

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



CalTrans cut the ribbon on the Olancho-Cartago four-lane Highway 395 project on Thursday.

Saturday, October 25, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. Eck

NON-PROJECT PROJECT

By Fisher

For a project that doesn't officially exist yet, the West Mono Basin fire management plan is already generating plenty of conversation.

Whitebark Institute, a local fire-mitigation nonprofit, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), is in the early stages of planning a fire-resiliency project spanning from June Lake to Mono City.

At this point, the agencies are in the very earliest phase of project planning, simply gathering ideas and concerns from local residents. To collect input, Whitebark hosted community meetings in Mono City last week and in Lee Vining on Monday, with additional meetings planned in June Lake on Friday, Oct. 28, and online Nov. 5.

"You'll notice an asterisk on 'West Mono Basin Project Proposal,' because there is no project proposal right now,"

said Stephanie Heller, USFS Mono Lake District Ranger, at the Lee Vining meeting. "We're looking to create a project, or even multiple projects, that create resiliency to wildfire."

After the USFS gathers and synthesizes community feedback, it intends to return to the public with a draft proposal from May to July 2026, with environmental planning slated to run from August 2026 to May 2028.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), though a significant area land manager, is not technically involved in the project. It recently went through an environmental review for a project within the Mono Basin, so officials didn't see the point of going through it again, Heller explained.

Still, "They are working closely with the USFS to make sure that the projects we do

see FIRE, pg. 5

NO REIGN ON THIS PARADE



Eastern Sierra activists turned out on Saturday for "No Kings" protests in Mammoth, Bishop and Lone Pine. See more, p.8

A GOOD REASON TO RUN



Participants take off at the Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance Run/Walk. More photos by Gayla Wolf, p.15.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS, LONG DELAY

By Fisher

Airbnb and VRBO blurred the lines between homes and hotels years ago, and now, Mono County is still trying to redraw them.

On Tuesday, the Mono County Board of Supervisors held what was supposed to be its final workshop on revising countywide Short-term Rental (STR) rules. But a last-minute discovery of a new state policy forced staff to postpone any decisions until Nov. 18, creating another delay in a years-long effort to create a clear path forward for STRs.

Mono County first paused new STR permits from 2022-24, hoping that some vacation homes would convert to long-term rentals for local workers. Then, staff spent two years dissecting data, surveying residents, and holding workshops to figure out what to do.

In the meantime, the expectations for property owners (and prospective buyers) considering

STRs has become muddled, especially in June Lake. The Board of Realtors, so disgruntled with the issue, went so far as to hire its own third-party "expert" to study and assess paths forward for the county.

"That 'expert' found no issue with STRs, but you can read about that in The Sheet's August 16 issue, p.1.

To bring the dispute to a decisive end, staff prepared three policy proposals: a countywide cap on total permits, a waiting period for STR implementation after property sales, and a housing incentive program for owners who build or convert units for local workers.

The first proposal, a cap, is exactly what it sounds like. It would simply prevent the number of STR permits in a given community from rising above a certain number. In June Lake, the proposed cap would limit STR permits to 95, about 10% above current levels.

Survey results showed 59% of countywide respondents supported a cap, but 100% support from June Lake's Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC).

One June Lake resident, Don Morton, opposed the idea.

"Properties might remain on the market a little longer, but [a cap] is going to encourage cash buyers that just use it two to four weeks a year," he said. "And June Lake has a long history of this."

The Supervisors seemed generally unlikely to support a cap policy in a vote.

The second proposal would impose a waiting period, either one or two years, before new property owners or developers could apply for short-term rental permits. The intent, staff said, is to discourage speculative buying and "decommodify" housing by separating a home's value from its potential rental income.

more STR, pg. 6

Who's your neighbor?

Asphalt in your future

Murder mystery resolved

Culture for kids

Could be worse

p. 4/

p. 9/

p. 4/

p. 6/

p. 2/

THE CRAZY, COMMONPLACE

Alright, I'm gonna give you a passage and you're gonna try to guess whom it's describing:

"XXXX's birthday interview is broadcast. He is now the world's oldest national leader ... once again, he is in his high-backed thronelike armchair ... he peddles his imperial musings for an hour and a half straight, with only the lightest of cues from his simpering interlocutor, who smiles, fawns, nods approvingly and even giggles appreciatively throughout. XXXX fiddles with his gold wedding band as he drones on, and his hands flutter and join again with ecclesiastically laced fingers. It is a repetitive, circuitous performance, geriatric maundering, garnished with non-sequiturs, the brain-shavings of the dictatorial dotage. And he slides further and further into the depths of his outsize chair ... his trouser legs riding up his shins to reveal a nasty case of swollen ankles."

I'm sure your minds turn immediately towards the past decade of U.S. leadership, but alas, the year is 2009, and XXXX refers to the 85-year old Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

The passage is from Peter Godwin's 2010 book, "The Fear: Robert Mugabe and the Martyrdom of Zimbabwe."

The Fear is Godwin's account of what happened in Zimbabwe following its 2008 presidential election. When incumbent Robert Mugabe decided he wouldn't accept the outcome of the vote. Instead, he brutally suppressed and tortured his opponents into submission.

It makes the "Freedom, Not Fear" signs in and around Bishop seem entirely quaint.

As if anyone around here has a clue what true Fear looks like.
Read this book and the descriptions of torture will keep you up at night.

Mugabe launched his political career as a "liberation hero" against what was then known as Rhodesia, a British sub-Saharan colony, in the '70s.

He then won Zimbabwe's first democratic election in 1980.
His mother, Bona, was not thrilled.
According to one of his former students (Mugabe taught school as a

the
sheet

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"It's a dog-eat-dog world, Sammy, and I'm wearing Milk Bone underwear."

-Norm (Cheers)

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young man in the '50s), Mugabe's mother reacted strangely to his victory.
"We were at her house and she said, 'He is not capable of doing it. He is not the kind of person who will look after other people.'"
So he wasn't preternaturally suited for the role.
And over time, those who knew him longest and best, who could provide checks and balances to his worst impulses, slowly disappeared.
In particular, an opposition leader cited the death of his "tempering" Ghanian wife. She was replaced by a new wife, Grace. "Under her influence, the avarice and ostentation began to show."
And there was the eventual "switch from a British-style prime minister-ship to an executive presidency" which "sealed Mugabe's dictatorial metamorphosis."

As the playwright Tom Stoppard once observed, "The worst thing about tyrannies is the way in which they render the crazy, commonplace. Through an awful alchemy, the grotesque becomes quotidian, as you forfeit your ability to be shocked."

Just a few of the absurdities.
In the post-election scrum, Mugabe enlists his "Green Bombers" (a youth league of thugs tasked with the beating and torture of those who voted for the other party).

But the torture isn't totally random. Mugabe's thugs practice "smart genocide." Or politicide (targeted elimination of political enemies).

"There's no need to directly kill hundreds of thousands, if you can select and kill the right few thousand."

"And now the murders are accompanied by torture and rape on an industrial scale, committed on a catch-and-release basis. When those who survive limp home, or are carried or pushed in wheelbarrows, they act like human billboards, advertising the appalling consequences of opposition to tyranny."

The litany of abuse (punctuated for me by a story of a new mother who couldn't nurse her baby because the Green Bombers had broken both her arms) ultimately convinces the opposition to grudgingly agree to a power-sharing arrangement.

Godwin interviews the new Finance Minister, who laments, "It's certainly debatable if we're doing the right thing to go in and sanitize it all for them ... it's worse than I expected, seeing it from the inside at last. The extent of the dilapidation of the economy."

see LUNCH, pg. 13

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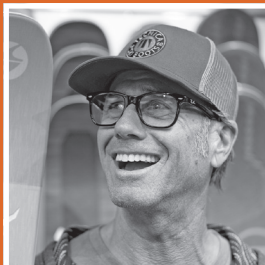
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LOCAL NEWS

TRACKING SEX OFFENDERS

By Libre

A tip from a reader recently alerted the Sheet to an aspect of state housing law that upset her. She believed there were three registered sex offenders living in low-income housing in Mammoth Lakes.

The inquiry begs several questions: are sex offenders allowed to live in affordable housing? How many sex offenders live nearby? And how are they monitored?

State law (SB 1380) mandates affordable housing programs adopt a “Housing First” model. In this model, applicants are not rejected due to “criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy,” according to a statement from the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Eastern Sierra Community Housing “has to use that methodology for leasing,” Nolan Bobroff, Mammoth Lakes community and economic development Director said.

According to the Megan’s Law website, there are six registered sex offenders currently living in Mammoth Lakes. The website includes pictures of these people, their address, and a risk rating, meaning how likely they are to commit another sex crime.

“The police department has a process

in place for monitoring our registered offenders,” Sergeant Jason Heilman said.

Most of these individuals are currently abiding by the law, meaning they re-register annually, on their birthdays, with the Mammoth Lakes Police Department.

There is a 2008 active felony warrant for the arrest of Juan Luis Camargo, the only registered sex offender in Mammoth Lakes in violation of the law.

“It’s possible that person is not even in the area anymore,” Heilman said.

The MLPD has assigned each of the compliant offenders to a member of their Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Heilman explained. These SART officers perform routine home check-ins with the offender. Currently, four MLPD officers are a part of the SART team.

“One of our biggest things is to make sure that [sex offenders] are residing at the address they provide,” Heilman stressed. “One way to do that is through home visits.”

If a sex offender is on parole or probation as a result of their conviction, the MLPD will do parole or probation compliance in addition to the home check-ins. In certain cases, an offender may not be subject to searches, which limits the MLPD’s alternatives.

DOUBLE MURDER CONVICTION

By Fisher

A Montana man was recently convicted in the 2020 murders of a husband and wife found dead along U.S. Highway 395 near Bridgeport.

On Nov. 9, 2020, a snowplow driver discovered the bodies of William Larsen, 35, and his wife, Yesenia Larsen, 30, on the side of the road outside Bridgeport. Nearly five years later, on Sept. 12, a federal jury found Cory Spurlock guilty of their murders.

Spurlock, who faces a maximum sentence of life in prison, is scheduled to be sentenced on December 16.

According to court documents and testimony, Spurlock, the Larsens, and several others were involved in a large-scale illegal marijuana distribution operation based in Mound House, Nevada.

The killings were linked to a broader criminal conspiracy that also involved the disappearance and death of Jered Stefansky, another member of the operation.

Stefansky, of Redding, California, disappeared on June 19, 2020, after traveling to Mound House for a marijuana-related cash transaction. His last phone call was to a number associated with

Spurlock, who then became a person of interest in the investigation. Months later, Stefansky’s skeletal remains were found in Pershing County, Nevada.

Stefansky’s mother appeared on a podcast in late 2020 discussing her son’s disappearance and named Spurlock and Larsen as associates. Hearing the podcast, Spurlock became convinced that Larsen was cooperating with law enforcement and set out to kill him.

Between Oct. and early Nov. 2020, Spurlock and his accomplices followed the Larsens from Reno to Mono County. On November 8, 2020, the couple was shot and stabbed to death outside Bridgeport. Spurlock was also convicted of robbery for taking cash from Will Larsen’s wallet.

After a four-week trial, jurors returned guilty verdicts in just a day and a half.

Spurlock was convicted of conspiracy to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana, murder-for-hire conspiracy, witness tampering by killing, interference with commerce by robbery, causing death through use of a firearm during a crime of violence, and two counts of stalking resulting in death.

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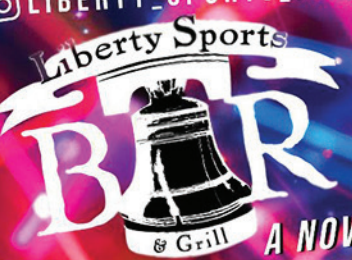
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FIRE

cotinued from page 1

develop makes sense across those jurisdictional boundaries,” Tracy Misiewicz, Whitebark’s environmental planning program director, said.

The Lee Vining meeting filled the small Lee Vining Library, though most of the 14 attendees represented partner agencies including USFS, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and Southern California Edison (SCE).

In Mono City, turnout was higher: 26 attendees by Misiewicz’s count, but that wasn’t too surprising, as the community “did almost just burn down,” as Russel Reese, Mono City resident and Lee Vining Branch Library Coordinator, put it.

The Inn Fire, a blaze in May which scorched one home, temporarily shut down Highway 395, and burned more than 700 acres near Mono City, was a stark and recent reminder of the area’s wildfire risk.

At each meeting, Misiewicz and Heller gave a short presentation and invited participants to mark up maps showing vegetation, land ownership, watersheds, and community boundaries, leaving sticky notes and suggestions.

Unlike the “Mammoth Donut” project, much of the Mono Basin area is shrubland, according to one of the maps. For fire management, a major concern for ecosystems like this are invasive species that fill in the gaps between shrubs and allow fire to burn quicker and hotter.

There were some creative solutions to address this issue.

“I think goats could be a really good idea!” Mono County Supervisor Paul McFarland brainstormed aside a map dotted with post-its. “And it’s just cute.”

Once Misiewicz called attendees back their seats and stood next to a massive notepad, she took down each of the community’s concerns, the first being that Mono City has only one main evacuation route, and that road is not in great condition.

“Four wheel drive vehicles would be fine, but I’m not sure a Prius could make it,” the attendee said.

The goat idea did make it to the spoken discussion, as another resident recommended using “old-timey” methods, like slash crews to reduce vegetation load.

McFarland pitched the importance of maintaining fuel breaks and reducing fuels around communities, roads, and campgrounds as a priority to reduce fire intensity.

On the maps minutes earlier, he’d explained that there’s no point to allocating resources to manage fuel load in areas where people don’t live.

Eventually, the suggestions came slower and slower, until they stopped coming at all. Misiewicz dismissed the crowd early, about an hour before its anticipated end.



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STR
continued from page 1

Roughly 57% of public survey respondents supported the rule, along with 83% of RPAC participants.

Exemptions would apply to existing short-term rentals that have operated continuously for at least two years, homes with deed-restricted affordable units, and properties whose owners also provide long-term rentals or accessory dwelling units.

Ultimately, the Board reached consensus to support a waiting period in concept.

The third proposal would create a voluntary incentive program offering STR permit priority to applicants who also build or convert long-term housing units.

The proposed ratio, three new deed-restricted homes for every one STR unit, was designed to both mitigate impacts and create community benefit. Roughly 80% of RPAC members supported this.

“The open market isn’t keeping pace in affordability,” staff said.

Supervisors expressed broad support. “We haven’t been as aggressive as we could be on the incentive side,” Supervisor Paul McFarland said. “This is a good start.”

Interlaken... oops!

Since the vote on the aforementioned policies was delayed, the only concrete action of the day had to do with the Interlaken Condominium Complex in June Lake.

The Interlaken Condominium Complex has operated short-term rentals (STRs) for years. Decades, in some cases. Many owners bought their units assuming STRs were allowed, and the County even issued Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) certificates to them, meaning the County was collecting lodging taxes.

But recently, while reviewing and updating STR regulations, County staff realized that Interlaken’s zoning technically didn’t allow STRs at all. The complex sits on land with a residential zoning designation that prohibits short-term rentals under the County’s existing code.

That realization raised two questions for the Board. First, should STRs be allowed at Interlaken? And, if so, how should the County go about approving them – change the code to fit the zoning or change the zoning to fit the code?

Staff and recommended Supervisors opt to rezone only the land Interlaken sits on to a designation that accommodates STRs.

“It’s better just to get the ducks in a row,” Community Development Director Wendy Sugimura said, “and line it up cor-

rectly with its land-use designation.”

One resident spoke in support of allowing STRs at Interlaken.

“It was built by Bud Hayward, who started June Mountain,” she said. “The price point at Interlaken is exceptionally higher than the rest of the condos. Our highest-end clientele stay there.”

Not everyone agreed.

“We wouldn’t allow a wetland to be paved over because we know that paving over a wetland has negative impacts to the surrounding lands,” June Lake Resident Michael Draper said. “Why would we allow a land-use designation intended for residential usage and long-term habitation to become a commercial property and operation?”

Ultimately, Supervisors voted 4-1 to rezone the area to align it with similar condo complexes. In the meantime, the Supervisors supported temporarily legalizing Interlaken’s STRs as “existing nonconforming uses.”

Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz cast the lone dissenting vote.

CORDUROY ON STAGE

By Fisher

For years, the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre (MLRT) has brought the magic of live performance to classrooms across Mono and Inyo counties through its Theatre for Young Audiences program.

Each fall, hundreds of elementary students file into the Mammoth High School MPR to watch a one-hour play, an annual program that introduces rural students to theatre.

This year, the production follows the story of Don Freeman’s 1968 classic, “Corduroy,” in which a teddy bear who longs to be loved goes searching through a department store for his missing button. The story was adapted for the stage in 2018.

Abbs Stoiber, former Mammoth Lakes resident now located in Los Angeles, is directing this year’s production after acting in last year’s “Pinocchio” performance.

“Programs like this are so important,” they said. “Many of these kids have never seen live theater before. Even if they leave just thinking, ‘That was really cool, I want to see more things like that,’ that’s a win.”

While the past few post-pandemic productions featured local actors, this year, MLRT Artistic Director Shira Dubrovner returned to the program’s original format, which involved bringing in performers from Los Angeles to join the cast.

This shift was brought on partially to accommodate the play’s demands, and partially to expose children to the broader world of performing arts.

“The play is really big and full of movement, lots of physical comedy and music,” Stoiber said. “We wanted to bring in actors with experience in that kind of work, while also giving them the chance to perform for young audiences in a rural community.”

The impact these shows have cannot be understated, Stoiber said, even if the kids don’t leave wanting to pursue a career in theatre. For many, it’s these kids’ first time seeing a live arts performance.

Performances of “Corduroy” will run Oct. 26-30.



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Don't miss our only sale on 2026 model ski boots this year. Loyal locals get 20% off our latest and greatest new models of boots, liners, and selected accessories that have just arrived in our stores. Surefoot Contoura Liners offer a revolutionary internal heating system so you can stay cozy all day long! Whether you are an entry level skier, an all mountain ripper, or a backcountry enthusiast, Surefoot boots, custom liners and orthotics offer the comfort and performance you need.



ONCE MORE, WITH FEELING!

By Libre

Hundreds participated in No Kings rallies in Lone Pine, Bishop and Mammoth last Saturday.

Many carried signs with anti-Trump slogans and were dressed in absurd outfits, like the woman in the inflatable t-rex suit carrying the sign "Hate Never Made Anything Great." Another woman was dressed like a bloodied statue of liberty. A third couple in shark and walrus costumes held signs that read "Resist" and "Trump Sucks."

Some protestors even donned their dogs in No Kings garb. A pitbull wore a vest with the slogan, "Poop on Trump." Pinned to the terrier puppy's harness were the words, "I Bite Fascists" on one side and, "Eat the Rich" on the other.

"Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Donald Trump has to go!" protesters at both events shouted. "No KKK, no fascist USA," another chant went.

Originally, Bishop's event was meant to have Daniel Pfeiffer, co-host of Pod Save America as a speaker. But then on Friday afternoon, he texted to say he was sick, according to organizer Fran Hunt.

Even without the famed speaker, the event in Bishop was well-attended, racking up around 700 individuals. Both local residents and tourists were in attendance. The crowd included both old and young.

"I'm protesting because I'm a wom-

an," said one protester from Olympia, Wash., who identified herself as Terri and did not give her last name. "This isn't normal," she said.

"The democracy system is being completely dismantled," Jean Randle of Bishop said. She was wearing a unicorn horn and a t-shirt that read "all you need is love."

A little boy held a sign which read "Descendant of Survivors - standing for a better Future!" in big, bulky letters.

The protestors were engaged in tactical frivolity -- a peaceful form of resistance involving humor and whimsical antics. It's a trend that's currently buzzing nationwide. Hunt pointed to the protesting frogs Portland, Ore., and said she wanted others to do the same. Hence the purple axolotl waving to passing cars in Bishop.

"We encourage people to come with a spirit of celebration of democracy and love," said Hunt, Bishop resident, dressed in a fuzzy one-piece otter costume. She said she feared the failure of so many to stand up against Trump. The protest allowed her to do something. "There is joy in resistance," she said.

Hunt is a board member of Inyo 350, a local environmental and social justice volunteer coalition that played a major role in organizing the event on Saturday. Inyo 350 and Karyle Tong, another Bishop resident, planned the



One Lone Pine protester brought Prop 50 into the fight

event for five weeks. Hunt described Tong as the passion and the vision behind the event and Inyo 350 as the organizing force.

In Lone Pine, a small but mighty crowd of about 100 protested on Main Street. And in Mammoth, the group of approximately 400 gathered in front of the Chevron.

At the Mammoth rally, Mayor Chris

Bubser told The Sheet she was worried about the impacts of Trump's policies.

"We are heading towards real pain for real people," she said.

Bubser pointed to the misinformation in the press, and the failure to communicate across party lines. "We can't seem to find a shared understanding of reality."



World-Class Longevity Training

Available right here in Mammoth Lakes!

Ted and Tammy Dardzinski, internationally recognized strength and conditioning specialists, have brought their combined 70 years of experience and knowledge to Mammoth Lakes with their world-class training center, TEDD High Altitude Longevity Training Center (TEDD Fitness). The TEDD training center is among the first of its kind in the US to focus on older athletes and longevity. TEDD is a gym specifically designed for those over 40 years of age. It is important to note that the methods utilized at TEDD have evolved over many years of practical, hands-on experience. Every piece of world-class equipment has been specifically and carefully selected for individuals with multiple physical issues, including new joints, back problems, and years of compensation and wear-and-tear. This center isn't a health club designed to sell memberships and cater to a younger crowd; it's a hybrid. It is not merely a restorative center; it is an innovative program that integrates the science of longevity and health span with sports strength and

conditioning. The TEDD focus is on reconditioning and transforming older bodies into rejuvenated and youthful versions by using advanced techniques.

As for the owners, Ted and Tammy, you couldn't ask for two more experienced and knowledgeable coaches. Their careers span over decades and include extensive training and teaching in neuromuscular re-education and active nervous system recruitment (The Dardzinski Method). Ted and Tammy were pioneers in spinal cord injury recovery, founding and growing Project Walk Spinal Cord Injury Recovery Center into facilities all over the world. They have been interviewed on TV and in print highlighting their successes. Researchers from all over the world visited their corporate center in Carlsbad, CA to observe and learn The Dardzinski Method. Once, during a national television broadcast, Anderson Cooper inquired if Ted possessed expertise akin to that of a witch doctor due to the remarkable results he was achieving.

The results garnered by the Dardzinski's continue to generate discussion. Over the years, Ted and Tammy have focused their extensive experience and knowledge of the body into longevity training. And now, they are offering the TEDD program to Mammoth! Clients who have consistently participated in the TEDD training program have experienced significant transformations. Individuals in their 70s have regained athletic abilities comparable to those a decade younger; chronic pain issues have been resolved; and their bodies exhibit better mobility than 90% of their peers.

You owe it to yourself to visit the TEDD High Altitude Longevity Training Center. See firsthand how it can benefit you and help you achieve a longer, healthier, happier, more functional health span.

Contact Ted today for a tour of the center and a free consultation. TEDD is located: Outpost Mall, 126 Old Mammoth Rd. 760.716.8773 | info@teddski.com

LOCAL BRIEFS

Road Warriors

Road construction “season” will roll all the way through the rest of 2025 and into 2026 as Caltrans plows ahead with extensive repaving and road reconstruction projects on US 395 in Inyo and Mono counties.

Bishop and Big Pine have borne the brunt of the construction work so far. This fall and into 2026 the cone zone will move to Independence, Lone Pine, Lee Vinning and Bridgeport.

The following overview of ongoing and upcoming highway work was provided by Caltrans Public Information Officer Christopher Andriessen.

****** The work in downtown Bishop, which includes new sidewalks, drainage improvements, and multi-use paths, recently hit a time-consuming snag. Crews dug into the intersection of Main Street/395 and Lagoon Street and uncovered (to the amazement of all) an old 500-gallon gasoline storage tank.

****** The intersection of Main and Line streets will be the next angst area. Work there, tentatively scheduled for late 2025, will involve a 10-day detour as workers toil around the clock on upgrades to the off-kilter intersection.

**** On North Main Street, the Meadow Farms ADA and sidewalk work will continue into early 2026 as both sides of 395 get sidewalk and bike lane upgrades.**

**** The Fish Springs Repaving Project on 395 from Poverty Hills through Big Pine, is almost half done.**

The repaved southbound lanes are now open and will remain open while the northbound lanes get an overhaul

One lane going north will be open during the paving work.

****** The infamous intersection of Wye Road and US 6 will get a “quick install” roundabout next summer.

The traffic circle will not be a fully built out, landscaped feature. It will involve a slightly raised center circle, lane striping and signage. Eventually a permanent roundabout could be built.

Andriessen pointed out the significant increase in semi-truck traffic going from 395 to 6 at the intersection. He said Caltrans' estimate for "freight traffic" in 2040 has already been topped.

**** The Manzanar Project, starting in 2026, will repave 44 miles of 395 from the Manzanar Historic Site to the Fort Independence Reservation. Independence will get a long-awaited crosswalk beacon and other pedestrian improvements.**

**** A complete overhaul of 395 through Lee Vining is slated to start in the summer of 2026. The plan calls for converting the current 5-lane highway into a 3-lane road, with head-in parking, new drainage, landscaping, and sidewalks.**

**** Bridgeport will get a facelift, too, starting in the summer of 2026. New pavement, pedestrian and ADA improvements, new lighting and traffic controls, drainage improvements and new sidewalks are planned.**

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State paying for votes

The upcoming Nov. 4 special election will not cost local counties anything more than the usual Election Day worry and suspense.

The legislation that put Prop 50, the redistricting question, on the ballot also provided cash to cover counties' election costs.

Mono County has received \$187,000 from the state to cover election costs, said Queenie Barnard, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters.

Inyo County got a slightly larger payment of \$220,826, according to Danielle Sexton, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters.

Bring on Barack

The No on 50 folks thought they brought in a ringer in the person of former governor, actor and weightlifter Arnold Schwarzenegger to shill for their position.

The Yes on 50 fans countered with a political heavyweight, President Barack Obama.

Obama has been drawn into the redistricting battle which seeks to temporarily to redraw the state's congressional districts to create five new Democratic-leaning districts in time for the 2026 midterm elections.

Obama has starred in television commercials and is hitting the podcast circuit to urge California voters to approve

Prop 50.

Prop 50 arose to counter the new House map drawn up by the Texas legislature map that would create five additional GOP districts.

The primary pitch of the Yes on 50 campaign is to trim the state's GOP House delegation and add five more democrats. That would not only enrage President Trump but could put the brakes on large portions of his agenda.

The No on 50 group claims the move is naked partisan gerrymandering orchestrated by the politicians in

Sacramento that ignores the work of the nonpartisan redistricting commission that created the current political map.

more BRIEFS, page 15

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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. 14*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 3. 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

Saturday, October 25/ Halloween Costume Contest @ Wanahaa Casino. Registration begins 7 p.m. Judging 9 p.m. Cash prizes for various categories. Live DJ spins 7-11 p.m.

Sunday, October 26/ Tasty (singer/songwriter) plays Distant Brewing. Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m. No cover

Friday, October 31/ Tricks and Treats Halloween Spooktacular @ Liberty. Live stage performances, costume contest & more. Doors @ 10 p.m. \$\$\$.

Saturday, November 1/ Dos Alas Cubanican Cafe Halloween Bash. Live music, costume contest. Time: 9 p.m. Cover: \$10.
Eli West plays C5 Studios in Bishop. Doors 6:30/Show 7 p.m. \$\$\$.
Location: 210 S. Warren St. *For tix, visit c5studios.org*

TOWN STUFF

Friday, October 24/ Town of Mammoth Lakes Haunted Rink event @ the Community Rec Center on Old Mammoth Rd. from 4-7 p.m. Costume contest, spooky activities and more.
IMACA food distribution @ the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Time: 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, October 25/ Bishop FFA Haunted Swamp Tour @ the FFA Farm on Sunland. Time: 6-9 p.m. \$10/person. Monsters, ghouls and scares await you!
Miles for Mammograms community walk/fundraiser to support the Mammoth Hospital Foundation mammography program. Starts 11 a.m. Location: Mammoth Creek Park.

Sunday, October 26/ The Bill Schuck Quintet performs a benefit concert at the Bishop United Methodist Church, 205 N. Fowler Street. Tikme: 2 p.m. Part of the proceeds will support the church's programs of service to members of our community. Ticket Price: \$20. *Students free with ID*

Monday, October 27/ Mammoth's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee meets in Suite Z, Minaret Mall. Time: 5:30 p.m.
Bishop City Council meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers @ 377 West Line or online via cityofbishop.ca.gov

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, October 28/ Inyo National Forest and Whitebark Institute co-host a wildfire resilience meeting in June Lake @ the Community Center. Time: 6-8 p.m. Join **State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara** and State Fire Marshal Chief Daniel Berlant for a **virtual town hall on California's insurance market**. Time: 5 p.m. Register @ qrco.de/102825

October 29-30/ Sierra Classic Theater's annual Murder Mystery Dinner kicks off at Dos Alas in Mammoth. *For more info and the full schedule, see ad p. 7*

Thursday, October 30/ Ongoing and FREE Improv Comedy workshop Thursdays hosted by Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Mammoth High School MPR @ 365 Sierra Park Rd.
Grand Opening of the new Marshalls in the Bishop Plaza. First day opens at 8 a.m. Regular hours will be 9:30-9:30.

Friday, October 31/ Halloween Dance Party @ the Bishop Elks Lodge with music by the Bishop Jazz Combo. Time: 6-10 p.m. Location: 151 East Line. \$10.

October 31-November 2/ October 31-November 2: Eastern Sierra History Conference @ Cerro Coso College in Bishop. *More info: sierraforever.org.*

UPCOMING

November 1: Yard sale benefiting Altrusa Club. Time: 7 a.m. to noon. Location: 250 Sneden St - Many donors from various households. Housewares, clothing, furnishings, holiday, et. al.

November 1: Mammoth Mercantile grand opening in the Mammoth Mall from 4-6 p.m. with the ribbon-cutting at 5. Small bites, drinks, community, shopping, more.

November 1: 11th Annual Owens River cleanup. Meet 8 a.m. @ the Pleasant Valley campground outside Bishop.

November 1-2: The Felici Piano Trio present the 2nd concert of the 25/26 winter series "Ghosted" with music by Beethoven (his "Ghost" trio) William Bolcom and Schumann. Tickets are available at the door or online at: ChamberMusicUnbound.org. *More info: See ad p. 2*

November 4: Election Day. Go to the polls to decide the fate of Prop. 50

November 6: Whitebark Institute's Science on Tap series @ Distant Brewing with Fire Ecologist John Williams. Event starts 6 p.m. with talk @ 6:30.



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For more information, to subscribe to job alerts, and to apply:



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Help Wanted



MAMMOTH HOSPITAL
Elevate Your Health

Elevate Your Career At Mammoth Hospital! We have an immediate need for the following positions:

- Patient Access Representative (Multiple Departments)
- Help Desk Technician (Part Time)
- Foundation Coordinator
- Certified Laboratory Assistant
- HIMS Assisant

Mammoth Hospital offers; success sharing incentives program; staff development program; generous retirement match and PTO Accrual.

For questions, please email hr@mammoth. To view more positions and apply, pls.visit www.mammothhospital.org/jobs

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

Sweetwater Plumbing Inc. FT position for Journeyman Plumber and/or Apprentice Plumber. Full Benefits. Job is located in Mammoth Lakes. Contact 760-914-1266 info@sweetwaterplumbing.com



MAMMOTH 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/.



Footloose Sports is hiring Bootfitters and Demo Ski Technicians for the upcoming winter season. We are looking for outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy skiing and prefer working in a fast paced, team-oriented environment. We are searching for individuals with experience but also provide paid training to entry level candidates demonstrating reliability, enthusiasm, and excellent customer service skills. This is a great opportunity to join a legendary Mammoth ski shop. Please submit a current resume to footloose@footloosesports.com.

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



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@heartsrc. org for application and job announcement.

Help Wanted



Reservations Desk Clerk immediate opening at the Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA (20 min from mammoth). Must have excellent customer service and computer skills. Full or part time, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work! Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

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

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



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.

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

The Alpenhof Lodge has positions available for full and part time employment. We are a 24 hour per day business looking to add members to our Front Desk team. Competitive wages, benefits, flexible schedule, and housing option may be available for the right individual. Please pick up an application and drop a resume at 6080 Minaret Rd Mammoth.



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NOTICES

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on November 18, 2025, in the Mono Lake Room (1st floor) at the Mono County Civic Center, 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, and the meeting will be accessible remotely by Zoom at <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/83537511698> or in-person in the Mono Lake Room of the Mono County Civic Center, First Floor, 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, where members of the public shall have the right to observe, consider and offer public comment on General Plan Amendment (GPA) 25-01 and modifications to Mono County Code (MCC) Chapter 5.65 (collectively, "the Project") no earlier than 9:00 AM.

The Project proposes the following short-term rental policy and regulations amendments, among others: consolidate the permitting process, revise owner-occupancy criteria, require third-party inspections, establish a numeric cap and waitlist in June Lake, implement a waiting period before any property owner can apply for a permit, and prohibit the transfer of permits.

The Mono County Planning Commission recommends the Board adopt the Project as proposed with the following modifications: Add a general exception from standards and regulations to the County Code, eliminate the permit cap in June Lake, include certain exemptions to the waiting periods, and include an incentive policy that grants more favorable review of a project providing three deed-restricted housing

units for every STR.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors will receive public input, consider the adoption of the Project, and direct any further modifications.

The clean and redline versions of the GPA 25-01 and modifications to MCC Chapter 5.65 are available for public review at <https://monocounty.ca.gov/community-development/page/short-termtransient-rentals> and hard copies are available for the cost of reproduction. Materials for the public hearing will be available online by November 14, 2025, at <https://www.monocounty.ca.gov/bos/page/board-supervisors-265>.

INTERESTED PERSONS are strongly encouraged to submit comments to the Mono County Community Development Department no later than November 18, 2025, at 8:00 AM, after which comments and testimony should be submitted in-person at the public hearing to guarantee receipt by the Board of Supervisors. Public comments may be submitted by email to cddcomments@mono.ca.gov, or by mail to P.O. Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. If you challenge the proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Clerk of the Board at, or prior to, the public hearing.

TS #2025-0119

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?

5 FALL TIPS

— FOR RECREATING RESPONSIBLY —

- **Plan Ahead** Check weather, roads, and maps before you go. Weather can shift, cell service can be limited and restrooms may be scarce.
- **Park Smart** Use designated spots only. Avoid parking on plants or soft shoulders to protect fragile aspen roots. Aspens grow in shallow soils, and repeated pressure from cars can damage their roots for years to come.
- **Tread Lightly** Brush off boots and gear to prevent the spread of invasive species. Stay on trails and know proper trail etiquette. Never carve into aspens—their paper-thin bark makes them especially vulnerable, and even small cuts can introduce harmful disease.
- **Stay Aware** Drive safely, pull over only in safe areas, and never stop or stand in the road. Even quiet country roads see fast-moving traffic—protect yourself and be courteous to others.
- **Pack It In, Pack It Out** Carry out all trash—even food scraps. With more visitors during peak color season, even small litter can add up quickly and can harm wildlife. Bonus points for picking up extra litter.

Eastern Sierra Community Housing supports workforce housing for a viable economy and sustainable community.

Eastern Sierra Community Housing, Inc. (ESCH) seeks new directors for the Board. This is an opportunity to contribute to the future of affordable housing in our majestic region. Our service area encompasses Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties.

We are currently recruiting two representatives of the low-income community. To meet this definition, eligible applicants will either have a low-income household, live in a low-income neighborhood, or be an elected representative of a low-income community organization.

Household Size	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people
Low-income gross limit 80% AMI	\$57,200	\$65,400	\$73,550	\$81,700	\$88,250	\$94,800

All those interested in volunteering on the Board should work well in a team setting, be willing to put in time and effort, share in the mission and values of ESCH, and enable the Board to address the corporation's program areas. Some of our exciting programs and projects include expanding services, diversifying funding and partnerships, new housing developments, homeownership programs, and much more.

There are many personal and professional benefits that come from serving on a non-profit Board of Directors such as: the development of leadership skills, the possibility to affect change, networking opportunities, the chance to give back to the community, an understanding of non-profit governance, and experience with big picture thinking.

If you are interested, please visit our website www.eschousing.org for an application or submit your resume/CV or letter of interest to Executive Director, Patricia Robertson.

Patricia@eschousing.org

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Para obtener más información y participar en el sorteo de aplicaciones, visite: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1382

LUNCH

continued from page 2

But that in itself, says his former personal secretary, Godfrey Chanetsa, is a power-preserving strategy.

"To understand how Mugabe keeps his people down," says Chanetsa, you must understand "the psychology of deprivation: Zimbabweans have learned to be self-reliant. There's a deep sense of individuality - no collective sense. We've become a nation of black marketers, crooks. Robert Mugabe has subverted the revolution by keeping people busy just managing, just getting by."

Such as ...
*There's a passage of people planting maize in the highway medians.

*A woman with an \$865 trillion (Zimbabwe currency) electric bill.

*The usage of termites as ... sutures.

"You pinch the wound closed and make the termite nip onto it with its mighty mandibles, then break off its body, and repeat, along the wound."

None of Chanetsa's four children have stayed in country, choosing to build lives in Canada, Australia and South Africa instead.

They chide him for staying amidst the dysfunction.

Mugabe held power until 2017 when he was finally forced to resign due to a military-supported ouster.

This was the culmination of a power struggle between a former Vice-President (Mnangagwa) and Mugabe's wife, Grace, as to who would succeed the 93-year old.

Mnangagwa has held power ever since.

He is 83-years old.
Zimbabwe's ruling party recently extended his presidential term until 2030.
It is estimated that one-quarter of Zimbabwe's children under 18 do not live with either parent, a staggering orphan rate. That's according to an aid group called Zimbabwe Without Orphans.

The Fun Premium

The theme this week: insurance.
There was the announcement that the California FAIR Plan is proposing an average rate increase of 35.8% for its homeowner policies. If approved, that increase would go into effect April, 2026.

*You'll see in our calendar of events that State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has scheduled a virtual meeting on Tuesday evening to discuss.

Then there was the whammy of my Mountain Shadows Homeowners' Assn. this week.

State Farm recently dropped insurance for the complex (as it's done all over town on many properties).

The result: Mountain Shadows had been paying \$93,000 annually for coverage. The new quote: \$402,000.

The impact this year is an immediate \$3,000 special assessment, and then a 20% increase in HOA fees next year and likely another hefty special assessment on top of that.

Finally, another sector of the insurance market that's been impacted which you may not think twice about is that of outdoor recreation.

Yep. The fun premium.

The Sheet spoke to insurance broker Rob Martin last week - he represents many local, private retailers such as Mammoth Mountaineering and Wave Rave Snowboard Shop, and approximately 1,000 retail clients in mountain communities overall.

For liability insurance, they were all covered by CNA Financial.

Until CNA Financial decided to get out of the business this year.

After 25 years without a claim, CNA had suffered four policy limit losses over the past four years.

A new wrinkle - private equity firms backing plaintiff's attorneys to go after small businesses who rent equipment for "dangerous" sports.

"Small business liability [insurance] has become a lot more challenging," acknowledged Martin. "There is going to be a dramatic reset on pricing."

Which also means those ski rentals will probably be 10-15% more expensive

this year.
Wave Rave's Steve Klassen said, "This has been one of the scariest past several months of operation we've ever had ... because we didn't know if we'd be able to get it [liability insurance]."

He just received word last week that Martin had found him a policy. It's not often a man is grateful to be paying 70% more for the same coverage he had last year, but Klassen sure is.

For once, there is a place that has it worse than California in this regard: Oregon.

According to SnowBrains, one small ski area, Timberline Lodge has experienced a 166% increase in liability premiums this year, with deductibles ten times higher and overall insurance cost up 586% since 2020.

By comparison, Mammoth Mountain President and COO Eric Clark said the resort's liability costs are up about 15-20% this year.



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OBITUARY

BALIN MILLER

2002-2025

By Libre

Alaskan climber Balin Miller used to paint his high cheekbones with glitter before going off into battle. Battle being the bold and daring alpine routes Miller became famous for, like his ascent of Reality Bath in the Canadian Rockies or his solo of the North Buttress on Mount Hunter via the French Connection.

"He only put it on for the hard climbs, the scary ones," recalled Dylan Miller, Balin Miller's older brother, in an interview with The Sheet on Tuesday. "It was like Balin, you're soloing the Slovak Direct Trail, but it's okay, you have glitter on."

Miller was referring to his brother's solo up the Slovak Direct route on Denali. He was the first person to ever complete the infamous route without a rope. It took him 56 hours.

On Oct. 1, 2025, Miller died while on another classic climb - El Capitan in Yosemite. He was only 23-years-old.

Balin Miller was born in Anchorage, Alaska on Jan. 12, 2002. He started climbing with Dylan and their father when he was five and Dylan was seven. He quickly fell in love with the sport.

"He started leading ice pitches by like 14 or 15," Dylan Miller said. "I think that's another cool thing about his climbing timeline. Even though he was in his early 20s, he had been leading ice pretty consistently for close to a decade."

Miller's experience allowed him to both shine as a climber and make

measured, calculated decisions in the backcountry.

"He was obviously a very skilled climber but he was also very safe," said Aidan Whitelaw, a close friend and climbing partner. "He wasn't afraid to turn around."

In his short but prolific climbing career, Balin Miller pushed boundaries.

"He was one of the strongest and boldest climbers of our generation," said Will Hogdson, a friend and climbing partner of Miller's. "But he was also just a person."

As Miller rose to fame, he remained unapologetically himself. He wore cheetah print rainbow tights and painted his fingernails black. His nose was pierced. He was funny, blunt, and opinionated.

"He was one of the only people I've ever met who was unburdened by the perceptions of others," remembered Talis Colberg, a close friend and climbing partner.

"I don't know anyone else like Balin," echoed Cole Jones, a high school friend.

Colberg scoffed at media characterizations of the death of his friend. "[Calling him an] influencer is silly. His social media was a joke. He was totally not motivated by anything other than his love to climb."

Colberg pointed to times when he would jokingly tell Miller he maybe needed to take his Instagram account more seriously if he wanted to pursue



climbing full-time. Then, Miller would turn around, and post something hilarious and lewd.

Miller was multi-faceted. He briefly pursued a degree in engineering at Montana State University before dropping out to pursue his climbing career. During the summers, he worked on a crabbing boat back home in Alaska.

Miller also loved his Prius. He often lived out of his car, which he was doing

earlier this fall in Yosemite.

"Balin felt like he could make a Prius do anything any other car could do," Jones said.

More than anything, Miller was a fiercely loyal friend who developed strong relationships everywhere he went.

"We almost spent more time hanging out than climbing," Whitelaw said. "I feel like that's pretty unique in climbing partnerships."

OBITUARY

ELIZABETH 'LIZ' FLEMING

Elizabeth 'Liz' Fleming, Crowley Lake's longtime resident and friend to many, took her final bow after a brave battle with cancer. Some friends knew her as a meticulous bookkeeper, others an athlete, and a few as "Dizzy Lizzy," the clown. Liz lived life joyfully with equal parts precision and pleasure.

She loved teaching, whether it was showing a yoga pose, raising a Labrador retriever, or sharing her garden's mysteries. In her magnificent garden, she not only grew flowers and produce, she also fed birds. Hummingbirds were her favorite, though she did not mind sharing the bounty with all the early birds who woke her on her deck which she loved to sleep on, lulled to sleep with the sound of the creek even when the temperatures dipped below the comfort level.

"That's why I have down blankets," she would say. Liz's love for the outdoors led to many adventures and stories. She hiked Half Dome and completed the Granite Man right here in the Eastern Sierra. She found great joy while being a nanny to Piper and taking her nephew Mark and his Boy Scout troop hiking up Rock Creek Canyon when he was just 10. Her love of trails took her far from home, including hiking Phase One of the Dolomites and exploring Bryce Canyon and Zion with her cousin Bernadette.

Liz had a few loves: her friends and friendships were very dear to her, the colors purple and pink, flowers, and Italy. She was always active and during the summers could be found at Whitmore Pool, Mammoth Track Club, and the High Sierra Tri-Club workouts. In the colder months, you'd find her biking on Green Church Road or cross-country skiing at Tamarack.

Her home gym, built by her ex-partner and friend Bob, was the perfect place for



her to lead her friends in some peaceful, if not always graceful, yoga. She earned her Level 1 yoga teaching certificate at White Lotus and was very proud of that.

In her quiet time, you might find her at her sunny kitchen nook or table, reading historical fiction, doing a puzzle, or running the co-op headquarters.

Her deep connection to and love of Italy was undeniable. She became fluent in the language and immersed herself in the culture, and she loved traveling there. She cherished the time she spent exploring Italy with her friend Issi during her last few months, a period which included living with Anna, River and Paolo.

Liz leaves behind a legacy of laughter, movement, community, and a powerful reminder that life is best lived with a little splash of color and your hands in the dirt for all the fruitfulness that the garden delivers.

A Celebration of Liz's Life will take place on Oct. 25 from 3-5 p.m. at the Crowley Community Center. Attendees are asked to wear bright colors. In lieu of flowers, Liz wants you to take a hike, plant a garden, adopt a dog, or maybe just clown around.

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Purchase in-person at the NEW Parks and Recreation offices, located at the Community Recreation Center/LA Kings Ice Mammoth Lakes (Mon-Fri, 1pm-5pm), during the month of October for 50% off the Parks & Recreation Annual Membership fee.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks & Recreation

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BRIEFS

continued from page 9
Fatal Collision on 395

On Saturday, Oct. 18, at approximately 1:25 p.m., a collision on Highway 395 resulted in the death of an unidentified resident, age 64, of Independence.

An unidentified male, age 64, was driving his Toyota Sienna southbound on US-395 heading away from Steward Lane, south of Big Pine in the four-lane construction zone.

Michael Alan Schmidt was driving a semi-truck northbound on US-395, approaching Steward Lane at a stated speed of 45 to 55 MPH.

As both vehicles were headed towards each other, the unidentified male driver, for unknown reasons, made a sudden left turn across the solid double yellow lines dividing the northbound and southbound lane of US-395 and into the path of Schmidt's vehicle.

The unidentified male struck the front of the truck as Schmidt attempted to swerve to the right and applied his brakes to avoid the crash.

The unidentified male suffered fatal injuries as a result of the crash. Schmidt and his passenger had minor injuries that did not require medical attention.

This crash is still under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Bishop Area.

GAYLA'S GALLERY

Photographer Gayla Wolf attended the Eastern Cancer Alliance's 25th annual 5k Walk and Fun Run on Saturday starting in Bishop City Park.





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News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



CalTrans cut the ribbon on the Olancho-Cartago four-lane Highway 395 project on Thursday.

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Vol. 23, No. Eck

NON-PROJECT PROJECT

By Fisher

For a project that doesn't officially exist yet, the West Mono Basin fire management plan is already generating plenty of conversation.

Whitebark Institute, a local fire-mitigation nonprofit, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), is in the early stages of planning a fire-resiliency project spanning from June Lake to Mono City.

At this point, the agencies are in the very earliest phase of project planning, simply gathering ideas and concerns from local residents. To collect input, Whitebark hosted community meetings in Mono City last week and in Lee Vining on Monday, with additional meetings planned in June Lake on Friday, Oct. 28, and online Nov. 5.

"You'll notice an asterisk on 'West Mono Basin Project Proposal,' because there is no project proposal right now,"

said Stephanie Heller, USFS Mono Lake District Ranger, at the Lee Vining meeting. "We're looking to create a project, or even multiple projects, that create resiliency to wildfire."

After the USFS gathers and synthesizes community feedback, it intends to return to the public with a draft proposal from May to July 2026, with environmental planning slated to run from August 2026 to May 2028.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), though a significant area land manager, is not technically involved in the project. It recently went through an environmental review for a project within the Mono Basin, so officials didn't see the point of going through it again, Heller explained.

Still, "They are working closely with the USFS to make sure that the projects we do

see FIRE, pg. 5

NO REIGN ON THIS PARADE



Eastern Sierra activists turned out on Saturday for "No Kings" protests in Mammoth, Bishop and Lone Pine. See more, p.8

A GOOD REASON TO RUN



Participants take off at the Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance Run/Walk. More photos by Gayla Wolf, p.15.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS, LONG DELAY

By Fisher

Airbnb and VRBO blurred the lines between homes and hotels years ago, and now, Mono County is still trying to redraw them.

On Tuesday, the Mono County Board of Supervisors held what was supposed to be its final workshop on revising countywide Short-term Rental (STR) rules. But a last-minute discovery of a new state policy forced staff to postpone any decisions until Nov. 18, creating another delay in a years-long effort to create a clear path forward for STRs.

Mono County first paused new STR permits from 2022-24, hoping that some vacation homes would convert to long-term rentals for local workers. Then, staff spent two years dissecting data, surveying residents, and holding workshops to figure out what to do.

In the meantime, the expectations for property owners (and prospective buyers) considering

STRs has become muddled, especially in June Lake. The Board of Realtors, so disgruntled with the issue, went so far as to hire its own third-party "expert" to study and assess paths forward for the county.

"That 'expert' found no issue with STRs, but you can read about that in The Sheet's August 16 issue, p.1.

To bring the dispute to a decisive end, staff prepared three policy proposals: a countywide cap on total permits, a waiting period for STR implementation after property sales, and a housing incentive program for owners who build or convert units for local workers.

The first proposal, a cap, is exactly what it sounds like. It would simply prevent the number of STR permits in a given community from rising above a certain number. In June Lake, the proposed cap would limit STR permits to 95, about 10% above current levels.

Survey results showed 59% of countywide respondents supported a cap, but 100% support from June Lake's Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC).

One June Lake resident, Don Morton, opposed the idea.

"Properties might remain on the market a little longer, but [a cap] is going to encourage cash buyers that just use it two to four weeks a year," he said. "And June Lake has a long history of this."

The Supervisors seemed generally unlikely to support a cap policy in a vote.

The second proposal would impose a waiting period, either one or two years, before new property owners or developers could apply for short-term rental permits. The intent, staff said, is to discourage speculative buying and "decommodify" housing by separating a home's value from its potential rental income.

more STR, pg. 6

Who's your neighbor?

Asphalt in your future

Murder mystery resolved

Culture for kids

Could be worse

p. 4/

p. 9/

p. 4/

p. 6/

p. 2/

THE CRAZY, COMMONPLACE

Alright, I'm gonna give you a passage and you're gonna try to guess whom it's describing:

"XXXX's birthday interview is broadcast. He is now the world's oldest national leader ... once again, he is in his high-backed thronelike armchair ... he peddles his imperial musings for an hour and a half straight, with only the lightest of cues from his simpering interlocutor, who smiles, fawns, nods approvingly and even giggles appreciatively throughout. XXXX fiddles with his gold wedding band as he drones on, and his hands flutter and join again with ecclesiastically laced fingers. It is a repetitive, circuitous performance, geriatric maundering, garnished with non-sequiturs, the brain-shavings of the dictatorial dotage. And he slides further and further into the depths of his outsize chair ... his trouser legs riding up his shins to reveal a nasty case of swollen ankles."

I'm sure your minds turn immediately towards the past decade of U.S. leadership, but alas, the year is 2009, and XXXX refers to the 85-year old Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

The passage is from Peter Godwin's 2010 book, "The Fear: Robert Mugabe and the Martyrdom of Zimbabwe."

The Fear is Godwin's account of what happened in Zimbabwe following its 2008 presidential election. When incumbent Robert Mugabe decided he wouldn't accept the outcome of the vote. Instead, he brutally suppressed and tortured his opponents into submission.

It makes the "Freedom, Not Fear" signs in and around Bishop seem entirely quaint.

As if anyone around here has a clue what true Fear looks like.
Read this book and the descriptions of torture will keep you up at night.

Mugabe launched his political career as a "liberation hero" against what was then known as Rhodesia, a British sub-Saharan colony, in the '70s.

He then won Zimbabwe's first democratic election in 1980.
His mother, Bona, was not thrilled.
According to one of his former students (Mugabe taught school as a

the
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"It's a dog-eat-dog world, Sammy, and I'm wearing Milk Bone underwear."

-Norm (Cheers)

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young man in the '50s), Mugabe's mother reacted strangely to his victory.

"We were at her house and she said, 'He is not capable of doing it. He is not the kind of person who will look after other people.'"

So he wasn't preternaturally suited for the role.

And over time, those who knew him longest and best, who could provide checks and balances to his worst impulses, slowly disappeared.

In particular, an opposition leader cited the death of his "tempering" Ghanian wife. She was replaced by a new wife, Grace. "Under her influence, the avarice and ostentation began to show."

And there was the eventual "switch from a British-style prime minister-ship to an executive presidency" which "sealed Mugabe's dictatorial metamorphosis."

As the playwright Tom Stoppard once observed, "The worst thing about tyrannies is the way in which they render the crazy, commonplace. Through an awful alchemy, the grotesque becomes quotidian, as you forfeit your ability to be shocked."

Just a few of the absurdities.

In the post-election scrum, Mugabe enlists his "Green Bombers" (a youth league of thugs tasked with the beating and torture of those who voted for the other party).

But the torture isn't totally random. Mugabe's thugs practice "smart genocide." Or politicide (targeted elimination of political enemies).

"There's no need to directly kill hundreds of thousands, if you can select and kill the right few thousand."

"And now the murders are accompanied by torture and rape on an industrial scale, committed on a catch-and-release basis. When those who survive limp home, or are carried or pushed in wheelbarrows, they act like human billboards, advertising the appalling consequences of opposition to tyranny."

The litany of abuse (punctuated for me by a story of a new mother who couldn't nurse her baby because the Green Bombers had broken both her arms) ultimately convinces the opposition to grudgingly agree to a power-sharing arrangement.

Godwin interviews the new Finance Minister, who laments, "It's certainly debatable if we're doing the right thing to go in and sanitize it all for them ... it's worse than I expected, seeing it from the inside at last. The extent of the dilapidation of the economy."

see LUNCH, pg. 13

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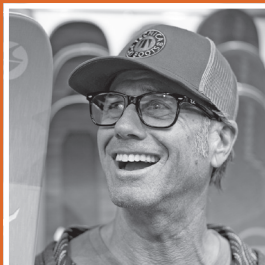
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LOCAL NEWS

TRACKING SEX OFFENDERS

By Libre

A tip from a reader recently alerted the Sheet to an aspect of state housing law that upset her. She believed there were three registered sex offenders living in low-income housing in Mammoth Lakes.

The inquiry begs several questions: are sex offenders allowed to live in affordable housing? How many sex offenders live nearby? And how are they monitored?

State law (SB 1380) mandates affordable housing programs adopt a “Housing First” model. In this model, applicants are not rejected due to “criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy,” according to a statement from the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Eastern Sierra Community Housing “has to use that methodology for leasing,” Nolan Bobroff, Mammoth Lakes community and economic development Director said.

According to the Megan’s Law website, there are six registered sex offenders currently living in Mammoth Lakes. The website includes pictures of these people, their address, and a risk rating, meaning how likely they are to commit another sex crime.

“The police department has a process

in place for monitoring our registered offenders,” Sergeant Jason Heilman said.

Most of these individuals are currently abiding by the law, meaning they re-register annually, on their birthdays, with the Mammoth Lakes Police Department.

There is a 2008 active felony warrant for the arrest of Juan Luis Camargo, the only registered sex offender in Mammoth Lakes in violation of the law.

“It’s possible that person is not even in the area anymore,” Heilman said.

The MLPD has assigned each of the compliant offenders to a member of their Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Heilman explained. These SART officers perform routine home check-ins with the offender. Currently, four MLPD officers are a part of the SART team.

“One of our biggest things is to make sure that [sex offenders] are residing at the address they provide,” Heilman stressed. “One way to do that is through home visits.”

If a sex offender is on parole or probation as a result of their conviction, the MLPD will do parole or probation compliance in addition to the home check-ins. In certain cases, an offender may not be subject to searches, which limits the MLPD’s alternatives.

DOUBLE MURDER CONVICTION

By Fisher

A Montana man was recently convicted in the 2020 murders of a husband and wife found dead along U.S. Highway 395 near Bridgeport.

On Nov. 9, 2020, a snowplow driver discovered the bodies of William Larsen, 35, and his wife, Yesenia Larsen, 30, on the side of the road outside Bridgeport. Nearly five years later, on Sept. 12, a federal jury found Cory Spurlock guilty of their murders.

Spurlock, who faces a maximum sentence of life in prison, is scheduled to be sentenced on December 16.

According to court documents and testimony, Spurlock, the Larsens, and several others were involved in a large-scale illegal marijuana distribution operation based in Mound House, Nevada.

The killings were linked to a broader criminal conspiracy that also involved the disappearance and death of Jered Stefansky, another member of the operation.

Stefansky, of Redding, California, disappeared on June 19, 2020, after traveling to Mound House for a marijuana-related cash transaction. His last phone call was to a number associated with

Spurlock, who then became a person of interest in the investigation. Months later, Stefansky’s skeletal remains were found in Pershing County, Nevada.

Stefansky’s mother appeared on a podcast in late 2020 discussing her son’s disappearance and named Spurlock and Larsen as associates. Hearing the podcast, Spurlock became convinced that Larsen was cooperating with law enforcement and set out to kill him.

Between Oct. and early Nov. 2020, Spurlock and his accomplices followed the Larsens from Reno to Mono County. On November 8, 2020, the couple was shot and stabbed to death outside Bridgeport. Spurlock was also convicted of robbery for taking cash from Will Larsen’s wallet.

After a four-week trial, jurors returned guilty verdicts in just a day and a half.

Spurlock was convicted of conspiracy to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana, murder-for-hire conspiracy, witness tampering by killing, interference with commerce by robbery, causing death through use of a firearm during a crime of violence, and two counts of stalking resulting in death.

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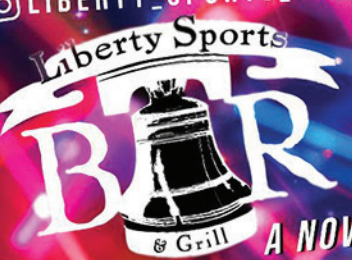
For more information visit: Membership.MammothParksAndRec.com

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11/26 the return of Wild Wednesday monthly residency

YOUR NFL HEADQUARTERS

FIRE

cotinued from page 1

develop makes sense across those jurisdictional boundaries,” Tracy Misiewicz, Whitebark’s environmental planning program director, said.

The Lee Vining meeting filled the small Lee Vining Library, though most of the 14 attendees represented partner agencies including USFS, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and Southern California Edison (SCE).

In Mono City, turnout was higher: 26 attendees by Misiewicz’s count, but that wasn’t too surprising, as the community “did almost just burn down,” as Russel Reese, Mono City resident and Lee Vining Branch Library Coordinator, put it.

The Inn Fire, a blaze in May which scorched one home, temporarily shut down Highway 395, and burned more than 700 acres near Mono City, was a stark and recent reminder of the area’s wildfire risk.

At each meeting, Misiewicz and Heller gave a short presentation and invited participants to mark up maps showing vegetation, land ownership, watersheds, and community boundaries, leaving sticky notes and suggestions.

Unlike the “Mammoth Donut” project, much of the Mono Basin area is shrubland, according to one of the maps. For fire management, a major concern for ecosystems like this are invasive species that fill in the gaps between shrubs and allow fire to burn quicker and hotter.

There were some creative solutions to address this issue.

“I think goats could be a really good idea!” Mono County Supervisor Paul McFarland brainstormed aside a map dotted with post-its. “And it’s just cute.”

Once Misiewicz called attendees back their seats and stood next to a massive notepad, she took down each of the community’s concerns, the first being that Mono City has only one main evacuation route, and that road is not in great condition.

“Four wheel drive vehicles would be fine, but I’m not sure a Prius could make it,” the attendee said.

The goat idea did make it to the spoken discussion, as another resident recommended using “old-timey” methods, like slash crews to reduce vegetation load.

McFarland pitched the importance of maintaining fuel breaks and reducing fuels around communities, roads, and campgrounds as a priority to reduce fire intensity.

On the maps minutes earlier, he’d explained that there’s no point to allocating resources to manage fuel load in areas where people don’t live.

Eventually, the suggestions came slower and slower, until they stopped coming at all. Misiewicz dismissed the crowd early, about an hour before its anticipated end.



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Stacy Schaubmayer

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STR
continued from page 1

Roughly 57% of public survey respondents supported the rule, along with 83% of RPAC participants.

Exemptions would apply to existing short-term rentals that have operated continuously for at least two years, homes with deed-restricted affordable units, and properties whose owners also provide long-term rentals or accessory dwelling units.

Ultimately, the Board reached consensus to support a waiting period in concept.

The third proposal would create a voluntary incentive program offering STR permit priority to applicants who also build or convert long-term housing units.

The proposed ratio, three new deed-restricted homes for every one STR unit, was designed to both mitigate impacts and create community benefit. Roughly 80% of RPAC members supported this.

“The open market isn’t keeping pace in affordability,” staff said.

Supervisors expressed broad support. “We haven’t been as aggressive as we could be on the incentive side,” Supervisor Paul McFarland said. “This is a good start.”

Interlaken... oops!

Since the vote on the aforementioned policies was delayed, the only concrete action of the day had to do with the Interlaken Condominium Complex in June Lake.

The Interlaken Condominium Complex has operated short-term rentals (STRs) for years. Decades, in some cases. Many owners bought their units assuming STRs were allowed, and the County even issued Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) certificates to them, meaning the County was collecting lodging taxes.

But recently, while reviewing and updating STR regulations, County staff realized that Interlaken’s zoning technically didn’t allow STRs at all. The complex sits on land with a residential zoning designation that prohibits short-term rentals under the County’s existing code.

That realization raised two questions for the Board. First, should STRs be allowed at Interlaken? And, if so, how should the County go about approving them – change the code to fit the zoning or change the zoning to fit the code?

Staff and recommended Supervisors opt to rezone only the land Interlaken sits on to a designation that accommodates STRs.

“It’s better just to get the ducks in a row,” Community Development Director Wendy Sugimura said, “and line it up cor-

rectly with its land-use designation.”

One resident spoke in support of allowing STRs at Interlaken.

“It was built by Bud Hayward, who started June Mountain,” she said. “The price point at Interlaken is exceptionally higher than the rest of the condos. Our highest-end clientele stay there.”

Not everyone agreed.

“We wouldn’t allow a wetland to be paved over because we know that paving over a wetland has negative impacts to the surrounding lands,” June Lake Resident Michael Draper said. “Why would we allow a land-use designation intended for residential usage and long-term habitation to become a commercial property and operation?”

Ultimately, Supervisors voted 4-1 to rezone the area to align it with similar condo complexes. In the meantime, the Supervisors supported temporarily legalizing Interlaken’s STRs as “existing nonconforming uses.”

Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz cast the lone dissenting vote.

CORDUROY ON STAGE

By Fisher

For years, the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre (MLRT) has brought the magic of live performance to classrooms across Mono and Inyo counties through its Theatre for Young Audiences program.

Each fall, hundreds of elementary students file into the Mammoth High School MPR to watch a one-hour play, an annual program that introduces rural students to theatre.

This year, the production follows the story of Don Freeman’s 1968 classic, “Corduroy,” in which a teddy bear who longs to be loved goes searching through a department store for his missing button. The story was adapted for the stage in 2018.

Abbs Stoiber, former Mammoth Lakes resident now located in Los Angeles, is directing this year’s production after acting in last year’s “Pinocchio” performance.

“Programs like this are so important,” they said. “Many of these kids have never seen live theater before. Even if they leave just thinking, ‘That was really cool, I want to see more things like that,’ that’s a win.”

While the past few post-pandemic productions featured local actors, this year, MLRT Artistic Director Shira Dubrovner returned to the program’s original format, which involved bringing in performers from Los Angeles to join the cast.

This shift was brought on partially to accommodate the play’s demands, and partially to expose children to the broader world of performing arts.

“The play is really big and full of movement, lots of physical comedy and music,” Stoiber said. “We wanted to bring in actors with experience in that kind of work, while also giving them the chance to perform for young audiences in a rural community.”

The impact these shows have cannot be understated, Stoiber said, even if the kids don’t leave wanting to pursue a career in theatre. For many, it’s these kids’ first time seeing a live arts performance.

Performances of “Corduroy” will run Oct. 26-30.





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ONCE MORE, WITH FEELING!

By Libre

Hundreds participated in No Kings rallies in Lone Pine, Bishop and Mammoth last Saturday.

Many carried signs with anti-Trump slogans and were dressed in absurd outfits, like the woman in the inflatable t-rex suit carrying the sign “Hate Never Made Anything Great.” Another woman was dressed like a bloodied statue of liberty. A third couple in shark and walrus costumes held signs that read “Resist” and “Trump Sucks.”

Some protestors even donned their dogs in No Kings garb. A pitbull wore a vest with the slogan, “Poop on Trump.” Pinned to the terrier puppy’s harness were the words, “I Bite Fascists” on one side and, “Eat the Rich” on the other.

“Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Donald Trump has to go!” protesters at both events shouted. “No KKK, no fascist USA,” another chant went.

Originally, Bishop’s event was meant to have Daniel Pfeiffer, co-host of Pod Save America as a speaker. But then on Friday afternoon, he texted to say he was sick, according to organizer Fran Hunt.

Even without the famed speaker, the event in Bishop was well-attended, racking up around 700 individuals. Both local residents and tourists were in attendance. The crowd included both old and young.

“I’m protesting because I’m a wom-

an,” said one protester from Olympia, Wash., who identified herself as Terri and did not give her last name. “This isn’t normal,” she said.

“The democracy system is being completely dismantled,” Jean Randle of Bishop said. She was wearing a unicorn horn and a t-shirt that read “all you need is love.”

A little boy held a sign which read “Descendant of Survivors – standing for a better Future!” in big, bulky letters.

The protestors were engaged in tactical frivolity -- a peaceful form of resistance involving humor and whimsical antics. It’s a trend that’s currently buzzing nationwide. Hunt pointed to the protesting frogs Portland, Ore., and said she wanted others to do the same. Hence the purple axolotl waving to passing cars in Bishop.

“We encourage people to come with a spirit of celebration of democracy and love,” said Hunt, Bishop resident, dressed in a fuzzy one-piece otter costume. She said she feared the failure of so many to stand up against Trump. The protest allowed her to do something. “There is joy in resistance,” she said.

Hunt is a board member of Inyo 350, a local environmental and social justice volunteer coalition that played a major role in organizing the event on Saturday. Inyo 350 and Karyle Tong, another Bishop resident, planned the



One Lone Pine protester brought Prop 50 into the fight

event for five weeks. Hunt described Tong as the passion and the vision behind the event and Inyo 350 as the organizing force.

In Lone Pine, a small but mighty crowd of about 100 protested on Main Street. And in Mammoth, the group of approximately 400 gathered in front of the Chevron.

At the Mammoth rally, Mayor Chris

Bubser told The Sheet she was worried about the impacts of Trump’s policies.

“We are heading towards real pain for real people,” she said.

Bubser pointed to the misinformation in the press, and the failure to communicate across party lines. “We can’t seem to find a shared understanding of reality.”



World-Class Longevity Training

Available right here in Mammoth Lakes!

Ted and Tammy Dardzinski, internationally recognized strength and conditioning specialists, have brought their combined 70 years of experience and knowledge to Mammoth Lakes with their world-class training center, TEDD High Altitude Longevity Training Center (TEDD Fitness). The TEDD training center is among the first of its kind in the US to focus on older athletes and longevity. TEDD is a gym specifically designed for those over 40 years of age. It is important to note that the methods utilized at TEDD have evolved over many years of practical, hands-on experience. Every piece of world-class equipment has been specifically and carefully selected for individuals with multiple physical issues, including new joints, back problems, and years of compensation and wear-and-tear. This center isn’t a health club designed to sell memberships and cater to a younger crowd; it’s a hybrid. It is not merely a restorative center; it is an innovative program that integrates the science of longevity and health span with sports strength and

conditioning. The TEDD focus is on reconditioning and transforming older bodies into rejuvenated and youthful versions by using advanced techniques.

As for the owners, Ted and Tammy, you couldn’t ask for two more experienced and knowledgeable coaches. Their careers span over decades and include extensive training and teaching in neuromuscular re-education and active nervous system recruitment (The Dardzinski Method). Ted and Tammy were pioneers in spinal cord injury recovery, founding and growing Project Walk Spinal Cord Injury Recovery Center into facilities all over the world. They have been interviewed on TV and in print highlighting their successes. Researchers from all over the world visited their corporate center in Carlsbad, CA to observe and learn The Dardzinski Method. Once, during a national television broadcast, Anderson Cooper inquired if Ted possessed expertise akin to that of a witch doctor due to the remarkable results he was achieving.

The results garnered by the Dardzinski’s continue to generate discussion. Over the years, Ted and Tammy have focused their extensive experience and knowledge of the body into longevity training. And now, they are offering the TEDD program to Mammoth! Clients who have consistently participated in the TEDD training program have experienced significant transformations. Individuals in their 70s have regained athletic abilities comparable to those a decade younger; chronic pain issues have been resolved; and their bodies exhibit better mobility than 90% of their peers.

You owe it to yourself to visit the TEDD High Altitude Longevity Training Center. See firsthand how it can benefit you and help you achieve a longer, healthier, happier, more functional health span.

Contact Ted today for a tour of the center and a free consultation. TEDD is located: Outpost Mall, 126 Old Mammoth Rd. 760.716.8773 | info@teddski.com

LOCAL BRIEFS

Road Warriors

Road construction “season” will roll all the way through the rest of 2025 and into 2026 as Caltrans plows ahead with extensive repaving and road reconstruction projects on US 395 in Inyo and Mono counties.

Bishop and Big Pine have borne the brunt of the construction work so far. This fall and into 2026 the cone zone will move to Independence, Lone Pine, Lee Vinning and Bridgeport.

The following overview of ongoing and upcoming highway work was provided by Caltrans Public Information Officer Christopher Andriessen.

**** The work in downtown Bishop, which includes new sidewalks, drainage improvements, and multi-use paths, recently hit a time-consuming snag. Crews dug into the intersection of Main Street/395 and Lagoon Street and uncovered (to the amazement of all) an old 500-gallon gasoline storage tank.**

****** The intersection of Main and Line streets will be the next angst area. Work there, tentatively scheduled for late 2025, will involve a 10-day detour as workers toil around the clock on upgrades to the off-kilter intersection.

**** On North Main Street, the Meadow Farms ADA and sidewalk work will continue into early 2026 as both sides of 395 get sidewalk and bike lane upgrades.**

**** The Fish Springs Repaving Project on 395 from Poverty Hills through Big Pine, is almost half done.**

The repaved southbound lanes are now open and will remain open while the northbound lanes get an overhaul

One lane going north will be open during the paving work.

****** The infamous intersection of Wye Road and US 6 will get a “quick install” roundabout next summer.

The traffic circle will not be a fully built out, landscaped feature. It will involve a slightly raised center circle, lane striping and signage. Eventually a permanent roundabout could be built.

Andriessen pointed out the significant increase in semi-truck traffic going from 395 to 6 at the intersection. He said Caltrans' estimate for "freight traffic" in 2040 has already been topped.

**** The Manzanar Project, starting in 2026, will repave 44 miles of 395 from the Manzanar Historic Site to the Fort Independence Reservation. Independence will get a long-awaited crosswalk beacon and other pedestrian improvements.**

****** A complete overhaul of 395 through Lee Vining is slated to start in the summer of 2026. The plan calls for converting the current 5-lane highway into a 3-lane road, with head-in parking, new drainage, landscaping, and sidewalks.

**** Bridgeport will get a facelift, too, starting in the summer of 2026. New pavement, pedestrian and ADA improvements, new lighting and traffic controls, drainage improvements and new sidewalks are planned.**

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State paying for votes

The upcoming Nov. 4 special election will not cost local counties anything more than the usual Election Day worry and suspense.

The legislation that put Prop 50, the redistricting question, on the ballot also provided cash to cover counties' election costs.

Mono County has received \$187,000 from the state to cover election costs, said Queenie Barnard, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters.

Inyo County got a slightly larger payment of \$220,826, according to Danielle Sexton, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters.

Bring on Barack

The No on 50 folks thought they brought in a ringer in the person of former governor, actor and weightlifter Arnold Schwarzenegger to shill for their position.

The Yes on 50 fans countered with a political heavyweight, President Barack Obama.

Obama has been drawn into the redistricting battle which seeks to temporarily to redraw the state's congressional districts to create five new Democratic-leaning districts in time for the 2026 midterm elections.

Obama has starred in television commercials and is hitting the podcast circuit to urge California voters to approve

Prop 50.

Prop 50 arose to counter the new House map drawn up by the Texas legislature map that would create five additional GOP districts.

The primary pitch of the Yes on 50 campaign is to trim the state's GOP House delegation and add five more democrats. That would not only enrage President Trump but could put the brakes on large portions of his agenda.

The No on 50 group claims the move is naked partisan gerrymandering orchestrated by the politicians in

Sacramento that ignores the work of the nonpartisan redistricting commission that created the current political map.

more BRIEFS, page 15

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Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 3. 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

Saturday, October 25/ Halloween Costume Contest @ Wanahaa Casino. Registration begins 7 p.m. Judging 9 p.m. Cash prizes for various categories. Live DJ spins 7-11 p.m.

Sunday, October 26/ Tasty (singer/songwriter) plays Distant Brewing. Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m. No cover

Friday, October 31/ Tricks and Treats Halloween Spooktacular @ Liberty. Live stage performances, costume contest & more. Doors @ 10 p.m. \$\$\$.

Saturday, November 1/ Dos Alas Cubanican Cafe Halloween Bash. Live music, costume contest. Time: 9 p.m. Cover: \$10.
Eli West plays C5 Studios in Bishop. Doors 6:30/Show 7 p.m. \$\$\$.
Location: 210 S. Warren St. *For tix, visit c5studios.org*

TOWN STUFF

Friday, October 24/ Town of Mammoth Lakes Haunted Rink event @ the Community Rec Center on Old Mammoth Rd. from 4-7 p.m. Costume contest, spooky activities and more.
IMACA food distribution @ the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Time: 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, October 25/ Bishop FFA Haunted Swamp Tour @ the FFA Farm on Sunland. Time: 6-9 p.m. \$10/person. Monsters, ghouls and scares await you!
Miles for Mammograms community walk/fundraiser to support the Mammoth Hospital Foundation mammography program. Starts 11 a.m. Location: Mammoth Creek Park.

Sunday, October 26/ The Bill Schuck Quintet performs a benefit concert at the Bishop United Methodist Church, 205 N. Fowler Street. Tikme: 2 p.m. Part of the proceeds will support the church's programs of service to members of our community. Ticket Price: \$20. *Students free with ID*

Monday, October 27/ Mammoth's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee meets in Suite Z, Minaret Mall. Time: 5:30 p.m.
Bishop City Council meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers @ 377 West Line or online via cityofbishop.ca.gov

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, October 28/ Inyo National Forest and Whitebark Institute co-host a wildfire resilience meeting in June Lake @ the Community Center. Time: 6-8 p.m. Join **State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara** and State Fire Marshal Chief Daniel Berlant for a **virtual town hall on California's insurance market**. Time: 5 p.m. Register @ qrco.de/102825

October 29-30/ Sierra Classic Theater's annual Murder Mystery Dinner kicks off at Dos Alas in Mammoth. *For more info and the full schedule, see ad p. 7*

Thursday, October 30/ Ongoing and FREE Improv Comedy workshop Thursdays hosted by Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Mammoth High School MPR @ 365 Sierra Park Rd.
Grand Opening of the new Marshalls in the Bishop Plaza. First day opens at 8 a.m. Regular hours will be 9:30-9:30.

Friday, October 31/ Halloween Dance Party @ the Bishop Elks Lodge with music by the Bishop Jazz Combo. Time: 6-10 p.m. Location: 151 East Line. \$10.

October 31-November 2/ October 31-November 2: Eastern Sierra History Conference @ Cerro Coso College in Bishop. *More info: sierraforever.org.*

UPCOMING

November 1: Yard sale benefiting Altrusa Club. Time: 7 a.m. to noon. Location: 250 Sneden St - Many donors from various households. Housewares, clothing, furnishings, holiday, et. al.

November 1: Mammoth Mercantile grand opening in the Mammoth Mall from 4-6 p.m. with the ribbon-cutting at 5. Small bites, drinks, community, shopping, more.

November 1: 11th Annual Owens River cleanup. Meet 8 a.m. @ the Pleasant Valley campground outside Bishop.

November 1-2: The Felici Piano Trio present the 2nd concert of the 25/26 winter series "Ghosted" with music by Beethoven (his "Ghost" trio) William Bolcom and Schumann. Tickets are available at the door or online at: ChamberMusicUnbound.org. *More info: See ad p. 2*

November 4: Election Day. Go to the polls to decide the fate of Prop. 50

November 6: Whitebark Institute's Science on Tap series @ Distant Brewing with Fire Ecologist John Williams. Event starts 6 p.m. with talk @ 6:30.



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- HIMS Assisant

Mammoth Hospital offers; success sharing incentives program; staff development program; generous retirement match and PTO Accrual.

For questions, please email hr@mammoth. To view more positions and apply, pls.visit www.mammothhospital.org/jobs

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

Sweetwater Plumbing Inc. FT position for Journeyman Plumber and/or Apprentice Plumber. Full Benefits. Job is located in Mammoth Lakes. Contact 760-914-1266 info@sweetwaterplumbing.com



MAMMOTH 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/.



Footloose Sports is hiring Bootfitters and Demo Ski Technicians for the upcoming winter season. We are looking for outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy skiing and prefer working in a fast paced, team-oriented environment. We are searching for individuals with experience but also provide paid training to entry level candidates demonstrating reliability, enthusiasm, and excellent customer service skills. This is a great opportunity to join a legendary Mammoth ski shop. Please submit a current resume to footloose@footloosesports.com.

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



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@heartsrc. org for application and job announcement.

Help Wanted



Reservations Desk Clerk immediate opening at the Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA (20 min from mammoth). Must have excellent customer service and computer skills. Full or part time, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work! Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

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

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



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.

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

The Alpenhof Lodge has positions available for full and part time employment. We are a 24 hour per day business looking to add members to our Front Desk team. Competitive wages, benefits, flexible schedule, and housing option may be available for the right individual. Please pick up an application and drop a resume at 6080 Minaret Rd Mammoth.



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

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NOTICES

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on November 18, 2025, in the Mono Lake Room (1st floor) at the Mono County Civic Center, 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, and the meeting will be accessible remotely by Zoom at <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/83537511698> or in-person in the Mono Lake Room of the Mono County Civic Center, First Floor, 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, where members of the public shall have the right to observe, consider and offer public comment on General Plan Amendment (GPA) 25-01 and modifications to Mono County Code (MCC) Chapter 5.65 (collectively, "the Project") no earlier than 9:00 AM.

The Project proposes the following short-term rental policy and regulations amendments, among others: consolidate the permitting process, revise owner-occupancy criteria, require third-party inspections, establish a numeric cap and waitlist in June Lake, implement a waiting period before any property owner can apply for a permit, and prohibit the transfer of permits.

The Mono County Planning Commission recommends the Board adopt the Project as proposed with the following modifications: Add a general exception from standards and regulations to the County Code, eliminate the permit cap in June Lake, include certain exemptions to the waiting periods, and include an incentive policy that grants more favorable review of a project providing three deed-restricted housing

units for every STR.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors will receive public input, consider the adoption of the Project, and direct any further modifications.

The clean and redline versions of the GPA 25-01 and modifications to MCC Chapter 5.65 are available for public review at <https://monocounty.ca.gov/community-development/page/short-termtransient-rentals> and hard copies are available for the cost of reproduction. Materials for the public hearing will be available online by November 14, 2025, at <https://www.monocounty.ca.gov/bos/page/board-supervisors-265>.

INTERESTED PERSONS are strongly encouraged to submit comments to the Mono County Community Development Department no later than November 18, 2025, at 8:00 AM, after which comments and testimony should be submitted in-person at the public hearing to guarantee receipt by the Board of Supervisors. Public comments may be submitted by email to cddcomments@mono.ca.gov, or by mail to P.O. Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. If you challenge the proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Clerk of the Board at, or prior to, the public hearing.

TS #2025-0119

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?

5 FALL TIPS

— FOR RECREATING RESPONSIBLY —

- **Plan Ahead** Check weather, roads, and maps before you go. Weather can shift, cell service can be limited and restrooms may be scarce.
- **Park Smart** Use designated spots only. Avoid parking on plants or soft shoulders to protect fragile aspen roots. Aspens grow in shallow soils, and repeated pressure from cars can damage their roots for years to come.
- **Tread Lightly** Brush off boots and gear to prevent the spread of invasive species. Stay on trails and know proper trail etiquette. Never carve into aspens—their paper-thin bark makes them especially vulnerable, and even small cuts can introduce harmful disease.
- **Stay Aware** Drive safely, pull over only in safe areas, and never stop or stand in the road. Even quiet country roads see fast-moving traffic—protect yourself and be courteous to others.
- **Pack It In, Pack It Out** Carry out all trash—even food scraps. With more visitors during peak color season, even small litter can add up quickly and can harm wildlife. Bonus points for picking up extra litter.

Eastern Sierra Community Housing supports workforce housing for a viable economy and sustainable community.

Eastern Sierra Community Housing, Inc. (ESCH) seeks new directors for the Board. This is an opportunity to contribute to the future of affordable housing in our majestic region. Our service area encompasses Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties.

We are currently recruiting two representatives of the low-income community. To meet this definition, eligible applicants will either have a low-income household, live in a low-income neighborhood, or be an elected representative of a low-income community organization.

Household Size	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people
Low-income gross limit 80% AMI	\$57,200	\$65,400	\$73,550	\$81,700	\$88,250	\$94,800

All those interested in volunteering on the Board should work well in a team setting, be willing to put in time and effort, share in the mission and values of ESCH, and enable the Board to address the corporation's program areas. Some of our exciting programs and projects include expanding services, diversifying funding and partnerships, new housing developments, homeownership programs, and much more.

There are many personal and professional benefits that come from serving on a non-profit Board of Directors such as: the development of leadership skills, the possibility to affect change, networking opportunities, the chance to give back to the community, an understanding of non-profit governance, and experience with big picture thinking.

If you are interested, please visit our website www.eschousing.org for an application or submit your resume/CV or letter of interest to Executive Director, Patricia Robertson.

Patricia@eschousing.org

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Para obtener más información y participar en el sorteo de aplicaciones, visite: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1382

LUNCH

continued from page 2

But that in itself, says his former personal secretary, Godfrey Chanetsa, is a power-preserving strategy.

“To understand how Mugabe keeps his people down,” says Chanetsa, you must understand “the psychology of deprivation: Zimbabweans have learned to be self-reliant. There’s a deep sense of individuality - no collective sense. We’ve become a nation of black marketers, crooks. Robert Mugabe has subverted the revolution by keeping people busy just managing, just getting by.”

Such as ...
*There’s a passage of people planting maize in the highway medians.

*A woman with an \$865 trillion (Zimbabwe currency) electric bill.

*The usage of termites as ... sutures.

“You pinch the wound closed and make the termite nip onto it with its mighty mandibles, then break off its body, and repeat, along the wound.”

None of Chanetsa’s four children have stayed in country, choosing to build lives in Canada, Australia and South Africa instead.

They chide him for staying amidst the dysfunction.

Mugabe held power until 2017 when he was finally forced to resign due to a military-supported ouster.

This was the culmination of a power struggle between a former Vice-President (Mnangagwa) and Mugabe’s wife, Grace, as to who would succeed the 93-year old.

Mnangagwa has held power ever since.

He is 83-years old.
Zimbabwe’s ruling party recently extended his presidential term until 2030.
It is estimated that one-quarter of Zimbabwe’s children under 18 do not live with either parent, a staggering orphan rate. That’s according to an aid group called Zimbabwe Without Orphans.

The Fun Premium

The theme this week: insurance.
There was the announcement that the California FAIR Plan is proposing an average rate increase of 35.8% for its homeowner policies. If approved, that increase would go into effect April, 2026.

*You’ll see in our calendar of events that State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has scheduled a virtual meeting on Tuesday evening to discuss.

Then there was the whammy of my Mountain Shadows Homeowners’ Assn. this week.

State Farm recently dropped insurance for the complex (as it’s done all over town on many properties).

The result: Mountain Shadows had been paying \$93,000 annually for coverage. The new quote: \$402,000.

The impact this year is an immediate \$3,000 special assessment, and then a 20% increase in HOA fees next year and likely another hefty special assessment on top of that.

Finally, another sector of the insurance market that’s been impacted which you may not think twice about is that of outdoor recreation.

Yep. The fun premium.

The Sheet spoke to insurance broker Rob Martin last week - he represents many local, private retailers such as Mammoth Mountaineering and Wave Rave Snowboard Shop, and approximately 1,000 retail clients in mountain communities overall.

For liability insurance, they were all covered by CNA Financial.

Until CNA Financial decided to get out of the business this year.

After 25 years without a claim, CNA had suffered four policy limit losses over the past four years.

A new wrinkle - private equity firms backing plaintiff’s attorneys to go after small businesses who rent equipment for “dangerous” sports.

“Small business liability [insurance] has become a lot more challenging,” acknowledged Martin. “There is going to be a dramatic reset on pricing.”

Which also means those ski rentals will probably be 10-15% more expensive

this year.
Wave Rave’s Steve Klassen said, “This has been one of the scariest past several months of operation we’ve ever had ... because we didn’t know if we’d be able to get it [liability insurance].”

He just received word last week that Martin had found him a policy. It’s not often a man is grateful to be paying 70% more for the same coverage he had last year, but Klassen sure is.

For once, there is a place that has it worse than California in this regard: Oregon.

According to SnowBrains, one small ski area, Timberline Lodge has experienced a 166% increase in liability premiums this year, with deductibles ten times higher and overall insurance cost up 586% since 2020.

By comparison, Mammoth Mountain President and COO Eric Clark said the resort’s liability costs are up about 15-20% this year.



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OBITUARY

BALIN MILLER

2002-2025

By Libre

Alaskan climber Balin Miller used to paint his high cheekbones with glitter before going off into battle. Battle being the bold and daring alpine routes Miller became famous for, like his ascent of Reality Bath in the Canadian Rockies or his solo of the North Buttress on Mount Hunter via the French Connection.

"He only put it on for the hard climbs, the scary ones," recalled Dylan Miller, Balin Miller's older brother, in an interview with The Sheet on Tuesday. "It was like Balin, you're soloing the Slovak Direct Trail, but it's okay, you have glitter on."

Miller was referring to his brother's solo up the Slovak Direct route on Denali. He was the first person to ever complete the infamous route without a rope. It took him 56 hours.

On Oct. 1, 2025, Miller died while on another classic climb - El Capitan in Yosemite. He was only 23-years-old.

Balin Miller was born in Anchorage, Alaska on Jan. 12, 2002. He started climbing with Dylan and their father when he was five and Dylan was seven. He quickly fell in love with the sport.

"He started leading ice pitches by like 14 or 15," Dylan Miller said. "I think that's another cool thing about his climbing timeline. Even though he was in his early 20s, he had been leading ice pretty consistently for close to a decade."

Miller's experience allowed him to both shine as a climber and make

measured, calculated decisions in the backcountry.

"He was obviously a very skilled climber but he was also very safe," said Aidan Whitelaw, a close friend and climbing partner. "He wasn't afraid to turn around."

In his short but prolific climbing career, Balin Miller pushed boundaries.

"He was one of the strongest and boldest climbers of our generation," said Will Hogdson, a friend and climbing partner of Miller's. "But he was also just a person."

As Miller rose to fame, he remained unapologetically himself. He wore cheetah print rainbow tights and painted his fingernails black. His nose was pierced. He was funny, blunt, and opinionated.

"He was one of the only people I've ever met who was unburdened by the perceptions of others," remembered Talis Colberg, a close friend and climbing partner.

"I don't know anyone else like Balin," echoed Cole Jones, a high school friend.

Colberg scoffed at media characterizations of the death of his friend. "[Calling him an] influencer is silly. His social media was a joke. He was totally not motivated by anything other than his love to climb."

Colberg pointed to times when he would jokingly tell Miller he maybe needed to take his Instagram account more seriously if he wanted to pursue



climbing full-time. Then, Miller would turn around, and post something hilarious and lewd.

Miller was multi-faceted. He briefly pursued a degree in engineering at Montana State University before dropping out to pursue his climbing career. During the summers, he worked on a crabbing boat back home in Alaska.

Miller also loved his Prius. He often lived out of his car, which he was doing

earlier this fall in Yosemite.

"Balin felt like he could make a Prius do anything any other car could do," Jones said.

More than anything, Miller was a fiercely loyal friend who developed strong relationships everywhere he went.

"We almost spent more time hanging out than climbing," Whitelaw said. "I feel like that's pretty unique in climbing partnerships."

OBITUARY

ELIZABETH 'LIZ' FLEMING

Elizabeth 'Liz' Fleming, Crowley Lake's longtime resident and friend to many, took her final bow after a brave battle with cancer. Some friends knew her as a meticulous bookkeeper, others an athlete, and a few as "Dizzy Lizzy," the clown. Liz lived life joyfully with equal parts precision and pleasure.

She loved teaching, whether it was showing a yoga pose, raising a Labrador retriever, or sharing her garden's mysteries. In her magnificent garden, she not only grew flowers and produce, she also fed birds. Hummingbirds were her favorite, though she did not mind sharing the bounty with all the early birds who woke her on her deck which she loved to sleep on, lulled to sleep with the sound of the creek even when the temperatures dipped below the comfort level.

"That's why I have down blankets," she would say. Liz's love for the outdoors led to many adventures and stories. She hiked Half Dome and completed the Granite Man right here in the Eastern Sierra. She found great joy while being a nanny to Piper and taking her nephew Mark and his Boy Scout troop hiking up Rock Creek Canyon when he was just 10. Her love of trails took her far from home, including hiking Phase One of the Dolomites and exploring Bryce Canyon and Zion with her cousin Bernadette.

Liz had a few loves: her friends and friendships were very dear to her, the colors purple and pink, flowers, and Italy. She was always active and during the summers could be found at Whitmore Pool, Mammoth Track Club, and the High Sierra Tri-Club workouts. In the colder months, you'd find her biking on Green Church Road or cross-country skiing at Tamarack.

Her home gym, built by her ex-partner and friend Bob, was the perfect place for



her to lead her friends in some peaceful, if not always graceful, yoga. She earned her Level 1 yoga teaching certificate at White Lotus and was very proud of that.

In her quiet time, you might find her at her sunny kitchen nook or table, reading historical fiction, doing a puzzle, or running the co-op headquarters.

Her deep connection to and love of Italy was undeniable. She became fluent in the language and immersed herself in the culture, and she loved traveling there. She cherished the time she spent exploring Italy with her friend Issi during her last few months, a period which included living with Anna, River and Paolo.

Liz leaves behind a legacy of laughter, movement, community, and a powerful reminder that life is best lived with a little splash of color and your hands in the dirt for all the fruitfulness that the garden delivers.

A Celebration of Liz's Life will take place on Oct. 25 from 3-5 p.m. at the Crowley Community Center. Attendees are asked to wear bright colors. In lieu of flowers, Liz wants you to take a hike, plant a garden, adopt a dog, or maybe just clown around.

FALL SPECIAL

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For more information visit: Membership.MammothParksAndRec.com

Purchase in-person at the NEW Parks and Recreation offices, located at the Community Recreation Center/LA Kings Ice Mammoth Lakes (Mon-Fri, 1pm-5pm), during the month of October for 50% off the Parks & Recreation Annual Membership fee.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks & Recreation

MammothParksAndRec.com • ParksAndRec@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov • 760-965-3690

BRIEFS

continued from page 9
Fatal Collision on 395

On Saturday, Oct. 18, at approximately 1:25 p.m., a collision on Highway 395 resulted in the death of an unidentified resident, age 64, of Independence.

An unidentified male, age 64, was driving his Toyota Sienna southbound on US-395 heading away from Steward Lane, south of Big Pine in the four-lane construction zone.

Michael Alan Schmidt was driving a semi-truck northbound on US-395, approaching Steward Lane at a stated speed of 45 to 55 MPH.

As both vehicles were headed towards each other, the unidentified male driver, for unknown reasons, made a sudden left turn across the solid double yellow lines dividing the northbound and southbound lane of US-395 and into the path of Schmidt's vehicle.

The unidentified male struck the front of the truck as Schmidt attempted to swerve to the right and applied his brakes to avoid the crash.

The unidentified male suffered fatal injuries as a result of the crash. Schmidt and his passenger had minor injuries that did not require medical attention.

This crash is still under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Bishop Area.

GAYLA'S GALLERY

Photographer Gayla Wolf attended the Eastern Cancer Alliance's 25th annual 5k Walk and Fun Run on Saturday starting in Bishop City Park.





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