

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



The lifeline for chair 4 out of Canyon Lodge at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) at 11 a.m. Friday. MMSA reported there were more than 18,750 people at the resort that day.

Saturday, January 10, 2026

FREE

Vol. 24, No. 2

BACKSEAT DRIVER



Juliana Olinka Jones and Maurice Cooper star in Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre's production of "Driving Miss Daisy." For Fisher's review, see p. 13.

SNOW PLACE LIKE MAMMOTH

Mammoth Lakes business owners thrive over holidays

By Libre

Shoppers spent 3.9% more from Nov. 1 to Dec. 21 this year compared to last year, according to Kim Bhasin of The New York Times. This figure comes at a time when consumers are navigating economic uncertainty.

It struck me as strange that people are continuing to spend, and in fact spend more, this holiday season than they usually do.

I wondered how this trend would impact local businesses in Mammoth, especially following low occupancy rates this summer and fall. Was there a marked discrepancy between the week leading up to Christmas, when there was no snow, and after, when it dumped? And did businesses do better on the days the mountain was closed, due to tragic circumstances?

So this week, I spoke with

a variety of business owners, managers, and employees about their holiday performances.

The businesses I spoke to all agreed on one thing: snow is good.

"It's like money falling from the sky," said Joanie Schaller, who has owned and operated Roberto's, a Mexican restaurant, for 40 years. "In the summer, it's guaranteed business. It's beautiful every day. But in the winter, you need snow to be busy."

Schaller estimated this year was busier than last, perhaps due in part to Mammoth Mountain's closure on Dec. 26 and 27. The continuous blizzard also helped.

"Stormy days are always busier anyways," Schaller said. "It was crazy, really."

Roberto's doesn't take reservations. Instead, the restaurant operates on a first-come,

first-serve basis. Schaller said her restaurant was "as busy as it could possibly be."

One Burger's employee echoed her sentiment.

"When the mountain is closed, people like to eat and drink," she said. "Why not come eat and drink here?"

Even Surefoot, the chain bootfitting store in the Village, saw an increase in traffic on the days the mountain was closed.

"Usually, we are pretty busy early in the morning and then get busy again when people are done skiing," said Todd Koenig, the general manager of Surefoot, "but those days we were busy just straight through. A lot of people with a lot of pent up energy and nothing to do."

"A few of those days were just insane," added Dominic Carton,

more HOLIDAYS, pg. 8

CLEANUP PACKED UP

By Fisher

The state stepped in after the Pack Fire... and then stepped out.

On Dec. 9, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a formal State of Emergency for Mono County to support ongoing recovery efforts in communities affected by the fire. The proclamation was intended to authorize expedited cleanup of debris and household hazardous waste.

However, state crews stalled work on emergency erosion control this week, leaving Mono County to complete the stabilization work on its own.

State crews were only able to finish part of the planned erosion control during a narrow, one-day operational window on Friday, Jan. 2, when a brief break between storm systems allowed limited access to the affected parcels, according to Christine Bouchard, assistant administrative officer, at Tuesday's Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting.

On that single day, crews remediated seven parcels, installed approximately 32,200 feet of silt and compost socks, and completed 16 erosion control dens across the site. The response included three Conservation Corps crews and two Department of Water Resources engineers.

But snow-covered roads, buried structures, and unsafe conditions at higher elevations prevented access to several parcels, forcing crews to halt additional installations.

As a result, the state-led mission was not completed and is not expected to resume until spring snowmelt allows safe access. But snowmelt could also mean ash, sediment, and other contaminants could enter nearby creeks and waterways if not stabilized.

The state did transfer roughly 5,000 feet of compost socks,

300 compost bags, 300 gravel bags, and 2,000 stakes to Mono County for future use. While the state crews will remain available to provide technical guidance, responsibility for monitoring installed measures, maintaining them, and completing additional erosion control work now falls to the county.

When it comes to debris removal and long-term cleanup, the county still hasn't secured funding. California's Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) provides financial support to public agencies following emergencies, and in some cases can cover debris removal on private property. But Mono County has not yet received approval, and there is no clear timeline or estimate for cleanup costs, Bouchard said.

If CDAA funding is not approved, Mono County could choose to cover cleanup costs up front, with participating property owners assigning eligible insurance proceeds to the county. But any remaining uncovered costs would then become the county's responsibility.

"Whenever these things happen, more and more, [the County] is first in line to hold the cost," Mono County Supervisor Paul McFarland said. "The community is lucky we can do that in many instances, but these things do add up."

Meanwhile, the precipitation and wind from the recent storms have already redistributed debris across the landscape, including toward Crowley Lake. And the winter is still young.

Bouchard said the County is in ongoing communication with the California Office of Emergency Services and has scheduled meetings with environmental health, public works, and state representatives to determine next steps.

Vegas, Baby!

Bah Humbug

SCE Blows a Fuse

It Takes a Village

87 Little A Frames

p. 2/

p. 3/

p. 4/

p. 8/

p. 14/

FEAR AND LOATHING

It can take a lifetime (or longer) for a man to accept that cheaper isn't necessarily cheaper. That a deal isn't necessarily a deal.

You buy a cheap house and by the time you make all the repairs, not so cheap.

Same with a vehicle.

Same with all sorts of goods and services.

Yet I'm a champion of out-clevering myself.

We have an airport right here in Bishop that connects us to the world.

And yet I insist on flying out of Vegas to save a few hundred bucks per ticket.

Which is of course swallowed up in gasoline and airport parking and the rest.

I know better.

But sometimes you need a good catastrophe to give you that extra nudge.

I was supposed to fly out of Las Vegas with my daughter last Sunday to visit family back east.

Because of weather, I chose to head south to Lone Pine and then through Death Valley.

Warning signal comes on in the absolute middle of nowhere, pitch black and raining.

Tire losing pressure.

29 psi ... 28 psi ... 27 psi.

I'm losing a psi every four or five miles.

Google says I'm about 90 miles from the airport.

I could stop to change the tire, but then I'd miss the flight - and of course I didn't insure the trip because they only offer insurance if the actuary's determined it's a good deal for the insurance company, right?

So I keep driving and thinking and worrying.

Then I hit a detour, so it's now 115 miles to the airport instead of 90. Detour takes me back to the 95, to that intersection which features the Area 51 service stations.

But there's an air pump there. With a half broken nozzle. But somewhat functional. I manage to inflate my dead tire from 19 to 22 psi. And figure that will get me to Indian Springs, and then I'll give another blast

the

sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

"I won't insult your intelligence by suggesting that you really believe what you just said."

-William F. Buckley Jr.

JACK LUNCH
PUBLISHER

- Ted Carleton

Jack of all Lunches

760.937.4613 / lunch@thesheetnews.com
- Paige Fisher

Editor

sheetfisher@gmail.com
- Ulla-Britt Libre

Writer

libresheet@gmail.com
- Harold Hartley

People Person

hart6399@yahoo.com
- Jon Klusmire

Curmudgeon

jonklusmire@yahoo.com
- Spike Todd

Beverage Consultant

Box 8088, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

760.937.4613/jacklunch@yahoo.com

An adjudicated paper of general circulation. © 2025 The Sheet, all rights reserved.

there and maybe that'll get me to the airport parking garage and then I'll change the tire when I get home.

Indian Springs is another 40 miles down the road. I'm at 14 psi when I get there. Pull over at the Terribles station to find another air pump. No air pump. Tire deflating more rapidly. Daughter now awake and assessing the situation. Has blind faith in father's ability to handle the situation.

How is she so misinformed?

My new plan is just get to the outskirts of Vegas - the goal is Santa Fe Station. They've got a massive parking garage and I figure there'll be plenty of room to stash a truck. And then I'll Uber to the airport from there.

Flight out 9:30. If I get an Uber right away we'll make it to airport by 8:30. Still a chance.

Pull into the garage with the tire at 4 psi. Park on 3rd floor of garage. There's not a vehicle within 30 spaces in any direction. Walk down to the casino area. Look for the taxi/Uber stand. What stand? It's a ghost town.

But miraculously, there's an Uber who says he'll pick us up in ten minutes.

Later the guy tells me he's never in the neighborhood. No Uber ever is. He gives me the lowdown. The recession in Vegas is ever-deepening. He's lived there nine years. The combination of Strip pricing and corporate hubris and legalized gambling elsewhere has pummeled the local economy. He also said Uber has jacked its rates while simultaneously reducing pay for its drivers. So that's why certain neighborhoods on an off-night -- it's a miracle to find a ride.

So Vegas has priced itself into oblivion. I know a place that sure sounds familiar.

We made the flight, much to the delight of my dear mother. And I've booked a room at the Santa Fe for my return -- an agreeable price for the free parking.

But I can tell you what's gonna happen when I get back.

I'm gonna put the spare on, and then wander down to sports book. Get myself a racing form. Lose some money on the horses. Try to make it back on the NFL. Lose more money there by relying on Hartley's advice. And ultimately return to Bishop no wealthier. But will I be wiser? Won't know until the next time I've got to book a flight.



JUNE
BREW
ING
LAKE

MAMMOTHLAKES

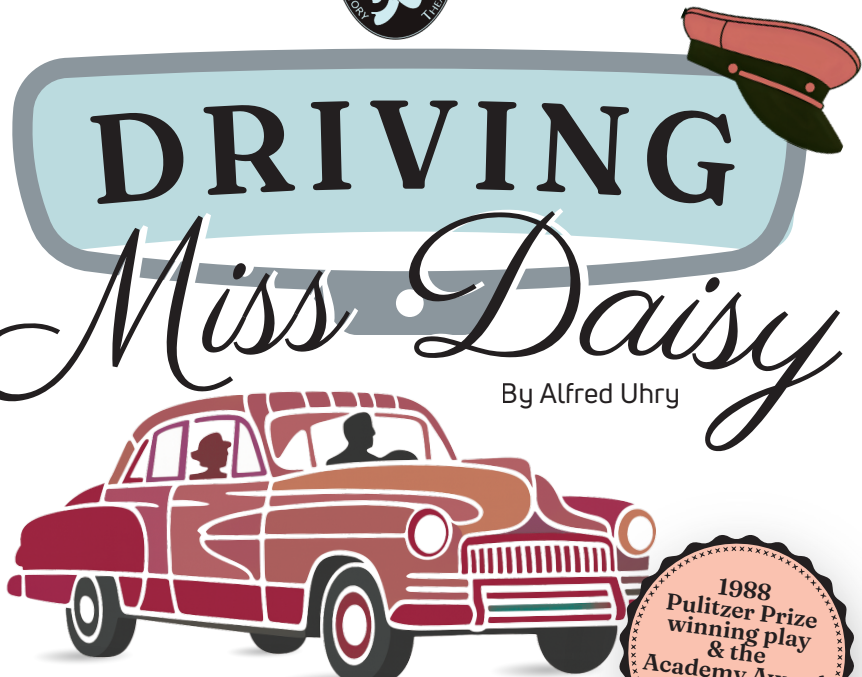


REPERTORY THEATRE

DRIVING

Miss Daisy

By Alfred Uhry



1988
Pulitzer Prize
winning play
& the
Academy Award
winning
film

JAN 9-18, 2026

Fri & Sat @ 7pm

Sunday @ 4pm

STARRING

JULIANA OLINKA-JONES

MAURICE COOPER

DAVID BARON

Mammoth High School MPR/365 Sierra Park Road

For tix and more info mammothlakesrep.org

Sponsored by

Tambour Foundation



Produced with special arrangement with Dramatists Paly Service

LETTERS

Bah Humbug

To the Editor:

Bah humbug on SCE! I live in June Lake and though our situation was not as bad as our friends in the June Lake Village, who had absolutely NO power for days over Christmas, our situation was not much better. We lost power for hours on December 24, and we got a notice from SCE saying that there was an outage in our area at 1:25 PM which “may affect our service.”

Duh! Our power came back on around 6 p.m., and then was out again on the 25th for hours. Our power was out again on the 26th starting at 2 p.m., and we then got a notice from SCE saying that it would be restored on the 27th by 8 a.m. That did not happen and we got another notification saying it would be restored by noon on the 27th. In what has become a familiar refrain, that did not happen. We got no further information. We had no power into the evening on the 27th, and we were told by a neighbor that the power was restored in the middle of the night on the 28th – we had turned everything off so that we would not be awakened by lights and buzzing if/when the power did come on. The power went out again on the afternoon of December 28, and this time was out for about 2 hours. And then, to add insult to injury, I got a survey from SCE saying that we had had a power outage and how was it for us? Needless to say, my response was that it was not a good experience.

This happened over a holiday when we were planning a dinner with friends, which did not happen. Outside of a few texts from SCE telling us that there was a power outage, which we knew, there was NO COMMUNICATION from SCE. We were not given any information about what happened or why, nor were we given updates as to when power would be restored. But, as we have learned, this lack of communication with their customers is the norm for SCE.

Earlier in the fall, we were sent a notice from SCE saying that there would be some drone and helicopter activity in our area while SCE does observation of the power lines. That actually turned into six weeks of helicopter flights, seven days a week, often starting at 7 a.m. And the sound of the hovering chopper(s) really echoed down canyon where we live. The attempt to communicate with us about the “observation of the lines” was nothing more than gaslighting us, covering the fact that there would be ongoing helicopter activity in our area, with the noise that went with that. And there was nothing we could do about it.

So here is my somewhat rhetorical question: WHO HOLDS SCE ACCOUNTABLE? Who holds them accountable when there are extended outages over a holiday, with no communication? Who holds them accountable when helicopter noise invades our relatively quiet world seven days a week for almost two months, without regard for those of us who live here? Who holds SCE accountable

when our rates are going up and our service is decreasing, as evidence by the number of outages even after SCE was supposedly doing all the work to strengthen lines and poles to make their service more reliable? Who holds SCE accountable?

I want an answer to that question, and I want representatives from SCE to have the courage to meet with us, not to throw “happy talk” at us, but to give us real answers. We deserve to have them.

Joyce P. Kaufman
June Lake

Grieving Together

In the Eastern Sierra, we pride ourselves on grit. We handle storms, long winters, droughts, fires, and hard work without much noise. But this year has pushed our community past anything that toughness alone can carry.

We watched the Pack Fire tear through McGee Creek, taking homes, memories, and land we love. And before we could even catch our breath, it felt like déjà vu as we lost another ski patroller during avalanche mitigation work on Mammoth Mountain—within the span of a single year. These weren’t distant tragedies. These were our

neighbors, our friends, our protectors. These were people who woke up every day ready to keep others safe.

And now, across Mammoth, June, Bishop, Crowley, McGee, and the whole Eastern Sierra, there’s a heaviness you can feel in the air. People are tired. People are shaken. People are grieving.

This is a collective trauma, and it’s time we say it out loud. What we’re feeling is real – and it’s normal.

When tragedy hits close to home, the mind doesn’t just “move on.” It goes into survival mode. It runs hot. It won’t

more LETTERS, page 6



**MAMMOTH
ROCK 'N BOWL**

OPEN DAILY
BOWLING • ARCADE • BRASSERIE
LOUNGE • EVENTS

3029 CHATEAU ROAD
www.mammothrocknbowl.com

LOCAL NEWS



Helpers, including Lydia March and Brandi Gain, prepared food at the June Lake Community Center.



JUNE LAKE HAS HELPERS

By Janet Hunt

In Fred Rogers' 1983 book, "Mr. Rogers Talks with Parents," Rogers first shared the advice that his mother gave him to cope with scary things. His mother would say, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." It reminds us that even during tragic or difficult events, caring individuals step up and offer aid, comfort and hope.

The June Lake community helpers stepped up big time as our small town had to deal with the effects of the huge winter storm. The three-day storm that arrived on Christmas Eve delivered a much needed white Christmas, but the combination of high winds and many feet of dense heavy snow closed roads, and also damaged to the SCE local grid and took out power to most of the June Lake Loop. As more snow fell and temperatures dropped, concern for the welfare of community members without a non-electric source of heat grew and triggered a response from our June Lake Helpers.

Coordinated by County Supervisor Paul McFarland and the June Lake Women's Club, community members sprang into action. They made personal welfare checks on vulnerable Loopers, set up a warming and charging center at the Community Center, prepared meals and then helped the county staff make the transition to a shelter option for those who needed a safe warm place to stay as the outage continued and the temperatures dropped. Leaders from the June Lake Women's Club, Lydia March and Missy Larsen gathered the helpers together to support the needs of their June Lake Family by preparing meals and creating a warm welcoming place.

Our local June Lake Helpers include Brandi Gain, Kayla Glastetter, Leslie Redman, Emily Logan, Courtney Greytak, Kevin Larsen, Tajia Zinich,

Amanda Stevens, Kameo Doyle, Neal Fox, Katelyn Sprofera, Kelsie Mooney, Brendan Mooney, Marquee Marquez, Claire Landowski, John Krueger, Madison Greytak, Maribeth Kramer, Pastor Damien Hernandez, Dave and Wendy Roskey, Cora Larsen and Collin Larsen.

Assistant Mono County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Christine Bouchard and Mono County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan delivered food from south county, while county staff supported warming centers and overnight shelters. The County Public Works Department kept roads clear, generators running and facilities clean. Outside of June Lake, county staff and community volunteers also kept warming centers open and welcoming in Lee Vining and Bridgeport through the entire outage.

These folks sacrificed their own holiday plans to serve their community which they delivered with joy and kindness. The community also received support from Juli Baldwin and the June Lake Fire Dept., food donations from Brad and Nicole Ellis at The Stove in Mammoth, from Neal Fox at Sierra STEM, Calvary Chapel June Lake, June Lake Cares and the Women's Club. June Lake Public Utility District staff pulled off miracles to keep the water and sewer system running on auxiliary power, while SCE crews and contractors worked to repair extensive damage to poles and wires and bring power back up.

Power was finally restored to most of June Lake on Sunday night and as life in our mountain town resort returns to "winter normal." We are enjoying the bluebird days before the next storm combined with feeling gratitude for the blessings of living in a small town filled with Helpers. Mrs. Rogers, you were right, "you will always find people who are helping."

SCE GETS LIT UP

By Fisher

Southern California Edison (SCE) will likely not offer rebates for costs or inconvenience suffered during the multi-day blackout from June Lake to Bridgeport over the holidays, Matthew Paruolo, SCE's Government Relations Manager, told the Mono County Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

"These outages were not caused or due to SCE negligence, quite the contrary," Paruolo said. "We worked very hard to fix the problems once they happened. It was caused by extreme weather, which is, I think, the first sentence on the claims website."

The Sheet first covered the outage in last week's issue. It began on Christmas Eve, thrusting June Lake north through Bridgeport into darkness, and continued through into early this week. The outage also affected June Lake's water treatment plant, all while Hwy. 395 was closed for three days due to the winter storm, trapping residents and visitors alike over the holiday.

"We had 19 stranded people that, through either poor preparation or poor luck, found themselves in town with nowhere to go," Supervisor Paul McFarland said. "During a power outage, a hotel without a backup generator is simply a dark box."

Consequently, the blackout hit the local tourism economy, but the cost to generate power independently also affected residents, a sting coming just months after SCE raised rates 13% (See Oct. 11 issue).

As a result of the damages, the Board of Supervisors and residents asked Paruolo to consider issuing rebates, but he largely waived off the request and said he'd need to check with his superiors. He insisted, rather, the storm was unusual in its size and warranted such a disruption.

"I get the comments saying, 'I've lived here for 50 years, and the power has never gone out like this in the winter. We've had big storms.' Well, the storm events are happening in different magnitudes now," he said at the outset of his presentation.

He explained that crews were working around the clock to restore power, and repeatedly brought up that he himself missed Christmas with his family.

June Lake residents didn't necessarily buy his excuses, and instead pushed forward that the slow response was rather

an expression of SCE's undervaluing of the rural community compared to more lucrative metropolitan areas.

"What is it with SCE prioritizing export of electricity to Southern California when we are right here? Well, we know what it is and it's profits," one resident grieved. "We are not a colony to be exploited."

Paruolo is no stranger to these complaints, having for years acted as the SCE spokesperson listening to June Lake residents frustrated by SCE's noisy helicopter flights required to operate local hydroelectric dams. On the flip side, residents are well accustomed to lodging such complaints.

"I feel like I am being treated as a third class citizen by SCE and I'm very unhappy about it," a second resident whined.

Paruolo maintained SCE was continually investing in the community.

"Our system is overbuilt," he asserted. "We use class two poles, which is above and beyond industry standards for this reason"

He was also quick to remind them that the only reason the June Lake Loop had any power during the event was because of the publicly contested hydroelectric dams.

But of the grievances, the residents' chief complaint was the lack of communication from the company. Early in the outage, SCE informed the county that restoration might not be complete until Sunday, Dec. 28. Yet residents said they received little direct information about the extent of damage or why power remained out.

The Board commiserated, and stressed its own need for timely updates.

"We lean on you when it's an SCE thing, but we're leaned on constantly because people think that we have some inside track," Supervisor John Peters said.

Paruolo acknowledged the challenges, but did not offer a solution.

"I will be frank with the board, I'm a bit at a loss as to what I could have said under the situation, that I didn't say," he said.

"I came pretty darn close to the mark in terms of saying [what you are asking for]"

The back-and-forth between Paruolo and the pitch-forkers lasted about an hour and a half. In the end, he had plenty of notes to take back to his higher-ups and the residents left no richer.

DISTANT BREWING HAS BEER AND CIDER AND SELTZER AND KOMBUCHA AND WINE AND BEER AND SODA AND SOUPS AND SALADS AND PIZZAS AND COOKIES AND SANDWICHES AND APPETIZERS AND BEER AND COFFEE AND LIVE MUSIC TWICE A WEEK AND AN OPEN MIC EVERY MONDAY AND BEER AND A POOL TOURNAMENT EVERY WEDNESDAY AND A MONTHLY VINYL NIGHT AND OH YEAD DID WE FORGET TO MENTION ALL THE BEER?



GIVE IT A REST, LAW DOGS

By Klusmire

The California Legislature needs to take some time off in 2026. The state's full-time, year-round lawmakers made laws at a breakneck pace in 2025, so they deserve a vacation. Nearly 800 new laws were proposed, voted on and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2025.

The sheer volume of new laws puts to rest the shop-worn criticism that California is a Nanny State. It is now a full-blown Adult, Child Daycare and Senior Center State with rules and regulations for everything from cat claws to a new state snake.

The legislative onslaught included arcane, technical measures and new rules that will probably impact everyone in the state. Below is a brief recap of the more significant new laws going into effect in 2026.

Consumer Protection

Plastic Bagged: No more plastic bags at grocery stores. And this time we mean it. The state plastic bag ban started almost a decade ago when a ballot measure outlawed the single-use bags. Ah, but the loophole: grocery stores could provide a “reusable” plastic bag, which turned out to be heavy duty plastic and got thrown away anyway. Now there’s no loophole. No more plastic bags, period. Bring your own bags or get a paper sack.

Driving Costs: Annoying additional

fees and taxes on rental cars must be estimated and disclosed up front, not after the machine is picked up. Plus, renters have to be told if their car is a gas hog, a hip hybrid or a virtue signaling electric model.

Volume Control: steaming services are banned from making ads louder than the music, videos or podcasts blasting into innocent ears. (Alternative: Read a damn newspaper. They are quiet.)

Fair Fees: State-chartered credit unions can only charge a maximum overdraft fee of \$14.

Food Fees: Food delivery services (DoorDash, Uber Eats and others we don't have in the Eastern Sierra) have to refund payments if the order isn't delivered at all or if the wrong order arrives. They also have to have a real, live, breathing, awake, coherent person staffing customer service to handle complaints (can that be new law be expanded to THE ENTIRE DAMN WORLD? Asking for a friend).

Getting Schooled

You've Been Admitted: Qualified California public high school students will be automatically admitted and able to enroll in one of the 16 California State University schools. Students must meet the CSU minimum eligibility requirements and fill out the first round of what will lead to four years of paperwork.

Smartphones Aren't: All public schools must adopt a policy by July 1 that prohibits or limits smartphone use by students when they are on their school campus. Local school districts can ban phones completely during the school day, or limit use to non-classroom time.

Chilling ICE: Federal Immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents cannot enter “nonpublic” areas of a school or school campus without a warrant or court order. School districts are barred from providing immigration agents information about students, parents and families, teachers and district employees without a warrant. School administrators must notify families and students if federal agents conduct immigration operations on K-12 or college campuses.

Ethnic Studies: A state Office for Civil Rights will work to counter antisemitism and other forms of discrimination allegedly arising from the way some schools teach ethnic studies. The controversial new office and its goals have been challenged in the courts but in December that lawsuit was rejected by a federal judge.

Bathroom Break: Starting July 1, all public schools in the state are required

to provide at least one all-gender bathroom. For the past decade, schools had to allow students to use the bathroom that matches their gender identity.

Cats and Snakes (Really)

Official State Snake: In a stunning oversight, the state of California did not have an official state snake.

Well, that just won't do, will it? No. Thankfully the legislature has crowned an official state snake: the Giant Garter Snake. That is different then a run-of-the-mill garter snake and far from the garter worn and then tossed by new brides. Hizzoner The Giant Garter Snake resides in the Central Valley and is a threatened species.

Please Claw Me: It is now illegal to declaw a cat, since slicing off a bit of toe or cutting tendons is gross and cats need claws for self-defense, to climb trees, and tear up the sofa.

Sexual Assault Claims: Sexual assault claims against private employers or organizations deemed to have engaged in a cover-up of those claims can be filed in the next two years, regardless if the statute of limitations previously barred those claims.

Your Mammoth Lakes Real Estate Experts with an Unmatched Reach to Southern CA and Beyond

Powered by the Nation's Top Brokerage

THE
HELTON
TEAM



\$650M+
Total Sales Volume

1000+
Closed Transactions

300+
Five Star Reviews

50+
Years of Experience

THE HELTON TEAM
Compass Resort Division
MAMMOTH LAKES
760.914.3800
theheltonteam@compass.com
DRE 01784118



theheltonteam.com

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and subject to Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number: 01784118. All material prepared herein is for informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute an offer of any financial product or service. Changes in price, location, size or other details may be made without notice. No reliance is to be placed on any description of measurements and square footages are approximate.

Liberty Sports Bar & Grill

FREE LIVE MUSIC
9:30pm

1/9 & 1/10
RENEGADES OF RAGE
RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE TRIBUTE

1/17
GOOD NIGHT CLUB
LA's Hottest DJ/Band Mash Up Night

1/23 & 1/24
Anthony Cullins
Blues/Rock Guitar

1/30
PAR AVION band
WORLDCLASS SURF ROCK

1/31
Buck Shot
OUTLAW COUNTRY

YOUR NFL HEADQUARTERS

f @ LIBERTY_SPORTS_BAR_&_GRILL

MAIN STREET PIZZATAP, MAMMOTH ROOTS, Red Lobster

LETTERS

continued from page 3

shut off. It tries to make sense of what happened, even when there is no clear answer. People may feel:

- Anger that comes out of nowhere
- Guilt for being okay
- Fear that the next tragedy is coming
- Numbness or emotional shutdown
- Exhaustion that sleep doesn't fix
- A need to stay busy to avoid feeling anything

None of this is weakness. None of this is "overreacting." This is the human brain doing exactly what it's designed to do when life stops making sense. Grief isn't linear; it loops, collides, and repeats. Grief is not a straight line. It's a storm of shock, denial, anger, bargaining, sadness, and acceptance, eventually.

But acceptance doesn't mean we're "fine." It means we stop fighting the reality of what happened and start learning how to live with it. Some people reach that point in weeks. Some in months. Some in years. Trauma doesn't follow a schedule. When the weight gets heavy, people look for ways out:

- Drinking
- Overworking
- Avoiding people
- Numbing out
- Staying constantly busy

But healing doesn't come from escape. It comes from routine — the simple, steady things that tell the brain, "We're safe enough to live again."

Wake up. Eat. Move. Connect. Repeat. Routine is not trivial. It's neurological

stability.

To support someone in grief, you don't need perfect words. You need presence. Keep routines steady — meals, sleep, daily structure. Don't push people to "be strong" or "move on." Watch for signs of isolations and don't take withdrawal personally. Ask, "Do you want comfort or do you want to talk?" Encourage small steps, not big leaps. Understand that grief can look like anger, silence, or shutting down.

Your job isn't to fix the pain — it's to make sure no one carries it alone.

So how do we heal as a community? We stop pretending we're fine. We stop isolating. We stop acting like grief is something to hide. We show up for each other. We talk about what happened. We honor the people we lost. We support the families and teams still living this every day. We rebuild routines together. We check on the strong ones, not just the ones who cry. We remember that healing is not a race.

The Eastern Sierra is resilient — not because we ignore pain, but because we face it together.

We've been through fire. We've been through loss. We've been through fear. But we're still here. And we don't heal by going back to "normal." We heal by moving forward — together, honest, connected, and human.

Daniel Ranson
Mammoth Lakes

LOCAL BRIEFS

Death Valley, again

A single car rollover in Death Valley National Park on Dec. 28 killed two passengers who were ejected from their vehicle. The driver and another passenger survived but were seriously injured, according to the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

The driver, a 26-year-old male, was driving a 2025 Jeep Wrangler on SR-190 near Saline Valley Road at a high rate of speed. For an unknown reason, the driver made an unsafe turning movement, left the roadway, and lost control of the vehicle, according to a CHP press release. The vehicle overturned several times. Two unrestrained passengers (no seatbelts) were ejected from the vehicle and received immediate fatal injuries and were dead at the scene.

The driver and another passenger were transported to University Medical Center in Las Vegas with major injuries. The driver was arrested in Nevada and prosecution is being sought through the Inyo County District Attorney's Office.

This collision is currently under investigation by the Bishop Area CHP.

No More Bottle Babies

The Town of Mammoth Lakes' absolute ban on small, single-use plastic water bottles went into effect on Jan. 1 (see ad p. 14)

The bottle ban only applies to the distribution or sale of plastic water bottles

in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. All retail and wholesale businesses, vendors, restaurants, lodging locations, complimentary distributors, vending machines, and any other providers are prohibited from selling or distributing single-use plastic water bottles (with a volume of 500 ml or less) in the town. Any location currently distributing single-use plastic bottles (with a volume of 500 ml or less) must phase out all non-compliant bottles.

Prepackaged water in plastic containers larger than 500 ml are still permitted, as well as bottles or containers 500 ml or less made of alternative materials such as aluminum or glass. Refilling reusable containers is the most effective way to support the mission of this ordinance and reduce plastic waste, the town declared.

Single-use plastic water bottles will still be permitted in the event of emergencies.

Last year, Mammoth banned the plastic bottles from all town facilities and at all special events requiring a town permit.

Thanks to the Town

The Mammoth Lakes Salvation Army thanks the town of Mammoth Lakes for purchasing a new refrigerator for its pantry on 220 Sierra Manor Road. This is a result of the collaboration of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Task Force led by Jenna Mc Carthy. The Salvation Army thanks Rob Patterson, Town Manager, Anthony Ottati, former Town Sustainability Coordinator and the current Manager, Emily Zujewski.

more BRIEFS, pg. 7

LOCATED INSIDE
John's PIZZA WORKS

OUTLAW SALOON
SPORTS BAR

FRIENDLY MOUNTAIN ATMOSPHERE

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

HAPPY HOUR Mon-Fri
& During All NFL Games

NFL SUNDAYS 10AM - 1PM

SUNDAY BRUNCH

FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

BACON BREAKFAST BURRITO with Salsa & Serranos

2-TOPPING OMELETTE with Breakfast Potatoes

GRANDE QUESADILLA Asada / Pollo with Sour Cream & Salsa

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

BLOODY MARYS • MIMOSA • SHOOTERS

NFL HAPPY HOUR

DISCOUNTS ON DRINKS & APPETIZERS DURING ALL GAMES

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

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

MAMMOTH HOSPITAL
Elevate Your Health

Women's Health is coming home to Family Medicine.

Women's Health is moving to our newly renovated Family Medicine Clinic, bringing women's health and primary care together to improve coordination, convenience, and the quality of care for every patient.

Compassionate care, every step of the way.

Photo credit: MLT | Dakota Snyder

IMPORTANT CHANGES

NEW LOCATION

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Family Medicine Clinic

Call or TEXT us:
760.934.2551

ALL WOMEN'S HEALTH PATIENTS SHOULD CHECK IN AT FAMILY MEDICINE FOR APPOINTMENTS.

Same providers. Same Services. Same Compassionate Care.

www.MammothHospital.com

LOCAL BRIEFS, CONT.

Speeding into the Bike Lane

A lead foot could now result in having to bike or walk instead of driving.

In a regulation change, drivers caught speeding 100 m.p.h. or more could see a speedy process that results in suspension or revocation of their driver's license even before they go to court and are "convicted" of the speeding offence.

The California Highway Patrol will now automatically refer any driver ticketed for going 100 m.p.h. to the DMV's Driver Safety Branch, where a quick review and Administrative Action could lead to the license getting yanked. Currently, a speeder gets to slow walk any action by taking the matter to court, which can take quite a while. Even if a license is suspended, the new regulations also mandate the driver make a court appearance, not just mail in the fine. Increased fines and court costs could easily hit more than \$2,500.

In 2024 alone, CHP issued over 18,000 citations for speeds exceeding 100 m.p.h. Locally, the Bishop and Bridgeport CHP offices fairly regularly post photos of their radar guns displaying speeds of more than 100 m.p.h., along with some online scolding. Now, a scolding will be the least of those drivers' worries.

Big Storms, Average Snowpack

The holiday deluge of snowstorms in the Eastern Sierra moved the snowpack needle out of the abysmal range and into what counts as a normal pile of snow for the end of December.

Before Christmas, the estimated Eastern Sierra snowpack was a paltry 39% of average for Dec. 23. It's 3.1 inches of water equivalent put the snowpack on par with the lowest snow year on record in 2014-15, according to the snow pillow readings from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The Christmas present of a big snow dump in the Sierra high country put the snowpack at 97% of normal for Dec. 31, with a nice 8.8 inches of water in the snow. That's almost 40% of an average year's snowpack.

While Mammoth Lakes and the ski hill appeared to get the most snow out of the storms, the southern reaches of the Sierra actually led the way. The Cottonwood Lakes (south of Lone Pine) reading put the snowpack at 170% of normal with about 65% of a year's worth of snow on the ground. Mammoth Pass, on the other hand, had just 44% of its normal end of December snowpack, which is about 17% of the total yearly snow load. Gem Pass was at 39% to date and 15% of yearly totals. Sawmill and Big Pine pillows were both at around 100% of normal and close to 40% of the yearly totals.

Meanwhile, the Owens Valley got soaking rain. Bishop, with 5 inches of rain (updated Jan. 5 to 6.4 inches in West Bishop by unofficial weather watcher Ted Williams), and Big Pine, with about 7 inches, saw about 300% of normal rain for the water year, which starts Oct. 1. Both have more than 80% of their average yearly totals. The big winner was South Haiwee, with 476% of its rain to date, with about 8 inches of the wet stuff, which is 113% of its yearly total. Respectable totals also hit Cain Ranch (260% of year to date with 7 inches) and Long Valley, with 216% of average, about 5.5 inches.

The series of precipitation boosted the

statewide snowpack to 71% of average for Dec. 30, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

Director Darlene

Access Mammoth is pleased to announce Darlene Schuetz as its new Development Director. Darlene brings 18+ years of nonprofit development, marketing, and philanthropic experience to the table.

In her role, Schuetz will lead fundraising strategy and donor engagement in support of Access Mammoth's mission to ensure that mountain recreation is accessible to everybody.

Schuetz most recently served as Director of Development and Marketing for Eastern Sierra Land Trust, where

she provided leadership in fundraising, donor engagement, and integrated communications. Throughout her career, she has played a key role in advancing healthcare, conservation, and community-based nonprofit organizations, helping to secure more than \$10 million in philanthropic support.

Eager to Meet the Tooth Fairy

Nearly four in ten Mono County children enter kindergarten with untreated dental issues like cavities, according to a new annual evaluation from First 5 Mono.

First 5 Mono is the county agency that funds and coordinates services for families with children from prenatal through age five, including playgroups, home

visiting, childcare quality support, and school readiness efforts.

Of the eight outcomes tracked in the evaluation, six were marked as achieved, one was maintained, and one (oral health) was not met.

School readiness improved but remained uneven. While 85% of children attended preschool or transitional kindergarten before entering kindergarten, only 69% were considered academically ready, leaving nearly one-third below readiness benchmarks.

Developmental screening rates also increased, reaching 38% of children ages six months to five years. Despite the increase, most children were still not screened through First 5-linked programs, limiting early detection of developmental delays.

EMPLOYEE OWNED

RED HOT BUYS VALID DECEMBER 26–JANUARY 31



Unfinished Butcher Block Sale
90" x 25" x 1.5" \$239.99
122" x 25" x 1.5" \$319.99
Price valid January 7th-31st

\$219.00

-\$70

ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE

\$149⁰⁰

DEWALT

ACE EXCLUSIVE



DEWALT® 20V MAX Drill & Impact Driver Kit with Rapid Load Drilling & Driving Set
2489540

BUY ONE

Milwaukee® M18® Extended Capacity Battery & Charger or Brushless Drill & Impact Driver Kit
2809424, 2026543



GET ONE FREE

Milwaukee® M18 FUEL® SAWZALL® Brushless Reciprocating Saw or Brushless Grinder (tools only)
2010905, 2023252



UP TO \$249.00 VALUE

BISHOP
444 South Main St
(760) 873-5874

Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 9am-3pm



ACE

WWW.HIGHCOUNTRYLUMBER.COM

MAMMOTH
243 Sierra Manor Rd
(760) 924-8876

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

BUSINESS

LEARNING TO LEAD

By Klusmire and Libre

A diverse group of 27 Eastside business and nonprofit professionals recently graduated from an intensive leadership development program sponsored by the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center in Bishop.

The five month long, 42-hour training featured sessions on building emotional intelligence, navigating difficult conversations, cultivating resilience, and crafting a long-term, sustainable vision and strategy.

"It's the most ambitious content-filled program we've done so far," said Allan Pietrasanta, board chair of the Sierra Business Council.

The leadership class included longtime Bishop business owners, such as Karen Schwartz of Sage to Summit and Robin Bolster of Great Basin Bakery, along with heads of successful nonprofits, such as Erin Dews of C5 Community Art Studios and Laura Beardsley of Whitebark Institute. Local economic development professionals, including Sara Alves and Daniel Anderson from the Bishop Paiute Development Corporation, were also among the graduates.

"These leaders care, they have compassion, and they have understanding," Pietrasanta said. "They are going to go forward to build an even more vibrant

community on the Eastside."

During the ceremony, each of the graduates discussed how they would implement the training in their roles at a wide range of local businesses and nonprofits, including the Looney Bean (big and little), Clouddripper (food truck), High Sierra Energy Foundation, Papich/Granite Construction, Alta One Federal Credit Union, Friends of the Inyo, Eastside Sports and Sierra Mountain Center.

Many leaders pointed to learning about their strengths and weaknesses, identifying goals, communicating with team members and leading while enforcing an overall, shared mission.

One graduate noted that the group represented a solid cross-section of the community, with a good contingent of young professionals and more experienced hands. It also had a even distribution of men and women. That sort of diversity was a strong point during the training.

"The takeaway has been getting to know my fellow community members and how well we all got to bond," Dews said. "Any one of you who has a goal, know that I have your back, because I know you better. It feels really, really important to have that kind of community building in the leadership business."

After the graduation ceremony, a

graduate pointed out it's easy to feel isolated at work, so being around enthusiastic people trying to improve their management and leadership skills can be encouraging.

Plus, sharing common problems and getting different perspectives about solutions was also helpful.

Another pointed out the group hung out together over monthly sessions and opened up about the challenges they faced and other personal and professional issues, making the classes inspiring as well as educational.

There were some immediate benefits people took from the class, related to JaRae Birkland, owner of Bishop-based Maitri Leadership, who facilitated the sessions. One participant said using the skills from the sessions in a recent staff meeting generated enthusiasm, a deeper understanding of goals and basically led to the best staff meeting the group has ever had.

Birkland said being able to provide a local training session for current and future leaders will help the community in the long run as more businesses and nonprofits succeed and expand.

HOLIDAYS

continued from page 1

an employee at Mammoth Mountaineering Supply.

David Gold, the general manager of Vulcania and The Patty Shack, hypothesized the timing of the holidays also helped boost business. I spoke with him at Vulcania, therefore the perspective I gleaned from him came from his job in fine dining.

"The holidays being mid week made it drastically busier," Gold said. "If you have a holiday on a Friday, no one is going to be here on a Tuesday. But because it was weekend, holiday, weekend, holiday, weekend, we just crushed the entire way through."

Vulcania has been fully booked since Dec. 18, and is booked through this upcoming Saturday. The restaurant also "crushed" midweek lunch, a phenomenon which only occurs during the holidays.

"It's a double edged sword where it's great to be successful and I wish I had twice the dining room and twice the kitchen capacity," Gold said.

When I asked him about consumer spending in the face of economic uncertainty, he responded that people will spend their money either way.

"It's what they're spending on that changes," Gold said. "Short term goals versus long term goals ... I think people will always feel the need to get outside and go on an adventure."

Like visiting Mammoth and spending money in town, even when the country is in a financial pinch.

"I think it'll just be a good season," Schaller said. "We have Martin Luther King's Day and President's Day coming up. Those are all huge. It's just more huge than it used to be."

Some town establishments, like the Limelight Hotel and Trendy Tots, a toy store in the Village, didn't want to talk. Others, like Toomey's, needed their owner's approval to go on record. In these cases, the owner was not available.



Above, grads Tyler McManus (left) and Emma Gasman (right) talk shop. Below, grad Santeena Pugliese (right) poses with Elaine Kabala (left) Executive Director of the Eastern Sierra Coalition of Governments, which cosponsored the training.

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.



Sinus and Allergy Problems • Deviated Septum • Nosebleeds
Snoring and Sleep Apnea • Hearing Loss and Vertigo • Hoarseness
Swallowing Problems • Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery • Ear Tubes
Head and Neck Surgery • Adult and Pediatric Tonsil and Adenoid Problems



Patrick Fitzgerald, MD



Dr. Fitzgerald brings over 25 years of trusted ENT care to our team, offering expert treatment for both adults and children.

Appointments by referral only.

www.MammothHospital.com

OP/ED

THE ONES WHO HOLD THE MOUNTAIN UP

By Michael M. Karch, MD

The line at Vons Pharmacy stretched down the aisle, thick with winter impatience and fatigue.

Ski jackets unzipped halfway. A woman bounced a restless child on her hip. A man stared at his phone, scrolling weather updates as if they might change faster if he watched closely. Outside, the mountain was open—lifts turning, roads passable, shelves stocked. Inside, it felt ordinary.

Until it didn't.

At the back of the line stood a man most people recognized even if they didn't know his name.

He was 57. Weather-worn in the way mountains shape people over decades—wind, sun, cold, repetition. A wild mustache framed his face, untrimmed now. His hair lay flattened and directionless, the unmistakable look of someone who had spent the last week pressed into a hospital pillow.

He leaned into a walker, its metal legs clicking softly against the pharmacy tile. Each step was deliberate, negotiated. Broken ribs limited his breath. A shattered hip—newly replaced in an emergent surgery—defined his pace. His body moved forward cautiously, as if relearning its own boundaries.

He was a ski patroller. The kind who arrives before dawn and leaves long after the lifts stop spinning. Who knows every wind-loaded slope and blind roll-over by memory, not map. Whose work only becomes visible when something has already gone wrong.

At the back of the line, he waited. No announcement. No spectacle. Just steel, will, and the patience of someone who had survived worse.

Years earlier, the mountain had taken its turn. A falling tree, sudden and unforgiving, crushed his pelvis while he was on the job. Plates, steel, and screws put him back together again. Scars became part of the uniform—etched reminders that the work always came with a cost.

But this time was different.

Before the hospital bed, before the walker, there had been an avalanche. Buried alive. Pinned against a tree. The kind of silence that presses inward. The kind of waiting that has no guarantee of ending.

He survived.

His partner did not.

From the back of the line, he took in the scene—the wait, the noise, the quiet entitlement of people assuming the system would work because it always had.

He paused, then muttered to himself—half frustration, half resolve—screw it. He started moving.

At first, slowly. Almost imperceptibly. A careful shift of weight. A tentative step. The walker slid forward, then his body followed. The limp was pronounced, the effort obvious. But he kept going.

No announcement. No demand. Just a collective, instinctive understanding. This was someone who had stood in storms while others slept. Someone who had cut tracks into avalanche debris to find strangers. Someone who had paid, repeatedly, with his own body so the rest of us could play, work, commute, and assume safety as a baseline condition.

The line parted.

He filled his prescriptions. He nodded thanks. The line closed behind him. Ordinary life resumed.

But something lingered.

That moment at Vons wasn't about special treatment. It wasn't about cutting a line. It was about vision—the rare, collective ability to see the people behind the systems we take for granted.

We live in a world designed to hide its scaffolding. The mountain opens, so we ski. The roads are clear, so we drive. The shelves are stocked, so we shop. The streets are quiet at night, so we sleep. When everything works, the people who make it work disappear.

Until they don't.

Until the avalanche hits.

Until the power goes out.

Until the fire breaks containment.

Until the hospital bed fills.

Until the system cracks and we suddenly notice the hands holding it together.

Ski patrollers are a perfect example. Most visitors see them as background figures—red jackets gliding by, radios chirping, silhouettes at the top of a run. What they don't see are the early mornings throwing bombs into unstable snowpack, the body recoveries no one posts on Instagram, the split-second decisions that determine whether a family goes home intact or shattered.

And patrollers are just one thread.

“

The real test of a community isn't how loudly it celebrates success, but how clearly it sees those who prevent failure.

”

-Michael Karch

There are the road crews who wake before dawn, plowing in whiteout conditions so commuters can complain about being five minutes late. The firefighters who train endlessly for the day they hope never comes. The law enforcement officers who spend quiet nights defusing situations that never make the news because they didn't explode. The janitorial staff who clean hospitals, schools, and public spaces so cleanliness feels automatic. The grocery clerks and warehouse workers who kept shelves stocked during the pandemic while the rest of us debated safety from home.

These are not background characters. They are the operating system.

Yet culturally, we reward visibility, not function. We celebrate the keynote speaker, not the person who set up the room. The surgeon, not the sterile processing tech. The CEO, not the night shift that kept the lights on.

That walk up the pharmacy aisle was a quiet correction to an imbalance no policy could ever fix.

No applause. No ceremony. Just a spontaneous, human acknowledgment: We know who you are. We know what you've done. Go ahead.

Because work done in anonymity extracts a different kind of cost. It wears people down when sacrifice is normalized but unseen. When injuries are absorbed quietly. When

loss is carried privately. When the social contract feels one-sided.

Moments like that in the pharmacy—small, unscripted, human—restore something essential. They say: your work counts, even when it's invisible. Your risk wasn't abstract. Your pain wasn't theoretical.

You are not interchangeable.

The real test of a community isn't how loudly it celebrates success, but how clearly it sees those who prevent failure.

At Vons that day, a line of ordinary people did something extraordinary without intending to.

They recognized a quiet VIP. They set aside their impatience. They made space. And in doing so, they reminded themselves—perhaps without realizing it—of the invisible network that holds our lives together.

We need more of that vision now.

Not only when a walker makes sacrifice visible. Not only when injury forces recognition. But in the ordinary moments we usually pass through without notice. In the nod to the custodian. The patience with the snowplow. The respect for the patrol rope. The quiet understanding that systems which run smoothly are not accidental—they are earned, every day, by people whose names we may never know.

The patroller with the unshaven mustache didn't ask to go to the front of the line. He just kept moving forward.

So do the others.

The ones who hold the mountain up. Quietly. Consistently. Out of sight. Doing the work that keeps the line moving—so the rest of us never have to imagine what would happen if they weren't there.

Karch is a Mammoth Lakes resident and a co-founder of the Mammoth Orthopedic Institute.



Sanford Horowitz
CRIMINAL DEFENSE, P.C.

PROTECTING LEGAL RIGHTS • IMPROVING PEACE OF MIND

Call Us To Find Out More
805-452-7214

CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAW

Sanford Horowitz

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

SERVING MAMMOTH LAKES, BISHOP, AND THE EASTERN SIERRA



Here's Zoey!

She raises her hand promising to be the best dog you've ever had. She's a lover.

Please give her a chance, and you can meet others like her in search of their forever home – at the Inyo County Animal Shelter, located at 1001 County Road in Big Pine.

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

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

 Save a life. Adopt a shelter dog.



WOOF!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

calendar of events

B&B

Advisors

Taxes • Bookkeeping • Payroll
Local Service, Professional Results
www.bb-advisorsfirm.com | (747)-307-4715

SIERRA ELECTRIC

Sean Flavin, Owner

760-920-3547
LIC# 923994

KRISTI MCKEE, EA

kmckeesvs@gmail.com
(760) 933-7505
TAX PREPARATION & BUSINESS SERVICES

250 Sneden St.
Bishop, CA

mammoth

GEAR EXCHANGE

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

NOMADNESS OFFICES

Commercial Office space for rent.
Daily/weekly/monthly/annual
Call 818.307.3698/970.837.6720
www.NomadnessOffices.com

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. 5*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 6. 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 3-5 p.m. \$1/off beer/wine/cider/seltzer/kombucha
Bar Sierra happy hour from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday through Monday.

January 9-10/ Renegades of Rage (Rage Against the Machine tribute) plays Liberty in Mammoth. Time: 9:30 p.m. No cover.
Weekend apres parties @ Canyon Lodge. DJ. 21+. Starts 2:30 p.m.

Monday, January 12/ Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13/ Trivia Night @ Mammoth Brewing. Time: 6:30-9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14/ Local fave Cassie Dunn plays Shelter Distilling in the Village at Mammoth. Time: 6-9 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

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 Jan. 18, Friday-Sunday for two weekends. *More info/tix: See ad p. 2*
Bishop Union High School Basketball plays Rosamond at home. Girls play at 5:30 p.m., boys play at 7 p.m.
Mammoth High School Basketball plays Boron at home. Girls play at 5:30 p.m., boys play at 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 10/ Sage to Summit 5K Winter Race Series @ Millpond. Registration 8 a.m. and race at 9.
Free Guided Snowshoe Hike with Sierra Forever from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.
Woolly's dance party @ the Village at Mammoth. Music, cocoa & photos. Time: 3:45-4:30 p.m.
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event at the Bishop Landfill from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Fees waived for hazardous waste, all other disposal charges apply.
Gallery Show Opening: This is Temporary II A Beat of Silence. Party and performances from 4-7 p.m. at C5 Studios Community Art Center.
Pints for Patrol. A percentage of sales at June Lake Brewing, Mammoth Brewing and Mountain Rambler will be donated to the Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrol.

Sunday, January 11/ MAC Community Art Night. Time: 5-7 p.m. Location: Arts Council space @ 501 Old Mammoth Rd.

TOWN STUFF

Women's Nordic Clinic at Tamarack XC Ski Center from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. All abilities welcome, participants get a free trail pass and 50% off rentals.

Monday, January 12/ Bishop City Council meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers @ 377 West Line St. or online via cityofbishop.ca.gov
Mammoth Lakes Lodging Association meets online at 10 a.m. on mammothlakeschamber.org.
Eastern Sierra Community Housing Board meets from 6-9 p.m. in Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
Mammoth High School Soccer plays Kern Valley at home. Girls play at 1 p.m., boys play at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13/ Mono County Board of Supervisors meets 9 a.m. in Bridgeport.
Lunch & Learn: a discussion regarding the decline in owner-occupied housing in Inyo County with the Bishop Chamber of Commerce at the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center (269 N Main St). \$20/person, covers lunch and raffle ticket. RVSP to execdir@bishopvisitor.com for event details.
Author Talk: David Brooks on his book, "How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply." Time: 11 a.m. Hosted online by Mono County Libraries. *Register at libraryc.org/monocountylibraries.*

TOWN STUFF

Bishop Union High School Soccer plays Desert at home. Girls play at 3 p.m., boys at 5 p.m.
Mammoth High School Soccer plays Cal City at home. Girls play at 1 p.m., boys at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14/ Mammoth's Planning and Economic Development Commission meets. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
Great Basin Water Justice Summit virtual series continues. Time: 5:30 p.m. Register at bit.ly/gbwjs-3.

Thursday, January 15/ Salsa Dance classes with Hallie @ C5 Studios in Bishop. 210 S. Warren St. Time: 6-7 p.m. *Info/register at c5studios.org. \$\$ (sliding scale)*
Mono Arts Council Art & Wine class: Painting in Acrylic. Starts 5:30 p.m. Location: 501 Old Mammoth Rd. \$. *Register at monoarts.org.*
Bishop Union High School Soccer plays Cal City at home. Girls play at 3 p.m., boys play at 5 p.m.

UPCOMING

January 22: Yoga Mammoth (formerly Apres Zen) holds a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate its rebrand. Time: 4-5 p.m. Location: Main Street Promenade (3399 Main St, Mammoth)

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP

Superlative East Coast, Thin-Crust Pizza

LUNCH SPECIALS

Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm

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

Happy Hour Specials!

Monday - Friday 3-6 PM

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

Lunch Specials!



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

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



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

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



JOB OPENINGS

BASE SALARY OR WAGE RANGES SHOWN IN COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA LAW

FULL-TIME
Full-time total compensation includes competitive benefits package (scan QR or visit website for details).

- Police Officer - Lateral
\$89,889.00 – \$109,261.00 annually

TEMPORARY & PART-TIME

- Parks & Recreation Referee Positions
LA Kings Ice at Mammoth Lakes
| Winter Adult Leagues
\$43.00 – \$47.00 hourly

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



(760) 965-3604
townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Help Wanted



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

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

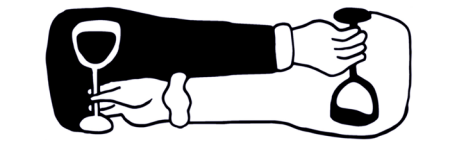
Mammoth Hospital offers; success sharing incentives program; staff development program; generous retirement match and PTO Accrual.

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

Offices for rent
station81.net



BEVI BENE



www.bevibenewine.com

Wave Rave
snowboard shop

WORLD'S LARGEST SNOWBOARD SHOP



3203 Main St. 760.934.2471 waverave.com

Help Wanted



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

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

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

PERSONALS

I saw you... with a flat tire on Hwy 95 on the way to Las Vegas, which is unusual because you're usually full of hot air.
I saw you... in the dark with a dead phone in June Lake. Don't worry, I still got the signal. Come to my house, I'll put a charge in you that will light you up.
I saw you... in the singles line for chair 16. All that time spent waiting for love and I was here all along.
I saw you... looking for a plastic water bottle. Give me a call, I'll show you my secret stash.

Let us help you finish your New Year's to-do list!



MONO MNT
est 2023

Repairs Maintenance Improvements

858-414-6690

MonoMaintenance.com





We Are Hiring!

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

Why Work with us?

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on **January 20, 2026**, in the Mono Lake Room (1 st floor) at the Mono County Civic Center, 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, and the meeting will be accessible remotely by Zoom at <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/87204550938> or in-person in the Mono Lake Room of the Mono County Civic Center, First Floor, 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, where members of the public shall have the right to observe, consider and offer public comment on the discussion of the Community Development Block Grant Notice of Funding Availability no earlier than **9:00 AM**. This meeting will be held to consider approval by resolution the submittal of a funding application for three eligible Community Development Block Grant activities which are \$1,500,000 for a small business loan program to retain and create jobs for low and moderate income households and \$300,000 for a preschool in Bridgeport California for children from low and moderate income households and \$300,000 for planning and technical assistance to determine necessary upgrades and improvements for public services and ADA access at the June Lake Community Center.

The Community Development and Economic Development Allocations of the State CDBG program publish a combined Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) each program year. Eligible cities and counties may submit up to three project or program applications for CDBG funds under this current NOFA for a maximum total amount of \$3,600,000. Eligible activities under the above allocations in the NOFA may consist of planning and technical assistance, (studies and strategies), public assistance programs, community projects, and economic development programs and projects that create or retain jobs.

Materials for the public hearing will be available online by January 16, 2026, at <https://mono-county.ca.gov/bos/page/board-supervisors-regular-meeting-1>. **INTERESTED PERSONS** are strongly encouraged to submit comments to the Mono County Administration Department **no later than January 20, 2026, at 8:00 AM**, after which comments and testimony should be submitted in-person at the public hearing to guarantee receipt by the Board of Supervisors. Public comments may be submitted by email to ashaw@mono.ca.gov, or by mail to P.O. Box 696, Bridgeport, CA 93517. The Board Chambers are accessible to handicapped persons. If special accommodation is required because of a sensory or mobility impairment or disability, or if any interpreter is needed, please contact Allison Shaw at 760-932-5408 or ashaw@mono.ca.gov.

TS #2026-0003

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)

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)



The application for the lottery to rent Bridgeport Apartments (264 Hwy 182, Bridgeport, CA 93517) is now is now open!

Inquiries will be accepted until 5PM Saturday January 24, 2026



ANNUAL INCOME LIMITS	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
80% AMI	\$57,200	\$65,400	\$73,550	\$81,700
120% AMI	\$99,550	\$113,750	\$128,000	\$142,200

PROPERTY DETAILS:

- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom.
- Serving households earning between 80-120% of the Area Median Income.
- \$1000.00 per month rental rate

Interested parties can submit their inquiry on the Mono County Housing Program website or by following the QR below

<https://monocounty.ca.gov/cao/page/mono-county-housing-program>.



If you have already applied, you do not need to submit another inquiry. Once all inquiries have been received and processed, selections will be made on a random lottery.

INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 5PM SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026

For questions please reach out to Allison Shaw at ashaw@mono.ca.gov or 760-932-5408.

ARTS

OOPSIE DAISY

By Fisher

Small but mighty is the way to describe the cast of “Driving Miss Daisy.” The Pulitzer-prize winning script by Alfred Uhry features just three parts, played by Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre actors Juliana Olinka Jones, Maurice Cooper and David Baron.

All the actors have some foundational theater background, and it shows.

Olinka’s background is steeped in professionalism. She spent more than 20 years in entertainment marketing at Warner Bros. and Columbia Pictures and later taught High School drama for four years before she moved to Mammoth, making her a natural lead for the production.

Likewise, Cooper is no stranger to the drama world, as he recently attended Theatricum Botanicum’s Classical Acting Intensive Course at Topanga Canyon and has seemingly appeared in nearly every local production over the past decade. That is, when he’s not emceeing Canyon Lodge Après for boozed-up tourists or at Liberty manning the mic for an even boozier group of locals.

As for Baron? This play marks his return to theatre after a 30 year hiatus since having trained and worked as an actor and theatrical producer.

The three come together in a story

which follows Daisy Werthan (played by Olinka Jones), a sharp-tongued, independent Jewish widow, and Hoke Colburn (Cooper), her calm, patient African-American chauffeur. After a minor accident, Daisy’s son Boolie (Baron) insists she hire a driver.

Knowing his mother’s snappy temperament, Boolie makes sure Hoke knows he cannot be fired no matter what Daisy says. It’s a good thing he did: only through Hoke’s persistence, patience, and good nature do the two break through the tension.

Miss Daisy initially struggles with her own prejudices against Hoke, while Hoke navigates a world where racial discrimination is constant.

Meanwhile, Miss Daisy comes face to face with anti-Semitism, and the play touches on how these experiences shape their connection. Shared encounters with prejudice, both large and small, reveal the challenges and advantages of building understanding across race and religion.

What starts as an awkward, tense relationship slowly grows into a deep friendship over 25 years.

Hoke teaches Miss Daisy, in small but meaningful ways, that he is trustworthy, dependable, and deserving of dignity and



Baron (left) and Cooper (right)

respect. In turn, she teaches him to read and gradually softens to his character.

The play balances humor and tenderness, showing how two very different people can connect despite their opposite personalities and different backgrounds.

The dialogue is funny, but more importantly, it’s believable – making the show’s touching moments all the more affecting.

You might even pick up a Southern twang along the way.

Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre will perform “Driving Miss Daisy” from Jan. 9-11 and Jan. 16-18 at Mammoth High School, 365 Sierra Park Road. Showtimes will be at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Advance tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$18 for seniors 65 and older, and \$15 for high school students. All tickets are \$25 at the door. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.mammothlakesrep.org.

— 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





KLUSMIRE

2026 WILL BE WORSE

Thank heavens the traditional Year in Review issue is in the rearview mirror.

Which reminds me of my Dad's favorite WW II Joke: "Why did the French Army install mirrors on its tanks? So they could watch the battle." That was crass and uncalled for, just like most of 2025.

But I digress – we are moving into a New Year which calls for another hoary newspaper tradition: Predictions for the New Year, 2026.

Our little corner of the world will be quite exciting in the coming year when all of these future-casts become reality.

Inyo County will adopt a couple of rather novel approaches to generating new revenue so it can continue traveling its current, well-funded path to irrelevance.

The county will hire some super-sharp hackers. The new "team" will quickly hack into the Caltrans electronic signs on Hwy. 395. At the right time, they will "shut down" 395 so travelers have to stop and spend in the night in hotels from Bishop to Lone Pine. Talk about a return on investment. A couple days of TOT and sales tax from thousands of "stranded motorists" will more than pay

for Hack Team Inyo, which will then re-hack the signs as often as necessary.

Here's how it works. On a busy week-ends any hint of storm will get the hackers hacking and making the Caltrans signs declare 395 is closed. The message will also be cute, so travelers will notice. For example, it will announce, "Hwy. 395 closed. Yep, totally buttoned up tighter than a Catholic school girl's sweater vest – no one's getting in or out." Then the hackers will send "stranded" motorists an automatic Emergency Alert via GPS linking to local hotels and restaurants and imploring them to, "Relax, stay a while, eat, booze it up, sleep it off. Mammoth won't miss you."

Bingo, instant tax cash. When people discover it was a trick and all "fake news," Caltrans will get blamed. Perfect.

Next, the county will insist there are multiple ghosts in the Historic Courthouse in Independence. It won't reveal that the ghosts are the county employees who used to work there but are now taking up space in the county's Soul Crushing Cinder Block Box in Bishop. The county will charge for ghost tours and make Ghost Reality Shows pay to "search" for the ghosts. The few remaining county employees in the courthouse

will randomly scream, toss handcuffs on the granite floors, rattle chains, etc.

Here is a bit of a retro prediction regarding another spiffy government building. It's a sure bet Town of Mammoth Lakes employees celebrated when the City Council approved a \$900,000 outlay for walls to go into its new \$30 million Ice Palace. Pretty easy guess said employees were a bit concerned when they learned their new home didn't have walls, and asked, "did that mean no bathroom stalls, so we would all be hanging out (literally), cheek and jowl

(so to speak), and grinning and baring it (lots of its), while doing our business and baring our souls in restrooms with an 'open floor plan' instead of little cubicles?"

Meanwhile, after watching opulence sprout up among its peers, the City of Bishop looked around its vintage 1914 City Hall building and decided it was time to upgrade that sad little pair of vending machines in the hallway. No need to rush into anything.

Making this prediction is as easy as falling off a log. There will be numerous bear controversies in Mammoth Lakes. After each one, the irrepressible Steve Searles will offer relatable outrage and disgust combined will cutting edge cussing and condemnation. Then the town will nod, whimper, stall and then quietly go back into hibernation when it comes to all issues Bear.

Here's another easy one. The Bishop City Council will have to reject 15 different and desperate ideas on how to "Save the A Frame." Rejected Idea 16 will be to build 87 little A Frames at the Silver Peaks affordable housing project. A possible compromise: Put an A Frame office at the new sewer plant.

Lawsuits are always with us, like the poor and head lice. After being sued by a group of environmental groups for creating weed patches not green growing things at Laws, thus violating the California Environmental Quality Act, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will respond with this: "Sorry, this project is part of the Inyo LA Long Term Water Agreement, so we are dragging Inyo County into court along with all the other MOU parties, the Future Farmers of America, random 4-H Clubs, Willies' Weed Seed Shop (wrong

definition of "weed"), all the mules who have pooped alfalfa leftovers on the contested plot, and United Airlines, which flies right over Laws leaving chem-trails."

Then, LADWP will ask for a continuance "until all those parties arrive in court carrying a vial of blood from the Laws Museum's two-headed lamb that has been blessed by a Peruvian shaman and a Coven of

Witches from Stonehenge, who shall also appear with a sacrificial offering of two hens a-laying and a partridge in a pear tree. Additional defendants might be added later after consulting 14 psychics, Chinese and Western astrological charts, the I-Ching, a Ouija board and rune stones."

Southern California Edison finally throws up its hands in defeat. It declares it has no idea how to avoid "preventative power shutoffs," so it'll provide free generators and 500 gallons of gas or diesel to run them to every Edison customer in the Eastern Sierra.

Northern Inyo Hospital District has pinned its financial future on its partnership with Mammoth's Dr. Mike Karch and his orthopedic crew. In an effort to drum up more bone business for the orthopods, NIHD will sponsor the inaugural Senior Citizen Obstacle Course and Bushwacking Race Series

Folks over 60 will be turned loose on the rocky trails of the Buttermilks and then led through the sagebrush to finally reach the finish line. Winners get a NIHD mug and t-shirt. That sort of rough and tumble race should generate a couple dozen severely sprained ankles and knees requiring braces and physical therapy, plus a handful of broken hands and arms when racers try to break their falls, and then the big-ticket items – at least a half dozen new hips and knees.

Should keep the bone bunch busy for a couple of months.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop predicts he will spread only sweetness and light in 2026. Or not.

Inyo County will adopt a couple of rather novel approaches to generating new revenue so it can continue traveling its current, well-funded path to irrelevance.

- Klusmire



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



MEET Martha

Martha is a special girl with a beautiful heart that's still learning to trust. She spent her former life outside, so adjusting to the comforts of four walls, gentle human hands, and the magic of a soft bed is a new adventure for her. She needs time, love, and stability. Contact: **Bridgeport Shelter (760) 932-7407**

HARTLEY

SMOKING COACHES

The season is over. OVER. And sadly for me it is NOT over for the Steelers. Those sorry turds made the playoffs again. To be cannon fodder for some other team.

The Steelers, making the playoffs is like that motherfucker that shows up at your party when you didn't invite them. You wondering OUT LOUD how he knew and one of your boys (The Ravens) says. I told him man. I thought he already knew. Now you're mad that he's there and that you invited the Ravens too.

Speaking of the Ravens. They, as I said, are the second dumbest team in the league. They lose games in more ways than I ever thought imaginable. An NFL CB just fell down trying to cover Calvin Austin... the third. The kicker misses 44 yard FG? Wow.

Harbaugh shoulda been fired. Too early for that one.

Speaking of fired, time to dig in. The annual Smoking Coaches Rant... Post Black Monday.

What is a smoking coach? He is a coach that should be on the first train smoking out of town after getting fired. And there have been some... but not enough.

Smoking coaches we already forgot:

Brian Callahan and Brian Daboll have been gone so long we forgot they were coaches. So has the NFL cuz ain't nobody talking about interviewing them.

Smoking coaches Everybody Knew was getting a train ticket:

Pete Carroll and Mike McDaniel.
Gum Chewing Pete Carroll and Geno
Smith made Las Vegas their retirement
stop. Soaked up some extra cash and
bounced. That team was pathetic.

Mike McDaniel the only head coach I can remember that everyone treated like he was a yoga instructor. Constantly talking about how soft and weak his team was. The Dolphins let him linger for days and just fired him on Black Thursday. A soft firing.

Smoking Coaches You Didn't See Coming... but you should have:

Kevin Stefanski. He should have sold his house last year. The owner and GM set him up with Watson signing, Baker dismissal and the Shedeur/Gabriel love triangle. That was ridiculous. He had to know he was gone.

Jonathan Gannon. The Cardinals are dysfunctional. Always have been. And his team has been trash. He was setup with the Roadrunner Kyler Murray. Raheem Morris. He must be good friends with the GM because the fact that the GM spent the owner's money on Kirk Cousins then drafted a QB in the top 10 of the draft is hilarious and reason enough for both of them to be fired.

John Harbaugh. I already touched on his coaching. He is a disaster. And as noted earlier this year, his team has blown more 10 point leads in the last several years than anyone in the NFL Or

NCAA. Trash. But the fact that he leaked that hit piece on Lamar Jackson a couple weeks ago should have let you know what was going on there. It was him or Lamar. Bye John. I think they should both go but I ain't running an NFL team into the ground. What do I know.

Black Friday should have been even blacker. Black Hole Friday.

Smoking coaches that escaped Black Monday... or Black Monday Hangover Tuesday... or Soft Firing Thursday:

1. Mike Tomlin. He CashApped the Ravens kicker a bonus. Tomlin is done. His act is tired. He is just appeasing himself and feeding his ego. He don't give a damn about success. Just maintaining his mediocrity.

2. Colts GM. He keeps escaping. And now they got NO first round picks for the next two years and Daniel Jones with a bad achilles. Well done.

3. Andrew Berry the Browns GM. How did he get off with Jerry Jeudy contract, Watson signing (okay maybe the owner), David Njoku contract and the Shedeur/Gabriel double catastrophe? How? Did you know the Browns had the most expensive roster in the NFL the last two seasons and won a total of eight games. TOTAL. For two seasons.

4. Joe Schein. Giants GM. That guy is amazing. He has nude photos of the owner doing unimaginable things with a sheep. I guess the owner is tossing him a bone for making him draft and pay Daniel Jones but that's enough. Let him leak the photos and be done with it.

5. Tomlin. Fire his ass twice. If you fire a black coach on Black Monday do you get an extra draft pick or lose one?

6. Aaron Glenn Jets. That team isn't even viable. They showed no improvement all year. Why is he coming back? Maybe they thought Tomlin was getting fired and didn't want the NFL sued for minority coaching quotas. Sorry Brian Flores, your ass ain't getting a job with Tomlin and Glenn still in place.

7. Todd Bowles. I know it's Martin Luther King's Bday this month but ... Bowles gotta go. He sucked as a head coach twice. What is he still doing with a job?

8. Dan Quinn Commanders. HE should be gone. He is terrible. He fired both coordinators this year? And his defense is still trash. Trash.

9. Mickey Loomis Saints GM. It's time to move on. He has had this team in cap hell for decades. The roster is garbage and now they gonna pin their hopes on Tyler Aw Shuck. They need to complete-

ly overhaul that team and he has to go.

10. Steelers owner. Pathetic football guy. Just money grab.

11. Jerry Jones. Fire your self. At least stop doing interviews. No one likes you.

12. Bengals Owner, Browns Owner, Titans Owner ... all you old ass privileged wannabe plantation owners. Enough.

Smoking coaches walkoff songs:

1. Pete Carroll -- I'm Leaving Las Vegas.

2. Jonathan Gannon -- Gonna get my kicks on Route 66 back to Philadelphia. Sirianni needs me.

3. Kevin Stefanski --Shaggy: It Wasn't Me -- the GM Can't draft and the owner is crazy ... it Wasn't Me

4. Raheem Morris -- HIT ME BABY
ONE MORE TIME.

5. Mike McDaniel -- Oh Lord, Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood

6. John Harbaugh, after his lovefest with Lamar ended -- There Must be 50 Ways to Leave Your Lover.

7. Brian Daboll -- Don't you Forget About Me.

8. Titan's Coach. LOL. His name is drawing a blank. Oh. Callahan. Do You Remember The Time -- When I Was a Coach. (Michael Jackson)

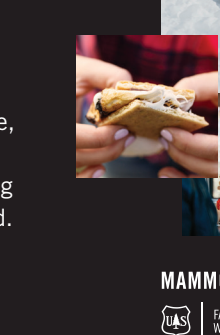
AN EXPERIENCE IN ALPINE DINING

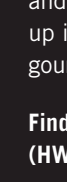
SKADI

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

3228 MAIN STREET
SKADIRESTAURANT.COM

PURE FUN AHEAD





WOOLLY'S ADVENTURE SUMMIT

Make your Mammoth trip complete with a stop at Woolly's Adventure Summit. Enjoy winter fun for all ages, from the mountain coaster, snow tubing lanes, all-new zip line, and a snow play area for little ones. Warm up in Soaring Pines Mountain Café, serving gourmet drinks, s'mores, and comfort food.

Find Woolly's just off Minaret Road (HWY 203), halfway to Main Lodge.

MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM



FACILITIES OPERATED IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH INYO NATIONAL FOREST

YOUR MOUNTAIN HOME IS CALLING



100 Ski Trail - \$275,000

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

MOBILE
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1160



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

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

CONDO
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2.5
SQ FT: 1867



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.

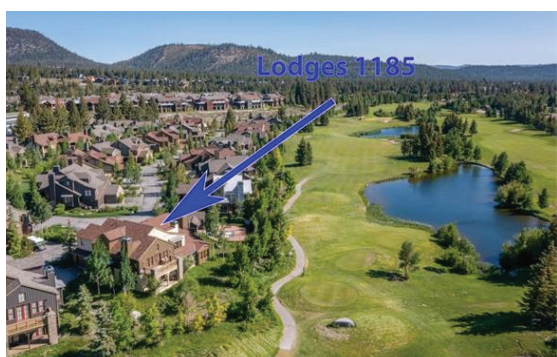
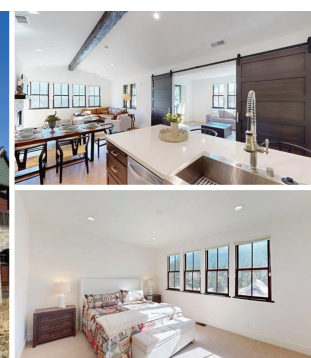
LOT
SQ FT: 85,378



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



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!

The Snowcreek Property Company

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

info@snowcreekproperty.com
www.snowcreekproperty.com

CA DRE #01812140

