

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

Saturday, January 17, 2026

FREE

Vol. 24, No. DJ

I WILL BID YOU ADU

By Libre

One Pack Fire victim's most recent move toward recovery? Building an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) before building their primary structure. The application came before the Mono County Board of Supervisors Tuesday, and passed 4-1.

ADUs, also known as granny-flats, in-law units, or backyard cottages, convert areas that are already developed but underutilized, such as existing garages, basements, attics, or pool houses, into housing. California first passed legislation legalizing ADUs in 2016, with the goal of creating additional housing. ADUs are often used as rental units, providing an economic benefit to the owner. They can range in size from 150 square feet to 1,200 feet.

Mono County has a number of ADU design plans on its website, one of which the applicant intended to use.

According to the Mono County General Plan, the primary residence must be permitted and built before the ADU is constructed. Usually, due to California State Laws, ADU applications are streamlined, such as on 164 Mono Street in the town of Mammoth Lakes (see Dec. 13 issue).

But in this case, the applicant, who was displaced by the Pack Fire, requested a suspension of current General Plan regulations. The applicant argued building the ADU first is necessary as the construction of the accessory unit will be cheaper

and faster than that of the primary unit.

"The Community Development Department is completely supportive of helping and encouraging rebuilding after the fire and rehousing people," said Wendy Sugimura, the Mono County Community Development Director, who presented

the application. "It just didn't seem like a policy decision or an interpretation that could be made at our department."

Hence the application was discussed at the Board of Supervisors. Currently, the repercussions for an individual who chooses to build an ADU but not

more ADU, see pg. 4

HOT OVER ICE



PHOTO: DANA SCHURR

More than 200 people took to the streets during separate demonstrations in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes and Lone Pine over the weekend to protest the Trump Administration's continued immigration raids. The latest protests were sparked after Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent Jonathan Ross shot and killed Renee Good, a U.S. citizen in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

OH YES, IN-DEED

By Fisher

Though Mammoth Lakes' new housing manager framed it as simple administrative "streamlining," a proposed overhaul of the Town's deed-restricted homeownership rules could significantly shift who controls the town's workforce housing.

The changes, scheduled for Town Council review next week, would tighten financial requirements for buyers, expand geographic eligibility, and, most importantly, transfer control of deed-restriction agreements from Eastern Sierra Community Housing (ESCH) to the Town itself.

ESCH Executive Director Patricia Robertson presented the proposal to the organization's board on Monday.

Deed restrictions are legal provisions recorded on a property's title that limit resale price and occupancy in order to keep homes affordable for households at specific Area Median Income (AMI) levels over time.

The proposed changes come as the Town increases its direct involvement in workforce housing. It recently completed its first deed-restricted ownership project at 60 Joaquin Street, a four-unit complex, and is preparing the third phase of the Parcel development, which will include a larger set of for-sale deed-restricted units.

Those projects give the Town greater leverage to take a more active role in a housing system that, for more than two decades, has been administered

by ESCH, formerly Mammoth Lakes Housing.

Currently, ESCH is a party to resale agreements for roughly 100 deed-restricted homes. That role gives the organization authority to monitor compliance, exercise first right of refusal, and manage buy-backs using local revolving loan funds. First right of refusal allows ESCH to purchase a home before it is sold to another buyer; when it does so, it collects a 3% resale commission that is reinvested into housing programs.

Under the proposed changes, deed restrictions would instead be agreements directly between the Town and homeowners, with the Town holding first right of refusal – and the commission.

Existing homes would switch to the Town's agreements upon resale, creating a mixed system that could last for decades.

The proposal prompted an extended discussion among ESCH board members about what the shift could mean for the organization's long-term role. Town Housing Manager Marcus Sproll, who joined the Town in June, told the board the change is solely administrative and intended only to simplify transactions.

"I've been doing this for about 18 years or so, in a bunch of different settings," he said. "Looking at other towns everywhere else I've worked, it's really best practice for the

more DEED, see pg. 11

Pre-occupied

p. 6/

Pampered Paws

p. 8/

Paul Oster, Remembered

p. 12-13/

Popular Delusions

p. 16/

For the Old-Timers

p. 18/



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COMPASS



If you think Dana Hodgdon's photo of a hawk eating a shorebird at Owens Lake is good, wait until you see his award winning photo on p. 10.

CHEAP TICKETS

At the last Mammoth Council meeting, one Town “priority” which was added, thanks to a few citizens speaking up during public comment, was parking.

“There are cars parked in the no parking spots every day,” Lake View Boulevard resident Bob Buehler said. “It’s a safety issue. Could you possibly consider some type of deterrent?”

Buehler suggested raising the parking fine to a \$200 minimum, from the current \$110.

“There is a hazardous overflow of non-resident parking on residential streets,” said Patrick Bernard, another member of the public and the representative of Snowbird HOA on top of Rainbow Lane. “The chronic winter congestion obstructs daily resident access, and delays snow removal as well as emergency ingress and egress. If you cannot get a town plow blade on the street or a bus safely through due to guest parking, an emergency vehicle cannot pass.”

Bernard urged the council to make the parking problem an agendized issue. He then cited a number of statistics and referred to the problem as a “Canyon Lodge Crisis.”

“Yesterday, there were 81 cars parked on my street and 133 cars parked on Lake View Boulevard ... are these 214 cars that are on the residential streets causing most of the issues?” he said. “The answer would be yes.”

Chief of Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Daniel Casabian, added his own data.

“Over the past two weeks, since Christmas Day, we’ve fielded 370 calls for service and written 175 or 180 parking citations, totaling over \$33,000,” he said. “It’s a nightmare out there.”

It’s not just Canyon Lodge, Casabian added. The problem persists at Eagle, Meridian Boulevard, and throughout town.

“We’re not able to tow because we don’t have the capacity to store vehicles,” he said.

The Council subsequently voted to add parking as an issue to its next meeting agenda, set for Jan. 21.

The Sheet also asked Casabian for an update on general department mat-

the
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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.

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The parking situation near Canyon Lodge over the holidays. Photo by Patrick Bernard.

ters this week.

The biggest issue is staffing. Due to attrition to other local agencies, the department currently has 13 sworn officers.

To put that in context, the department had 15 sworn officers when it was first launched in the mid-1980s.

And had a peak of 23 sworn in 2006-2007.

Casabian said his goal would be to have 20 sworn.

As to the State Department of Justice investigation into the police shooting of Mammoth resident Jesus Uribe last March, Casabian said DOJ had warned it would take between 18-24 months to complete. We’re currently sitting at month 10.

In regard to parking fines, Casabian noted that when the parking fines were last raised from \$45 to \$110, it literally had no impact. There was no reduction in violations. So obviously, we have not reached an inflection point regarding that number. The fines could be higher.

“We’ve devoted a lot of staffing hours [to parking enforcement],” he said. “They [officers] could be there all day if they wanted to.”

Casabian was supportive of Town Manager Rob Patterson’s suggestion at the last meeting of hiring an extra code enforcement person, someone who could perform parking enforcement in winter and handle animal control and enforcement issues in the summer.

BISHOP, IN A PHOTO



Lunch took this photo after noticing his admirers.

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.

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LOCAL NEWS

PRIORITIES

By Libre

Last week, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council voted on a list of priorities to focus on in the new year. Chief among them was public safety, with an emphasis on emergency management and risk mitigation.

Aptly so, given the sobering Pack Fire in November and ski patroller Cole Murphy's tragic avalanche related death in December.

"Over the holiday, we lost two members of our community," Councilmember John Wentworth said. "That public safety thing takes on a different context."

The goal of establishing clear town objectives is to allow town staff and council to appropriately allocate financial and staff resources, according to the staff report from last week's meeting.

The town priorities, which also highlighted bolstering municipal services, community investment, and recreation amenities and programs, were initially presented at the Dec. 19, 2025 meeting.

Key details included that the town will continue to implement its "Housing Now!" project, focusing on creating affordable housing for the "missing middle," meaning individuals who earn between 100% and 120% of the area median income (AMI). The town also plans to increase utilization of the Mammoth

Yosemite Airport, develop the Town's emergency response team, augment emergency management operations, public notification technology, and bolster education efforts.

The edits to the December priorities included a draft of an AI policy, centering how the town will engage with changing technology, and an effort to include more Spanish-language offerings.

Another update from last week's council meeting?

Snowplow problems, explained Lawson Reif, Outdoor Recreation Manager. This snowcat is responsible for grooming the Sherwin Meadows, as well as the motorized system between Mammoth Lakes and June Lake, east and west of Highway 395.

"About a week and a half ago, we basically had the track fall off," Reif said.

Reif and his team quickly called Kässbohrer, the company responsible for repairing Pistenbully's main engines.

"They didn't fix it well," Reif said.

"Track fell off again."

Kässbohrer admitted to their mistakes, Reif explained, and is now back in Mammoth, repairing the snowcat free of charge.

ADU

continued from page 1

complete the primary residence are limited: either relocate the ADU or tear it down. Neither option is particularly reasonable or desirable.

In this case, Sugimura suggested other avenues to ensure the primary residence would also be built, such as requiring the main unit to be built within a certain number of years. Enforcement strategies, she explained, would include implementing citations and fines, or allowing the structure to remain in violation of County standards and CalFire state law.

"These are all not great options," Sugimura said. "The reason this is being elevated to the board as a policy decision is on the off-chance things don't work out the way we hope they will."

Meaning the applicant builds the ADU, then promptly builds their primary residence.

"Behind every policy request or change, there is a community impetus and person," said Supervisor Paul McFarland. "This isn't a general exemption. This is a one time request as a part of fire recovery."

Sugimura affirmed that yes, McFarland was correct, this resolution applied to any Pack Fire survivor who wanted to rebuild their home. It was also restricted to just Pack Fire rebuilds.

"I want to remind everyone that when we consider these kinds of development projects, it's always irrespective of who the applicant is," Sugimura continued.

In other words, there was no mention of who the applicant was anywhere during the presentation.

But during public comment, a voice who introduced herself as Shelia Brode, the applicant.

"This was my home that I owned for 20 years," Brode said. "We are planning on incorporating our ADU into the primary residence, for the aesthetics of the community."

Some supervisors still felt uneasy.

"I have heartburn about not having the primary residence permitted at the same time," said newly minted Board Chair Jennifer Kreitz. "I feel like we set ourselves up for some real litigation and challenges."

"I do not want to put down any legislation that slows down the recovery of this community," countered Supervisor Rhonda Duggan. "I don't know if this is a particularly unique circumstance. My only goal is that we are not adding to bureaucracy that doesn't allow these people to rebuild in a timely manner."

Despite this statement, Duggan was the only supervisor to vote no.

Not Your Grandma's

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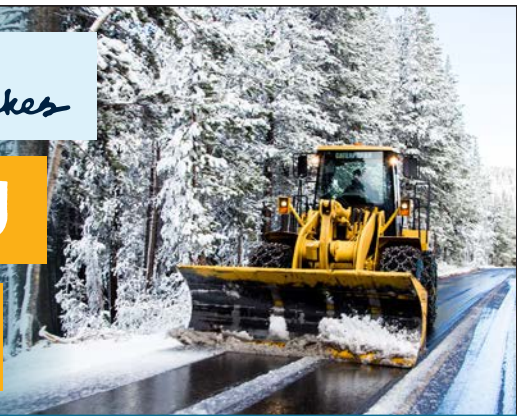
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TOWN OF Mammoth Lakes

DID YOU KNOW?



→ Did you know that Mammoth Lakes receives an average of 17 feet of snow each winter?

- The Town has a fleet of six loader-mounted snowblowers, seven loaders, and three plow trucks with cinder beds to clear streets and six sidewalk snowblowers to clear sidewalks and multi-use paths (MUPs).
- It takes about 12 hours to complete one full pass of the Town's 121 lane miles of public roads.
- Eighteen Public Works and Parks and Recreation staff work in 12-hour shifts 24/7 during snow events.
- The Town clears all public roads within the Town limits except for Main Street/SR203, which is cleared by Caltrans and the Bluffs and Juniper Ridge neighborhoods which are cleared by contractors.
- Private streets and neighborhoods such as Snowcreek, Gray Bear, Loadstar, and parts of Old Mammoth are cleared by private contractors.
- Plow trucks are used in the early morning hours to clear the Town arterials and collectors and to cinder icy areas and steeper slopes. Town loaders and snowblowers are used for every storm.
- The Town leases and subsidizes a snow storage lot on private property that is used to store snow that gets hauled from public and private parking areas throughout town.

 TownofMammothLakes.ca.gov

  Town of Mammoth Lakes

PASSING LIKE KIDNEY STONES

By Klusmire

You naïve little creatures probably assumed the state's slate of new laws were handled in one fell swoop in last week's Sheet. Wrong. The California Legislature passes laws like kidney stones: It takes a while and it's painful, but once they are ready to go they come flowing out in a flood. Lucky us. That the legislature passed roughly 800 bills in 2025 proves the obsessive-compulsives' mantra: Anything worth doing is worth overdoing.

So here we go again with one final look at some of the more important new laws hitting the books in 2026.

Housing Help

Hot and Cold: Black-market stove and refrigerator sales will take a hit now that landlords must include a working stove and refrigerator in rental units when a new lease is signed. And when those two items get pulled for a manufactures' recall, the landlord has to replace them within 30 days. Currently, the only thing a landlord needed to put in a unit was adequate heating and hot water.

Less Red Tape: A number of infrastructure projects have been exempted from the lengthy review process mandated under the California Environmental Quality Act. Backers hope the exemption will help speed construction and lower costs which would help ease the state's ongoing housing crisis. Environmental groups disagreed and claimed the exemptions will remove protections for wildlife and fragile ecosystems.

Less Red Tape, Again: Retrofitting an existing, independent restaurant should get a little easier because of streamlining the process to approve approval the work. The new regulations attempt to make remodeling small restaurants less annoying. Corporate and chain restaurants are not included.

Love Oil and Uber, not AI

Drill Baby Drill: The California oil patch will get more holes punched in it after approval of a bill to allow 2,000 new oil wells a year in Kern County through 2036. The drilling okay is intended to slow gas price hikes due to refineries shutting down. Environmentalists were not happy, citing the state's pledge to move to renewable energy and away from fossil fuels.

More Minimum Money: The state's minimum wage will hop up from \$16.50 to \$16.90, starting Jan. 1. Some counties have a higher minimum wage, but not Inyo or Mono. Sorry.

Union Drive: A new law curves around a recently approved ballot initiative and gives Lyft and Uber drivers the right to unionize and engage in collective bargaining while remaining independent contractors. All ride-hail drivers are covered. Silicon Valley's giant digital gig companies were aghast but couldn't stop the new law.

Real Rules for AI: Artificial intelligence companies are now required to notify users under 18 at least once every three hours that the chatbot they are

chatting with is not human (so tiny attention spans are no longer a kid issue?). Artificial intelligence companies now need to take reasonable measures to keep chatbots from generating sexually explicit content or producing suicide or self-harm content. Artificial intelligence companies must also publicly disclose their security protocols.

Delete Delete Delete: Social media platforms are required to provide an easily accessible and usable button in the settings that allows users to delete the account. (Go look right now.)

Light Beats Darkness: California has a new state holiday: Diwali, known as the festival of lights, which is a major holiday for members of the Hindu, Sikh and Jain faiths. Schools can close and state employees can take the day off. Diwali is generally celebrated in late October or early November.

Health and Happiness

Fertile Moves: Large employer health insurance plans are required to cover the cost of fertility treatments, including in vitro fertilization, for everyone regardless of marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Cheaper Insulin: Patients will only pay \$35 out-of-pocket for a 30-day supply of insulin, with insurance companies picking up the rest of the cost. The state will also start selling \$11 insulin pens through CalRx, the state prescription program. Roughly 3.5 million California adults diagnosed with diabetes will ben-

efit from the less expensive insulin.

Privacy Protections: Healthcare providers and employees providing gender-affirming services who are being harassed or threatened can apply to the Secretary of State to have their home addresses left out of certain public record requests. The same privacy protection is already extended to those working in reproductive healthcare services.

Getting ICed Out: A patient's immigration status or birthplace cannot be provided to immigration agents by healthcare providers or officials. Immigration officials are also prohibited from accessing nonpublic spaces in hospitals and clinics without a search warrant or court order.

Legal Moves and Law Enforcement

Divorce Made Easy: Married couples wanting to uncouple by seeking an uncontested, amicable divorce can now apply for a cheaper, quicker way to divorce. They can file a joint petition for dissolution of their marriage or a legal separation, which will reduce the legal hassles associated with divorce.

No More Masks: Law enforcement officers are banned from wearing masks or face coverings that hide their identity while on duty and must visibly display their name or badge number doing operations. The new law was in response to ICE and federal agents concealing their identity and agency affiliation during immigration raids.

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INYO HOMEOWNERSHIP APPEARS THROTTLEMYRED

By Fisher

The number of owner-occupied residences in Inyo County has dropped to a new low in 2025, according to County Assessor Dave Stottlemyre, who presented the data Tuesday at a Business Resource Center event in Bishop.

The figure is based on the number of homeowner exemptions on file with the assessor's office. The exemption allows owner-occupied homeowners to deduct \$7,000 from their assessed property value, resulting in an annual property tax savings of about \$70. Homeowners apply for the exemption once, and it remains in place until the property is sold or is no longer owner-occupied.

County assessors track these exemptions every year, making them a long-running indicator of owner occupancy. Records show a steady decline in homeowner exemptions beginning around 2007, a trend that has continued for nearly two decades. Seeing that there might be a message hidden in the data, Stottlemyre began to research it.

"It's like if you put a frog in boiling water, it'll jump out," Stottlemyre said. "But if you put the frog in water and slowly heat it up, it'll just sit there."

While the data does not definitively prove that residents are leaving Inyo County, it also does not rule that possibility out. Stottlemyre said the decline could reflect changes in housing behavior rather than population loss.

High mortgage rates, stricter lending qualifications, and overall affordability

may be pushing more residents to rent rather than buy.

"It could also be that young people are living at home more," one woman in the audience pitched in. "That they're more likely to stay rather than fly the coop, so to speak."

Stottlemyre also cited a study examining investor-owned housing in rural California counties, and said the problem could be that there's an influx of people buying out locals.

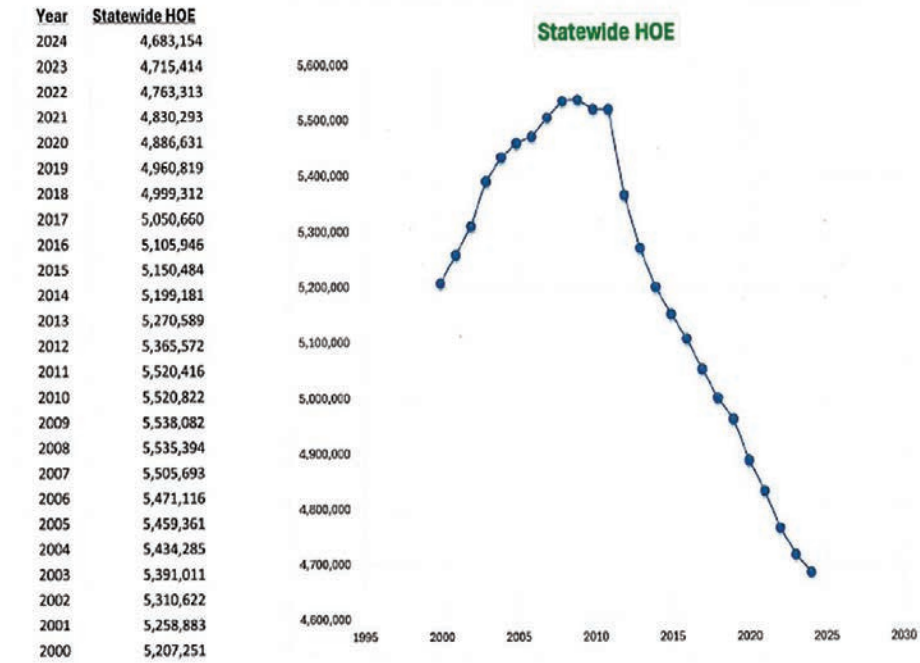
The study found particularly high investor ownership rates in counties such as Sierra (83%), Trinity (77%), and Mono (74%). According to Stottlemyre, Inyo County's investor-owned housing appears to be "around the 60% range."

Investor-owned housing refers to properties that are not the owner's primary residence.

Stottlemyre said that in Inyo County, most investors are not large corporations but rather small-scale owners, like families, couples, landlords, and vacation-home owners.

The data suggests that an increase in non-owner-occupied properties could help explain the decline in homeowner exemptions, but not everyone agreed with that conclusion.

Inyo County has no timeshares and far fewer short-term rental properties than investor-laden Mono County. And while there may be some informal room renting within the climbing community, those arrangements would not be reflected in exemption data.



Instead, Bishop Realtor Randi Pritchard offered a more optimistic interpretation of the trend.

Pritchard said younger buyers are still entering the market, but often with non-traditional support systems. Many rely on family assistance, trusts, or roommates to make ownership possible, which are arrangements that may not always appear clearly in exemption data but still result in owner occupancy.

She also said current market conditions are discouraging investors, not attracting them.

"We're seeing less investors, in my opinion, due to the fact that prices are at a point where no investor would actually want to purchase a rental because the cash flow isn't there," Pritchard said.

Despite differing views on investor activity, Pritchard said Inyo County is undeniably facing a housing inventory problem. Homeowners are staying put longer, slowing the natural turnover of housing stock.

"In the past, five to seven years would be the homeownership cycle; people change, they move up or they move down," she said. "People [now] seem to be staying in those homes longer, so there's not as much turnover."

Fewer homes entering the market means less opportunity for new buyers, which compounds affordability issues and limits housing options for local workers and young residents.

The slowdown is also being felt by the county government, Inyo County Clerk Danielle Sexton said.

Her office has seen a significant decline in land transfers since 2007, resulting in reduced tax revenue.

"It's a huge downward trend," Sexton said. "And with our county being so small, and being a general-funded county, when those tax dollars aren't coming in, more general fund dollars have to pay for my staff instead of recorded-document fees."

Tyler Beadle, a title officer at Inyo Mono Title, said his experience closing transactions aligns with the data. He estimated that 80-90% of the properties he closes involve buyers purchasing a third, fourth, or fifth home.

Speaking from the perspective of a younger resident, Beadle said many of his peers have left the area entirely.

"I have lots of friends who left town because they can't afford to stay," he said. "And the ones who are living with their parents here? It's not by choice. It's financially... you can't do it right now."

While the numbers are stark locally, Stottlemyre emphasized that Inyo County is not alone. The decline in owner-occupied housing mirrors a statewide trend across California, where homeowner exemptions have fallen steadily for years for a variety of economic and demographic reasons.

But for now, the data raises more questions than answers.

FELICI & FRIENDS

WINTER

CONCERTS

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PROGRAM 3

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Mercedes Smith, flute

David Porter, violin &

Robert Brophy, viola

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January 24, 2026

7:00 pm

Cerro Coso College, Mammoth Lakes

SUNDAY

January 25, 2026

4:00 pm

Cerro Coso College, Bishop

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Back in the Cone Zone

They're baaaack.

"They" would be lines of red safety cones on Main Street/Hwy. 395 in the heart of Bishop. Work on the Caltrans Bishop Paving Project has limited northbound traffic to one lane from about Whiskey Creek north to the City Park. Access to some side streets is also blocked. Crews are installing sidewalks, drainage upgrades, and other improvements. Also picking back up is the Meadow Creek Paving Project, which is diverting traffic on North Main Street/Hwy. 395 into an ever-changing group of single lanes or a different configuration of two lanes. The lane changes go past Mahogany Smoked Meats. Sidewalks, driveways to businesses, and other improvements are underway.

Bishop crime is stagnant

The Bishop Police Department's 2025 crime and activity statistics looked similar to stats from 2024. Chief Nate Derr recently presented the year-end 2025 numbers.

The department recorded 13,865 total incidents, almost the same amount as in 2024, which saw 13,571 incidents. Amazingly, there were 84 traffic accidents in 2025 and 83 in 2024, and citations followed suit, with 699 in 2025 and 701 in 2024.

Arrests for both felonies and misdemeanors did increase to 317 in 2025,

compared to 274 in 2024. The department, which runs its own dispatch center, took fewer 911 calls in 2025, with 2,170 compared to 2,573 in 2024.

Pack Fire (still) declared emergency

On Nov. 18, 2025, the Mono County Board of Supervisors declared the devastating aftermath of the Pack Fire a local health emergency. Subsequently, on Dec. 9, 2025, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a formal state of emergency to support ongoing recovery efforts.

Nearly two months after the fire, Mono County is still recovering, and is still looking for financial support from the state. In response to this need, during the Jan. 13, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting, the board voted to extend the state of local health emergency.

Continuing the local state of emergency could open the door for the county to seek reimbursement of eligible costs from the state of California. In the meantime, the county will incur costs associated with the response to and recovery from the local health emergency.

California is all wet

For the first time in 25 years, no area of California is experiencing "abnormal dryness," which most folks just call "drought." The rain and snowstorms that lashed the state over the holidays

nudged the state out of the drought designation, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The Eastern Sierra snowpack is at about 97% of average to date, thanks to the surge of snowstorms over the holidays.

The soggy holiday season also bolstered the state's reservoirs. Currently, 14 of the state's 17 major water reservoirs are at 70% capacity or higher.

In the last 15 years, California has seen one of the worst droughts on record, the worst wildfire seasons on record, and the most destructive wildfires ever. California's last drought lasted more than 1,300 days, from February 2020 to October 2023. Before that, California was in a severe drought from 2012 through 2016.

High-speed chase

On Tuesday morning, the Mono County Board of Supervisors recognized January 2026 as human trafficking awareness month. The theme is important. And relevant.

Earlier this month, Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun and her colleagues chased down a stolen vehicle traveling 100 miles per hour through Hawthorne to Poleline Road. The car then turned into Goat Ranch, a dead-end road, before rolling over. All of the people were physically unharmed.

"We took them into custody, and it turns out the timing is perfect," Braun said. "This case has connections to hu-

man trafficking, not in our county, but coming through our county."

She added that human trafficking doesn't just come in physical form, but in virtual. Braun urged parents, teachers, and other adults involved in the lives of young people to pay attention.

Supes support Wild Iris

The Mono County Board of Supervisors signed a contract with Wild Iris Family Counseling and Crisis Center, awarding the organization \$200,000 between Feb. 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

The Bishop-based organization which provides free and confidential support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or child abuse and their families.

This motion also created an agreement between Mono County's Health and Human Services Department to contract Wild Iris's services related to parent-child visitations.

Schooled by SCE

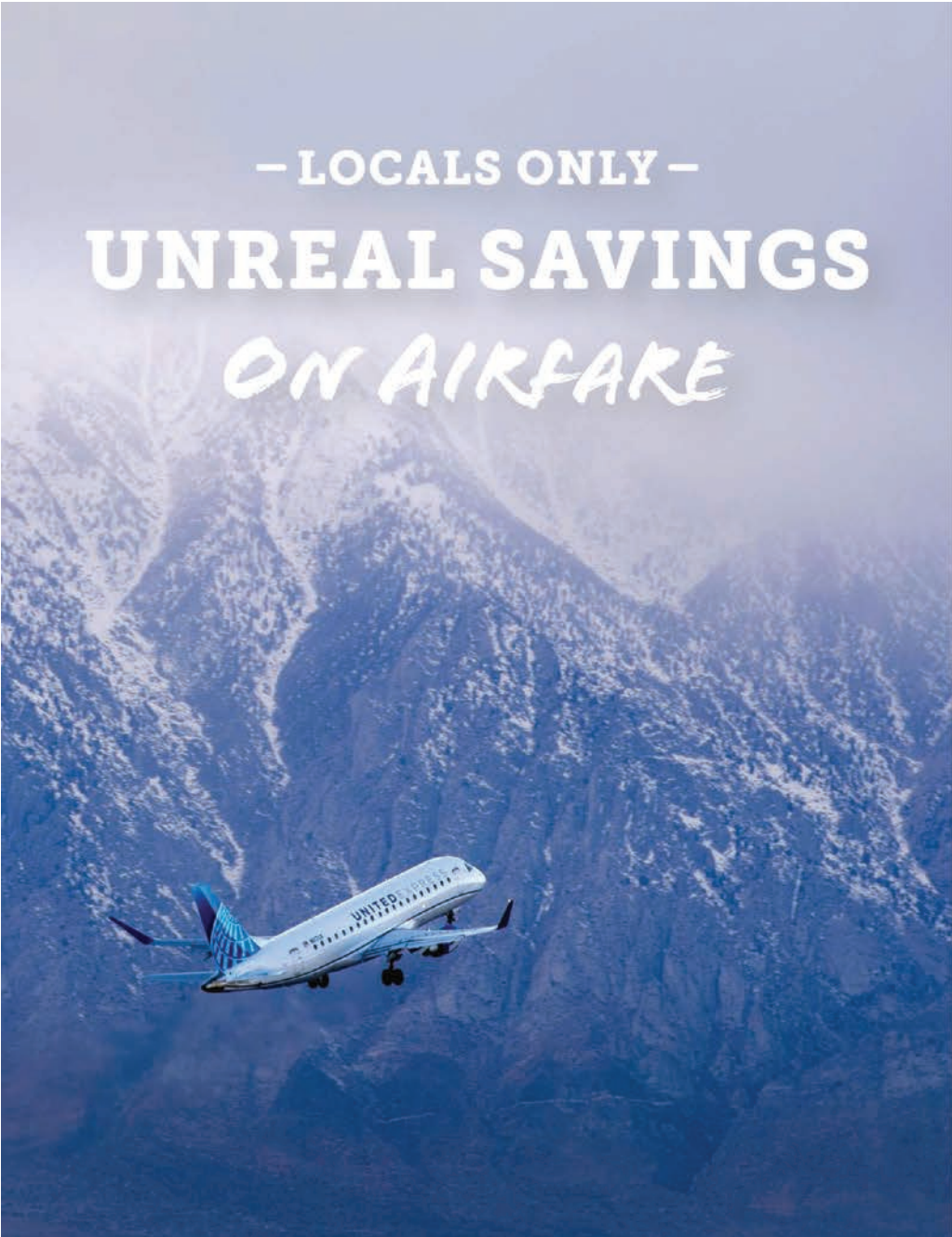
The deadline to apply for Edison International's scholarship program is next Thursday, January 22.

High school seniors who plan to pursue STEM educations are invited to apply for the Edison Scholars Program, which provides a \$50,000 scholarship to support their college expenses.

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Learn more at VisitMammoth.com/FlyLocal

UNITED

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DOGGY HEAVEN

By Libre

There's a new luxury hotel in Bishop, with hard-wood floors, elaborate art, an exercise center, a hair-stylist, a chiropractor, and a nutritionist all on site.

The clientele? Cats and dogs.

"There was a need for really high end boarding," said Debbi Barbieri, owner of K-9 Wellness Center. "There was just no place we could board our dogs that we felt comfortable with."

Barbieri gave me a tour on Tuesday.

There are 17 dog rooms, she said: six big, six little, and five medium, holding up to 30 dogs.

"The rooms are divided by family,"



Captain enjoyed his stay.

Barbieri explained. Meaning, if an owner has two dogs, they will board together.

The rooms are complete with sleek white walls, an elevated dog bed, hanging dog bowls, art panels which double as sound proofing, and a fur mat on the floor.

At night, a speaker connected to the ceiling in each room plays soothing acoustic guitar to help the dogs fall asleep. A solid wooden door with an interchangeable plaque describing the dog inside subdivides the animals from the rest of the space.

"It's all about the dogs," she said. "We just want to make them feel as comfortable as possible."

Check-in is after 2 p.m., check-out is before 11 a.m. Once the dogs arrive, Barbieri explained, they settle into a routine.

A staff member takes each of the dogs out at 6:30 a.m., then they are fed in their separate rooms at 7:30 a.m. Owners are required to bring their dog's kibble with them, however, the on-site nutritionist offers some supplemental food and occasionally gives the owner feedback on whether the food is working for their dog.

"If the staff decides [the dogs] are too nervous to eat by themselves, they will sit with them while they eat," Barbieri said. Currently, there are seven employees.

Afterward, the dogs spend most of



The doggy gym.

the day outside their rooms, playing in the yards or with the staff. They even have time at the exercise center, where they can focus on their mobility through jumping over small obstacles.

"They are only in their rooms for short naps," she said.

At 5 p.m., the dogs are fed again. Afterwards, they are taken out for their last bathroom break and put to bed.

Captain, a border-collie-corgi mix with ties to The Sheet, spent three days at the K-9 Wellness Center. He stayed in a medium room with Vincent van Gogh's starry night as paneling, and had no complaints about the night time acoustic noise. His wriggling body and furiously wagging tail told me had a great time.

As for cat boarding, K-9 Wellness Center has four cat rooms, two small and two large. The cats are also separated "by family." Their rooms look slightly different; their toys are aligned vertically.

"[For] exploring upwards," Barbieri said. "Boxes, hanging bridges, climbing stuff."

Instead of artistic acoustic wall paneling, the cats will have a window view of the Sierra.

Barbieri worked as a physical therapy assistant for people for 24 years. She made the switch to focusing on dogs eight years ago. Now, she also owns Eastside K-9 Hydrotherapy,

a therapeutic center focused on relieving joint pain for dogs through methods like the canine underwater treadmill, massage therapy, therapeutic exercises, and cold lasers.

That business will move from its current location to the K-9 Wellness Center. Although the businesses are staying separate, hotel guests can add a session onto their stay, Barbieri said.

During our tour, Barbieri lingered for a moment on the canine underwater treadmill.

"It's been the best investment I've ever made," she said.

"Wait, so you just put the dog in there and it fills with water?" I asked.

"Uh huh. The buoyancy from the water takes the pressure off the joints and we heat it to 90 degrees," she said. "The warmth just melts the pain away."

That's what the K-9 Wellness Center is all about.

The K-9 Wellness Center opened for business December 20, 2025. The business is located on 1650 North Sierra Highway, in Bishop.

Prices for small and medium dog rooms are \$80. The large dog rooms are \$95. Each additional dog is \$60. For cats, the junior rooms are \$45 and the larger are \$60. Each additional cat costs \$30.



A mid-sized doggy bedroom, acoustic paneling and all.

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ASPEN ONE

LEAN ON ME

Press Release

One Pine photographer Dana Hodgson's stunning photo of two coyote pups on the Owens Dry Lake was recently picked as one of three 2025 Photos of the Year by California Watchable Wildlife and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

The two organizations have sponsored the photo contest for 14 years to illustrate the diverse wildlife and viewing experiences found throughout California's natural and wild lands. It attracts hundreds of photos from professional and amateur photos from across the state.

The contest photos were judged on the following criteria: technical excellence (focus, exposure, resolution); composition; difficulty in getting the shot; and overall impact and storytelling aspects of the image.

Hodgson's photo captures a tender moment between the coyote pups, with one resting its head on the other.

"These young coyotes rely on each other throughout their development. The wildlife of Owens Lake has flourished since the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has maintained water ponds to lessen dust flurries. These coyote pups surprised me with a pose, as if to say, 'Lean on me,'" Hodgson said. "I have had the fortune to be surrounded by the absolute splendor of the Eastern



Award-winning photo of Coyote pups on the Owens Dry Lake. Photo by Dana Hodgdon.

Sierra and Owens Valley, along with the great fortune of developing friendships with people who have taught me about the area and its wildlife."

Hodgson continues to evolve as a accomplished amateur wildlife photographer, following in the footsteps of his father and brother.

"When we moved to Lone Pine, my wildlife photography pursuit jumped to

a new level. Not only did I have the Eastern Sierra and the Inyo Mountains, but I stumbled onto the whole ecosystem surrounding Lake Patsiata (Owens Lake), which, from a distance, looks like a wasteland because the lake's water has been diverted to Los Angeles," he said.

"There remains a series of pools that serves to mitigate the dust, but also creates an environment for a spectacular number of shore birds. I have been enthralled by all the different species of birds that migrate through, along with the animals that have created homes for themselves year-round."

USFS AIDS MUSTANGS

After massive public outcry about a small herd of wild horses snowbound near Lee Vining, the USDA Forest Service will work to rescue the nine stranded animals.

This emergency action is critical to ensuring the future health, well-being, and humane treatment of these wild horses as they are in critical jeopardy due to snow impact, limited water, and extremely limited forage, the Inyo USFS announced in a press release Thursday.

In order to protect these wild horses, the Forest Service will deploy bait (hay) and water traps. The wild horses are in poor condition and require a methodic feeding and watering schedule. We ask the public to please not feed the wild horses as additional forage in their system can cause impaction colic and increase their risk of death. The horses will be transported to a Forest Service corral facility, where they will be maintained and cared for until next steps can be determined.

Due to the nature of the bait and water trap method, wild horses are reluctant to approach the trap site when there is too much activity; therefore, only essential personnel will be allowed at the trap site during the operation. We ask the public to not interfere with the operation.

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DEED

continued from page 1

government entity that is running a program or requiring the zoning to be a party to the agreement.”

Sproll said ESCH’s responsibilities would not fundamentally change, as the Town would continue to contract with the organization to administer and monitor housing programs.

But the timing is delicate. ESCH’s contract with the Town expired in June, and the organization is currently operating under a temporary extension while negotiating new terms.

“Part of our obligations and responsibilities in the Town’s contract would seemingly go away if we gave this responsibility up,” boardmember Brian D’Andrea said. “I’m not sure what the Town’s intentions are as to engaging with us going forward to manage this on their behalf.”

Robertson also cautioned that removing ESCH as a party to deed restrictions could limit the organization’s ability to enforce program rules and complicate the management of existing homes.

She said these issues have not yet been addressed in contract negotiations.

Beyond the political change, the proposal would also significantly alter who qualifies to buy and live in deed-restricted homes.

Under the new guidelines, buyers would face stricter financial requirements. The minimum down payment would increase from 1% to 3%, and, for the first time, the Town would cap maximum down payments at 50% of the purchase price.

New eligibility thresholds would include a minimum credit score of 640, a maximum back-end debt-to-income ratio of 50%, and cash reserve requirements for higher-income deed-restricted units.

Liquid assets would be capped at two-thirds of the purchase price, replacing a previous formula that converted excess assets into “imputed” income.

Prospective buyers would also be prohibited from owning any real property at the time of purchase. While current rules only bar ownership in Mono or Inyo counties, the new guidelines would require buyers to sell any property they own anywhere before completing a purchase.

At the same time, residency eligibility would expand. Instead of requiring employment within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, buyers could qualify by working anywhere in Mono County. The proposal would also allow retirees to remain in deed-restricted homes if they previously qualified and lived in the unit for at least five years before retiring.

Roommate rules would be modestly relaxed as well. While current deed restrictions prohibit renters except under hardship circumstances approved by ESCH, the proposed guidelines would allow one roommate with Town approval.

MAMMOTH HOSPITAL CEO TO RETIRE

Mammoth Hospital announced this week that Chief Executive Officer Tom Parker has informed the Board of Directors of his intention to retire later this year, effective October 2, 2026.

Parker has served as CEO of Mammoth Hospital for the past seven years, guiding the organization through a period of strategic growth, operational and financial stability, and continued commitment to high-quality patient care for the residents and guests of the Eastern Sierra.

“Last month, my wife, Kristen and I spent a week with our family during the holiday season, which gave us the opportunity to reflect on how we want



Parker at the North Wing Project Groundbreaking in May 2025.

to spend our time and the shrinking number of years ahead,” said Parker.

“Leading Mammoth Hospital has been an honor and privilege,” says Parker. “I am deeply grateful to the Board of Directors and to the dedicated clinicians, staff, managers, and executives who deliver compassionate, technically skilled, and highly satisfying care to our patients and community every day. Together, we have strengthened the hospital’s long-term viability and its role as an indispensable healthcare provider for the region.”

Additional information regarding the CEO transition will be shared with hospital staff, community stakeholders, and the public as plans progress.



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OBITUARY

PAUL OSTER 1959-2025

University of Virginia English Professor Mark Edmondson, 73, had an essay in the Wall Street Journal this week where he contemplated, 'What age, retirement? When do you hang it up?'

His position: I'll keep working as long as I can do my job reasonably well.

And then he writes, "I was encouraged in this wish to go on by my grad school advisor Harold Bloom, who kept churning until the end, writing books well into his eighties. It's said that he was dictating more criticism on the gurney that carried him to his final operation. He said that he never thought about death and that he would never retire. "They can take me out by the heels," I heard him say. "By the heels!"

When I spoke to Deanna Lantieri this week about her former boss, colleague, friend and mentor Paul Oster, she said that Paul was working until the very end - wrapping up personal affairs, closing deals, answering texts from clients.

She said one client had been texting him for the final month thinking that Paul was answering these texts from his office rather than from a hospital bed.

Paul, ever the stoic, would certainly never have let on that he was dying. Those around him were certain of a recovery, buoyed by his general good nature.

Paul Oster was a second generation real estate broker with family roots in Los Angeles dating back to the 1800s. He graduated from UCLA, where he was a member of the Theta Xi fraternity, in late 1981. He immediately moved to Mammoth to be a part of the original Chart House restaurant team.

That's where longtime friend Casey Elliott met Paul, who was working as a maitre d'.

As Casey recalls, in that post-earthquake period, there was a sign at the entrance to town saying, "Last one out, turn off the lights." Everyone else was leaving, but ever the contrarian, Paul was arriving.

The party was just getting started.

And it was a party Paul never took for granted.

As Casey said, Paul's chest was literally a roadmap of scars, the result of many surgeries. He had been diagnosed with leukemia at 19, and was fairly compromised at a young age.

Which made him preternaturally suited for Mammoth, and for real estate. If you'd already stared down death, an earthquake, a recession, a market correction, a town bankruptcy - this was just noise. Nothing to panic over. Paul resolutely believed in Mammoth and its prospects.

As Elliott said, "I bought four income properties and a house from him. I agreed with his assessment that so many long-term indicators were pointing up. When everybody was selling, I was buying.

I live in Arizona now, on the Colorado River, thanks to Paul engineering a 1031 exchange. He did me right [from start to finish]."

After stints in the restaurant business and commercial and residential property management, Paul moved into full time real estate sales in 1986. He passed his broker's exam later that year and shortly thereafter led the RE/MAX office in Mammoth.

Paul sat on the Mammoth Lakes Planning Commission from 1990-98 during an intense period of resort planning which ultimately led to the IntraWest involvement as well as many other "foundational" planning issues in Mammoth Lakes. More recently, Paul sat on the Mono County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board from 2004 to present. Paul's involvement in volunteer and community activities spanned four decades in Mammoth Lakes.

Paul was an admitted workaholic but found time to ski almost daily in the winter and mountain bike in the spring, summer and fall.

When not active in Mammoth Lakes, Paul could be found deep sea fishing in the Pacific Ocean. He boasted of his 500+ fishing days on the Red Rooster III out of San Diego. He was a member of the 300# Club.

"When he came back from a trip, he had fish for everybody," said a wistful Elliott. "And if he invited you to dinner, you showed up. He was a great chef."

In terms of his personal life, he was a bit of an enigma. He was a lifelong bachelor - never married. But knowing Paul, one might guess the reason he never married was because he was so practical and probably viewed it as a poor investment!

He was also ... he just liked things the

way he liked them. Lantieri recalled one time when Paul was out of the office, and staff decided to change things up and rearrange the furniture.

He walked in, took one look, said he'd be back in two hours, and that he wanted everything restored to just as he'd had it before.

He was a minimalist. Hated clutter. But paper wasn't clutter - it was an extension of the analysis and computation going on 24/7 in his brain.

His real estate blog inspired devotion, even obsession. You wanted to know how Paul looked at things.

As I wrote in the year-end issue, "Paul began contributing columns to The Sheet in 2009.

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

Over the past few days, I've reread many of these columns, his clever personality channeled into them. He was the only guy who could get away with submitting 1,700-word columns because he was the only guy you'd read for 1,700 words and hang on every one of them.

Most people, when they submit a piece of writing, they ask how long it should be. I tell them to write until it gets boring, and then stop. Which generally occurs within 600 words or so.

Over the past 16 years Paul must've published 125,000 words in The Sheet - which represents a fraction of what he produced for his blog.

As you'll see, he wasn't afraid of calling out anybody.

A few excerpts. **From February 14, 2015:**

Mammoth Lakes was recently referred to as "laughingstock" (according to CEO Rusty Gregory) because the Town won't relax certain longstanding-development standards to incentivize development. Relaxing standards is an industry and nationwide debate.

The Ski Area wants developers to be incentivized to develop properties (namely because the Ski Area's masters own a large chunk of the developable-land). But these development properties have poor-to-marginal (compared to other major resorts) lift access. Any smart developer would demand the completion of a modern and competitive gondola system to service these proposed development properties.

Frankly, without a quality gondola system the properties are devalued. This thinking is so typical of why Mammoth has slipped from a "Top 5" resort to barely staying in the top 25. That is why we are a "laughingstock" ... By not completing the gondola system they are poorly serving their own hospitality guests and compromising the cash flow in the bed base they manage and operate.

In drought periods Mammoth now expends massive energy to make snow to create pathetic access trails to the bed base. A place like Whistler simply provides gondolas to let their guests ride over all of that and get to the good runs.



I chose this next excerpt because it **appeared in the July 5, 2014 issue** but may as well have been written yesterday.

Which speaks to Paul's general outlook on things - that issues tend to circle back on themselves. That nothing is ever quite unique.

I include this based upon a story which recently appeared in timeout.com ranking Mammoth as the 4th most expensive ski resort in the U.S.

The top 11 were: Aspen Snowmass, Beaver Creek, Vail, Mammoth, Steamboat, Jackson, Breckenridge, Park City, Big Sky, Keystone, Sun Valley, Deer Valley.

"Let's face it, with today's "hall of mirrors" economy, massive public and private debt, and an ever expanding Federal Reserve balance sheet, serious inflation is expected by many. We are probably already seeing it despite what the government says. It feels real to me. They keep changing the CPI calculations to keep us confused. There is good reason to doubt any "numbers" today. And some will argue that the stock market and real estate values aren't going up, it's that our dollars are worth less. And if you look at the Fed's own chart of the declining velocity of money, there is also argument for disinflation.

But I have no doubt the threat of inflation has driven many real estate acquisitions in Mammoth in the past few years. People with discretionary cash (and stock market profits) are looking for real assets to protect against inflation. There really are property owners in Mammoth who simply have cash "parked" in a piece of local real estate. And oftentimes high-end real estate. It is one way they hedge against possible inflation. And they know they have a place to spend New Year's (if the snow is good). They also know they have a place to escape to if "something" ever happens around home.

The folks in charge think that because steak has become too expensive that I am fine eating soy-burger. They think that is perfectly acceptable and does not impact the quality of my life, and does not represent inflation. But substitution effect does help Mammoth in many ways. If the cost of vacationing goes up,

more OSTER, pg. 13



Paul, sister Monica, mom and brother Joe.

OSTER

continued from page 12

vacationers look for more affordable alternatives. Mammoth can do well in this regard (it has in the past). Rather than fly to the Rockies to ski, they drive to Mammoth instead. Rather than drive the motorhome to Canada, they can rent a condo in Mammoth. While Mammoth isn't a cheap place to vacation, it can be done intelligently and frugally. Mammoth condos with full kitchens and the myriad of online rental opportunities makes it even easier."

**Based on the timeout.com stats from the Dec. 31 story, sure seems like Mammoth is pricing itself out as an affordable alternative.*

Finally, Paul and I shared a general skepticism about the amount of money the Town has and is pouring into marketing. **From the Labor Day issue 2019:**

Some months ago (March 9, 2019 to be exact) The Sheet published a graph and data showing the marketing dollars spent and the TOT collected in the past 20 years (and my brain can go back at least 30 years on this subject—anybody remember Ralph McMullen?). Evidenced in the graph and data, there is little (if any) true return on investment on the extraordinary marketing expenditures of the last 10 years. My business professors warned against working beyond the law of diminishing returns. The Town fathers seem almost enamored with it.

But The Sheet left out a couple of criti-

cal data points in their analysis. One is inflation, and the other is the population growth of California. I bought a brand new 4 bedroom / 2.5 bath, 3-car garage home from John Hooper 20 years ago for \$330,000. It would cost three times that today. A premium four wheel drive truck

“
My business professors warned against working beyond the law of diminishing returns. The Town fathers seem almost enamored with it.

-Oster
”

has more than doubled in that time. And California has grown by more than 10 million people in the past 20 years (an approx. 33% increase). Do any of them come to Mammoth? Of course they do, they get bombarded with Mammoth marketing everywhere they go. And half the people in SoCal have some sort of Mammoth sticker on the back of their car.

So while the TOT numbers look great, in actuality they have simply kept pace with the societal trend lines including inflation and population growth.

The maturation of the resort as a whole hasn't hurt either. If you put Mammoth Mountain's revenue numbers on the same graph you would see a similar trajectory. The Town marketers might argue they helped this, but MMSA was pulling down massive skier visits long before the Town incorporated and had a marketing budget.

But what has helped facilitate all of this the past ten years are all of the local condo owners who have upgraded their properties and made Mammoth's guests feel comfortable; like staying at someone's mountain home. The Ski Area's consultants Hart Howerton reminded us a few years ago that we are ~1,000 transient beds short in this community. How many new "hot beds" have been developed the past 10-12 years? Almost none. Even the newest and possibly the nicest hospitality facility in Mammoth, the Westin Monache, is undergoing a major and costly "refresh."

Marketing is one thing, providing quality accommodations is another. The newest generation of STR property owners have simply supplied the guest demand.

And finally, from Thanksgiving 2014:
Twenty plus years ago I wrote a column where I quoted the line "We are looking for something that has already found us." It was true then, and it is true now. Our corporate masters will continue to drive for profits any way they can. The environmentalists and government

officials, and Mother Nature, will push back. In the middle is a wonderful balance. Unfortunately, we rarely recognize it for what it is. Maybe more geotourists and great micro brews will help us see more clearly. We need to be thankful and appreciative of what we have. The "next" thing isn't our salvation.

Paul Oster passed away on December 21, 2025 in Orange County California, surrounded by his family, after a brief illness. He is survived by his mother Mary Lou Oster, brother Joseph Oster, sister Monica Havert and four nephews – Matthew Oster, Andrew Oster, Thomas Havert and Daniel Havert.

- Lunch



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Martha

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MAURICE COOPER
DAVID BARON

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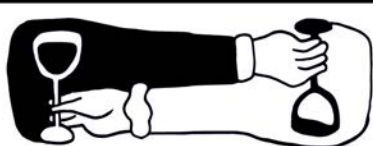
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For more information,
to subscribe to job alerts, and to apply:



(760) 965-3604
townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

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. 10*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 19. 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 16-17/
Weekend apres parties @ Canyon Lodge. DJ. 21+. Starts 2:30 p.m.

January 17-18/
Apres Ski at Minaret Club in the Village with DJ SendIt. Starts 3:30 p.m. *See ad p. 8.*

Saturday, January 17/
Good Night Club, LA's hottest DJ/ band mash up night, at Liberty bar.

Sunday, January 18/
Giacomo Timbrello plays Distant Brewing for 7-9 p.m.

Monday, January 19/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20/
Trivia Night @ Mammoth Brewing. Time: 6:30-9 p.m.

Thursday, January 22/
Joey Henderson, local artist, plays Distant Brewing from 7-9 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Friday, January 16/
Mammoth Lakes Repertory's
production of Driving Miss Daisy, starring Juliana Olinka-Jones, Maurice Cooper and David Baron, continues and runs through Jan. 18. *More info/ tix: See ad p. 13.*
Mammoth High School Basketball plays Desert at home. Girls play at 5:30 p.m., boys play at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 17/
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.
Winter's Dark Sky Trail Walk with the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce. Snowshoe or hike about a half mile on a groomed winter trail overlooking Lower Twin Lake in Bridgeport. Time: 6 p.m. *Info: contact Jimmy Little 661.619.6769.*

Tuesday, January 20/
Mono County Board of Supervisors meets at 9 a.m. in Bridgeport and online at monocounty.ca.gov.
Author Talk: Journalist Julia Hotz on her book "The Connection Cure: The Prescriptive Power of Movement, Nature, Art, Service and Belonging." Time: 11 a.m. Held online, register at

TOWN STUFF

libraryc.org/monocolibraries.
Mammoth High School Soccer plays Frazier at home. Girls play at 1 p.m., boys play at 3 p.m.
Bishop Union High School Soccer plays Mojave at home. Girls play at 3 p.m., boys play at 5 p.m.
Stitch 'N' Bitch Sewing Circle Club meets 5:30-7 p.m. at C5 Studios (210 S. Warren St., Bishop). Cost: \$10 donation, or free to C5 members.
Not Your Grandma's Bingo Night at The Warming Hut from 6-8 p.m. All profits benefit the Mammoth High School Boosters. *More info: See ad p. 4*

Wednesday, January 21/
Food Waste Prevention Taskforce Meeting from 9-10 a.m. on Zoom. Link available on mammothlakeschamber.org.
Eastern Sierra Pride Monthly Meet-up from 6-8 p.m. at the Warming Hut.
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets. Time: 4 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
Lunch & Learn: Master Your Money. Time: 12-1 p.m. Location: the Mono County Library in Mammoth in the Adult Ed Classroom.

Thursday, 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)
Mammoth High School Soccer plays

TOWN STUFF

Rosamond at home. Girls play at 1 p.m., boys play at 3 p.m.

Friday, January 23/
Bishop Union High School Basketball plays Kern Valley at home. Boys play at 5:30 p.m., girls play at 7 p.m.
Mammoth High School Basketball plays Rosamond at home. Girls play at 5:30 p.m., boys play at 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 24/
Ski California Safety Day. MMSA hosts on-hill safety demonstrations with the patrol dogs and interactive games from 8:30 a.m. -4 p.m.
Master Gardener Program of Inyo and Mono Counties presents a free workshop at 10 a.m. on how to grow onions in the Owens Valley. Location: Bishop Community Garden behind the Bishop City Park.

UPCOMING

January 24-25: The Felici & Friends Magic Flute Concert. Show starts 7 p.m. in Mammoth Lakes on Saturday, and at 4 p.m. in Bishop on Sunday. *See ad p. 6 for more info.*
January 31: The 21st Annual Backcountry Film Festival (BCFF) returns to Mammoth at Mammoth Mountain's Main Lodge. Doors open at 5 p.m., show starts at 6. Film Festival tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Register early to ensure your seat! *More info, see ad p. 18*

MAIN STREET

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LUNCH SPECIALS

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Happy Hour Specials!



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Monday - Friday

3-6 PM

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- \$1 off all Pints & Tasting Flights
- \$1 off all Wines By the Glass





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NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



Footloose Sports is hiring Bootfitters and Demo Ski Technicians. 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 Taylor@country-glass.com

Alpenhof Lodge is hiring for **Front Desk evening positions**. Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd.

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

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



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

Crescent 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

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

Movies Starting This Friday 01/16 to 01/22



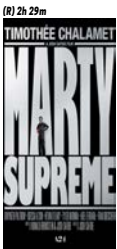
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Friday 4:30pm 7:30pm
Saturday - Tuesday 1:45pm 4:30pm 7:30pm
Thursday 5:00pm 7:00pm



Friday 4:15pm 7:00pm
Saturday 1:30pm 4:15pm 7:00pm
Sunday 4:15pm 7:00pm
Monday - Tuesday 1:30pm 4:15pm 7:00pm
Thursday 4:00pm



Thursday 7:30pm

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01/21/2026



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BOOK REVIEW: THE MADNESS OF CROWDS

By Fisher

If there’s one thing to know about our editor Jack Lunch, it is that he knows his way around that free books section in the entranceway of the Mono County Public Library. And when he rifles through those dusty shelves, he hunts for reading material not just for himself, but for his writers too.

That means I sometimes wind up with 700-yellow-paged lesser-known classics like “Extraordinary Popular Delusions & the Madness of Crowds,” by Charles Mackay, which was first published in 1841 and markets itself as being “many times its purchase” in just the first 100 pages.

I can’t be sure he found it in the library free bin, but I also can’t be sure he didn’t. Either way, it was free to me, which

meant that those first 100 pages didn’t have to do much to be worth many times their purchase. And worth it they were!

I went into reading this book thinking it would be some sort of self-help psychological evaluation, but it reads much more like a history book. And being that the book itself is now history, you can come to your own conclusions about the ways history tends to repeat itself.

Mackay lays out story after story showing how societies repeatedly fall for scams, follies, and manias. It’s a pattern that feels familiar even centuries later: greed, herd mentality, overconfidence, and the sudden collapse.

Put in Gen Z terms, it’s like “The Big Short,” in 19th-century prose, and two inches tall in print.

The first chapter introduces John Law, a Scottish financier who convinced France to replace metal coins with paper currency during a time of economic chaos. With control of the system, Law stabilized the currency and helped revive the French economy, earning widespread respect. Riding that success, he launched a speculative scheme selling paper certificates representing land along the Mississippi River, claiming it was rich in gold and diamonds.

Investors went wild, bidding higher and higher, only to have the scheme collapse when the truth emerged. Many went bankrupt, and Law faded into history as a cautionary tale.

Mackay then examines the South Sea Bubble in England, another tale of speculative mania.

The South Sea Company promised enormous profits, and investors poured in, buying stock at ever-increasing prices even though the company’s actual profits were exaggerated or nonexistent. When the bubble burst, fortunes evaporated, leaving financial ruin in its wake. The story echoes John Law’s Mississippi

Bubble almost scene-for-scene.

And then there’s Tulip Mania in the Netherlands during the 1630s, arguably the most famous example of a historical bubble. Certain rare tulip bulbs became so coveted that ordinary people traded homes for a single flower. Prices reached absurd levels, fueled by speculation and the fear of missing out.

I bet you can’t guess what happens next.

Maybe that’s the charm of the first 100 pages -- you get the fable, learn your lesson (don’t give into trends, don’t jump off bridges because your friends do), and the next dozen chapters are simply a parade of neat examples. Extra credit for your hard-spent cash.

There’s any number of contemporary events we can compare this lesson to, some 200-odd-years later. In the dot-com bubble, for example, investors poured money into startups, often without regard for profits or sustainable business models. The bubble burst around 2000–2001 when investors realized that many of these companies were not making money. Stock prices collapsed, leading to massive losses.

These patterns force us to ask ourselves, what mistake are we making now? What bull are we swallowing that we’ll soon regret or lose our homes over? If Mackay were alive today, would he be writing about the Gamestop short squeeze? Doge coin? AI data centers? Preventative botox?

Either way, it’s a good lesson. Some would say priceless.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DANIEL DEWITT BACON. MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO.: 26PRM2

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DANIEL DEWITT BACON. A Petition for Probate has been filed by JONATHAN BACON in the Superior Court of California, County of Mono. The Petition for Probate requests that JONATHAN BACON 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: February 5, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Mammoth Courthouse, 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 #2026-0004

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)

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

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)





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

SPORTS

MIDSEASON MADNESS

The Bishop Union Broncos boys soccer team is off to a dominant start, sitting 7-3 overall with an undefeated 6-0 league record, leading the High Desert League. Captain Charlie Trefry leads the offense with 17 goals and 39 points, while Armando Santana and Angel Medina added key scoring and assists. In goal, Angel J. Santana anchors a solid defense with a 0.696 goals-against average.

The Broncos girls soccer team is thriving as well, boasting a 12-4-1 overall record and an undefeated 6-0 league mark. Brooke Taylor leads the attack with 14 goals and 35 points, supported by Leah Taylor, Ashley Sandoval, and top playmaker Bree Braaten (9 assists).

Goalkeepers Maleah DeVincent and Jessie Ludwick have been nearly impenetrable, holding a 0.000 goals-against average.

Both Broncos teams dominated Desert on Tuesday, with the boys winning 18-1 and the girls 12-0.

Meanwhile, the Mammoth Huskies boys soccer team has faced a challenging start, sitting 0-5-2 overall and 0-2-2

in league play, while the Huskies girls are 4-5-1 overall and 1-0 in league play, currently third in the High Desert League standings.

The Mammoth Huskies boys basketball team is 6-6 overall with a 2-4 league record, currently 5th in the High Desert standings. Sophomore Asher Block leads the team offensively (11.9 ppg) and on the boards (9.7 rpg), while senior Elias Ericson contributes as a secondary scorer and facilitator, and junior Micah Painter adds key scoring and rebounds. The Huskies girls basketball team has struggled early, sitting 1-3 overall and 1-1 in league play, placing 5th in the league as they enter midseason.

The Bishop Union Broncos boys basketball team is 6-7 overall with a 3-2 league record, holding steady in the middle of the league standings. The Broncos girls basketball team has been impressive, posting an 11-2 overall record and a perfect 4-0 in league play. Analee Guerrero leads the offense, averaging double figures and driving the team's success on both ends of the floor.



Above, Bishop's Brook Taylor blasts a pass past a Desert opponent on Tuesday. Below, Angel Medina (upper) controls the ball, Charlie Trefry (lower left) and Cody Gonzalez (lower right) dribble into position.

PHOTOS: FISHER





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KLUSMIRE

I JUST WANT TO READ

Hey, hello, yoo hoo, over here, look my way. Hmm, nothing. How about “howdy pardner.” Gotcha, thanks to using a shopworn “western” cliché someone like me in the Hinterlands beyond the Great Sagebrush Sea needs to use to get your attention.

Thanks for your attention, New York Times and Washington Post. I realize it’s hard to pull your head out of the East Coast vortex of “all things important to the nation, the world and important people not in flyover country” just to listen to a rube like me comment on your newspapers, er, your content as it’s now called. Hey,

no sneaking off stage Los Angeles Times. You get in here too since you’ve finished gushing over the Golden Globes and gowns and beach alerts. Yes, I know the Eastern Sierra might as

well be the Eastern Siberia but give me a couple minutes of your time before you wrap up that 2,200-word fantasy feature about George Clooney secretly marrying Julia Roberts.

Again, thanks to you three newspaper giants who are still standing in the digital, streaming era. And rest assured I back up my gratitude with cold, hard subscription cash.

As a paying reader, I would like to suggest a few things that bug me and seem to counteract your ongoing mission to keep people reading your newspapers. Granted, that’s a bit of a misnomer since all I get is digital access, but still.

First off, New York Times, please stop posting how many minutes you think it will take me to read each big story. Unlike some folks, I have an attention span longer than a gnat, so I don’t need to be warned that some dribble about the

Supreme Court is a “7 minute” read. Or that it will only take 3 minutes to absorb the news that Trump’s Venezuelan oil scam is falling apart.

You don’t know how fast I read, and you don’t know how much couch time I have to meander through your stories. Trust your reporters to craft an engaging story. If I like it I will plunge ahead for 10 minutes. If I don’t, I’ll scan it and move on after 1 minute. Don’t try to baby me, please.

The Times and the Washington Post both offer the option to listen to the story read out loud. Listen? I’m reading a newspaper, emphasis on read. If I want to listen I’ll turn on radio or cable TV news. I find it horrifying that both papers constantly bemoan the reality that reading is a fading skill, then let their alleged readers not read and chose to listen to their stories. Of course, the Times and Post both use an AI-generated “voice,” which is as flat as a plate of water. No inflection, no emotion no inflections. A junior high DJ could do better.

Podcasts? Really? Stop. See above.

Then we have the big list of videos on newspaper sites. Said videos are not unique or new or interesting. They are canned news videos and PR puff pieces available all over the internet. Haven’t the big-brained news folks heard of Instagram or TikTok or YouTube? Apparently not.

Same for the absolutely dumb idea of having a newspaper reporter recite a story in a video. I don’t need to listen to a word geek stumble over a script in a video with all the production value of Uncle Jasper’s basement holiday hoe-

down. It takes skill to read live, and it takes cameras and equipment. Unfortunately, by the looks of the reporters I’ve seen trying their hand at TV news, no money is being spent on wardrobe, hair, makeup or even a nice shave.

Again, if I want to watch TV news, I’ll watch TV news.

The LA Times might be the biggest offender in the video news scam. The first thing that pops up on its home page is “LA Times Media Group Streaming.” Live camera feeds. Who cares? Not me.

Back to the Washington Post and another annoyance on its website: an “AI Overview.” Which is just a weak summary of the story. Scroll into the story and guess what else pops up? Correct. “Ask the Post AI.” I’m sorry, but if I want computer generated chat, I’ll just Google something and get AI twaddle immediately. I don’t need to wade into a news story to tag into AI. Or how about having reporters and other living breathing human beings dig into the issues and questions and put out a solid, well researched, written and edited story with some answers? Sort of the job description, I thought.

Finally, there is the absolutely insane irony found in the Jan. 13 Washington Post which showcased a story with the headline: “College paper fights to stop AI slop website from stealing its identity.”

Jon Klusmire of Bishop doesn’t rely on artificial intelligence, and sometimes has doubts about his real-life, human intelligence.



Date: Saturday, January 31st **Time:** Doors at 5:00, show at 6:00

Location: Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge: 10001 Minaret Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA **Tickets:** \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Raffle prizes include DPS POWDER SKIS from Mammoth Mountaineering Supply and lots more generously provided by: Sierra Mountain Guides, Owens Valley Distillery, Mammoth Mobile Sauna Co., Limelight Mammoth, Patagonia, Rocky Talkie, Anne Marie's Kitchen Boutique, Bishop Strength, Sandra Sommer Designs, Sage to Summit, Touchstone, Mystery Switch Tattoo Shop, Uzumati Ceramics, and Apres Zen, and more!



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HARTLEY

TOMLIN'S HALL OF IN-FAMY CAREER

The STEELERS' season is over. Thank goodness. And best of all, MEDIOCRE MIKE is GONE.

I can't believe it. I thought Xmas was over and right before Martin Luther King's birthday, I HAVE A DREAM that came true. Steeler fans are FREE AT LAST of the quagmire of Steeler football and the endless, meaningless drivel spewn by that mediocre coach.

It wasn't time for Tomlin to go. It was 5 years PAST time. He left the team with old ass Hayward, Watt declining, no QB, a bad OL, an old-ass secondary and pitiful linebacking crew, no WRs and two average RBs.

Steelers head coaching search. Initial list is 4 defensive guys and 1 offensive guy. It makes sense to find an offensive coach. When you have an offensive coach who calls plays, you don't lose them so quick. If you get a defensive coach and he hires a great offensive coordinator, the coordinator gets a head coaching job as soon as he can and you get caught in a vicious cycle of replacing OCs. Hire an offensive coach and keep him. But the Steelers have to be the Steelers. WE ARE TOUGH AND DEFENSE-ORIENTED, WE ARE A TOUGH TOWN WITH TOUGH PEOPLE. You realize the steel mills are gone, right dumbasses? I will give them credit for not interviewing retreads and oldheads. But find an offensive guy. I don't care if you go to Indiana and interview that guy Cignetti. He looks like a Marvel villain all the time.

Everyone thinks Tomlin will be so great on TV. For what? He says nothing that is schematic at all. All you will get is some Mushroom (Fat Albert) srambling about toughness, the collective, not living in their fears, defending blades of grass, standard is the standard, hard to get on a moving train, just verbal diarrhea.

So tell me coach, what kind of coverage were they running there when the TD was scored and what was the offense looking for?

Well Jim, the players just gotta execute. I know we only had 3 DBs on the field, but the guys that are out there gotta make splash plays and stop the 5 WRs ...

I wish he would take a year off like McCarthy did and sit in a barn somewhere watching film and ... stay right there. It would be the first time he has

watched film and analyzed offense or defense in years.

Tomlin's Hall of Fame Coaching Resume:

1. 7 straight playoff games without a playoff win (tied for NFL record with Marvin Lewis)

2. Seven straight playoff games trailing by 21 or more points

3. Last 7 playoff games team outscored 250-154. And the head coach is a defensive mastermind

4. Assistant coaches promoted when leaving the team: only Bruce Arians, who he forced to leave the Steelers and said he retired. Only one in 19 years.

5. DBs drafted by defensive mastermind, who came up as a DB coach who made the Pro Bowl: ZERO. And they drafted fucking 20 of them.

This guy's legend is mythical. And unsubstantiated.

Is Justin Herbert actually good?

I mean, he is awful in big games. They've been through head coaches, offensive coordinators ... Always the same result. I know he is big and white and can throw the ball, but it can't be everyone else's fault. They fired another OC this week. This guy was Harbaugh's GUY as OC in San Francisco, too. There is something not right with Herbert. I am sick of hearing his name mentioned with the best QBs.

CJ Stroud however ... Is he stupid? I remember they said something around his draft time that he wasn't smart because of that stupid psych test they used to give players at the Combine. I always thought that test was bullshit. They gave a psych test before I joined the Nuclear program in the Navy. IT was stupid. What does this look like Hartley? Looks like nothing to me. How about now? Still nothing. Ask me the same stupid question again. Results: you are accepted. What? But CJ Stroud might actually be stupid. I am not a fan of his anymore because he tried to keep my misery ongoing. They should investigate him for point shaving. There is no way he actually fumbled 5 times without trying - never mind that ridiculous pick. If I were the Texans coach I would tell him: ONE MORE GAME LIKE THAT AND YOU BETTER APPLY FOR SOME NCAA ELIGIBILITY.

Speaking of the NCAA. Remember

when players used to sue to get out of college and join the NFL early for the money? Now players are staying in college to make more money with NIL. Good for the kids. Even better for QBs. They get more game reps of actual football. They get to get better, ideally. And make money while doing it. And have the power to say "Forget the Raiders with their number 1 pick, I am going back to school." I love it.

Fired Ravens coach John Harbaugh is apparently close to finalizing an agreement to coach the Giants. That was fast. The Giants can't change. They had a chance to go in any direction they wanted. Get new, innovative. Nope, we want another Tom Coughlin. They are lost. And they're gonna stay that way. They might win that weak-ass division with the way the other teams are falling apart and a last place schedule next year but they ain't gonna be relevant.

I will give Harbaugh credit for changing up offenses during the years. But he is also reliant upon coordinators cuz he only led special teams as an assistant.

And why does everyone want to hire Stefanski? I don't get the hype.

Should be some good games this week.

I hope the Rams spank the Bears to shut their coach up. Chicago fans deserve some victory but I can do without the Coach. I'm sick of hearing about Caleb Williams too. Rams 30-23. Gonna be cold in Chicago, but it won't matter.

Bills at Broncos. I think experience wins out again. Josh Allen vs Bo Nix. I'll take Allen. And the Bills have a running game now. Bills 24-20.

Texans at Patriots. Least desirable game. A young QB with no playoff experience vs. a stupid young QB with some playoff experience. I think the difference is the coaching here. Vrabel and McDaniels over Texans coaches. Both defenses are good, but the Texans D is superior. If this was in Houston I would take Texans but on the road in New England Pats win 19-16.

Niners at the 'Hawks. The Niners now down George Kittle. They are so beat up. How did they finish 12-5 with all those injuries? Taking QB experience here. That 'Hawks D is real, but the Hawks D has Sam Darnold on the other side of the ball. He turns the ball over like crazy. Niners 27-25. Call me crazy.



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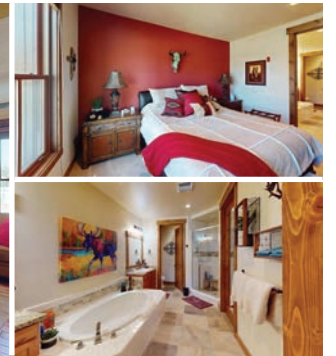
MOBILE
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1160



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

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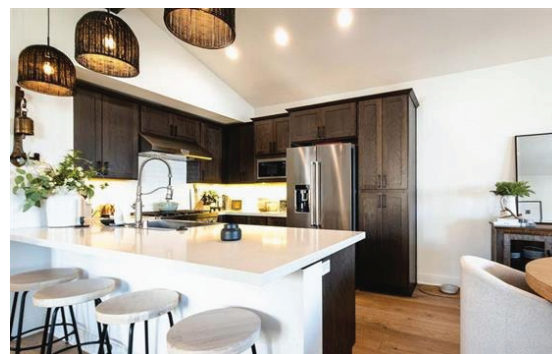
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BEDS: 3
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1152



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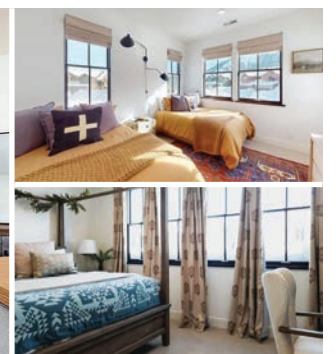
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BEDS: 3/LOFT
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LISTING DETAILS!

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