

Vol. 24, No. 1

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YEAR IN REVIEW



THE SHITTY WEEK THAT WAS

Santa delivered nearly five feet of snow just before Christmas to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area in less than 36 hours. Though forecast as a “Christmas miracle” for an otherwise dry early ski season, the storm instead brought a series of tragedies to the Eastern Sierra.

Avalanche at MMSA

On Friday, Dec. 26, at approximately 7:30 a.m., an avalanche occurred on Lincoln Mountain, ultimately killing MMSA patroller Cole Murphy.

Murphy and a colleague were conducting avalanche mitigation work on the slope when it slid, catching both patrollers. They were transported to Mammoth Hospital; Murphy was later life-flighted to Reno. His colleague was evaluated for possible broken bones.

At approximately 8:45 a.m., MMSA suspended operations for the day “due to high avalanche danger” and announced the incident publicly around 11:30 a.m.

On Sunday at 4 p.m., MMSA confirmed via social media that Murphy had died from his injuries.

“The mountain was where Cole felt most alive. It was his place of purpose, his community, and his second home,” Murphy’s family wrote in a memo, included in the announcement. Murphy was 30 years old.

At the time of Friday’s avalanche, the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center forecasted very dangerous conditions, stating that “natural and human-triggered avalanches remain likely.” The day prior, the center issued an avalanche warning for the area, advising recreationists to avoid being on or beneath slopes steeper than 30 degrees.

Friday’s incident mirrored another fatal avalanche on Lincoln Mountain earlier this year, when ski patroller Claire Murphy was killed after being caught in a slide during a major storm that dropped six feet of snow in 36 hours. (*See p. 7 for The Sheet’s coverage of the February avalanche.*)

Both deaths occurred under similar conditions: intense storms following prolonged dry periods. Mammoth Mountain recorded only 24 inches of snow in November, according to MMSA records. Ahead of the February avalanche, MMSA logged just 10 inches in January.

The resort remained closed throughout Saturday, Dec. 27.

On Sunday, MMSA operated Chairs 4, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21, and the Village Gondola, confining holiday crowds to lower-angle terrain primarily at Eagle and Canyon lodges. The limited access resulted in long, standstill lift lines.

“The ski area is operating and we are expanding to additional lifts and terrain as conditions, available staffing, and safety allow,” wrote Joani Lynch MMSA Vice President of Marketing and Sales in an email to the Sheet.

MMSA did not offer a credit or discount for the combination of holiday crowds and post-storm work required to open more terrain. However, it did issue full refunds for the closure days (Dec. 26 and 27).

“While lift lines have been longer than usual, and in some cases below our standard, guests, the majority of whom are passholders, were able to access more trails each day, and we now have over 100 trails open,” Lynch wrote. “Ten days ago, while most guests were finalizing plans to visit, the resort had far less terrain open.”

Staffing was strained, Lynch explained, because there were several patrollers who elected to be at the hospital to support Cole’s family and each other.

“We intend to give them the time and space to do this. We have enough patrollers on site to operate the Ski Area safely,” she wrote.

On Monday, MMSA expanded operations, spinning Chairs 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 22, 25, and the Lower Panorama Gondola, reopening terrain at Main Lodge.

Skier Dies at MMSA

A local skier, Raymond John Albert Jr., 71, known as “Every Day Ray,” died Christmas Day, resort officials confirmed.

At approximately 12:45 p.m., Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrol was dispatched to Chair 8 after receiving a report of an unconscious skier found upside down in deep snow off of the Hully Gully trail. Guests at the scene began working to unbury the skier before patrol arrived.

Ski patrol immediately initiated life-saving measures, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and administered shocks using an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Emergency care continued on scene until the skier was transported by ambulance to Mammoth Hospital, where the skier was pronounced dead.

Albert lived in a Mammoth condo for many years, then moved to Bishop before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patrick Bernard of Mammoth Lakes described Albert as a “Carpenter, green-thumb, good guy, loved America and Fox News ... He drove up pretty much daily and lived up to his name ‘til the end.”

Avalanche in Bridgeport

On Saturday, a group of snowmobilers triggered an avalanche near Latopie Lake in Bridgeport, which buried and critically injured one person.

Around 11 a.m. Saturday, the Mono County Sheriff’s Office search and rescue team received a call for a D3 avalanche near Latopie Lake. A D3 avalanche is considered “very large,”and runs the length of about 10 football fields (~3,000 ft).

Two helicopters were dispatched to the scene. A Battle Born Medevac helicopter out of Carson City, Nevada, arrived first and located one person who had been



“These are people of the land. The common clay of the New West. You know ... morons.”

-*The Waco Kid*
from Blazing Saddles

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fully buried by the avalanche, according to the sheriff’s office. Other snowmobilers had already dug the person out, but the victim required immediate medical care and was airlifted to a trauma center in Reno.

Mono County Search and Rescue established a base at Bryant Field in Bridgeport and mobilized volunteers from across the county, including teams on powder-capable rescue sleds. A California Highway Patrol helicopter from Fresno also responded but was released after crews confirmed there were no additional injured or buried individuals.

Power Outage in North Mono County

June Lake and Bridgeport residents endured days without electricity over the Christmas holiday as prolonged power outages left many without heat, light, or essential services during freezing winter conditions.

The outages began Christmas Eve, affecting communities from June Lake north through Bridgeport, and continued through Monday, Dec. 29.

With no estimated restoration time provided for much of the outage, Mono County officials opened warming centers at the June Lake Community Center, Lee Vining Fire Hall, and Bridgeport Memorial Hall to provide heat, power, and shelter for residents in need.

Throughout the following days, the Mono County Sheriff’s Office issued morning and evening updates detailing fluctuating restoration efforts and shelter availability. While power was intermittently restored to some areas, large portions of June Lake and Bridgeport remained without electricity for several days.

On Saturday, county officials reported that most of June Lake and parts of Bridgeport were still without power, prompting the expansion of services at the June Lake Community Center from a warming center into a full overnight shelter offering meals and a warm place to sleep. The County continued to operate Bridgeport Memorial Hall as a warming center, and encouraged residents to contact county dispatch for sheltering assistance.

By Sunday morning, SCE restored power to some areas of June Lake, though the majority of the village remained dark without electricity, and Bridgeport saw no improvement. County officials kept both the June Lake shelter and the Bridgeport warming center open overnight as restoration work continued.

Mono County Supervisor Paul McFarland said the primary obstacle to restoring power in June Lake was extensive damage to the main distribution circuit feeding the village, including multiple downed power lines that prevented the area from being safely re-energized.

He explained that communities farther down the canyon were able to operate using hydroelectric power, but the June Lake Village itself remained isolated from energized “hot” circuits due to the damage.

Southern California Edison deployed additional contract crews and air support to assist with repairs, but McFarland said the utility was unable to provide a timeline for full restoration as work continued and system tests repeatedly failed.

Community frustration grew as the outage stretched into its fourth day.

June Lake resident Selene Stewart posted on Facebook calling the situation a serious safety issue and urging community members to speak out, and the post garnered hundreds of likes.

“At this point, the community needs to get involved,” Stewart wrote. “People need to speak up, throw up their arms, and get pissed — because this should never be allowed to happen in winter conditions like this. Silence and patience aren’t getting the lights back on.”

State Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil acknowledged the situation in a statement, saying she was aware of the outages impacting residents across the June Lake and Bridgeport areas.

“Like you, I appreciate the tireless efforts of linemen and first responders working to restore power, and I share the community’s frustration with Southern California Edison’s communication challenges and outage reporting discrepancies,” she said.

When the Mono County Sheriff’s Department announced power had been restored to all of June Lake and Bridgeport Monday morning, the message carried cautious optimism rather than celebration.

“Let’s hope it sticks!” the department wrote.



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the sheet

YEAR IN REVIEW headlines

2025 crammed three years worth of major events and calamities into a single calendar year. Incredibly, none of the major events involved either the Town of Mammoth or Mammoth Lakes Tourism! Amid all the chaos, an understated, half-billion dollar hotel opened earlier this month.

CIVILIAN SHOT, KILLED IN MAMMOTH BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

On Tuesday morning, outside the Mammoth Lakes Library, a man was shot and killed by a Mammoth Lakes Police Officer responding to a civil disturbance call.

The man shot has been identified by The Sheet as Jesus Corona Uribe, 39, a Mammoth Lakes resident who has lived in town for about two decades.

Police dispatch put out a call of a man who appeared to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol who was throwing rocks at passing cars at 11:40 a.m.

As it happens, two MLPD officers were inside the library attending a meeting and two more were at/arriving at Giovanni's, so the response was immediate.

The shooting took place at 11:41 a.m.

Police could not confirm how many shots were fired, and different people said they heard different numbers. One witness who had been standing outside Mammoth Business Essentials said she thought there were 6-8 shots.

/from The Sheet March 8/

Weeks later, Mammoth Police released bodycam footage from the incident.

... The bodycam footage was taken by Sgt. Joe Vetter and Officer Chris Hoodman. When the call came in, they had just been arriving at Giovanni's Restaurant for lunch.

Mr. Uribe, in a state of intoxication/mental distress, had been throwing rocks at passing motor vehicles.

The video starts with officers yelling at Uribe, standing on the berm behind the Giovanni's dumpster, to drop the rocks in his possession and stand down.

One of the rocks, at that time, is located in his left hand and the other is resting in the crook of his left elbow.

Mr. Uribe, after a period of say, 15-20 seconds, takes off running up the sidewalk, behind Giovanni's, towards the bike path.

At the time of the call, two other officers, Detective Brian Madera (in plain-clothes) and Officer Dennis Saulque, were in a school safety meeting being held at the Mammoth Lakes Library.

PACK FIRE ENGULFS McGEE

/from The Sheet Nov. 15/



The Pack Fire broke out on the morning of November 13 at the McGee Creek campground, ultimately destroying approximately 30 structures and burning 2,000 acres. It was a "rekindle" fire that had been initially extinguished before ironically reigniting while being "watched."

They exited the Library, and moved a patrol vehicle to set up a perimeter on the access road leading to the library.

Because they were not on patrol at the time, they were not wearing bodycams.

They exited the vehicle and were moving towards the intersection to the road leading up to the school district offices.

Uribe sees them and then makes a sharp left beeline directly towards them.

By now he's got a rock in each hand. The rocks appear to be somewhere between a baseball and softball in size.

The distance between Mr. Uribe and the officers is approximately 15 feet.

Uribe begins to rear his arm back. Madera, gun drawn, is yelling at him to stop. Uribe then cocks his arm for a second time and does a little bunny hop to gain some momentum for a throw. Which never comes, as Madera and Saulque discharge their weapons and drop Uribe to the pavement.

There are definitely more than three shots. It's hard to tell. There could be ten shots.

The rock in Uribe's right hand comes rolling down the sidewalk at a decent clip. Vetter stops it with his shoe. The rock in Uribe's left hand is literally dropped where he lies.

And then the videos end.

The short video is not narrated.

A slide presented before the bodycam footage gives a brief description as to what officers knew about Mr. Uribe from prior history before they reached the scene.

It reads: "The involved officers were familiar with Mr. Uribe due to multiple past encounters with law enforcement, which included Mr. Uribe charging a police officer and assaulting a probation officer with a shovel. In addition, officers were aware Mr. Uribe was on supervised release for an assault with a deadly weapon conviction."

*Officers Madera & Saulque have since been reinstated while the department awaits the results of the investigation by the State Attorney General's office.

/from The Sheet March 29/

2ND HANTA DEATH

Press Release

Mono County Public Health has confirmed a second death related to Hantavirus in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The cases occurred four days apart at the end of February.

A third possible case is under investigation.

Hantavirus is a serious and often fatal illness spread primarily through contact with infected deer mouse droppings, urine, or saliva. Deer mice are widespread in the Eastern Sierra region.

"Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome is uncommon but extremely dangerous," said Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Health Officer. "We urge residents and visitors to pay attention to the presence of mice indoors and other enclosed spaces and take precautions to reduce the risk of infection, especially when cleaning up areas where rodent activity is present."

Each Hantavirus case is investigated by local and state public health officials. The exposure for one of the two confirmed cases this year may have occurred while vacuuming rodent waste, while the other individual was likely exposed at home during a known infestation.

Prior to these cases, the last confirmed

Hantavirus infections in Mono County occurred in 2019.

Mono County has recorded 26 confirmed Hantavirus cases since 1993—the most in the State of California.

Twenty of these infections were in county residents, and six were in people who visited Mono County and became infected. Two cases within a three-week span during late winter are unusual, as most cases are typically reported in spring and summer.

Rodent trapping in places where the first case may have been exposed found that 27% of captured deer mice tested positive for Hantavirus—consistent with the county's typical baseline of around 25%.

Hantavirus causes a severe illness that progresses rapidly once the lungs are involved. Early symptoms usually include fever, fatigue, headache and muscle aches, sometimes with gastrointestinal symptoms, followed by coughing and shortness of breath. The disease is often fatal, with a mortality rate of approximately 30%.

*Mono County Public Health later reported the 3rd case as fatal on April 3

/from The Sheet March 29/



PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE BAN

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES ≤500ml

Phase 1 – January 1, 2025:
Town Operations & Special Events

- Sale or distribution of plastic water bottles ≤500ml will be prohibited at all special events that require a permit from the Town.
- The Town government and Town affiliated events will be prohibited from purchasing or distributing single-use plastic water bottles ≤500ml.

Phase 2 – January 1, 2026:
Water Bottle Sales

Businesses or individuals will be prohibited from selling or distributing single-use plastic water bottles ≤500ml within the Town beginning January 1, 2026.

Prohibited Items

Single-use plastic containers of 500 milliliters or less containing non-sparkling, unflavored drinking water.



Alternative Items





Learn more about other Town sustainability initiatives:
townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/451/Solid-Waste-Recycling-and-Sustainability

For more information, please contact Emily Zujewski, Sustainability Coordinator
 760-965-3621 • ezujewski@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

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/from The Sheet Sept. 27/

PATROLLERS CAUGHT IN SLIDE

By Fisher

On Feb. 14, two Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrolters were caught and buried in an avalanche inbound on Mammoth Mountain at approximately 11:30 a.m.

The first patroller was recovered at the scene uninjured; the second patroller, a female rookie on the patrol team (later identified as Claire Murphy), was transported to Mammoth Hospital with serious injuries and later flown to the Renown Regional Medical Center Reno for further care.

Murphy ultimately succumbed to her injuries.

The slide occurred during avalanche mitigation work on Lincoln Mountain, a sub-peak above Canyon Lodge. The area was closed to the public at the time of the

incident.

Police closed off all traffic to the area and the entire mountain and paramedics confirmed that the two patrollers were the only victims in the slide over the police radio. Lift operations closed at noon for the day and the mountain opened late the following morning.

The avalanche occurred after a snowstorm had dropped approximately six feet on Mammoth Mountain's summit in 36 hours, and heavy precipitation and strong winds continued throughout the day on Friday.

The Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center had placed an avalanche warning on the area in the days before the event, discouraging people from traveling in and below avalanche terrain.

"Even sheltered slopes could be dangerous," the ESAC report stated. "Because we have buried weak layers in our snowpack, storm slab avalanches have the potential to break wider than expected."

The Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrolters Alumni Association held a fundraiser at the Warming Hut on Tuesday, five days after the incident, where patrollers promised to "always remember" her.

/from The Sheet February 22/



And then Lunch's follow-up which appeared in the following issue:

I've heard a lot of people weigh in on the Claire Murphy death - Murphy was the MMSA ski patroller caught in the Feb. 14 slide.

In my history of covering this town, that makes four patrollers who've died on the job. During the same time frame, zero law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty (thank God).

There is no universe where rushing to open up terrain is worth any risk to a person's life.

And in the aftermath, I've received messages from people who just couldn't quite believe the apres-ski at Canyon resumed the next weekend as if nothing had happened.

No community conversation. And conspicuous Alterra silence, I'm sure guided by 'our lawyers told us we shouldn't say anything.'

"It'll blow over soon" seems to be the Alterra strategy.

What shocked Fisher was the suggestion in an MMSA Instagram post dated February 22 that it would share information regarding fundraising efforts.

What? Fundraising from whom? There's no need for fundraising. Alterra should be paying 100%.

Next MMSA Instagram post caption: Fresh midweek corduroy and wide open groomers.

This isn't isolated. We appear to be downplaying the danger inherent in the sport because no one wants to step on anyone else's buzz.

And it's "go go go gimme my shred

why can't they get stuff open? In the old days they woulda had it open."

As personal examples, I was knocked unconscious on the hill (by a reckless skier) in 2021. The skier in question had been tucking down from Chair 5 so he could keep his speed to reach a "pop-up" bar which had been set up at the top of Chair 10.

In 2017, an out of control snowboarder on Scottie's missed my then six year old daughter and I (stopped for a rest) by a matter of inches. Board up, butt sliding, flying past at 25 mph. Still gives me nightmares. He would have killed her.

This season, I was plowed over again by a snowboarder speeding through the slow zone in front of Main Lodge trying to keep speed to get to the gondola.

Guy just left his goggles on and his facemask over his face while the patroller took the report. No remorse. It must have been this old guy's fault for standing in the way.

To the powers-that-be: I don't know what your skier satisfaction surveys say, but Arianne, I feel, very gently and deftly gave you the pulse of what the community is thinking and feeling.

In the old days, Rusty would have come down to a Council meeting and faced the music. He was good in the big moments. He communicated that he cared deeply. And then he sat respectfully and listened.

This is a leadership 101 moment. And if none of you have been empowered to lead, that is a profound indictment of Alterra Mountain Company

/from The Sheet March 1/

the sheet

YEAR IN REVIEW

Headlines

In any other year, the stories on this page would most likely have led the section. Chalk it up to Trump Chaos Theory.

THIS TIME, THE ACCUSED

By Fisher

In 2008, well-known professional rock climber and snowboarder Lonnie Kauk publicly spoke out against another climber, Charles Barrett, who was later sentenced to life in prison by a federal court for felony sexual assault. At the time, Kauk reportedly told Barrett, "Dude, you crossed the line ... just suck it up and deal with it."

Many years later, Mr. Kauk now finds himself facing similar charges.

Kauk, 44, son of another professional climber, Yosemite legend Ron Kauk, appeared in Mono County Superior Court this week, facing four felony charges of domestic violence tied to an alleged assault on his then-girlfriend in June 2023.

/from The Sheet July 19/

... After a five-day jury trial, Kauk was convicted of felony domestic violence, criminal threats, and vandalism. The jury reduced a fourth charge related to an injury to the victim's lip to a misdemeanor.

In October, Kauk sought a retrial, claiming ineffective assistance of counsel and citing alcohol use disorder as a mitigating

factor.

His new attorneys argued that his former lawyer failed to pursue a mental health diversion program and did not challenge key forensic evidence. Mono County Superior Court Judge Gerald Mohun denied the motion, ruling that the trial had been fair and the evidence against Kauk was strong.

At sentencing, Mohun struck a "great bodily injury" enhancement on the strangulation charge, reducing it to a misdemeanor for sentencing purposes, citing Kauk's alcohol use disorder, lack of prior criminal history, and character references.

Mohun ultimately sentenced Kauk to four years of formal probation and 180 days in county jail, along with mandatory domestic violence counseling, alcohol treatment, community service, and a decade-long criminal protective order barring contact with the victim.

The Sheet covered Kauk's conviction in the April 26 issue, his request for a retrial in the Oct. 18 issue and his sentencing in the Dec. 20 issue.

They Said It:

"The guy working three jobs to get ahead - he can't get ahead these days even if he worked a fourth job. Whereas the guy working half a job qualifies for housing."

-Lunch

MAMMOTH MAYOR SHUTS TRAP

Bubser mum on bringing in CDFW to trap bears at her property. Neighbors upset.

By Lunch

The trapping and removal of two bears in Old Mammoth last week has stoked the ire of neighboring residents and the community at large.

Mayor Chris Bubser and her husband David Baron authorized the California Dept. of Wildlife (CDFW) to set traps on their private property.

Bubser declined an interview with The Sheet this week, but we did speak with her husband. Baron said the goal of the operation was to relocate a yearling who was demonstrating signs of becoming a bit too habituated to human contact.

The yearling was caught and relocated, but not without some collateral damage.

On the first night the trap was set (July 11), a five-year old male bear who just happened to be passing through, likely cruising for a mate according to CDFW Environmental Scientist and Bear Biologist Michael Brown, took the bait and was captured.

CDFW subsequently tagged, collared

and relocated this bear to the Glass Mountains.

But on the second night, July 12, the yearling was captured and relocated in the Sherwins area beyond the Mammoth Motocross track.

Brown said neither bear had returned to the Old Mammoth area as of Tuesday, July 15.

Former Mammoth Wildlife Specialist and "Bear Whisperer" Steve Searles said that's unlikely to remain the case.

"The Glass Mountains have no food or water ... I'll bet you \$100 that bear is here now."

As Searles explained, CDFW policy is first-time tag and collar and second time shoot. Two strikes. And that the Mayor and her husband are responsible for one strike each that didn't have to happen.

"Every bear wearing the bling (collars) from last summer is gone. Ask yourself why."

/from The Sheet July 19/

Mammoth Hospital

Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Services

Patrick Fitzgerald, MD provides Otolaryngology services one week per month in the Specialty Clinic. Dr. Fitzgerald offers a variety of services to treat conditions of the ear, nose, and throat.



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The Year in Louterying

Northern Inyo Hospital District board meetings were full of drama this year, especially after Dr. Bo Loy was suspended in March and then later had his contract non-renewed (as of Dec. 31).

Fellow Orthopedists quit in a mixture of protest and solidarity and fear for their careers.

The short sketch of the matter: Loy had made a workplace harassment complaint against a nurse/tech. He was then "papered" with retaliatory complaints by support staff until he was swallowed up by the paper trail. Think DeNiro as Harry Tuttle in the movie "Brazil."

Dr. Mark Robinson said he's worked extensively with Loy for many years, and was critical of the "contemptible" tactics used against him - including a petition drive designed to intimidate.

"Doctors will not work in a place that tolerates this."

Meanwhile, hospital finances continue to deteriorate and morale is abysmal.

The Year in Law

The State's Commission on Judicial Performance admonished Inyo County Superior Court Judge Susanne M. Rizo in a scathing 13-page report which was released on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

The Commission found "Judge Rizo failed to cooperate with court administrators and the presiding judge, spoke about litigants and their pending cases

in an area of the courthouse where she could be overheard, improperly dismissed a case, and made a probable cause determination concerning a litigant from whose cases she was disqualified.

Rizo is up for reelection this year. Taylor Fitzmaurice and District Attorney Dana Crow have announced their electoral bids to challenge for the position.

The Year in A-frame

On June 4, Bishop City Administrator Deston Dishion gave notice to the Bishop Chamber of Commerce that it would have to vacate its iconic A-Frame building on Main Street next to the park and across the street from Schat's Bakery. The move-out deadline was set for Oct. 30.

The Chamber has since closed on another building on Main Street just south of Line by the Mountain Rambler Brewery.

Great hue and cry has been raised over the past several months by citizens who wish to "save" the A-Frame and believe it's the perfect spot for a visitor center in Bishop.

But Councilman Dennis Freundt couldn't understand what all the fuss was about. After all, he said, you hardly need a visitor center when everyone just uses their phones.

The Chamber's Executive Director Tawni Thomson has remained conspicuously mum on the topic. The building was old and the roof leaked and ...



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Dear Visitor. We like you. We really do. But on occasion, you do get a bit difficult. Take it easy on Mr. Leonard. Take it easy on us old guys in general. Just because we can't tell our faces from our asses doesn't mean we're not trying!

They Said It:

"I'm planning on only playing Sabbath and Ozzy in the store today. I can feel all those five-star reviews rolling in already."
-Dave Leonard

THINGS HAVE CHANGED

People are crazy and times are strange
I'm locked in tight, I'm out of range
I used to care, but things have changed

-Bob Dylan

I received a screenshot from Dave Leonard over at the Booky Joint this week. It was from a one-star yelp review from some guy who calls himself Cody J.
"I've been a Mammoth person for 15 years. This year we came to book [sic] joint. First trip we spent \$500 on awesome stuff. Came back the next day - met the owner. What a dang joke of an owner. We spent another \$150. The owner is a joke. He pushed us out of the store. I am at a loss. We won't be back. And we won't spend more money with an owner who can't tell his face from his ass."

Lunch: This is the fucking best. Can I print as part of our one-star reviews story? (We've been planning to compile the best one-star reviews of local businesses for a humor column).

Leonard then kindly told the full story.

"So I dropped by the store on my day off to bring a treat that I had made for my staff. I couldn't help noticing that this guy was trying to bully Tanner into selling him a small display because it had a price on it. Tanner explained very politely that the price was for some jewelry that we had sold out of, which is why it was empty. This would normally be sufficient for any reasonable person. Unfortunately, this jackass would not take no for an answer and must have pestered Tanner ten times in a row. He kept saying that he had spent hundreds of dollars here, as if that entitled him to buy fixtures. I could tell that Tanner was starting to get really uncomfortable so I stepped in and explained that not everything is for sale,

including me.
There were a number of people who commiserated with us once he had left. Two of them actually wrote complimentary reviews because they were so appalled by his behavior. I suspect that he just felt angry because he had made such a fool of himself. I honestly couldn't care less about the negative review. My staff should never have to put up with such boorish behavior. Fortunately, it is very rare and the vast majority of our customers are very polite, reasonable people. Which is why I come into work every day.

People like him always remind me of that Fitzgerald quote from the Great Gatsby: "They were careless people, Tom and Daisy. They smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness or whatever it was that kept them together and let other people clean up the mess they had made."

Hopefully, your article might cause people to think about the consequences of their actions and be a little more considerate. I wouldn't bet on it though ...



Lunch: My articles hardly shame local politicians into better behavior

That was Tuesday. On Wednesday, Leonard had a short addendum.
"I guess that I really made an impression on this guy. One of my employees pointed out that he wrote another very similar and equally unpleasant review elsewhere. The odd thing is that they are not reviews of the store at all - they are reviews of me personally and it's clear that this guy really hates me. His weird personal vendetta seems completely out of proportion to our extremely brief encounter. I think he's harmless enough but can't help thinking of this old Gary Larson cartoon."

Lunch: We forget how good Larson was
Leonard: Yes. Genius.

"I'm planning on only playing Sabbath and Ozzy in the store today. I can feel all those five-star reviews rolling in already."

"Things Have Changed" was a single released by Dylan which appeared on the soundtrack of the "Wonder Boys" film from 2000, which starred Michael Douglas as a washed up, one-hit wonder of a novelist and university professor. It's like a movie about my alternate universe.

But people are indeed as crazy as they've ever been and times just as strange. And it's funny that bears are always right in the middle of it.
When I moved here, Mammoth was universally acknowledged to be good at two things. 1.) Ski lifts. We'd always get docked for being a dumpy little ski town without much night life, but our lift system at MMSA was always ranked #1. 2.) Bear management. Everybody was on board, and Mammoth Lakes Police really cared about it.

I think it's remained a touchstone because how we treat our bears ... represents a delineation between past and future, old and new.
People used to come here because they liked the vibe and they wanted to share it, live it, fit in with it.

Now, people come here with the idea of bending the community to their own will.

One of the sure signs someone is NOT a local is a person who insists on telling you how long they've been here, been coming here, et. al.
And you're definitely not a local if you think it's other people's jobs to accommodate you and your "needs."
What are we good at now? Well, obviously we're good at lots of things, particularly booze, weed, beer, coffee - we're definitely good at stimulants. And pizza. And cool places to take selfies.
I guess we're good at providing what our guests and newcomers want.
But I think it's disappointing that we don't try to aim a little higher and expect a little bit more.

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GET OFF MY BIG BACKYARD

Or, the Love Song of J. Alfred Klusmire

Little cookies.

That is how I am going to get in “shape” for summer. Little cookies. Why, inquiring minds want to know, am I trying to get in shape in the Spring instead of at the start of the year like normal people? Aside from the obvious that I am far from normal, I am also an old hand at New Year’s Resolutions. I have learned through trial and error that winter is no time to try and become “the best version of yourself,” or try to “live your best life.” It’s cold and dark and depressing - not inspiring.

Spring, on the other hand, is inspiration personified and screams “new light, new life, new starts, new beginnings.”

Too bad for you, Spring also confuses the hell out of me. My thoughts become random and a bit scattered. So I will park my personal growth advice for a while and plow into what has been rolling around in my little brain all winter long and has now germinated into full-blown rants.

Spring is when the big summer marketing push begins, even though “locals” have been bitching about Bishop and Inyo County filling up with too many visitors every summer since, oh, I don’t know, about 1975. Anyway, in keeping with the “new” season, I think it’s time Bishop and Bishop Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Bureau/Marketing Machine/Gift and Knick Knack Store come up with a new tag line or slogan. The current versions of “small town with a big backyard” actually doesn’t make a whole lot of sense. The dog-eared campaign centers on all the fun stuff to do *everywhere else* in Inyo County, from Mt. Whitney and Death Valley to Mammoth and Yosemite. Bishop itself it treated like a comfortable bunkhouse.

In essence, Bishop is saying, “come to Bishop, spend the night then leave town for the day to play, roam and explore and come back in the evening and maybe buy a burrito or some grocery store fried chicken to eat in the hotel room.”

Meanwhile, Inyo County is chuckling about paying the Chamber something like \$70,000 to promote the county and in return gets county attractions highlighted with the full heft of several hundred thousand dollars of advertising bankrolled by the Bishop Tourism Business Improvement District tax (TBID) and City of Bishop General Fund cash.

The grumps among the citizenry, of course, like to point out the cheapest tourism plan for the county is placing spike strips on 395 so no one can leave or randomly closing the highway for a day or two, stranding thousands of visitors and motorists everywhere from Lone Pine to Bishop. Eye-popping ROI on that little maneuver.

Bishop-based columnist Jon Klusmire always has a unique take on the issues of the day.

Reader Tom Woods referred to Klusmire as the modern day “Faulkner of puttering around the house.”

At The Sheet, we like him because he brings Hing’s donuts to the office every Thursday.

Down in the hinterlands, the nearly vacant Inyo County Courthouse campus remains rather quiet on most Tuesdays. Remember when the county brain trust decided to cut back on the number of county supervisor meetings in Independence and hold some in Bishop? Remember when the assorted populace of South County slammed that idea as a betrayal to half the county (and the half with the largest property tax payers, thanks to Coso Operating’s geothermal plant, Xanterra’s properties in Death Valley and the Crystal Geyser water bottling plant)? Plus, fewer meetings meant fewer opportunities for residents to bring their concerns and ideas to elected officials in person. That was seen as a case of serious slacking by supervisors earning a full-time salary. Remember how the brains behind the idea said there could be some re-thinking or tinkering with the meeting schedule? That tinkering turned out to be no Bishop meetings and cutting back on the number of regular supervisor meetings in Independence (two BOS meetings in February, two in March). Quietly.

But maybe that’s okay and it certainly looks like it helps the county avoid being embarrassed by having very little to discuss, vote on or do.

As one South County sage pointed out, the supervisor agendas are also slim and mundane these days. It seems like there is no effort to initiate any action on housing, homelessness, improving roads, improving county services, keeping county costs down, being more accommodating to citizen requests or complaints, confronting Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and on and on. The agendas are an exercise in treading water, full of mind-numbing approvals of Public Works contracts, HHS plans, contracts and programs the county has no control over anyway, endless secret meetings (sorry, “executive sessions”) about the half a dozen union contracts at hand, and other routine business.

Which brings up another ancient memory: The absolute pledge and solemn oath that Inyo County employees would not simply move to the Clint Quilter Office Building in Bishop and abandon the courthouse and offices in the county seat and taxpayers from Independence to Tecopa. Guess what? That is exactly what happened. I’ve had too many calls and conversations with

They Said It:

“If you find you’ve made a wrong decision, well then, make another decision”
-Sam Walker

“I find Klusmire to be quite funny. Am I okay?”
-Brad Orrico

folks in the south end of the county who have been told if they want to do county business they should just climb in their cars and drive to Bishop. That includes meeting with county employees, paying bills or fees, or simply requesting some important information. A Zoom meeting is offered as a consolation prize. Incredibly, one person told me there doesn’t even seem to be a courier system that will safely deliver documents and checks from a county office in Independence to the Bishop HQ and vice versa. And heaven forbid a tax-paying citizen wants to have a county employee crawl in a county car on county time drive past Big Pine and come for an in-person visit.

“Cutting back on the number of regular Supervisor meetings ... looks like it helps the county avoid being embarrassed by having very little to discuss, vote on or do.”

-Klusmire

Enough “big stuff,” let’s get back to how little cookies will help me become summer svelte. Instead of buying regular sized Oreos, for example, I’ll buy the “thin” Oreos which, duh, make you thin, just like they advertise. Likewise, instead of those huge chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin cookies at Great Basin Bakery, I’ll buy the little cookies that come in bags. If that fails to produce results, I will go into Phase Two of my plan: Little cookies that don’t taste very good.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop will not be cutting back on Hing’s donuts because life is too short.

/from The Sheet April 19/

**Lunch addendum: Just glanced at the 2026 Inyo Board of Supervisors calendar. 26 scheduled meetings for ‘26, special budget hearings included in that number. By way of comparison, the Board had 40 scheduled meetings as recently as 2022. Supervisors have increased their own pay almost 50% since March, 2021.*



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the sheet

YEAR IN REVIEW
people

When my reporters tell me they don't know what to write about, I tell 'em to just walk down the street and talk someone up. The Eastside is full of interesting characters.



Doug Oldham

over the years: the rise of the internet, the flood of patrons during the 2008 financial crisis — when sometimes 500 people a day came in to use computers — and, more recently, the slow shift toward e-books and digital audiobooks. Despite those shifts, one thing never changed for him: the joy of helping people.

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

/from The Sheet September 13/

They Said It:

"Wealthy boomers still think Vietnam protests were enough for one lifetime. Young people only protest if the wife is threatened."

-Lunch

"It's been over three [Ed. Now 10] months since Jesus Uribe was shot ... and still no statement, no town hall, no explanation."

-Ari Weiner

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oldham has seen sweeping changes

Spike Todd: Spike Todd walked right into his gig at Mammoth Liquor.

His brother Randy had been working there for Jes and Jean, and Randy had recommended him. He started March 3, 1980. And he didn't walk out until he sold the biz on April 8, 2025.

With the transition from employee to owner occurring in 2004.

Myself, I can tell you Spike has inspired me as a big brother and a mentor. Because he worked his ass off and earned his keep every damn day. And I've always tried to emulate that work ethic. Spike's never complained, no matter the score.

There was a health scare in 2009. I think it was 2009. He was in an induced



Spike Todd

coma for about three weeks. Nip and tuck. There were a few nights there where doctors gave him a 1-2% chance of making it through.

That changed him for sure. Customers will be shocked to learn he was even grumpier before that. It softened the edges. Marriage softened them even further. The ballcap he wears on his head is no accident. "Every day is a blessing" is written across the front.

Typically on July 4, I would park at my office in the Outlet Mall and pass by Spike's on my way to work the Lions Club Pancake breakfast. And he would suggest I walk out with a small airplane bottle's worth of bourbon to toast the Founding Fathers. That's been my ritual for almost twenty years. And as Spike observed, he had his ritual, too. Stepping outside the shop during the parade to listen to his brother Bob and Chuck Scatolini announce from their customary spot across the street.

Bob and Chuck are no longer there, either. But I'll raise a glass to them, and to Spike, on Friday. Thanks for everything.

-Lunch

/from The Sheet July 5/

— 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



PEOPLE

continued from page 12

Will Sandy: For the past three and a half decades, Will Sandy has woken up, driven from Bridgeport to Coleville High School, pulled into the parking lot early, taught teenagers all day, stayed late after school, brought kids to compete in sports across Nevada, and done the 40-minute drive back home again.

When all is said and done, he doesn't mind the commute.

"It's a beautiful drive. You get to see deer, sometimes the bald eagles," he said. "People who are driving in the city might also be driving an hour, but looking at somebody else's tailpipe. I'm looking at a beautiful place."

But now, Mr. Sandy won't be doing that drive anymore.

Because after four decades of teaching, coaching, driving, repairing, planting, patching, and doing just about everything else a small-town high school could ask of one man, he is retiring.

"I've just run out of gas," he told The Sheet, without complaint. Just matter-of-fact, like someone finally turning off the lights in a building he's kept running for half a lifetime.

Will was born in 1960 in Salt Lake City but moved to Bridgeport at the age of nine. He's been more or less anchored there ever since.

He spent a short stint at UC Davis, class of '82, where he earned a degree in Biology and Economics, and then took a teaching job in the Sacramento Valley. Five years later, after his father passed away and the family house came to him,



he returned to Bridgeport with no job lined up and a sense of coming home.

"I jumped at it," he said. "The Coleville job opened up the next year, and I haven't found a reason to leave since."

Truth be told, coaching came first for Mr. Sandy. He remembers sitting at the kitchen table as a teenager, setting up plastic football figurines and trying to memorize plays. "At that point, my brain was becoming that of a football coach," he said.

During his tenure as a football coach at Coleville, Mr. Sandy racked up 165 wins and led his team to four trips to the Nevada state playoffs. As the girls' basketball coach, he notched 418 wins, a state title, and a permanent place in the NIAA record books.

He doesn't yet know what retirement will look like for him, since he's dedicated so much of his life to this career. But he plans to continue doing what he already does: hiking, fishing, camping, and maybe hunting a little.

/from The Sheet June 15/

Brayan Zamora/Jean Sprague: For most of his young adulthood, Brayan Zamora couldn't imagine a future that wasn't ruled by illness. Diagnosed with kidney failure at just 15, he faced a world defined by dialysis schedules, missed opportunities, and constant fatigue.

Now 24, Brayan is finally starting to dream again, thanks to an extraordinary gift from someone he never expected: his elementary school counselor, Jean Sprague.

Brayan's journey began in high school when he noticed something wasn't right. His legs felt heavy. One looked crooked. His bones ached.

"I was freaking out," he recalled of the day he was pulled from class and told to go to the hospital. His mother was out of town, unreachable. Alone and scared, he was rushed into emergency surgery and started dialysis the next day.

Dialysis is a life-preserving treatment for kidney failure, but it's grueling, especially for a teenager. Brayan returned to school two months later with a catheter in his chest, facing the isolation of being different from his peers.

"I couldn't swim. I couldn't do a lot of things after that," he said. "How do I tell someone, 'Hey, I'm really sick, and I'm doing dialysis?'"

Brayan's lifeline came in the form of the Toiyabe Dialysis Center, a clinic operated by the Toiyabe Indian Health Project in Bishop. "That place was amazing, and the doctors were super nice," he said. "As a kid, I appreciated

that. And as an adult, I appreciate it a lot more."

Despite the finding community and care there, Brayan had given up hope of ever getting a kidney. His mom had wanted to donate a kidney, but she wasn't a match. His siblings were too young. The waiting list for a transplant is years long. The idea felt impossible.

Then, one day, everything changed. "I was walking my dog and saw Jean in the neighborhood," Brayan said. "She told me she wanted to give me her kidney."

Jean had been the counselor for Bishop Elementary when Brayan was in fifth grade. Back then, he called her "Miss Smiley," and she remembered him as a "healthy, happy adorable child." Over the years, she'd kept in touch, always asking how he was doing.

Jean, in retirement, had quietly started researching kidney donation after learning about Brayan's condition. She realized she could give him a shot at a whole life.

The day the transplant was approved, Brayan contacted Jean first. He still has the voucher that was sent to him. Brayan now has more energy and has started traveling. He went to Universal Studios for the first time with his siblings and was amazed by the rides and the freedom to walk around. He's now planning to go to Comic-Con International next year with his friends.

/from The Sheet July 19/



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

the sheet

YEAR IN REVIEW

In Memory

A couple of men passed away within the past two weeks who were important to me. Both also happened to be regular contributors to this newspaper.

Paul Oster was the local owner/broker of RE/MAX and had been a realtor in the Mammoth community for more than four decades.

He began contributing columns to The Sheet in 2009.

At the time, this was a big deal. For those still eager to dismiss the paper as a sophomore rag, Oster lent instant credibility. And his columns were cerebral and insightful ... Paul spoke truth.

And Paul's coming over to The Sheet also signaled that the media landscape had shifted. He made a living analyzing assets -- and he'd decided to start betting on us.

2009 was also the year The Sheet became a legally adjudicated newspaper. The man who helped us get that done was Attorney Jim Reed.

Reed also passed away last week.

What was fascinating about Reed was that he made a whole shift in retirement, morphing into an accomplished historian and writer.

His "Fatal Affair in Convict Canyon: A True Tale of Robbery, Murder and Vengeance" was first published in 2014 and remains on Lunch's list as one of the three best books by local authors in the 21st century (the others are Pat Armstrong's "Log of a Snow Survey" and Kendra Atleework's "Miracle Country").

Reed's book is now being turned into a movie by Baha Posse Movies, which consists of Chris Lieber, Matthew Lehman and Michael MacBride.

Jim's son Joe is also involved.

- Lunch

Sam Walker (b. 1942) What always struck one about Sam Walker was a palpable sense of "other." Yes, he was pleasant and charismatic and successful — that made him easily accepted by the world. But he was not "of" the larger world. He did not fall prey, for example, to the wisdom of crowds. Because he did not accept conventional wisdom as wisdom. He merely thought it conventional.

Sam was born in Riverside, Calif., on June 30, 1942. He was the third of four sons; his father was a successful attorney, his mother a homemaker. He attended the Webb School in Claremont, Calif., for high school, and then spent two years at the University of Colorado before Sam and the institution decided to part ways. He wasn't interested in their academic curriculum. Besides, it was proving an intrusion upon his social calendar.

Young Walker was working as a bellhop at the Mammoth Mountain Inn when he caught his first big break. L.A. businessman Jerry Buss (future owner of the L.A. Lakers) observed Walker policing a ski lift line and liked what he saw. "The kid could handle conflict and mete out justice in a lawless environment. So perhaps he could handle the new restaurant Buss was building in Mammoth Lakes."

This section is hardly comprehensive. A list of folks we ran obits for (and pub. dates) appears on p. 16



Sam Walker

They Said It:

"I'm not going to balance the budget on the backs of our employees."
- Former Inyo County CAO, Nate Greenberg

While the restaurant, Rafters, was under construction, Walker took a job at The Smokehouse in Toluca Lake to learn the restaurant business. By the time Rafters opened in December 1969, he had recruited Dennis Hartman to serve as his right-hand man. The pair enjoyed great success, but Walker's relationship with Buss soured over Buss reneging on a promise of profit-sharing.

Walker and Hartman then courted Harry and Jean McKee, who had just won a liquor license at auction. Whiskey Creek

Mammoth opened on Dec. 6, 1971, with the crib of Dennis's four-week-old baby perched on the fireplace mantel. It was an instant smash, serving 400 dinners nightly. Walker and Hartman became owners in 1974 and opened Whiskey Creek Bishop in 1976. Walker subsequently bought out Hartman in 1981.

On the personal front, Sam married Shelley Brandt, a mother of three, on December 13, 1973, inheriting three kids in the deal.

/from The Sheet September 13/

Get a hot tub already.

What are you waiting for? It's time to immerse yourself in a Cal Spa and feel restored, centered and excited for life's next adventure.

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Mention this ad and get **FREE** shipping, delivery, and installation!

Kona Plus PPZ-533L

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Starting Price

4-Person Hot Tub with 33 Jets

The Kona is fully loaded with 33 exclusive candy cane jets placed in just the right spots to melt away stress. It fits 4 people, with a full size lounge and two captain seats. Enjoy the blissful ambience of the waterfall as you relax and unwind.



Cancun EC-867BX

\$11,800
Starting Price

7-Person Bench with 67 Jets

The Cancun offers exciting features. The bench and captain seats offer a full-body massage from your neck to your toes. The cool-off seat is a great feature for heat-sensitive users. Enjoy the Perimeter LED lighting package.



6-Person Lounge with 40 Jets

Immerse yourself in a 7ft spa loaded with exclusive hydrotherapy features. The interior is large enough to fit 6 adults comfortably. Enjoy the captain seats and a cool off seat. The entire tub is equipped with 40 exclusive Velocity™ Jets.

The Baja EC-740B

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Starting Price

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JANUARY

- 2-4/19 **WEEKEND APRÈS PARTY**
Fridays & Saturdays through April 19
- 3-3/28 **WOOLLY'S DANCE PARTY**
Every Saturday through March 28
- 24 **CHAMBER MUSIC UNBOUND**

FEBRUARY

- 8 **IKON PASS HOLDER EARLY UPS**
- 20-22 **ARC'TERYX BACKCOUNTRY ACADEMY**
- 27-3/1 **JLA BANKED SLALOM**

MARCH

- 14 **CHAMBER MUSIC UNBOUND**
- 10-14 **U.S. REVOLUTION TOUR**
- 18-22 **ELEVATION MAMMOTH**
- 22 **IKON PASS HOLDER EARLY UPS**

APRIL

- 19 **ANNUAL POND SKIM**
- 25 **CHAMBER MUSIC UNBOUND**
- 25 **FISHMAS**
Opening Day of Fishing Season in Mono County

MAY

- 1 **UNBOUND PARTY IN THE PARK**
- 3 **B4BC LOVE YOUR PEAKS**
- 20-24 **MAMMOTH LAKES FILM FESTIVAL**
- 30 **PAMPER PEDAL**

JUNE

- 5-7 **EASTERN SIERRA PRIDE FESTIVAL**
- 19-28 **MONSTER ENERGY MAMMOTH MOTOCROSS**
- 26-28 **MAMMOTH FEEL GOOD FESTIVAL**

JULY

- 2-5 **ARTS ON THE 4TH**
- 3-4 **GIDDY UP COUNTRY MUSIC**
- 4 **4TH OF JULY PARADE & CELEBRATIONS**
- 10-11 **MAMMOTH JAZZFEST**
- 15-8/1 **UNBOUND CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**
- 17-19 **MAMMOTH REGGAE FESTIVAL**
- 25-26 **MAMMOTH VILLAGEFEST**
- 24-26 **MAMMOTH LAKES OPEN AIR ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**
- 25 **MAMMOTH PEDALPALOOZA**
- 25 **KIDS FISHING FESTIVAL**
- 30-8/2 **MAMMOTH FESTIVAL OF BEERS & BLUESAPALOOZA**

AUGUST

- 7-8 **MAMMOTH MARGARITA FESTIVAL**
- 13-15 **MAMMOTH WINE WEEKEND**
- 21-22 **MAMMOTH ROCKS**
- 29 **WAVE RAVE SKATE CONTEST**

SEPTEMBER

- 4-6 **MAMMOTH ROCK N RYE**
- 12 **MAMMOTH GRAN FONDO**
- 18-20 **MAMMOTH TUFF**
- 20-27 **PAINT MONO COUNTY**
- 26 **MAMMOTH LAKES HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR**
- 24-27 **MAMMOTH TRAILFEST**

OCTOBER

- 2-6 **THE MAMMOTH**
- 8 **REBELLE RALLY**



SCAN HERE for more details & events

or go to [VISITMAMMOTH.COM/EVENTS](https://www.visitmammoth.com/events)

*ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR CANCELLATION



IN MEMORY

continued from page 14

Rodrigo “Rigo” Becerra (b. 1998) At 7 a.m. on Sunday morning, Mammoth Mountain ran the gondola early for a group of skiers and snowboarders, all friends and family of Rodrigo “Rigo” Becerra.

The group made pancakes, drank coffee, and placed flowers at the sign on the summit before skiing fresh tracks to the base — a tribute dubbed “Ride for Rigo.” It was his birthday, a day he had eagerly anticipated would be his 100th day on the slopes this season.

Rigo had unexpectedly passed away just a few days earlier from complications later discovered to be related to hantavirus.

Rigo was born in Los Angeles and moved to Milwaukee at age seven, returning to California in 2022 to pursue his love of nature and skiing, eventually settling in Mammoth. His favorite spots included Crystal Crag for sunsets, the Shady Rest disc golf course, and Yosemite.

In his last season, Rigo logged 96 ski days and over a million vertical feet, holding the top spot on the Mammoth Mountain leaderboard. Despite significant injuries, he never wavered in his commitment.

/from The Sheet March 15/

Mikayla Reign Wilson (b. 2013) Mikayla touched everyone’s heart around her with her laughter and beautiful smile.

Nicknamed “Tiny Dancer” always dancing everywhere, and “Firecracker” for her sassy attitude and her free spirit.



Rigo Becerra

She loved singing, gymnastics, making videos, and played the clarinet.

She was very artistic and creative and loved being a cheerleader for Bishop Broncos youth football teams where she usually was the smallest on her squads but was fearless with every stunt and loved to be in the air. She was in the 6th grade at Home Street Middle School.

Joey Merten (b. 1964) When I arrived in town in December, 2001, Joey was the manager at Roberto’s, and it sure seemed to me like he was the town’s de facto Mayor.

The place was a zoo. Crowded, loud ... but Joey thrived on the pace of it. And was always super pleasant, rushed and yet unrushed. He made the time to give you a smile and pat on the back. And it didn’t matter if you’d been a local for two weeks or two decades - Joey made you feel special. He knew you and was gonna take care of you.

And after I started the paper and

would bring the Sheet by to litter in various establishments, Joey would see me and give me a big “Lunch!” greeting and pretended that the arrival of the paper had made his day, and he’d make a special place for my stack of insolence.

Joey made you feel special.

/from The Sheet March 1/

Steven Louis Mejia (b. 1955) Stevie, also belovedly known as “Mama” Mejia, didn’t sneak into your heart. He walked right in—usually with a knowing smile, a plate of food, or a deadpan comment that left you laughing minutes later. There was no halfway with Stevie. No fluff. No performance. Just presence.

Stevie had an artistic streak. If life hadn’t led him into kitchens, he might have been a painter or a musician. However, food became his medium. His first job was at The Abbey in Marina del Rey, and he took particular pride in his time at the Hotel Bel-Air, which taught precision and elegance.

In his early twenties, Stevie visited Mammoth Lakes and never left. He cooked in some of the town’s most memorable kitchens, most notably Nevados, where he created new dishes, perfected old favorites, and shared his knowledge widely.

/from The Sheet June 21/

Steven R “WAX” Wetherwax (b. 1956)

Steve was born December 11, 1956 in Burbank, CA. In 1967, the family moved to Mammoth Lakes. Steve got his first job working at the Cortina (now Morrison’s) as a busboy.

Steve graduated from Mammoth High School in 1975 and started working at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. In the ‘80s, Steve followed in his father’s

footsteps and started working in construction. In the early ‘90s he started his own construction company, Sub Zero Construction, where he became a well known fixture in town.

He had a passion for motor sports. He spent many years going to NASCAR races in Fontana with his brother, Kent. Steve was a long-time member of the Clampers (E Clampus Vitus, Bodie chapter).

/from The Sheet August 9/

Sven Coomer (b. 1940) Coomer’s lasting legacy is the ski boot you use today. He’s responsible for making plastic ski boots work well just as the popularity of skiing took off in the early 1970s and is considered the ‘Father of the modern ski boot.’

Born in 1940, Coomer was raised in Sydney, Australia. At age 16 he became the youngest competitor at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, representing Australia in the Modern Pentathlon.

Coomer was a brilliant natural athlete who mostly taught himself to ski. In the early 1960s, he talked his way into training with the French ski team, the greatest team of the era. He went on to teach skiing in Australia before emigrating to the United States where he became ski school director at Solitude, Utah and then Mt. Rose, Nevada, where he coached the McKinney kids. In 1968, Doug Pfeiffer at Skiing Magazine hired him as a ski tester at Mammoth.

In 1969, under contract to Nordica, Coomer launched a series of revolutionary boots that established the pattern for every high-performance ski boot built since. His designs were immediately successful in World Cup and Olympic racing and are still used by ski racers and boot manufacturers around the world.

/from The Sheet March 15/

Also this year, the Eastside lost Chuck Scatolini (featured in the June 21 issue), Robert “Bob” Nock (Jan. 4), Conor Dwyer (March 8), Carlos Martinez (March 29), Diane Adele Nicholson (April 19), Steve Hayward (June 28), Aidan Zingg (July 5), Timothy James Hansen (Aug. 23) and Tom Gault (Aug. 2), Hugh “Smitty” Smyth (Feb. 8), Martin Jay Hogue (Feb. 8), Mark Palmer (May 10), Liz Simcox (Aug. 23), Barbara Ann Moss (Oct. 18), Balin Miller (Oct. 25), Elizabeth “Liz” Fleming (Oct. 25) and Isaiah “Ocho” Hesed Capps (Nov. 1).

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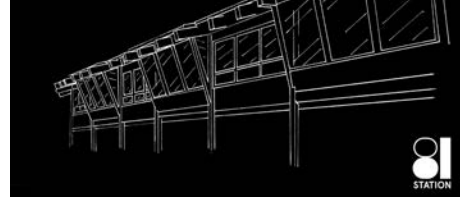
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In Mammoth, Median Condo Prices are 13% for the year.
Median Home Prices: Flat, same as last year
Inventory for Homes and Condos is generally declining.
There were 9 Limelight sales that took place in December, 2025. This

Matthew Lehman of Matthew Lehman Real Estate and Jake Rasmuson of Bishop Real Estate weigh in on the real estate scene as we close the books on 2025.

attributed to 3% of the Median Sales prices in 2025. Had these new sales not taken place the Median Price would have been up 10% for the year.
If all new Condo sales were removed for this dataset, the median price would be \$755,000 or a 4.5% increase for condos for the year.

-Matthew Lehman

Bishop Real Estate Market Update 11/30/2025					
Information is for all sales and listings in the Bishop area reported to the Bishop Listing Service					
How is the real estate market?	As of 11/30/2025	As of 11/30/24	% Change		
Total properties sold	218	213	2%		
Dollar volume of property sold	\$87,851,860	\$80,736,065	9%		
Median Sales Price Homes (No. Inyo) 3 month rolling median	\$537,500	\$555,000	-3%		
Median Days on Market for Homes 3 month rolling median (active days on market until pending)	27	20	35%		
What is selling? (# of closed Escrows YTD)	As of 11/30/2025	As of 11/30/24	% Change		
Homes - All Sales	133	136	-2%		
Homes - Distressed Homes Sales Only	0	0	0%		
Mobile Homes	52	40	30%		
Lots & Acreage	22	33	-33%		
How many properties are for sale?	As of 11/30/2025	As of 11/30/24	% Change		
Homes	19	41	-54%		
Mobile Homes	8	12	-33%		
Lots & Acreage	26	29	-10%		
Interest Rates (National Averages*)	As of 11/30/2025	Previous Week	6 Months Ago		
30-year fixed	6.19%	6.26%	6.89%		
6.26					
Homes Sales By Price Range (Year-To-Date)					
Price Range	Currently Active Home Listings	Number of Homes Sold This Year	Number of Homes Sold per Month	Number of Months Inventory of Homes **	
- \$300K	5	20	1.82	2.75	Months
\$300 - \$400	1	19	1.73	0.58	Months
\$400 - \$500	5	26	2.36	0.19	Months
\$500 - \$600	0	23	2.09	0.00	Months
\$600 - \$700	0	24	2.18	0.00	Months
\$700 - \$800	2	11	1.00	2.00	Months
\$800-\$900	4	4	0.36	11.00	Months
\$900 +	2	6	0.55	3.67	Months

Home Prices and Sales Activity

Median home prices in the Bishop market have experienced modest fluctuations over the past year, reflecting a market that is stabilizing rather than surging or retreating sharply. Over the past five years, local home values remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels, underscoring the long-term strength of the Bishop area housing market.
Sales activity remained steady through 2025, with the total number of closed transactions holding firm compared to the prior year. Notably, homes priced at \$500,000 and below continued to represent more than half of all sales, highlighting ongoing demand for entry-level and mid-range housing.

Inventory and Days on Market

Housing inventory remains historically limited, even declining over the year as interest rates declined and buyer demand improved. As of December, the number of active listings continues to

indicate a seller-leaning market by traditional standards. Homes in the most competitive price ranges are still selling quickly, with median days on market remaining well below long-term averages.

High-End Market Trends

Sales of homes priced above \$500,000 continue to play a growing role in overall market activity. Compared to pre-2020 levels, the number of higher-priced transactions has increased substantially, reflecting changing buyer demographics, remote-work flexibility, and continued interest in the Eastern Sierra lifestyle.
As we move into 2026, interest rates and housing supply will remain the primary drivers of market conditions. If rates ease even slightly and inventory remains constrained, upward pressure on prices is likely to continue. However, today's market is more balanced and data-driven than in years past, rewarding realistic pricing, contemporary updates and well-prepared buyers.

-Jake Rasmuson

MAMMOTH SFR STATS

Year	#Sales	Average Price	Median Price	DOM (Avg)	Median Price (% Change)
2015	80	\$986,324	\$765,000	204	
2016	97	\$826,079	\$721,500	190	-5.69%
2017	89	\$936,500	\$775,000	186	7.42%
2018	79	\$1,085,436	\$920,000	176	18.71%
2019	90	\$929,786	\$792,786	133	-13.83%
2020	126	\$1,078,455	\$885,000	130	11.63%
2021	123	\$1,480,775	\$1,190,000	95	34.46%
2022	83	\$1,527,253	\$1,225,000	91	2.94%
2023	63	\$1,483,126	\$1,299,000	83	6.04%
2024	57	\$1,587,358	\$1,300,000	101	0.08%
2025	61	\$1,533,744	\$1,300,000	131	0.00%

MAMMOTH CONDO STATS

Year	# Sales	Avg. Price	Median Price	Avg. DOM	% Chg. in Median Price
2013	342	\$318,703	\$264,000	156	
2014	248	\$350,837	\$295,000	156	11.74%
2015	268	\$349,242	\$308,700	140	16.93%
2016	249	\$286,301	\$275,000	150	-10.92%
2017	410	\$397,400	\$350,000	118	27.27%
2018	349	\$452,508	\$400,000	93	14.29%
2019	387	\$524,462	\$450,500	118	12.63%
2020	442	\$558,591	\$475,000	104	5.44%
2021	467	\$693,401	\$605,000	87	27.37%
2022	333	\$864,600	\$755,000	90	24.79%
2023	228	\$870,893	\$754,500	95	-0.07%
2024	243	\$884,179	\$725,000	93	-3.91%
YTD-2025	268	\$1,062,969	\$822,000	113	13.38%

WHERE THE REAL ACTION IS

By Matthew Lehman

While the residential real estate market in Mammoth Lakes has dominated conversation in 2025 with all the talk of fluctuating prices, sales trends and housing supply, the commercial and development sectors have received far less notice. And honestly, that's where the real action is; the quiet but powerful transformations that could define the town's next chapter.
I recently had the chance to sit in the new Limelight Hotel's beautiful lounge during its opening week, sipping a drink and chatting with out-of-town visitors. The conversation started with the usual questions about condos and homes but soon shifted to the North Village area and the wave of development underway. The visitors were genuinely surprised by the recent land sales and the scale of what's coming. Their curiosity reminded me how little most people, visitors and locals alike, know about the commercial real estate story unfolding right in the heart of town. The North Village isn't just a cute name for the area around the Village Gondola. It's a carefully planned 64-acre Specific Plan zone, encompassing 72 parcels and divided into six distinct land-use districts. Adopted by the Town of Mammoth Lakes in 2000 and amended several times since, the plan creates a deliberate density gradient: highest near the Village core (closest to the gondola), gradually stepping down as you move outward.

Think of it like a wedding cake: the densest, tallest buildings rise in the center, while lower intensity uses fan out toward the edges. This structure allows the Town to balance tourism-driven commercial growth with the character and scale of the surrounding neighborhoods.
Over the past 18 months, roughly 11.5 acres of land have seen new construction completed or actively underway, delivering or promising more than 480 hotel or condo rooms. That's a significant increase in capacity in a town where year-round visitor demand is growing.
Even more telling is the amount of land

that has changed hands: more than 23.5 acres of development parcels have been sold or transferred, with density allocations that can support anywhere from 48 to 80 rooms per acre (depending on the specific district and entitlements). That translates to an estimated 1,400 rooms, not counting any additional commercial or mixed-use components. Some of the proposed developments may include residential units rather than pure hospitality.
No major wave of development comes without hurdles, and the North Village projects are no exception. Two persistent issues stand out: workforce housing shortages and parking constraints.
Housing has long been a critical concern in Mammoth Lakes, where tourism-driven demand often outpaces supply for year-round residents. The good news is that the Town's ambitious Parcel project, a 25-acre centrally located site acquired in 2018, is making meaningful progress. This multi-phase initiative aims to deliver up to approximately 450 affordable units (primarily rentals for low- and moderate-income households). Phase 1 ("The Sawyer") is complete and occupied, Phase 2 ("The Kingfisher") is under construction, and additional phases are planned. Several new North Village developments are also incorporating on-site workforce housing units, alongside in-lieu fees to support broader affordability efforts.
I've long argued for redirecting a portion of the funding currently going to Mammoth Lakes Tourism toward helping developers create non-grant-dependent housing products tailored to locals. It's my belief that grant funding is soiled with wasteful government red tape and restrictions preventing the housing from being truly affordable for the builder or the resident.
Parking remains another longstanding challenge, rooted in the original North Village planning. The initial commercial core was designed with no parking, relying instead on transit, pedestrian access,

more ACTION, pg. 21

calendar of events



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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More Liberty info, see ad p. 7*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 16. 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 St. Pizza - *See ad this page for deets*
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.

**Mammoth Rock 'n Bowl opens noon every day through January 4 (except for 2 p.m. on New Year's Day. See ad p. 23*

New Year's Eve/
NYE Party @ Distant Brewing featuring live music starting 8 p.m., no cover and good vibes. 21+. *More info: distantbeer.com.*
Liberty features DJ ONEZie hosting an NYE Dance Party! No cover. All fun.
Balloon Bust NYE Party @ Wanaaha Casino in Bishop starting 8 p.m. Live DJ. Cash drawings every 15 minutes. Champagne toast at midnight & more.
NYE Limelight features fireworks viewing, no cover, champagne bat 'til 1 a.m. First come, first served.
At June Lake Brewing, they get it done during the day. 12-8 p.m. Bring your green hat!
Clocktower Cellar NYE. \$35 cover. Champagne toast at midnight. Party favors. Opens early and closes late!
Lakanuki's NYE has music by DJs Kally Quezada X Burgs. \$75 for late night tix and \$150 for bottle service. Doors 9 p.m. Call 760.934.7447 to reserve.
NYE @ the Minaret Club in the Village (next to Toomey's). \$30 cover. DJ from 10 p.m. 'til 1 a.m. Champagne toast at midnight.
NYE @ Bar Sierra with DJ WLDCT. \$60 presale/\$100 @ the door. Time: 10 p.m. 'til late.



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TOWN STUFF

New Year's Eve/
Village at Mammoth Firework Spectacular. Time: 9 p.m. Family-friendly festivities and a dazzling fireworks show.

Thursday, January 1/
Phase 1 of Mammoth's Plastic Water Bottle ban goes into effect. *More info: See ad p. 18*

Saturday, January 3/
Woolly's first dance party of the season @ the Village at Mammoth. Music, cocoa & photos. Time: 3:45-4:30 p.m.
Enjoy a free, guided snowshoe hike with Sierra Forever. Time: 11-12:30. Meet @ the Mammoth Welcome Center at 2510 Main St. Snowshoes provided (while supplies last!)

Sunday, January 4/
First tour of the 2026 season of Scotty's Castle grounds in Death Valley. Guided tour by park ranger. Cost: \$35. Register @ dvnha.org. Tours will take place every Sunday through March 29.

Monday, January 5/
Eastern Sierra Pride monthly meet-up. Time: 6-8 p.m. Location: Mountain Rambler Brewery in Bishop.

Tuesday, January 6/
Mono County Board of Supervisors meets. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Bridgeport Courthouse or onlne via

TOWN STUFF

monocounty.ca.gov
Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets. Public session starts 10 a.m. Location: Board Chambers at 224 No. Edwards in Independence or online via inyocounty.us
Leadership training seminar graduate ceremony at the Business Resource Center (269 N Main St, Bishop) at 3:15 p.m.
Bishop hosts Mammoth in HS hoops. Girls play 6 p.m. with Boys to follow.
Mammoth hosts Bishop in HS Soccer. Girls play 1 p.m. with Boys to follow.

Wednesday, January 7/
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. Time: 4 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.
Master Your Money Financial Literacy series with Mary Ann Sullivan in the Adult Ed classroom at Mammoth Lakes Library. Time: 12-1 p.m. Free!

Friday, January 9/
Mammoth Lakes Repertory's production of Driving Miss Daisy, starring Juliana Olinka-Jones, Maurice Cooper and David Baron, opens and runs through January 18. *More info/tix: See ad p. 6*

Saturday, January 10/
Sage to Summit 5K Winter Race Series @ Millpond. Registration 8 a.m. and race at 9.



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Help Wanted



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.

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.

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

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Help Wanted



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

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

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

Business For Sale

Business For Sale: Established Coffee Roasting Company, and pop-up cafe with growth potential, located in Bishop, CA. See detailed listing at <https://www.bizbuysell.com> - Search Bishop, California

Help Wanted

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



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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Ordinance

ORD25-006

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF FIRE DAMAGED DEBRIS FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY FOLLOWING THE PACK FIRE: 4/5 VOTE REQUIRED

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2025, the Pack Fire ravaged the community of McGee Creek in Mono County and destroyed approximately 31 structures, including 30 homes; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2025 the Mono County Board of Supervisors ratified both a declaration of local emergency and the Mono County Health Officer's declaration a local health emergency due to conditions of extreme peril caused by the Pack Fire; and WHEREAS, on December 9, 2025 the Governor issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8625 for the Pack Fire; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XI, section 7 of the California Constitution, Mono County may adopt and enforce ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws to protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code section 25123(d), to protect against an immediate threat to the public safety, health, and welfare, the County may adopt an urgency ordinance that takes effect immediately where there is a declaration of the facts constituting the urgency and the ordinance is adopted by a four-fifths vote of the Board; and

WHEREAS, in destroying private structures, the Pack Fire has created an accumulation of Fire Debris, much of which has been determined to be contaminated with heavy metals and asbestos; and

WHEREAS, the potential for widespread toxic exposures and threats to public health and the environment exists in the aftermath of a major fire disaster. Debris and ash from residential structure fires contain hazardous substances that may lead to acute and chronic health problems and may have serious environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the combustion of building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, and insulation results in dangerous ash that may contain asbestos, heavy metals, and other hazardous materials, and household hazardous waste such as paint, gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, and other chemicals that may have burned in the fire also produces hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, exposure to hazardous substances may lead to acute and chronic health effects, and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, Uncontrolled hazardous materials and debris pose significant threats to public health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water supplies, and improper handling of hazardous materials can expose workers to toxic materials and improper transport and disposal of Fire Debris can spread hazardous substances throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, dead and dying trees damaged by the Pack Fire and at risk of falling may threaten the health, safety and welfare of workers conducting debris removal and residents of the affected properties, as well as the general public if the trees are at risk of falling onto a public right of way or public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the onset of the winter season offers little time to mitigate further environmental contamination resulting from the Pack Fire, including contamination of the watershed, and, therefore, time is of the essence in removing hazardous waste, Fire Debris and Hazard Trees from affected properties; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to mitigate the harm to public health and the environment form the improper disturbance, removal, transport and/or disposal of hazardous waste, Fire Debris and Hazard Trees resulting from the Fire, to create and implement clear standards and procedures for removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees, and to facilitate coordinated, timely, and effective mitigation of the risks to public health and the environment from the health hazards generated by the Pack Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONO ORDAINS that:

SECTION ONE: Definitions.

- A. "Alternative Program." For purposes of this Article, the term "Alternative Program" shall mean the requirements for inspections, clean up and disposal established by the County for property owners that opt out of or are ineligible for a Consolidated Program.
- B. "Board." The term "Board" means the Mono County Board of Supervisors.
- C. "Consolidated Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program" or "Consolidated Program" means the Fire Debris and Hazard Trees removal program operated by Mono County for the Pack Fire area in conjunction with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services ("Cal OES") and other State and Federal agencies and involving the removal and disposal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees on eligible private property at no cost to the property owner.
- D. "County." The term "County" shall be defined as the County of Mono.
- E. "County Building Official." The term "County Building Official" means the Building Official of Mono County.
- F. "County Health Officer." The term "County Health Officer" means the Mono County Public Health Officer.

- G. "Designated Department." The term "Designated Department" means the Environmental Health Department.
- H. "Director." The term "Director" shall be defined as the Director of Environmental Health, or any person as designated by the Chief Administrative Officer of the County.
- I. "Fire Debris." The term "Fire Debris" means ash or other debris, resulting from the Pack Fire that is intended to be discarded but does not include undamaged or partially damaged structures.
- J. "Hazard Trees." The term "Hazard Trees" means wildfire-damaged trees that have been so damaged by the fires that their structural integrity is compromised, and they pose an immediate threat of falling onto work crews or obstructing their access to the debris clearance site, or of falling onto a public right of way or a public improved property.
- K. "Public Works Director" means the Mono County Director of Public Works, or his or her designee(s). Such designee(s) may be a County employee(s) or third-party provider(s).
- L. "Removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Tree." The term "Removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees" as used in this article includes all cleanup of debris from structures and Hazard Trees resulting from the Pack Fire, including removal, transport and disposal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees, but it does not include the removal of personal property from residential sites unless such removal of personal property involves cleanup and the removal of ash from the property.
- M. "Right of Entry Permit." The term "Right of Entry Permit" means the Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Right-of-Entry Permit (For Providing Fire Debris and Hazard Trees Removal on Private Property under the State Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program) approved by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for use in the cleanup after the Pack Fire.

SECTION TWO: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval by at least four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Government Code section 25123(d), and shall remain in effect until the later of the cleanup of all Fire Debris on all fire-damaged properties from the Pack Fire or the completion of all enforcement matters related to this Ordinance, if any.

SECTION THREE: Prohibition on Removal of Fire Debris from Private Property. No Removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees shall occur unless and until a hazardous materials inspection meeting applicable Department of Toxic Substances Control guidelines has been conducted. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Hazard Trees may be removed from vacant properties or properties on which no structures were damaged without a hazardous materials inspection, subject to the other requirements of this Ordinance.

	No structure on burned property	Non-qualifying structures (structures less than 120 square feet only on burned property)	Qualifying structures (structures 120 square feet and over on burned property)
Prior to completion of Phase I cleanup	Owner may remove debris	Debris removal prohibited	Debris removal prohibited
Prior to completion of Phase II cleanup	Owner may remove debris	Owner may remove debris with approval of the Designated Department	Government or alternative program contractors only may remove debris
Following Phase II cleanup	Owner may remove debris	Owner may remove debris with approval of the Designated Department	Owner may remove remaining debris not removed during Phase II with certificate from the Designated Department

SECTION FOUR: Removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees. Consolidated State Program. Property owners that, pursuant to the rules established by the State Program that will be set forth in guidelines provided by the Director, are eligible for the removal of some or all of the Fire Debris and Hazard Trees on their properties through the State Program, may elect to use the State Program by submitting a Right of Entry Permit to the Director, which includes an assignment of any insurance proceeds covering the costs of the Fire Debris and Hazard Trees removal. Such Right of Entry Permit must be submitted to the Director by the deadline as provided by the Director. The Director may extend this deadline as necessary and appropriate to facilitate the cleanup, avoid undue hardship, and to protect public health and safety, and to the extent any such extensions are approved by the State Program.

- A. Alternative Program.
- i. Administration. The Director shall administer the Alternative Program. The Director shall utilize applicable state and/or federal standards for the safe removal and disposal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees, consistent with the cleanup goals of the Consolidated Program, and incorporate additional requirements as necessary to address changes in conditions, needs, or technologies in order to effectively remove Fire Debris and Hazard Trees from the community. The Director shall prepare procedures and requirements for the Removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees and make such procedures and requirements available to the public. The Director shall also adopt an application that discloses the appropriate licensed contractors and appropriate plans to meet such procedures and requirements.
- ii. Participation. Property owners that are not eligible for the Consolidated Program, or who elect not to participate in the Consolidated Program for the removal of the Fire Debris and Hazard Trees on their properties, must comply with the requirements of the Alternative Program. Under the Alternative Program, before any Fire Debris and Hazard Trees are removed from a property, the owner shall submit the application to the Director. Work shall not begin until the Director approves the application, and the property owner obtains all applicable permits from the County

- Building Official.
- iii. Completion. The Director shall establish an end date or deadline by which properties in the Alternative Program must be cleaned up. Upon the completion of the Removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees under the Alternative Program, the property owner shall submit to the Director documentation that demonstrates the removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees was completed in compliance with applicable standards and requirements as established by the Director.
- iv. Deadline. The Director shall establish an end date or deadline by which property owners who are not participating in the Consolidated Program must submit an Alternative Program application to the Director in accordance with Section 4.B.ii of this Ordinance. Such properties that have Fire Debris from structures damaged or destroyed in the Pack Fire or Hazard Trees damaged or destroyed in the Pack Fire that have not submitted an application for the Alternative Program by that date are hereby declared a public nuisance and health hazard and shall be subject to nuisance abatement pursuant to Section E of this Ordinance.
- v. Extensions. The Director may extend deadlines under the Alternative Program as necessary and appropriate to facilitate the cleanup, avoid undue hardship, and to protect public health and safety.

B. Restrictions on Building Permits. No building permit from the County to demolish, repair, or reconstruct a structure that has been damaged or destroyed by the Pack Fire shall be issued until Fire Debris and Hazard Trees cleanup is completed on the affected property in accordance with the Alternative Program or the Consolidated Program. Any permit for the demolition, repair, or reconstruction of a structure that has been damaged or destroyed by the Pack Fire shall be held in abeyance and not acted upon until Fire Debris and Hazard Trees cleanup is completed on the affected property and completion is confirmed to the County Building Official, either through the Alternative Program or the Consolidated Program. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a demolition or miscellaneous permit issued by the County Building Official may be required for Removal of Fire Debris and Hazard Trees for work involving the removal of buildings, structures, or portions thereof, as determined by the Director. Furthermore, this section shall not apply to permits relating to wells or septic systems through the Designated Department.

C. Exigent Circumstances. The Board's intent is to facilitate an orderly remediation of largescale disasters. Nothing in the deadlines as set forth by this Ordinance shall limit the authority of the County or any County official to abate hazards more quickly where required by exigent circumstances. Nothing in this Ordinance shall limit the authority of the County or any County official to take any enforcement action or pursue any available remedies, including, without limitation, requiring preventive measures as defined in Health and Safety Code section 101040.

- D. Enforcement and Abatement.
- i. General Enforcement Action. When the Enforcement Officer determines that an activity is being performed in violation of this article, the Enforcement Officer may initiate an enforcement action using any process set forth in California law and/or in the Mono County Code and may seek the imposition of costs and civil penalties pursuant to California law and/or the Mono County Code. Nothing in this provision is intended to prevent alternate enforcement mechanisms, including but not limited to, health officer orders pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101040.
- ii. Summary Abatement. Pursuant to the authority of Cal. Const., art. XI, Section 7; California Health and Safety Code Section 101040, California Government Code Section 25845, and the Mono County Code, if

the Enforcement Officer determines that a violation of this Article has created an emergency condition which seriously endangers the public health or safety, the County may abate the condition within the unincorporated territory of the County of Mono. The costs shall be charged to the property owners(s) and the County may, at its option, recover the same in an administrative action as described below or a civil action. Such charges shall be in addition to any penalty for a violation of this article.

SECTION FIVE: Environmental Determination. Adoption of this ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(3), which applies to projects undertaken, carried out by, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, Government Code sections 8550 et seq., and Government Code section 21080(b)(4) regarding specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. These exemptions are also reflected in State CEQA Guidelines section 15269(a) and (c). The Pack Fire and their aftermath constitute a sudden unexpected occurrence, involving clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services under California Public Resources Code section 21060.3 and State CEQA Guidelines section 15359.

SECTION SIX: Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person, property, or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application thereof, and to this end, the provisions of this interim Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. Following introduction and reading, the foregoing Urgency Ordinance was PASSED,

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 16th day of December, 2025, by the following four-fifths vote, to wit:
AYES: Supervisors Duggan, Kreitz, McFarland, Peters, and Salcido.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Lynda Salcido, Chair,
Mono County Board of Supervisors
ATTEST: Shannon Kendall, Clerk of the Board
APPROVED AS TO FORM: Christopher Beck, County Counsel

TS #2026-0001

Statement of Abandonment
of Use of Fictitious Business Name:

Photos Meow LLC

Photos Meow LLC
P.O. Box 2031
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on January 1, 2023. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Dec. 15, 2025

File Number 2025-0166
TS #2025-0145
(12/27, 1/3/26, 1/10/26 1/17/26)

TS #2025-0144

Mammoth Community Water District Sale of Surplus Goods

Notice is hereby given that Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) will sell the following surplus items:

Make/Model: Ford F-550 4X4 Diesel Hydraulic Dump Flat Bed
Year: 2006
Odometer Reading: 56,595
VIN #: 1FDAF57P76EC67985
Minimum Bid: \$7,500.00
Item Number: 112825-53

Bid forms are available at the MCWD office or on our website at MCWD-Surplus-Bid-Form.pdf (dst.ca.us) and must be received at the District offices no later than 3:00 pm on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Each bid form must be submitted in a sealed envelope labeled with the item number.

Bids may be submitted to the MCWD offices, located at 1315 Meridian Boulevard, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or



mailed to PO Box 597, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.
To view or inquire about the item(s) listed above, please call the MCWD Purchasing Office during regular business hours at 760-934-2596.
MCWD makes no express or implied warranties or representations with respect to the condition of the vehicles and/or equipment listed above and all items are sold as-is.

TS #2025-0144

ACTION

continued from page 17

shared spaces, and lower parking ratios typical of resort villages. While developer fees were collected to fund more substantial parking solutions (including a potential structure), those resources were not fully directed toward that purpose.

Ed. note: The Town cannibalized that money during the 2008 Recession to fund the bureaucracy.

The result has been an undersized surface lot adjacent to the Westin, achieved only after persistent advocacy by a couple of council members.

To address this as development accelerates, the Town should seriously revisit the 4.06-acre Community Center site as a potential location for a multi-level parking structure combined with a transit hub. Relocating the existing community facilities and tennis courts to a more suitable site with upgraded amenities could unlock this central area for better parking and mobility options, benefiting both visitors and locals without compromising the Village’s walkable, resort-oriented feel.

The North Village is no longer just the “gondola plaza.” It’s becoming the intended mixed-use Village core, with hotels, restaurants, retail, and public spaces designed to draw visitors and locals alike. The recent sales and construction activity suggest strong investor confidence in Mammoth’s long-term potential.

Opposition to these upcoming projects is understandable, but the framework we’re building on today stems directly from decisions the community supported when the North Village Specific Plan was

adopted in 2000. That plan was created to concentrate growth intelligently, curb urban sprawl, and ensure Mammoth developments according to a deliberate vision rather than piecemeal or reactive expansion.

For locals, this could mean more year-round economic vitality, better dining and entertainment options, and crucial progress on housing and parking if addressed thoughtfully. For visitors, it promises a more complete resort experience. And for the Town, it represents a chance to capture more of the economic benefit that has historically flowed to competing resorts.

The residential market will always get the headlines, but the commercial and development story in Mammoth Lakes is one worth watching. The North Village is quietly transforming, and it’s happening faster than most people realize.

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

Everhaus Hospitality

Everhaus Hospitality Management and Consulting LLC
2018 N St., Ste. N
Sacramento, CA 95816

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant has yet to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Dec. 16, 2025

File Number 2025-0169
TS #2025-0146
(12/27, 1/3/26, 1/10/26 1/17/26)



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

No come from behind drama, no 4th quarter heroics for the Bishop Broncos when they easily won the school’s 4th CIF Central Section, Division 5 Championship Nov. 28 with a convincing 69-21 victory at Woodlake. The 2025 team joins the 1957, 2010 and 2019 teams as CIF champions.

The Bishop Bronco Clay Busters, the local co-ed trap shooting team of 6th-12th grade students, also won a championship this year. The team took first place

in the California State High School Clay Target League Championship in Kingsburg, California.

This was the first overall state tournament championship win for the Bronco Claybusters team.

The Mammoth High School cheer team attended a camp held at Great Wolf Lodge in Garden Grove, where they won First Place in the Medium Varsity division for their camp spirit routine and the Spirit Banana Award, pictured below.



PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ROBERT GEORGE STANG. MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO.: 25PRM20

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERT GEORGE STANG. A Petition for Probate has been filed by JOHN BREW and FREDERIC BRUCE DANIELSON in the Superior Court of California, County of Mono. The Petition for Probate requests that BREW and/or FREDERIC BRUCE DANIELSON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of decedent.

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

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: January 8, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Mammoth Courthouse, Department 1, 100 Thompson Way, PO Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioners: Gian Carlo Simonetti, Esq. (SBN.: 279468), Wood Simonetti, 126 Old Mammoth Road Suite 218, P.O. Box 3837, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; (760) 934-5821.

TS #2025-0142

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LINDSAY LARSON. MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO.: 25PRM21

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

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

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: January 22, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Mammoth Courthouse, Department 1, 100 Thompson Way, PO Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Gian Carlo Simonetti, Esq. (SBN.: 279468), Wood Simonetti, 126 Old Mammoth Road Suite 218, P.O. Box 3837, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; (760) 934-5821

TS #2026-0002



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the

sheet

YEAR IN REVIEW

personals

I saw you ... are struggling to come up with a New Year's Resolution. Here's an idea. Resolve to be more decisive.

In search of ... a new squeeze for the new year? If you'll share your soft and plush, I'll be your Mr. Whipple. And if you don't know who Mr. Whipple is, you're probably too young for me.

I saw you ... broke your promise at Mono Lake. Maybe you're having a dyslexic moment. That's MoNo Lake. Not NoMo Lake. Stop looting the water!

I see ... L.A. burning, and I think it's important for all of us to remember the healing power of sex in a crisis.

I see ... ski patrollers in Park City are on strike. So I guess Epic now only refers to the lift lines.

I saw you ... were trying to blame the LA fires on the Governor. Makes perfect sense. If he had only built a retractable dome over the city, the wind wouldn't have gotten through!

I saw you ... had a colonoscopy this week. Did they find your head up there after all?

I saw you ... plan to attend the Trump inauguration. I've heard it's going to be super historic and very, very bigly and that there'll be a 34-gun salute (one for every felony).



I saw you ... would be very surprised by a Chiefs Super Bowl victory. But upon reflection, would you really be that surprised?

I saw you ... have a lot of money riding on the Super Bowl. No matter what happens, I have one sure bet for you ... in my underwear.

Here's the over/under betting line for this weekend. While I am totally over you,



If you're looking for love in all the wrong places, that means you're probably reading The Sheet personals. Here's a sampling of the year's best.



I could find myself under you Sunday evening if I have too much tequila.

I heard you ... were planning to lay the points this weekend. In that case, maybe I should change my last name to "Points."

I saw you ... want to restrict me to three minutes for "public comment." I think that's quite generous - under pressure, I should be able to finish in two!

I heard you say ... you can't hear out of one ear "due to an infection." From my experience, infection or no, you can't hear anything out of both.

I saw you ... are binge-watching The White Lotus. Once you finish that, how about swinging by my place for a binge sesh - lotus position!

I hope I don't see you ... on St. Patrick's Day. Because my patron saint is Epipodius (patron saint of bachelors, victims of betrayal and victims of torture) and to me, you're a triple crown's worth of "saintliness."

A short observation after our rendezvous last week: April showers may bring May flowers but Golden Showers bring

nothing but shame.

I see you ... freaking out about Trump on a daily basis. Here's a suggestion to help achieve mental equilibrium. Less national news and freaking; more booze and getting freaky

Interlude ... a letter to the editor from the May 24 issue:

Offensive, sophomoric and the rest

Dear Editor,

I was just about "done" with The Sheet because of the very offensive sophomoric Personals "feature" at the tail end of the Classifieds. I have been happy to notice their absence for the past few months and strongly urge you to retire this pathetic attempt at dirty jokes. Save for this, I have enjoyed reading The Sheet and keeping up with local news since we bought our Snowcreek condo 4 years ago ... so thank you for that!!

Elizabeth Downing
Mammoth Lakes

Editor's Reply: Four years. Congratulations. Welcome to the community.

Upon receiving your note, I immediately tried to reach Mr. Lunch, but unfortunately, he is on a retreat in Framingham, Mass. with a group of Tibetan Monks and is unavailable to render a decision here.

Instead, the matter will be referred to our editorial board, which consists of Jeff Putman, Clouds McCloud, Jon Eisert, Zachary Smith and the late Bea Beyer, who will be contacted via a medium.

Your opinion is important to us, and I can assure you we will give it the utmost consideration.

I saw you ... thought we may have given up publishing personals. Truth is, we haven't run them for months because everyone in Mammoth is well-adjusted and getting laid right now. No need for personals. Except ...

I hope to see you ... at the Mammoth Yacht races. Because every Gilligan could use a Mary Ann. Or, after a few beers, a Mrs. Howell. Or, after a case of beer, Mrs. and Mr. Howell.

I saw you ... don't know what to get Dad for Father's Day. Here's a hint. Just listen to the refrain of Tom T. Hall's "Faster Horses."

Faster horses
Younger women
Older whiskey
More money

I saw there was ... yet another defection of talent from Northern inyo Hospital this week. Shouldn't be a problem so long as we've got a Holiday Inn Express in town.

I saw you ... carrying a sign at that No Kings protest. And I agree, Immigrants make America great. But they make America even greater when they're in my pants!

In search of ... someone who makes my pants want to get up and dance, but also someone who's not old enough to know that line is from an old Dr. Hook song. Regardless of age, when you're in love with a beautiful woman, it's hard.

I saw you ... are thinking about entering the Footloose Freedom Mile. Hmm. Should I bring the wheelbarrow to help you get through the second half?

I saw you ... at the No Kings rally. And I thought to myself, "No Kings just creates a vacuum and means there's a lot more for Jack(s)." What do you say?

I saw you ... are pushing Congress to pass your BBB. This is clearly a sign of decline. In the past, you wouldn't have settled for less than DDD.

I saw you ... are super excited about your Independence Day. Umm, would you mind giving me your ex's number?

I heard you ... want my ex's number. Well, there's her cell number, or there's the abbreviated number the cops use - 5150.

I heard you ... talking a whole lot about how you've found Jesus. That's cool. But when you found him, did he happen to have last month's rent on him?

I heard you ... were planning to attend this weekend's Book Festival, which comes as a complete shock. Just make sure to pace yourself. Otherwise your lips will get tired.

I hope to see you ... at one of the Chamber music concerts this weekend, if only to show you what a real violin sounds like - versus the tiny violin I often find myself playing for you.

I saw you ... at the Mammoth Shakespeare Festival production of Romeo and Juliet, and thought of you when Mercutio says the line, "If love be rough with you, be rough with love." Sounds like we both need a spanking!

I see ... the kids are back in school starting next Thursday. How about while the wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round we make the waves on the waterbed go up and down?

I see you ... are putting together a movie. Well, I know someone who'd like to be in it. My husband! He's not much of an actor, but, it's all in the casting. Is there a role for a cheap bastard?

I heard you ... are going to the Fitz and the Tantrums concert at the Limelight. Makes perfect sense. Our entire relationship revolved around you and your tantrums.

JUNE
BREWING
LAKE

LETTERS

WTF Deja Vu

Dear Editor,

This piece is part of my ongoing effort to look honestly at what is happening beneath the polished image of our town and the mountain it depends on.

I originally intended to respond to Randy Short's recent letter because his frustration reflects what many longtime locals and skiers feel: too little, too late, and at growing cost to Mammoth's culture, safety, and identity.

Then, over the holiday weekend, another in-bounds avalanche accident occurred. Uncomfortably familiar. Disturbingly similar to what happened last February. And suddenly, this was no longer about differing opinions on business strategy. It became about learning, accountability, and whether the mountain is actually changing its behavior, or simply absorbing incidents as the price of doing business.

Mammoth Mountain shut down operations on Friday and Saturday. Many assumed weather was the reason. It rarely is, at least not on its own.

When a serious avalanche incident occurs at a major resort like Mammoth Mountain, operations enter a different mode. Terrain decisions are re-evaluated. Documentation and internal reviews take precedence. Legal and insurance considerations tighten communication. Public statements become minimal by design. This is standard industry practice. What is not standard is how little of this reality is shared with the town, workers, or guests who are directly affected.

Insurance companies do not tell resorts to lie. But they do prioritize liability containment over transparency. Silence, careful language, and delayed explanations protect the corporation, not the community. That gap leaves residents and workers to piece together the truth on their own.

What is most concerning is the pattern. Similar terrain. Similar storm cycles. Similar outcomes. When accidents repeat under comparable conditions, they stop being anomalies. They become signals.

Terrain like Lincoln Mountain has historically been treated conservatively. It was often a "wait it out" zone, allowed to settle naturally rather than rushed open. What has changed is not the mountain. What has changed is pressure. Pressure created by increased uphill capacity, crowd throughput, and the absence of meaningful terrain expansion. When demand outpaces space, risk gets pushed downhill.

Randy is right to point out the broader cultural shift under Alterra. Investment choices favor bars, volume, and revenue per skier day, while operational resil-

ience and terrain expansion lag behind. Those choices affect safety. They affect worker morale. They affect the visitor experience. And they ripple directly into the town.

Mammoth Lakes absorbs these impacts without having a seat at the table. We provide the beds, the workforce, the services, and the community infrastructure. When the mountain falters, the town pays; economically, emotionally, and culturally.

What is most troubling is how easily risk is shifted onto workers. Patrol, lift ops, groomers, and mountain staff are the ones standing in the snowpack, managing the consequences of deci-

sions they did not make. These are people who live here, raise families here, and give their bodies and lives to the mountain. When profit pressure overrides conservative decision-making, it is not corporate leadership absorbing the risk.

Dave McCoy built Mammoth on respect — for the mountain, for the workers, and for the people who came to ski it. That ethos was Mammoth's identity. When a corporation loses connection to that foundation, accidents are no longer isolated tragedies. They are symptoms of a deeper disconnect.

Keep Mammoth Real is not about nostalgia. It is about honesty. It is about

asking whether the mountain that defines this town is being operated with the care, humility, and long-term vision it demands.

The town deserves transparency. Workers deserve protection.

Guests deserve safety rooted in judgment, not pressure.

And Mammoth deserves leadership willing to put the mountain and its people ahead of quarterly returns before someone else pays the price.

Arianne Weiner, PhD, PCC
Mammoth Lakes



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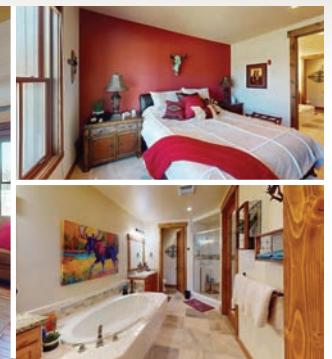
MOBILE
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1160



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



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

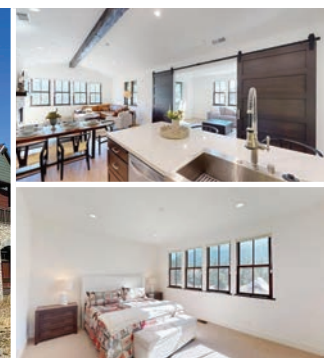


IN ESCROW!

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

Immaculate 3-bed + flex room, 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+flex
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



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Snowcreek V, 819 Fairway Circle - \$1,950,000

Rare 4-bedroom + den, 4-bath Pinnacle floor plan in Snowcreek Fairway Homes. Features vaulted ceilings, dual primary suites, stunning mountain views, 2-car garage, and luxurious finishes—perfectly positioned for mountain living.

CONDO
BEDS: 5+
BATHS: 4
SQ FT: 3215



LISTING DETAILS!

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