

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

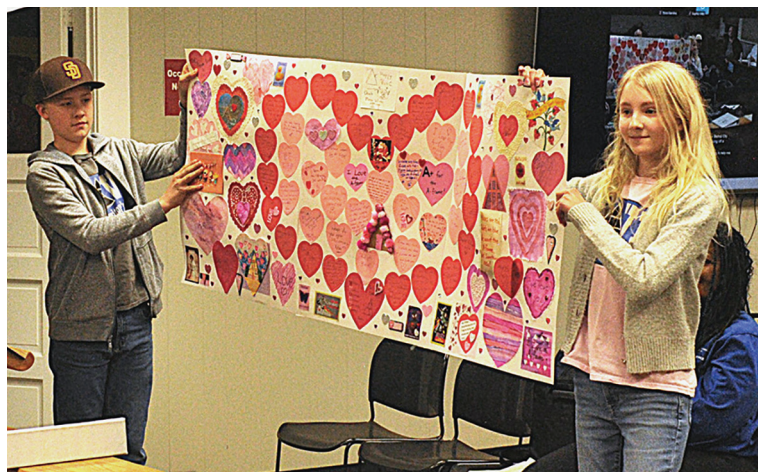


Photo by Gayla Wolf

Support for the preservation of the A-Frame at Bishop City Park is unyielding. Gary and Darcy Guacheno displayed a poster of support at City Council on Monday. For more, see p. 14

Saturday, February 28, 2026

FREE

Vol. 24, No. Williams

A MIDWIFE TO THE DYING

By Libre



Hari Khasla (left) and Jane Hsu (right) at the Mortality Mixer at Mill Creek Station in Bishop in September 2025.

Hari Khasla is a self-described “end-of-life doula.” Her calling, she said, lies in guiding individuals through the process of death. It’s a deeply intimate and emotional role.

“I’m a midwife to the dying,” Khasla said. “You don’t know when someone’s baby is going to be born; you can’t predict when someone will labor out of life either.”

Khasla is the only practicing death doula on the Eastside. She is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she was raised adjacent to an Ashram yoga community. As a child, she became well versed in meditation, a technique which helps support her work today.

Khasla’s calling as a death doula came knocking when her mother died. Khasla was 19. Ten years later, her husband died of leukemia. Khasla was there, again, guiding him through his last stages of life.

“It was a path that was laid out before me that I didn’t consciously choose,” she said. “But once it was shown to me

that one of my abilities in this life is how to be with somebody in that process, supporting them, supporting myself, and supporting the community, I actively started to choose it.”

Determined to aid the dying, Khasla received her nursing degree from Duke and a certificate from the University of Vermont’s End-of-Life Doula program. She initially practiced as a hospice nurse in Santa Barbara, before relocating to the Eastside in 2022. Khasla currently practices as a nurse in the family medicine clinic at the Mammoth Hospital, as there is no hospice wing in the Mammoth hospital.

Khasla’s pull towards those in the labor of death continued when she saw what she called “a big need” for hospice and end of life programs in the Sierra Nevada.

In July 2024, she hosted a death cafe at the Root Down Community Hub in Bishop, meant to gather the Eastside community for a conversation around death and dying. There, she met art curator Jane

more KHASLA, pg. 8

THIS TIME, WITHOUT RESERVATION

By Fisher

After years of starts, stops and seasonal tweaks, Yosemite National Park is once again changing course.

The park will no longer use a timed reservation system, it announced last Wednesday, abandoning a policy it previously described as necessary to address worsening congestion and safety concerns during

peak visitation.

The reservation system was first introduced in 2020 as a pandemic-era measure, requiring visitors to secure online reservations during peak hours to limit crowding and slow the spread of COVID-19.

The system remained in place through the summers of 2021 and 2022 before being

paused in 2023.

In 2024, the park reinstated reservations under a pilot program. That version applied primarily to weekends during early and late peak season, allowed afternoon entries and increased the total number of permits available compared to prior years.

more YOSEMITE, pg. 9

TO THE 10TH POWER



Kate Gray, the 19-year-old Olympian from Crowley Lake returned home from Italy this week after placing 10th in the women’s half pipe ski finals. She said competing in the Olympics was a surreal experience.

“You have to enjoy the moment,” Gray said. “Like, you made it. Look at the rings at bottom of the half-pipe and just think ‘wow, that’s crazy.’”

Poop Reveal!

The Place to Be

The Fall of the Monarch

Pass the Dutchie

Rocky Mountain Blues

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PASS THE DUTCHIE

With Klusmire on vacation (in Chicago in February - just take a moment to let that sink in), someone around here has gotta stare at their navel and make some pithy observations. And that someone is me!

I was listening to the Tom Petty channel yesterday on SiriusXM and they had this interview clip from Mike Campbell, who was Petty’s longtime guitarist and frequent collaborator.

Campbell was a senior in high school. And he gets called to the school of- fice.

He doesn’t know why he’s being called to the school office, but being called to the school office is rarely a good sign.

When he gets there, it turns out they’ve summoned the wrong Mike Camp- bell.

Because the other Mike Campbell was failing out, and this Mike Campbell was a straight A student.

So the school counselor asks Campbell what his plans are post-gradua- tion.

And Campbell says, well, my parents recently divorced and I’m helping my mom pay the bills and I just figured I’d maybe get a job, pump gas, enroll at the local community college ...

No, no says the counselor. We’re gonna figure this out.

She begins dialing.

She finds him a student loan through one program, and a scholarship from another program (since his father was serving in the Air Force). And after a final call, she tells Mike Campbell he’ll be attending the University of Florida the next fall.

How can I ever thank you? he asks.

Follow your dreams, she replies.

He arrives on campus in Gainesville and sometime that fall, attends a Mudcrutch concert. That was Petty’s first band before the Heartbreakers. Soon thereafter, he learns Mudcrutch needs a new guitarist. He and Petty bond over a mutual fondness for Chuck Berry records.

He joins the band and they spend the next half century making music together.

All thanks to a simple twist of fate.

the

sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

“In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”

-Orwell

JACK LUNCH

PUBLISHER

Same day. Later. In the car (again). Listening to Nina Totenberg on NPR. Totenberg covers the Supreme Court, and she’s really good at distilling com- plex legal issues.

So she lays out a tax foreclosure case (bear with me - it’s pretty interesting).

“At issue is whether a county can seize a homeowner’s residence for unpaid property taxes and sell the house at auction for less than what the homeowners would get if they put their home on the market themselves.”

As Totenberg explained, in 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that when a government entity forecloses on a home, it has to give whatever leftover money there is to the homeowner after the back taxes are collected.

In the case this week, plaintiffs tried to go one step further, arguing that the government should have to collect “fair market value” on its foreclosure sales.

This week’s case was brought by the estate of a family where the owner had died in 2012.

They just decided to live there for the next decade, without settling the estate or paying a \$2,000 delinquent tax bill.

So the government forecloses on the place and sells it for \$76,000.

Two years later, it sells again for \$194,000.

The family whines that the government should’ve sold the property for \$194,000 in the first place and that’s what they’re entitled to.

How convenient. You don’t pay your taxes and the government steps in to act as your realtor and then you get a guarantee of fair value.

If this is how far we’re willing to stoop in order to coddle the stoopid, we are confirmed as a nation of blithering idiots.

U-S-A! U-S-A!

Totenberg ends her piece with a quote from Assistant Solicitor General Frederick Liu.

He said if the court sides with the tax deadbeats, “It would spell the end of [foreclosure] tax sales in America. And at the end of the day, who does it hurt? It hurts other taxpayers who are actually paying their taxes because the shortfall has to come from real taxpayers.”

From SFGate:

The La Onda music festival in Napa was canceled this week.

“The event, slated to take place on May 30 and 31, was organized by the team behind another major Napa festival, BottleRock. This would have been the third year of the festival, and in 2024, the event drew 70,000 people to Napa.”

General admission tickets began at \$218.

As the story observes, “It’s not a good sign for the broader music festival ecosystem, which has fallen on tough times post-pandemic due to lagging ticket sales and rising costs.”

This led me to call Rich Sherman of Omega Events, which owns Mam- moth’s Bluesapalooza and Festival of Beers. What’s the status of this year’s 30th anniversary event, given the Woodsite has gone away?

Currently, the Bluesapalooza website simply states, “New Home Awaits in 2026.”

That new home, says Sherman, will be at Canyon Lodge, if the show goes on, which Sherman thinks it will. He’s had meetings with Mammoth Lakes Tourism, the Town and MMSA this week to hammer out a deal.

Which will involve some sort of public support.

Sherman says the festival has lost money the last few years. And that the past two years overall have been some of the softest he’s seen in his career (in terms of disposable income for events).

While the big pop artists are doing very well and commanding top prices,

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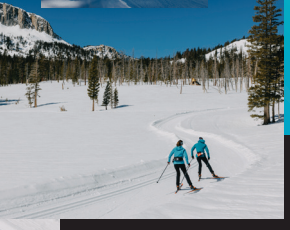
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LETTERS

Wait for it ... Poop Reveal!

Dear Editor,

We still have storms coming. The plows are busy. The tourists are posting powder shots.

And yet.

We all know what is coming.

Because there are two seasons in Mammoth:

Winter.

And Poop Reveal.

You know the one. The snow finally starts to thin. The sun hits the south-facing slopes. The runoff trickles down Lake Mary Road. And like a bad archaeological dig, we uncover months of "I'll get it on the way back"

We never get it on the way back.

What emerges is not just dog poop. It is layered. Fossilized. Democrat and Republican. Local and tourist. Purely bipartisan negligence.

It is a community collaboration.

And it is particularly brutal in the neighborhoods where we actually live, where guests walk from their rentals toward the Village, toward the gondola, toward dinner. What should feel like a postcard mountain stroll starts to feel like an obstacle course of our collective denial.

It is not tucked away on some remote trail. It is outside our nicest resorts. Outside short-term rentals. Along the sidewalks where visitors roll their suitcases, carry skis, and head to spa appointments. We market alpine luxury

and mountain magic. The streets should match.

So this part is for dog owners, locals and guests. If you think no one sees you skip the bag or let your dog roam because it is snowing and no one is around, we do. We see you from our windows. From our cars. From the porch, while we are drinking our coffee.

And look, I love dogs. I live here. I hike. I walk. I throw the ball. I get it. But we cannot keep pretending that the snow is some kind of biodegradable miracle worker. Snow is not a digestive system. It does not "take care of it."

It preserves it.

So, when the melt comes, it is less Alpine Awakening and more CSI: Shady Rest.

And then there is the second Mammoth classic.

"He's friendly!" I know he's friendly, but I don't care.

If I am on my lunch break, moving purposefully to reset my nerves, breathe outdoors, and return to work, I am not auditioning for an off-leash meet and greet.

Sometimes I want my dog to socialize. Sometimes we linger. Sometimes we let them sniff and just be dogs.

But sometimes, we are on a mission. We walk with purpose. We breathe. We recalibrate. We're not interested in your 75-pound golden demi-god rushing toward us while you shout from 40 yards away like you're narrating a Disney film.

"He just loves people!" Great. So do I. Still does not mean I want surprise

contact.

This subtle sense of entitlement is ingrained in the off-leash culture. It's the idea that friendliness outweighs consent, that because your dog is friendly, others should join in.

But friendly is not the point. Control is. Respect is. And frankly, so is picking up after your dog.

Because here is the thing. This town is small. We pride ourselves on being different. Real. Mountain people. Community. We rally for each other. We show up when someone's house burns down. We donate to the GoFundMe. We crowd the soccer field.

Surely, we can handle a plastic bag and a leash. If this feels logistically challenging, we are mountain people. We own headlamps, avalanche beacons, and backcountry gear. We can handle a bag.

If you do pick up after your dog, this is your shout-out. You are the quiet backbone of winter. You are the unsung sanitation heroes of Mammoth. You are why the rest of us can pretend this place is pristine when the snow finally pulls back.

If you leash your dog when others are approaching, thank you. You are reading the room. You are honoring the fact that not every person, child, or dog wants to be part of your pet's social calendar.

This is not anti-dog. This is pro-decency. It is pro-lunch-break peace.

Spring is still a few weeks away.

Let's not make The Reveal dramatic when it gets here.

Speaking of Turd ...

Jack,

Fisher's article on what someone at The Sheet headlined as the "Big Beautiful Turd" bill was full of numbers related to Medicaid from the user side. I think the picture might be a little incomplete without a few numbers from the taxpayer side.

Current Medicaid spending is closing in on a trillion dollars per year. That is "trillion" with a "T" which rhymes with "B" which stands for "broke".

Medicaid spending has nearly doubled since ObamaCare was passed, and the current rate of increase is the highest in the program's history. That means Medicaid spending is not just growing, it's metastasizing. Medicaid spending represents almost 20% of total health care spending in the U.S. Medicaid now costs taxpayers roughly the same as Medicare (for old people), even though much of Medicare spending is supplemented by old folks having to pay into it.

For comparison, one trillion (with a "T") is about the same as we spend on defense. Also, and perhaps not coincidentally, it is about the same as we spend on interest on the national debt. Which is approaching \$40 trillion - and growing. Which means: enjoy what government services you can now. When the bond market freezes and Uncle can no longer roll over his enormous forever debt, we'll be back in the pre-Medicaid dark ages of 1965, except with much higher inflation.

Dr. Arianne Weiner
Mammoth Lakes

John Rogitz
Mammoth Lakes

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JUNE LAKE ARTS

Support for Students Who Lost Musical Instruments in the Pack Fire

June Lake Arts is providing support to students in the McGee Creek community who lost musical instruments in the Pack Fire. Our goal is to help children continue playing, learning, and staying connected to music during a difficult time. Support may include replacement instruments and accessories, as well as assistance with lessons as needed. Any student living in or displaced from the McGee Creek area is eligible. All ages welcome.

To apply, email arianne@junelakearts.org

Please include:

- your child's name
- age
- school they attend
- instrument lost or needed
- your contact information.

June Lake Arts is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) serving youth throughout the Eastern Sierra through music and arts programming.

Setting the stage for music, arts & theater in June Lake.

P.O. Box 405, June Lake, CA 93529 (760) 648-0454 www.junelakearts.org

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Mono County Child Care Council



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LOCAL NEWS

JUDGE PLACE SEEKS REELECTION

By Fisher

In a courthouse bracing for turnover, Stephen M. Place’s campaign is simple: now is not the time to start from scratch.

Place, the incumbent Inyo County Superior Court Judge, is being challenged this election cycle by Public Defender Gerard Harvey. Though he has served on the bench for eight years, this is the first time he has had to campaign for the job. Appointed in 2019 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Dean T. Stout, Place ran unopposed in 2020.

This year is different. With Judge Susanne Rizo not seeking reelection, one of the county’s two judicial seats will be filled by a newcomer. That reality, Place says, makes continuity more important than ever.

“Experience is crucial,” he said. “Losing [my] work experience would not be ideal for the county.”

Place’s pitch is not flashy. He does not talk about sweeping reforms or dramatic restructuring. Instead, he talks about the mechanics of the job (calendars, rulings, courtroom management) and about the learning curve that comes with becoming a judge.

Place grew up in Minnesota, earned a Bachelor of Arts from St. Olaf College, and received his law degree from the University of Montana School of Law. He moved

to Bishop in 1996, where he has lived ever since.

His early legal career included a stint at the Law Office of Peter Tracy, where he handled real estate, small business, and municipal matters, before opening his own practice in 2001. Over the years as an attorney, his work primarily focused on civil matters.

Because of this focus, he faced a “steep learning curve” once he was put on criminal cases after starting on civil assignments for the first two-and-a-half as judge. After four years handling criminal matters, he has since rotated back to civil, returning to family law, probate and general civil litigation.

“It’s a completely different role from being an attorney,” he explained. “You act differently in the courtroom. Your responsibilities are different. You become better at it over time.”

His time on the bench, Place says, is his most tangible qualification.

His opponent, Harvey, has emphasized decades of criminal trial experience and has made campaign pledges about how he would approach the job. Place does not dismiss his challenger’s resume, but he is skeptical of campaign rhetoric in a judicial race.

“When a new judge starts, the focus is learning the role,” he said. “I’m open to



Judge Stephen M. Place

any idea that makes the court better, but the first priority is the work itself.”

Attorney Taylor Fitzmaurice, who is running for the other open judicial seat, criticized the court on her campaign, citing long-running custody disputes and repeated evidentiary hearings as evidence that the court lacks finality. Place said he does not accept the characterization of the court as ineffective.

“The goal isn’t just a ruling,” he said. “It’s making people feel the process worked. They’ve been respected in court. Their evidence has been considered. Their positions have been considered. Even if they don’t get the outcome they want,

they can leave confident the process was fair.”

Running a two-judge court in a rural county also comes with structural constraints. Staffing is limited. The aging courthouse has yet to see long-discussed upgrades due to funding delays. When one judge is in trial, the calendar must adjust.

“You have to understand the resources you’re working with,” he said. “There are practical limits.”

Throughout his time on the bench, Place has sought to balance efficiency with careful consideration of each case.

He said patience and temperament are essential qualities for judges, both to maintain order in the courtroom and to instill confidence in the public.

“Temperament affects how people feel about the court process,” he said. “I feel like my approach makes people leave confident in the system.”

While Place said he respects the election process and the perspectives of his challengers, he sees the race as more akin to a hiring decision than a political contest.

“The sign of work ethic is not how many door hangers you can put up,” he said. “It’s how someone performed as a judge, how they performed as an attorney. That’s the question voters should ask.”

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

Learn more at VisitMammoth.com/FlyLocal



ADVANCED AIR



LOCAL BRIEFS

SBA Loan Assistance Continues

The Small Business Administration (SBA) team is continuing to offer in-person disaster loan assistance for Mono County residents impacted by the winter storms in late December. The SBA team will be available Monday, March 2 through Thursday, March 5, and will close at the end of business on Thursday.

This assistance is available to businesses and private nonprofit organizations impacted by the winter storm in Mono County, as well as eligible contiguous counties, including Inyo, Alpine, Fresno, and Nevada. Businesses located in these contiguous counties may also qualify to apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Loans are available up to \$2 million, with fixed interest rates currently around 4% for businesses and approximately 3.65% for nonprofits, with terms of up to 30 years.

There is no cost to apply and no obligation to accept a loan. Filing an application simply preserves options. Even a temporary disruption of one or two weeks can significantly impact a small business's annual cash flow or operating margins; these loans are designed to help bridge that gap.

The application deadline extends into November 2026, but SBA's in-person services in Lee Vining will only be available through March 5.

Access Mammoth Launches ALIN

Access Mammoth is proud to launch the Access Leadership & Impact Network (ALIN), an initiative built for emerging leaders, young professionals, and community-minded adventurers who want to make a meaningful impact while growing their own leadership skills.

ALIN offers flexible ways to get involved, from hosting small gatherings and running peer-to-peer campaigns to making corporate introductions or helping shape a signature Next Gen event. Members choose what fits their schedule and network, with full staff support every step of the way.

Beyond expanding access to adaptive sports, ALIN provides valuable professional development. Members gain real-world experience in fundraising, event strategy, community engagement, and

nonprofit leadership, skills that strengthen resumes and LinkedIn profiles alike. It also offers a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to serve on a nonprofit board, without the full governance commitment, making it an ideal pathway for future board service.

If you're passionate about the outdoors, inclusion, and building community, ALIN is your opportunity to lead with purpose.

To learn more or join the Next Gen Impact & Leadership Committee, contact Development Director Darlene Schuetz at dschuetz@accessmammoth.org.

Wings of Worry

This year's Western Monarch Count revealed a historically low population for the second year in a row.

Researchers recorded 12,260 monarchs across 249 sites during the typical peak overwintering period from late November through early December 2025, the third-lowest on record, according to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

Winter offers the most reliable window for counting monarchs, because the butterflies cluster and rest in predictable overwintering sites.

Most western monarchs gather along the California coast or in Mexico. A small but notable group, however, overwinters in the canyons of Saline Valley, a saline, high-desert environment in Inyo County under Death Valley National Park's jurisdiction.

The Sheet detailed the Xerces Society's counting process in its Dec. 6 issue.

Last year's mid-season count of 9,119

monarchs ultimately translated into the second-lowest winter total recorded since the count began in 1997.

"Western monarchs are in serious trouble. The migration is collapsing," said Emma Pelton, a senior conservation biologist with the Xerces Society.

In December 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced plans to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, citing a greater than 99% chance of extinction for the western population by 2080.

That timeline, however, has since been delayed. The Interior Department announced postponements for monarchs and several other species awaiting federal protection earlier this winter.

Kindergarten & TK Enrollment 2026



Mammoth Elementary School

1500 Meridian Blvd, Mammoth Lakes
Tuesday, March 3rd
5:30-7:00 pm

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) or Kinder Enrollment:

Learn how to enroll your child in Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten and meet the teachers.

*If your child is new to MUSD, please bring them to enroll.

School readiness backpacks will be distributed upon receipt of a completed enrollment packet while supplies last.

The first 30 mins is the enrollment event and the last hour is the school resource fair.

If your child will turn five on or before September 1, 2026, they can attend Kindergarten in the fall of 2026.

If your child will turn four by September 1, 2026, then they can attend Transitional Kindergarten in the fall of 2026.

Mammoth Elementary School

1500 Meridian Blvd, Mammoth Lakes
Martes, 3 de marzo
5:30-7:00 pm

Inscripción en jardín de infancia de transición (TK) o kínder:

Información sobre cómo matricular a sus niños en Kindergarten y Transicional Kindergarten y conocer a los maestros.

*Si su hijo es nuevo en MUSD, por favor, tráigalo para inscribirlo.

Las mochilas de preparación escolar se distribuirán al recibir un paquete de inscripción completo hasta agotar existencias.

Los primeros 30 minutos son el evento de inscripción y la última hora es la feria de recursos escolares.

Si su hijo cumplirá cinco años el 1 de septiembre de 2026 o antes, podrá asistir al jardín de infantes en el otoño de 2026.

Si su hijo cumplirá cuatro años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2026, podrá asistir al jardín de infantes de transición en el otoño de 2026.

Mono County Child Care Council





MEET
RHETT

Rhett, a handsome 5-year-old Husky, is a vocal companion with main character energy. His talents include serenading the neighborhood. He needs a securely fenced yard, cannot live with small animals due to his prey drive, and enjoys playing along the fence with other dogs. Contact: **Bridgeport Shelter (760) 932-7407**

KHALSA
continued from page 1

Hsu, who she later teamed up with to co-found SIGHT, an organization focused on embracing life and honoring mortality. The organization gained non-profit status in 2025.

The goal of SIGHT is not to be a grief group, but to hold open conversations about death and living life to the fullest, Khalsa explained.

“The underlying theme is that we all have inevitability,” Khalsa said. “Nobody is exempt from the fact that they will die.”

Sight currently hosts a variety of events on the Eastside including death cafes and mortality mixers in Bishop and Mammoth.

The organization is currently hosting its second annual mortality film festival, hosted at C5 Studios in Bishop. The films ran on Feb. 24, and will continue March 10 and March 24 from 6-8 p.m. Each showing features a different full length film, focusing on life and death. Later this spring, Sight will be hosting a celebration of life for an individual who is still alive. All of these events are either low cost or donation based.

SIGHT draws together a large, multifaceted demographic of all ages and experiences with death.

“I’ve had people as young as teenagers come to the programs, people in their 80s and everything in between,” Khalsa said. “Some people already have an in depth relationship to death, through personal experiences or through spiritual practices. Some people are just petrified of this topic and come to face their fears.”

Looking towards the future, Khalsa hopes to acquire land for SIGHT to build a green burial space in the Eastern Sierra. This would be the first “non-traditional” burial site in the area, meaning without embalming or cement vaulting.

Traditional cemeteries have negative impacts on the environment, Khalsa explained.

“The embalming fluids make it into the soil, and there’s a lot of pollution from the cement as well,” she said. “And there’s a law, that once something is a cemetery, it will be forever.”

These laws include Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 18, § 132 - Cemetery Exemption, which states that once land is used a cemetery, it must remain as such.

A green burial site, on the other hand, would allow the land to be preserved. The bodies buried there would be identified merely by a QR code marking their names and biographical information. This type of environment allows the living to walk around the trees and the land where their beloved are buried, Khalsa explained.

“There are a lot of people here with a deep connection to the natural land,” she said. “A green burial, also known as a natural burial or earth burial, is a way to place your body back into the earth when you’re no longer alive in that way.”

Khalsa also dreams of creating an arts, education, and celebration center in conjunction with this burial site. There, SIGHT would continue to host gatherings and programming for the living public.

In the meantime, Khalsa aims to live each day fully.

“I make sure I’m celebrating, I’m finding joy, and I’m practicing what I preach to live my life right now,” she said.

OBITUARY
RAYMOND ALBERT JR. 1954-2025

Raymond John Albert Jr. (Ray), 71, lost his life skiing on Mammoth Mountain on Dec. 25, 2025.

Born in Utica, NY on September 25, 1954 to Raymond J. and Monica F. Albert, he graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1973. Although he lived away from upstate NY most of his life, he participated in the planning of his 50th high school reunion from afar; returning back East to attend and reconnect with old friends.

Ray attended the Culinary Institute of America, and was a sous chef in a number of high-end restaurants in New York City. In 1987, he moved to Southern California, living a few years in San Diego, and then in Altadena. Ray reveled in the California climate and close access to the wilderness. He became an avid hiker, a passion that would stay with him for the rest of his life. Ray relocated to Mammoth Lakes in 2006 where,

inspired by the beauty of the Eastern Sierras and Yosemite, he developed a spiritual affinity for the mountains and a close-knit community in which he found sustenance and companionship. Supporting himself as a carpenter/contractor, he lived for weekends spent hiking or skiing nearby. His devotion to the slopes earned him the nickname “Every Day Ray” from his friends. Two years ago, looking for a new challenge, he obtained a real estate license and had already handled a few property sales. Ray was also an avid gardener whose green thumb showed in his abundant collection of plants.

He leaves behind five siblings, Sarah Albert of Montpelier VT, Maureen Eisner (husband John) of W. Tisbury MA, Nancy Mishalanie of Bend OR, Jacqueline Albert of Eugene OR, and



Ronald Albert (wife Marita) of Sausalito CA, along with nieces Sara Mishalanie and Nicole Perkins, nephews Wardell and Coleman Eisner, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Ray will be missed by his numerous close friends in Bishop and Mammoth, his skiing and hiking companions of many years. His spirit will accompany them in their mountain adventures.



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YOSEMITE

continued from page 1

Then in 2025, the park initially announced it would forgo reservations due to budget constraints, only to reinstate a modified version in late April. Under that system, reservation-only access applied during reduced hours and was limited to weekends and holidays throughout the season.

Now, park leadership says it is stepping away from reservations again, but for a different stated reason.

“While reservation systems are one valuable management tool, our data demonstrates that a season-wide reservation requirement is not the most effective approach for the coming season,” Yosemite Superintendent Ray McPadden stated.

According to the park’s website, internal analysis found that most weekdays maintained available parking, stable traffic flow and visitation levels within operational capacity.

That conclusion marks a notable shift from the park’s own recent planning documents. In 2022, Yosemite launched a long-term Visitor Access Management Plan to address rising visitation. The research, completed in 2024, warned that increasing congestion posed safety risks and diminished visitor experience.

During a final public comment period that fall, the park presented four management alternatives and identified a park-wide daily reservation system (operating between 5 a.m. and 4 p.m.) as its preferred approach.

A September 2024 planning document laid out the reasoning in blunt terms.

“As visitation has increased, park staff have observed longer lines for longer periods of the year, starting earlier in the spring and extending later into the fall, and for more hours of the day during the peak season,” the report stated.

The document warned that long entrance station lines present health and safety concerns. There are no restrooms or water facilities along approach roads; some roadways run through rockfall hazard zones, and congestion can complicate emergency access. Cellular service is limited in many areas.

“Starting a visit with a long, potentially unpleasant wait is an adverse impact on the overall visitor experience,” the report states,

Parking was another major concern listed in the analysis.

During weekends and peak times, lots routinely fill early, beginning in East Yosemite Valley and continuing west. Key destinations often reach capacity by mid-morning, leading to roadway congestion, frustration and illegal parking that can create safety hazards.

A 2023 visitor survey cited in the report found that 51% of visitor groups were negatively impacted by parking congestion or shortages. Twenty-five percent reported crowding on trails, while more than one-third cited traffic congestion and crowded scenic overlooks as detracting from their visit.

Advocacy organizations, including the National Park Conservation Association and the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, condemned the decision to abandon reservations. They argue that pilot programs demonstrated reservation systems can reduce congestion and that multiple seasons allow parks to adapt,

refine operations and build visitor awareness.

“Eliminating Yosemite’s seasonal reservation system will undoubtedly lead to hours-long traffic jams, damage to park resources, strain on remaining park staff, and ruined experiences for visitors,” said Mark Rose, Senior Sierra Nevada Program Manager for the National Park Conservation Association.

Without a reservation system in place, Yosemite officials say they will expand operational strategies that “proved effective during the 2025 season,” including “active parking management in Yosemite Valley to maximize available capacity” and promoting recreation outside

Yosemite Valley, such as in Tuolumne Meadows, Wawona, Hetch Hetchy and other destinations across the park.

That “active parking management” could refer to an unpopular measure already in use.

In recent years, park staff have implemented a “shunt,” at the El Capitan Crossover and Southside Drive intersection in Yosemite Valley. During a shunt, staff temporarily restrict access to East Yosemite Valley, turning day-use vehicles around until parking spaces reopen.

In 2023, the shunt was deployed on many days, including nearly every Saturday in summer. On some days, it began as early as 8:20 a.m., meaning visitors

arriving after that time were turned away from East Yosemite Valley for several hours, according to park data.

Mono County District Supervisor Paul McFarland said he does not “foresee any new infrastructure other than more traffic control and informational, digital message boards being deployed.”

He worries that efforts to push visitors out of Yosemite Valley could add pressure to less-visited areas of the park, such as Tuolumne Meadows.

“Every decision made is tied to another; when you move someone from one part of the park, you’re putting them somewhere else,” he said.



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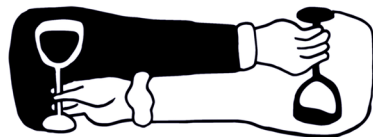
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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill
Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More Liberty info, see ad p. 14*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 4*

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.
Minaret Club happy hour daily 'til 6:30 p.m. Weekend wine bottle specials.

February 27-28/
Road to June Lake Jam Fest series featuring **Hempstring Orchestra's** Celebration of the Grateful Dead at Liberty Bar in Mammoth. Music starts at 9:30 p.m. both nights.
Weekend apres parties @ Canyon Lodge. DJ. 21+. Starts 2:30 p.m.

Monday, March 2/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3/
Vinyl Night at Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m. Location: 568 Old Mammoth Rd.

Wednesday, March 4/
Karaoke @ Mammoth Rock 'n Bowl with MC Maurice. Discounted bowling! Starts 8 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Saturday, February 28/
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 Birthday Party Join Woolly and friends to celebrate Woolly's Birthday. A kids event for all ages. From 3:45 to 4:30 p.m.
Part Time Babe Club's Second Annual Rail Jam. Time: competition 4 p.m., afterparty 10 p.m. Location: Outbound Mammoth parking lot (164 Old Mammoth). All ages/genders welcome to compete.
Fairy Love Lantern workshop, a craft activity perfect for children ages 7+. Time: 10 a.m. to noon. Location: C5 Studios (210 S Warren St, Bishop). Registration \$15-25 sliding scale at c5studios.com.

Monday, March 2/
Mammoth Lakes Lodging Association meets online at business. mammothchamber.org. Time: 10 a.m.
Eastern Sierra Pride meets 6-8 p.m. at Mountain Rambler Brewery (186 S Main St. in Bishop)

March 2-5/
SBA Disaster Loan Assistance office hours in Lee Vining @ the Community Center (296 Mattly Ave.) Monday 11-6, Tuesday and Weds. 12:30-6 and Thursday 10-6. This is for those affected by power outages suffered in the late December storms.

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, March 3/
Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets. Public session starts 10 a.m. Location: 224 No. Edwards in Indy.
Bishop HS Baseball plays its home opener v. Burroughs (Ridgecrest). Time: 3:15 p.m.
Mono County Supervisors meet. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Bridgeport Courthouse
Women in Business event at Noodle-ly in Mammoth. Time: 5-7 p.m. Program: Andrea Walker (Stellar Brew Café) and Elizabeth McGuire (East Side Bakeshop) share their perspectives as business owners and mothers personally impacted by the McGee Creek Pack Fire.
Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Special Meeting at 2:30 p.m. in Suite Z in the Minaret Mall and online at townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
TK and Kindergarten enrollment for Fall 2026 takes place @ Mammoth Elementary from 5:30-7 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 7*

Community Ukulele Group - Eastern Sierra Strummers meet 5-6:30 pm. Beginners meet 4:30. Location: Mono Arts Council @ 501 Old Mammoth Rd., Ste. #5

Wednesday, March 4/
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets 4 p.m. in Suite Z in the Minaret Mall and online at townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.
Author Talk: Humor, Heart, and Reflective Rural Stories with Michael Perry, author of "Population: 485."

TOWN STUFF

Wednesday, March 4 (cont.)/
Time: 11 a.m. Presented online via library.org/monocolibraries.
Avy Awareness Evening with Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center. Location: Mammoth Brewing Company (18 Lake Mary Rd). Time: 6-8 p.m.
Big Pine Town Hall meeting with Supervisor Jen Roeser and special guests. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Town Hall on Dewey St.

Thursday, March 5/
Inyo County's Linking Individuals and Families for Empowerment (LIFE) Night. Children's playgroups, teen events, parenting classes, and more. Event starts 5 p.m., dinner provided 6:30. Location: 1360 N. Main in Bishop.
Water Management Virtual Workshop with Friends of the Inyo. This week's session: On/Off Management & The Green Book. Time: 6-7:30 p.m. *Info/registration: ourwaterstory.org.*

ONGOING

Free tax help! The AARP Foundation Tax Aide offers programs in Bishop and Mammoth. Call for an appt./more info:
Bishop (760) 938-0468
Mammoth (760) 914-4352

Spring Community Classes with Mono County Service Area #1 at the Crowley Lake Community Center. *For full schedule, visit facebook.com/groups/549179349987177*

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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.

For Sale



Cute, clean Mountain Shadows studio/loft. Corner unit, upstairs, good light, 2 BA. Seller financing available. \$525,000. Call Tammy Hooper for more info/schedule a walk-through @ 760.937.7300

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- Preschool/Associate Teacher
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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



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Info: bc@captivatingphotos.net

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.



Whitebark Institute, a nonprofit advancing wildfire resilience and environmental adaptation in the Eastern Sierra, is hiring a **Communications Manager**. This full-time role will lead organizational storytelling and communications strategy, translating complex environmental work into clear, engaging content for diverse audiences. Salary \$70K-\$80K/year, benefits, hybrid work. Apply at whitebarkinstitute.org/careers.

For Rent

1 BDR, 1 BA apt. in June Lake. Creek on property. Remodeled. \$1,700. Call 818.307.3698

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
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The Superior Court of California for Mono County invites applications for the position of
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Help Wanted



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

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



Mammoth Five Star Lodging is seeking a skilled and reliable Maintenance Tech/Inspector to join our dynamic team!

We're looking for team players who are eager to learn, with strong attention to detail, problem-solving abilities, and familiarity with consumer electronic systems, including audio/video/home theater, iOS mobile devices, and wifi/Internet troubleshooting skills. Maintenance and repair experience is a strong plus, but not required - we're willing to train. Weekend availability required. A current driver's license with a clean, insurable driving record is also required. Our company provides all equipment required, including vehicles.

Pay for this position will begin at \$25/hr, depending on experience.

If you're ready to join our team and help us deliver outstanding service to our owners and guests, please fill out our online job application today at www.fivestarlodging.com.

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

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

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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

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✉ Email: junelittleloopers@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice Inviting Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Mammoth Lakes (“Town”) invites and will receive sealed Bids up to but not later than 3:30 PM on Friday March 20, 2026 through the Town’s Online Bid Portal at <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1016/Bids> (“Online Bid Portal”), for the furnishing to Town of all labor, equipment, materials, tools, services, transportation, permits, utilities, and all other items necessary for the **TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES MINARET MUP CAP 22-004** (the “Project”). After said time, Bids will be publicly posted on the Online Bid Portal. Bids received after said time shall be returned unopened. Bids shall be valid for a period of 70 calendar days after the Bid opening date.

This project includes a 12-foot wide multi-use path with 2-foot shoulders connecting to the Old Mammoth Trail MUP and Lakes Basin Trail MUP. The Class I MUP is approximately 7,200 linear-feet and physically separated from the roadway.

Engineer’s Estimate: \$2,809,000.00

Bids must be submitted on the Town’s Bid Forms. Bidders may obtain a copy of the Contract Documents by registering on the Town’s Online Bid Portal located at <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/1016/Bids>. To the extent required by section 20103.7 of the Public Contract Code, upon request from a contractor plan room service, the Town shall provide an electronic copy of the Contract Documents at no charge to the contractor plan room.

It is the responsibility of each prospective Bidder to download and print all Contract Documents for review and to verify the completeness of Contract Documents before submitting a bid. Any Addenda will be posted on the Online Bid Portal. It is the responsibility of each prospective Bidder to check the Online Bid Portal on a daily basis through the close of Bids for any applicable addenda or updates. The Town does not assume any liability or responsibility based on any defective or incomplete copying, excerpting, scanning, faxing, downloading or printing of the Contract Documents. Information on the Online Bid Portal may change without notice to prospective Bidders.

The California Air Resources Board (“CARB”) implemented amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations (“Regulation”) which are effective on January 1, 2024, and apply broadly to all self-propelled off road diesel vehicles 25 horsepower or greater and other forms of equipment used in California. A copy of the Regulation is available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2022/off-roaddiesel/appa-1.pdf>. Bidders are required to comply with all CARB and Regulation requirements, including, without limitation, all applicable sections of the Regulation, as codified in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations section 2449 et seq. throughout the duration of the Project. Bidders must provide, with their Bid, copies of Bidder’s and all listed subcontractors’ most recent, valid Certificate of Reported Compliance (“CRC”) issued by CARB. Failure to provide valid CRCs as required herein may render the Bid non-responsive.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a certified or cashier’s check, or Bid Bond secured from a surety company satisfactory to the Town, the amount of which shall not be less than ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price, made payable to Town of Mammoth Lakes. The bid security must be submitted in original hard copy directly to the Town prior to the specified date and time for bid opening as set forth in the Instructions to Bidders. The bid security shall be provided as a guarantee that within ten (10) working days after the Town provides the Successful Bidder the Notice of Award, the Successful Bidder will enter into a contract and provide the necessary bonds and certificates of insurance. The bid security will be declared forfeited if the Successful Bidder fails to comply within said time. No interest will be paid on any cash deposited with Town as bid security. Bidders are advised that mail going to and/or coming from the Town may be slower than the Bidder anticipates, particularly during inclement weather. Accordingly, Bidders sending documents by mail are advised to send any required documents as soon as reasonably possible to avoid late submissions. The Town is not responsible for the Bidder’s late submissions of Bids, Bid securities or any other required Bid Forms or other required documentation.

A NON-MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026 at 1:00 PM at a conference room at the Town of Mammoth Lakes office located at 437 Old Mammoth Rd Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, California, to review the Project’s existing conditions. The Pre-Bid Meeting is also available for participation via Zoom, as follows:
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/25327764376302?p=qry9jJG9cO7YgZsB2R>
Meeting ID: 253 277 643 763 02
Passcode: nb6tk7K8
Dial in by phone +1 929-352-1589, 181011883#
Phone conference ID: 181 011 883#

Representatives of the Town and consulting engineers, if any, will be present. Questions asked by Bidders at the Pre-Bid Meeting not specifically addressed within the Contract Documents shall be answered via addendum posted on the Town’s Online Bid Portal. Oral statements regarding this Bid made at the Pre-Bid Meeting should be considered unverified information unless confirmed in writing.

The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Faithful Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond each in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price. Each bond shall be in the forms set forth herein, shall be secured from a surety company that meets all State of Califor-

nia bonding requirements, as defined in California Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120, and that is a California admitted surety insurer.

Pursuant to Section 22300 of the Public Contract Code of the State of California, the Successful Bidder may substitute certain securities for funds withheld by the Town to ensure its performance under the contract. Pursuant to Labor Code Section 1773, Town has obtained the prevailing rate of per diem wages and the prevailing wage rate for holiday and overtime work applicable in Mono County from the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations for each craft, classification, or type of worker needed to execute this contract. A copy of these prevailing wage rates may be obtained via the internet at: www.dir.ca.gov/dlsr/. In addition, a copy of the prevailing rate of per diem wages is available at the Town’s Public Works Department Engineering Division and shall be made available to interested parties upon request. The Successful Bidder shall post a copy of the prevailing wage rates at each job site. It shall be mandatory that the Successful Bidder, and any subcontractors, comply with all Labor Code provisions, which include but are not limited to the payment of not less than the specified prevailing wage rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract, employment of apprentices, hours of labor and debarment of contractors and subcontractors.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors and subcontractors that wish to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, or enter into a contract to perform public work must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. No Bid will be accepted nor will any contract entered into without proof of the contractor’s and subcontractors’ current registration with the Department of Industrial Relations to perform public work. If awarded a contract, the Bidder and its subcontractors, of any tier, shall maintain active registration with the Department of Industrial Relations for the duration of the Project. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the contractor registration requirements mandated by Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 shall not apply to work performed on a public works project that is exempt pursuant to the small project exemption specified in Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1.

This Project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. In bidding on this Project, it shall be the Bidder’s sole responsibility to evaluate and include the cost of complying with all labor compliance requirements under this contract and applicable law in its Bid. Each Bidder shall be a licensed contractor pursuant to sections 7000 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code in the following classification(s) throughout the time it submits its Bid and for the duration of the contract Class A - Engineering or Class C -12 Earthwork and Paving Contractor license. The Contractor, and all subcontractors will be required to procure and maintain a valid Town of Mammoth Lakes Business Tax Certificate.

Town shall award the contract for the Project to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder as determined by the Town from the Base Bid Alone. Town reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any Bids or in the bidding process.

For further information, contact Matthew Freedman, PE, Associate Engineer at mfreedman@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov or 760-965-3656.

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA
Jamie Gray, TOWN CLERK
DATED: February 10, 2026
TS #2026-0016

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to §99238.5 of the Transportation Development Act, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC) will conduct a Public Hearing on unmet transit needs on March 11, 2026 at 9:00 am.

The PEDC is soliciting input of transit-dependent and transit-disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means. The PEDC will also receive comments from interested citizens on unmet transit needs that may exist within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and that might be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public transportation or specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Identified unmet needs within the Town of Mammoth Lakes will be considered by the Mono County Local Transportation Commission for allocations of Transportation Development Act Funds for FY 2026/27. All persons interested in these matters are urged to attend and make comments. Comments may be sent to clerk@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

ZOOM INFORMATION
Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please click this URL to join.
<https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/94467884456>

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Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592
Callers - To Raise your hand press *9, To Unmute/ Mute press *6 Webinar ID: 944 6788 4456 International numbers available: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/aeHBYOcpOu>

TS #2026-0020



TREASURY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE COUNTY OF MONO STATE OF CALIFORNIA

QUARTERLY MEETING
Thursday, March 12, 2026
1:00 PM

PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATIONS:
Mammoth Lakes, Dana Conference Room, 2nd Floor Civic Center, 1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546
Bridgeport Annex I, CAO Conference Room, 74 N. School Street, Bridgeport, CA 93517

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION: Information below

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION:

This meeting will be held in person at the location listed above. Additionally, a teleconference location will be available where the public and members of the Commission may participate by electronic means.

1. Town of Mammoth Lakes Location – 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546
2. Mono County Office of Education South Office Location – 451 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546
3. Mono County Office of Education North Office Location – 37 Emigrant Street, Bridgeport CA 93517
4. Mammoth Lakes Unified School District Business Office Location – 461 Sierra Park Rd, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546
5. Eastern Sierra Unified School District Business Office Location – 231 Kingsley Street, Bridgeport CA 93517
6. Eastern Sierra Unified School District Alternative Location – 24 Bascom Lane, Melstone, MT 59054

To join the meeting by computer: Visit <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/84243837444>

Or visit <https://www.zoom.us/>, click on "Join A Meeting" and enter the Zoom Webinar ID 842 4383 7444. To provide public comment, press the "Raise Hand" button on your screen.

To join the meeting by telephone: Dial (669) 444-9171, then enter Zoom Webinar ID 842 4383 7444. To provide public comment, press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to mute/unmute.

Pursuant to Government Code § 27130-27137, The Mono County Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution establishing The County Treasury Oversight Committee. The function of The Committee is to “promote the public interest by involving depositors in the management of their funds and by enhancing the security and investment return on their funds by providing a more stable and predictable balance for investment by establishing criteria for the withdrawal of funds”.

TS #2026-0021

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KLUSMIRE

COLORADO SINKS OV DREAMS

The severe Colorado River crisis and a supply of cheap water from the Eastern Sierra will swamp efforts to reduce water exports to Los Angeles from the Eastern Sierra.

Those are two of the obstacles faced by environmental groups, tribes and water activists in the Eastern Sierra that have made a concerted push to limit the amount of water going south via the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

First the economics, then the regional pressures on LA's water supplies.

In 2023, the expenses for the Los Angeles Aqueduct were about \$91 million, while the city spent roughly \$300 million to buy water from its two other sources of water, primarily the Colorado River and the California Aqueduct/State Water Project.

Those figures come from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Commission approved Estimated Water Supply Cost, Water Quality Improvement, and Owens Valley Regulatory Expenditures for Jan. 1, 2023, Through Dec. 31, 2023. Another \$115 million goes to groundwater, recycled water and conservation.

Helping to recoup its Eastern Sierra costs is a special assessment on LA water ratepayers' water bills. That separate assessment goes toward the costs, \$33.5 million in 2023, of the massive dust control project on Owens Lake, and the Lower Owens River Project, a mere \$3.5 million.

That economic reality indicates Eastern Sierra water will play a larger role in the city's water future in the coming years.

Money aside, there are significant and unresolved political conflicts and environmental constraints involving the city's two other primary water sources. The California Aqueduct/State Water Project deliveries vary by year and runoff, and have been constrained by numerous environmental issues and state politics pitting agricultural users in the Central Valley versus Southern California cities.

But that in-state source remains mostly reliable and appears more stable in the future than the status of water supplies from the troubled Colorado River. The river is facing a historic reckoning which could dramatically reduce how much water LA receives from that troubled waterway.

The uncertainty about the amount of water LA will get from the Colorado River will add to the importance of Owens Valley and Mono Basin water, a source that the city controls.

The relationship between the Colorado River's imperiled state and the Owens Valley revolves around climate change

shrinking the snowpack and runoff feeding the river.

The Colorado River basin has been in a 25-year drought which has reduced the river's flows by about 20% since 2000, by some estimates, and reduced the basin's reservoir storage. This month, the seven states that share the Colorado River have failed, once again, to revise the water allocations laid out in the 1922 Colorado River Compact.

The stalemate between the seven states is simple: The Lower Basin states (California, Arizona and Nevada) have taken reduced amounts of Colorado River water for years, and don't want to take the brunt of future reductions. The Upper Basin states (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico) are adamant that they will not reduce their share of the Colorado.

That means the Trump Administration's Bureau of Reclamation (BUREC) will craft its own plan for providing Colorado River water to 40 million people and 5.5 million acres of farmland.

The obvious (but seemingly ignored) problem is there isn't enough water in the Colorado River system. The upper and lower basin states are both supposed to take about 7.5-million acre feet of water a year. The river flows have only reached about 12-million acre feet for years.

It is inevitable that the BUREC plan will mandate huge reductions in the amount of water allocated to the three lower basin states. One scenario from BUREC cuts millions of acre feet from California's 4.4 million acre feet allocation. No decision is expected until October, and a flotilla of water lawyers is lining up in all seven states to start filing lawsuits.

On the other hand, The city owns its Eastern Sierra water rights and land outright and has the legal right, secured through the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement and the Mono Basin Agreement, to export water to LA. That in itself provides a level of security and reliability missing from the situations with the Colorado River and the California Aqueduct/State Water Project. It is telling that LADWP counts Eastern Sierra water delivered via the Aqueduct among its "local" water sources.

The uncertainty about how much Colorado River water Los Angeles and Southern California will receive will probably make city leaders and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power even more assertive if not downright adamant about exporting water from the Eastern Sierra.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is a perpetual pessimist when it comes to water issues.



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Questions? Contact Kevin Lian
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LUNCH

continued from page 2

indie festivals have suffered.

The High Sierra Music Festival, formerly held in Quincy, has moved to Grass Valley after being off more than 40% last year.

The Telluride Blues Festival, said Sherman, was down 25% in 2025.

Last year, the Town of Mammoth and Mammoth Lakes Tourism gave Bluesapalooza a total of \$50,000 in support. \$25,000 of that was from the \$350,000 pot for special event funding with another \$25,000 from MLT to support marketing efforts.

The Town is expected to announce its 2026 special event funding awards on Friday, Feb. 27.

"We're a little behind schedule" this year, acknowledged Sherman, "but I think it'll come together soon."

So why is Jose Garcia praying?

It would seem as though he's praying for the A-Frame building at the City Park, which has served as Bishop's Visitor Center for many years, to go away.

The latest. At Bishop's Council meeting on Monday, Council voted to appoint a two-member committee (Bam. Decisive!) to speak to/negotiate/snuggle with the Chamber of Commerce.

In a perfect world, the two parties would gather 'round a hookah, mend their differences, and the Chamber would ultimately move back into a restored building at the Park, restoring equilibrium to a broad array of visiting



Jose Garcia, Bishop City Council member, praying.

tchotke buyers and triple XL souvenir t-shirt enthusiasts.

Alas, the Chamber is in the process of moving into its new digs on Main Street near the brewery, and as we all know, once you've moved once, it would take an Act of God to voluntarily move again.

Then again, with Lynette McIntosh praying for you, one can never discount Acts of God.

Clearly, the committee (which will consist of Mayor Stephen Muchovej and Councilmember Karen Schwartz) was appointed to placate the A-Framers.

Not to be confused with the local Save the Gophers society out at Millpond.

They would be the A-Holes.

Garcia prayed before abstaining from the vote. He was undoubtedly praying that his fellow councilmembers would just end the torture and close the book on the A-Frame's illustrious 55-year history.

For comparison, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was built from the ground up starting in 1163.

New York, London, Paris, Bishop.

And finally, the "Heard on the Street" column in the Feb. 19 issue of the Wall Street Journal tackled the proposed Billionaire Tax initiative which will likely make the November ballot in California.

The initiative proposes a one-time 5% levy on the wealth of any resident California billionaire.

The column outlines the argument for the tax, which is that "billionaires have ways to lower their tax bills that aren't available to most Americans. A common strategy is to avoid salaries, which are heavily taxed."

Instead, get paid in shares, and then borrow money against those shares to fund one's lifestyle. "The interest on the debt is much lower than a capital gains tax would be."

"One working paper by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that the effective tax rate for the U.S.'s 400 wealthiest individuals is 24% - compared with 45% for top labor income earners."

On the flip side, "the ultra rich can simply leave if they don't like where a state's tax policies are headed." And "one-time" taxes very rarely remain one-time taxes.

HERON TODAY, GONE TOMORROW



Lunch captured this blue heron resting atop the Jensen fence in Bishop.

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HARTLEY

EVERYBODY NEEDS A YELLA

There was a fight at an NBA basketball game recently between the Pistons and ... some other team.

First of all, basketball fights are nothing more than tickle fights. They pretend to want to fight each other and hide behind big crowds trying to “hold them back.”

And NOTHING happens. But the media and every talking idiot on TV has been going off about how thuggish it is.

They’re worried about the fans. I personally think the fans shouldn’t be on the floor where they can touch players and cause trip hazards. The fans are more dangerous than the players.

In the NHL they have fights nightly. Some people get mad when there isn’t a fight. Stop it.

There are kids banging on the glass and loving it when they fight. They even take off their gloves so they can bareknuckle someone.

The only difference is the color of the fighters. Racist.

Big Marv and I talked about this years ago and he said, correctly, if the NHL was mostly black there would be no fighting. They would be skating on roller skates and using rubber sticks and cotton balls to prevent any “thuggish” behavior and fighting. I still agree.

It’s thuggish in the NBA and it’s “part of the game” in hockey. They just stop them in hockey when someone hits the floor. We don’t want you to wrestle someone but you can knock them out while standing with a strong right hook? Get out of here.

In an NBA game, you fight and you get kicked out of the game and suspended for future games. They don’t even get kicked out of the game in the NHL. They put you in timeout for a few minutes so fans can yell at you in a little box. Then you come back out to play.

This is racist. Nothing more, nothing less.

There is no logical reason to LET them fight because it’s a charged and emotional sport. Football is as emotional as it gets. And in the NFL you

can’t fight.

Even baseball lets the whole team run out on the field. The guys from the bullpen run out and take a break from blowing bubble gum bubbles and get involved. Former players who are in the broadcast booth calling the game probably run out.

Yet an NBA fight is thuggish. Think about it.

Seahawks’ Jaxon Smith-Njigba said he wants to be NFL’s highest-paid wide receiver.

“I know my time is coming, and when we get it done, it’s gonna be a great deal. God’s timing is perfect timing. Whenever that may come, we’ll be ready for it,” he said.

He makes all the classic idiot athlete moves in this statement. He is the epitome of the player saying something that makes his agent call him and say you would PLAY FOR FREE. But you want to be the highest paid. Shut up.

And ... you’ve been great ONE YEAR. Do players hear themselves being dumbasses? Why don’t they have ONE friend that says SHUT UP BRO’

Why don’t they all have one Yella-Man from N.W.A.? When Ice Cube went OFF on N.W.A. and Easy E after leaving the group, the manager wanted to strike back.

Yella was like “I don’t know about ALL that.” And he was the voice of reason. Every pro athlete needs a Yella to say “I don’t know about all that, Njigba.”

Another jackass athlete: Maxx Crosby. He said, “That’s all that matters ultimately, but I want to be in a place where mentally I’m 100% myself.

I just want to focus on football. That’s truly what I want. People that know me know I’m about the work and the football. I just want to play football and be left the f**k alone. Period. And the people that don’t understand that don’t f**king know me. People can say whatever they want ... But truly, I don’t give a f**k besides playing football and winning football games. I give my whole life to this sport every single day.”

And he has his own podcast. And

he wanted Antonio Pierce hired as head coach and openly recruited for that. And he reportedly wanted to be traded. Shut up. What is up with these delusional babies? If you want to be left alone then shut up. You don’t get to whine and cry and then ask to be left alone. Did your parents not beat you as a kid ... or beat you too much? I don’t get it. He is white so that ain’t racist. He is just a dumbass.

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

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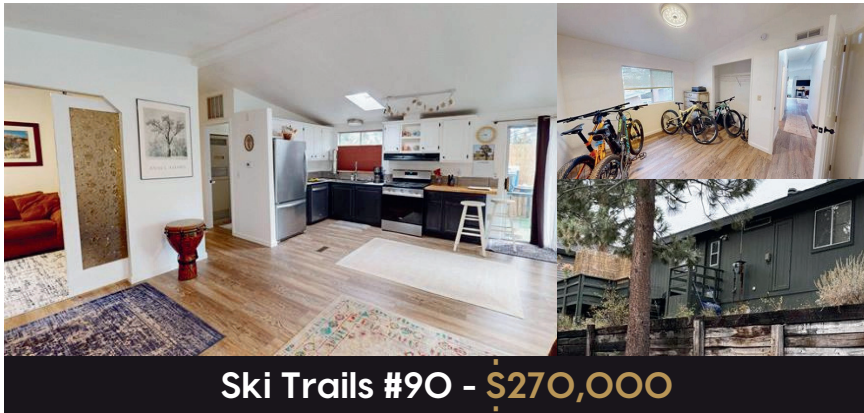
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BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1160

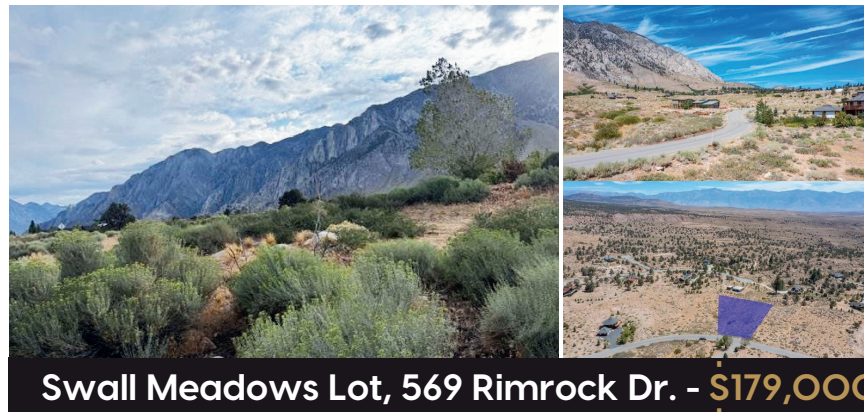


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The Lodges, 1101 Pyramid Peak Dr - \$899,000

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CONDO
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2.5
SQ FT: 1867



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

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LOT
SQ FT:
85,378



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

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



The Pointe, 3600 Chateau Rd - \$1,249,000

Sun-drenched 2 bdrm loft 3 ba townhome w/attached 2 car garage and additional storage. Updated kitchen, heated floors, and picturesque Mammoth Rock views. Close to town, meadow, and shuttle.

CONDO
BEDS: 2/LOFT
BATHS: 3
SQ FT: 2037



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