

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



That Gayla, she was in Bishop too on the 4th! More photos p. 15

Saturday, July 12, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. 28

INCOMING!



At the 4th of July Parade in Independence, the water balloons were flying. More Gayla Wolf photos p. 15.

STICK IT TO THE FOREIGNERS (AGAIN)

"Making America Beautiful Again"

By Fisher

Foreign tourists hoping to visit America's national parks may soon face steeper costs, after President Donald Trump signed an order this week to hike entry fees for non-residents and grant U.S. citizens first pick on permits.

The order, titled "Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks," was signed July 3 and instructed the Secretary of the Interior to develop a strategy to boost revenue and enhance visitor experiences in the National Park System. Under the new policy, non-residents will pay higher entrance fees than U.S. citizens, although specific price increases have not yet been announced.

The move revokes former President Barack Obama's 2017 memorandum aimed at pro-

moting diversity and inclusion in national parks and other federal lands. That memorandum not only sought to improve diversity in visitation, but demanded diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce.

The order applies to all fee-collecting sites within the National Park System, including national monuments, historic sites, and seashores. It remains unclear how the new pricing structure will be implemented or how it will affect existing fee schedules. The National Park Service (NPS) has indicated it will establish the new pricing in 2026.

Currently, Yosemite and Death Valley National Parks charge visitors based on vehicle type rather than residency. They also charge different rates; Yosemite charges \$35 per pri-

vate vehicle, while Death Valley charges \$30. At Devils Postpile National Monument near Mammoth Lakes, entrance fees are based on age: \$15 per adult and \$7 per child.

While the order calls for "encouraging international tourism" and promoting "underutilized" areas, it does not outline concrete steps to achieve these goals.

The Department of the Interior estimates the fee increases could generate an additional \$90 million in revenue, earmarked for infrastructure improvements and enhanced visitor access.

Beyond higher entry fees, the order also directs the Interior Department to grant U.S. residents priority in competitive access programs such as

see FEE HIKES, pg. 8

WOLVES AT THE DOOR?

Inyo, Mono consider hiring Feds for wildlife control

By Lunch

Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? We are apparently.

On Tuesday, the USDA Wildlife Service presented at both the Mono and Inyo County Supervisors meetings.

The goal? Get both counties to sign off on a cost-sharing deal to ink the USDA to an \$80,000 contract for wildlife services.

The impetus? Well, wolves are back in California (never mind the mountain lions) and livestock is in peril. Ergo, we need some assassins on our side.

Just in case.

As you can imagine, the reception USDA State Director Jeff Flores and District Supervisor Barry Lowry received in each county was markedly different.

During the morning, Flores and Lowry, accompanied by Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner Nate Reade, made their presentation to Mono Supervisors in Bridgeport.

"We're not looking to fund a huge program with full-time staff," said Reade. We just need someone to call when there's a problem, and "they know what they're doing in these situations [human/wildlife, ag/wildlife conflict]."

Supervisor John Peters replied, "If we can tailor this locally [to our needs], this is a good thing. Another tool in the toolbox."

But as fellow Supervisor Paul McFarland stated, "The devil is in the details, and there are not a lot of details here."

He and Supervisor Lynda Salcido expressed caution, alluding to the long and complicated history local residents have with the State Fish and Game, particularly when it

comes to bear depredation.

So why would we invite yet another layer of bureaucracy (which we would have scant control of) to the party?

A dozen or so submitted public comments echoed the same concern.

Former Mammoth Wildlife Specialist and "Bear Whisperer" Steve Searles laid it out bluntly in a telephone conversation on Wednesday.

"The idea that the Feds do non-lethal [management] is nonsense. It's never happened before. It's not what they're known for."

Searles believes this push by the USDA represents a way for ranchers to get subsidized for any depredation issues.

He is certainly in support of people taking such responsibility upon themselves, but "It's on you, bro' ... why the hell bring in the Feds or outsiders [to solve your problem]?"

From firsthand experience, Searles believes this contract would represent a "goddamn mistake."

"The USDA makes a living shooting. This just benefits guns and uniforms. And the more you shoot, the more you shoot."

Searles says that ever since Victor the Bear was eliminated last fall in the Lakes Basin, that vacuum has encouraged many suitors to vie for his throne.

In short, bear activity has been off the hook in the Lakes Basin.

But try telling any of this to Inyo County.

Where Director Flores was pleased to have landed in the afternoon.

"We have a trust and rapport with the ranchers," he said, which met with approval from

see LUNCH, pg. 2

You stink, bruh

p. 14/

Neurotic oboists

p. 9/

Summer Brain

p. 13/

Newsflash:
Lunch a disappointment

p. 4-5/

Coyote watch

p. 13/

LUNCH

continued from page 1

the Inyo Board’s self-appointed protector of the old West, Jennifer Roeser. She referenced a former Supervisor whom she says feels like a hostage in his own home because of a mountain lion roaming the neighborhood. “We want them [citizens] to feel safe. We also treasure our wildlife,” she said in equivocation.

“And we have a great relationship with the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife,” added Lowry. “Everybody in the field seems to get along.”

“Our guys love what they do,” ping-ponged Flores. “We’re a part of the ranching community. I won’t tell you that we’re perfect, and that the perception is usually negative ... but when people actually meet our trappers and specialists, they’re like ‘Wow, you’re human. You’re normal. We are normal!’”

“There are certain things we can put into a scope of work,” chimed in Reade. “I think we’re gonna have a say in how things work.”

The Inyo Board wants the item brought back at a later date for consideration of approval, and appears to have the votes.

Supervisor Will Wadelton expressed that it’s important to have a resource on call when the proverbial shit hits the fan. After all, “One gopher can de-

the
sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

“I’m a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.”
-Jefferson

JACK LUNCH
PUBLISHER

stroy a wastewater plant,” he declared.

Since I’ve got a bit of extra space, I did want to talk about Veteran Services Officer Gordon Greene’s presentation to Mono Supervisors on Tuesday.

He last presented to the Board 2.5 years ago.

While Greene said he’s got about 30 pending vet claims in the queue in Mono County, he said “They’re [vets] not coming in, and I’m not reaching them ... nobody’s calling and I can’t tell you why. I’m here and I’m available.”

This did not mollify Supervisor John Peters, who said he thinks there’s vet dissatisfaction with Mr. Greene’s performance, and that he’s too Inyo-focused.

Peters, followed by Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz, then hammered Greene regarding his ineffective public outreach.

It all seemed a bit ... unfair. As the saying goes, you can lead a horse to water ...

I thought Greene handled the whole thing pretty well. Supervisors decided they’d now like to meet quarterly with Greene. I’m sure he’s marking the days until his next pep talk.

- Ted Carleton

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Finally, I’m sure this is going to catch on as new bureaucrat-speak (if only it could replace the constant and nauseating use of the word ‘robust’).

Mono County Emergency Management Director Chris Mokracek, in referring to potential public safety power shutoffs, said there have been no “de-energization” events of late.

That’s why I drink coffee. To avoid de-energization.

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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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LETTERS

Which -essive do you prefer?

Jack,

There's been a lot of heartburn in certain quarters over Trump's BBB that was recently passed into law putatively giving tax breaks to millionaires. What the BBB did was to make permanent Trump's 2017 tax package. Therefore, I thought it would be useful to look at who is paying the federal income taxes after the now-extended 2017 "giveaway to the rich".

The top 1% of taxpayers now pay over 40% of the total federal income tax subsequent to Trump's big giveaway to them, far exceeding their share of the national income. This tax burden on the top 1% represents more than what the bottom 90% combined contribute.

Almost three-quarters of federal income taxes are paid by the top 10% of taxpayers. The bottom 50% of taxpayers pay only 3% of Uncle's haul.

So yeah, any tax cut in America cannot help but go disproportionately to "the rich" because that's who is paying the income taxes.

I guess my question is, how much more progressive would Trump's critics like to see the tax code get? It isn't just a rhetorical question because California's fisc routinely goes through feast and famine owing to an even more extremely progressive state tax code. Here, the top 1% pay 45% of the state tax while the bottom 20% typically receive refundable tax credits, i.e., they actually get paid by the Franchise Tax Board. If more progres-

sivity were a good thing you'd expect the state to be in a little bit better fiscal posture than it is.

Medicare tax too is progressive. The only taxes that affect everyone equally are social security and sales taxes - but sales taxes are local, not national. If they are high where you live, it's not the feds to blame. Our state boasts the largest "regressive" tax in the union, namely, an exorbitant gas tax which is almost three times higher than the U.S. average, making it doubly amusing to hear California pols criticize the BBB.

I think this is enough about numbers for one day. Time for a glass of wine (7.25% sales tax + excise tax + district tax. Maybe I'll have two.)

John Rogitz
Mammoth Lakes

Be careful

Dear Lunch,

After reading the letter from reader Joann Lijek two weeks ago, I was going to write you and suggest some Ring cameras just in case she was scoping out your home. As that lovely, 78-year old first timer, Ms. Crocker observed last week, she [Lijek] certainly does rant like a crazy person.

Then I read your note this week and can see that your written word has no panic in it, just appreciation of the literate folks.

So let them rant away, but do be care-

ful, as ugliness has seeped into every corner of our country, (world?), even into nice little safe havens that dot the 395.

Brad Orrico
Granada Hills

This next letter requires some small preface. It references a section of the Lunch editorial from June 21, pg. 2. And regards a Bridgeport-based parent who wants the Eastern Sierra Unified School District to provide transportation for her children to attend Lee Vining High School. The District only provides transportation at this time to Coleville High School from Bridgeport, however, students are welcome to enroll at Lee Vining. Given the paucity of students in the ESUSD and the incredible expense of transporting just a handful of students, Lunch believed the district's policy to only offer transportation to one school reasonable. Lunch's suggestion to the parent: Perhaps seek a compromise where the district gives you use of a district van and participating parents can set up a carpool.

What follows is parent Leticia Moraes's reply.

What a disappointment

Ted and Jack,

I read your article regarding the emails we had with the ESUSD and what a dis-

appointment!

Im not sure why "The Sheet" editor thinks ESUSD is reasonable for denying its high school students rights for transportation and is ok with the Superintendent retaliating our request [sic] in writing!

I reached out to our local news asking for help when the District is violating its high school students rights.

And you portrayed me as a bad person and undermined me when all what I was doing was advocating not only my sons rights but for the Bridgeport community children's rights. Advocating for those who dont have the means for that and the courage to speak up.

"She did not like to hear that. Not only they're were supposed to drive her son to school but they're supposed to pay for it."

Why would you publish such a thing?? This request wasn't just for my son as you made it sound like but for several Bridgeport residents.

If you had a good understanding of what was going on then you know I wasn't asking for a favor but for the school district to honor their Policy and Regulation.

Its listed on their website under ESUSD District Transportation Routes and Services Regulation.

This policy says "Students shall be eligible for transportation if they live beyond 2 miles from their school bustop... not "may". But yet you left this other policy out.. wonder why. ..

more LETTERS, pg. 5

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CONSULTA POR NUESTRAS BECAS

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Here's the link.

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In my personal opinion, Mrs Heidi [Superintendent Torix] is really good at portraying a completely different story if you talked to her ... because I can't understand why a publisher would go against a parent trying to exercise a student's right. Everything I've asked her now and in the past.. is within students and parents legal rights...and I can legally confirm it.

Indeed very disappointing!

LVHS is in fact within Bridgeport's boundaries per its school site plan unlike they stated. And a later email confirmed it. Which she took down that file from their website page after our request which shows her intention!!! Luckily I saved the LVHS site plan file.

Conway is not an issue as Heidi already provides transportation thru the entire winter for Ski pe. It even goes thru Dead man to Mammoth Mountain.

But yet funds are approved for a good raise that Mrs Torix requested and was approved by the Board a few months ago and paid transportation for their employees (proof is listed in one of their agenda items earlier this year). That's where our property tax payers money is going instead of benefiting our students. There's no hesitation when it is to be allocated to benefit themselves!

So hypocritical....

Amazing how news can be twisted or omitted making those who are right sound completely wrong by their publishers personal opinion or agenda. Good eye opening on how the Sheet portrays its articles ...!

Leticia Moraes
Bridgeport

PS. Your own newspapers had an article from 2013 that residents wanted transportation from Bridgeport to LVHS. And there was transportation back then in 2013. That's long before my kids were in school. So .. Im not the one unreasonable or demanding here to request this when many others have done it as well... And their voices have been suppressed for over a decade!

Here's the link:

<https://thesheetnews.com/2013/05/06/transportation-study-still-on-the-table-for-eastern-sierra-unified-school-district/>

Yet the Sheet sides and supports ESUSD'S violation of students schools rights and Superintendent retaliation! What a shame to support that instead!

There are other serious issues going on with bullying not being addressed properly by our Superintendent at LVES and Colville recently but good for Reno news to cover it last month from a different parent!. I respect them for standing for what's right!

Editor's reply: What was that you were saying, Mr. Orrico?

I followed the link and read The Sheet story by Lara Kirkner. She did a nice job on it. I'll bet she became very successful after she left the paper.

At the time, the District did indeed

ferry Bridgeport students in both directions. From the story:

"Those in favor of the cuts [eliminating one route or the other, north or south] claim that dwindling student numbers would eventually make it unreasonable to send buses from Bridgeport in two directions

... [ESUSD Board member Jimmy] Little said that there are dwindling numbers in Bridgeport and he felt it would be unreasonable to have a bus route that in a few years would be shuttling 2-3 students."

A little research shows that the enrolled high school population in the ESUSD has declined from 113 (when the story was written) to the current 85, a 25% decrease.

Of course, at the time, the other Board members didn't want to acknowledge the reality and unsustainability of the situation. Lee Vining parent (and future Mono County Counsel) Stacey Simon went so far as to reject a proposed transportation study by saying, "I don't want an answer to the question," she said. "I'm not willing to cut the route to Lee Vining or to Coleville, so I don't want a study for a question I'll never answer."

Wow.

But let's switch gears here a bit.

I moved to Swall Meadows in 2009. There was school transportation offered to the Round Valley School (located, by the way, in a different county). There was no transportation offered to Mammoth. The schools are pretty much equidistant. My daughter wanted to go to Mammoth.

What did I do? I didn't pound my fist on the table and demand that someone else drive my daughter to Mammoth every day. My moving to Swall Meadows was a choice. The beauty and isolation has its tradeoffs.

When my home burned down in 2015, I drove my daughter to school from Chipmunk Canyon outside Bishop, because that was the quickest, most convenient rental I could find.

And then when my youngest reached school age, we ironically sent her to Round Valley, even though by then we lived in Bishop proper.

More driving.

But you try to do what's best for your kid, and if Big Daddy G (your fellow taxpayers) won't fill the bill, you do it anyway.

By now, Ms. Moraes, we are all well aware of the slings and arrows you have suffered and the profound unfairness of it all.

And yes, we can all puzzle over why a school district of 368 students has six different schools and requires its own superintendent.

You say I've portrayed you as a "bad person." Not even close. I am merely a rational person who disagrees with you. And who thinks it's time for you to move past the righteous indignation and come to terms with the situation you're in.

Some of the best times I've shared with my daughters have been on long car rides, because sometimes they let their guards down and out of boredom, they share things with you. Things they may not have shared otherwise.

A school commute to Lee Vining can be viewed as either burden or opportunity. I would urge you to set aside your anger and choose opportunity.

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LOCAL NEWS

BRAUN, ROBERTS PUSH BACK AGAINST GRAND JURY REPORT

By Fisher

Following the controversial lethal police shooting of Jesus Uribe, a Mammoth Lakes resident whom officers shot in March for wielding rocks as perceived weapons, the Mono County Grand Jury pulled together a report criticizing local law enforcement for poor inter-agency communication and coordination on mental health calls.

At Tuesday's Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting, Sheriff Ingrid Braun and Behavioral Health Director Robin Roberts took the podium to refute the claims, asserting that further communication between the

departments would violate patient confidentiality as protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

"I understand why the grand jury brought this forward and saw that it's an issue – and it is an issue," Sheriff Braun said at the meeting. "But it does not have a solution, and that's important to acknowledge."

A Grand Jury, as defined by the Mono County Superior Court, works to ensure that governmental bodies are serving the best interests of all citizens of the County.

In this case, the grand jury's main criticism was that there's limited communication and coordination between Mono County Behavioral Health (MCBH) and law enforcement agencies, and that after a mental

health call, there's no way for the agencies to "close the loop" with each other.

Braun and Roberts agreed that they rarely know what the respective agency is doing. Still, they explicitly shot down the jury's assertion that the result of these alleged pitfalls is "improper handling of those arrested leading to increased risks to the officers and public."

In mental distress calls involving the police, MCBH is notified to place an involuntary 72-hour hold and assessment to keep subjects from inflicting damage on themselves or others, typically at the jail or hospital. However, because MCBH staff are not armed and trained as first responders, they cannot handle situations involving crimes or weapons, which are the responsibility of law enforcement.

These assessments are protected health information under HIPAA, and sharing the results of the evaluation with the police would violate HIPAA and expose the County and its staff to legal liability.

"As law enforcement, the information can flow in one direction; we can give it to MCBH, we can give it to

social services, but we can't get that information back," Braun explained. "It is frustrating for law enforcement in the field if they've had contact with somebody, they've brought them to MCBH [...] and then six hours later they see them at Vons"

As frustrating as that feeling is, Braun said, there's nothing law enforcement can do about it. On the MCBH side, Roberts expressed frustration that her staff can't force people to take services.

"I might be in full agreement that the person is in distress, but it would be the equivalent of me coming and taking you away for reasons that don't involve the law," she said. "Everybody has individual rights."

The central recommendation outlined in the report calls on the agencies to hold meetings to focus on cross-training and communication.

Braun and Roberts agreed that the jury's recommendation was a good one. However, they said it already exists through the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), which holds its next meeting on August 11, 2025.



WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY RIDES

MTB LIKE A GIRL

Our Women's Wednesday Rides are back. If you're looking to shred, learn, and laugh with a group of supportive female instructors that know the mountain inside and out, then this is your group. This event is designed to give women a place to connect through sport; however, all genders are welcome.

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CEQA? SEE YA

By Fisher

Governor Gavin Newsom signed two bills into law on Monday, June 30, curtailing a half-century-old environmental review law to make it easier for developers to complete their projects, which may have implications for future development in Mono County.

The bills, AB 130 and SB 131, significantly weaken or bypass California’s stringent environmental review process (CEQA) to accelerate housing and some “public-benefit” projects. CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) is the state version of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), which requires federal agencies to fully determine and report the environmental effects of any actions they take.

“If we get nothing else done in the next three years, this may be one of the most consequential things that we can actually deliver,” Newsom said when he announced his CEQA reform plan in May of 2023.

CEQA initially only applied to government agencies but has since been expanded to encompass nearly every new development process. Fascinating enough, that’s because of a California Supreme Court case born in Mammoth Lakes in the early 1970s.

Town residents, forming an advocacy group called “Friends of Mammoth” spearheaded by Andrea Lawrence, objected to a large condominium and retail development, claiming that the developer’s vision, if realized, would

have a significant impact on the town and its natural resources.

The decision, ruling in the residents’ favor, subsequently established a precedent requiring all California projects going before government agencies to be subject to the rules of CEQA.

In its decision, the State Supreme Court said that the new requirements for private projects should apply only to those of “significant” impact.

But because “significant” wasn’t clearly defined in the ruling, local governments began slowing or blocking building permits to avoid potential lawsuits. At the same time, banks grew hesitant to finance large-scale developments, fearing projects could be tied up in costly, years-long CEQA litigation.

Fast forward to last Monday, and the bee in Newsom’s bonnet happens to buzz right around that ruling. CEQA, he said, is now a significant cause of the state’s housing shortage, as it has continued to delay or block developments.

“We have seen this abuse over and over and over again,” he said. “We have fallen prey to a strategy of delay. As a result, we have too much demand chasing too little supply. This is not complicated, it is Econ 101.”

Of the two bills, AB 130 focuses on exempting most “infill” housing in urban areas, making it easier and faster to build new housing in existing developed neighborhoods. SB 131 goes further by streamlining CEQA for

broader housing construction, easing environmental restrictions on some residential rezoning, and exempting specific public-good projects, such as health clinics, food banks, and advanced manufacturing facilities, from CEQA entirely.

This new legislation could have implications for greenlighting projects within Mono County, including the collaborative plan by the County, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Alterra to create a “safe parking space” for locals living and working out of their vans.

At a recent presentation on the project, Mammoth’s Community & Economic Development Director Nolan Bobroff stated that the collaborating agencies may pursue the project as a “homeless shelter” to avoid the expensive and intensive CEQA process through SB 1361, another rollback on the law signed into law last year.

The downside of that plan is that the lot’s staff can not turn away people who do not work in the area due to implications in the Fair Housing Act. Therefore, transient visitors may also use the facility.

The recently passed bills create more avenues for the local government to pursue projects like the parking lot, as they streamline CEQA review for “near-miss” housing projects, i.e., ones that qualify for a CEQA exemption (but miss it due to a single condition). SB 131 limits the required CEQA review to only those environmental effects di-

rectly caused by that specific condition.

But as for bigger affordable housing projects, CEQA doesn’t currently create many hurdles for housing non-profit Eastern Sierra Community Housing (ESCH), Executive Director Patricia Robertson said.

All of the organization’s affordable housing projects have utilized a streamlining process outlined in SB 35, which applies to projects with at least 50% of units affordable to lower-income households, she told The Sheet.

“[The loosened restrictions] would be helpful for developers in communities who are not eligible for SB35,” she said.

Environmental groups, on the other hand, claim the pullback will hinder public input on development and harm ecosystems. Friends of the Inyo, an environmental advocacy group, counts the loosening of these laws as a loss.

“Protections for natural and sensitive lands remain, luckily, but it is saddening to see these exemptions go through without public input,” Allison Weber, Forest and Water Policy Director, told the Sheet. “While we can’t say what will come in the future, it is disheartening that good projects, such as vegetation treatments, housing infrastructure, parks, and trails, etc., could go through without the ability for community members to engage in the CEQA process and environmental review.”

Organizations like hers, she said, will be watching.

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FEE HIKES

continued from page 1

permit lotteries.

Additionally, it mandates a review of all existing recreational access rules, with an eye toward rolling back restrictions adopted under the previous administration that might “unnecessarily restrict recreation.”

Again, the order does not specify which restrictions will be modified, but Yosemite National Park currently operates under a reservation system, limiting park entry during peak hours for visitors without advance bookings. Highly-visited areas such as Half Dome require separate permits to visit, and overnight camping is also regulated.

Death Valley does not have a reservation system in place at present, though it receives far fewer visitors than Yosemite, attracting 1.4 million visitors last year compared to Yosemite’s 4.1 million, according to NPS Data.

The new policy arrives amid fluctuating international travel trends. The National Trade and Tourism Office projected strong growth for 2025, with international arrivals to the U.S. reaching 72.4 million last year, up from 66.3 million in 2023.

However, optimism has cooled in recent months. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged citizens to “choose Canada” for their vacations rather than traveling south, leading to a sharp decline in cross-border travel. Recent data shows Canadian road trips into the U.S. fell 33% in June and 38% in May compared to last year.

In response, California Governor



Lunch took this shot of an alien sunset earlier this week.

Gavin Newsom launched a tourism campaign in April, seeking to divert Californian identity from that of the federal government and to continue to encourage Canadian visitation to the Golden state.

In a social media video, he called California “the ultimate playground — 3,000 miles from Washington and a world away in mindset,” urging visitors not to let politics derail their travel plans.

Whether the new park fees will further dampen international travel remains to be seen, especially from Europe and Asia, which currently stand as the major sources of international tourism into national parks.

OBITUARY
RAY ROGERS 1938-2025

Raymond E. “Ray” Rogers was born on April 29, 1938 in San Francisco to Edwin and Beatrice Rogers. He passed away on July 2, 2025 at home enjoying the company of his kids, and grandkids, in Bishop.

He was a lifelong Californian, graduating from Napa High School, class of 1956. After high school, he attended San Francisco City College and graduated with a degree in Criminology. Following college, he served his country in the United States Airforce.

He became a California Highway Patrolman in 1963. He was the CHP Supervisor in Mammoth Lakes for 14 years (1969-1983), and retired as the Commander of the Blythe CHP Office in 1991.

Ray was an avid traveler with 100,000 miles of RV travel all over North America and had also visited six foreign countries.

He is survived by his son Jim, his wife Lisa and Grandson Logan, all of Hastings, MN; and his daughter Laurel, her husband Tryon, and Grandson Cole Pyeatt, all of Oxnard, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Merveen, his sister Betsy Hamblin, and his mother-in-law Violet Vernon.

Per his request there will be no services held. He asked that any memorial donations in his name be made to the Eastern Sierra Police Officers Association.

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

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ARTS

A SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE

By Lunch

The headline, I realize, is misleading, but I think I'm too lazy to change it at this point.

Let's just say there have been a few twists of fate which have colluded to bring Clarinetist Joshua Anderson to Mammoth next weekend for the annual Unbound Chamber Music Festival.

Twist of Fate #1. At the tender age of 12, Anderson is denied the opportunity to play oboe in the school band because the band director refuses to tune two beginning oboes. "My mother had an old clarinet in the closet, so I settled on that."

Twist of Fate #2. Anderson grows up in Hampton, Iowa (pop. 4,000). Then in succession, he attends Johns Hopkins University for undergrad, then a Masters at Yale, and then a Doctorate at the University of Michigan. So how does he end up in Reno?

"In my last year at Michigan, people would ask me where I wanted to work the next year. And I'd joke, 'Anywhere but the desert.' So, of course, the tenure track position that's available is located at the University of Nevada-Reno. Boom. Desert."

Twist of Fate #3. Chamber Music Unbound principals Brian Schuldt and Rebecca Hang are subbing at the Reno Philharmonic and during the first rehearsal it comes time for the clarinet solo and the clarinetist (guess who) blows them away.

After the rehearsal, the pair immediately recruited Anderson to play Mammoth.

Sheet: You know, this may not have happened if you'd become an oboist.

Anderson: It turned out for the best. Oboists are always worried about the

weather, because many of them like to make their own reeds (oboes are double-reeded instruments as opposed to the single reed clarinet), and they get neurotic about heat, humidity ... it all worked out!

Anderson will be performing Beethoven's trio for Piano, Clarinet and Cello on Friday, July 18 and Milhaud's Suite for Violin, Clarinet and Piano on July 20.

When I arrived at Hang and Schuldt's home this week to talk about the festival, they were in different spaces.

Schuldt was a bit subdued. He had a mask on; he's been fighting a virus, but he'll be ready to go next week.

Hang was in a contemplative mood. But animated per usual. "Every year, what excites me anew is that we share an art form which consists of natural (handmade) instruments, musical scores penned by human hand, ourselves. We share our ideas, our emotions ... as people, it's my perception that we are losing our connection with nature. Music puts us back in touch with it. Music is ... the attempt to create something as beautiful as nature."

The Festival kicks off on Wednesday, July 16 with Haydn's String Quartet in F



Anderson

Major, opus 77, no. 2. Audiences have never heard this piece performed in Mammoth - that's because Haydn was so prolific that a Festival wouldn't be forced to repeat one of his string quartets until its 84th year.

Another piece they're both excited about is entitled "Verklaerte Nacht" ("Transfigured Night") by Arnold Schoenberg.

It's a string sextet Schoenberg composed based off a poem which shares the same title.

Hang and Schuldt have played this piece twice previously with the New Hollywood String Quartet in L.A.

Members of that group will share the



Azikiwe

stage for the Festival performance with Schuldt and Amadi Azikiwe.

Azikiwe bears special mention because he was a graduate student at Indiana University with Rebecca and Brian back in the '90s.

He is a native New Yorker and currently serves as Director of the Harlem Symphony Orchestra. He has performed extensively throughout the U.S. And he'll feature in all three shows this coming week.

**For more info/tix/schedule, please see ad on p. 5*



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Please give her a chance, and you can meet others like her 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

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

Mammoth Concierge

Stefanie Spezzia
64 Mountain Blvd., #3
P.O. Box 1405
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. 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 6, 2025
File Number 2025-0068
TS #2025-0085 (6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/12)

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)

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. 4*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 7*
The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar. Food and drink specials.
Main Street Pizza - *See ad page 12 for details.*
Distant Brewing happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-5pm. \$1/off beer/wine/cider/seltzer/kombucha

Friday, July 11/
Bishop Country Club patio parties resume. Live music. Starts 5:30 p.m.

July 11-12/
Willie Waldman Project (rap, funk, more!) plays Liberty in Mammoth. Time: 9:30 p.m. No cover. *For Liberty's full entertainment lineup, see ad p. 4*
Mammoth Jazzfest @ the Village at Mammoth including Friday's wine walk. Starts 4:30 p.m. both days. *Info/tix: mammothjazzfest.org*

Saturday, July 12/
Jason Petty is Hank Williams as his Lonesome Tour makes a stop at Hayden Cabin in Mammoth. Time: 7 p.m. Hosted by Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre and the Southern Mono Historical Society. *Get your tix at mammothlakesrep.org/see ad p. 2.*
One of These Nights, an Eagles tribute band, plays the Wanaaha Casino in Bishop. Doors open 7 p.m. \$\$ *More info @ wanaaha.com*
Country Line Dancing @ Bar Sierra with Bri Thibault. Time: 7-10 p.m.

Sunday, July 13/
Live music @ Cardinal Village Resort in Aspendell. Time: 1-4 p.m.

Monday, July 14/
Open mic @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, July 15/
Karaoke @ Liberty. Starts 10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16/
Eddy Evans plays jazz sax @ Liberty in Mammoth from 4-6 p.m.

Thursday, July 17/
Carlotta Kailiawa plays Distant Brewing. Time: 7-9 p.m.

July 18-19/
Liberty hosts Reggaeifest after-parties featuring Local Anthology (Friday) and the Bower Street Scorchas (Saturday).

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)

TOWN STUFF

Friday, July 11/
Free Skate Friday Night @ the Mammoth RecZone on Old Mammoth Rd. *More Rec listings on ad p. 4*

Saturday, July 12/
Wildlife Tracking with Phil Johnston in the Mammoth area. Time: 9 a.m. 'til 3 p.m. Expect to be on your feet for the entire time. \$40 for adults and \$15 for kids. Register at sierraforever.org.

Sunday, July 13/
Free swim Sundays @ Whitmore Pool.

Monday, July 14/
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.

July 14-17/
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: Kung Fu Panda 4**

Tuesday, July 15/
Community Ukulele Group meets @ the Mono Arts Council Gallery in the Minaret Mall. Time: 5-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16/
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. Time: 4 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.
Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meets. Time: 1 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

TOWN STUFF

Womens Wednesday Rides @ Mammoth Mountain Bike Park. Meet outside the Adventure Center by the MTB rentals at 4:30 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 6*

The Unbound Chamber Music Festival kicks off @ Cerro Coso College in Mammoth and runs through July 27. *For more info, see related story page 9 or ad p. 5*

Thursday, July 17/
Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at The Shed, Mammoth's wine, cheese, and charcuterie shop located on Main Street next to Schat's Bakery. Time: 5-7 p.m.

Friday, July 18/
Sierra Forever hosts a FREE Panum Crater geology hike. Time: 9 a.m. Meet Panum Crater Trailhead kiosk. Hike is about two miles with some elevation gain. All ages welcome. Under 16 accompanied by adult. Info: sierraforever.org/(760) 920-9224
Birds & Bristlecones Nature Walks Join local naturalists for a free guided walk in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. Time: 9 a.m. Loop hike is about 1 mile long with minimal elevation gain, but be mindful that the hike is at 10,000 feet elevation. Meet Schulman Grove Visitor Center Deck at 9 a.m.

Saturday, July 19/
8th Annual Eastern Sierra Book Festival. Location: Hayden Cabin in Mammoth. Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with speakers and used and new books for sale all day.
Improv Comedy Workshop @ C5 Studios in Bishop. Time: 10 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. Ages 15+. Location: 210 S. Warren St. \$\$\$ *Info/register @ c5studios.org*



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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
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The Superior Court of California for Mono County invites applications for the position of

Information Technology Technician

I or II

This is a part-time, non-exempt, non-represented position

Hourly Salary:
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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

(760)923-2321
hr@mono.courts.ca.gov
Closing Date: Open until filled
EOE/AE/ADAE



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/>.

For Sale



2006 GMC Savana (Chevy Express) AWD Cargo Van Pro Package includes 3 flip-out utility hatches and optional bulkhead barrier. Runs Good. 190K miles. NEW: Michelin M+S tires, battery, windshield. Original owner, no accidents. \$7,500. Call Kris @ 760.937.5646

Office Space For Rent

Office and storefront space available @ the Main Street Promenade, 3343 and 3399 Main Street in Mammoth. Contact Dennis Park @ 818.510.2665.

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



Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District

Job Announcement
Administrative Services Officer

GBUAPCD seeks an individual with government finance experience to lead and oversee all financial activities of the agency and to lead human resources. The position is full-time, exempt, and based in Bishop, CA. Annual salary is \$119-\$160k per year plus generous benefits. For more info please visit www.gbuapcd.org/employment. Recruitment will be open until the position is filled.



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



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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

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

Restaurant Server for Eagles Landing 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

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

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WE ARE HIRING CLUBHOUSE STAFF!

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Starting pay: \$17.00 per hour Plus Tips

Your main objective is to provide the highest level of customer service to the club's members and their guests.

Create positive memorable experiences for members and their guests by maintaining the Values of MWGC. Be Engaged, Treat Members/ Guests with Respect, Have Camaraderie, Be Excellent.

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Clubhouse Operations, Tee Sheet Management, Light Bartending, Cleaning and more
You must be motivated, be able to stay on your feet and know/learn about Golf!!

For full Job Description visit www.mtwhitneygolf.com





First 5 Commissioners Needed to Help Shape the Lives of Local Children and Their Families

The First 5 Mono County Commission is seeking to fill two membership vacancies. Priority areas of the Commission include improving the health, development and school readiness of children ages 0 to 5.

Candidates who fall within any of the following categories are encouraged to apply:

- **Persons responsible for management of the following county functions:** children's services, public health services, behavioral health services, social services and tobacco and other substance abuse prevention and treatment services.
- **Recipients of project services included in the county strategic plan.**
- **Representatives of a local child care resource or referral agencies or a local child care coordinating group.**
- **Representatives of local organizations for prevention or early intervention for families at risk.**
- **Representatives of community-based organizations that have the goal of promoting or nurturing early childhood development.**
- **Representatives of local school districts; and representatives of local medical, pediatric, or obstetric associations or societies.**

If you are interested in being a part of the First 5 Mono County Commission, please send a letter of interest by 5 pm on **September 1, 2025**, to First 5 Mono County, PO Box 130, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or to Molly DesBaillets, the First 5 Mono Executive Director at: mdebaillets@monocoe.org.

For more information, call the First 5 Office at 760-924-7626, or visit www.first5mono.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Request for Proposals

The Bishop Paiute Tribe (the “Tribe”) is soliciting proposals from qualified construction firms or contractors to complete a network operations center (NOC) as part of a Broadband Project funded by the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. The project period of this service will be 3 months (August 25, 2025 to November 25, 2025).

A mandatory on-site meeting and walkout will be held on July 24 at 10:00AM at 2490 Diaz Ln, Bishop, CA 93514. A sign-on sheet will be provided at the location, and a representative of the construction firm must be present in order to be eligible to bid. Areas of work include but are not limited to:

- Demolition and disposal of existing walls, fixtures, and structural components
- Plumbing and HVAC redesign and repair
- Carpentry and framing including addition and removal of doors and windows
- Carpeting, tiling, and floor reinforcement
- Internal drywall and external siding and skirting repair and paint
- Roof inspection and repair
- Electrical inspection, repair, and installation including 120V, 240V, and low voltage/data/fiber
- Installation, modification and repair of perimeter fencing
- Installation of bollards and laying of gravel in parking areas
- Others as listed in the “Project Description” available at [bishoppaiutetribe.com](#)

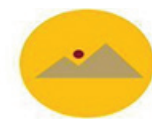
Those wishing to attend and bid must send contact information via email to Phil.fowler@bishoppaiute.org. This is a Federally funded project and Bishop Paiute Tribal Prevailing Wages apply. Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) regulations apply and TERO Compliance Plan Agreements will be required, including the 4% TERO administrative fee for this project.

The Bishop Paiute Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe and as such is exempt from Sales Tax. As such, all bids should not include any California sales tax on the materials purchased for installation on this project but will be required to pay the Tribal Materials Tax of 6%.

Questions are to be directed to Phil Fowler, IT Director - Bishop Paiute Tribe, 50 Tu Su Lane - Bishop, CA, 93514 - (760) 873-3584 Ext 1400 - Phil.fowler@bishoppaiute.org

TS #2025-0090

Request for Proposals

 **MAMMOTH**
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Mammoth Unified School District is seeking contractors to submit a pre-qualification application and submit proposals for preconstruction services and lease-leaseback to support various Measure J General Obligation Bond funded projects, including the Mammoth Elementary HVAC and TK Classroom projects.

Please visit the Mammoth USD website or <https://tinyurl.com/5bfhf3tb> for more information. The pre-qualification application deadline is August 1, 2025 and the RFQ/RFP deadline is August 15, 2025.

TS #2025-0091

Notice of Ordinance

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES

Notice is hereby given that on July 2, 2025 the Town Council adopted an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 25-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE STATE-RECOMMENDED FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP.
by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Sauser, Truax, and Wentworth, Mayor Pro Tem Rice, and Mayor Bubser
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
DISQUALIFICATION: None

A certified copy of the complete text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, and /or a copy may be obtained from the office of the Town Clerk at a nominal charge.

Dated: July 3, 2025
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes

TS #2025-0092

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate of Angus Edward McPhee

Mono County Superior Court Case Number PR1041

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ANGUS EDWARD McPHEE. A Petition for Probate has been filed by DARLENE A. LASSANSKE in the Superior Court of California, County of Mono. The Petition for Probate requests that DARLENE A. LASSANSKE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of decedent.

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

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: July 24, 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: Trenton M. Diehl, (SBN: 238724) Diehl Law Firm APC, 404 West Pine St. #7, Lodi, Calif. 95240. (209) 310.2903

TS #2025-0083

Notice of Vacancy

 **MAMMOTH**
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

A vacancy on the Mammoth Unified Board of Education occurred on July 2nd, 2025 due to the resignation of Trustee Ms. Shana Stapp. The Board intends to fill this vacancy by provisional appointment in accordance with California Education Code 5091.

Community members interested in serving on the board are invited to apply. Applicants must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A citizen of California
- A registered Voter
- A resident of the Mammoth Unified School District

Application materials and more information can be found at www.mammothusd.org. Completed applications must be submitted by July 25, 2025 by 4 PM.

For questions, please contact Adriana Madrigal MUSD Executive Assistant/HR Associate, at amadrigal@mammothusd.org and 760-934-6802 ext. 512.

TS #2025-0093



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KLUSMIRE

LITTLE THOUGHTS

Summer is in full swing. Burning sun. Hot winds. Hundred-degree days and fetid nights. My brain has noticed by going soft and mushy. A long thought is a chore. Short bursts are about all I can muster.

So here are some warmed-over little thoughts.

Visitors are cooling to Death Valley National Park. visitation to Death Valley has dropped by about 5.5% during the first five months of 2025 compared to 2024, according to the latest Park Service stats. That doesn't sound like much. This does: 38,561 fewer visitors, or roughly twice the population of Inyo County. Overnight stays at the Oasis Inn and Ranch, the priciest rooms in Inyo, fell by 28% from January to May, a drop of 28,500 room nights. That was offset a bit by about 9,000 more stays at Stovepipe Wells, but losing close to 20,000 bed-tax-generating stays is costly. The drop in international tourists to the US and National Parks due to President Trump's policies and insults is well documented. In his latest move, Trump announced all international visitors will have to pay higher entrance fees to all National Parks and other federal lands that charge admission fees. Thanks, Don.

Summer heat means hydration hype. Gotta have a huge, fashionable water bottle, and might even take a few sips. The smart kids will want to add electrolytes. The really smart kids will not drink Gatorade to get said electrolytes. What?

That's the Gatorade pitch, the appeal, the history of batching up an electrolyte drink for football players at the University of Florida so they wouldn't wilt in the Swamp. That used to be true. But thanks to a heads-up from Blair at Big Willy's Mountaineering in Lone Pine, years ago Gatorade gave up electrolytes in favor of becoming flavored sugar water. Check the ingredients: Potassium and Sodium (salt) and 96 grams of sugars. An athletic friend recommended real electrolyte action via Nuun sport tablets (good selection at Eastside Sports) you put in your water jug. Check the ingredients: Sodium, Calcium, Potassium, Magnesium, and Chloride. One gram of sugar. Now you know.

Owens Valley fingers pointing to Los Angeles and declaring "water wasters" is an annual summer ritual. That comes after the annual springtime ritual during comments on the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power pumping plan when locals implore the city to "save or conserve" more water so it will take less water from the Eastern Sierra. The LADWP bosses retort that the city is doing a great job, maybe the best in the country when it comes to water conservation. Scoffs and eyerolls usually greet that declaration. But the numbers are on the city's side. As reported in the June 27, 2025, New York Times story on LA's water-saving work: "In 1990, when its population was 3.4 million people, L.A.'s annual consumption was 680,000 acre-

feet of water. With a population of 3.9 million, the city today consumes 454,000 acre-feet per year."

Sometimes, all you have to do is ask. That pearl of wisdom came to light during the Q&A with documentary filmmaker Chris Kam when discussing his impressive 30-minute film, "Hole in the Mountain; Saving Conglomerate Mesa." As the film opens, a familiar voice is heard. Deep, resonant, measured and exacting. Yes, you've heard that voice before. It's Peter Coyote, the Emmy Award winning actor/narrator most closely linked to being the voice guiding viewers through Ken Burns' legendary PBS documentaries, including "The National Parks," "The Vietnam War" and many more. So the question came up to Kam, who is a student at Chapman University, "how did you get Peter Coyote to narrate your film?"

Kam grinned. "I asked him."

Well, more than just asking. Kam said he sent a 1,000-word letter/email to Coyote explaining the project and the value of protecting Conglomerate Mesa and asking him to narrate the film. Coyote said "yes." And did the job for free. End of story. Kam said it only took three hours for Coyote to complete his narration on the film. "A total pro."

(To hear Coyote's dulcet tones in the documentary, find it on www.protect-conglomeratemesa.com.)

I always assumed the most unsettling

comment coming from the cockpit of a commercial airliner getting ready to take off was, "Sorry folks, we have a little delay because we have to take care of a mechanical issue." But on a recent flight a new announcement topped that one: "Sorry folks, but we have to turn off all the power on the aircraft for a couple of minutes, so the cabin lights will go dark. We have a computer problem and we have to power down, sort of like your laptop." Whoa, whoa, whoa, captain, stop right there. You're saying a multimillion-dollar flying machine entrusted with the lives of a couple hundred people has the same glitches and then the same technical fix as a \$300 Chromebook?

Excuse me, but "Kyle" in IT looking up from a video game and barking, "did you try to restart" is not the level of expertise I want to experience on commercial jet. I also didn't want to hear that the reboot didn't work. I'm not making this up. So the pilot said, "well, now we have to get a technician up here, so it will be a little longer." Great, "Kyle" has to put down his 64-ounce Mountain Dew and meander into the cockpit to fix the "problem." We realized the dude had worked his IT magic when the little computer screen facing us reported, "Android is rebooting," and eventually delivered the always cheery instructions about, "What to do if we crash this flying tin can."

Thanks, "Kyle."

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is considering taking the road less traveled.

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Take the Eastern Sierra Housing Needs Survey Today!

The Collective Housing Committee (CHC) – including Inyo County, Mono County, the City of Bishop, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and ESCOG – is launching a Regional Housing Needs Study for the Eastern Sierra region.



We Need Your Voice!

Surveys are now open to collect insights from residents, workers, and employers. Your input will help us understand housing challenges and guide future investment.



Resident & Workforce Survey:
resident-workforcesurvey.easternsierrahousingneeds.com



Business & Employer Survey:
employersurvey.easternsierrahousingneeds.com



More details & workshop info: escog.ca.gov/housing-needs
Questions? Contact Elaine Kabala: ekabala@escog.ca.gov



Ayuda a dar forma al

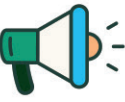
FUTURO DE LA VIVIENDA

en la Sierra Este



¡Responde hoy a la encuesta de necesidades de vivienda de la Sierra Este!

El Comité de Vivienda Colectiva (CHC), que incluye los condados de Inyo y Mono, la Ciudad de Bishop, el Pueblo de Mammoth Lakes y ESCOG, está lanzando un Estudio Regional de Necesidades de Vivienda para la región de la Sierra Este.



¡Necesitamos tu voz!

Las encuestas ya están abiertas para recibir opiniones de residentes, trabajadores y empleadores. Tu participación nos ayudará a entender los desafíos de vivienda y a guiar futuras inversiones.



Encuesta para residentes y trabajadores:
encuesta-residentesytrabajadores.easternsierrahousingneeds.com



Encuesta para negocios y empleadores:
encuestaparaempleadores.easternsierrahousingneeds.com



Más detalles e info de talleres: escog.ca.gov/housing-needs
¿Preguntas? Contacta a Elaine Kabala: ekabala@escog.ca.gov



HARTLEY

WIPES OUT!

The NFL offseason provides even more time for the Pittsburgh Steelers to demonstrate their ineptitude and disorientation regarding how to be a winning NFL team.

The Steelers recently traded for TE Jonnu Smith and CB Jalen Ramsey and got rid of S Minkah Fitzpatrick.

Ramsey is a better football player than Fitzpatrick. Corner is more valuable than Safety so I get it from that aspect. I thought Fitzpatrick was overpaid for what he brings anyway. Which is funny because they valued him enough to make him the highest-paid safety in the league. Then figured out that was stupid. But now you still need a safety. And Ramsey is not the Ramsey he was four years ago. Still good, but you traded for him and then gave him a raise. Ramsey isn't longterm either. He wears out his welcome then demands more money. That's his history.

Jonnu Smith and Offensive Coordinator Arthur Smith reunion hype is at an all-time high. Why? Check out his career stats: So his best year was 2024. That was NOT with Arthur Smith. His best year was with Mike McDaniels, who I think is overrated, but is more innovative than Arthur Smith.

The pundits will tell you that with all the TEs the Steelers have, they can com-

mit to and improve the running game with 3 TE sets. How does that improve anything if 2 of the TES, Freiermuth and Smith, can't block?

This Steeler offseason reminds me of the Eagles when they assembled a bunch of players who were great five years earlier and called it a Dream Team. That team won six games.

This Steeler roster would have been GREAT in 2020.

What have they done? They dumped a headcase WR with great skills for another WR who is older with great skills, immensely more expensive and still a headcase. They brought in a 49-year old QB. They signed Darius Slay who is 34. A friend sent me this.

They got older and more expensive. Bad combination. This all seems like Coach Mike Tomlin wanting so badly to win one more playoff game and then retire. I honestly feel this is his last year. All these players are one-year rentals and anyone betting money on the Steelers to win the Super Bowl or get to the AFC Championship should just give me the money. Stop it.

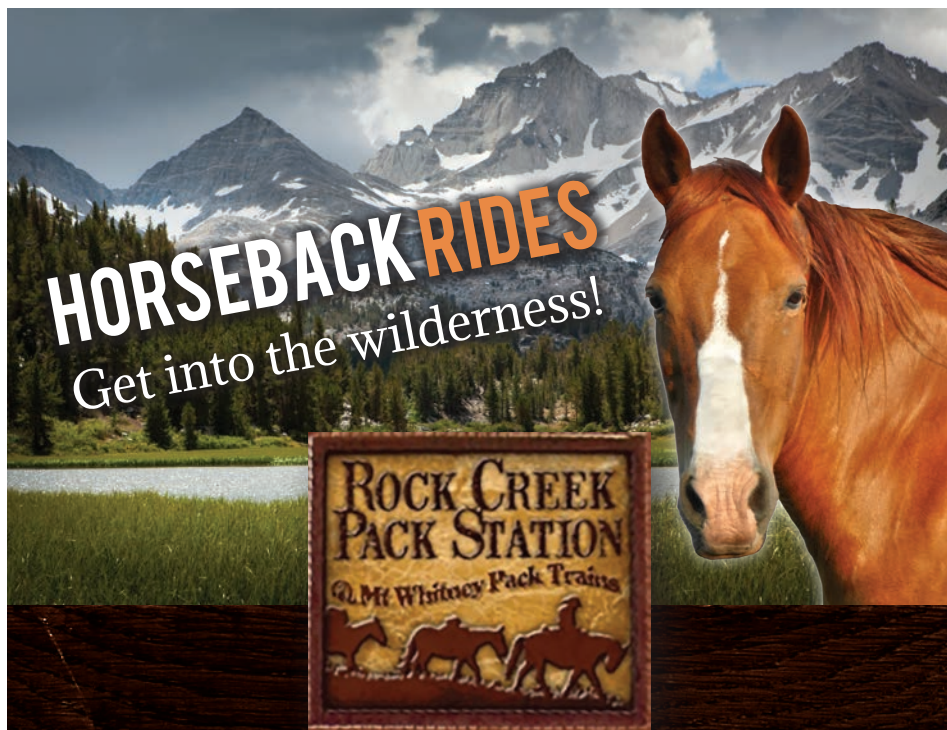
Are people just nasty now? First it was the WHOLE BODY DEODORANT. That is called soap, moron. Buy some

and bathe. Now all the rage is Dude Wipes. Why? Can't you clean your ass with toilet paper properly? Do you need a pocket full of emergency booty wipe? Do you bathe? I cannot figure out what the hell is wrong with people now. Do you often soil yourself while glued to your phone or the video game you can't stop playing with your grown men friends? Do they have little Dude Wipe pouches for you to put them in so you don't have to find a bathroom or trash-can you lazy bastard? You got a little green bag to dispose of them like when you walk your dog? What is going on? You don't need dude wipes - you need to wipe properly and bathe regularly.

I am sick of seeing this person on TV. I don't even know his fucking name. I know he was part of a duo named Keenan and Kel. He is on every commercial on TV where they need a black guy and they can't afford Kevin Hart, Samuel L Jackson or Snoop Dogg. It's insane. I hear him on some of my sports podcasts. Why do they think America is enamored with him? He is not funny and is just irritating. Enough of Keenan or Kel or whoever.

Recently they dragged a fatbody off an airplane. At first I was like ... WHAT? You can't do that. Then I read he booked a window seat and demanded an aisle seat. Like someone else HAD to give

it to him because he likes burgers and shakes for breakfast too much. You put yourself in that predicament every time you snack on Twinkies for breakfast, lunch and dinner. You should have to buy two seats. Or maybe someone invents a Fatty Airlines where all the seats are behemoth size. With some restrictions. Only one person from each side of the plane can get up at a time. No more than one in line for the bathroom at the back of the plane unless there is another blob at the bathroom at the front of the plane for weight distribution. ONLY meals and snacks are fresh fruit and salads. Only beverages - water. First class will have 6 giant seats. One on each side of the plane. And your ticket will be at least 1.5 times the price of a ticket on a normal plane because you take up more space. Airlines gotta make money you know. Baggage weight limit 35 pounds to offset and all flight attendants have to be under a certain weight for safety as well. You got what you ATE. You did that to yourself. They dragged him off the plane. I couldn't stop laughing. Then I made sure to workout the next morning too. How do you tell your kid ... SORRY I WON'T MAKE YOUR WEDDING. THAT LAST SOURDOUGH JACK WITH CHEESE AND BIG GULP MILKSHAKE GOT ME A LITTLE BLOATED AND I HAD AN INCIDENT ON THE PLANE. NO, NOT DIARRHEA, I WAS JUST AN ASSHOLE.r



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Scan the QR code to register, donate, or start your challenge today.



GAYLA'S GALLERY

IN BISHOP



By Gayla Wolf

Photographer Gayla Wolf spent the morning in Indy, the evening in Bishop, and the interim with her cat on the 4th of July.



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