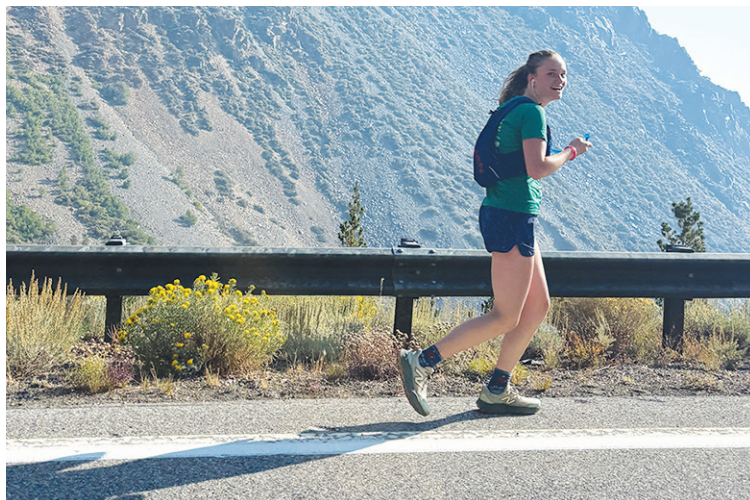


the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Libre suffering through the Tioga Pass Run last weekend. For her first-hand account of the race, see p.7

Saturday, September 13, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. 37

THE TAO OF SAM

SAM WALKER 1942-2025

What always struck one about Sam Walker was a palpable sense of “other.”

Yes, he was pleasant and charismatic and successful - that made him easily accepted by the world.

But he was not “of” the larger world. He did not fall prey, for example, to the wisdom of crowds. Because he did not accept conventional wisdom as wisdom. He merely thought it conventional.

Sam was born in Riverside, Calif. on June 30, 1942. He was the third of four sons; his father was a successful attorney, his mother a homemaker.

He attended the Webb School in Claremont, Calif. for high school, and then spent two years at the University of Colorado before Sam and the institution decided to part ways. He wasn’t interested in their academic curriculum. Besides, it was proving an intrusion upon his social calendar.

Young Walker was working as a bellhop at the Mammoth Mountain Inn when he caught his first big break. L.A. businessman Jerry Buss (future owner of the L.A. Lakers) ob-

served Walker policing a ski lift line and liked what he saw. The kid could handle conflict and mete out justice in a lawless environment. So perhaps he could handle the new restaurant Buss was building in Mammoth Lakes.

While the restaurant, named Rafters, was under construction, Walker took a job at The Smokehouse in Toluca Lake to learn the restaurant business.

And by the time Rafters opened in December, 1969, he had recruited Dennis Hartman to serve as his right-hand man.

The pair enjoyed great success at the Rafters, but Walker’s relationship with Buss soured over Buss reneging on a promise of profit-sharing.

That’s when Walker and Hartman began to court Harry and Jean McKee, who owned the northwest corner at Main and Minaret. The McKees had just won a liquor license at auction and wanted to open a steakhouse.

“We begged ‘em to partner with us as the operators, but they wanted a chain,” recalled Hartman. “but all the chains weren’t interested in Mammoth. It was still too remote. So

more SAM, pg. 8



Sam with granddaughters Ella and Ruby circa 2011

IMACA IN DEEP CACA

By Libre

Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) has been bearing the weight of the federal budget cuts. The nonprofit downsized from 15 food distribution sites throughout the Eastern Sierra to 11. The team has shrunk from 11 employees to eight.

At the Inyo County Supervisors meeting Tuesday, several southeast county residents protested the cuts.

John Muccio said simply, “The food bank makes a difference in the quality of my life. I see many large families who will go hungry without it. People are in a panic.”

Patrick Donnelly added that 50-60 households had been served by this “last thread of the social safety net.”

Then he quoted SE Inyo stats. Median income: \$27,000. Poverty rate: 33%. Median age: 68 years. Employment rate: 11%.

“The last time we got food was in May,” Donnelly said.

IMACA relies on grant funding and its partnership with Northern Nevada Food Bank, a donation-based food bank in Sparks, Nevada, to supplement the food they distribute. While the main grants for IMACA are still in place, the additional grants which provide funding later in the year were cut, according to Kelly Barceloux, IMACA’s executive director. Moreover, 500 million pounds of food was cut from the Northern Nevada Food Bank, an action also related to federal budget cuts, Barceloux said.

IMACA is a Local Service Provider (LSP) with the State of California Health and Human Services Agency Department of Community Services and Development (CSD). The main grants which support the agency are the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Due to this year’s financial situation, the organization has already gone through these main sources of funding.

“For our energy assistance department, we have three additional supplemental grants that we won’t be getting,” Barceloux lamented. “And for our food department, there were two additional supplemental grants [also cancelled].”

Outside of distributing food, IMACA also helps vulnerable families with energy and water bills, and provides a weatherization service for homes.

Barceloux noted these services haven’t seen any changes, and she doesn’t foresee any in the future.

IMACA has been operating since 1981. This is not the first time it has struggled financially: in 2022, the agency received \$300,000 in emergency funds from the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, and Inyo County. The organization also closed its affordable housing projects, some of which were absorbed by the Eastern Sierra Community Housing nonprofit.

Currently, IMACA serves

more IMACA, pg. 5

SMOKED FISH



A snapshot of the smoke at Convict Lake Sunday. Photo by Ruby Walker. For more smoke coverage, see p. 6.

Lunch on Vacation

3-1

It's closed!

Maxi-nap

Oldham and the Sea

p. 3/

p. 2/

p. 4/

p. 13/

p. 6/

OUTNUMBERED

So last week, we printed a letter from former Mammoth Times Publisher Wally Hofmann which was instructive in that ... it illustrated the ebb and flow of history.

And how one era serves as the reaction to the last, which becomes the reaction to the next.

As Wally wrote of his forebears at the Review-Herald, "The out-of-town owners were not in tune with local concerns about the excessive reportage of 'blood and guts' hard news."

And what Wally intuited was that the community was in a growth phase. It wanted less news and a little more rah rah.

So he found 24 other cheerleaders/businessmen to join him in creating the ultimate house organ.

I came along in 2003 just as the Village at Mammoth was opening and just as the Advocates for Mammoth were gathering steam.

The Advocates opposed then-CEO Rusty Gregory's plans to fly 757s into Mammoth Airport, with a pie-in-the-sky estimate of drawing 333,000 passengers annually.

The Advocates also supported limits on both population density and building height. They wanted a "village in the trees." Base Camp Cafe owner Skip Harvey won a seat on Town Council in June, 2004 based upon his support of this concept (and his belief that commercial air service should be based in Bishop).

Wally had already sold the paper and left entirely by the Fall of 2004. So the Mammoth Times run on his watch was 1986-2004

The historian in me would categorize the next historical era as spanning 2004-2013.

This encompassed building boom, then Great Recession, then the Town losing the airport lawsuit (Maloy was right. Mammoth Airport was structurally and physically insufficient to support larger aircraft) and nearly declaring bankruptcy.

Which led Gregory to champion a massive marketing push (spearheaded by the formation of a Tourism Business Improvement District - TBID) and spend gobs of money to "grow" our way out of the ditch we'd driven into.

This led to another extended cheerleading era, which appears to be nearing the late stages of its cycle - it's not quite done given there are plenty of cranes remaining in the skyline.

But there has been a push off late towards the buzzwords of sustainability, livability.

The ironic part is that there's really no public outcry in this regard. The town population has both turned over and hollowed out. Public meetings are rote and formulaic. Wealthy Boomers still think Vietnam protests were enough for one lifetime. Young people only protest when the wifi is threatened.

And so it's left to the folks who marketed us into this mess to now market us out of it - into some "collaborative stewardship" model where we continue to pack people in like sardines, yet they behave better and still want to spend money like drunken sailors.

And now onto Proposition 50 - the redraw California congressional districts to send more democrats to Washington initiative.



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

JACK LUNCH
PUBLISHER

Bob Kittle of Sunny Slopes wrote in this week in support.
Dear Sheet,

As the head-turning assault on the foundations of our society occurs on an almost daily basis, what can be done? Democrats and independents have a shot at winning the House next year. This could make some difference. Vote "yes" on Proposition 50 this November 4. Don't let Texas lead the way in allowing Trump to tilt the House. Pay attention to the mail coming at a breakneck speed. The "no on 50" flyers are largely funded by billionaires who love the tax breaks for the wealthy.

I just took a staff caucus on this and predictably I'm outnumbered 3-1. I do not believe that two wrongs make a right.

And I'm of the school that if I'm playing against a cheater, well then, rather than sinking to their level, it's my job to work harder and play better.

There'll be no more dry places to grip if we decide to cover everything in mud.

And from Klusmire's desk...
Those who have resisted the urge to attend the unholy desert Bacchanal that is Burning Man might be convinced to head to Black Rock City in 2026 by the following rather persuasive sales pitch. It comes from Nicole Shanahan, a Silicon Valley attorney, former vice presidential running mate for Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and a self-proclaimed "new Christian."

She recently pondered whether the event was demonic. (We're guessing that thanks to her exposure to RFK, she has ruled out that Burners are simply suffering from brain worms.)

The demon link is probably enough to pique the curiosity of plenty of lost souls. But there's more, as noted in the Los Angeles Times.

"I used to be a devoted 'Burner,' and attended from 2014 to 2022," Shanahan posted on X. She wrote that in her previous visits to Burning Man, she saw that "thousands of people moved about with smiles, intoxicated by freedom, and joy, and navigating the city of Black Rock with an ephemeral air."

Sounds divine, right?
Again, there is more.

"Yes, there are constant orgies," she wrote. "Yes, drugs are consumed in staggering quantities. Nudity is everywhere."

That sounds heavenly to some folks.

She then claimed the event also included plenty of crime, including sexual assaults and was filled with "occult symbols" and ceremonies, and called it, "one of the most effective tools for Satan to misdirect souls away from our Heavenly Father."

Finally, "I am a newbie to demonology, but there is clearly something dangerous at work here."

Ahem, since Shanahan is also the ex-wife of Google co-founder Sergey Brin, we are not sure why she didn't just Google "demonology" to get past the newbie stage. Maybe she knows Google is also the Devil's handiwork?

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
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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?

LETTERS

Must've been on vacation

Jack,

I hope you enjoyed your Labor Day vacation. I assume you were on vacation because the Labor Day edition published September 6 appears to have escaped excessively rigorous editorial scrutiny. Its two lead stories resembled PR releases from labor unions that should have raised questions in the mind of any semi-curious reporter but did not.

The first story about an SEIU rally before the Inyo County Supervisors curiously focused on two principal speakers, one who was fired (impliedly unfairly) from Walmart, and one named "Oscar Maciel," who was listed as the "organizer." There is no Walmart in Mono or Inyo counties. The closest one in the Eastern Sierra is in Gardnerville. As to Mr. Maciel, I believe he may be a union organizer from Fresno (where there is also a Walmart). So an initial question that should have immediately popped into the mind of a reporter is, how many of the protestors/demonstrators are actually from Inyo County, and how many were shipped in for the event? Because based on the evidence it looks like it was an astroturfed affair. That seems like a material detail inquiring minds would like to know about.

The second story was about Yosemite employees voting to unionize. The article primarily sought to justify this on the ground that cuts are being made to park services and not only that but they are being made by Orange Man Bad. This was no doubt intended to elicit some rousing "amens!" from the hallelujah chorus. And I'm sure anyone hoping for the predictable emotionally incontinent Pavlovian response to the trigger word "Trump" was not disappointed. But a few questions that might have popped into a reporter's mind were never raised, such as: since the advent of public sector unionization, has education improved, or declined? Have police become more, or less, solicitous of the general public? Has government in general (or DFG or [your agency here] in particular) become more, or less, responsive to concerns of the people? Has the DMV gotten more, or less, efficient (OK, not fair). Has the unionized bureaucracy at any level of

government made your life more, or less, complicated than it was pre-unionization, assuming you are old enough to remember those halcyon days of yore? Have your taxes gone up, or down, as government unionization has proceeded apace, and if you answer "up" are you getting more, or less, bang for your buck? And most importantly - believe me, this is the most important question - has the health of the public improved or declined under the burden of public sector union contracts? Because the answer to this last question is the one you are going to either be blessed or cursed for by posterity.

John Rogitz
Mammoth Lakes

One more thing ...

Dear Ted,

I wanted to make sure you were going to mention Sam Walker's later life as a Master Gardener and his generosity. Becoming a Master Gardener encouraged him to build his home garden. Eventually, his health would not allow him to take care of it so he reached out to the community by offering to let others garden in his yard. That's how he met Rachel Kulchin.

Before the Blue Heron Farm opened to the public, Rachel gave a well-attended public tour. Sam sat in a chair in the barn and observed the goings on. Afterwards, I was walking down the street to

my car when Sam drove up in his truck. I asked what he thought of the day and the crowd attending. With tears in his eyes, he said "I am so happy." It was as if he had one last thing he really wanted to do and this was it and it was successful. That was Sam!

I keep thinking of other wonderful occasions with him. But if we wrote them all down, there'd be no room for anything else in your paper! Thank you for recognizing him.

Vivian Patterson
Bishop



MEET
Hanavi

Hanavi is a connoisseur of cuddles and enjoys nothing more than being picked up and carried around like the tiny monarch she is. Hanavi is still a work in progress with her potty training. Her future family will need to be patient and committed to helping her master this skill.

CONTACT **Whitmore Shelter (760) 935-4743**



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Mon-Fri: 7am-5pm Sat: 8am-3pm, Sun: 8am-1pm

LOCAL NEWS

YOU CAN'T VISIT

By Klusmire

No one is visiting the Bishop Visitors Center.

The doors on the distinctive A Frame are locked, the lights are off, and a sign on the door says, in bold red letters, "CLOSED." Then comes the explanation: "This office is temporarily closed due to facility-related issues. We're sorry we missed you and will reopen as soon as possible."

The tape job on the closed sign belies that promise. Layers of tape on all four sides of the sign do not give off a vibe that says the closure is temporary and reopening is in the future for the long-time home of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau.

The "facility issues" are more than skin deep. The large additions holding chamber staff offices on the south side of the A Frame were red-tagged and vacated earlier this summer after a quick inspection. An in-depth engineering report released Friday Sept. 5 concluded the second story of the A Frame also needed to be vacated since it, too, is unsafe to use for offices or as storage space.

That second story is directly above the Visitor Center public reception area that occupies the bulk of the A Frame building. The cozy space contains souvenirs, brochures and local information, supplemented by advice and suggestions from Chamber staff and volunteers.

Chamber Director Tawni Thompson was more than a tad peeved that the city did not immediately notify the chamber of the report's recommendation to abandon the second story offices. She and another staffer had been working upstairs. Once she got word the second story was unsafe to occupy and could create a dangerous situation for the staff and the public on the first floor, the chamber voluntarily closed the building and visitor center. Thompson and crew are now working from home.

Despite the public clamor to save the A Frame, located at 690 North Main Street, directly across from Schat's Bakery, the chamber is in escrow for a new building on South Main Street.

After that initial inspection, the city contracted Wood Rodgers for a more in-dept engineering report. The firm's Senior Engineer Eric Toschi, P.E., took four hours to inspect the A Frame. He reviewed architectural drawings, structural aspects of the building and the foundation. The report says the overall condition of the building "is poor and may be nearing the end of its service life." In general, the building and foundations are structurally unsound.

The report presents three options and notes all would be pricey and challenging to complete.

First is to tear down the large addition/office space on the south side of



the A Frame and the small addition on the east end of the A Frame. That would leave the A Frame only. Second would be to partially remove the south addition and leave the A Frame. Tearing down the whole structure is option three. No cost estimates were presented for any of the options.

The report notes that about 85% of the building would have to be demolished even under the first two options. Retrofitting or remodeling the remaining A Frame would also be costly to bring the building up to current building and safety codes. "Retrofitting an existing building, especially one that is over 50 years old, is inherently difficult and often unpredictable," Toschi said.

The chamber was notified in June that it had to vacate the building due to safety concerns. The city has allowed the chamber to occupy the A Frame for

decades without paying rent or utilities. A public outcry erupted condemning the city for "evicting" the Chamber. Residents also asked the city to find a way to save the A Frame, a unique local landmark which has been a feature of North Main Street for about 50 years.

The city council noted previously that any work on the A Frame would have to be considered based on the cost of the repairs or upgrades, the possible future uses of the building and, most importantly, city funding priorities.

The city owns the building, but it's on leased land in the Bishop City Park owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), which puts LADWP into the equation. Any work, rehab or demolition, would also require an environmental analysis and permits from state agencies such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife, since the south addition hangs over the South Fork of Bishop Creek, which runs through the park.

The A Frame's future was not on the Sept. 8 city council meeting agenda. Five residents once again urged the city to repair and upgrade the A Frame and requested an agenda item to address the fate of the building and possible alternatives.

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\$15 entry fee includes lunch, a book to take home & raffle Prizes, too!

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SMOKE

continued from page 5

hazardous days in September alone. The region saw three relatively smoke-free summers from 2022–2024, but 2025 is shaping up to be the second worst in the last decade.

In light of this, Mitchell suggests people take precautions to protect themselves from smoke:

Avoid smoky periods. Track conditions and plan activities around the worst air quality.

Reduce activity. Limiting exertion lowers the amount of pollutants you inhale.

Protect sensitive groups. Children, pregnant women, older adults, outdoor workers, and those with chronic illnesses are more vulnerable.

Keep indoor air clean. Close windows and doors, turn off swamp coolers, and run air conditioners on recirculation if possible. If you cannot keep indoor air clean or it becomes too hot, consider relocating to an area with better air quality.

Don't rely on cloth masks. Bandanas, cloth, or dust masks offer no protection. Properly fitted N95 respirators provide some protection, though they can be difficult to breathe through.

Mono County Public Health is also operating clean air centers across the county, a new measure this year to give residents with poor home air filtration a place to get relief.

For shelter locations and updates, see monocounty.ca.gov. For current air quality conditions, advisories, and guidance, including how to use visibility to gauge air quality, visit gbuapcd.org.

DOUG OUT

By Fisher

When Doug Oldham first helped out at the Mammoth Lakes Library, it wasn't as an employee, but as a volunteer with a toolbox.

He moved to Mammoth in 1990, and spent his first years working stints at Alterra and at the hospital. After some time, he wanted to give back. So, naturally, when the library needed someone to change lightbulbs and move boxes, Oldham signed up.

"I'd been a patron of the library ever since I moved here," he recalled. "Helping out just felt right."

That small act of volunteering led to a part-time desk job, just eight hours a week. After some time, he was offered an assistant role at 15 hours a week, and eventually became a supervisor in 2003. Now, after 24 years of service as "the tall guy at the front desk," Oldham is retiring.

For him, the library is more than just some bookshelves and computers. It is a safe space for the community.

"The library is an equalizer," he said. "It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, it's there for everyone."

Oldham has seen sweeping changes over the years: the rise of the internet, the flood of patrons during the 2008 financial crisis — when sometimes 500 people a day came in to use computers — and, more recently, the slow shift toward e-books and digital audiobooks.

Despite those shifts, one thing never changed for him: the joy of helping people.

"When you're able to help people, especially kids interested in finding books on animals or whatever their interest is, it's a lot of fun being able to show what we have," Oldham said. "The excitement that they have is contagious."



He remembers days he spent hauling out "boxes upon boxes of books" to stock the library's annual parking lot sales, which sometimes had 40 tables of offerings.

"I had fond memories of doing that," he said. "It was a lot of work, but also, it felt good to be able to provide that service."

In those moments and throughout the years, he found community in the countless familiar faces that stopped by his desk, and with the Friends of the Library, the coalition of volunteers who worked to support the library and fund its new building.

"All of [the Friends of the Library's] support over the years has been a great experience," he said. "And they've been welcoming ever since I started volunteering there."

Retirement, for Oldham, isn't about

slowing down. He's eager to spend more time with his grandson, hike the Eastern Sierra, and maybe join a friend on trips to national parks across the country.

Hawaii, a favorite destination, is still on the list. And yes, he'll keep rotating through his collection of Hawaiian shirts — a hallmark symbol of his laid-back style and sunny attitude.

Oldham doesn't plan to leave Mammoth Lakes. The mountains, the friends he's made, and the trails still waiting for him are reason enough to stay.

"It just felt like the right time," he said.

He's looking forward to the next chapter, and, of course, to the next good mystery novel.

To celebrate Oldham's retirement, the Friends of the Library is holding a reception on Sunday from 1-4 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Library.



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OFF THE SLOPES

RETCH-ED RUN

By Libre

Sunday, Sept. 7th. 8am. A brisk and smoky morning in Lee Vining. I fiddled with my headphones, pressed my “Picky Era” playlist on Spotify, and started my strava. “3...2...1...,” called a voice behind me. And then, we were off. All 43 participants in the Tioga Pass Run.

The week before, Lunch asked me if I wanted to do the race.

“You like running,” he said. “Why don’t you give it a whirl?”

He told me he’d pay for my registration, as long as I wrote about it.

“Deal,” I replied. I had no idea what I was getting into.

It was my first time up Tioga Pass. I expected to be awestruck by the immense mountainous walls, to delight in the striations of the granite. It’s only 4,000 feet of elevation gain, I thought. How bad could it be?

Bad. It could be really bad. I didn’t realize how steep it would be, or how much the smoke would affect me. I didn’t account for the constant stream of cars whizzing by. Within two miles, I threw up. Again, at five miles. A third, at the eight mile mark. My body was possessed by mucus. The raw skin between my thighs rubbed together so much

that my legs started to bleed. I wanted to cry. I wanted to stick my thumb out and hitch-hike down the pass, all the way back home to Salt Lake City, Utah.

My saving grace was my support team, composed of my best friend Kalyn Dawes and Tenaya, the perfect, perfect dog I’ve been dog-sitting. Kalyn is my friend whose dad almost married my mom, making her the closest thing I have to a sister. (Don’t ask too many questions. It’s complicated.) The two of them waited for me in the open hatchback of Kalyn’s 2007 Honda Accord at every pull-out along the pass. I’d round the corner to see my friend in her yellow Black Rock City EMS sweatshirt, kicking her flip-flop adorned feet, her arm draped around Tenaya’s sandy-blond fury body. Each time they saw me coming, they jumped out of the car and ran alongside me.

“Come on, dude, you can do this, you’re so strong,” Kalyn would say. She pushed her thick silver-rimmed sunglasses up her head and flashed me her biggest grin. Tenaya’s ears perked and her long pink tongue dangled from the side of her mouth, like come on, let’s go, chop chop, I don’t have all day.

In college, my friends and I used to

joke that Kalyn was the fastest woman in Hanover, New Hampshire. Two weeks ago, she placed first in her age group at the Double Dipsea race in Marin. Her philosophy is preserve, preserve, preserve, then hunt.

“Save your energy for the first six miles,” she told me before the race. “Then bam, another one, bam another one. There’s nothing worse than getting passed.”

At mile six, I was passed by an old guy with thick, sinewy calves and a woman in green who looked a little older than me. Damn it. I was getting hunted. Cue the puke.

I found my stride at mile nine. I passed the old guy with the calves and the green girl and the couple in front of me who kept sprinting then walking then sprinting again. My eyes were burning and my legs were aching and I was out of water but I kept putting one foot in front of the other until. Finally, after 12.4 miles. The finish.

I ate a pickle and grabbed a beer and someone asked me if I would ever do the run again. “Absolutley not,” I replied.

Finisher after finisher kept coming up to Tenaya, cupping her loose-puppy-skin face in their hands, telling us how much they loved seeing her throughout the race. Thanks, Kalyn and

I said. We didn’t know how to say that this was actually not our dog, that her good behavior was actually none of our doing.

Kalyn and I exchanged a look. We tucked the dog into the Honda and drove away, through the gates of Yosemite National Park.

“We gotta go to Lake Tenaya,” Kalyn said. “I have these snacks in my bag, and we have to eat them.”

I don’t really want a snack. I thought. But I love her, so I obliged. We wanted to bring the dog Tenaya to her namesake body of water, but the signs forbid it. Instead, we sat on the grainy beach and looked out at the shimmering blue lake.

Kalyn pulled a Churro Cheesecake and two candles from her Cotopaxi backpack. She sang me happy birthday.

“Sorry I can’t be there on the real day,” she said.

I smiled and shook my head. “No dude, this is all I want.”

We pressed our fingers into the sweet general-store cheesecake and licked the caramel from our fingers until we were full. Then we peeled the clothes off our bodies and waded into the water.

Editors note: despite the blood, sweat, tears (and puke), Libre managed to finish fifth overall.

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Who can participate? What’s involved?

Any healthcare worker (doctors, nurses, therapists, allied health professionals, etc.) working in Mono or Inyo County. Follow the QR code below to take a one-time, anonymous online survey. The survey takes approximately 45-60 minutes to complete. All participants who complete the survey will receive a gift card.

Have questions? Contact Dr. Emery Chang at
RuralLGBTQ@mednet.ucla.edu



ACCESS THE SURVEY ONLINE HERE:



WALKER

continued from page 1

as a last resort, they said ‘we’ll go with you.’”

Whiskey Creek Mammoth opened on Dec. 6, 1971, with the crib of Dennis’s four-week old baby perched on the fireplace mantel.

It was an instant smash. They’d turn the 120-seat restaurant over 3.5 times a night, serving 400 dinners. Sam was in charge of the back of the house, Dennis the front, and the two jointly managed the bar. With that separation of powers, they didn’t “bump into each other.”

“We never had an argument,” said Hartman. “And we never clashed.”

But while Sam was a good boss and an excellent partner, he wasn’t one to suffer fools. As Hartman said, “He set very high expectations and he was easily dissatisfied.”

Daughter Mimi echoed, “He was not always easy to work for, but you were proud to work for him. You couldn’t just show up and cruise. He ran a tight ship and demanded your best.”

Again, the pair were almost too successful for their own good.

The restaurant was making so much money that the McKees (or their lawyer anyway) began having second thoughts about selling the place (despite there being a buy option in the agreement). Ultimately, however, McKee was good to his word, and Walker and Hartman became owners of Whiskey Creek Mammoth in 1974 and opened Whiskey Creek Bishop in 1976.

Walker subsequently bought out Hartman in 1981.

On the personal front, Sam had always carried a torch for Shelley Brandt, whose mother’s family had ties to River-side as citrus growers.

So they knew each other through family as youths and then reconnected at a reception following the wedding of Sam’s younger brother David.

By then, Shelley was divorced and had three young children. This was not a circumstance which typically invited a line of suitors around the block, but in Sam’s mind, he’d been late to the punch on the first go and wasn’t going to be late again.

Over the course of the next year, they met twice for two-days each. At the end of the second visit, Sam proposed and Shelley said yes.

They had less than a month to get married before the ski season.

And wed on December 13, 1973. At the time, Shelley’s children were 10 (Joe), 9 (Chris) and 5 (Mimi).

Family friend Dominique Naylor observed that in his marriage, Sam’s role was somewhat reversed. He was more “front man” while Shelley ran the back of the house. But do not mistake her reserve for pliance. Her dry wit and humor are formidable. “She was his best-kept secret,” said Naylor.

As a father and as a boss, there were no shortcuts. Sam didn’t hand you anything. Even his daughter Mimi had to interview for her first managerial job.

Norm Matoza started with Sam as a reserve dishwasher while he was a high schooler in Mammoth.



And was hired to run the Bishop location in 1978 when he was pretty fresh out of college.

“I’ll teach you everything you need to know,” Sam told him.

“He was really great at empowering people,” said Matoza. “And he’d back you ... but we wasn’t okay with getting BS’d.”

Sheet: You ever try to BS him?
Matoza: Oh, I saw it, but I never tried it.

What peeved Sam the most? Managers who couldn’t make a decision. “Sam would always say a bad decision is better than none because at least you can fix a bad decision.”

Matoza said many of Sam’s business principles were derived from “In Search of Excellence,” a seminal book on business by Tom Peters and Robert Waterman published in 1982.

Sure enough, a bias for action and hands-on, value-driven management were core tenets of the book.

“He was a hard worker, and expected you’d work as hard as he did,” said Matoza.

“When you’re running a successful business, they [potential buyers] see the wealth,” said daughter Mimi. “But they don’t see that they’re gonna be working 24/7. And that they gotta be rowing in the boat [alongside staff].”

Speaking of boats ...

A theme that many touched upon in our conversations was Sam’s taste for the trapeze, if you will. “He was the bravest man I ever met,” said son Chris.

He skied fast, flew planes, bought catamarans and learned how to sail them on the fly - he had faith in his capacity to handle any situation, and almost welcomed predicaments - equipment failure, bad weather ... as if the chaos of restaurants had fully prepared him.

There was the flight into Grand Junction for son Joe’s college graduation, and daughter Mimi asking “Why is there toilet paper going by the window?”

Those were pieces of ice which had been building up on the wing before being shed.

They landed with the stall warning blaring inside the aircraft.

He didn’t know a damn thing about sailing but bought a catamaran - and sailed it from Costa Rica and up the coast of Mexico to the San Francisco Bay.



As Mentor

Dominique Naylor arrived in Mammoth as a wine broker - she worked directly for small wineries rather than as a rep for a distributor. Sam immediately loved this - any deal without another mark-up or middleman appealed to his sensibility, and he introduced Naylor to all the restaurateurs in town.

But beyond that, Sam developed an interest in wine, and as Naylor said, he did so with wonder and without ego.

She recalls putting together wine-maker dinners in the fall to drive some business. She had one sold out dinner at the Mammoth Mountain Inn she was going to have to cancel because the date was going to fall during the “crush” - that critical period in the winemaking process with the arrival and crushing of the harvested grapes.

Enter Sam. He flew over to get the winemakers and he flew ‘em back after - for an event at a restaurant that wasn’t his.

As Naylor recalled this week, “I was too naive to even think about buying his fuel. Here I am, 45 years later saying to myself, ‘Oh shit. I forgot. And I can’t even offer a belated thank you.’”

As Leader

Vivian Patterson got to know the Walkers because Sam and her husband Dave sat together on the California Restaurant Assn. board of directors.

But then, Viv and Dave sold their restaurant and decided to move to the Eastern Sierra. This was in the

more SAM, pg. 9

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SAM

continued from page 8
mid-1990s.

“I sent a letter to like six people,” Viv recalled. “And I also sent Sam a copy, asking if he’d put in a good word for us.”
Sam called immediately. “Norm gave notice this morning,” he said. “And you’re replacing him.”

Viv: “Well, Dave needs a job, too.”
Sam: “I’ve got room for two.”

The Pattersons subsequently ran the Whiskey Creek Bishop location for four years.
And as Viv says, “He left me alone to run the business like I owned it. He was both trusting and generous.”
It was during this four-year period that Sam was freed up to start the Mammoth Brewing Company (with Norm) and create Bluesapalooza with Jim Vanko.
But there was one trying moment where the restaurant staff circulated a petition in protest of Viv’s management - staff was upset that Viv prohibited drinking on the job.
So Sam literally shut down the restaurant for an evening, called a full staff meeting, and said something to the effect of, “I understand there’s a petition circulating. And after careful consideration, I’ve decided to back Viv so if you don’t want to work here, there’s the door.”
Five minutes of uncomfortable silence followed. No one left.
Sam knew how to stare down a mob.

As Mr. Clutch

Jon Eisert was another one who had Sam to thank for kicking his ass when he started to let his partying get in the way of running his business.
“He strongly urged me to recognize my good fortune [in operating a successful business in Mammoth] and not blow it,” said Eisert.
Later, as they became friends (and Norm Matoza also charted a similar path from employee to partner to friend), Eisert and Walker took a golf trip to Bandon Dunes in Oregon: 18 holes the first day, 36 the second and 18 the third.
They’re tied as they head to the 16th tee on the final day.
Eisert created a distraction with a photo op so one of the caddies can replace Sam’s ball with a “chalk” ball which exploded on impact.
Ha ha and all that as Sam wiped the chalk off his face and clothes before re-teeing his ball.
He parred the hole and ultimately won the match.
Afterwards, he put his finger in Eisert’s chest and said, “Don’t you ever pull that shit, again.”
No one rattled Sam Walker.

Sam is survived by his wife Shelley; son Joe, his wife Heloise, and children Sam, Cary and Sean; son Chris, wife Lara and their daughters Ruby and Ella; daughter Mimi and husband Tim Han-



The magnificent ‘70s. From left, Sam, Shelley, Chris, Mimi and Joe

son and their children Tea and Lars.
There will be a celebration of life sometime next spring.
A final little vignette, and I only mention this because Sam told the story to me more than once (so you’d think I’d recall the details with more clarity!).
He told me about a trip he took to Scotland (Ireland?) and he was sitting on a barstool having a philosophical conversation with some locals. The topic of retirement came up and when you knew it was time and what you needed to be able to retire.

And the answer to that final question was simple and encapsulated in one word. “Enough.”
I think Sam found that very un-American answer quite liberating. It informed some of his later decisions, like helping Rachel Kulchin purchase the Blue Heron Farm, or collaborating to build the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center in downtown Bishop.
He was community-minded at heart and that’s where he liked to place his bets.

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ROAD CLOSURES
Saturday, September 20
6:00am-8:30am Road Closed
Canyon Blvd: Hillside ↔ Lake Mary

7:20am-8:30am Road Closed
Lake Mary Rd: Canyon ↔ Kelley

Sunday, September 21
6:00am-11:00am Road Closed
Canyon Blvd: Hillside ↔ Lake Mary

9:30am-10:30am Road Closed
Lake Mary Rd: Canyon ↔ Kelley

EVENT SHUTTLES
Free event shuttle schedules:
mammothtrailfest.com/town

RACER SHUTTLE - PURPLE
RACER SHUTTLE - GREEN
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CLOSURE & SHUTTLE MAP

September 19-21, 2025

Eastern Sierra TRANSIT

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calendar of events

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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/ The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More Liberty info, see ad p. 2*

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

Friday, September 12/ Par Avion, SoCal surf rock band, plays Liberty. Music starts 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 13/ Big Smooth plays Liberty. Music starts 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 14/ Cassie Dunn plays Distant Brewing in Mammoth. Music starts 7 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

September 12-14/ Flash Foxy Trad Fest. Climbing event for women and genderqueer climbers. Opening party, programs and presentations take place at Mammoth Creek Park. \$\$\$ *See flashfoxy.com for more info.*

Friday, September 12/ Village Championship Downhill Race Series continues @ the Mammoth Bike Park on "Eliminator." Time: 2:30-7 p.m. *Register at mammothmountain.com.*

Mammoth Tuff Beer Mile takes place at the Village at Mammoth. Registration: 3-4:30 p.m. Starts 4:45 p.m. Race involves running fast while intermittently chugging beers.

Mortality Mixer at Mill Creek Station in Bishop. Time: 7 p.m. Games, music, conversation and drinks. \$\$\$ *Text 760.582.3939 for tix and more info.*

BUHS Football plays Burroughs (Ridgecrest) at home. JV game 4 p.m., varsity 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 13/ Crowley Lake Stillwater Classic Fly Fishing Tournament at the Crowley Lake Fish Camp. Contest begins 7 a.m.

Parker Lake Trail Clean Up Day from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at Parker Lake Trailhead. *Sign up: friendsoftheinyo.org.*

Mammoth Tuff Bike Races take off from the Village at Mammoth. Three course lengths to choose from; first race 7:15 a.m. *Register at tuff.ventures.com.*

Benton Music Festival and Craft Fair to benefit White Mountain Fire. Starts 11 a.m. in the Ida Lynn Parkinson Memorial Park. Admission \$10.

Sunday, September 14/ Stroll and Sketch: Interpretive Walk in Lundy Canyon. Time: 9-11 a.m. Meet at Lundy Canyon Trailhead. *Info: friendsoftheinyo.org.*

Retirement party for Librarian Doug Oldham @ Mammoth Lakes Library. Time: 1-4 p.m.

Monday, September 15/ Nonprofit Coalition Fundraising Discussion from 4-5 p.m. in the Cerro Coso Mammoth Campus Lobby.

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, September 16/ Mono County Board of Supervisors meets 9 a.m. in Board Chambers @ the Mono Civic Center (1290 Tavern Rd. in Mammoth) or online via monocounty.ca.gov.

Volunteer Eastern Sierra's Not Your Grandma's Bingo Night benefits the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps this month. Location: Warming Hut. *More info: See ad p. 5*

Wednesday, September 17/ Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meets 1-3 p.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online @ townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. Time: 4 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online @ townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Wednesday Women's Rides @ Mammoth Mountain Bike Park from 3:30-6:30 p.m. A \$10 ticket is required for non-pass holders. Meet outside the Adventure Center by the MTB rentals.

September 18-21/ Mammoth Trailfest race and event series begins. 10k and Dragon's Back ascent races Friday; 50k Saturday. *Festival info/schedule: mammothtrailfest.com.*

Thursday, September 18/ Farm to Table Market. Location: Bishop United Methodist Church. Time: 3-7 p.m.

Owens Valley Radio Observatory fall lecture series kicks off @ the

TOWN STUFF

Thursday, September 18 (cont.)/ Cerro Coso campus in Bishop. Listen to Caltech geniuses wax philosophic about the universe. For free! Time: 6-7 p.m.

"One Day" Conference by H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection to provide information for parents of special needs/disabled students. Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Location: Bishop United Methodist Church. Cost: \$15. *For more info/register see ad p. 4.*

MHS Volleyball faces the BUHS Broncos in Mammoth. JV plays at 4 p.m., varsity at 5 p.m.

Trashy Thursdays at Volcom Brothers Skate Park in Mammoth from 5-6 p.m.

September 19-21/ Millpond Music Festival. Features Roy Rogers & the Delta Rhythm Kings Friday, The Motet Saturday and Damn Tall Buildings Sunday. *Tix/info: inyo.org.*

Friday, September 19/ Meet the Limelight Hotel team @ the Limelight Gallery in the Village at Mammoth. Time: 3-7 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 6*

MHS Football plays Virginia City at home. Kickoff at 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 20/ Mammoth Health & Wellness Fair @ Outbound Mammoth. Time: 9-4

Birds of the Eastern Sierra Campfire Talk. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Oh! Ridge Campground in June Lake. *Info: sierraforever.org.*

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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

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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



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!

- **ICWA Specialist/Intern** - \$21.46-\$27.89 Hourly
- **Cultural Botanist** - \$21.46-\$27.89 Hourly

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

- **BPDC Maintenance Worker I** - \$19.51-\$25.36
- **Restoration Crew Swamper** - \$19.51-\$25.36 Hourly
- **Restoration Crew Foreman** - \$24.88-\$34.83 Hourly
- **Water Operator I** - \$23.60-\$30.68 Hourly
- **Tribal Urban Planner** - \$78,705-\$110,187 Salary

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025



Scan for more information!

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.



We are seeking a motivated and detail-oriented Reservationist to join our growing vacation rental management company in Mammoth Lakes.

As a Reservationist you'll be responsible for handling guest inquiries and bookings, offering local area advice, providing phone support, and responding to emails/digital messages. You will also support our Executive Team and assist with administrative tasks.

Applicants should be reliable self-starters, work well under pressure, and be flexible in changing roles/jumping in where needed. 1-2 years experience in reservations/guest services/front desk and a strong comfort level with modern tech required. Experience using StreamlineVRS or similar is preferred. Weekend and on-call availability is required. Clean driving record is required

PT and FT applicants encouraged to apply; wage shall be commensurate with experience. Benefits include (once eligibility requirements are met) health club memberships, health plan, and 401k. If you're ready to join our team and help us deliver outstanding service to our owners and guests, please fill out our online job application today at www.fivestarlodging.com"



SKADI

Restaurant Skadi seeks a professional server and a dinner cook.
Please email info.skadi@gmail.com or text 760.914.0962.



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

Help Wanted

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.

Mono County Office of Ed.
has the following positions available:

Custodian Maintenance Worker - FT
Salary: Classified Range 48: \$24.27-\$31.03
Filing Deadline: Until Filled

Early Learning Aide - FT
Salary: Classified Range 37: \$18.05-\$23.17
Filing Deadline: Until Filled.

Early Learning and Care Director - FT
Salary: \$73,695-\$103,965
Filing Deadline: Until Filled.

Early Learning Associate Teacher (Infant Qualified) - FT
Salary: Classified Range 46 \$22.63-\$28.92
Filing Deadline: Until Filled.

Early Learning Associate Teacher - FT
Salary: Classified Range 46 \$22.63-\$28.92
Filing Deadline: Until Filled.

For more details and application log onto edjoin.org.
Mono County Office of Education
Attn. Monica Hernandez, Human Resources
PO Box 477, Bridgeport, CA 93517-0477
760.932.7311



Surefoot Mammoth is hiring bootfitters for the upcoming winter season. We are looking for enthusiastic skiers who want to work hard and play hard. No experience necessary, we provide paid training. This is a great opportunity to learn a valuable skill in the ski industry. Season pass and custom ski boots provided with employment. Contact Todd at Mammoth@Surefoot.com.



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

PERSONALS

I know I told you ... you were smoking, but maybe give it a rest for a few days.

NOTICES

Notice of Ordinance



Notice is hereby given that on September 3, 2025 the Mammoth Lakes Town Council adopted an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 25-06

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) by the following vote:

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

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

Dated: September 4, 2025
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes
TS #2025-0114

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

Mammoth Lakes Creative

Drake Design Company LLC
P.O. Box 8333
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein duering March, 2013. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on August 19, 2025 File Number 2025-0123
TS #2025-0112 (9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4)

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

Mammoth Made

Drake Design Company LLC
P.O. Box 8333
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein duering March, 2013. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on August 19, 2025 File Number 2025-0123
TS #2025-0113 (9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4)

ARTS

HOP A (WOLF) JETT AT MILLPOND By Libre



This past weekend, June Lake Jam Fest celebrated its tenth annual weekend of peace, love, and music. A wide array of artists played on the picturesque stage to a crowd of enthusiastic dancers decked out in tie-dye. Among the bands, for the third year in a row, was Wolf Jett.

If you missed them, Wolf Jett will be back in the Eastern Sierra for the Millpond Music Festival in Bishop next week.

Hailing from Boulder Creek, Wolf Jett is a musical collaboration between lead singer Chris Jones and drummer John Payne. The pair met when they were 12. Jones was the new kid in town; Payne asked him if he liked Metallica. They started a band that week. The rest was history.

“Back then, life was simple,” Jones mused in an interview with The Sheet on Monday. “I was the only kid in town who could play guitar, and he was the only drummer.”

Jones and Payne are now in their mid-40s, and they’ve been playing music together for over three decades.

“You can’t make old friends,” Jones said, quoting Dolly Parton. “That’s how I feel about the whole thing. You can’t just manufacture that sort of connection.”

Wolf Jett currently includes the Santa Cruz based couple Allyson Makuch (vocals) and Rory Cloud (guitar). Jones described the band’s music as a mix between Americana, Southern blues, folk, and psychedelic rock. He pointed to an eclectic melding of inspiration, ranging from gospel church music to Elivs to Jimmy Reed, Norman Blake, Chet Atkins, and Doc Watson, to Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix, Janice Joplin, the Allman Brothers and Little Feet.

But, he emphasized, “The band itself is about honoring my family, my friends. It’s about going on a journey in life. It’s not just about music. So I could name 10 artists that we like, but I don’t really think that’s the point of the band and why we did it.”

He named the band after his mother, Joan Jett (though not the famous one, he joked).

Jones, who was born in Tennessee and raised in Atlanta, credited his southern roots to his deep love and appreciation for music.

“I had a really cool musical upbringing,”

he said. As a child, he listened to folk and country music, as well as jazz, which his father loved. “I just always been around music my whole life. And I really credit that to my family being southern. A big part of Southern culture is celebrating with music.”

It hasn’t always been easy for Jones and Payne. Prior to the pandemic, Jones lived in New York City, where he struggled to make it as a musician. During Covid-19, he moved back to California, into Payne’s home. They built a studio and prepared to make more music together. But then, disaster struck.

“Everything was burnt down essentially as soon as it was finished,” Jones recalled. The pair spent the next five years recovering. Together, they rebuilt the studio and Payne’s house.

Due to high rent prices and constant touring, Jones still doesn’t have a stable place to live. He graduated from UCLA with a degree in English and worked in the pharmaceutical industry for ten years. But Jones always felt drawn to music, and decided to leave his career to pursue it. He now relies entirely upon music, which is unique. The other members of the band all have a separate source of income.

Wolf Jett loves playing at June Lake Jam Fest, and the festival has become a destination for the band. Jones compared the festival to a summer camp. He raved about the hospitality of the hosts and the community between the other bands.

“June Lake is just like a family. They just treat us really well.” he said. “It’s also one of the most beautiful stages I’ve ever played on.”

Each year, the members of the band take four or five days around the festival to spend time climbing, kayaking, and hiking in the area. As an avid backpacker, Jones especially connected to these mountains.

“To me, there’s nothing more incredible than coming out of the Eastern Sierras, [on a] backpacking trip, and looking behind you and seeing the Alabama Hills or Lone Pine,” he said. “My life has been so deeply affected by that. When I die, I want my ashes to be spread in Evolution Valley.”

“It’s an honor to get to play music anywhere on the 395. Thank you for supporting us and helping us grow as a band,” Jones said.

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KLUSMIRE

MICRO MAN

I'm always more than willing to take some advice or wisdom offered by my betters or those who should know better than a schlub like me so I'm glad the high and mighty powerful and prestigious Washington Post hit me right between the eyes with some tips and tricks that target my seeming inability to keep a tidy little house and what do you know it's not that hard according to the big brained units in DC who dispense insights on everything from the state of the nation to how to keep your large thighs from rubbing and chaffing in the hot and humid East Coast weather so you bet I paid attention to the august publication's admonition and clear direction that micro-organizing is the key to keeping a tidy home because I have a micro brain and a micro attention span and a micro budget which puts me squarely in the micro club so it's a no brainer that I would ponder the big ideas about improving my dusty little cluttered living space which is a cross between a man cave and a college dorm room and an absent-minded writer's warren which by the way is a great word to describe a bit of a creative mess that despite outward appearances and years of slovenly housekeeping will miraculously become as immacu-

late as an Apple store but probably not as hip and bright and shiny but that's okay because the folks at the Washington Post are really pulling for us little people out in the hinterlands also called fly over country because we're nothing but lost and sorry souls inhabiting flat-land prairies with a sprinkling of mountains and some desert for diversity and some cows which we can't forget because everyone loves cows and their big brown eyes and there you have another reason I just can't seem to get going on the micro-organizing despite the cheerleading from the East Coast elites who want me to be happy as I ply my little life in my minimalist living quarters that indeed do need a bit of attention so I will duly turn my attention to the suggestions on the micro tidy operation but not the first one which is to do something while doing something else like cleaning the toilet while brushing your teeth and I'm not making that up it's in the article but I'll pass on that one since I am not ambidextrous so I can only handle one brush at a time without making a mess which will need to be cleaned up eventually and therein is problem number two the famed excuse of getting around to something later or when I feel like it or

when the moon cycle is right or when my rascal kids decide it's time for the monthly two-word text to dear old dad which would spark a sense of urgency when looking around my domicile and thinking I should really tidy up on the off chance those kids will actually stop flying over and drop in only to find my micro tasks have fallen short so now I'm back into the tidy tips and what do you know at the top of the list is to make a list of what you should tidy up which makes sense unless the list is as long as your arm and traumatizes me as much as a horrid nightmare about going to the Tri-County Fair only to eat Lion's Club hot dogs only to find out they are out of hot dogs and my whole body shudders until I come out of the nightmare and while lying in a puddle of nightmare flop sweat ponder why the Lions are the civic club that seems to have exclusive rights to do hot dogs hamburgers pancake breakfasts and beer until I realize maybe it is actually time to change my sheets which is what I promptly put on the list and promptly got started doing by looking in my closet and what do you know there was my 2017 Carson & Colorado Railway tee-shirt that I thought I had left in the train barn so that's a win right off the bat and as luck would

have it taking a shot at doing some small job in the closet is also on the list so another winner was putting the t-shirt on top of the stack where it belongs because blue is a good color for me especially when I'm basking in the glow of victory in the tidy war which is rejuvenating to say the least and recharges me for another tidy task which if the long list is right should be doing something about the junk drawer which is a great idea but I can't open the junk drawer because a hammer and roll of duct tape got sideways and blocked the drawer which does not deter me from my mission but does take some wind out of my sails so it's time to regroup and rethink this whole micro-organizing operation by moving the stack of magazines and books off half my couch in another micro-win and curling up on the newly unencumbered couch and calmly and confidently taking a maxi-nap.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is looking in his closet for some commas and maybe even a period or two.



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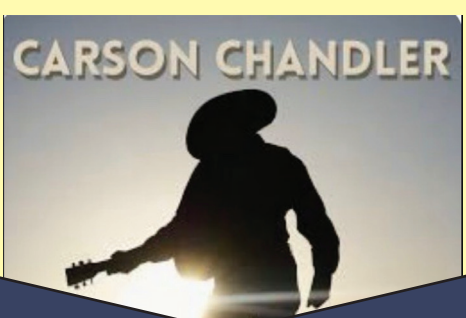


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SPORTS

MAMMOTH VOLLEYBALL SERVES UP A WIN

By Fisher

The Mammoth High School Volleyball team has always been a fun group to watch for its skill, but this year, the team's unity stands out. The girls, ever competitive, still find places to laugh and bond. It's obvious when they play.

Coach John Morris credits this to time together. Many of the players have been competing together since middle school through club seasons.

"They're just a very cohesive, very supportive group," he said. "There's not much drama, they all get along, and they want to make everyone feel welcome. As a coach, that makes a huge difference."

The Huskies are led by four senior captains (Addison Koenig, Lyra Manning, Eleanor Brode and Sophia Geffre) though one is sidelined with injury this

year. Their leadership, combined with a mix of veteran players and promising underclassmen, including the Schaubmayer twins, both freshmen, gives the squad unusual balance.

"Top to bottom, this is probably one of the strongest groups I've ever coached," Morris said.

Mammoth has already shown its potential. The team reached the semi-finals at the Yerington tournament and came within two points of winning its home tournament, their closest finish yet. They'll test themselves again this weekend at the Cal City tournament, with hopes of meeting bigger schools like Burroughs of Ridgecrest in bracket play.

The season also brings familiar rivalries, including another home match against Bishop in October, which always draws big crowds.



Photos from the Husky's victorious home game on Tuesday against Frazier. From top to bottom, left to right: Lyra Manning, Kenzie Schaubmayer, Greta Koehler, Addison Koenig, Aspen Wight, Andrea Morales, Silvie Schaubmayer.

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HARTLEY

ONCE A MAN, TWICE A CHILD

Week 1 is in the books. Great start to the season. Except seeing Aaron Rodgers in a Steeler uniform. But that may not last too long, given the Steelers porous O-line. Rodgers won't last 17 games with that line. And how is the Steeler defense the highest paid unit in the NFL? The Jets ran for 182 yards on 'em. After the game the Steelers added Safety Jabrill Peppers, who was cut by the Patriots. Another overhyped player who USED to be good.

Bills fans suck. They seem to get a pass the team lost four Super Bowls in a row, so there's a pity factor, but they're always throwing stuff on the field, physically harassing players ... why do they feel so entitled? Ban all Bills fans or limit their alcohol consumption. Those morons are too stupid to handle it.

The Colts owner, fitting segue, was standing on the sidelines during the game with a headset on and a play sheet. What? Stop pretending you know anything. You've been doing this for years and it hasn't worked out so well. And you're paying Daniel Jones to be your QB. It's called reversion to the mean. See Jack Bogle.

Steeler D-lineman Cam Heyward got a contract bonus of \$3 million if the Steelers win a playoff game. Hilarious. He should buy a lottery ticket. He would have better odds. And after the way he played last week, he is guaranteeing himself he won't get that money.

Bill Belichick is a child now. The once legendary coach is a complete asshat now. He apparently blocked any Patriots scouts or execs from visiting his UNC practices or facility. Huh? Part of the allure for players to come there was that you said it was going to be a PROFESSIONAL organization. Players probably thought he would get them to the NFL. Not sure why they thought that since his recent history is that of a TERRIBLE talent evaluator. He reportedly banned Broncos staff as well since someone on the UNC staff was fired by the Broncos. Isn't literally everyone eventually fired? One of my favorite sayings holds true: ONCE A MAN, TWICE A CHILD. Belichild.

Now there are reports that the Steelers want to trade for WR Tyreek Hill. Tomlin team-building ... get incredible athletes that don't give a damn about team or scheme. Just toss a bunch together and say 2 DOGS 1 BONE. DO SOMETHING. He already has Peppers, Slay, Rodgers, Metcalf and Ramsey in the mix. There will be a massive team fallout when things go wrong. And they will go wrong and everyone will laud Tomlin forHOLDING IT TOGETHER SO WELL after it implodes. 2 DOGS 1 BONE 9 LOSSES.

Theeeeeeeee picks.

Packers laying 3.5 to the Commanders. I said before the season the Pack is going to the Bowl. That was before the Micah trade. Just gotta keep Jordan Love from going Jameis once a game and they're in it. Commanders defense looked good last week. But they were playing the Giants. Packers 27 Commanders 20

Cowboys laying 4.5 to the Giants. The Giants may be the new human bye week until they bench Wilson. Cowboys 20-14.

Bills laying 6.5 to the Jets. The Jets were frisky last week. The Bills are better. But Buffalo will just not play defense. Maybe they should play Josh Allen at LB, too. Bills 30-23.

University of Maryland laying 11.5 to Akron. Er, **Ravens** laying 11.5 to the Browns. There is a stat that the Ravens have blown an insane number of double digit leads in the 4th quarter in the last few years. Harbaugh said they blow big leads because they have had more of them than anyone. Someone make him take a math class. Other teams have had a lot of double digit leads too. Here is the thing Harbaugh. If you had 26 leads and blew 6 of them. That is much worse than another team having 20 of them and blowing 2. The percentage is what counts you ding-dong. Ravens 33-24.

Rams laying 5.5 to the Titans. Well this is easy. Rams 24-13. Bet of the week.

Bengals laying 3.5 to the Jags. Bengals 25-20. The Bengals started slow AGAIN. They just got to play a team that starts slow, is slow in the middle of the season and slower at the end of the season in the Browns.

Niners laying 3 to the Saints. This is a puzzling line. Purdy v. Rattler. Maybe this is the bet of the week. Niners 20-15. The Niners might just run them to death knowing Rattler ain't got no bite.

Lions laying 6 to the Bears. I don't like this one. The Lions look a mess with new coordinators and a limited OL. Ben Johnson knows what to do to Goff. And he will have his defense attack the hell out of Goff in the pocket. Lions 19-17. But I wouldn't be surprised if the Bears upset them.

Steelers laying 3 to the 'Hawks. Steelers win 24-20 to prime the hype train before ...

Dolphins laying 1.5 points to the Pats? How? Did anyone see the Dolphins play last week? I know the Pats weren't great either but damn. I guess the Dolphins are at home. Don't bet this, don't watch this. Pats win 23-20.

Cards laying 6.5 to the Panthers. Everyone was hyped up about QB Bryce Young getting better but looks fucking putrid again. Cards are not very good. I keep hearing how well coached they are and they look pedestrian every week.

Kyler Murray will never be the answer. Cards 24-16

Broncos laying 1.5 to the Colts. Bo Nix is not that good. I don't care how much Sean Payton massages his ego. He is not good. Daniel Jones I would not be placing money on. We have seen his act before. Broncos 25-20.

Eagles laying 1.5 to the Chiefs .The Chiefs need WRs. Period. They are a mess offensively. Mahomes is carrying that putrid offense. They trade for Tyreek Hill this week. This game is in KC and KC is a 'dog. They look like one, too. Eagles 27-25.

Vikings laying 3.5 to the Falcons. The Falcons look better, but their kicker is a head case. Oh yeah, need to cut that bastard on 2 fantasy teams. Find a kicker with 10 toes, please. Vikings at home win 27-22

Texans laying 2.5 to the Bucs. Why exactly? Bucs are playing better. I hate Baker Mayfield. Well, I hate early Baker Mayfield. This guy now seems to NOT be an asshat. Bucs 23-19.

Chargers laying 3 points to the Raiders. Chargers looked good last week. Raiders look like an actual NFL team now with Pete Carroll in charge. Chargers 24-20.

————

There is a trend of throwing green dildos at sporting events now. They have been doing it at hockey games, but most often at WNBA games. Seems not so smart. You know a lot of them don't like penis, right? But I digress.

The Bills fans do it now, too. This is just stupid and moronic. You go buy something like that, as an adult, to carry to a sporting event and hide it ... where exactly? There are kids at these events you proud parent. BAD PARENTING jackass. And you think it's funny to do something numerous other people have already done? How did this all start, anyway? I had to look that one up. Apparently throwing green dildos at sporting events is a viral marketing stunt orchestrated by a cryptocurrency group to promote a meme coin. The group, which created the "Green Dildo Coin," claimed the stunts were meant to protest what it described as a "toxic" environment within the crypto market and gain attention for their project. What? The crypto market is toxic by design. What awareness are you raising by doing that?

Real mature crusade you got going on there? How about you use them on yourself and go f#\$% yourself you dummies.

How do churches stay in business during the fall? Football is on all day on Sunday? Just a random thought.



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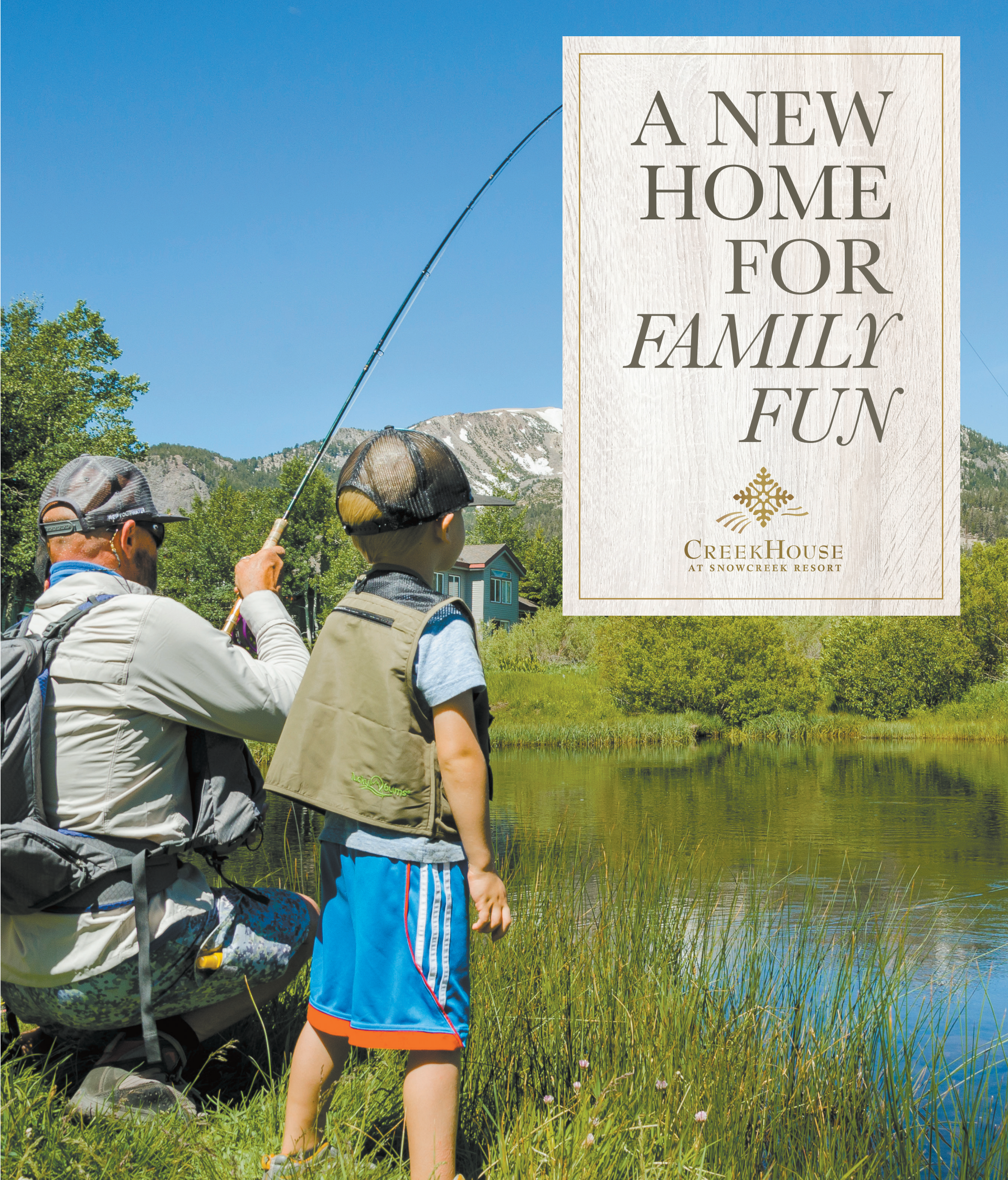
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