote and harder to access than Convict, McLeod is a popular day hike destination, and, as Uvira notes, still vulnerable to human impact.

“It’s important for us to be able to show data from all the different types of places, what’s coming out of them, and how badly they’re getting affected,” she said.

Clean Up the Lake is actively seeking local volunteers for the McLeod mission.



Clean Up the Lake Volunteer, local Nicole Sands, hauls a tire out of Convict Lake



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VETS

continued from page 1

Committee member Nancy Masters said “We weren’t asking ing for one penny.” And that the goal is not to use county resources.

The location, she said, was chosen because it’s been decades since the old jail was torn down and it’s been an eyesore since. Local school superintendent Rosanne Lampariello describes it as the “ugliest spot in Independence.”

And as Bright said, when the jail was there, it wasn’t used as a parking lot, so ... you’re not really losing a historical use. Besides, the memorial will look a lot better.

But ... we don’t know exactly how it will look, outside of a hand drawing

by Masters. As committee members explained, they need a verbal okay from Supervisors regarding the site in order to be able to fundraise and hire an architect.

Griffiths wasn’t sold on the site. He thinks the County is having a hard enough time as it is maintaining existing parks in Independence. Why not tuck this idea into an existing pair versus create a whole new one?

In concept, I celebrate vets, but I want a lot more information before I accept the location, echoed Orrill.

Roeser, however, was just fine going a little bit on faith.

And Wadelton said the main intersection in town is framed by the post



Singlaub sharing a laugh in the Oval Office with President Ronald Reagan

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- National Defense Service Medal with Star
- Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster

Honored in 2023 with a memorial at Imjingak Pyeonghwa Nuri Park in Paju, South Korea

office, two empty buildings and this dirt lot. Surely, we’re not satisfied with that.

Inyo’s \$225,000 man, CAO Nate Greenberg, whose special ops experience is limited to securing raises for county staff, broke the logjam by promising to refine the idea further (i.e. kick the can down the road for a spell) before bringing it back to the Board.

That way, everyone can stick a thumb up their ass and then wave it in the air to determine which way the

wind is blowing.

After Greenberg’s diversion, Board Chair Marcellin prattled on about his family’s military history, so folks would know it wasn’t personal.

Which one can be sure didn’t assuage Veteran Randy Short, who summed it up simply: “If we can’t recognize this gentleman [Singlaub] ... then we’re missing something. I’m personally offended by the pushback.”

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

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THU, JUL 31 ST	6PM-9PM		THE TRESPASSERS
THU, AUG 14 TH	6PM-9PM		BICICLETAS POR LA PAZ
THU, SEP 4 TH	6PM-9PM		THE FELT CUTOUTS

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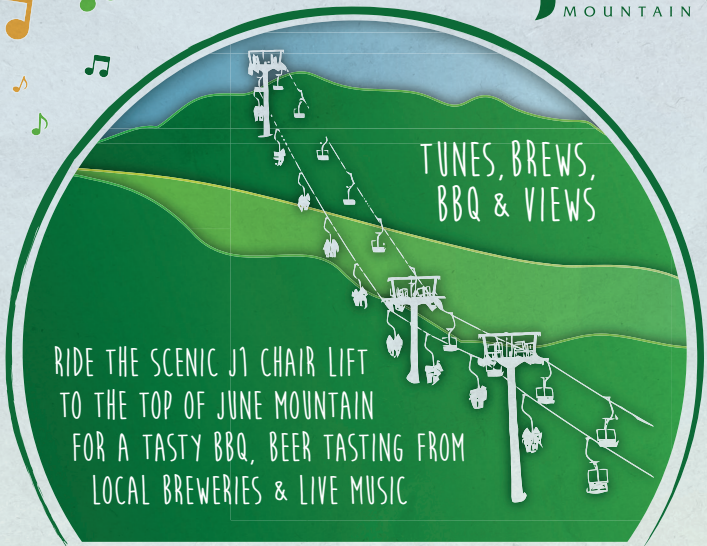
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Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Alpine Paint

Jonathan A. and Chelsea Nash
89 Laurel Mountain Rd.
P.O. Box 1516
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a married couple. The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on July 1, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on July 18, 2025 File Number 2025-0104 TS #2025-0099 (7/26, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16)

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.**
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 14*
The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar. Food and drink specials.
Main Street Pizza - See ad page 13 for details.
Distant Brewing happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-5pm. \$1/off beer/wine/cider/seltzer/kombucha

Friday, July 25/
Bishop Country Club patio parties resume. Live music. Starts 5:30 p.m.
Mammoth All Stars (Funk, Soul, R&B) play Liberty in Mammoth. Time: 9:30 p.m. No cover

July 25-26/
Villagefest @ Mammoth. You know the drill! Food (BBQ!), drink, live music. Starts 4 p.m. both days. Location: Village at Mammoth.

Saturday, July 26/
Party on the Mountain @ June! Time: 3-8 p.m. Concert, beer tasting, more. *Info: See ad p. 9*
Tahoe Tribe (orig. mtn. jams) plays a Villagefest after-party @ Liberty. Time: 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 27/
Live music @ Cardinal Village Resort in Aspendell. Time: 1-4 p.m.

Monday, July 28/
Open mic @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, July 29/
Karaoke @ Liberty. Starts 10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30/
Eddy Evans plays jazz sax @ Liberty in Mammoth from 4-6 p.m.

Thursday, July 31/
The Trespassers (always a popular show) play the Tioga Gas Mart in Lee Vining. Time: 6-9 p.m. *Info: See ad p. 8*

July 31-August 3/
29th annual Mammoth Festival of Beers and Bluesapalooza. FINAL YEAR AT SAM'S WOODSITE. MUST ATTEND! Info/tix: mammothbluesbrewsfest.com

Friday, August 1/
Tropical coolness @ Wanaaha Casino in Bishop every Friday in August. Live DJ, cash drawings. Wear tropical attire for \$10 in free play. *More info: See ad p. 9*

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

Gris Multi Services

Grisel A. Ambrocio
306 Laurel Mountain Rd., Unit 100
P.O. Box 7622
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on March 1, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono County on March 18, 2025 File Number 2025-0036 TS #2025-0098 (7/26, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16)

TOWN STUFF

July 25-27/
Pacific Fine Arts Festival, an open air arts and crats fair, returns to the Kittredge Sports parking lot on Main. 30 professional artists. Time: 10-5 daily. *More info: See ad p. 4*

July 25, 27/
The Unbound Chamber Music Festival concludes @ Cerro Coso College in Mammoth with its two final shows. *For more info, see ad p. 7*

Friday, July 25/
Free Skate Friday night @ the Mammoth RecZone. Location: Town Rec Center off Old Mammoth Rd.

Saturday, July 26/
36th annual Kids Fishing Festival @ the Snowcreek Ponds in Mammoth. Time: 8 a.m. 'til 1 p.m.
Sunsets on the Eastside at the Eastside Guesthouse and Bivy. Music, refreshments and community. Time: 6-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 27/
Free swim Sundays @ Whitmore Pool.
Poetry Open Mic @ Spellbinder Books in Bishop. Time: 5-7 p.m.

Monday, July 28/
The Bishop Community Band has begun its Summer Season of Concerts in the Park. Time: Every Monday @ 8 p.m. Music will include marches, popular songs, jazz arrangements and popular novelty numbers. Bring a chair and/or a blanket and enjoy.
Inyo County District 1 meeting with Supervisor Trina Orrill. Time: 5:30 p.m. Location: Quilter County Office Bldg.

TOWN STUFF

July 28-31/
Kids Summer Film Series @ Minaret Cinemas w/support from Mammoth Hospital. Previously released kids' films on the big screen at 11 a.m. daily. Just \$2.50 for a walk-up ticket. **This week's film: Sing 2**

Tuesday, July 29/
Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre hosts a night of Improv Comedy w/ local talent @ the USFS Welcome Center auditorium at 2500 Main St. in Mammoth. Time: 7 p.m. Event free, donations welcome.

Wednesday, July 30/
Womens Wednesday Rides @ Mammoth Mountain Bike Park. Meet outside the Adventure Center by the MTB rentals at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 31/
Regional Housing Need workshops in both Mono and Inyo Counties. Mono meeting 9-10 a.m. at the Civic Center on Tavern Rd. Inyo meeting 5-6 p.m. at the Quilter Office Bldg. in Bishop. *More info: ekabala@escog.ca.gov*

UPCOMING

August 5-24: Mammoth Shakespeare Festival outdoors at Eagle Lodge. Romeo and Juliet and AS Midsummer Night's Dream. *See ad p.4 for dates and showtimes*

August 16: Native Plant Society annual native plant sale. Time: 9-11 a.m. Location: White Mtn. Research Station at 3000 East Line St. in Bishop.



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COUNTY OF MONO

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A job description and application instructions may be obtained on the court's website, https://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/ge_neralinfo/employment.htm, or contact the court at

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hr@mono.courts.ca.gov

Closing Date: Open until filled

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- **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



wild iris
FAMILY COUNSELING & CRISIS CENTER

Position: Hotline advocate
Reporting Office: Bishop
Pay Range: \$22.50-\$28.74
Job Type: Full-time, hourly, non-exempt
Benefits: Employee retirement with employer contributions, medical insurance, paid holidays, vacation and sick accruals. Benefits available after successful completion of 30- to 90-day waiting period.

Job Description: Provides crisis intervention services during and outside of regular office hours to clients who have been affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. may work from home if scheduled outside of normal office hours. This is not a mandated reporting position. Reports to DV/SA Programs Coordinator

Please visit wild-iris.org for information on how to apply.



wild iris
FAMILY COUNSELING & CRISIS CENTER

Position: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Staff Advocate
Reporting Office: Bishop
Pay Range: \$22.50-\$28.74
Job Type: Part-time, hourly, non-exempt, temporary
Benefits: Employee retirement with employer contributions, paid holidays, vacation and sick accruals. Benefits available after successful completion of introductory period.

Job description: The CASA staff advocate provides advocacy to children in the foster system in Inyo and Mono Counties. This is a mandated reporting position. Reports to CASA Program Mgr. Reporting office is in Bishop. This position allows for up to 20 hours of work per week, and hours may vary based upon agency needs. The position is temporary until July 2026 and may be made permanent at that time dependent on securing of ongoing funding.

Please visit wild-iris.org to see full job description and how to apply.

PERSONALS

I hope to see you ... at one of the Chamber music concerts this weekend, if only to show you what a real violin sounds like - versus the tiny violin I often find myself playing for you.

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-

Maintenance and Repair Technician
Local Resort seeks experienced person to complete carpentry and other building maintenance and repair. \$34-\$38/hr depending on experience and skill set. We off benefits (medical, life insurance, 401(k) with matching, employee discounts, etc.) and a great working environment. Please send resume to jobs@convictlake.com.

JDB Construction seeks a skilled and reliable Journeyman to join our team. We are a well-established construction company based in Mammoth - this is a great opportunity to work on a variety of builds with a solid crew in a professional and supportive environment. Call Jaimie @ 760.258.1078



MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT'S Personnel Services Department is currently recruiting for one permanent Human Resources Manager position. FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION/TO APPLY: Please see the District website <https://mcwd.dst.ca.us/employment/>.

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



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



HIGHLAND PLUMBING

Hiring motivated candidates, experience preferred but not essential, job training will be provided. Must have a valid drivers license. Great pay and perks. Full time, year-round, Mon-Fri schedule. To apply, please contact Tarek at 760-914-9184.

For Sale



Seasoned pinyon firewood. \$350/half-cord and \$600/cord. Wood is bone dry and burns hotter than almond or oak and leaves less ash. Wood stacked &measured on truck before delivery. Text/call 206.536.9111

Meet **Emilio!**

Love and fun here. He greets the world with trust and kindness, kids, dogs, cats, strangers. Let's play! House trained. This angel belongs in a home today.

Please meet him and others like him that are in search of their forever home

- at the Inyo County Animal Shelter, located at 1001 County Road in Big Pine.

For more information, call (760) 938-2715.

To see more dogs available for adoption, visit www.easternsierradogrescue.com

 Save a life. Adopt a shelter dog.

WOOF!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!



NOTICES

Notice of Sale of Unclaimed Prop.

SALE OF UNCLAIMED PERSONAL PROPERTY

In accordance with California Civil Code Section 1988(b), all possessions including drones, iPads, Fujifilm camera, KitchenAid mixer, smoker, wood pizza oven, snowblower, chainsaw, pressure washer, gun safe, tools, workbenches, camping/fishing gear, furniture, weights, refrigerators, boots, helmets, personal items, etc., left by Jeffrey Mitchum in the possession of Donna Petersen at 1177 Willow Flats Trail, Bridgeport, CA will be sold as-is at public auction on August 23, 2025 from 10 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. at 1177 Willow Flats Trail, Bridgeport, CA to the highest bidder for cash. reina@cresq.com

TS #2025-0097

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity Is Doing Business As:

Mammoth Yoga and Wellness Studio

Livitate LLC

3399 Main St., Unit W

P.O. Box 1434

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 May 30, 2025

File Number 2025-0079

TS #2025-0095 (7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2)

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity Is Doing Business As:

Yoga Mammoth Wellness Studio

Livitate LLC

3399 Main St., Unit W

P.O. Box 1434

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 May 30, 2025

File Number 2025-0079

TS #2025-0094 (7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2)

MHS "TRAPS" RETURNING BEHRENS!

Press Release

Mammoth Lakes, CA — Mammoth High School is excited to announce the return of Lacey Behrens as Head Cheer Coach for the 2025–2026 school year.

Behrens was a collegiate cheerleader at UC Irvine, and a professional within the Varsity Spirit organization, a national leader in cheer and dance education. She previously coached the Mammoth High cheer team 16 years ago and now returns with a renewed commitment to building school spirit, confidence, and leadership among students.

That spirit was on full display at a recent cheer camp held at Great Wolf Lodge in Garden Grove, where the Mammoth High Varsity Cheer Team trained alongside large programs from across the state.

Though one of the smallest teams in attendance - with just 12 athletes - Mammoth High stood out in all the right ways:

*First Place in the Medium Varsity division for their camp spirit routine

*Most Improved Team Award

*Spirit Banana Award, given daily to the most spirited team at camp

*Three athletes named All-American: Abigail Prieto, Hannah Reeves, and Addison Glass

The team's performance reflected more than just skill - it highlighted the values of dedication, teamwork, and the boldness to represent their school with pride.

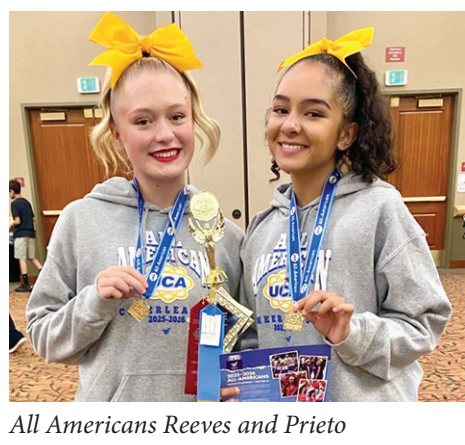
As the school year approaches, Coach Behrens is continuing to recruit new athletes. Students who missed spring tryouts or are simply curious about joining are encouraged to reach out.

"You don't need prior experience - just a willingness to learn, support your team, and bring positive energy. We're excited to welcome anyone who wants to be part of something meaningful."

Interested students and families can contact Coach Behrens directly to get connected: lacedibble@gmail.com

Mammoth High Cheer is a donation-funded program that relies on the generosity of the community to cover uniforms, travel, competition fees, and more.

If you'd like to support the team this season, please consider making a contribution to "Cheerleading": mhsboosters.org/fall-sports-donate



All Americans Reeves and Prieto

MIEARS BROS. SHINE AT STATE GAMES

Press Release

At the 2025 California State Games, held July 19–20 at Triton Track & Field Stadium at UC San Diego, Wyatt and Levi Miears represented their hometown of Bishop with strong performances in the shot put and discus events.

The California State Games drew four score of teams from cities across the state—including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, Fresno, Bakersfield, Oakland, San Francisco and Stockton—as well as out-of-state competitors from Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Washington.

On Day 1, Wyatt Miears, a 15-year-old freshman at Bishop Union High School, competed in the 15–16 boys discus division. Despite feeling nervous, Wyatt delivered a winning throw of 132 feet, 2 inches. "I was hitting 140s in warm-ups but got nervous," he said. "I'm just happy to get the win."

Meanwhile, his younger brother Levi Miears, 12-year-old, competed in his first-ever track and field competition in the 11–12 boys discus event. Levi placed 4th with a throw of 40 feet, 4 inches. One of his throws would have landed him in third place, but it was ruled out of bounds.

On Day 2, Wyatt returned to the ring for

shot put and continued his dominance. His first attempt—taken as a conservative "safety throw" to secure a mark—measured 43 feet, 0.25 inches and ultimately held up as the winning throw. Wyatt's next two throws were even farther by 5 to 6 ft but unfortunately scratched due to stepping out of ring.

Levi also competed in the 11–12 boys shot put, finishing 7th with a best throw of 20 feet, 10 inches.

Wyatt Miears was honored as the Men's Field Athlete of the Games. His victories earn him a coveted spot at the 2026 America Games, to be held at Penn State University next July, where he will compete in the 15–16 boys division on a national stage.



The Brothers Miears

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Contacto: Ann Bason

661-531-3498

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- Información sobre el proceso de Educación Especial y más!
- Sesiones de Preguntas y Respuestas
- Mesas informativas de proveedores

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HEATHER CARR, DIRECTORA DE SELPA DEL CONDADO DE INYO

18 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2025

10AM – 2PM

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COUNTY OF MONO CALIFORNIA

MONO COUNTY ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD OPENINGS!

The County of Mono is accepting applications to fill five Board Member vacancies on the Assessment Appeals Board (AAB).

The AAB is a quasi-judicial body which hears taxpayer appeals to property assessments at a public hearing where evidence is submitted by both parties, the taxpayer and the Assessor's Office. The AAB hearing process provides 'equalization', or fairness of the assessment of a property's value of the property in question.

Eligibility

Individuals interested in applying must meet the following requirements: A minimum of five years' professional experience within the state of California is required in one of the following professions:

- Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant
- Licensed Real Estate Broker
- Attorney
- Property Appraiser Certified by 1) a Nationally Recognized Professional Organization; 2) the Office of Real Estate Appraisers; or 3) the California State Board of Equalization.

TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED!

Compensation

Board Members receive a taxable stipend for their attendance as follows:

- \$175 per meeting (typically 8-10 meetings per year, typically 2-4 hours in duration)
- Mileage reimbursement (current IRS standard mileage rate) for travel from the Board Member's residence to the hearing location.

For more information or an application, please contact the Clerk of the Board's Office at BOS@mono.ca.gov or visit our website at https://monocounty.ca.gov/assessment-appeals.

KLUSMIRE

CHECK IT OUT!

I enjoy the menial task of writing checks to pay my bills. It is one of the few tactile financial transactions left in our digital age, where most day-to-day money moves involve tapping screens, holding a phone over a screen or auto-filling credit card information on a web page. It's easy. Painless. Thoughtless. Routine. Automatic. Robotic.

The whole, nearly archaic process of paying paper bills by check and mailing them off is a physical task that requires paying attention with hand and eye. It provides the increasingly rare opportunity to literally "handle" your money.

The first step is slicing open an envelope holding a bill. I use a Buck brand pocketknife as my letter opener. It has a hefty feel to it, and the three-inch blade is sharp enough to wound if attention is not paid. You have to be aware of where the blade goes into the opening atop the envelope. Too far and deep and you risk slicing the bill or the return envelope. It's a surprisingly delicate and precise move.

Next comes the sort. Most bills come with an assortment of flyers, offers and extraneous paper that has to be separated from the bill itself. Cussing ensues when the return envelope is mistakenly tossed out with the junk. Again, attention must be paid. The bill and its return

envelope go into a pile. Next to that pile are the stamps, retrieved from their hiding place and called into action.

Selecting a pen can be fraught for a writer. Some pens are great. Many are not. Some dispense too much ink, or wet ink that doesn't dry quickly. Some deliver fine lines that can be hard to see. Some create lines as thick as a crayon. Some get ink globs at the end. Some start strong and with promise then fade (sort of like my career). None of those pens are ever thrown away because, well, just because. But there is always that one great pen lurking in the stack. Good feel, nice lines, tidy ink delivery. That's the one for writing checks.

The checkbook makes its appearance. It has some weight to it, thanks to dozens of blank checks, the check register and the bi-fold cover that makes it look like an innocent, long wallet. Check the check register for the last check recorded and see the next blank check is one number higher. Flipping through the check register to find last month's payment for the same set of bills is optional but can be instructive. Did the electric bill go up? Same amount for the fixed, monthly fees for various items?

Peruse the bills again. Find the amount to pay. Check that the last payment is recorded on the bill. The toughest part of the whole operation is next: Finding the little perforated line to

fold and then tear off the "return with payment" portion of the bill. For some reason not even God can explain or understand, most bills' perforated line is not the same as the folds that get the bill itself to fit into an envelope. They can be just a tiny bit off, or off by a quarter inch. Just start tearing without looking and at best you get a ragged edge, at worst you tear the bill in half.

Filling in the check is not a robotic maneuver. Spell the company name right. Get the date right. Get the amount right numerically. Spell out the amount. Careful about making "one thousand three hundred eighty-seven" fit in the space provided with room left for the "and 12/100." Double check the amount on the check is the same as you put in the check register. Doing the math to subtract each payment as they are made is a good discipline.

The signature can be sloppy, but why do that? Take some time, some care. Almost done.

It takes a little paper manipulation to put the check and payment stub in the return envelope, with the company address in the little window. Your address on the upper left, or on the back. Again, it can be half-ass - no first and last name, just a zip code. Resist. Take a businesslike approach when handling

your money. Avoid the glib and flippant. Lick or tape the flap? Either will do. Just remember to do one or the other. Doing both is overkill.

The stamp is the finishing touch. Square fit in the top right corner.

Finally, the final step: taking real steps to put the completed envelopes in your mail box.

Done.

Congratulate yourself. You have taken your financial situation in hand and at least for a short time have intentionally sidestepped and avoided the digital handcuffs we so casually slip around our wrists.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is thinking Socrates would be write checks in our digital age while muttering, "The unexamined life is not worth living."



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COUNTY SELPA DIRECTOR

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OFF THE SLOPES

SOME FRONT PORCH TROUBLESHOOTING

By Fisher

“This is way more awful than the public knows, and it’s not about the bears at the Mayor’s house,” Steve Searles told me as I sat on his porch Wednesday.

It’d been about eleven months to the day since I sat across from him in the same spot after the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) killed Victor the bear, the late four-footed alpha of the lakes basin who swiped a camping tourist. It felt like Déjà vu.

Searles is known across the globe as the “Bear Whisperer,” and known locally as the Former Mammoth Lakes Wildlife Officer. But he insists he’s “nobody” each time I interview him.

Still, he was a centerpiece in last week’s front page story, in which Lunch detailed how Mayor Bubser sent CDFW to trap two yearling bears who’d roamed her property. In the wake of the drama, he’d invited me to his home to chat.

“We never see each other under normal circumstances,” he’d joked when I climbed his front steps to sit in the same seat many others have sat before: big-time reporters, rabbis, addicts, activists, and as of last week, Mayor Bubser.

Holding a cigarette between his fingers, and reading from a yellow paper pad on his lap, he’d prepared for my visit.

I told him I’d seen one of the yearlings on Hill Street the day before. So had anyone else living in Old Mammoth, Searles said, as he’d been the recipient of endless photos of the bears throughout the week.

“[The yearling] could see where he was born from where they dropped him off (behind the Motocross track). He just walked straight home,” he said.

We talked for hours, wavering sometimes from the topic of bears but coming back repeatedly to the topic of relocation. He has a strong hunch the CDFW has been trapping more and more bears, and has a stronger hunch these relocations are usually a box to check before killing the bears once reported again.

I probably would’ve accepted it as just a hunch, but someone arrived at Searles’ steps amidst our conversation as evidence to his point. It was a Knolls resident, seeking advice from Searles as he grappled with the decision of whether or not to call CDFW to trap a frequent visitor to his own home: a sow with two cubs.

Below is a summary of the conversation, which I edited for length and clarity.

Visitor: I feel like I’m pretty good with bears. We have had issues in the past,

but we solved it. This one is getting in through locked doors, and that seems like the next kind of step up. I’ve had a bear come in the window before, last year. I left the window open. My fault. This year, it pushed against a dead bolted door. It’s a double door, and it broke the pin at the top and was able to slip the dead bolt and come in.

**The bear came back on Monday when he was walking his dog, and she bluff charged him when he arrived back at the house.*

Obviously, I don’t want to fuck with her after that. She comes back a lot, though, so I don’t really know what the next steps are here. I didn’t want to just kneejerk relocate the bear. I know that’s not super effective. They are issuing me a non-lethal permit, and I’m going to use a paintball gun, I guess. I ordered one on Amazon that’ll be here pretty soon. I also ordered the little pepper balls.

Searles: Look, I can’t tell you what to do. It’s your home and your dog and your bear. And I’m flattered and humbled that you would come and ask my advice, this is what’s going on all over town and all these people are contacting me.

I’m old. I’ve lived here for 48 years. Relocation was done before I worked with my first bear. They all used barrel traps, and they had zero success. So Alaska, Canada, all across North America ... they don’t use barrel traps anymore, except for really weird, one-off situations. So, this is opposite of what science is or what the people in the community want.

The bears, these are wild animals. You’re either correcting their behavior or killing them. I can tell that you know what the big picture is, what the truth is, and you’re not the one dropping the ball. There’s all kinds of toys to make this go away. They didn’t offer you any of them. They told you to order your own shit on Amazon.

If you feel like you have no other option because they’re tying your hands, you can barrel trap the bear. Or, you can believe what I’m saying.

Visitor: I feel like right now, there’s not a right answer. I already called CDFW. I said, “Hey, let’s pump the brakes, let me try to deal with my own shit before we go to that extreme, because it didn’t end well for the mayor.” At the same time, this bear is not responding like other bears have, and I have a two year old, and my wife’s pregnant. I got to defend my family.

If I start educating this bear with a paintball gun, does it go back to being a wild bear, or does it just bother my neighbor? Is it already a problem?

Searles: If you could put a GoPro on the sow’s head and see what she’s experiencing with her neighbors, a lot of people up there like to feed them. And what she’s seen in town, police have arrived and done nothing.

If we could watch her GoPro video, there’d be no surprise that she likes to go in your fridge. It didn’t start at your house. Things have gone on, unreported, and not dealt with. They’re smart. Smarter than a dog or a horse. They learn bad or good very quickly.

We know from decades of trial and error, what works, what doesn’t, and we are intentionally, willfully with malice, going down the wrong road.

Visitor: I hope that this bear can be educated and stay away. But I’m concerned about the cubs. She’s teaching the cubs to break into houses.

Searles: Fathers don’t teach cubs anything. Nothing. So when I was in uniform, I worked through five generations of bears. I’m a lazy man. I taught the teachers to teach, and everyone taught that I was the teacher teaching the students. I did a con job. I taught the mother bears to teach the cubs. So you’re exactly right, and you’re no bear guy. And this you know instinctively, intuitively, what you’re saying is the truth.

**He talked about Victor, and how with proper hazing, the bear likely wouldn’t have caused problems. And now, because Victor was the chief resident of the lakes basin, other bears are competing for his former territory.*

As we pull the bears out, bears from everywhere come out of the forest, thinking, “This is Candyland. We have golf courses, we have flowers, grubs, koi ponds. This is badass.”

They’re all flooding in to compete for the land. Now we’re going to have a rodeo that nobody wants to see. We’re going to be on national news on a regular basis because we displaced the entire local population that had learned generationally how to live here. They don’t have a sense of the land. Of traffic patterns. What time the bars close, what Bluesa-palooza is. They’ve never seen that shit before. They’re just going to raise hell.

**The conversation then divulged into tactical advice, as Searles offered a number of devices the visitor could try to use to haze the bear, ranging from ping pong balls to cherry bombs.*

Visitor: My wife and I have talked about it, and we’re gonna give it at least a week [to call CDFW for trapping] unless some serious escalation happens.

Searles: I’m holding back the tears. You should not have to do this. There’s no reason for you to be treated this way. You shouldn’t have to learn about bears. You can live peacefully and be totally ignorant of bears. So when you say thank you to me, it falls on deaf ears. I’m ashamed and embarrassed about what’s going on.

Visitor: It does seem to be a growing problem.

Searles: It’s gonna get worse. We’re going 100 miles an hour the wrong way. A social experiment that none of us wanted to be in has been kicked off.

Visitor: Why? Why are they doing this? Aren’t they creating more work for themselves?

Searles: We have so many problems in this town, county, state, nation, world. There’s a bunch of shit to be afraid of for your children. Your fears are well founded. We didn’t have a problem, and they decided to make one.

We are worldwide the number one place for coexistence with black bears. And our little po-dog town decided to fuck this up.



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HARTLEY

IT’S A BANK, NOT A C-STORE

I see businesses scrambling to put out WET FLOOR signs when it’s raining outside. Why do you need to do that? People were outside in the rain so they should know the floor will be wet. Their shoes are wet. So much legal protection for something so basic. Does the county need to put out WET ROAD signs now when it rains? Stop being stupid.

I always make fun of Mexican food. The same 5 ingredients put in different wrappers. That’s 5 different foods. Then you can grill, bake or fry it. That increases the multiple dramatically. Tacos. Hilarious. They are just curved Nachos. Who they fooling? A tostada is a flat taco. They just uncurve the thing into one flat surface. Nachos are just broken up tostadas. It’s the same damn shit.

Why do people come to the bank and ask for free water and coffee? I never see them ask Walmart for free water or coffee, but they ask a bank. Walmart has that stuff in their store. You want me to drive to Walmart and get coffee and water to give out at the bank? Stop it. Mooches. One person said they needed water because her mom has dementia. Did she just get dementia on the way to the bank? If not, you should have had water for her when you left home. You know someone with dementia can forget to hydrate. But your ass has dementia,

too, if you can’t remember to give her water. And you passed 30 stores on the way to the bank. She can’t use the water fountain? No, she has dementia.

Here is a common one. ITS HOT OUT THERE. Y’ALL GOT SOME WATER? Huh? I live in Charleston, SC. It’s hot every day. Your water at home don’t work? Car ain’t got no cupholders to carry it with you? Go to the store.

The 4th of July just passed and as usual that disgusting annual event called the Nathan’s Hotdog Eating Competition went down. Watching grown folks gorge themselves to the point of vomiting with wet hot dogs is criminal. A 24-year old woman was disqualified from the contest for “urges contrary to swallowing.”

That is their definition of vomiting. Hilarious. You had urges contrary to swallowing. What do they call the blockage you have after eating all that? Urges contrary to defecating? That whole thing is just gross.

Sports betting is out of control. And combining that with completely stupid people, makes it even worse. There is an MLB pitcher being investigated for “irregular betting activity” due to first pitches he threw in 2 games. Apparently there was a bet on whether pitches would be a ball or a strike and there was a lot of activity with betting on this single

pitch.

The stupid comes in when you see what the pitcher did. He literally spiked the ball into the ground. Is he serious? He is currently suspended while they investigate. He should just be cut and banned from baseball. The pitch was so obvious. And what would he really stand to make from that? Why are these types of bets even allowed? It’s getting stupid with the betting. They went from NO BETTING AT ALL to betting on whether a certain player spits or eats sunflower seeds during a game. Or how many times the tv cameras pan on Taylor Swift.



Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate of Geraldine Cady
Mono County Superior Court Case Number 25PRM7

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of GERALDINE CADY. A Petition for Probate has been filed by JEROLD AARON BLAIN in the Superior Court of California, County of Mono.

The petition requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: August 21, 2025, 9:30 a.m., Mammoth Courthouse, 100 Thompson Way, P.O. Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner: Debby M. Ehrlich, (SBN: 165257) DME & Associates, 4305 Third Ave., Ste. 3405, San Diego, CA 92103. (805) 312.8059

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