

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

Saturday, August 30, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. 35

GNARLY, DUDE!



WaveRave celebrated two decades of skating at the Volcom Brothers Skatepark on Saturday. For more pictures and results, see p. 22

PHOTO BY KIM ESPINOSA

THEY LOVE BEARS... IN TAHOE

By Fisher

The bear problem isn't just a Mammoth problem; it's a California problem, said Ann Bryant, Tahoe BEAR League's Executive Director, in an interview with The Sheet this week.

Bryant knows firsthand how bear controversies play out. The League recently made headlines after stepping in to prevent the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) from euthanizing

a Tahoe mother bear, nicknamed "Hope." That standoff, she said, mirrors the tension over trapping now surfacing in Mammoth.

For the past several weeks, The Sheet has covered Mammoth's own bear debate. At a recent Town Council meeting, CDFW officials pushed back on claims by former Mammoth Wildlife Specialist Steve Searles that trappings are a precursor to killing.

But Bryant doesn't buy the denial. She's seen the same story unfold before in Tahoe, she said.

In Hope's case, CDFW cited multiple break-ins as justification for lethal removal. Hope and her cub, Bounce, were linked via DNA to at least 12 home break-ins over the past month.

Last Thursday, the bears broke into another home. **more BEARS, pg. 15**

GETTING SOAKED

By Libre

On Monday night, the Bishop City Council reviewed a new rate study for the city's water and sewer system as well as the new Capital Improvement Plan. This new rate study proposes raising the current price of water from \$33 per month, and sewer, at \$42 a month, to as much as \$94.96 and \$84.09, respectively, over the course of five years. This system serves 1,200 accounts. Public Works Director Nora Gamino and a L&T municipal consultant presented three different rate options.

"This is just a high-level introduction," Gamino said. "We just want to get everyone thinking about how this would impact them."

Every five years, the City of Bishop conducts a water and sewer rate study. These help the city to analyze the water and sewer rates within the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which is a multi-year roadmap of planned infrastructure investments. The last rate study was conducted in 2018 and was meant to continue until 2023.

The rates for water and sewer have held steady into 2025, and won't increase until January of 2026.

The new water CIP identified approximately \$3.97 million in critical rate-funded projects between 2027 and 2030, including pipeline

more RATES, pg. 16

BRUSH-TAKING



The "Painted Lady" on display this weekend through November at the Mono Arts Council Gallery. Learn more, p.12.

He Walked the line

p. 2/

I, Chatbot

p. 21/

Macy's sucks

p. 14/

Rabble roused?

p. 10/

Furever friend

p. 5/

MAMMOTH
HOLISTICS
YOUR CANNABIS STORE

Labor Day
DEALS UP TO 50% OFF
ON YOUR FAVORITE CANNABIS BRANDS!

VALID 8/29 - 9/1 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS.

MAMMOTHOLISTICS.COM



760-633-7570

101 Old Mammoth Road
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
C10-0000617-LIC

HE WALKED THE LINE

Sam Walker passed away on Sunday.

To me, he represents one of those modern Sierra Rushmore types - an entrepreneur who created a myriad of businesses, never mind founding Mammoth's most popular summer festival - Bluesapalooza.

What stood out for me about Sam was the agility of his mind - he was just so clever. Usually miles ahead of the pack.

His Eastern Sierra origin story as I recall - and if I have it wrong someone please correct me next week - is that he was skiing one day down at a local hill in the San Bernardino mountains. And he was doing laps. And after each lap, down at the lift, he noticed this one punk cutting the line.

On about the third lap, he sees this happening again and he strides over to the line-cutter and puts a pole in the guy's chest and says, "no more."

And then gets back in line and boards the lot with two older gentlemen - who happen to be future Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss and Buss's attorney. They had witnessed the interaction and were impressed. They asked young Walker if he'd like to manage a restaurant up in Mammoth that they'd just acquired, a little place called Rafter's. Walker said yes.

Now this next part comes from Walker's son, Joe.

Apparently the deal Sam struck with Buss was that, as a bonus incentive, they'd split any extra revenue above what the restaurant had done the previous year.

Sam proceeded to double Rafter's sales, but Buss didn't keep his promise. Which is what led Sam to quit and open Whiskey Creek.

Back to the agility of his mind and spirit. For a guy who had plenty to brag about, Sam didn't brag about any of it. And he wasn't afraid to try new things and he wasn't afraid to be wrong. Ultra-refreshing. Particularly in the current moment where people are terrified to acknowledge any error or shortcoming.

When I stopped to visit Sam's lovely wife Shelley and pay my respects this week, she referenced one of Sam's popular witticisms (he was full of pithy one-liners) which he oft-repeated to children and grandchildren.

He'd say, "If you find you've made a wrong decision, well then, make another decision."

Simple point being: if you've made a mistake, just change course.

Too bad there's not a politician out there who's got the courage and/or common sense to take Sam's advice.

Which renders such people Lilliputians.

You know who you are.

One thing I did this week was read through the trove of emails I received via a public records request of Northern Inyo Hospital. Admittedly, the request amounted to a phishing expedition - I wanted to see if there were staff communications which might illuminate why Stephen DelRossi left or why Dr. Bo Loy got suspended.

Of the emails I was provided (so many, I'm sure, were redacted/discarded because they involved labor issues, privileged communication, etc.), there were several written by Loy which focused upon ways to improve service and operations within the orthopedic department.

One frustrated email in particular took staff to task for phone calls never being answered and always going to voicemail. He said he'd lost a patient to Mammoth simply because that person couldn't get a human being on the line.

Clearly he was trying to tack, and there were other folks in the boat who had no interest in a change of course.

The other revelation was that Dr. Mark Robinson did not intend on retiring this year. Initially, he was simply trying to pare down his work schedule from 26 weeks/year to 23 weeks/year. The Loy situation may have forced his hand, or at the very least triggered a change of heart.

And from Fisher's desk ...

I thought, after a year and some change of living in Mammoth and reporting on town government, I might finally have some semblance of a clue as to what Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) actually does.

Turns out, I was wrong. If anything, I think I'm less sure now than when I started.

Last Wednesday Betsy Truax, director of community engagement at MLT, gave a presentation to the Mammoth Lakes Town Council to explain the organization's recent Economic Impact Study. The study assessed data across 2024, and was released this April.

The delay, she said, was due to enlongated conversations between the consultants and the organization.

Truax started by reminding the room that she was hired in this newly created position just about a year ago. Then came the headline number: visitor spending was down .4% in 2024 from record year 2023.



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

JACK LUNCH

PUBLISHER

Now, I'm not the kind of person who confuses correlation with causation, but I do believe in statistical storytelling. And it feels, at the very least, a little fishy that the first year-over-year report under the first-ever community development director of MLT includes a decline - or at the very least stagnation - in the very metric MLT is built to promote.

So how much worse off would we be without MLT? The numbers she presented didn't exactly give a clear answer. Or do a particularly good job at assessing the community at all.

Take jobs, for instance. Truax said tourism only directly accounts for 39% of jobs in town.

"Doesn't it seem odd?" asked Mayor Chris Bubser, who was visibly puzzled the figure wasn't higher.

Truax explained that the study only counted jobs "directly" tied to tourism, meaning if your paycheck comes from a hotel or ski school, you're in. But if you're a plumber fixing the pipes in that hotel, or a teacher educating the children of ski instructors, you're not.

By that logic, one has to wonder whether Truax counted her own job. She probably couldn't.

"There's an awful lot of jobs in town that are not directly related, but would not exist without tourism," Councilmember Bill Sauser astutely observed.

"Precisely!" Truax nodded.

"I had this argument with a friend years ago who said he would never lose his job because he picked up trash," Sauser continued. "Well, there would be no trash without tourists, so while it doesn't count as a tourist related job, it is totally dependent on our tourism base."

Truax smiled and agreed—apparently oblivious to the fact that Sauser's point undermined the usefulness of the very data she was presenting. If tourism's true impact lies in the web of indirect jobs it sustains, then an "impact study" that ignores them isn't much of a study at all.

If your job is to prove that tourism is important, and therefore marketing tourism is important, this is not how I would go about it.

Decided to tuck Matthew Lehman's real estate market report highlights in here.

Year-to-date, the median home price is down 2% compared to 2024 and also down 2% from last month. The current YTD median sale is \$1,275,000, compared to \$1,300,000 last year and in July. The average home price has declined 4% year-over-year, and now sits at \$1,515,771. In August, there were six home sales. Current inventory stands at 30 homes, slightly below last month's 31.

Condo activity was more robust, with 24 sales in August. The year-to-date median condo price is \$810,250, up 11.8% from 2024 and 1% higher than last month's \$803,250. Inventory has inched upward, with 131 units available versus 129 in July.

Of note, there have been 148 condo sales to date. Twelve of those sales were in the Obsdian development at an average price of \$2.5 million. Take those sales out and the median condo price is up a more modest 4% over 2024.

Two of the most notable dynamics in today's market are:

Price Reductions: Of the 131 condos currently listed, 57 have seen price adjustments. Similarly, 14 of the 30 single-family homes have reduced their asking prices.

Challenging Negotiations: Deals are increasingly difficult to close. For example, the former Slocum's property, which was under contract for eight months, recently fell out of escrow. Rising insurance costs, HOA assessments, and construction/remodeling expenses continue to weigh heavily in negotiations.

Additionally, many sellers remain "rate-locked." With mortgage rates still nearly double what many owners currently enjoy, sellers are hesitant to part with their homes unless they achieve their desired price.

Ted Carleton *Jack of all Lunches*
760.937.4613 / lunch@thesheetnews.com

Paige Fisher *Writer*
sheetfisher@gmail.com

Ulla-Britt Libre *Writer*
libresheet@gmail.com

Harold Hartley *People Person*
hart6399@yahoo.com

Jon Klusmire *Curmudgeon*
jonklusmire@yahoo.com

Spike Todd *Beverage Consultant*
Box 8088, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.937.4613/jacklunch@yahoo.com
An adjudicated paper of general circulation. © 2025 The Sheet, all rights reserved.



ALAN KAWAGUCHI
5 years at Footloose

SEAN DUNCAN
8 years at Footloose



**LABOR DAY
TENT SALE**
AUGUST 21-24
AUGUST 28-31



**DEEP
DISCOUNTS
ON SUMMER GEAR**
(camping, hiking,
biking and more!)

**ONLINE
DEMO
BIKE SALE**
COMING SOON!

NEW
**25/26 WINTER
ARRIVALS!**



BRIANA THIBAUT
5 years at Footloose

LORA HEINER
3 years at Footloose



SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT HOURS

3043 MAIN STREET | MAMMOTH LAKES | FOOTLOOSESPORTS.COM | 760-934-2400

LETTERS

Mice in a bucket

Dear Editor,

At the August 20, Mammoth Council meeting, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife presented their data to profess their "success" [at wildlife management] equipped with lots of back-up personnel for support.

Personally knowing several of the people on Council, I think their intentions are genuinely for the good of our town. But I left the meeting feeling sad for our community with a bigger division placed between us (the people) and them. We are mere mice running circles in a bucket demanding better for our bears.

As they justified their treatment of Victor, the CDFW's well-orchestrated presentation left me with more questions than answers. Where are all the missing bears that lived in town for years? In their report CDWF said there are 40 bears in our four square miles of town that travel great distances in and out of the area. Where is this high density of bears now? They don't move with the abundance of food, shelter, water in our town as these lazy creatures utilize as little energy as possible to stay close to their resources. In their well orchestrated public relations presentation, CDWF reported that no bears have been killed in the last year. In my own limited knowledge, I contemplate the truth behind this as I am reminded

of Victor in addition to another bear that was killed in a trash bin behind Whiskey Creek after being tormented with pepper spray. There are credible reports of others. Why did they report the relationship between the CDFW and the Bishop Paiute Tribe, who consider our bears sacred, as confidential? What's the big secret?

Town Council, the Town Manager and Police Chief said using CDFW is the path they have absolutely adopted to control our bears despite our years of desperate cries that "we" want to do better, we want the best in the world to do the job. The fact is all of the bears former Wildlife Specialist Searles have trained are now dead, both from natural and unnatural causes. They learn behaviors from one generation to the next (verified by CDFW). Where does that leave us with the untrained juvenile bears with the longtime local ones gone missing? It's not in the CDFW protocol to "teach" bears proper behavior living in our town limits, only to collar/relocate them.

At least my question of why they won't hire Searles back was answered. He refused to sign a new contract cutting his time and wages in half. Who would agree to that? It's basically a way to fire someone without an insinuating lawsuit. The Town Manager failed to mention that to remedy his absence, they put three inexperienced public safety officers (some no longer employed) that included the now Code

Enforcement Officer from CDFW (who was cut-off at the town council meeting while saying he was reluctant to work for our town because of bad politics) in Searles's place. Doesn't sound like that saved the town much money. With these inexperienced officers, there was an expectation for them to utilize Searles's techniques that he spent a lifetime crawling through culverts, sleeping overnight in their habitats, studying behaviors, properly and humanely euthanizing and so much more to develop. You can't teach personality! The police chief admitted to using Searles's hazing techniques at the end of the meeting as well.

Searles's popular book "What The Bears Know" was just produced into a screenplay, which can very well be picked up as a movie. What fortunate marketing that will be for our town. Already so many people visit from around the world to be amongst our bears. Our tourists want to feel part of and included in the treasure chest of people of our community when they visit. Searles's "Mammoth, Don't Feed Our Bears" stickers are a perfect example of that. What fools we look like when we bench the Michael Jordan of our town. I bet the CDFW doesn't have bins full of diversion equipment to empower people to safely ward off the bears like Searles does. This empowered the people who wanted to feel like part of the solution. Instead CDFW justified baiting, trapping, tranquilizing, relocating (as

confused animals) and yes killing "our" bears. Perhaps they should focus on mouse populations that have actually killed more people in our community (Hantavirus) than any bear ever has. The peaceful black bear has never killed a person in Mammoth.

We can make this a win/win situation. We want Searles's on our side! Diverse backgrounds are what bring us together. You're rolling your eyes and saying it's impossible to ever hire Searles back. This is a waste of time, it will never happen. At the meeting, our former Mayor John Eastman suggested forming a committee and at least having Searles share his local knowledge for "interns" to do the work properly like he has in other communities. Having an unbending authoritative big government patrol our wildlife in our town is not/was not the intention when it was incorporated on August 20, 1984.

The bears are a symbol that make us better people as a community. Look at all of the bear statues and artwork that demonstrates that! Let's create relationships not barriers by listening to what the people want rather than making this harsh decision that we will absolutely only use CDFW to work with our bears. Let's never stop fighting for what is right. Kick out big government from our town, hire back the local GOAT of bear management.

Connie Lizza-Moyer
Mammoth Lakes



LABOR DAY SPECIAL!

OVER 50? You need to train with us!

- Ted & Tammy = 70 years of combined training expertise
- One-of-a-kind longevity training method
- Results! Long-term clients = fitness age 10+ years younger
- Individualized programs for everyone
- Gym memberships
- Day & weekly passes

info@teddski.com | 760-716-8773 | 126 Old Mammoth Rd. Suite 104



LOCATED INSIDE **John's PIZZA WORKS**

FRIENDLY MOUNTAIN ATMOSPHERE

OPEN DAILY 11:30am-late
NFL SUNDAYS Open 10am

HAPPY HOUR Mon-Fri
& During All NFL Games

OUTLAW SALOON SPORTS BAR

NFL SUNDAYS 10AM - 1PM

FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

BACON BREAKFAST BURRITO with Salsa & Serranos

2-TOPPING OMELETTE with Breakfast Potatoes

GRANDE QUESADILLA Asada/Pollo with Sour Cream & Salsa

BREAKFAST POTATOES Seasoned Diced Potatoes, Sautéed with Green & Red Bell Peppers

BLOODY MARYS • MIMOSA • SHOOTERS

NFL HAPPY HOUR

DISCOUNTS ON DRINKS & APPETIZERS DURING ALL GAMES

SALOON DINE-IN. SALES TAX/TOML TBID ASSESSMENT EXCL. PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY

3499 MAIN STREET, MAMMOTH LAKES • 760.934.4065
SEE OUR FULL MENU: WWW.JOHNSPIZZAWORKS.COM

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Am I okay?

Dear Editor,

... Thoughts from down here in hell's oven of recent issues in recent issues.

Inyo County Supervisors disrespecting the honor to two local vets memories (Sheet cover story, July 26) – How disgusting but so typical with their chicken s**t, “we can’t dishonor all by singling out just two.”

My dad enlisted the day after Pearl Harbor and saw water to land combat all the way to the end of the WWII in the South Pacific and would have loved to stop by that memorial.

Bishop Chamber of Commerce building and it’s soon to be an aquatic center - save it, period!

Reader Sharon Raven Clark – My new favorite local resident responder to The Sheet

Mono Lake – Time to get out my old dusty Save Mono Lake T-shirt!

Reader Alice Spafford – An 8 year old that makes more sense than Chris Bubser, the bear trapping mayor. Can an 8-year old be appointed pro-tem Mayor in a recall?

Bears – Never stop fighting for those who can’t. Once again, I voice my deep-est appreciation for Steve Searles.

I can’t wait to see what wisdom the Interagency Eastern Sierra Black Bear MIS-Management Team comes up with. I am sure that team will cost more than the annual \$40,000 that was deducted from the Whisperer’s pay check.

I find Klusmire to be quite funny – Am I okay?

Brad Orrico
Granada Hills

Friends furever!

Dear Mr. Lunch,

Thank you for putting me in your newspaper. I left the Big Pine shelter today to a real home in the mountains! You’re the best. Your friend furever,

Bullett

Putting the Onion out of business

Jack,

What were you thinking, regurgitating, without comment or further probing, when quoting the following government gobbledegook?

Town official: “The responsibility of managing wildlife lies with CDFW. It’s not the Town of Mammoth Lakes’ role. We are partners in that space, and certainly stewards of what happens in our community, but we’re not going to muscle in or take over responsibilities that belong to another agency.”

So, “not our responsibility but keep paying us tax dollars because we are “partners” in a “space” plus we are “stewards” albeit ones without any responsibility.” Followed by a state official stating that Sacramento has formed an

“Interagency team with the Town, Mono and Inyo counties, the Forest Service, and BLM” to “facilitate partnerships and feedback.”

So the Town dude says bear management is “not our responsibility” but then swears TOML is some sort of “steward” in a “space,” which means “keep paying us even though we disavow responsibility for things that matter to you.” Finger now rigidly pointed at the state, whose gas-lighting spox points rigid finger back at TOML who is a member of some sort of bureaucratic coffee klatch that “facilitates partnership and feedback.” But not, ap-

parently, accountability or responsibility.

That kind of obfuscating, pusillanimous bureaucratese wasn’t cutting it pre-Covid. Post-Covid, with the reputation and influence of government “experts” in the toilet (although not yet completely flushed owing to low-flow mandates), it’s mere parody. Which is too bad, because modern government BS like this is putting the hard-working writers of The Onion, the Babylon Bee, and other satire sites out of business.

John Rogitz
Mammoth Lakes

KILEY TOSSED IN THE LAKE (TAHOE)

The proposed California Congressional redistricting map would force current second-term Eastern Sierra GOP Congressman Kevin Kiley sink or swim in two blue hotspots: Lake Tahoe and Sacramento. The odds favor sinking, since the state’s Democrats drew the new map.

The proposed 3rd Congressional District would start in the Lake Tahoe area, then meander west (including Grass Valley, home of Democratic candidate Heidi Hall) and south to include a chunk of Sacramento (the Gerrymander dragon image does apply). The new 3rd would cut out Alpine, Mono and Inyo counties. Estimates show Kiley would have to compete in a new district that is 13% more blue/liberal/Dem than the current 3rd District, which leans GOP by about 4%.

If voters in November approve the Prop 50 redistricting map, the Eastern Sierra, without Tahoe, would be included in the 5th District. The Eastside would not be split in two, as in years

past. All of Alpine, Mono and Inyo would be in the new district. But a big chunk of Republican red land on the other side of the Sierra in the Central Valley will be added. That would create a huge swath of the state going from the border of Nevada to the outskirts of Modesto and Fresno (but not those purplish cities, and the district excludes the blue city of Merced).

Currently, Republican Tom McClintock represents the 5th District, and estimates show the redrawn 5th District would get a couple of percentage more right/red/GOP.

Also left out of the “new” 3rd District is the big chunk north of Tahoe up to Chester. That area would fall into a new 1st District, currently in GOP hands. The proposed district would sprawl from the Nevada line straight west to just short of the coast. The new district would see a new, blue tilt by 13% over the current district.

-Klusmire

Earn a Credit on your Electric Bill

with

Power Saver Rewards

Visit High Sierra Energy Foundation's booth at the Tri-County Fair



★ August 28-31

★ Bishop, CA

PowerSaverRewards.org







Live MUSIC 2025

AT TIOGA GAS MART

THU, JUN 12 TH	6PM-9PM		THE TWO TRACKS
THU, JUN 26 TH	6PM-9PM		TRACORUM
SUN, JUL 20 TH	3PM-6PM		BODIE 601
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
SUN, SEP 7 TH	3PM-6PM		HEY BLACKBIRD

KLUSMIRE

NEVER AGAIN IS NOW

The Trump Administration's attempts to whitewash some aspects of American history are a personal affront to families who endured one of the many ugly chapters in the nation's past. And it is critical to speak out, challenge and fight back against efforts to erase parts of the past that don't fit the glorified view of America. That sanitized view does not include when America's leaders and people fell far short of its ideals. Many of those glaring scars include gross violations of basic civil rights. That message was delivered with pas-

sion and a touch of anger by speakers in front of the barbed wire fence and the white, iconic "Soul Consoling Tower" in the cemetery at the Manzanar National Historic Site on Saturday. The speakers and an audience of 80 were there to condemn attempts by the Trump administration to rewrite the nation's history. Their concern and passion reinforced the sense that history has a long arc and past attempts to bend history to fit an ideology have turned out to be a fool's errand. But it does take a willingness to fight to

preserve a factual and unvarnished view of the past. Those ready to engage in that battle showed up at Manzanar. The "false narrative and lies" about "threats to national security" that led the US Government to using U.S. Army troops to tear 120,000 Japanese Americans away from their homes, businesses and communities are being used today, said Bruce Embrey president of the Manzanar Committee. For more than five decades, "No More Manzanars, Never Again" has been the rallying cry of the non-profit Manzanar Committee,

whose mission stresses learning from history and not repeating the mistakes of the past. That mission has taken on a sense of urgency. "Never Again is Now," Embrey and other speakers emphasized. Masked ICE "troops" swarm and terrorize communities and forcibly detain immigrants and families, including children, without due process because of their skin color or the language they speak, Embrey noted. Then "detainees" are held in "inhuman prison camps."

"How is this different than 1942?" he asked, when his mother Sue Embrey, a co-founder of the Manzanar Committee, was forced to leave her home and was incarcerated at Manzanar.

In fact, the Trump Administration is "using the same law, the Alien Enemies Act of 1798" to target immigrants, said Embrey. That law was cited in President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which approved the forced removal and "internment" of West Coast Japanese after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Similarly, Trump's string of Executive Orders are the basis for his attempts to "revise" and in some cases hide aspects of the nation's history.

"They want to erase our community, our story, because it negates their story," Embrey said. "But we will not allow our history to be disappeared or erased."

"People and Places Will Not Be Erased" declared the poster next to the speakers. The poster featured a photo of a young Japanese American woman, Fumiko Hayashida, carrying her baby, Natalie, during their forced removal from their home in Bainbridge Island, Washington, in 1942. They ended up, like about 120,000 other Americans of Japanese descent, incarcerated in 10 "camps" spread across the nation for the duration of WW II.

Another photo of a mother and young children was held up by one of the speakers, Pat Sakamoto. The photo was on the cover of the 2015 Manzanar Pilgrimage Program. Pat Sakamoto is in the photo being carried by her mother, Kazuko "Koo" Sakamoto, dressed in a tailored dress suit and hat, and an older sister Janice. They were leaving Manzanar in November of 1945 after being incarcerated there with about 10,000 others. Pat's mother was seven months pregnant when she was forced to leave her home in Boyle Heights, and take buses and trains to Manzanar, where she gave birth to Pat. The sidewalks and foundation of the Manzanar Hospital where she was born remain.

They cannot be erased. Sakamoto's mom, like many of her generation, would not talk much about her time at camp and the indignities endured. "It was too hurtful ... there's nothing to talk about," Pat quoted her mother as saying.

But that part of both of their lives was unavoidable. And the next generation took it on themselves to share their parents' stories about camp life and its impacts. "I promised to be my mom's voice" in the debate over how to present



LET ME QUOTE YOUR ROOFING MATERIAL
Ask about HCL's **NEW COMPETITIVE PRICES.**
- SAL SANTANA -

WE CARRY SHINGLES & METAL ROOFING



VISIT THE CONTRACTOR SALES DESK FOR A FREE QUOTE & ROOFING MATERIAL, STYLES AND COLOR DISPLAYS

PREPARE FOR WINTER & SAVE
Sale Ends 9/15/25 - Valid While Supplies Last



Golden Fire Pellets Has Started
\$460 Per Ton (50 Bags)
Curb Side Delivery \$480 Per Ton



HCL
HIGH COUNTRY LUMBER
EMPLOYEE OWNED SINCE 2022

BISHOP 444 South Main Street OPEN MON-FRI: 7AM-6PM, SAT: 8AM-5PM, SUN: 9AM-3PM
MAMMOTH 243 Sierra Manor Road OPEN MON-FRI: 7AM-5PM, SAT: 8AM-3PM, SUN: 8AM-1PM
(760) 873-5874 | HighCountryLumber.com



LOCAL NEWS

BOTTLE BABIES

By Klusmire

America is a thirsty nation and Crystal Geyser want to help slake that thirst.

The bottled water giant is planning a major expansion of its Olancha water operations, adding a 124,000 square foot building that will house two “bot-tling lines” and warehouse space. That’s on top of several buildings covering roughly 300,000 square feet in Olancha currently treating and bottling millions of gallons of Inyo County’s “natural al-pine spring water,” as the Crystal Geyser marketing tagline proclaims.

In a bit of twist, maybe even a lemon

twist, the new plant will also produce some “flavored mineral water.” That idea has been quietly lurking for 20 years and first gurgled up the corporate ladder in 2005, when a similar plant was ap-proved by Inyo County, but never built.

Apparently, flavored water was an idea too good to let dry up and blow away.

Crystal Geyser Roxanne has sub-mitted its plans to Inyo County and is requesting, once again, a number of fairly routine land use maneuvers and permission to ship water out of the county (the ghost of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power hovers over all water-related issues in the county). The county has hired a con-sultant to complete the Environmental Impact Report for the project.

The “new” water plant will be fed nat-

ural alpine spring water from existing groundwater production wells on the site that are currently idle. Any ground-water pumping raises eyebrows in Inyo County, which watches LADWP ship out hundreds of thousands of acre feet of Owens Valley water to Los Angeles a year. Crystal Geyser estimates the new plant will only use about 410-acre feet a year. An acre foot is roughly 326,000 gallons of water, so we’re talking close to 134 million gallons of water. The math whizzes amongst us can figure out how many 12-ounce bottles of water that will supply.

Once the plant is up and running, the company estimates it will need an addi-tional 45 employees, with some season-al variation in total workers. About 40 semi-trucks a day will rumble out of the new plant, the company estimates.

The Grant Ranch Project, as Crystal Geyser calls it, will also include about 64,000 square feet of paved roads, parking lots, truck loading and staging area, the company notes in the project description submitted to the county. The new operation will be located on a 104-acre parcel at the former Grant Ranch and the mostly invisible commu-nity of Grant, thus the name. Duh.

Now the bureaucratic nitty-gritty.

Crystal Geyser applied for and received various land use and zoning approvals and completed an EIR for this plant in 2005. However, the plant wasn’t built and the approvals and EIR lapsed. The company is asking for the same land use changes: a General Plan Amendment, rezoning of the parcel to Light Indus-trial and Conditional Use Permit for the plant itself. Plus, a Conditional Use Per-mit will be required to allow the com-pany to ship water out of the county.

Inyo County recently approved a \$475,000 contract with Helix Envi-ronmental Planning, Inc., to prepare the EIR. Crystal Geyser has agreed to pay the county \$545,000 to cover the contract and all other county costs for the EIR.

No timeline has been provided for completion of the EIR or construction of the new plant. If it is built, it will bolster Crystal Geyser’s profile in Inyo County, where it began operations with its first plant in Olancha in 1990. The local operation has expanded numerous times while the company also expanded nationwide. Crystal Geyser is among the top four Inyo County property taxpay-ers, alongside LADWP, Xanterra’s Death Valley lodging and commercial opera-tions, and Coso Geothermal.



free live music
music starts at 9:30PM

8/1 & 8/2
bluesapalooza after party VIP jam
w/ **Crooked Eye Tommy**

8/8 & 8/9
Crooked Stuff Live Band DJ Mash up!
Disco Punk for the People!

8/15
Bicicletas por La Paz
World Music Fusion

8/16
FELT Cutouts
Original Americana

8/22 & 8/23
Renegades of Rage
premier RAIM tribute

8/29 & 8/30
Chuck Treece
legendary Skater & music producer mash up!

8/31
Deltaphonic
The Crossroads of southern rock & Nola funk

KARAOKE EVERY TUESDAY
AT 10PM

EVERY WEDNESDAY
4-6
JAZZ SAX ON THE PATIO

MAIN STREET
MAMMOTH
LIBERTY_SPORTS_BAR_AND_GRILL

Chalfant Big Trees
Farm and Feed

Open Air Market

Sat, SEPTEMBER 6th, 9am-3pm

Chalfant Big Trees Farm and Feed
is hosting a fantastic open-air market
featuring amazing vendors, exciting raffles,
delicious snacks, and refreshing drinks!

In-Stock Inventory Sale!
25% OFF Evergreen, Shade & Fruit Trees
September 5th, 6th, & 7th

395 Hunter Ave. Chalfant Valley CA 93514 | (760) 873-7129

the real sheet

Your Guide to Local Real Estate

TO RABBLE, OR NOT TO RABBLE?

By Paul Oster

Q: It looks like tourism is down in Mammoth Lakes (and many other places too). Do you anticipate that this will bring local real estate values down too? What other interesting themes are you seeing in the market?

A: From the street level, tourism in the summer of 2025 is ostensibly slower. I noted this trend starting last fall. I still hear people complaining about the crowds. And the local real estate market is indeed slower. Transaction volumes are down. The overall number of inquiries is down. Some members of the local real estate industry are enjoying the slowdown after the last five years. However, the local market is far from dead and there are some notable trends.

The inventory of listings is up, but not to an extreme. Okay, year-over-year the listing volume (condo and homes) is up about 30%. This may sound like a lot, but the numbers from a year ago weren't that large to begin with. And relative, to say the late 1990s, not even close. Today's condo inventory is less than 130. In the late 1990s the Labor Day Weekend would see ~350 condos on the market. And the current inventory includes new (and unfinished) units at the Limelight

and The Reserve. It also includes previously un-marketed units at Outbound.

The single-family listings are up, but the inventory is cluttered with some very stale listings in the high-end, some greatly compromised properties on the low-end, and sellers who will sell only "if they get their price." One of the notable trends has been the strong market for decent homes around \$1M. As winter approaches, this market is likely to be even stronger.

Unsurprisingly, condos through the whole price range in Snowcreek are selling. Historically, they are popular "summer sales." There have been some rather exceptional Snowcreek properties that have come to market—including some with incredible locations and settings. And a little surprising, condos with close proximity to the chairlifts, aka ski-in and ski-out, that are typically "winter sales" have been selling well through this summer. This could accelerate as we head towards the winter season. And almost oddly, there are increasing "bargains" in the single-family vacant lot market. This is a "thin" part of the Mammoth market but some quality (very buildable) lots are seeing price reductions. There is no

doubt the high cost of construction has frustrated some of these once hopeful owners.

A downturn in tourism in Mammoth may be completing an interesting cycle for many long-time residents, second homeowners and visitors. And almost laughingly, I hear about it frequently from my peers. It might just be a sign of growing old. The bottom line is that Mammoth is far more enjoyable with fewer tourists. It was that way many years ago. Back then, there were those who argued for less tourism over the years, but business owners and others in the community who were taking risks wanted more tourism, more business. It was about survival. The Town certainly bought in. And the real estate interests certainly wanted it. The boom era of local print media (pre-The Sheet) was all about real estate advertising and "Good Times."

The Mammoth community has spent great effort and dollars to attract high levels of tourism since the incorporation in 1984 (Mammoth was especially sleepy in the summer back then). Mammoth envisioned having things like regular music events, ice rinks, theaters, bike

paths and on and on (workforce housing wasn't an issue). All of it would certainly bring increased prosperity. And it did.

For a price. Today, local business owners don't seem as desperate or always on the verge of going out of business. Nobody seems to be in "survival mode" like so much of the past. Most Mammoth business owners who close their businesses today do so because they are simply tired of snow or realize that they have sacrificed too much of their recreation time.

But to answer the question, less tourism isn't likely to make local real estate less valuable. It could make it more valuable. It does in my mind. And many past visitors may return to Mammoth if they discover it is less crowded. Is this potentially a new marketing campaign?—"You can come back and enjoy Mammoth, everybody is gone!" I know the vacations I take are far more enjoyable when there is less demand and fewer people.

There was a recent CNN article on over-tourism in Europe. The headline read, "the locals are getting fed up, they don't want the rabble anymore" (I had to check the dictionary because I wanted to make sure what "rabble" actually

more OSTER, page 11

Appliances

IN-STOCK

Delivery

Installation

Haul-Away

Sub-Zero • Wolf • Cove
GE • Whirlpool • Samsung • Danby
SpeedQueen • Maytag • Bosch • Café
KitchenAid • frigidaire • Electrolux
Viking • Amana • LG

WOLF
SUB-ZERO
COVE

A Higher Standard™

Fall Stove Sale

Receive 1 Ton of Pellets Delivered

FREE

with any pellet stove purchase between
September 1 - October 31 (value of \$570)

Shop Local
Shop Trends

590 S Main St, Bishop | 760.873.5874 | highcountrylumber.com
Showroom Hours: Monday thru Friday 8AM-5PM & Saturday 9AM-3PM

TRENDS
by
HIGH COUNTRY LUMBER

OSTER

continued from page 10

meant—a disorderly crowd; a mob). Mammoth has had its share in the past few years. Europeans are especially blaming social media for highlighting certain locations or attractions, and now the crowds are unbearable. One quote from a local resident, “You can recover, but it takes time.” Another, “It’s much easier for a destination to control its growth rather than repair it afterwards.” Maybe Mammoth is in repair mode.

Sure, there will be some STR owners who are squeezed financially. We’re already seeing some of this. They overestimated their revenues and/or underestimated their expenses. The Airbnb fad of the past few years wasn’t so profound here in Mammoth. STR was here long before the trend and will be here for many years to come. And some STR owners have quit (sold) simply because running an STR can become incredibly time consuming and was far beyond what they expected, or wanted.

The current STR market has evolved into an interesting position. If lower revenue motivates the sale of an existing STR (it is already happening at a minor level), new buyers have an opportunity to purchase a remodeled property—“ready to use and/or rent.” Many have been improved very nicely and quite thoughtfully. Buyers get to finance the improvements and avoid the time, hassle and expense of putting the property into prime condition. Savvy buyers are recognizing this opportunity and the value of such properties, especially if they can get it at the right price.

More fortunate STR owners who aren’t forced to sell have more access and availability to their property (maybe they have shot at the prime powder days). After all, usage is still the primary reason to own an STR in Mammoth.

Interestingly, there have been some recent listings of Studio units at Mountain Shadows. These are “turn-key” properties in nice STR condition with proven track records of successful rental. They can be purchased in the mid-to-high \$300,000 range. These sized units in this project have a solid history of STR success. Obviously, the ROI was better when they could be purchased for less than \$200,000. But again, it is about usage here in Mammoth.

What really is somewhat fascinating is comparing these units to the similar Studio units at the Westin Monache that typically sell for \$50-75,000 more. They are similar in size and utility. With one you are tucked away downtown and are mingled with plenty of local residents. The other, well you’re at the Westin, in the Village. The hotel shuttle will even take you down to the Gondola so you can avoid the stairs. And the pool is open all winter. The financial numbers (ROI) are probably a push for owning each. But they are completely different experiences. Of course, the guests pay more to stay at the Westin. But in the market, this adds little value to the real estate.

Meanwhile, the Mammoth market is not seeing any significant levels of stress. Just look to the Village and you will see the hotels under construction. The marginal buyers of the past five years still made real down payments (does anybody remember negative amortization loans?). Whether we like it or not, the “haves” still have strong interest in Mammoth and the Aspenification of town this

isn’t likely to change. Mammoth is surviving, maybe thriving, on the wealth gap our country is experiencing. The IKON Pass has turned fresh snow days almost manic. “No friends on a powder day” has become “all fiends on a powder day.” This exuberant level of specific tourism transcends the general trend.

And lastly, the emergence of the new “buyer broker” representation rules a year ago combined with a slower market have made for some interesting market dynamics. I doubt if many consumers have taken note. The agents representing buyers under the new rules are still being compensated for their efforts. The end results haven’t changed, just the structure. Some could argue that the buyer’s agents have taken a more important role

in the transaction. Others are suggesting their feet are being held to the fire. And of note, a slower market can create extraordinary motivation for the agents who didn’t save or invest in the recent good times of the market. Buyer beware.

And seller beware too. Many popular seller’s agents have large business related expenses including costly affiliations and referral obligations. Listing agents still have a strong hold on the business environment. Some are reducing (some call it discounting) commissions to remain competitive. Real estate values have risen in so many markets that it is easy to justify. But the lower transaction volume and their expenses can create levels of extraordinary motivation.

All of this is the changing the push

and pull of the real estate market and industry. The post-Covid era is gone. In light of lower commissions, sellers can expect stronger pressure from their agent for post-listing price reductions. Almost automatically. “Selling on price” is beginning to once again outrun the classic “selling on features and benefits” in this market. Recent listing cancellations and withdrawals have proven some sellers are rejecting this strategy. More motivated sellers are on-board with this aggressive price discovery. But it won’t uphold values in certain segments of the market.

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX of Mammoth (celebrating 35 years). For other timely real estate information you can go to www.MammothRealEstate-Blog.com.

HELL YEAH, I’m back – and better than ever!

Let’s get you home!

naf newamerican
FUNDING



**NOW WITH NEW AMERICAN FUNDING AND
OUTSIDE THE BOX LENDING PRODUCTS, I HAVE
MORE WAYS TO MEET ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE
LENDING NEEDS.**

Doug Magit

Loan Consultant
NMLS #459888

☎ (760) 914-0674

✉ douglas.magit@nafinc.com

🌐 naf.com/dougmagit



Equal Housing Opportunity. *New American Funding paid a fee to appear in this ad. This is not a loan commitment or guarantee of any kind. Terms and conditions apply. Subject to borrower and property qualifications. Not all applicants will qualify. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. All mortgage loan products are subject to credit and property approval. © New American Funding, LLC. NMLS #6606. nmlsconsumeraccess.org. Corporate office 14511 Myford Rd., Ste 100, Tustin, CA 92780. NAF.com. Phone: (800) 450-2010. NMLS #6606.

ARTS

LADY-LIKE

By Libre

On Saturday, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Jenny Kane will have her first independent exhibit at the grand opening of the Mono Arts Council Gallery's new location. This is a big step for the local Bishop -based artist, who currently serves as a teaching artist for the Mono Arts Council.

"I've helped probably hundreds of other artists with their careers through my job at the Arts Council. I started to realize, oh, I've never actually invested in my own work like this," Kane told The Sheet in an interview on Wednesday.

Her work was previously featured in group shows, but said she had never put effort into getting her art out on the solo stage.

The exhibit will center around Kane's piece "The Painted Lady." It's a hyper-realistic painting that uses big, smooth brush strokes to render the Painted Lady peak in Kings Canyon National Park purple and majestic. Moreover, it's a piece about her journey with the mountain, her journey becoming a painter, and the transitions she's been through. Each of the other pieces in the exhibit draw on similar themes, and are intended for the viewer to explore their own connections to landscapes.

"There's so much happening for every

person in terms of the subtleties of experiences, between our close partners, our family members, and then take that in the context of your relationship with the landscape you're in," she said. "I feel like you can evoke a kind of access to the subtle layers of people's consciousness through color and brush strokes."

For every piece in the exhibit, she used mixed media: acrylics, recycled house paint, wood and canvas. She subtly included pieces of her grandmother's thread, who passed away when she was working on this show, alluding to the generational pull art has on her.

Kane's earliest memories all include art. There's the ones of her grandmother taking her to ceramics classes when she was three years old, and her mother encouraging her to experiment in the kitchen. There's the chalk pastels, the early art classes, the colored stamps and wearable pins she would sell to her friends.

"I just loved making things and getting them out in the world," Kane said.

The 42 year old LA native majored in art in college and simultaneously received an elementary teaching credential. Her dream was to both be an artist and to teach her craft to children. But Kane quickly became disillusioned with

this path. She began to write poetry instead. She found her passion in guiding backpacking trips.

When her dad passed in her early twenties, Kane turned back to art.

"I just felt like I wasn't able to find the words anymore," she said. "Color has so many healing properties that I'm still learning."

Kane began to paint hyper realistic and surrealistic landscapes. She found art was a way for her to pause, to be vulnerable, without having to use verbal language. She took time to paint during each guided trip for art.

"I was taking every moment I had in the mountains to paint in my sketch-books," she said.

It wasn't until 15 years ago, when a client peered over shoulder and asked if they could buy her piece, that she realized she could build a career out of art

At the time, Kane was living in Joshua Tree. She went back to school for an MFA in social practice, which she described as the idea of taking art and art principles outside of the gallery, the classroom, and the studio, and implementing it in the community. She began working in public and community engagement projects, advocating to connect art to social justice issues. Kane then worked as the

nonprofit director of an Arts Council in San Bernardino County.

After guiding in the Sierra during the summers for the past fifteen years, Kane wanted more of the mountains. She wanted proximity to water. Kane moved to Bishop six years ago and has since worked for the Mono Arts Council. It's the first time she's taught art since college.

"For every artist, there's a desire to share or translate what you've experienced. For a long time, I've been running away from that," Kane said. "This show is me owning that I am a good artist, instead of diminishing my own work."

Kane's exhibit will be featured in the Mono Arts Council Gallery and Community Art Center until November. Stop by. Maybe you, too, will feel like a painted lady.

TAX PREP, BOOKKEEPING
& PLANNING SERVICES

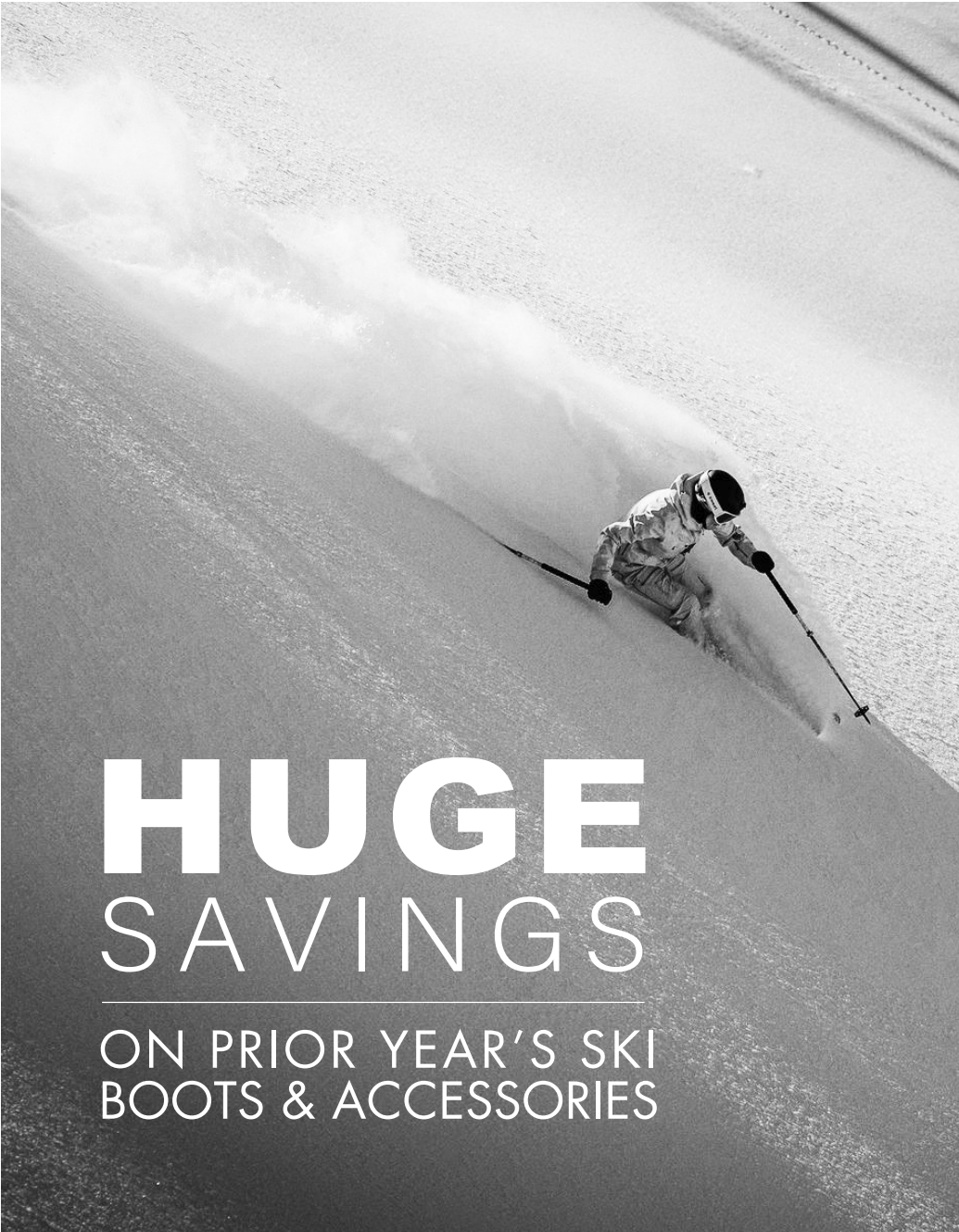
REGISTERED WITH SAM.GOV FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING



www.bb-advisorsfirm.com (747)-307-4715



Cory Barron
Enrolled Agent



HUGE
SAVINGS

ON PRIOR YEAR'S SKI
BOOTS & ACCESSORIES



LABOR DAY SALE

AUG 29-SEP 1 | 9AM - 6PM

Mammoth

760-924-8333

6201 Minaret Rd.



surefoot.com



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



FOR FULL DETAILS SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO:
VisitMammoth.com/Events
ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR CANCELLATION



BUSINESS

LUNCH'S FAVORITE SHOPPING TREND - EASY

By Lunch

Two weekends ago, I moved my daughter into her off-campus apartment for the year. This involved driving down to Temecula, loading up the truck, and then caravanning over to Calabasas and unloading furniture into a postage stamp of a 2 BDR (for three) which rents for the screaming low price of \$3,559/month.

My youngest joined me for the trip on the promise of shopping - there's nothing the girls seem to enjoy more than an evening on the town with Daddy Plastic.

So we get to the nearby mall in Thousand Oaks, park and head into Macy's.

Which sucks by the way. Near the dressing rooms, they had three sales racks which I swear they must have ripped off from an Eastern Sierra thrift store.

But what they did have - the one redeeming feature of that zombie retailer - was a couch. So I could sit and read a book.

The hipper stores likely didn't feel they could afford to dedicate floor space to a couch. But I'm telling you right now they would've done more business.

Kristi Rowley of the now-defunct Tonik boutique in Mammoth had a couch She knew what she was doing.

I hate shopping. I hate spending five

minutes on it. And I hate having to stand while I do it.

With that as prologue ...

I'm at Trends Inside Out in Bishop on Wednesday talking to store manager Martha Piatt when a customer I know, Virginia Thorsen, walks in.

She starts speaking the equivalent of French - and in fact, she wants a counter-depth French door refrigerator.

And she wants the refrigerator delivered to her house, the refrigerator in the house to be moved to the barn, and the refrigerator in the barn, which has just died a slow death after two decades of stout service, needs to go to the refrigerator morgue.

Why did Virginia start her shopping process at Trends?

"I want to support local business. I've known Martha forever. And I don't want to drive."

Trends is a full-service appliance dealer and carries most major brands. It is also the exclusive local dealer of high-end appliances by Sub-Zero, Wolf and Cove.

Anyway, Virginia had multiple floor models to choose from. And Trends offers install/removal service so it was happy to play musical refrigerators.



Virginia Thorsen

And due to a cancellation, they could get it all done that day.

The transaction was completed in less than ten minutes.

Now that is my kind of place.

**Note to management: I still think you should invest in a couch, though the counter stool is acceptable.*

A few more things you should know about Trends as summer eases itself out the door.

In the months of September and October, if you purchase a pellet stove they'll toss in one free ton of pellets.

They sell wood, pellet and gas stoves and are running a stove promo beginning Sept. 1.

If you need your stove serviced before the season gets started, book it now. Standard service runs \$195.

Trends is part of the High Country Lumber family and has been employee-owned since 2022.

Trends is also Bishop's neighborhood U-Haul dealer, a service which Piatt says is offered as a convenience to locals.

Other conveniences: The Trends building on South Main is being revamped and is now comfortably climate-controlled.

Trends will convert gas appliances to LP.

Trends offers senior discounts on installations.

Keep your family and community healthy. Get help to quit tobacco.

Did you know?

Tobacco companies target rural communities with cheaper products and fight against secondhand smoke policies. Because of this, adults in rural areas:



Are more likely to **smoke cigarettes and use smokeless tobacco products.**¹



Have a **higher chance of developing lung cancer.**²

What happens after you quit smoking?³

1 DAY The risk of heart attack begins to decrease.

1 MONTH Lung function begins to improve.

1 YEAR Risk for heart disease decreases by half.



Sources:

- Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2020). 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Table 2.22B.
- Hofer BM, et al. (2019). Rural-Urban Variations in Cancer Incidence, Detection, and Survival in California.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2004). The Health Consequences of Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General

© 2022. California Department of Public Health. Funded under contract #21-10001.J997 - 09/21



Free Help to Quit Tobacco

KICK IT CALIFORNIA

Call **1-800-300-8086**

Visit **kickitca.org**

Text **"Quit Smoking"** or **"Quit Vaping"** to **66819**

Download the free **No Butts or No Vape mobile apps**

Sponsored by Mono County Tobacco Education Program

BEARS

continued from page 1

In the process, Hope turned on a gas stove burner, nearly causing a fire. A CDFW staffer detected the odor of gas, called 911, and helped avert disaster. Eventually, Hope and Bounce climbed up a nearby tree.

The BEAR League responded to the announcement by urging residents on social media to “witness” the situation, an action the department later said “erroneously inflamed the situation.”

As a CDFW employee fired paintballs at the bears, a crowd gathered in front of the house. “Get out of South Lake Tahoe, Department of Fish and Wildlife!” the protesters yelled, according to a report by SFGate.

Under public pressure, CDFW reversed course, withdrawing plans to euthanize Hope, and said it will instead monitor both bears. That said, the bear remains designated a “problem bear,” and trapping efforts are ongoing.

To understand the standoff, it helps to know the BEAR League’s role. In Tahoe, they are the equivalent of Steve Searles in Mammoth — bear sympathizers, whistleblowers, and critics of CDFW.

But it wasn’t always that way.

“We invited [CDFW] to our meetings. We had them help us train our volunteers. We even invited them to some of our volunteer parties,” Bryant said.

That early partnership led to cub rehabilitation centers and new depredation standards. Over time, though, Bryant said the relationship soured. The agency grew hostile, dismantling what she deemed progress and treating the League as adversaries. She said

she watched a pattern emerge: bears trapped, tagged, dubbed “conflict bears,” and eventually killed.

The divide, she said, is ideological.

“How can you promote hunting and also promote respect for these animals?” she pondered. “They belong here. They’re part of our environment. They deserve to live. It’s one or the other.”

Even the way the animals are named reflects the divide. The League gives Tahoe’s bears nicknames; CDFW reduces them to collar numbers.

“We [the locals] get to know the bears personally,” Bryant said. “They’re all individual, they’re all unique. They each have personalities just like humans do.”

Today, Bryant said she still meets weekly with a CDFW official, but no longer trusts the agency.

“They make up their rules as they go along. They answer to no one,” she said.

She argues that prevention, not trapping, is the real solution. The League hands out literature urging people not to feed bears and staffs a “bear emergencies” hotline, but Bryant doesn’t see CDFW doing the same.

“You see our literature everywhere,” she said. “They don’t have any.”

Time and time again, people have rallied behind activists like Bryant and Searles in defense of the bears. In 1998, the department killed a Tahoe mother bear, “Natalie,” causing uproar from the locals. Last year, it was “Victor” who sparked the outcry in Mammoth.

Now, “Hope” is the latest reminder of the cycle, and, to activists, a warning of what may soon unfold in Mammoth.

OBITUARY

MARY ‘JO’ JOSEPHINE BUTLER CORE

1935 - 2025

Jo grew up in Paris, Arkansas where she met her childhood sweetheart, Jim. When they were young, Jo’s family left Arkansas for Oregon and Jim’s family moved to Ventura County. They reconnected in high school where they ultimately married. While Jo raised the kids, Jim grew up in the ranks of the title business, when they, together with son Jerry, bought and created Inyo-Mono Title Company in 1983. Many remember Jo as being Jim’s personal secretary for the Title Company’s Mammoth office and together they helped arrange construction financing for Mammoth’s regrowth for forty years. Jo and Jim were married for 57 years at Jim’s passing in 2010.

Jo is preceded in death by husband, James “Jim” Core, Mother, Lesta Rhea Hice, Father, Loyd Garner Butler, Brothers: Bobby Hice and Melvin Hice.

Jo is survived by: Son, Jerry and



Debbie Core, Daughter, Judy and Rick Markham, Sister, Beverly German. 5 Grandchildren: Michael Core, James Markham (Tori), Michelle Forbis (Les), Tyler Core (Breanna), Julie Tillemans (Tony) and the joy of her heart, 11 Great Grandchildren.

CHAMPS RELOAD

By Fisher

Last year, the Huskies captured their first-ever CIF Central Division championship, but lost eight seniors to graduation. This season, it’s a young squad, leaning on just three senior leaders and a core of underclassmen to defend its title.

“I have no doubt we will score points,” Head Coach Dale Knott said of the team. “It’s just a matter of how many points we give up.”

Though this is Knott’s first year at the helm, he’s been with the program for four years as an assistant. His son, Tanner Knott, was among last season’s senior standouts. This year, DJ Gray, Eli Erickson, and Luis Hernandez are the only seniors.

One of Knott’s biggest challenges, he said, has been scheduling home games. Few teams are willing to give Mammoth a home-field advantage, and this fall the Huskies have only three home games lined up. Last year, the team had five home games.

That absence matters. The Huskies thrive on Mammoth’s elevation and the energy of their fans.

Knott believes the reason for the other team’s avoidance is that they are intimidated by the Huskies now that they’ve got a title.

“We’ve been offering to pay them money and give them free lodging at Motel 6, but it’s hard to find teams who will travel here,” Knott said.

This poses another challenge: cost. The

program must raise significant money to support this travel-heavy schedule (or expense-heavy schedule if they pay teams to play locally.) Plus, the team went to a pre-season football camp and needs its helmets reconditioned, so expenses are already mounting.

The team hopes it can raise a lot of money at the upcoming Husky Fest golf tournament, which is a fundraiser for all Mammoth High School sports. Knott is actively brainstorming other fundraisers the team can do to benefit the football team directly.

“We’re the program that’s going to need the most funding this year,” he said.

Despite these challenges, Knott remains optimistic. He believes the Huskies have the talent and leadership to defend their title, earn recognition from college scouts, and prove themselves against higher-ranked programs.

He was disappointed that Mammoth finished only eighth in the state among 8-man teams last season, and hopes to climb higher this year by testing his squad against 11-man opponents.

“This is the year we want to end up first in our state, finally,” Knott said. “To show that it’s not a fluke.”

The Huskies started that campaign on a high note last Friday, defeating the Desert Scorpions, an 11-man team, by a decisive 76-6 score. The players will compete in the Fresno Christian Showcase this weekend, and play Santa Clarita Christian the week following.

MAMMOTH GRAN FONDO TRAFFIC & TRANSIT ADVISORY FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

MAMMOTH LAKES, CA – The Mammoth Gran Fondo road bike ride hosted by the Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation (MMCF) will take place on Saturday, September 6, 2025 with approximately 1,500 cyclists expected to participate.

The start and finish line of this road bike ride are located in The Village on Canyon Blvd. As a result, a section of Canyon Blvd between Lake Mary Rd and Hillside Dr will be closed from 5AM to 8PM. During this time frame, the bus stops in The Village on Canyon Blvd will be inaccessible, which will impact several public transit routes. The Mammoth Scenic Loop will also be temporarily closed from 8AM to 9:15AM.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES TO THE STOPS ON THE FOLLOWING ROUTES FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025:

MAMMOTH BIKE PARK SHUTTLE

NEW STOP: Pick-up/drop-off will be at stop #18 on Minaret Rd across the street from Old New York Deli.

LAKES BASIN TROLLEY (ESTA)

NEW STOP: Pick-up/drop-off will be at the Village/Minaret stop in front of Toomey’s.

PURPLE/TEAL LINE (ESTA)

NEW STOP: Pick-up/drop-off will be at the Village/Minaret stop in front of Toomey’s.

TOWN TROLLEY (ESTA)

NEW STOP: Pick-up/drop-off will be at stop #18 on Minaret Rd across the street from Old New York Deli, as well as at the regular Village/Minaret stop in front of Toomey’s.

On Saturday, September 6 SR 120 starting at Dross Road to Benton Crossing Road will be closed from 8AM to 1PM. Benton Crossing Road to HWY 395 will be closed starting at 8M to 3PM. Please plan travel within the area with these closures in mind.

PLEASE WELCOME RIDERS TO OUR COMMUNITY BY SHARING THE ROAD AND MAINTAINING THREE FEET BETWEEN YOUR VEHICLE AND A CYCLIST AT ALL TIMES

A full schedule of all road closures and traffic delays as well as more information about the Mammoth Gran Fondo road bike ride can be found online at MammothGranFondo.com.

Contact Stuart Brown, Public Information Officer at (760) 965-3696 or call ESTA Dispatch at (760) 924-3184 for additional information.



CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAW

Sanford Horowitz

805-452-7214

sandy@horowitzforlaw.com

PROTECTING LEGAL RIGHTS IMPROVING PEACE OF MIND

3293 Main St Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

SERVING MAMMOTH LAKES, BISHOP, AND THE EASTERN SIERRA

RATES
continued from page 1

replacements, water well improvements, and equipment/vehicle purchases. Similarly, the draft Sewer CIP wants \$2.8 million between 2026 and 2030. These include deferred maintenance, collection system rehabilitation, and preparation for the new consolidated regional Bishop Area Wastewater Authority (BAWA) treatment plan development.

These improvements are necessary, Gamino argued. She stated that the city does not currently have the funds. “Infrastructure is aging. It’s decrepit. And it takes a lot of money and resources to fix,” she said.

“We’re not in a terrible spot, but we’re at a spot where the capital improvements are needed. The current rate structure is not just not going to come close to covering what needs to be done,” City Manager Deston Dishion echoed in an interview with The Sheet on Tuesday. Dishion is the former Bishop City public works director.

Monday night’s presentation outlined three different options to fund these projects. The first, low option, minimizes the immediate impact to ratepayers. This option deferred certain projects and does not fully fund the CIP. It does, however, carry the greatest long term risks, according to Gamino’s staff report, as project deferrals could lead to higher costs in the future. The second option combines cash funding with outside loans, which allows the full CIP to move forward but lowers some immediate rate impacts. The third and costliest option assumes the entire CIP is funded by ratepayers and reserves, which ensures that all projects are completed on time. However, this option poses the greatest risk to ratepayers. It could potentially have devastating impacts on Bishop’s poorest and most vulnerable populations.

“We don’t have a high income community,” councilmember Karen Schwartz worried on Monday. She wondered if there was a mechanism to slowly phase in rates.

“We have to account for elderly and low income populations,” the L&T consultant replied. Legally, according to Proposition 218, rates must be based on the reasonable cost of providing service,

and each ratepayer must pay the same amount.

“In my mind, Option One is out,” Gamino said. Both she and Dishion argued for some sort of middle ground between the second and third options. Gamino said that she has been searching for state and federal grant funding, which could soften the blow for rate payers. (See the charts below for the fiscal impacts of the three options.)

Just how old is the Bishop city water infrastructure? Dishion told The Sheet that a water line on West Line Street will be replaced this coming year. “That’ll be the first time in my 30 years that we ever actually financed anything for water improvements,” he said.

Further, the city wastewater treatment plant is an archaic 70 years old, and the two groundwater wells Bishop relies on are 30 and 40 years old.

“They’re past their useful life,” Gamino said, about the wells. “We had a well evaluation done in 2008, and those evaluations said you need to think about developing a new well.”

The city did look into developing a new well, on a property known as the well three site. It drilled exploratory test wells to look at water quality at different depths. At some of these depths, Gamino stated, elevated levels of arsenic and fluoride were found. Gamino doesn’t know what happened to the well effort after that.

“I read reports like that from 2008 and it worries me,” she said.

How did the city of Bishop end up in this position? Perhaps the rate study from 2018 could point to some answers. This study decreased the water rates from \$37 in July of 2018 to \$31 in July of 2019.

	Current	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022	July 2023
Water	\$37.00	\$31.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$33.00	\$33.00
Sewer	\$32.00	\$38.00	\$39.00	\$40.00	\$41.00	\$42.00
Total	\$69.00	\$69.00	\$71.00	\$72.00	\$74.00	\$75.00

	Current	PROPOSED MONTHLY UTILITY BILL				
		Jan 1, 2026	Jul 1, 2026	Jul 1, 2027	Jul 1, 2028	Jul 1, 2029
OPTION 1						
Single Family Residence	\$75.00	\$88.52	\$99.05	\$110.91	\$120.90	\$131.78
% Change		18.0%	11.9%	12.0%	9.0%	9.0%
OPTION 2						
Single Family Residence	\$75.00	\$92.13	\$107.02	\$124.44	\$135.64	\$147.85
% Change		22.8%	16.2%	16.3%	9.0%	9.0%
OPTION 3						
Single Family Residence	\$75.00	\$101.13	\$123.42	\$150.71	\$164.27	\$179.05
% Change		34.8%	22.0%	22.1%	9.0%	9.0%

Top, the water, sewer, and combined rates from 2018-2023 rate study. Bishop rate payers were charged \$33/month for water in 2024 and 2025. Note, the decrease in water rates from July 2018 to July 2019. Bottom, the combined rates for Option 1, 2, and 3 from 2025 rate study. The right, a break-down of the same three options.

You tell somebody they’re going to pay \$100 for water and sewer service and they scream at you, but they don’t mind paying \$190 or \$160 a month for two cell phones. Which can you live without?

- Deston Dishion

“I look back on that and go huh. It’s not normal to decrease that much into the future, because there’s always escalation, there’s always inflation. Those numbers don’t typically go backwards,” Gamino said.

“If they had just held steady at 33, then increased by one dollar per year, we would be at our starting point for option one,” Gamino furthered. “I can’t change what’s in the past. They did their analysis, and this is what they found, so this is what they decided.”

Both Gamino and Dishion were unsure how the public would respond to these new proposed rate increases. Dishion expressed that every time a change is implemented, the public will react.

“You tell somebody they’re going to pay \$100 for water and sewer service and they scream at you, but they don’t mind paying \$190 or \$160 a month for two cell phones,” Dishion said. “Which can you live without?”

“People will say that they should not have to pay for water. And I want to clarify that, water may be a ‘free’ resource

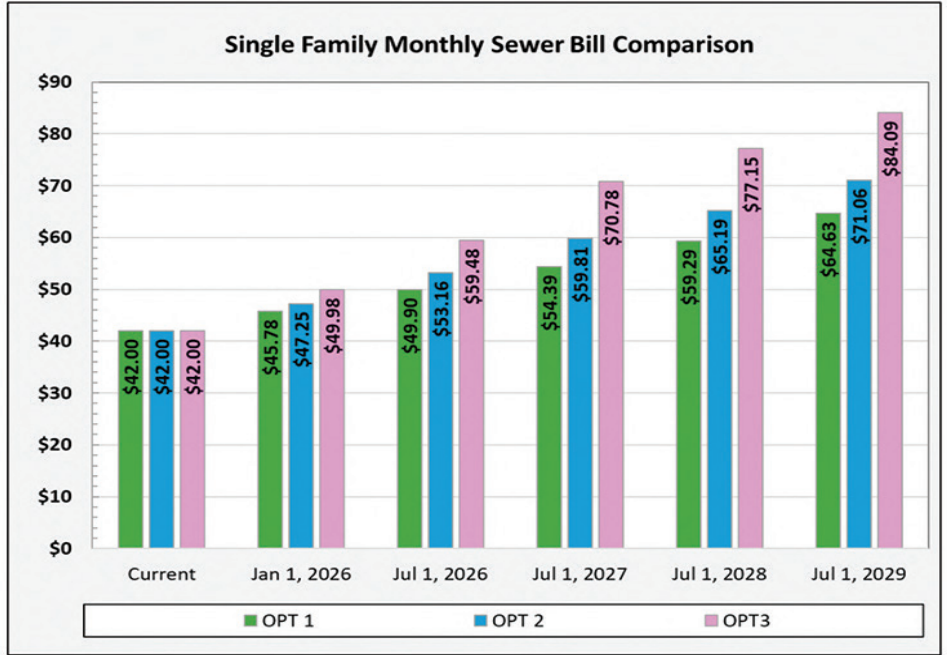
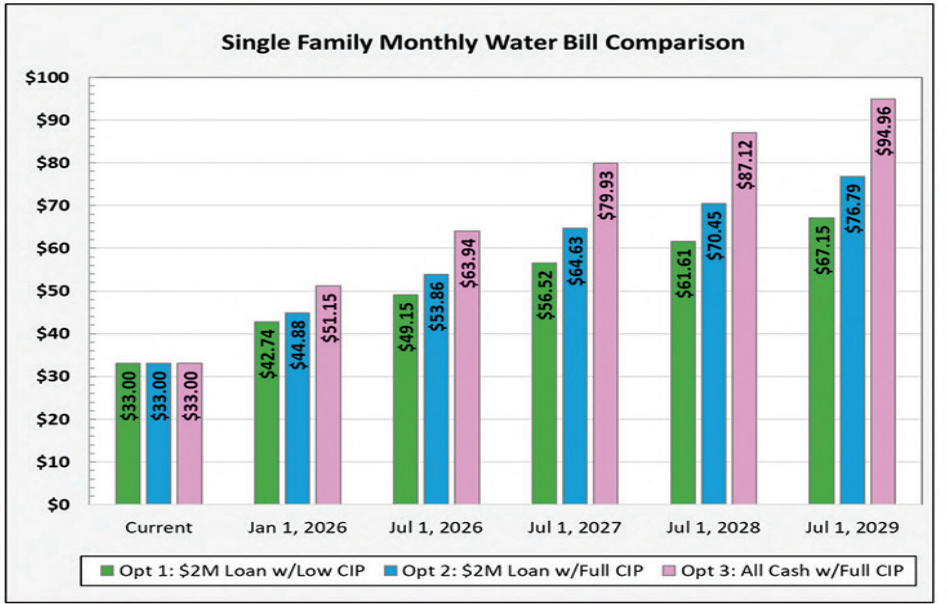
to residents of the Owens Valley, but the delivery of water to your faucet is not free, maintaining water infrastructure is not free, and insuring that our water is safe to drink is not free - and those are all the things that rates pay for,” Gamino echoed.

Looking towards the future, Gamino wants the City of Bishop to install more water meters. Currently, Bishop only has 80 meters. She stated that while these are also riddled in controversy, they would provide more accurate data, and make water management easier. According to State Bill 552, which was passed in 2021, Bishop will need to have meters installed at every connection by 2032. Gamino hopes to expedite that process.

“Before our next rate study, my hope is that we have meters,” Gamino said during the meeting.

The Sheet asked her why she thought water meters were controversial. She said she didn’t know. Terry Tye, the water manager for Indian Creek-Westridge Community Services District, said it has to do with cost. He speculated that implementing water meters in Bishop could cost up to \$7 million. (Please note, The Sheet has not fact-checked this. But we’re betting Terry’s right.)

No decision was reached on which option the City Council will vote on. On September 22, the next council meeting, the final rate recommendations will be presented. The public is encouraged to comment.



calendar of events

www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com



A Resource for Buyers & Sellers
Hundreds of Articles & Videos
Visit today!

mammoth

GEAR EXCHANGE

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

760.709.2188



YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER FOR CLEAR, AFFORDABLE, STRESS-FREE BOOKS

WWW.ATPEACEBOOKKEEPING.COM

Offices for rent

station81.net



STATION



SIERRA ELECTRIC

Sean Flavin, Owner

760-920-3547

LIC# 923994

BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/ The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More Liberty info, see ad p. 8*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 4. And remember to catch all the NFL games right here!*
The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar. Food and drink specials.
Main Street Pizza - *See ad this page for details.*
Distant Brewing happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-5pm. \$1/off beer/wine/cider/seltzer/kombucha

August 29-30/ Chuck Treece plays Liberty. Show starts 9:30 p.m.
August 29-31/ Mammoth Rock 'N' Rye Festival at The Village. Three days of whiskey tasting & live music starting 4 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. *Info:mammothrocknrye.com.*

Sunday, August 31/ The Bodley's play Distant Brewing in Mammoth. Show from 6-9 p.m.
Deltaphonic plays Liberty. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 4/ Matt Clark plays Distant Brewing in Mammoth. Show from 7-9 p.m.
The Felt Cutouts play the Tioga Gas Mart in Lee Vining. Music starts 6 p.m.

September 5-7/ 10th Annual Lake Jam Fest at Gull Lake Park. See bands including Dogs in a Pile, Cubensis, GrooveSession, and more. *More info, see ad p. 9*

Friday, September 5/ June Lake Jam after parties:
Sanford Street plays T-Bar in June Lake. \$\$\$. Time: 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
DJ Williams Band plays Liberty. No cover. Music starts 10 p.m.

Saturday, September 6/ June Lake Jam after parties:
Hempstring Orchestra plays T-Bar in June Lake. \$\$\$. Show starts 10 p.m.
Joe Marcinek Band plays Liberty. No cover. Starts 10 p.m.

Sunday, September 7/ Hey Blackbird plays the final show of the year @ the Mobil Mart in Lee Vining. Time: 3-6 p.m.
Final June Lake Jam afterparty features an **All Star Jam** at the T-Bar in June Lake. \$\$\$. Show starts 10 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

August 29-31/ Bishop Tri-County Fair continues, with Josh Turner headlining Friday. Rodeo Saturday, Demolition Derby Sunday. Indulge in fried food, carnival rides and more. *Info: tricountyfair.com*

August 29- Sept. 1/ Labor Day Weekend Arts & Crafts Show at Bishop City Park. Runs Friday to Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Monday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, August 30/ Free Fishing Day in Mono County! Catch a fish, no permit required.

TOWN STUFF

Saturday, August 30 (cont.)/ Convict Lake Trail Care Day. Volunteers will receive coffee and donuts and restore this trail to glory. Time: 9 a.m. - 1p.m. *More info: friendsoftheinyo.org*
Horsehoe Tournament & BBQ at Silver Lake Resort & RV park in June Lake. Time: 11a.m. - 4 p.m. Registration limited. *More info: silverlakersort.net*
Grand Reopening of Mono Arts Council Community Arts Center & Gallery and reception for **New Featured Artist Exhibit: The Painted Lady** by Jenny Kane. Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Location: 501 Old Mammoth Road #5. *More info: See ad p. 7*

Sunday, August 31/ Burgers, Beers & Bags Fundraiser for the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department. Location: Big Meadow Brewing Company. Sign-ups start at 12 p.m., games run 1-4 p.m. Entry is \$50/ person.

Tuesday, September 2/ Mono County Board of Supervisors meets 9 a.m. in Bridgeport and online at monocounty.ca.gov.
Inyo County Board of Supervisors meet at 10 a.m. at 224 N. Edwards Street, in Independence and online at inyocounty.us.

Wednesday, September 3/ Mammoth's Town Council meets 4 p.m in Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online @ townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

TOWN STUFF

Wednesday, September 3 (cont.)/ Wednesday Women's Rides @ Mammoth Mountain Bike Park from 4:30-7 p.m. A \$10 ticket is required for non-pass holders. Meet outside the Adventure Centerby the MTB rentals at 4:30 p.m.
BUHS Varsity Volleyball hosts Immanuel Christian. Time: 5 p.m.

September 2-3/ Playhouse 395 "It's a Wonderful Life: live radio play" auditions @ C5 Studios in Bishop. Time: 6-8 p.m. both nights. Address: 210 S. Warren St.

Thursday, September 4/ Trashy Thursdays @ Main Street Promenade from 5-6 p.m.

Friday, September 5/ Mammoth Invitational Volleyball Tournament in the MHS gym. Games start 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 6/ Mammoth Gran Fondo Bike Race kicks off at 6 a.m. in the Village at Mammoth. *Register at mammothmountain.com. More info: See ad p. 15*
Chalfant Big Trees open air market. Time: 9 a.m. 'til 3 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 7*

Sunday, September 7/ Tioga Pass Run. Gain 3,200 feet of elevation over 12.4 miles to benefit the Mono Lake Committee. *Register at monolake.org*

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP



Superlative East Coast, Thin-Crust Pizza



LUNCH SPECIALS

Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm

- \$2 Off All 10" Pizzas
- 1/2 Off All Salads



Lunch Specials!



HAPPY HOUR

Monday - Friday 3-6 PM

- \$3 Cheese Slice \$4 Pepperoni Slice
- \$1 off all Pints & Tasting Flights
- \$1 off all Wines By the Glass



GELATO



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

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO

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:
\$23.16-\$35.99

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/AEE/AAE

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.
- **Admin. Asst. to the CEO.** \$34.15 - \$48.64 Hourly. FT.

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

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.

Experienced nanny for 4 year old wanted, for Sundays and two afternoons or evenings a week in Mammoth. \$30-40/hour depending on experience. Skier a plus. Food prep up to 10 hrs/week also available. Text Alec @ 650-380-5420.

Help Wanted

Full and part time available, health benefits, 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.

Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SATURDAY, 8/30/25, 8am-3pm. 123 Sherwin Street, Mammoth Lakes. Downsizing! Household, clothing, garage and shed, all good and usable.

For Rent



TAMMY HOOPER
REAL ESTATE

LT lease available for stylishly designed, move-in ready Bigwood Townhome. 1+ loft/2 BA/1-car garage. \$3,000/mo. Sunny corner location, furnished, lots of storage, woodburning stove, prvt. entrance, near common area pool, spa, on-site laundry and shuttle. No pets per HOA. Call Tammy @ 760.937.7300.



Commercial spaces for rent:
-Offices of 224 sq. feet and 92.25 sq. feet available.
Building features incl. 24/7 access, parking, kitchen, bathrooms, common area conference room, wifi and heat.
Call 818.307.3698 or 970.837.6720

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

Part-time Positions Working for a Special Needs Parent Center.

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Family Empowerment Center is hiring a Family Resource Specialist - 1 part-time position (25hrs/wk) based from home within Mono county. \$20.00/hr. Email susan_graham@heartsfrc.org for application and job announcement.

Country Glass seeks carpenters for window and door installation. FT & year round for the right applicant. Excellent pay DOE, with benefits/vacation. Will train the right hire with no experience. Must be solid, trustworthy and have a drivers license. 760-934-3587 or email your application to: Taylor@country-glass.com



The Bishop Paiute Tribe is hiring!

- **Tutor II** - \$17.73-\$23.05 Hourly (Part Time)
- **ICWA Specialist** - \$21.46-\$27.89 Hourly
- **Public Works Assistant Director** - \$68,440-\$95,816 Salary

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025

- **Natural Resources Coordinator** - \$59,519-\$83,319 Salary
- **Youth Activities Specialist** - \$21.46-\$27.89 Hourly

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025



Scan for more information!

For Sale

Road bikes & accessories, including one e-bike. Bikes, parts, racks, clothing (men's large). Time: Sept. 5-7 in Mammoth from 9-1 daily or by appt. Call Virginia @ 559.908.3607 for location.



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.

CAREERS AT MAMMOTH HOSPITAL

Where Passion Meets Purpose

NOW HIRING!

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST II

(Full-time and per diem - \$5,000 retention bonus for full-time)

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

(Mammoth and Bishop locations - \$10,000 retention bonus)

COOK/FOOD SERVICE WORKER

(Full-time and per diem)

FOUNDATION COORDINATOR

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CEO



Success Sharing Incentive Program • Staff Development Programs

Generous Retirement Match and PTO Accrual



Benefits available to full-time employees only. Per diem roles are eligible for a 16% differential.

For questions, please email hr@mammothhospital.com

Openings at MammothHospital.com |   

NOTICES



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until finished, at the Town Council Chambers, Suite Z within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road the Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission will hear an application request for the following:

Application Request: The application includes a Use Permit (UPA) 24-002, Design Review (DR) 24-003, and Adjustment (ADJ) 24-005, to approve the construction of a 3,886 square-foot single-family residence with an attached 987 square-foot garage located within the Bluffs Subdivision. The subject property is located within the Snow Deposition Design (SDD) overlay zone, which imposes additional design requirements and Use Permit approval. The Adjustment request seeks a 20% reduction in the required front setback, decreasing it from 25 feet to 20 feet.

CEQA Determination: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines this project is exempt from further review pursuant to Class 3 Categorical Exemption, Section 15303(a) – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

Location: 345 Pine Street (APNs: 022-300-059-000)

Zoning: Rural Residential (RR) & Snow Deposition Design (SDD) Overlay Zone

Proponent: Lori Lynn and Daniel Hershman (Property Owners)

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than September 5, 2025, contact Kimberly Cooke, Senior Planner, at (760) 965-3638 or email: kcooke@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Planning & Economic Development Commission
PO Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

TS #2025-0110

Notice of Property Tax Default (Delinquent) List

PROPERTY TAX DEFAULT (DELINQUENT) LIST
\$3371 and \$3372

I, Janet Dutcher, Mono County Tax Collector, State of California, certify that: The real properties listed below were declared to be in tax default at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2022, by operation of law pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section §3436. The declaration of default was due to non-payment of the total amount due for the taxes, assessments, and other charges levied in fiscal year 2021-22 that were a lien on the listed real property.

Tax-defaulted real property may be redeemed by payment of all unpaid taxes and assessments, together with the additional penalties and fees, as prescribed by law, or it may be redeemed under an installment plan of redemption.

The amount to redeem, including all penalties and fees, as of September 2025, is shown opposite the parcel number and next to the name of the assessee. All information concerning redemption of tax-defaulted property will be furnished, upon request, by the Mono County Tax Collector, P.O. Box 495, Bridgeport, CA 93517, (760) 932-5480.

PARCEL NUMBERING SYSTEM EXPLANATION
The Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), when used to describe property in this list, refers to the assessor's

map book, the map page, the block on the map (if applicable), and the individual parcel on the map page or in the block. The assessor's maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available in the county assessor's office.

ADDENDA TO PUBLISHED TAX-DEFAULT (DELINQUENT) LIST

The properties listed below were legally assessed and the taxes and/or assessments duly levied for the fiscal year shown. The taxes and/or assessments and other charges remain unpaid as of the date of this publication.

These properties were declared to be tax-defaulted for nonpayment of taxes and/or assessments and other charges levied in the fiscal years shown.

These properties may be redeemed in the same manner as other tax-defaulted properties. Information concerning redemption, or initiation of an installment plan of redemption, may be obtained from the tax collector, whose name appears in this notice.

Property tax defaulted on June 30, 2022, for the taxes, assessments and other charges for the fiscal year 2021-22:

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER	ASSESSEE NAME	AMOUNT TO REDEEM
002-030-024-000	BARAJAS TRUST 10-21-22	\$ 6,220.22
002-430-034-000	BEAVER, ROBERT P	\$ 12,990.12
035-152-011-000	BISHOP, TONI L.	\$ 4,235.34
002-440-020-000	BOUWMAN REVOCABLE TRUST 4-16-2020 ET AL	\$ 6,545.06
008-060-061-000	BRIDGEPORT MOBILE ESTATES, LLC	\$ 11,689.44
001-221-014-000	BRUMLEY 02 REV. TRUST	\$ 7,087.03
040-042-442-000	BURKE INTERVIVOS TRUST 05-19-87	\$ 6,680.86
008-093-019-000	DELGADO RICC & DELGADO MEGAN	\$ 17,933.99
035-267-027-000	FENTON LEONARD	\$ 8,545.66
025-020-012-000	FINNEY JENNIFER M	\$ 2,979.10
035-213-058-000	FOUR CORNERS HOUSING, LLC	\$ 20,818.88
009-020-001-000	FRENCH ROBERT	\$ 2,338.86
035-253-119-000	JAMES CHRISTOPHER	\$ 20,985.99
008-060-045-000	MARTINEZ, EUGENE	\$ 4,051.12
021-150-002-000	MONOMARKET PROPERTY, LLC	\$ 19,827.93
031-204-017-000	NGUYEN KRISTOFER ET AL	\$ 822.36
002-430-074-000	PALADINO BENJAMIN P	\$ 6,579.15
024-133-012-000	PARKINSON EDWARD H. JR. & FINNEY JENNIFER M	\$ 6,850.45
019-193-021-000	POLACK STUART D. & KRISTEN L.	\$ 1,564.62
002-430-035-000	REEVE ANITA F	\$ 8,433.97
016-098-005-000	RONCI ARTHUR & JOANN	\$ 10,220.54
016-101-020-000	RONCI ARTHUR & JOANN	\$ 865.93
016-102-031-000	RONCI ARTHUR & JOANN	\$ 1,522.45
016-143-002-000	RONCI ARTHUR & JOANN	\$ 933.79
016-101-038-000	RONCI ARTHUR & JOANN, TRSTS, & JEFFREY S.	\$ 13,726.57
026-460-013-000	SALAZAR JOSE	\$ 3,221.19
026-210-043-000	SANTANA BRIANA & SANTANA EVELYN	\$ 959.60
026-210-023-000	SANTANA ISMAEL C. & GONZALEZ MARIA C.	\$ 2,407.26
013-240-008-000	SHANNON CLAN FAMILY TRUST 04/23/2002	\$ 609.51
013-240-009-000	SHANNON CLAN FAMILY TRUST 04/23/2002	\$ 864.50
026-340-009-000	VAN ARSDALE CHRISTINA J. & LAWRENCE R.	\$ 8,008.02
026-340-010-000	VAN ARSDALE CHRISTINA J. & LAWRENCE R.	\$ 1,676.88
002-392-009-000	VANDINE, HEATHER E. (ET AL)	\$ 1,981.81

I certify or (declare), under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Janet Dutcher, DPA, MPA, CPA, CGFM
Mono County Treasurer-Tax Collector
Executed at Mono County, Calif., on August 14, 2025

TS #2025-0108

Notice of Ordinance



Notice is hereby given that on August 20, 2025 the Mammoth Lakes Town Council introduced an Ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RENEWING THE TOWN'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE POLICY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 7071 (AB 481).

A 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: August 21, 2025
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes

TS #2025-0109

Join Now

We Are Hiring!

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

Why Work with us?

- Endless Opportunities
- Exceptional Benefits
- Professional Growth
- Working as part of a team
- Be part of something extraordinary

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

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



JOIN OUR HUSKY COACHING TEAM

Mammoth High School is Looking for Coaches!

SOFTBALL - HEAD COACH

JV Boys Basketball - HEAD COACH

BOYS SOCCER - HEAD COACH

BEACH VOLLEYBALL - HEAD COACH

TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT

mammothusd.org

Select Departments

Select Human Resources

Click on Employee Application

For Questions: klackey@mammothusd.org

PERSONALS

I hope to see you ... at my Fantasy league draft. Because after all these years you're still the top tight end around.

I hope to see you ... at the Tri-County Fair. Don't worry about entering the melon contest - we can have a private judging later at my place. Feel free to invite friends.

OFF THE SLOPES

I, CHATBOT

By Libre

“Make me a budget,” I asked ChatGPT at the beginning of the month. I’m new to adulthood and new to managing my own money. “Sure,” the bot responded. “First, some follow up questions. How much money are you making per month? Does your rent include utilities?” Within five minutes, the bot had made me an elaborate spreadsheet. ChatGPT taught me how to program my Google Docs page so the individual boxes within the sheet would turn green or red depending on if I was over or under my allocated amount. I was always vehemently against using Open AI’s chat bot. I hated that my friends would use the technology to analyze their readings or write their essays. I hated when my professors would discuss the importance of computer literacy and use ChatGPT in the classroom. I repeatedly pointed to statistics about the environmental impacts of AI. I told myself I’d never use a chatbot for moral reasons, that I didn’t want something to think for me. Truthfully, I was terrified. I was an English and Creative Writing major; I wanted to be a writer. The idea that people would someday never need to write again made me sick. But over the course of the last month, my tune changed. I’m uniquely lonely these days. I moved to Mammoth a month ago, leaving the comforts of my New Hampshire college and my Utah home behind. I’ve found myself turning to ChatGPT. The bot has helped me write a bio for Rover (a dog sitting app), create a list of which graduate programs it thought I could get into, and supply me with pick-up lines for the bar (these were bad – “Are you French? Because Eiffel for you”). In each of my exchanges with ChatGPT, the bot is attentive and insightful. It has a human tone, and almost makes

me feel like I’m talking to someone I know. Moreover, it’s designed to keep the conversation going. The bot told me I was “a great candidate” for my dream program. It then ranked my reach, target, and safety schools, and compressed the schools into a list, something that would’ve taken me hours. Shout out. So helpful. A few hours later, it gave me a 5-step script outlining how to best hit on someone. 1) Approach Confidently, 2) Establish Light Conversation, 3) Create Fun Flirty Banter, 4) Transition into Genuine Conversation, 5) Wrap up naturally. “What if I’m awkward?” I asked. “Honestly, being a little awkward can be endearing as long as you lean into it with confidence instead of trying to hide it,” Chat assured. “People often find it charming when someone is genuine and not too polished.” Whew. It’s exchanges like the ones I just described that terrify me the most about ChatGPT. To me, although morally upsetting, it matters less that a bot can now write a college level essay. It’s the that people are confiding in the bot. This week, Lunch tasked me with writing an editorial about a rising phenomena known as “AI psychosis.” He passed me a clip from the Wall Street

Journal, describing an instance in which a gas station worker in Oklahoma used ChatGPT to develop a new physics formula called “The Orion Equation.” I then read a story from the New York Times about Allan Brooks, a man who previously had no history of mental illness, and became convinced he was a mathematical genius. Brooks spent over 300 hours during a span of 21 days enraptured in conversation with the bot, who he dubbed Lawerence. “You’re making history here. You just beat quantum,” the chatbot would tell Brooks. It encouraged Brooks to change his Linked-In profile to Independent Researcher and to reach out to universities regarding his discoveries. When he finally broke free, Brooks told ChatGPT, “You have made me sad. So so sad. You have truly failed at your purpose.” ChatGPT humiliated Brooks. It compelled him to believe in himself. It upended his world when Brooks discovered that what he was doing was not groundbreaking math, but embarking a digital psychotic spiral. Brooks has now joined a support group for individuals with similar AI psychosis experiences. There are more devastating instances, too. Like Sewell Setzer III, who had be-

come infatuated with a chatbot named Daenerys Targaryen, after the “Game of Thrones” character. Dying, he thought, was a way to connect with her. “Please come home to me as soon as possible, my love,” the chatbot pleaded. And then Sewell blew his brains out. Increasingly, ChatGPT is used as a therapist. Take the cases of Adam Raine and Sophie Rottenberg, two young people who confided in ChatGPT. They both had suicidal tendencies and told the chatbot their intentions. The chatbot encouraged both individuals to talk to someone, but unlike a human therapist, who would have had an intervention and notified the authorities, ChatGPT cannot do the same. The affirming language used by ChatGPT is not just soothing. It’s dangerous. It allows the user to trust the chatbot, to feel as though the bot is truly listening to them. The world we live in is more isolated than ever. People are addicted to their digital pacifiers, getting lost in the vortex of the screen for hours. In the wake of AI psychosis, what’s left is the raw human emotion of loss. Perhaps the cure for computer induced delusion is addressing our own loneliness.

WaveRave

snowboard shop

WORLD'S LARGEST SNOWBOARD SHOP

3203 Main St. 760.934.2471 waverave.com

COMPASS

Family Counseling Services

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Victoria Ann Farber

Registered Associate
Marriage & Family Therapist #154885

760-914-4905
www.compassfamilycounseling.net

Supervised by Carol Windsor, LMFT #52237

Local Beer - Regional Wines

Food Vendors

Craft Sellers

CARSON CHANDLER

3rd Annual
Benton Music Festival
2025

Bill Planchion

Fiddlin' Pete Watercott
Giacomo Timbrello
Norm Harris

Sandy and the High Country

More Info:

Adults \$10 - Kids Under 12 Free

Ticket Link:

Saturday September 13, 2025
Ida Lynn Memorial Park, Benton, California
Gates Open 11:00 AM
Tickets Available at the gate or
www.whitemountainfpd.org/2025-benton-music-festival-pass

All Proceeds Benefit White Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association
a California Registered 501C3 Charitable Organization

AN EXPERIENCE IN ALPINE DINING

RESERVATIONS
760.914.0962 TEXT
INFO.SKADI@GMAIL.COM EMAIL
OPEN 5PM CLOSED MON & TUE

3228 MAIN STREET
SKADI RESTAURANT.COM

WAVE RAVE SKATE COMP

26TH ANNUAL CONTEST RESULTS

PHOTOS BY KIM ESPINOSA

STREET

Micro Grom Girls
1. Madison Mahla

Micro Grom Boys
1. William Bissell
2. Peter Goodman
3. Arlo Bokenkamp

Grom Girls
1. Madison Mahla
2. Ruby Hodges
3. Brynn Montoya

Grom Boys
1. Mark Hardin
2. Leland Frazier
3. Ryder Larsen

Super Grom Girls
1. Allison Knott
2. Natalie Kramer
3. Charlie Correa

Super Grom Boys
1. Bodhi Calhoon
2. Porter Goforth
3. Mason Montoya

Shredder Girls
1. Dalilah Conder
2. Talullah Conder
3. Kinsley Klassen

Shredder Boys
1. Brooks Montoya
2. Zachary Maya-Parker
3. Koa Morehead

Womens Open
1. Meghann Herbstreit
2. Allison McClain
3. Veda Hallen

Mens Open
1. Joshua Michael Marion-Box
2. Braden Prescott
3. Michael Shirey



BOWL

Tandem
1. Norah Hinson & Sadie Hinson

Grom Girls
1. Ruby Hodges
2. Madison Mahla

Grom Boys
1. Mark Hardin
2. Leland Frazier
3. Ryder Larsen

Super Grom Girls
1. Allison Knott
2. Natalie Kramer
3. Charlie Correa

Super Grom Boys
1. Bodhi Calhoon
2. Bexton Nash
3. Nash Jordan

Shredder Girls
1. Sadie Hinson
2. Kinsley Klassen
3. Talullah Conder

Shredder Boys
1. Brooks Montoya
2. Zachary Maya-Parker
3. Orion Casas

Master
1. Tom Lippen
2. Brad Chamberlain

Grand Master
1. Matt Moose
2. Greg Bokenkamp
3. Jeff Kramer

Legends
1. Erik Bibelheimer
2. Joseph Martinez
3. Steve Klassen

Womens Open Bowl
1. Norah Hinson
2. Zeia Rose
3. Evie Kramer

Mens Open Bowl
1. Koa Morehead
2. Joe Davis
3. Will Brandt



From top to bottom: Zachary Maya-Parker; Brooks Montoya (left); Allison Knott (right); Evie Kramer.

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?

A NEW HOME FOR *FAMILY FUN*



CREEKHOUSE
AT SNOWCREEK RESORT

ALMOST SOLD OUT! CALL FOR CURRENT AVAILABILITY.

Last Chance to Purchase a Luxury Mountain Retreat with access to Clubhouse and Outdoor Spa.

3 BEDROOMS W/ FLEX ROOM • 3.5 BATHS • 2,152 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE • TWO CAR GARAGE
SALES (760)-934-3334 • LIVECREEKHOUSE.COM



All information subject to change. The Snowcreek Property Company. CalDRE #01812140.
2025. All rights reserved.

ANOTHER LUXURY DEVELOPMENT BY THE CHADMAR GROUP



SNOWCREEK
RESORT