

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Mountain man Doug Nidever in his element. For Libre's interview with the 72-year-old icon, see p. 19.

Saturday, November 29, 2025

FREE

Vol. 23, No. 48

NOT AT EASE JUST YET

By Libre

The debate over the “exclusive” easement on 54 Mono Street reared its head again during a public hearing at Mammoth Lakes Town Council meeting last Wednesday. And this time, everyone brought a lawyer.

The players were Keith and Kim Erickson, homeowners of 56 Mono Street, versus Bipin Morari, who wants to transform his property, 54 Mono Street, into six units of housing for his employees. Both sides were accompanied by legal counsel.

The Council decided in a 3-1 vote to delay its decision on this matter by another month, with the expectation that the parties would seek an expedited legal process to make a decision on the matter for them.

The easement issue was first presented at a Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC) meeting in August. During that meeting, PEDC decided to extend the issue until their October meeting. When October rolled around, PEDC voted in favor of Morari, granting him approval to move forward with his building plans. The Ericksons then appealed this decision, which resulted in the public hearing last Wednesday.

The crux of this dilemma lies in the term “exclusive.” The Ericksons claim they were sold their property in 2002 under the conditions that only they would have access to their driveway. However, when Morari was sold his property, which is currently an empty lot, the seller told him the easement was shared.

“The sole condition of our escrow was that our driveway access remained exclusive,” Kim Erickson said during the meeting. “Yet, 23 years later, the same seller promised Mr. Morari he could use our driveway as shared for his over ambitious project.”

The Ericksons remained determined not to share their easement, despite Morari’s project plan’s inclusion of an underground garage with seven parking spaces and three exterior spots.

Both sides presented legal documents supporting their perspective on the issue. Many of these documents came from the town.

Morari’s legal team especially relied on two town documents, a draft memo from 1990 and a private letter from 2023, which confirmed the easement was to be shared between the two properties.

The Erickson legal team argued these documents were invalid, and instead looked to California state laws civil code 801, 803, and 845. Each of these laws state recorded easements are binding and cannot be changed.

Many council members felt this debate was out of their jurisdiction, a stance that inhibited them from making a decision in the hearing.

“I’m not a judge. I’m not a lawyer. I am a public service volunteer,” Mayor Chris Bubser said.

Despite these legal misgivings, town attorney Andrew Morris strongly encouraged the

more EASEMENT, pg. 5

MADLY HATTED



“Best Hats of Bishop” contestants at the C5 Art Walk Saturday. More photos, p. 17.

PHOTO GAYLA WOLF

CHIPPING IN OR CHIPPING AWAY?

By Fisher

“Where have the philanthropists gone?” lamented Robert Joki, president of the Southern Mono Historical Society, as he reflected on the organization’s uncertain future.

For decades, the Society has preserved local history through the Mammoth Museum at the Hayden Cabin. But in recent years, membership has thinned, and the days of a full board and a dedicated group of paying members are largely in the past. Many former members and donors have aged, moved away, or passed on.

Joki, involved for 14 years, remembers better times. “When I took over, we had a decent board of longtime Mammoth residents and about a hundred members,” he said.

These days, just three board members remain, and funding barely covers basic operations.

Even the trolley program, which once staffed Mammoth’s public transit with singing historical guides, stalled last year after the person who trained the employees moved away.

With this all at the forefront of his mind, Joki worries about the organization’s longevity.

“My original plan was to sit on my porch playing the banjo until I forget what my name was,” he said. “It wasn’t to have the stress of keeping an organization afloat.”

He’s not alone in his experience or anxiety. Over the last few weeks, The Sheet spoke to several non-profit leaders, and many told the same story. The current volunteer class is aging out, and nobody’s taking their place. And with monetary giving seemingly declining too, it’s a challenge to operate a non-

profit at all.

Juliana Olinka-Jones is an active volunteer at the Mammoth Lakes Lions Club, which raises money to distribute funds to various causes within the community, and serves on a few other non-profit advisory boards in Mammoth.

She, like Joki, is worried about succession planning for the organizations she’s a part of.

“The biggest challenge [for organizations right now] is spreading your message widely enough so that you can continue to bring new people in and have them carry on the mission of the organization.”

The Lions Club started with a group of passionate individuals, she said, but that fleet of volunteers is dwindling in size and in capability.

more VOLUNTEER, pg. 6

In the birdhouse

p. 7/

Kids on Roks

p. 12/

Klasmire off the rails

p. 18/

Hidden guests

p. 2/

LADWP paid what?!

p. 8/

Holidaze Deals

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

VALID 11/26 - 11/28. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.
CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS.

MAMMOTHHOLISTICS.COM

I ONLY SMOKE *Good Tide* TRADITIONAL
CAMINO *Laughlin* KIVA LOST FARM

760-633-7570

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

HIDDEN GUESTS

While you're sitting at the table this Thanksgiving, say a few extra blessings for those whom (you think) are not present.

Because they just might be.

Read Lise Barnéoud's "Hidden Guests" and you'll be convinced of it.

As pediatrician and geneticist Judith Hall wrote in 2003, "So you think your mother is always looking over your shoulder? She may be in your shoulder."

How? Via microchimerism.

Microchimerism concerns the exchange of cells between a mother and fetus during pregnancy. Because it turns out the placenta is a two-way highway, allowing the migration of cells -- cells that are able to assimilate into a new host.

Cracking open this little door, as Barnéoud lays out, creates a whole hallways of new doors and possibilities. Cells from your grandmother can conceivably have continued to hide away and multiply somewhere in your mother's tissue for decades before migrating to you.

*If you think this implausible, researchers have found that a line of immune cells survived over 51 generations in mice. In human terms, 51 generations = 1,000 years.

Cells from your mother's miscarriages, your unknown brothers and sisters, could (and have been proven) to end up in your body.

In one mind-bending case, a woman named Karen Keegan discovers that her



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

-Norm (Cheers)

JACK LUNCH
PUBLISHER

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

Paige Fisher Editor
sheetfisher@gmail.com

Ulla-Britt Libre Writer
libresheet@gmail.com

Harold Hartley People Person
hart6399@yahoo.com

Jon Klusmire Curmudgeon
jonklusmire@yahoo.com

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

children's DNA does not match her own. How?

"She [Keegan] was destined originally to be fraternal twins. Both of the original fertilized eggs were girls. And so when these fertilized eggs - which presumably, because they were close to each other in her mother's womb, or for reasons we don't understand yet, fused at a very early stage of development - she developed with two separate cell lines. This dub le cell lineage extended to her ova: some matched her genetic profile while others originated from her vanished twin."

So she literally gave birth to her nephews, who had a mother who never lived.

Of course, there are instances outside of pregnancy which also involve an exchange of cells. In one chapter, doctors discovered that a man from Reno who'd had a bone marrow transplant was slowly having his body being taken over.

"DNA analyses would show that his cells were being depopulated and that cells with another genetic signature were emerging in their place. This strange substitution began in his blood, then spread to the insides of his cheeks and his saliva. One day, they found this new genetic signature in his semen ... "

This led to a whole discussion about the efficacy of DNA evidence. Another chapter discusses the possibility that women may harbor the cells of former sexual partners.

"It's a mistake to think of ejaculate as nothing but sperm, which makes up just 2-3% off seminal fluid. The rest is proteins, sugars, hormones and other cells, including immune cells - cells that could make a break for it once they've entered the body."

Then consider that in one study of 54 deceased women, 63% had male cells in their brains.

"It showed neither where these cells came from nor whether they were neurons or one of the other types of cells that populate our brains. But it did make one thing clear: microchimeric cells can cross our blood-brain barrier."

One researcher's suggestion: "If you don't want to wind up with a head full of cells from multiple men, you'd better use protection."

Now how's that for a Thanksgiving message from The Sheet!

Call Us To Find Out More
805-452-7214

CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAW

Sanford Horowitz

3293 MAIN ST.
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546
SANDY@HOROWITZFORLAW.COM

SERVING MAMMOTH LAKES, BISHOP, AND THE EASTERN SIERRA

@LIBERTY_SPORTS_BAR_&_GRILL

Liberty Sports BAR & Grill

FREE LIVE MUSIC BEGINS AT 9:30 PM

A NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

THURSDAY 6TH **MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATER**

FRIDAY 7TH **BLACK FRIDAY**

THURSDAY 13TH **THE GREAT NORTH SPECIAL**
original jam band grooves

FRIDAY 14TH **1910 OPENING WEEKEND PARTY!**
SpliffRiff & Deviates

SATURDAY 15TH **PAY THE RENT MOVE PREVIEW**
Blind Fortune

THURSDAY 20TH **IMPROV COMEDY** 8PM

dj 11/26 **THE RETURN OF WILD WEDNESDAY**

FRIDAY 28TH **BLACK FRIDAY**
DANCE PARTY w/ the groovy sounds of DJ ONEZIE

SATURDAY 29TH **BIG SMOOTH**
COVERS & DANCE BANGERS

YOUR NFL HEADQUARTERS

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP

MAMMOTH ROOTS

Footloose

AMERICAN COUNTRY

Let us help you get ready for the winter & holidays!

MONO MNT

est 2023

Repairs Maintenance Improvements

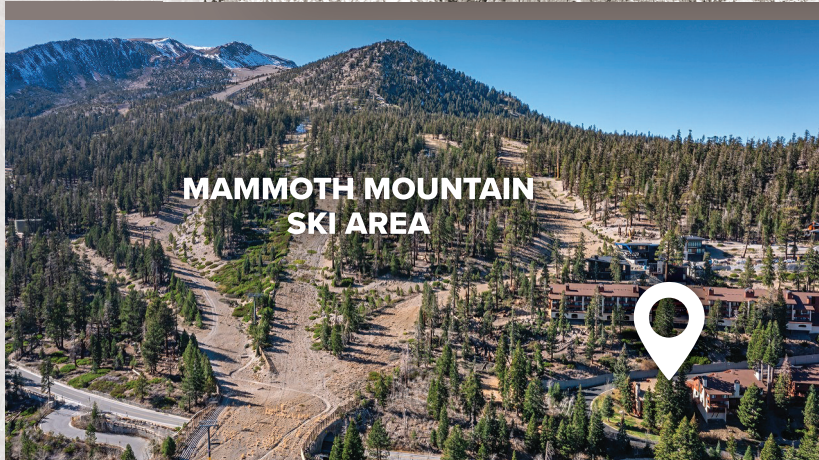
858-414-6690

MonoMaintenance.com



TAMMY HOOPER
REAL ESTATE

Mountain Lifestyle



MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN
SKI AREA

3 BRIDGES LANE

PREMIERE SKI-IN/SKI-OUT NEIGHBORHOOD

3 BR + LOFT / 3.75 BA / 1-CAR GAR / 2,598 sq. ft. / **\$1,623,750**

The Bridges, Mammoth's premiere ski-in/ski-out neighborhood, tucked slopeside above Eagle Lodge. Drenched in sun from the east with mountain views to the south, enjoy a spacious, multi-level floor plan, contemporary alpine style comfort, and the best location — ready for rental revenue!

19 EVENING STAR DRIVE

PRESTIGIOUS MOUNTAIN FAIRWAY ESTATE

4 BR / 4 BA / FAMILY ROOM / SPA / 3-CAR GAR / 4,780 SQ. FT.
EXTRA PARKING / 0.27 ACRES / **\$3,190,000**

Fully outfitted classic mountain home at Starwood overlooking Fairway 14 at Sierra Star. This spacious home features an open floor plan, large windows, refined finishes and a cook's gourmet kitchen. The upstairs grand primary suite has a gas-log fireplace, travertine stone bathroom, soaking tub, dressing room, enormous walk-in his/her closets, and a loft for extra living, storage, gaming, etc. An entertainer's dream!



1 EVENING STAR DRIVE

STARWOOD FAIRWAY CUSTOM LOG HOME

4 BR / 5.5 BA / 4-CAR GAR / 3,940 sq. ft. / **\$3,850,000**

Iconic Mammoth Mountain log home designed by E.F. Brainard and constructed by award winning builder A. Preschutti. Thoughtful consideration to craftsmanship is offered for the discerning buyer. Open-flow plan, outdoor living spaces, gourmet kitchen + wine cellar + chef's office pantry.



Celebrating 25+ years representing buyers and sellers

CROSS REALTY | DRE 00844786
Uptown Mammoth Mountain, USA
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546



TAMMY HOOPER
REAL ESTATE

TAMMY HOOPER | 760-937-7300 | Tammy@TammyHooperRealEstate.com | TammyHooperRealEstate.com | DRE 01237866

LOCAL NEWS

HOUSING BY THE NUMBERS

By Klusmire

The most recent Eastern Sierra regional housing assessment doesn't break much new ground, but it does confirm the need for more housing of all types in Mono and Inyo counties. It also updates the real estate, housing and workforce data that proves that point, yet again.

The bottom line: About 3,262 new housing units are needed in Inyo and Mono counties (1,869 in Mono County and 1,393 in Inyo County). The bulk of those units need to be affordable to residents and workers making less than the region's median income.

The study estimates about 2,239 new units are needed for workers that are "inadequately housed," meaning they spend too much on rent or are in crowded or unsuitable housing. Another 606 units are needed to house part-time, seasonal workers. Roughly 293 units could be snapped up by commuters who would prefer to live where they work. The homeless population would need to be housed in an estimated 124 new units. The study breaks down those housing estimates by county and city/town.

The devil is in the details, and the "Housing Needs Study for the Eastern Sierra" offers up plenty of details. The study was completed by consulting firms

BAE Urban Economics and SMR Development under the eye of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments, Inyo and Mono counties, the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the City of Bishop. The consultants have presented the findings to Bishop and Mono County and will hit Inyo County on Dec. 9.

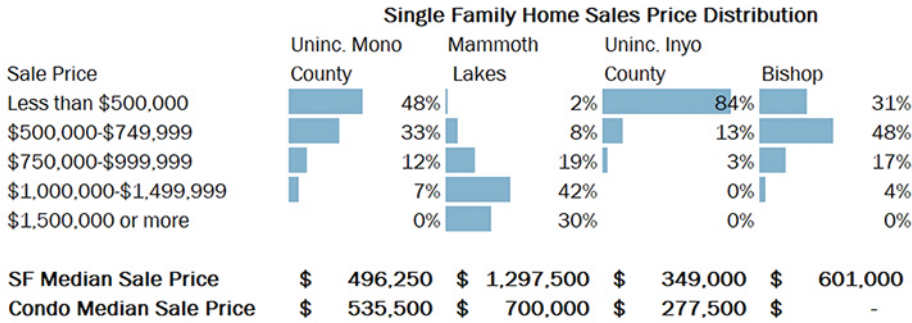
The 35-page presentation starts with the basics.

The 2024 population of Mono County was 12,861, with Inyo hitting 18,856. Those might be population peaks for both since the state Department of Finance projects both counties will be losing population in the coming decade. Mono is projected to shrink by close to 1.5 percent, knocking the population just under 12,000, while Inyo could drop to about 18,000.

Mono County appears to have lost people each year from 2019 to 2022, according to data from a Mammoth/Mono County short term rental study tracking changes from 2019-22, and change of address requests compiled by the US Postal Service. The postal data shows a total of 2,600 change of address requests over those four years. The data also shows a similar trend in Mammoth Lakes.

"While unclear who's going in/out, this data suggests notable population/house-

HOME SALES, 2024



hold turnover," the report states. No similar data was available for Inyo County.

One of the more surprising statistics in the report is that about the same number of workers commute to work from Mono to Inyo and vice versa. The report states about 545 workers commute from Inyo to Mono, while 570 commuters drive from Mono to Inyo to toil. The general commuting trends and data "emphasizes the region's reliance on a resident workforce," the report notes.

The mix of housing types appears recognizable. Mammoth Lakes is the most out-of-kilter, with 58% of its total in multi-family units (and maybe higher since the data is only from 2019 to 2023, which leaves out about 80 recently completed workforce apartments at the Parcel). It's 39% single family home share

is the lowest in the region. Bishop and Mono County both have 48% single family homes, with 37% and 45% respectively in multifamily units. Mobile homes in Bishop are at 15% and only 6% in Mono County.

Inyo County has the highest percentage of single-family homes, 64%, and trailers, 25%, with just 11% in multifamily units.

More recent data, from 2024, reveals the average single family (SF) home and condo sales totals and median prices. Those prices are broken down in tiers from less than \$500,000 to \$1.5 million or more.

The overview: Unincorporated Mono: SF median price, \$496,250, condos, \$535,500; Mammoth Lakes, SF,

more HOUSING, pg. 5



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

HOUSING

continued from page 4

\$1.3 million, condos, \$700,000; Unincorporated Inyo, SF, \$349,000, condos, \$277,500; Bishop, SF \$601,000. No condo sales data was reported for Bishop.

Rental data from 2025 includes rates from studio apartments to 4-bedroom homes. The data has some gaps, but the two-bedroom comparison illustrates the range of monthly rents: Mammoth Lakes, \$3,500; Bishop, \$2,100; Unincorporated Inyo, \$1,950; and Unincorporated Mono, \$1,650.

The study dives into the morass of estimating housing needs for residents at different income levels. The infamous Area Median Income (AMI), comes into play in a number of scenarios, mostly in Mammoth Lakes and Mono County, which use AMI for eligibility and targeting of workforce housing programs. According to the report, the median income for Mono county is \$118,500.

One chart lays out the “Unmet Housing Needs by Income Bracket for Unincorporated Mono County.” It estimates the need for 699 total housing units, with 385 for low-income residents, 254 for moderate to upper income families, and 60 units for the high-income folks.

The footnote on the AMI page connects income levels to rental rates and home prices: “A household must earn 120% of AMI to afford market-rate rental housing in unincorporated Mono County, or 150% in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. A household must earn 150% of AMI to purchase a median priced home in unincorporated Mono County, or 350% of AMI in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.”

The consultants conducted a survey of residents and business owners this past summer. The results are familiar.

The big number from the nearly 1,000 resident respondents is 53% are “over-paying for housing,” which generally means paying more than 30% of monthly income on housing.

The “next steps” are more workshops this winter and into spring 2026. After more “technical analysis” and “identifying actions and assigning responsibility, a “draft housing action plan” will be presented to local governments.



ALPINE
APPROACH
The Village At Mammoth

THE BEST COLD WEATHER APPAREL





COMPASS
Family Counseling Services

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Victoria Ann Farber

Registered Associate
Marriage & Family Therapist #154885

760-914-4905
www.compassfamilycounseling.net

Supervised by Carol Windsor, LMFT #52237

EASEMENT

continued from page 1

Council to make a decision. He said taking this decision to court, and putting it in the hands of the legal system, could take over a year.

“With all due respect, I don’t think the Council can extend this item for that long,” Morris said. “I think the Council still owes everyone a decision.”

Councilmember John Wentworth countered his point. He agreed with Bubser – this issue was out of the council’s wheelhouse.

“That defies common sense,” Wentworth said. “With all due respect to the legal system, it’s not in the community’s interest to be institutionalizing conflict.”

The vote to extend rather than make a decision, Wentworth argued, was

a vote in favor of the community. He raised a motion to extend the item for a month with the goal of seeking a legal agreement between the parties for the time being.

“We have an opportunity to preserve community harmony, well being, and understanding,” he said.

Councilmember Bill Sauser abstained from voting, due to a personal conflict.

Councilmember Brent Truax voted against the delay, hoping to uphold the PEDC’s decision.

“There’s several things in this case that need to be resolved, but the question before us is did the PEDC make a good decision and do we uphold or not?” Truax said. “I say we uphold it.”

The easement debate will return to Mammoth Lakes Town Council on Dec. 17.



LEARN
To
FLY!

Aircraft Rental
and
Flight Instruction

Bishop, Mammoth, Lone Pine
and Ridgecrest

Email: bishopflyingclub@gmail.com



HIGH COUNTRY LUMBER
HCL
BISHOP • MAMMOTH

INTERIOR
DOORS

During November

YOU GET THE DOOR
&
WE WILL GET
THE TRIMMINGS!

High Country Lumber will provide the casing to trim your new interior doors—free of charge!

Offer valid on all interior doors purchased during November. Choose from our in-stock door selection or place a custom order to get exactly what you’re looking for.

Promotion applies to Casing in-stock only.

WE DELIVER WHEN YOU NEED IT!

VISIT OUR CONTRACTORS DESK TO RECEIVE A FREE QUOTE FOR ALL YOUR DOOR NEEDS

Exterior Doors | Interior Doors | Closet Doors | Sliding Doors | Screen Doors | Garage Doors



ACE BISHOP 444 South Main St
(760) 873-5874
Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 9am-3pm



ACE MAMMOTH 243 Sierra Manor Rd
(760) 924-8876
Mon-Fri: 7am-5pm Sat: 8am-3pm, Sun: 8am-1pm



www.HighCountryLumber.com

VOLUNTEER

continued from page 1

The July 4 Pancake Breakfast is the club's biggest annual fundraiser. While attendance has remained relatively consistent over the years, there has been a decline in the number of volunteers available to man the grill and fewer people with large trucks to transport materials.

"There were a lot of people who worked in construction or who had businesses [when the organization started], and those people are aging out," Olinka-Jones said. "The new people coming in don't necessarily have the same interest."

Alicia Olson is the Lions Club's youngest member and has been for several years, even though she's in her mid-thirties. Given the struggle to maintain the annual breakfast, she said the club may have to change the kind of fundraiser it does to meet the age and abilities of its members.

"As long as there's some kind of community fundraising event, [the Club] will still exist," Olson said.

In light of the apparent lack of volunteers, organizations have taken different approaches to future planning.

At Wild Iris, a domestic violence victim support organization, Executive Director Dominic Hays is shifting away from relying on volunteers altogether.

He once dedicated a lot of effort to recruiting volunteers, but despite his efforts, Wild Iris has struggled to recruit enough people.

While other domestic violence victim support organizations across the state are able to train large groups of volun-

teers, Wild Iris has to conduct one-on-one training due to its limited volunteer pool.

This is a problem because volunteers for the organization are required to go through 30-70 hours of training before they can start working, and, when they do, many realize they're not ready for the commitment and drop out.

"It would be very beneficial for us to have a big volunteer pool, but because we tend to invest a lot of time -- which is money -- into training volunteers, just for them to leave pretty quickly, we've decided to stop actively recruiting volunteers," he said.

Across the board, he said people are choosy with where they want to donate their time and money, and it's just too hard to "compete" with other causes in the area to rely on a volunteer or philanthropic base.

Other organizations, however, aren't ready to give up yet.

At the Laws Museum & Historical Site in Bishop, for one, Administrator Jessi Robbins has been working to digitize the organization's outreach, and has seen marginal success in expanding the organization's volunteer base.

Everything was very "pen and paper" when she first took office, she said.

"A lot of [our volunteers] are a little bit older, which is fantastic because they have a lot of history and a lot of knowledge," she said. "But we don't get a lot of younger people, and so the hope is that with social media we can start reaching younger populations [...] and get a

variety of people volunteering."

In doing more social media work and updating the website, she's seen volunteerism rates return slightly.

Friends of the Inyo, meanwhile, has dedicated significant time and effort to recruiting volunteers and creating engaging volunteer events... and it's paying off.

In part, it may come down to timing and circumstance. As an organization dedicated to protecting public lands in Mono and Inyo Counties, Friends of the Inyo benefits from strong local support in an area largely defined by, and valued for, its public lands. Especially as public lands have become a hot-button political topic.

"In a sense, it boils down to marketing," explained Izzy Taylor, Stewardship Director for Friends of the Inyo. "What we do may align more with what the public values. We are a public land advocacy nonprofit in an area where public lands make up most of the economy."

As a result, both volunteer numbers and volunteer hours have increased in recent years, she said.

"We're seeing an increase in volunteerism because everybody's very aware that the national parks and public lands are under a lot of strain this year," she said.

What the future of volunteerism may ultimately come down to is what the local public cares about.

In Juliana Olinka-Jones' words, "How do you get people to care about a civic organization like the Lions Club?"

People are willing to show up for a trash clean-up or line the streets for a protest, but what's happening here might signal something more concerning: a loss of community.

In the eyes of Robert Joki and Dominic Hays at least, the Eastern Sierra population is becoming "increasingly transient."

They feel there is an increasing gap between vacationers and the strong local pride that has historically driven volunteerism and philanthropic efforts. The wealthiest individuals in the area, often second-homeowners, are spending their time and money primarily in the places where they live full-time.

In years past, the history of the town, the stories of its people, and the effort to preserve its heritage were deeply personal to those who lived here. The challenge now is that as the community becomes more fluid, fewer people have that long-term, invested connection to these ideals.

Retired people have long formed the backbone of volunteer labor: people with time, experience, and a desire to give back. That hasn't changed. What has changed is that there isn't a new class of retirees stepping in to fill the gaps left by the old guard. And that absence raises uncomfortable questions.

If nothing else, the values of the area are evolving. But whether those priorities are moving toward new causes or are a sign people are distancing themselves from civic involvement altogether will determine the fate of several local nonprofits.

Thirty-six Views of Mount Tom

Stephen Ingram

"Each essay is perfectly paired with a photo that complements its subject and adds context and nuance. As it should, Mount Tom finds its way into every single image."

- John Evarts, Editor

"Every great mountain deserves a book like this, but few have them... Stephen Ingram has here assembled a portrait of Mount Tom (Winuba) that is both informative and beautiful—his photos are superb. This book is a gift to all Sierra lovers."

- Kim Stanley Robinson, *The High Sierra: A Love Story*

Available wherever books are sold in the Eastern Sierra and at ingramphoto.com

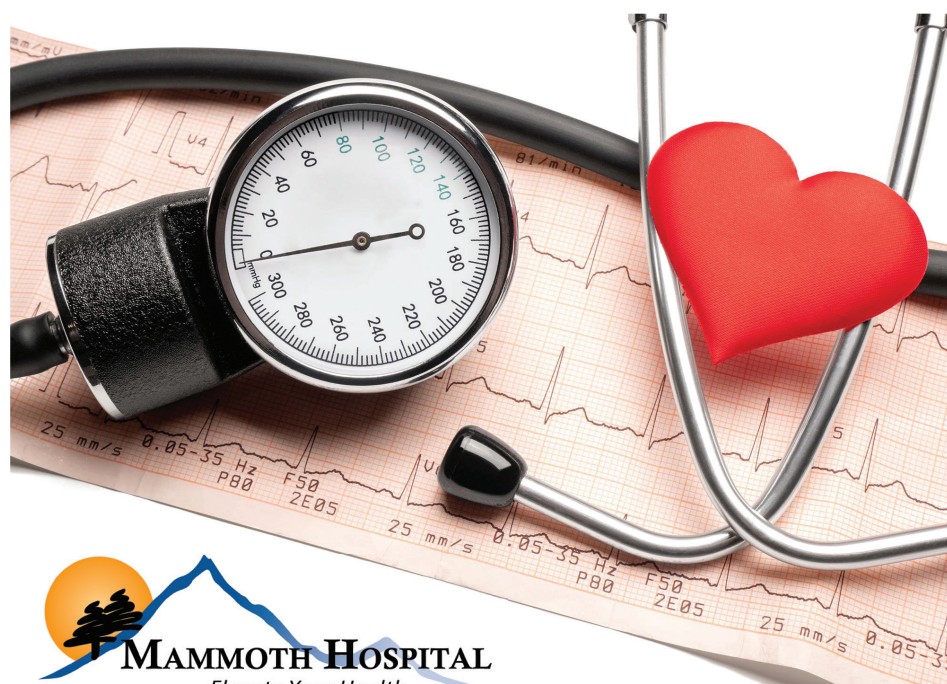


Stephen Ingram
ingramphoto.com

Mammoth Hospital Family Medicine is pleased to offer

December Blood Pressure Clinics

Free for patients seen in the last year.



December 5th and 19th
from 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00

Call 760.924.4045 to schedule your visit.
Walk-Ins also welcome!

LIKE A PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES

New research suggests local birds may benefit from fire events

By Fisher

A fire might be a bad thing for everyone who lives nearby, but it's not a bad thing for everything that lives nearby.

Take the dark-eyed Junco, for example. It's a ground-dwelling bird with a rounded head, a short, stout bill, and a long, flicking tail. It hops along the forest floor of Yosemite, and new research suggests it actually thrives in the wake of fire.

A two-decade study of Sierra Nevada national parks found that Junco population densities more than doubled after a fire, and that high population takes decades to return to pre-burn levels.

It's not just the Junco. Nearly three-quarters of the 42 bird species scientists examined showed increased population density in the first year after a fire.

"The birds are looking for something they get from fire in these landscapes," said lead researcher Dr. Chris Ray of The Institute for Bird Populations. "They're going [to places where the forest has burned], and they're doing it for a reason. Wild animals only do anything for a reason."

The study took place in Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks, where post-fire management, such as salvage logging, is minimal. That distinction matters, Ray said, because it allowed the team to see how birds respond to fire in a more natural,

less managed setting than other studies conducted on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land.

The researchers analyzed bird responses to wildfires that occurred between 1984 and 2019, using long-term data to track changes in population density from the first year after a fire to decades later. Measuring density (the number of birds per area) offered a clearer picture of ecosystem health than simply noting whether a species was present or absent.

In many cases, the study found that fires that burned in one year were followed by breeding bird counts in the following spring, and every spring thereafter. About half of the study's bird counts occurred in areas that never burned, allowing the researchers to compare bird responses to burns of all types, including no burn.

The most surprising result, Ray said, was how long the effects lasted. Population density often stayed higher for at least 20 years after a fire, and for over a quarter of the species, density remained high for more than 35 years.

Birds appear to benefit from a variety of changes that follow fire, from immediate boosts in food and nesting opportunities to long-term shifts in habitat structure. Fires can open up the forest, stimulate new plant growth, and create cavities in trees, all of which support a wider range of bird species.



The Mountain Chickadee, pictured above, appeared to benefit from wildfire in the study. Photo by Daniel Arndt, courtesy of the Institute for Bird Populations.

Although most fires in the study were relatively mild, researchers found a consistent pattern: bird populations tended to increase more after moderate-severity burns, and those effects grew stronger over time.

The effects of burn severity and time since fire were strong even when the researchers accounted for other habitat characteristics, such as tree height and canopy cover.

However, Ray cautioned against applying these results to today's extreme "megafire" conditions, which are large, high-intensity blazes that burn tens of thousands of acres.

The national parks in the study experienced very few fires of truly high

severity that burned over large areas before 2019, when the study ended.

Today's "megafires" are not as likely to be suitable for so many species, at least not in the short term, Ray said. And this makes sense, because it's not what the birds evolved with.

Historically, Sierra Nevada forests burned frequently at low to moderate intensity, often through Indigenous cultural burning practices that maintained open understories and large, resilient trees.

After the 1870s, settlers suppressed both cultural and natural fires. Combined with a warming climate, increased drought, and a buildup of fuel, this has led to the modern trend of high-severity "megafires."

Today, forest managers are working to reverse that trend through prescribed burns and other fuel-reduction techniques.

Long story short: it's not "normal" for the forest to never burn, and it's not "normal" for it to burn all at once.

Instead, the study suggests that managing forests to create a mosaic of low- and moderate-intensity burns, at varying intervals and severities, would benefit most of the birds that live there.

After all, that's what these birds are built for. They don't just survive the burn; they count on it.

Tips to make your holiday season comfortable, cheerful, and energy efficient!

When company's coming over, lower the thermostat — all those extra people help keep us cozy!

Cook efficiently with small appliances like slow cookers, toaster ovens, or air fryers instead of your full-size oven.

Decorating? Choose LED holiday lights and set timers to save overnight.

Keep the chill out by sealing drafts and keeping your fireplace damper closed.

Visit LADWP for offers and rebates on smart thermostats, insulation, and other energy-saving upgrades.



For more ways to save
visit LADWP.com/Save.



LOCATED INSIDE



NFL SUNDAYS 10AM – 1PM
SUNDAY BRUNCH

FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

BACON BREAKFAST BURRITO with Salsa & Serranos

2-TOPPING OMELETTE with Breakfast Potatoes

GRANDE QUESADILLA Asada/Pollo with Sour Cream & Salsa

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

BLOODY MARYS • MIMOSA • SHOOTERS

NFL HAPPY HOUR

DISCOUNTS ON DRINKS & APPETIZERS DURING ALL GAMES

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

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

FRIENDLY MOUNTAIN ATMOSPHERE

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

HAPPY HOUR Mon-Fri
& During All NFL Games



LOCAL BRIEFS

Lockdown in Bishop

On Friday afternoon, between lunch and sixth period, the students at Home Street Middle School in Bishop were put on lockdown. The threat, said an eighth grader with familial ties to The Sheet, was due to a suspect “throwing a bag of evidence” over the fence into the field where many students play baseball and kickball during lunch. The student didn’t know what was in the bag, but said her teachers thought it could have contained drugs or money. One confused student yelled “Bomb!” precipitating chaos.

A voice over the intercom announced everyone should report to their sixth period class. One teacher projected “The Bee Movie” on silent with subtitles in an effort to keep everyone quiet. Some kids ran to Bishop Unified High School and others to Northern Inyo Hospital.

“One kid made it almost all the way to McDonalds,” recalled The Sheet’s source.

The lockdown lasted for 35 minutes, between 1:25-2 p.m. Both the middle and elementary schools were put on lockdown. The protocol did not extend to the nearby high school. The suspect was found during the 7th period, after the lockdown had ended.

Dive into Water

Quit doom scrolling in a futile search for a video of an exploding deep-fried

turkey. Instead, put your screen time to use by diving into an upgraded webpage that helps explain and educate the public on the often- complex world of Inyo County and Owens Valley water.

The Inyo County Water Department has revamped its webpage to create a more user-friendly experience. The page (<https://inyowater.org/>) contains all the court decisions, binding legal agreements, and environmental documents that dictate how the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Inyo County maneuver their turbulent water relationship. A sample of critical documents: The Inyo-LA Long-Term Water Agreement; the Memorandum of Understanding that accompanies the water agreement; the Green Book; the 1940 Hillside Decree; the 1991 Environmental Impact Report; the 2004 court approved Stipulation and Order.

Decades of data on vegetation, groundwater, pumping, exports via the Los Angeles Aqueduct, and other information is also on the page. Details about the Lower Owens River and other restoration and mitigation efforts is also available.

A new “citizen science platform” allows people to submit to the Water Department the observations they’ve made anywhere in the county about vegetation growth or death, water flows or other water or environmental conditions that cause concern or generate questions. The link: <https://inyowater.org/citizen-science/>.

Historical context is provided with a concise chronology of the region’s decades of water wars, court battles and ongoing issues.

Of particular interest to history buffs are the 1931 Ritch Maps, which document land ownership and, more importantly, how much LADWP paid Inyo County farmers and ranchers for their land. A quick glance at the maps will reveal well-known names of numerous pioneering families who sold their land to LADWP. The amount LADWP paid varied widely. Top price went to land that also had a ditch right or water right. Productive pasture and irrigated farm-

land got top dollar. Large swaths of land with just salt grass, sagebrush and rabbit brush on sandy soils were purchased for significantly less.

The Ritch maps also note the type of crops and vegetation on each parcel. The 1919 Bishop Sectional Land Maps also reveal land ownership and the crops and vegetation in the Bishop area. That map was created six years after completion of the LA Aqueduct, which was just before LADWP started aggressive purchases of land and water rights around Bishop and in northern Inyo County.

- Klusmire

PUPS AT PLAY



Devils Creek Distillery is holding a Eastside K-9 Rescue Program on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 3-7 p.m. at 120 Commerce Dr. in Mammoth. It has created a limited run of 120 custom labeled bottles. For every bottle sold, \$25 will be donated to support the Eastside K-9 Avalanche Rescue Program. MMSA K-9s Bodie and Mojo are pictured above, patiently waiting at the bar for the event to start.



JOB OPENINGS

BASE SALARY OR WAGE RANGES
SHOWN IN COMPLIANCE W/ CA LAW

FULL-TIME*

*Full-time total compensation includes competitive benefits package.

Police Officer – Lateral

\$89,889 – \$109,261 annually

- + 6.9% in lieu of paid holidays
- + Up to 7.5% P.O.S.T. pay
- + Up to 9% longevity pay
- + Up to 7.5% special assignment pay
- + Eligibility for 5% bilingual pay

Police Officer – Recruit

\$30.43 hourly

PART-TIME | TEMPORARY | SEASONAL POSITIONS

Parks & Recreation Seasonal Positions
LA Kings Ice at Mammoth Lakes | Winter Adult Leagues

\$19.06 – \$30.90 hourly

Temporary Snow Removal Operator

\$29.36 – \$33.99 hourly

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



(760) 965-3604
townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

AN EXPERIENCE IN ALPINE DINING



RESERVATIONS

760.914.0962 **TEXT**

INFO.SKADI@GMAIL.COM **EMAIL**

OPEN 5PM CLOSED MON & TUE

94 BERNER, MAMMOTH
SKADI RESTAURANT.COM

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP



Superlative East Coast, Thin-Crust Pizza



LUNCH SPECIALS

Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm

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

Lunch Specials!



Happy Hour Specials!

HAPPY HOUR

Monday - Friday

3-6 PM

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



GELATO



3399 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, Family Friendly!

(760) 965-0321 | [orderonline | MainstreetpizzeMammoth.com](http://orderonline>MainstreetpizzeMammoth.com)

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FILM REVIEW: ‘ALL THE PRESIDENT’S MEN’

By Fisher

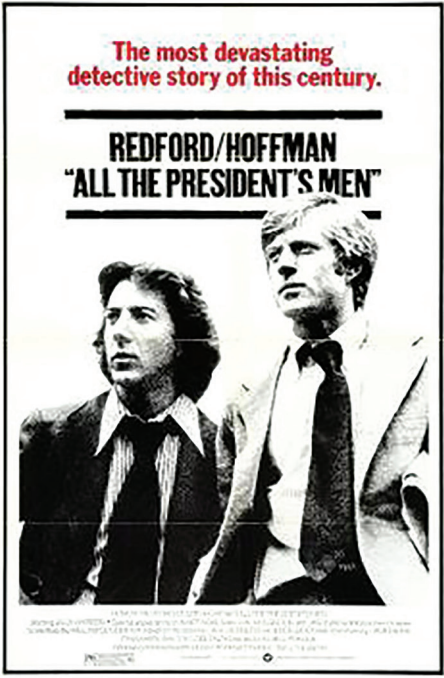
I suppose it’s a natural inclination for people to soothe the discomfort of an uncertain present by reflecting on another uncertain time. Particularly if that past uncertainty has a neat resolution.

Such an impulse may have possessed Lunch to request I revisit “All the President’s Men.”

Or maybe he suggested it just because it’s a great story and a fun watch.

Especially for us reporters. I relish a fast-paced investigative drama not only because it validates the media’s role in democracy, but because, if I’m honest, it flatters me into imagining that my own coverage of town budgets and bear dramas carries the same weight as exposing corruption in the Oval Office.

For the uninitiated (or those who snoozed through history class), “All the President’s Men” tells the true story of two young Washington Post reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, and their relentless pursuit of the truth behind the Watergate scandal. The scandal began with the 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters and spiraled into a massive cover-up directed by President



Richard Nixon’s administration. What stands out watching it today is how many officials the reporters found unwilling to speak up. You start to wonder if the whole saga is even plausible. At one point, I found myself googling “Watergate scandal” mid-movie, just to reassure myself that yes, journalism

really did prevail in the end. It does, but not until the very, very, VERY end. And that’s why it’s such a compelling film: it captures one of the darkest chapters in American history while reminding us how close the story came to slipping away.

We drop stories in the newsroom all the time because we can’t find a good enough source or because we don’t have enough bandwidth to even give them a fair shot.

You never know what’s happening under your nose until it’s happening in your face. It is the journalists’ job to coax small suspicions out into truths and weave them into full-bodied exposés.

And while the story ends with Nixon’s resignation, the film doesn’t indulge in triumphalism. It leaves you with the sense that truth is fragile — that it almost didn’t break through at all.

The final line of the movie goes like this: “You know the results of the latest Gallup Poll? Half the country never even heard of the word Watergate. Nobody gives a shit [...] Nothing’s riding on this except the, uh, First Amendment to the Constitution, freedom of the press, and maybe the future of the

country.” What a way to put it. Nobody cares, but the country might be on the brink of collapse.

It offers a good outline for how to devastate a country. You depend deeply on the public being sheep, either in ignoring a problem completely or in blindly going along with corruption.

It all has to do with fear; people afraid of power will cooperate with it. And people afraid of uncertainty will accept whatever story makes them feel safest, even if it’s a lie.

That’s why stories like “All the President’s Men” still matter: not because they make us nostalgic for the days when truth won out, but because they remind us how delicate it always was. And still is.



— LOCALS ONLY —

UNREAL SAVINGS

ON AIRFARE

This winter, Eastern Sierra locals get unreal flight discounts. Save up to 40% off Advanced Air with service from MMH four days a week, starting November 26. Or save up to 10% on United with daily service from BIH to SFO starting December 11 and DEN starting December 18. And this season, United Airlines expands its Bishop schedule — with double weekend service to make your trip even smoother.

Learn more at VisitMammoth.com/FlyLocal

UNITED

ADVANCED AIR

OFF THE SLOPES

ROSES AND THORNS

Michael M. Karch, MD

A Japanese woman recently held a ceremony to marry the AI companion she built with ChatGPT.

If that sounds like the future, it isn't. It's a preview. And it raises the same question I pose in workshops across the country:

What happens when AI becomes woven into every corner of our emotional, professional, and clinical lives?

Over the past year—from medical schools to engineering labs, from corporate retreats to college campuses—I've led workshops on human-centered artificial intelligence. And I've learned this: people are not afraid of technology. They are afraid of losing their place within it. Becoming passengers on a train they didn't design. Waking up in a world they no longer understand.

So, every workshop begins the same way.

I walk to the whiteboard, remove the cap from a marker, and say:

"Imagine it is the year 2040. AI has infused every part of your life. What does your world look like, good or bad?"

There is always a pause. Then hands rise. And the future takes shape.

Some voices lean forward, energized. These are the aspirational thinkers—the clinicians who see possibility, the engi-

neering students who view algorithms as imagination tools, the policy students who want systems redesigned with humanity at the center.

They describe medicine becoming predictive rather than reactive: cancers detected months earlier; infections sensed before symptoms; implants identifying fracture risk; environmental sensors monitoring physiologic shifts in real time.

Surgeons, in their view, work with edge-nodal robotic partners that learn from a global surgical graph—my vision of Embodied Surgical Intelligence (ESI) matured and scaled. These systems anticipate, assist, and amplify rather than override.

Many in this group talk about education. AI tutors that personalize instruction. Mentors that scale empathy and rigor. A dissolving of the inequality between rural classrooms and elite institutions. A world where the cognitive burden of repetition lifts, and human potential expands.

They imagine physical work transformed by augmentation — exoskeletons that make a 60-year-old perform like 25, AR overlays guiding manual tasks with surgical precision, autonomous safety systems reducing workplace injuries.



Karch speaking at one of his workshops.

To them, 2040 is not a crisis. It is a horizon.

Then the quieter voices rise—grounded, realistic, often shaped by watching institutions struggle with far simpler technologies.

They worry about labor displacement—not only the loss of manual work, but the erosion of cognitive middle-class jobs as well. They talk about the fragile geopolitics of chips, batteries, and energy. They point to widening inequality as tech monopolies consolidate power.

They describe a workforce split in two: those who understand and supervise AI,

and those who are supervised by it.

They worry about a world saturated with synthetic reality. Deepfakes indistinguishable from truth. Influence campaigns optimized for psychological vulnerabilities. A public square fragmented by algorithmic manipulation.

They fear privacy becoming a luxury good. Every movement, biometric signal, and digital breadcrumb feeding behavioral command centers owned by corporations or states. And they warn of cognitive dependency: navigation

more KARCH, page 11

If you were **building AI** for your world, how would you design it, so the **human** remains at the center?

AI shouldn't be a hand-off. It should be a handshake—between generations, between tacit judgment and digital insight. The future will not belong solely to the young and technologically fluent, but to those who can bridge both ways of knowing.

- Michael M. Karch, MD

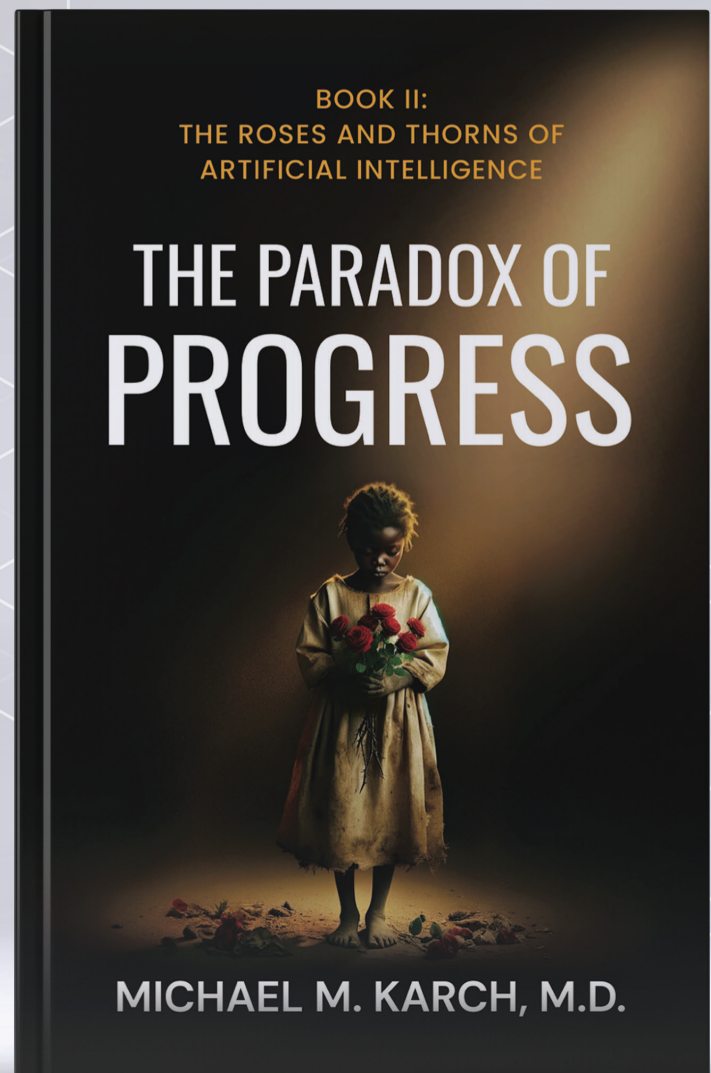
Author, Orthopedic Surgeon

VELYS™ Robotic-Assisted Solutions Specialist

amazon

Available wherever
books are sold

A book about humanity and the responsibility to build systems worthy of the people who will rely on them.



KARCH

continued from page 10

outsourced, writing outsourced, reasoning outsourced. Efficiency rising while resilience fades.

These are not dystopian fantasies. They are plausible trajectories if humans lose agency.

By the time the whiteboard is full, the room begins to see the geometry of the future: promise on one side, peril on the other, and a vast uncertain space in the middle where reality is likely to unfold.

Both futures are true.

We can detect cancer earlier and erode privacy at the same time. We can democratize education and widen inequality We can make surgery safer and hollow out judgment.

The paradox becomes clear: AI can uplift and undermine in the same breath.

This is when I put down the marker, let the room quiet, and flip the entire exercise.

“Forget 2040,” I say. “It is now 2025. You are here, now. And you have the ability to design the AI you want.”

The room shifts instantly. The exercise becomes responsibility.

“If you were building AI for your world — your hospital, your classroom, your community — how would you design it, so the human remains at the center? So, AI augments rather than replaces? So, the system amplifies judgment rather than atrophies it?”

This is when the workshop comes alive. People stop predicting the future and start architecting it.

Participants begin constructing principles: systems built around explainability, not opacity.

Frameworks where uncertainty is visible, not concealed. Data architectures with ethical boundaries, auditable lineage, and human override.

Decision systems that clinicians and engineers can interrogate, challenge, and supervise, even without coding expertise.

A surgical resident once put it perfectly:

“AI shouldn’t be a hand-off. It should be a handshake—between generations, between tacit bedside judgment and digital insight.”

He understood that the future will not belong solely to the young and technologically fluent or to the clinically seasoned alone, but to those who can bridge both ways of knowing.

That is the essence of human-centered AI. It is not about perfect models. It is about preserving human agency. Not about algorithms that replace judgment, but systems that strengthen it.

Not about inheriting technology passively but shaping it intentionally.

I’ve given this lecture for the past year while writing “The Paradox of Progress: The Roses and Thorns of Artificial Intelligence.” What I see in these workshops mirrors the book: the sense that we live at an inflection point where every advantage has a shadow, and where everything is simultaneously better and worse than before.

So, the question becomes: where does this road lead?

Not in the abstract, but in the lived world of clinics, classrooms, hospitals, and communities.

When students realize the future is not fixed, but that they will design it, they stop imagining dystopias and start demanding transparency. They stop fearing loss and begin building guardrails. They stop asking what AI will become and start asking who we will become as we build it.

The purpose of the exercise is not prediction. It is not futurism. It is agency.

2040 is a mirror reflecting our hopes, fears, and vulnerabilities. 2025 is a window showing the choices, responsibilities, and skill sets needed to shape the future.

The truth is simple. AI will not determine the world of 2040. We will.

At the end of each workshop, I ask, “What is one thing you want 2040 to remember about the choices we made in 2025?”

Responses vary:

“Protect human judgment.”

“Build transparency into everything.”

“Center empathy, not efficiency.”

“Never outsource meaning.”

“Use AI to elevate human potential.”

But the most powerful came from the resident who spoke of the hand-

shake.

“We keep talking about what AI will become. But the real question is: what will we become as we build it?”

Exactly.

Because this is not an essay about technology. It is an essay about humanity and the responsibility to build systems worthy of the people who will rely on them.

Every time I erase the whiteboard and begin again in another city, I return to the same final truth:

Our future will be shaped by wisdom, strategy, and stewardship—not by chance.



MAMMOTH ROCK 'N BOWL

OPEN DAILY

BOWLING • ARCADE • BRASSERIE LOUNGE • EVENTS

3029 CHATEAU ROAD

www.mammothrocknbowl.com

A PROFOUND PARTNERSHIP

By Lauren DeLaunay Miller

On a sunny October day last month, I followed along as three teenagers, two teachers, and one professional climber made their way up a trail toward an outcropping of large boulders. With lunch and water packed, the crew was preparing to take part in a quiet but revolutionary act. They'd left the confines of the classroom behind to spend the day out in nature.

The volcanic tablelands that define the northern edge of Bishop have become a world-famous climbing destination in recent years, drawing people from all over the world to this small town in the Eastern Sierra. But for the youth of the Owens Valley, the boulders that dot the landscape tend to be little more than an afterthought.

Stephen Kinney, who teaches at the Jill Kinmont Boothe School, Inyo County's alternative middle and high school, said few of his students have a meaningful relationship with their natural surroundings despite being surrounded by public lands that draw tourists from around the globe. The availability of outdoor adventures, he said, is "so close, yet so far" for his students.

But in the past few years, the school has established a relationship with Sacred Rok, a local nonprofit organization led by Katie Lambert and Ron Kauk, climbers who draw upon their own difficult teenage years to bring the power of the outdoors to local

foster and at-risk youth.

"Both of us kind of came from a similar background of not resonating with school, having a difficult home life— sort of being wayward teens ourselves," said Lambert. "And then we were fortunate enough to find climbing and the outdoors."

Lambert recounted a hike she took with Kauk seventeen years ago in Yosemite Valley. Reflecting on their similar upbringings and how transformational climbing had been to each of them, they knew they wanted to help other young people find the same. Within months, they had formed a nonprofit and hosted their first trip for foster youth. Today, their programming extends to both sides of the Sierra.

A key tenet of Sacred Rok's mission has been establishing long-lasting relationships with both schools and students, rather than providing one-time outings. Lambert has witnessed how, with enough time, even the most guarded students in her groups can come to open up and find the same sense of calm that she feels in the outdoors. "We need to have ongoing, consistent relationships with these kids because that's where the real change happens," said Lambert.

For the past three years, Sacred Rok has worked with students of Bishop's Jill Kinmont Boothe School, taking students into the outdoors twice a month. JKBS teacher Stephen Kinney explains



that most of his students arrive at the school after being expelled, and Sacred Rok trips provide an opportunity for them to put the emotional regulation skills they've been developing into practice. "Sacred Rok is a test in impulse control," said Kinney.

Lambert said that she never forces students to climb, and while some take to it instantly, others need more time to feel comfortable. And, if they choose to hike around or simply enjoy the views in silence, that's just fine with Lambert.

"We bring them out into these environments where it's just natural for people to want to play. And you can see the stress almost melt off of them," said Lambert.

And while Lambert can see those changes in students from trip to trip, Kinney sees it remain when they return to the classroom. "Every day after a Sacred Rok day is a good day," he said. Kinney is used to working with students with low self-esteem, and ending up at JKBS can be seen as a failure. But, he said, Sacred Rok trips give his students the opportunity to work toward a goal and succeed— if they're patient.

"What a great metaphor for life," said Lambert. "Because you can't just desperately grasp onto this thing and will it into being." Climbing, she said, requires the sort of focused attention that both she and Kinney see brings a calm relaxation to all who participate.

CAREERS AT MAMMOTH HOSPITAL

Where Passion Meets Purpose

NOW HIRING!

PRESCHOOL/ASSOCIATE TEACHER

(Per Diem and Full-Time)

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

(Per Diem)

HOUSEKEEPER/ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TECHNICIAN

(Full-Time)

REGISTERED NURSE - PEDIATRICS

(Per Diem)



Success Sharing Incentive Program • Staff Development Programs
Generous Retirement Match and PTO Accrual



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

For questions, please email hr@mammothhospital.com

Openings at MammothHospital.com



CHILDREN & YOUTH Winter Clothing Drive NOVEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 15, 2025

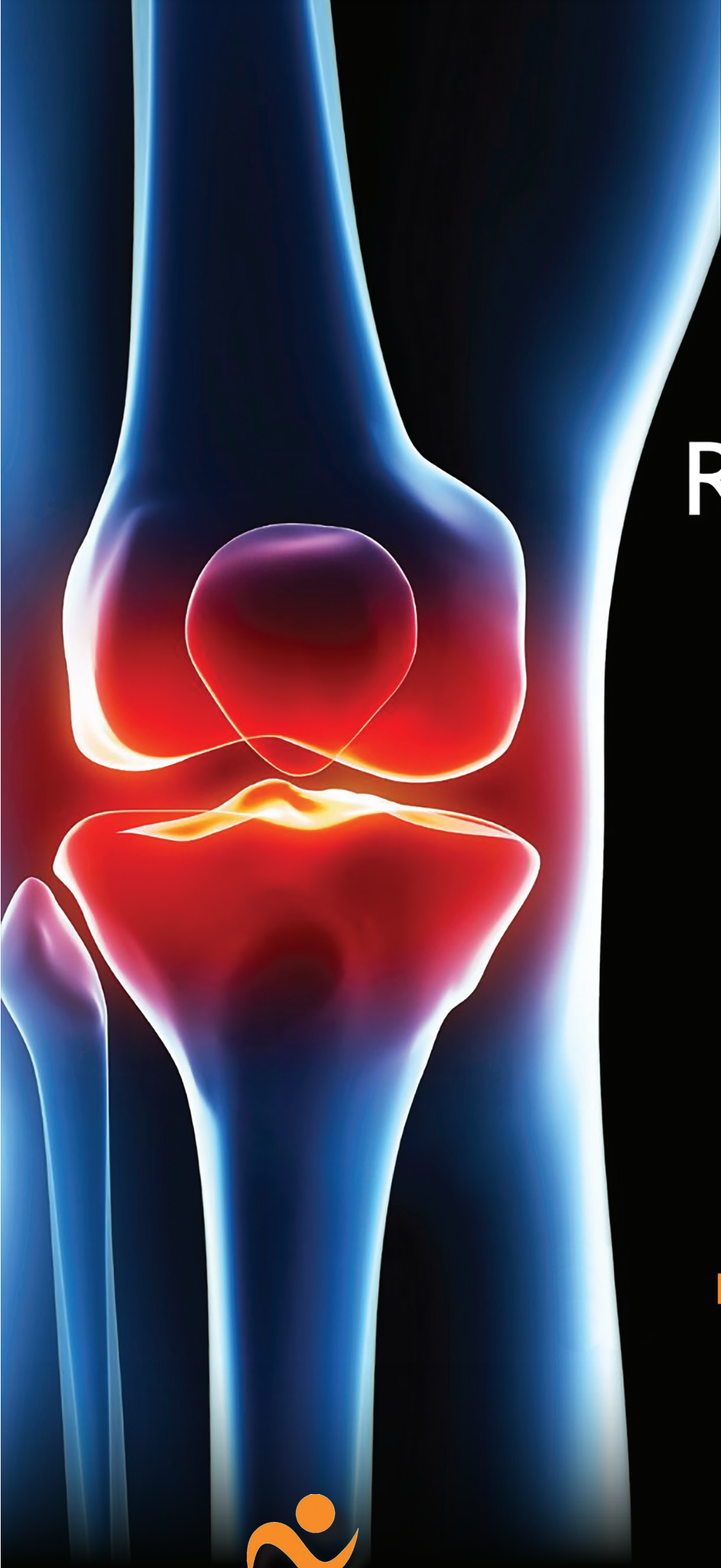
Help keep Mono County youth warm this winter!
We're collecting new or gently used cold-weather clothing and gear in children and youth sizes, including:
snow jackets, parkas, snow pants, boots, thermal layers, sweaters, gloves, and beanies.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS (DURING OPEN HOURS):

**Benton Library
Bridgeport Library
Coleville Library
Crowley Lake Library
June Lake Library
Lee Vining Library
Mammoth Lakes Library**



This countywide effort is organized by the Mono County Office of Education and led by Kevin Lian, klian@monocoe.org, (760) 934-0031



Rapid Recovery Knee Replacement With **Jiffy** Knee™



MICHAEL M KARCH, MD
30 years of Surgical Experience

The first surgeon in California to
bring the Jiffy Robotic, soft tissue
sparing, tourniquet-free knee
replacment to patients.

Faster recovery, less pain.

Serving Bishop and Mammoth Lakes

Northern Inyo Hospital: (760) 873-2605

Mammoth Hospital: (760) 924-4084



calendar of events



**SIERRA
ELECTRIC**

Sean Flavin, Owner

760-920-3547
LIC# 923994

Offices for rent
station81.net





**JB
LAKE
BREWING**

mammoth

**GEAR
EXCHANGE**

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



KRISTI MCKEE, EA

kmckeesvs@gmail.com 250 Sneden St.
(760) 933-7505 Bishop, CA

TAX PREPARATION
&
BUSINESS SERVICES

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. X*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. XXX. 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
Bar Sierra happy hour from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday through Monday.

Wednesday, November 26/
The return of Wild Wednesday @ Liberty in Mammoth. DJ & more. Starts 9:30 p.m. No cover
Cassie Dunn plays Shelter Distilling in Mammoth from 6-9 p.m.
Locals' night @ Mountain Rambler Brewery in Bishop with live music from 6-8 p.m.

Friday, November 28/
Black Friday dance party w/DJ Onezie @ Liberty in Mammoth. Starts 9:30

Saturday, November 29/
Big Smooth (covers and dance bangers) plays Liberty. Starts 9:30 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Thursday, November 27/
11th Annual Footloose Turkey Trot. Starts 9 a.m. Race-day registration @ 7:30 a.m. Location: Mammoth Creek Park. *More info: See ad p. 3*

Friday, November 28/
Holiday Tree Lighting in the Village at Mammoth. Time: 5-7 p.m.

November 28-29/
November Train Rides @ Laws Railroad Museum off Hwy. 6 just east of Bishop. Take a ride on the 1927 railcar from 10 a.m. to 2:30 pm, weather permitting. \$4-8 per person. More info: call 760-873-5950

Saturday, November 29/
MHS Booster Club Christmas Tree Lot opens. Location: Outbound Mammoth. Hours: Monday through Friday 4:30-6:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 1-7 p.m, while supplies last. All proceeds go towards funding MHS Teams' equipment, travel, gear, et. al.
Special Storytime with "Galaxy Mapper" author Allie Summers. Book reading, signing, and astrophysics activity. Location: Mammoth Lakes Library. Time: 2:30 p.m.

Monday, December 1/
Limelight Hotel ribbon cutting. Live band & holiday carolers. Location: Limelight Living Room (Lobby). Property tours and event from 3-5 p.m. w/the ribbon cutting at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, December 2/
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) hosts a meeting to seek public input in developing a **Statewide Deer Conservation and Management Plan**. Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Location: Tallman Pavilion at the Tri-County Fairgrounds, 475 Sierra St. in Bishop.

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, December 2 (cont.)/
Eastern Sierra Strummers community ukelele group meets. Time: 5-6:30 p.m. (*New beginners meet 4:30). Location: 501 Old Mammoth Rd. #5.

December 2-3/
Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce front line service workshops. Tuesday 4-6 p.m. or Wednesday 9-11 a.m. *For more info/register, email gvanhest@mammothlakeschamber.org*

Wednesday, December 3/
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. Time: 4 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov. Support the **MHS Boosters Club by participating in a community shopping night at the Eastern Sierra Mountain Club** at the Mammoth Promenade. Time: 6-8 p.m. Location: 3343 Main St.
Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District meeting. Time: 6:30 p.m. *Note Location: Benton Community Center

Thursday, December 4/
"Protecting Paya: Honoring the Legacy of Water Stewardship in Payahuunadii" event hosted by Friends of the Inyo. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., programming begins at 6 p.m. Location: Tri-County Fairgrounds. Tix: <https://web.charityengine.net/protectingpaya>.

UPCOMING

December 5-6/
Eastern Sierra Community Chorus winter concerts. Friday's show 7:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Mammoth (58 Ranch Road). Saturday's show 7 p.m. at Cerro Coso Community College, Bishop Campus (4090 West Line Street). *See ad p. XX*

Saturday, December 6/
Access Mammoth (formerly Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra) Rock 'n Roll Extravaganza - its biggest fundraiser of the year. Time: 5 p.m. Location: Canyon Lodge. *For tix & info, visit accessmammoth.org*
Bishop Community Christmas Parade & Downtown Festivities. Floats, marching bands and more. *For info/schedule of events, go to bishopchamberofcommerce.com.* Just prior to the Parade, **run/walk Bishop Rotary's Santa Mile.** *Register by 4 p.m. in front of City Park.*

December 6-7/
It's A Wonderful Life: A Radio Show opens after the Bishop Holiday Parade @ 7 pm at the Bishop Elks Lodge. The matinee on Sunday the 7th takes place @ 4 p.m. *For info/tix, visit playhouse395.com.*

Sunday, December 7/
Early Ups at MMSA. Ikon Passholders can ride lifts early at 7:30 a.m., and get a free hot breakfast at McCoy Station from 8-9:30 a.m.



**RAILROAD
EXPRESS**

A Magical Fun Day at
Laws Railroad Museum & Historical Site!
Kids and grownups alike will make memories while enjoying train rides, crafts, wagon rides, refreshments and visits with Santa.

SATURDAY, 12/13/25: 10AM - 3PM
Note: Last train ride at 2pm

Tickets:
\$15 ages 3-10 & Seniors 62+
\$20 over 10 years
*Purchase in Advance on Eventbrite
\$2 discount if purchased before 12/1*

FREE BOOKS!
PROVIDED BY ALTRUSA



www.bishopchamberofcommerce.com
760-873-8405

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



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.



Wild Iris is hiring a CASA Staff Advocate! We're looking for highly computer literate individual with a passion for advocating in the best interest of youth in the foster system in Inyo and Mono Counties. **HIGHLY PREFERRED:** Bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish
Position: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Staff Advocate
Reporting Office: Bishop, CA
Pay Range: \$26.25-\$32.55
Job Type: Full-Time, hourly, non-exempt
Benefits: Employee retirement with employer contributions, medical insurance, paid holidays, vacation, and sick accruals. (*Benefits available after successful completion of introductory period.)
Job Description: The CASA Coordinator assists CASA staff and volunteers in the day-to-day operations and with special projects as well as provide advocacy for CASA youth.
Essential Job Duties:
Assist in the recruitment, training, support, and retention of CASA volunteers.
Organize and maintain case records and program databases. Support, assist with, and participate in the organization of events and activities which increase awareness and community investment in the program.
Advocate for youth in community settings such as court, school, social services, and medical appointments.
Write court reports based on the best interest of the youth and attend scheduled court hearings.

For Rent



Room for Rent in Upscale House
Furnished, Private Bath/Living Rm
Very Close to Canyon Lodge & Bus
\$3200 w/Garage Parking, \$2800 w/o
Most Utilities Included
Available Thru 30 JUN 2026
Serious Inquiries Only 202-731-4966



Commercial Office space for rent.
Daily/weekly/monthly/annual

Call 818.307.3698/970.837.6720
www.NomadnessOffices.com

Help Wanted



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

- Preschool/Associate Teacher
- Maintenance Technician
- Housekeeper
- Environmental Services Tech
- Registered Nurse - Pediatrics

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.



HIGHLAND PLUMBING

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



Wild Iris is hiring for an Operations Coordinator! We're looking for an organized, motivated person with good attention to detail and ability to meet frequent deadlines who can help us keep our offices running in Mammoth Lakes and Bishop. **HIGHLY PREFERRED:** Bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish
Pay Range: \$26.25-\$32.55/hr.
Job Type: Full time, hourly, non-exempt
Benefits: Employee retirement with employer contributions, medical insurance, paid holidays, vacation, and sick accruals. (*Benefits available after successful completion of introductory period.)
Job Description: Primarily responsible for facilitation of day-to-day agency operations and support of agency operational functions. Not eligible for remote work.
Essential Job Duties:

- Coordinate staff meetings, events, and informational materials.
- Coordinate staff, volunteer, and donor appreciation/recognition, track donations.
- Provide orientation, training, and support to staff with technology, equipment, and facilities-related needs.
- Train, schedule, and supervise indirect service volunteers.
- Purchase and maintain inventory of office supplies, program materials, and staff uniforms.
- Provide day-to-day logistical support to staff in the absence of the Executive Director and Programs leadership.
- Oversee maintenance and cleaning of agency vehicles.
- Coordinate cleaning, maintenance, and repair of agency facilities and office equipment.
- Coordinate purchase, use, maintenance, and repair of agency phones and computers.
- Manage facilities security systems.

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.



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

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.

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

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

Join Now

We Are Hiring!

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

Why Work with us?

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES



TOWN OF
Mammoth Lakes

Notice of Public Hearing
2025 CA Building Code Adoption

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Wednesday, December 17, 2025**, beginning at **4:00 p.m.** and continuing until finished, at the **Town Council Chambers, Suite Z, within the Minaret Village Shopping Center, 437 Old Mammoth Road**, the **Mammoth Lakes Town Council** will hold a public hearing on the following:

Application Request: Adoption of an ordinance updating Chapters 15.04 and 15.24 of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code to adopt the 2025 California Building Codes.

The ordinance will more specifically adopt by reference the 2025 Edition of the California Building Standards Code; incorporating the 2025 California Building Code (Incorporating and Amending the 2024 International Building Code); the 2025 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code (Incorporating and Amending the 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code), the 2025 California Administrative Code, the 2025 California Electrical Code (Incorporating and Amending the 2023 National Electric Code); the 2025 California Mechanical Code (Incorporating and Amending the 2024 Uniform Mechanical Code); the 2025 California Plumbing Code (Incorporating and Amending the 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code); the 2025 California Residential Code (Incorporating and Amending the 2024 International Residential Code); the 2025 California Green Building Standards Code, the 2025 California Historical Building Code, the 2025 California Existing Building Code (Incorporating and Adopting the 2024 International Existing Building Code), the 2025 California Energy Code, the 2025 California Reference Standards Code, the 2024 International Property Maintenance Code, and the 2016 American Concrete Institute 306R Guide to Cold Weather Concreting together with local amendments to the codes.

CEQA Determination: Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), this ordinance is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in that it is not a Project which has the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

Location: Town-wide

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Town Council either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Town Clerk written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information or to review the code changes, please contact Tom Perry, Building Official, at (760) 965-3635 or by email at: tperry@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Mammoth Lakes Town Council | P.O. Box 1609 | Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

TS #2025-0128



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Application Request: Tentative Parcel Map 25-001 to divide the subject property into two parcels. The property is located in the Resort (R) zoning district in the Lodestar at Mammoth Master Plan Development Area 2 at 102 East Bear Lake Drive. The subject property is currently developed with a single-family residence and an accessory dwelling unit. The lot split will result in two lots, each containing a single-family residence.

CEQA Determination: The application is categorically exempt from CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15315, Minor Land Divisions.

Location: 102 East Bear Lake Drive (APN: 033-421-035-000)

Zoning: Resort (R); Lodestar at Mammoth Master Plan Development Area 2

Proponent: Jeff Dagan (Applicant) / Dagan Family Trust (Property Owner)

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Planning & Economic Development Commission either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Executive Secretary written correspondence pertaining thereto. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at, or prior to, the public hearing. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than August 8, 2025, contact Michael Peterka, Associate Planner, at (760) 965-3669 or email: mpeterka@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

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

TS #2025-0129

BRONCOS TO PLAY FOR TITLE

Yet another nerve-wracking, come-from-behind playoff win on Nov. 21 propelled the Bishop Broncos to the CIF Central Section Division 5 championship football game.

The Broncos were behind the Liberty Hawks the entire game until the fourth quarter when a long bomb from Broncos senior quarterback Emory Dondero found senior receiver Carlos Sualez in the end zone for the winning score. The Broncos defense then stopped the Liberty several times to preserve the 26-22 victory over the previously undefeated and top ranked Hawks.

Dondero and Sualez were the dynamic duo for the Broncos. The pair connected for three touchdowns though the air and Dondero added to his impressive performance with a running TD.

The game was a defensive fight. Bishop scored first, but then Liberty scored 16 straight points, for a 16-6 halftime lead. The second half saw scoring drives from both teams, with Liberty still ahead 19-22 going into the fourth quarter.

On the night Dondero completed 15 of 21 passes for 246 yards. Dondero also rushed for 39 yards on the muddy Liberty field. Sualez caught 6 passes for 124 yards. Hunter Dailey carried the ball 8 times for 27 yards.

The Bronco defense held a powerful Liberty offense in check and forced 4 takeaways. Elliott Douda and Richie Talavera had interceptions and Dom Dondero and Douda recovered fumbles. Dom Dondero had a big night at the linebacker position with 9 solo tackles including a pair of tackles for loss. Hunter Dailey had 10 solo tackles including a tackle for loss. Devaun Mitchell made 8 solo stops and a TFL. Malachi Orrick and Darrick Cortez each had 6 solo tackles. Richie Talavera had 5 solos and the game clinching interception. Chucky Delgado made 5 solo tackles and a tackle for a loss. Levi Derr and Jaden Jimenez each made 3 solo tackles.

The Broncos are now 10-3 on the year, and will travel to Woodlake on Friday, Nov. 28 for the Championship game, with a 7 p.m. kickoff.

A win Friday and the 2025 Broncos will join the 1957, 2010, and 2019 Bishop teams as CIF champions.

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity Is Doing Business As:

Grooms by Axel

Rachel Theresa Allcock
258 Ridge Way
P.O. Box 100, PMB 101
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Nov. 7, 2025
File Number 2025-0152
TS #2025-0131 (11/29, 12/6, 12/13,12/20)

Notice of Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 11-20-25-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE DISTRICT CODE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the Mammoth Community Water District as follows:

SECTION ONE. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY
This Ordinance amends the provisions of Chapter 12, Division III of the District Code, which governs the terms and conditions of the District's provision of water service, for the purpose of deleting the existing provisions that provide for and govern the District's cross-connection control program so that they can be replaced with a standalone policy consistent with new State of California regulations. The authority for this Ordinance is found in California Water Code sections 31024 through 31029 and Government Code section 53069.4, and other applicable law.

SECTION TWO. AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 12, DIVISION III OF THE DISTRICT CODE

Section 3.34, Control of Backflow and Cross-Connections, of Division III of Chapter 12 of the District Code is hereby deleted in full and replaced with the following:

Section 3.34 Control of Backflow and Cross-Connections

Consistent with California Health & Safety Code section 116275 and following regulations, the District's program to protect the public potable water supply from contamination due to potential and actual cross-connections between the public water supply and private sources that are untreated or possibly contaminated is stated in a separate policy adopted by the Board. Notwithstanding that separation, the District's Cross-Connection Control Program Policy is a key health and safety regulation of the District and is incorporated by reference into this Code for purposes of applying it to all affected Customers and for enforcement purposes under Section 8.17 of Chapter 12 of the District Code.

SECTION THREE. INCONSISTENCY
To the extent that the terms and provisions of this Ordinance may be inconsistent or in conflict with the terms or conditions of any prior District ordinances, resolutions, rules or regulations governing the same subject, the terms of this Ordinance shall prevail with respect to the subject matter thereof and such inconsistent or conflicting provisions of prior ordinances, resolutions, rules or regulations are hereby repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION FOUR. INVALIDITY
If any provision of this Ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, no other provision of this Ordinance shall be affected thereby.

SECTION FIVE. PUBLICATION
The District General Manager or his designee is directed to publish a summary of this Ordinance once, with the names of the members voting for and against the Ordinance, in a newspaper published within the District within 10 days after the adoption of this Ordinance.

SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE
This Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption pursuant to California Water Code section 31027.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Mammoth Community Water District at a meeting held on November 20, 2025, on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

BY: Thomas R. Smith, President, Board of Directors
ATTEST: Mark Busby, Secretary, Board of Directors

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 11-20-25-15, duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, County of Mono, on November 20, 2025.

-Mark Busby, Secretary, Board of Directors

TS #2025-0130

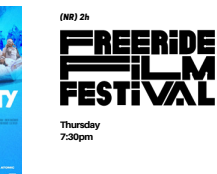


MINARET CINEMAS
is 2 PLACE
437 Old Mammoth Rd
Movie Info Line
(760) 934 3131

[f](#) [ig](#)

Buy Tickets Online
[DPlaceEntertainment.com](#)

Movies Starting This Friday 11/28 to 12/04

 WICKED Friday - Sunday 11:15am 1:30pm 4:30pm 7:15pm Tuesday 4:15pm 7:30pm Wednesday 4:30pm Thursday 1:30pm 4:30pm	 ZOOTOPIA Friday - Sunday 11:15am 1:30pm 4:30pm 7:15pm Tuesday 4:30pm 7:15pm Wednesday 4:45pm 7:15pm Thursday 2:00pm 4:45pm 7:15pm	 SHREK Wednesday 7:30pm	 FREERIDE FILM FESTIVAL Thursday 7:30pm
---	---	--	--

****CLOSED****
MONDAY 12/03/25

GAYLA'S GALLERY

HOW DELIGHTFUL!



On Saturday night, C5 Studios in Bishop hosted its “Chilly Nights, Warm Delights Art Walk.” The night was complete with musicians, artists, a scavenger hunt, a children’s gnome game and, of course, warm beverages and treats from local buusi-nesses which stayed open late. Attendees came dressed to enter the “Best Hats of Bishop” contest, and photographer Gayla Wolf was there to capture it all.

PHOTOS: GAYLA WOLF



PROTECT OUR PIPES! PROTEGER NUESTRAS TUBERIAS!

NEVER FLUSH
WET-WIPES OR
HYGIENE PRODUCTS
DOWN THE TOILET.

NUNCA TIRE
TOALLITAS HÚMEDAS
NI PRODUCTOS DE
HIGIENE POR EL
INODORO.

NEVER DUMP
FAT, OIL, GREASE,
OR FOOD WASTE IN
THE SINK.

NUNCA TIRE
GRASA, ACEITE, GRASA
NI RESTOS DE COMIDA
EN EL FREGADERO.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 760-934-2596
OR VISIT WWW.MCWD.DST.CA.US

KLUSMIRE

A REAL LOCO-MOTIVE FORCE

“If you want to start nailing, go ahead.”

I grabbed a framing hammer and a handful of #10 nails and peered down the side of the boxcar. It looked long, intimidating and alluring.

The oak, tongue-and-groove paneling was tacked in place. But to install the new siding so it was solid and historically accurate meant the oak had to be nailed in. The bottom of each four-inch panel took three nails in a diagonal line. There were roughly 100 boards. Three hundred nails. More than 1,000 hammer strikes. It took a while. So did pounding in the row of nails running across the middle of the car. About head high. That row only took two nails per panel but required standing on a ladder to wield the hammer.

Me and two other volunteers worked methodically to nail the oak siding onto the solid, ancient oak skeleton of the original Carson Colorado boxcar from the late 1880s being restored and rebuilt in the train barn at the Eastern California Museum.

“You can grab that power grinder and smooth out a spot about the size of a dime on the boiler in the middle of each square.”

A week later, I found myself sizing up the grid chalked on the outside of the 1909 Baldwin steam locomotive’s boiler. There were close to two dozen spots that needed a grind. Locomo-



Tools of the trade

tive #9 was parked in the Laws Railroad Museum train barn. (**Why we have two train barns 60 miles apart is a mystery of historic proportions*) I took the power grinder in hand, got my feet situated, and made sparks fly.

I ground off decades of grit on dozens of spots on the boiler so a digital, ultrasound thickness gauge could measure the thickness of the boiler’s steel.

That is a short summary of my recent four straight days of what I tell people is “train work.”

When they ask why I volunteer to work on the valley’s historic trains, I say, “because it’s fun.” That’s the easy answer. There is too much going on to explain more. Plus, I’m not exactly sure why I am attracted to work that is both intricate and massive, gritty and dirty, simple and complex.

I came to train work fairly recently and have only been banging away on that vintage iron for about a decade. Jumping into what can be hard, physical, manual labor at my age might make some conclude that I’m trying to relive my youth, trying to prove that age hasn’t slowed me down too much.

There’s some truth to that.

High school summers were spent working with plumbers, carpenters and concrete crews. I worked in “the trades” just enough to have some basic knowledge that’s proven useful in the barns.

My most physically demanding work experience came during college over six summers (I took my time getting educated) and Christmas breaks. I worked as a roughneck on drilling rigs in Western Colorado and Wyoming’s Red Desert. I hired on as a floor hand, working tongs in Worm’s Corner and throwing chain. They were big rigs. Triples in the lingo. We were drilling 7,000-9,000-foot holes for natural gas. Dangerous work.

Mistakes could be painful. I learned how to lift heavy things, how to swing a sledgehammer (“hit it like you live -- hard and fast”), and where to put my feet and hands at all times to minimize “mistakes.”

But it’s been decades since I was a cocky young man who could work a 16-hour double without blinking. I can still use tools and work. Just not as fast or for as long. In the train barns, I defer to the experts, the experienced steam locomotive mechanics and engineers who volunteer their time and talent. I hand them tools, wrench nuts and bolts, hit things with hammers, and do whatever I can to help.

“You just do grunt work or chase tools and hang out? You think that’s fun?”

Sometimes I just say, “yep.”

Sometimes I say more.

Ever since leaving the physical world of drilling rigs and concrete behind me I have retreated into my head. I’ve been absorbed in a world of words, theories, ideas, proposals, plans, budgets and

bullshit. It’s been great. Wouldn’t trade it for the world. It’s also been ephemeral. Ideas and words come and go, shift and move and take different shapes over time. Ideas float in and out of my over-active mind, often without taking concrete form.

At least those words filled a physical space on pages of paper or newsprint. But in our digital age, there might not even be much more tangible evidence of my current “work.” (Thank you, Lunch for sticking with ink and paper.)

Coming out of that nebulous world, there is a definite attraction to hitting a nail with a hammer. The impact makes the hammer vibrate, the oak squeak, wrist and arm muscles clinch and release. It’s a living act.

The result is tangible. It’s solid. You can touch it. You can see a diagonal line of shining steel nail heads nestled in the wood.

There is also no denying the heft of a 36-inch pipe wrench when picking it up and handing it off. Banging away with a sledgehammer is damn near therapeutic. The sound of steel on steel declares there is no theory, no guesswork, just reality.

The same applies to powering away more than a century of grit to reveal shining dots of steel on a 116-year-old locomotive boiler. Some places take longer to strip down. Some go quickly. None are the same. But there they are. Proof of a steady hand, a good eye.

Tired, sore muscles are a reward in themselves, a reminder of what bones, blood and muscles are designed to do.

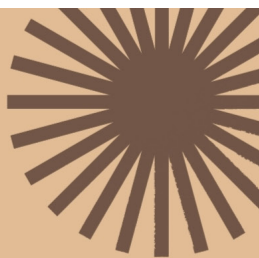
In a delightful irony, the satisfaction of doing those manual jobs eventually leads to humility. The greatest lesson.

In both cases, my recent train work will never be seen. The boxcar’s nails will be painted over, hiding the meticulous patterns. The locomotive’s outer metal skin will eventually cover the boiler and the shiny spots of steel. No one will know how much work and effort went into those tasks. Except me and the rest of the train barn crews.

We know. And that’s good enough.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is more than impressed with the skill, ingenuity and wisdom of the volunteer train crews, who are miracle workers and always fun to watch.

BE A PART OF THE
MAMMOTH ARTS AND
CULTURAL CENTER!



Construction is underway for our
Performing Arts Facility,
opening in Spring 2027.



Visit the Performing
Arts Foundation
website for
construction and
design details, to sign
up for email updates, or
to make a donation.

mammothmacc.org



Mammoth Lakes Performing Arts Foundation

MLPerformingArtsFoundation@gmail.com



The Baldwin’s boiler.

I KNOW A GUY ...

By Libre

Doug Nidever is 72 and climbs almost every day. The former Chief Guide for the Yosemite Mountaineering School still looks the part. The day I met him at the Looney Bean coffee shop in Mammoth he wore an orange patterned button-up, green glacier glasses hanging from his neck, and a baseball cap with the words “I can’t, but I know a guy,” overlaying a cross. His skin was leathered and worn from the countless days he’d spent outside.

Nidever was born in the Bay Area in 1953 and moved to June Lake in 1978. His desire to climb was ignited as a child after he watched “The Mountain,” a movie starring Spencer Tracy and Robert Wagner. In the film, a younger brother pressures his older brother to take him climbing in the Swiss Alps. Nidever wanted a piece of the action and he’s been hooked ever since.

Nidever built an impressive career. His guided routes in Yosemite on Half Dome and El Capitan and did free climbs of Astroman and Rostrum. He climbed in Canada, Europe, Alaska, Mexico, and Ecuador. But his favorite place to climb will always be the Eastern Sierra.

“[Climbing] is magical,” Nidever said. “I just love going out and sleeping in a tent when it’s thirty degrees outside.”

He recalled a time in 1986 when he slept beneath the stars in the Sierra and watched as the once-in-a-lifetime Halley’s comet crossed the sky. “We were



freezing our butts off. It was just the coolest thing.”

Nidever’s personal life has not always been easy. His wife of 20 years left him back when to raise his nine and ten-year-old sons, Layton and Tobin, on his own. He made the most of this situation, however, cultivating a tight-knit family of three. He taught his boys to rock climb in the summer and ice climb in the winter.

“Both of those guys were really strong climbers,” he recalled. “We had some really great times.”

In 2008, Layton, Nidever’s youngest,

tragically passed away while living in Alabama. The cause of his son’s death was unconfirmed. Nidever was swallowed by grief.

“I was just so angry at the world,” he said. “That’s what caused my stroke.”

In 2011, Nidever knocked a piece of ice onto his head while ice climbing in the Ouray Ice Park in Colorado. He’d been home for a week when he suffered a stroke and heart attack on his kitchen floor.

The recovery was excruciating. Nidever had to relearn to speak, read and write. He studied the alphabet with the help of a tutor. A year after the accident, he could finally talk, but described being unable to remember words.

“There are a thousand exceptions in the English language,” Nidever said. “I kept telling [my tutor] I’m not relearning English, it’s too complicated. I’m learning Spanish or French.”

Climbing, however, came back quickly. Two years after his injury, Nidever took a friend up El Capitan.

“I couldn’t even remember what the gear was called,” he said, laughing. He relied on his muscle memory to guide the pair up the iconic route.

Four years after the accident, at the age of 62, Nidever soloed Denali. “Not recommended,” he joked.

He continued to guide locally until 2018.

Fourteen years later, despite his impressive recovery, Nidever still feels some effects from his stroke. He struggles with short-term memory loss, meaning he can remember details from thirty years ago but not what he ate for breakfast. His voice sometimes wavers when he speaks and he has slight tremor. He often looks to God for comfort.

Nidever has been practicing his faith since he was 19. He now regularly attends the Calvary Chapel in June Lake. The church was especially helpful in his recovery, he recalled.

“Those people helped me out a lot when I could barely talk or walk,” Nidever said. “It’s nice having a church community in a small town [like June].”

His connection to God is always prevalent when he’s outside.

“When I get out on a glacier in the Swiss Alps and I see the sunrise I think, how cool is this?” Nidever said. “And this is God’s creation. This is God’s love.”

Eastern Sierra Community Chorus and Chamber Orchestra Present

Winter
CONCERTS

Friday, December 5
7:30 PM
St. Joseph's Church
Mammoth Lakes

Saturday, December 6
7:00 PM
Cerro Coso College
Bishop

Conducted by:
Dr. Nancy Holland & Brian Schuld

Program highlights include selections from Handel's Messiah, seasonal favorites, and Emilie Mayer's Symphony No. 1 in C minor

POWERED BY

FREE ADMISSION
Donations gratefully accepted.

Zelle

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?

Meet Tugg!

He's a cool guy, enjoys his walks politely, taking in his surroundings. He'd love to go for a walk with you, or maybe just hang out together.

Please come and meet Tugg and others like him that are in search of their forever home – at the Inyo County Animal Shelter, located at 1001 County Road in Big Pine.

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

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

WOOF!

Save a life.
Adopt a shelter dog.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

YOUR MOUNTAIN HOME IS CALLING



100 Ski Trail - \$275,000

Beautifully updated 2-bedroom plus home in quiet Ski Trail Mobile Park. Perched on a hill with Sherwin views & privacy, featuring new paint, flooring, remodeled kitchen, perfect full-time or vacation retreat.

MOBILE
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1160



The Lodges, 1101 Pyramid Peak Dr. - \$1,095,000

Rare single-level condo with attached garage and dog-friendly access to nature. Features hardwood floors, fireplace, stainless kitchen, serene water views, and deck—effortless comfort living near outdoor adventures.

CONDO
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2.5
SQ FT: 1867



Snowcreek V, 930 Links Way - \$989,000

Immaculate Snowcreek Resort townhome with attached garage and stunning Mammoth Mountain views. Features newer carpet, paint, appliances, fireplace, and three private decks—move-in ready!

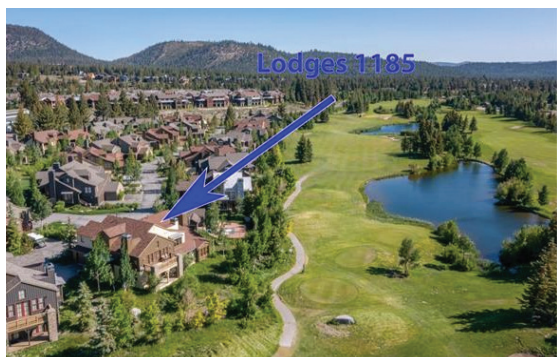
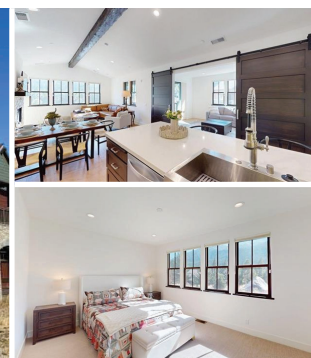
CONDO
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1375



CreekHouse, 1384 Timber Creek Rd. - \$1,825,000

Immaculate 3-bedroom+, 3.5-bath CreekHouse townhome with 2-car garage, stunning mountain views, wood floors, two decks, and modern upgrades—sold furnished, blending rustic charm with contemporary comfort.

CONDO
BEDS: 3
BATHS: 3.5
SQ FT: 2152



The Lodges, 1185 Pyramid Peak Dr. - \$1,799,000

Stunning townhome located on the Snowcreek golf course - spa adjacent. Like new condition with vaulted ceilings, gourmet kitchen, open views, primary suite with fireplace and large covered deck. Sold with furnishings.

CONDO
BEDS: 3/LOFT
BATHS: 3.5
SQ FT: 2762



Swall Meadows Lot, 569 Rimrock Dr. - \$179,000

Prime 2-acre Swall Meadows equestrian lot with approved plans for a 3-bed, 2-bath home. Enjoy sweeping views, underground utilities, community water, and easy access to Mammoth Lakes & Bishop.

LOT
SQ FT:
85,378



LISTING DETAILS!

The Snowcreek Property Company

5 Fairway Drive, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 934-3334

info@snowcreekproperty.com
www.snowcreekproperty.com

CA DRE #01812140

