

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



First-time Olympian Kate Gray made her parents proud on Thursday by qualifying for the finals in the Women's Freeski Halfpipe. For details and more Olympic news, see p. 9.

Saturday, February 21, 2026

FREE

Vol. 24, No. Yaz

A BIG, BEAUTIFUL TURD

Screws tightening on Medi-Cal coverage

By Fisher

For one in four Mono County residents relying on Medi-Cal, the safety net is tightening, and county officials are struggling to respond.

Over the next three years, federal and state policy changes are expected to reshape health coverage, potentially requiring hundreds of local residents to complete new paperwork, face stricter eligibility rules, incur additional costs, or lose coverage altogether.

In response, the county plans to revise its own programs to prepare for a surge in demand for county-provided healthcare services.

During Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting, Health and Human Services Director Kathryn Peterson outlined the coming changes, joined by Kari Brownstein, executive director

of the Mono County Medical Services Program (CMSP).

The changes stem from the federal "Big Beautiful Bill" (H.R. 1), signed in July 2025 by President Donald Trump, along with provisions in California's 2026 state budget.

Some of these policies have already taken effect.

For one thing, as of the new year, eligibility for traditional Medi-Cal is no longer based on income alone for seniors and people with disabilities. County workers are now required to consider savings accounts, cash on hand, and certain property when determining whether someone qualifies.

The cap is firm at \$130,000 in assets for an individual, plus \$65,000 for each additional household member, excluding a primary home, one vehicle, **more TURD, pg. 8**

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A REDNECK WHEN ...



On Sunset Drive in Bishop on Wednesday, kids got creative before the plow showed up.

BISHOP HOOPS DENIED



Bishop Girls Basketball lost its quarterfinal CIF playoff game at home on Wednesday to Santa Ynez. For more coverage, see p. 12

THE ARC OF THE COVENANTS

Northern Inyo Hospital District at mercy of bondholders

By Lunch

Northern Inyo Hospital District (NIHD) CEO Christian Wallis acknowledged this week that NIHD would most likely not meet the conditions of its bond covenants this year, meaning the fate of the hospital and district may very well be in the hands of New York bankers before long.

He made these comments during a presentation to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

Wallis presented along with Chief Financial Officer Andrea Mossman and Compliance Officer Patty Dickson.

Mossman, who jokingly referred to herself as "CFO and Bearer of Bad News" laid out the stark numbers.

In order to meet the bond requirements, NIHD needs to have a minimum of 75 days cash on hand and a debt service coverage ratio of at least 1.1.

Currently, NIHD has 65 days cash on hand and a negative debt service coverage ratio of -0.7.

In terms of cash on hand, NIHD currently has \$22 million but Mossman projects that figure to decline to \$18 million by the end of the fiscal year.

"To be safe, that number should be at \$28 million," she said.

So what does this mean?

Bondholders would have the opportunity to either a.) Work with the existing administration and staff to come up with

a viable recovery plan, or b.) Call the bonds, take over the administration of the hospital and call the shots (in terms of services offered, et. al.).

NIHD's woes have been exacerbated of late by the federal government's slashing of Medi-Cal reimbursements.

NIHD had been expecting reimbursement to total \$17.7 million. Instead, it will come in at \$12.2 million.

Wallis broke down the macro picture this way. NIHD will spend \$123 million this year and bring in \$103 million. Typically, the federal reimbursements are counted on to fill in the gap.

But if your gap is \$20 million

more ARC, pg. 2

How much for a DUI?

Ulla on the bus

Catch-22

5K? I'll take 40 miles

Crap, craps and more

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p. 2, 9/

LUNCH
continued from page 1

and they’re giving you \$12 million, got a problem.
Another problem, anyway.
The origin story, as illuminated by Compliance Officer Dickson, is the District’s existing debt, accumulated and subsequently refinanced and pushed down the road since 1998.
That debt stands at approximately \$50 million, with taxpayers directly on the hook for \$40 million of that figure.
Amidst all the bad news, Wallis tried to offer Supervisors a silver lining.
He said patient satisfaction and quality of care metrics are good, and that the contract with Mammoth Orthopedics Institute has shored up that department following the Dr. Bo Loy debacle and subsequent exodus of former providers.
As he told Supes, “we want to skate to where the puck is” in terms of growing business and services, but this will take money and renovation of substandard infrastructure.
He thought it might take a \$10 million to \$15 million investment.
But the Supes are not dupes.
Generally speaking, if someone is \$50m in the hole, do you hand them \$10m thinking you’re gonna get it all back?
That is 2 a.m. Craps table logic.

The other interesting tidbit from the Supes meeting came from the state of Death Valley National Park presentation by Acting Deputy Superintendent Abigail Wines.
Wines talked about how the annual Dark Sky Festival was getting talked up in some circles as the Coachella of stargazing.
The event had previously drawn 6,000 people and Wines said Park staff was concerned it couldn’t handle any more.
The solution: The Park decided not to advertise it beyond a little local advertising in the Inyo Register.
The result: It drew the same crowd as last year, about 6,000.
So if you don’t want anyone to know about something, put it in the Register!
But I didn’t include this piece of information just to make a cheap joke.

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sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

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

JACK LUNCH
PUBLISHER

• Combined, the FY24-25 campaigns (Winter, Summer/Fall) influenced about 110,000 trips and \$208 million in visitor spending. This translates to an ROI of \$124 in visitor spending for each \$1 invested in the media.

	Winter 2024-2025	Summer/Fall 2025	Full Year
Ad-Influenced Trips	64,177	45,611	109,788
Avg. Trip Spending	\$2,027	\$1,719	\$1,899
Ad-Influenced Visitor Spending	\$130,085,438	\$78,388,454	\$208,473,892
Media Investment	\$1,000,389	\$678,665	\$1,679,054
ROI	\$130	\$116	\$124

Marketing math is a wonderful thing.

Because the next day I listened in to the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meeting, and MLT is already gearing up to renew its Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) in 2028.

The arguments for maintaining the status quo were rote and self-satisfied. There was no hint of dissent.

In terms of sloganeering, “Visitation = Vitality” is the leader in the clubhouse. “Our Town, Our TBID” was viewed less favorably.

Slogans not considered include, “War is Peace,” “Freedom is Slavery,” and “Ignorance is Strength.”

But the most relevant slogan might be “Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.”

One presentation I did appreciate at MLT this week was then one where they talked about calculating the effectiveness of their ad campaigns.

They crunch some numbers and create some equations and make some assumptions and presto, they present you with the ROI (Return on Investment) of their ad spend.

Which was calculated at about \$120 per every dollar spent.

This is conservative and pedestrian when compared to the go-go Urdi years, where he would claim ROI of \$270 or more.

I’ve always wondered, if the ROI provides such an exponential return, why we don’t just spend infinity on marketing?

What’s clear is that MLT needs to teach NIHD something about marketing and economics.

Finally, I tuned into the NIHD Board meeting on Wednesday evening in time to hear a presentation by Chief Medical Officer Adam Hawkins about the state of the orthopedics department.

He attempted to dredge up a bunch of stats to indicate that numbers are all back to normal after a brief blip. And he made the presentation while omitting mention of Dr. Bo Loy entirely in his slide deck (the name did pass his lips once in his address to the Board).

Who controls the present controls the past.

I turned the meeting off in disgust. Too much time at the Crap table ...

The diagram is a horizontal timeline with arrows pointing from left to right, representing the years from 2023 to 2026. Above the timeline, three orange boxes indicate departures: 'Dr. Rich Meredith Leaves' (pointing to late 2023/early 2024), 'Dr. Mark Robinson Retires' (pointing to early 2025), and 'MOI Provides Elective Coverage' (pointing to mid-2025). Below the timeline, three orange boxes indicate arrivals or changes: 'Dr. Jeb Reid Hired' (pointing to late 2024), 'Dr. Jeb Reid Leaves' (pointing to early 2026), and 'MOI Provides Exclusive Comprehensive Coverage' (pointing to late 2026). The timeline itself is divided into segments for 'Status Quo: 2023', 'October 2024', 'November 2024', 'March 2025', 'July 2025', and 'January 2026'.

Notice, no mention of Dr. Bo Loy.



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LETTERS

Bishop Mayor Stephen Muchovej made this public comment before the Northern Inyo Hospital District Board on Wednesday.
The Sheet asked if we could publish his remarks. This is the text he provided.

You want 5K? I'll go 40 miles!

Members of the Board,

I first want to thank you all for your community service - trust me, I know all about being in a position where you take a lot of heat and don't get much gratitude, so I want you to know that I definitely appreciate all of you here.

I'm not here tonight as Mayor of the City of Bishop, but rather as a resident, a taxpayer and a patient - to ask you to change your billing policy.

A few weeks ago, I scheduled an MRI here. I was told to arrive at 7 a.m. I've had MRIs at our hospital before, and I've been glad to support it. We all support it - it's right there on our property tax bills. But when I showed up, I was told I had to pay over \$5,000 on the spot. Not a co-pay. Not a deposit. The full amount - because I hadn't met my deductible. I was asked to produce \$5,000 before I could receive care.

Let me ask you: how many of you could write a \$5,000 check at 7 in the morning?

I'm fortunate. I have a decent job and am doing okay. But even I had sticker shock. When I asked what my options were, I was told 'none.' Billing wouldn't

even open for another hour.

So what did I do? I left.

I scheduled my MRI in Mammoth. I also scheduled my upcoming colonoscopy there.

Not because I don't trust our physicians or staff - I do. But because this billing policy sends a clear message: the hospital sees our community first and foremost as accounts receivable.

On April 14, 2025, when this "upfront cash collection initiative" was presented to the Bishop City Council, the CFO justified it by saying, "Studies show patients are six times more likely to pay co-pays and deductibles if you collect at time of service."

Think about that. If that's true, it implies five out of six people don't pay otherwise. That doesn't seem right, and does not strike me as a study - it's more of an indictment of your own community. I asked to see that "study" and was told it would be sent to me. It never was. And that concerns me, because it suggests the NIHD Board may be making policy decisions based on claims that haven't been properly scrutinized.

But I'm not just here to criticize. I'm here to offer a solution.

If I had been told, "Your responsibility is \$5,000. We've automatically enrolled you in a payment plan. We need \$200 or \$500 or even \$1,000 today," I would have stayed.

So I ask you: Instead of forcing patients to navigate a payment system you designed, design it to work for them au-

tomatically; cap what can be collected at time of service. Make payment plans the default, not the exception, when it comes to high-priced ticket items.

At that long ago Council meeting, your CFO also said there had been no "decline in [patient] volume attributed to this policy."

I have no idea how you're keeping track of that, but here's another data point [me] that it has.

And if it remains unchained, I suspect you'll see more patients quietly taking their care - and dollars - elsewhere.

I urge you to reconsider this policy before more community trust walks out the door at 7 a.m.

Stephen Muchovej
Bishop

Correction, please

Good morning Jack and Ted,

I'm reaching out to you regarding a recent letter to the editor published on Feb. 7, 2026.

We are requesting a correction.

In the 6th and 7th paragraphs, the letter (written by Mammoth Lakes resident and former Town Wildlife Specialist Steve Searles) states that California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was contacted about reports of a man that had been "jumped and beaten by a sow and two cubs."

Searles then continues: "The sow was subsequently trapped, drugged, col-

lared and tagged, along with one of her cubs. Shortly afterwards, the sow and the captured cub were killed. The remaining cub, Sierra, escaped capture and was left orphaned."

This is factually incorrect. No bears were euthanized during the department's response to this incident. The sow and cub referenced were released nearby shortly after their capture in order for the family unit to be reunited. This was done per CDFW best practices to ensure the highest chance of reuniting and maintaining cohesiveness of family groups during these responses.

CDFW biologists have continued to track the sow through GPS-Collar data to this date and were able to confirm this family unit reunited shortly after this incident occurred through remote trail camera footage that showed the sow and two cubs together.

Cort Klopping, Information Officer
Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Editor's note: This appears to amount to wordsmithing. When Steve wrote, 'shortly afterwards,' he meant six weeks later, after repeated (and uncorrected) behavioral issues.

Klopping is correct in that no bears were euthanized in the immediate aftermath.

The issue, says Searles, is that we no longer have the will or staff to monitor and correct bad bear behavior. Which ultimately leads to quick triggers and death.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Avalanche kills nine near Truckee

A backcountry ski expedition near Truckee turned tragic when an avalanche struck a group of 15 people, including four guides, during a three-day trip in a “rugged but popular” recreation area. The incident is now regarded as the most deadly avalanche in California history.

The slide occurred around 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 17 at an elevation of about 8,300 feet on a north-facing slope near Perry Peak above Frog Lake and just east of Castle Peak near Truckee, according to the Sierra Avalanche Center and Nevada County sheriff’s officials.

Six members of the group survived: one guide and five clients. Eight people have been confirmed dead, and, as of Thursday afternoon, one remains missing and is presumed dead.

After the avalanche, the six survivors were told to shelter in place as rescuers navigated severe weather conditions. The survivors used emergency beacons and iPhone S.O.S. features to alert rescuers.

Emergency teams from Boreal Mountain Ski Resort and Tahoe Donner’s Alder Creek Adventure Center then worked for hours in hazardous conditions before reaching them late Tuesday night.

Two of the survivors were taken to a hospital after evacuation. One has since been released, while the other remains hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries.

This is the second deadly avalanche in the area this year. In January, a snowmobiler was killed in a 300-foot-wide slide near Castle Peak.

Bovino comes to Mammoth

Gregory Bovino, the United States Border Patrol officer who served as the commander-at-large of the Border Patrol from Oct. 2025 to Jan. 2026, was seen vacationing in Mammoth Lakes this week.

The visit came just weeks after The Atlantic reported that Bovino had departed from his role as commander-at-large to return to his former job in El Centro, California, a claim the Department of Homeland Security denied.

Originally from San Bernardino, Bovino had a career full of controversy.

In June 2025, he was named the tactical commander of a mass raid in Los Angeles that sparked protests across the city.

After the operation concluded, he shifted to Chicago to serve as the commander of Operation Midway Blitz. In the Los Angeles and Chicago operations, Bovino assumed a public-facing role. By October, he was named a commander-at-large of the Border Patrol.

In December 2025, Bovino began leading Operation Metro Surge, a major immigration crackdown in Minneapolis, Minnesota, also generating protests and backlash from the public. Two U.S. citizens were shot and killed by Immigration Control Enforcement officers during this operation.



Bovino spotted at Canyon Lodge by an anonymous online poster.

Respite for the powerless

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in California affected by the late December 2025 storms (Dec. 16–26).

The disaster declaration, requested by Gov. Gavin Newsom’s CalOES Interim Director Christina Curry, covers both Mono and Inyo counties.

Eligible businesses, agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs (including faith-based organizations) can apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to cover working capital

needs such as payroll, debts, and bills, even if no physical damage occurred.

Loan amounts can reach up to \$2 million, with interest rates as low as 4% for businesses and 3.625% for PNPs, and terms up to 30 years. Payments are deferred for 12 months.

SBA Disaster Loan Outreach teams will assist applicants at the Lee Vining Community Center Feb. 23–26, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome; appointments can be scheduled at appointment.sba.gov. Applications can also be submitted online at sba.gov/disaster. The deadline to apply is Nov. 6, 2026.

more BRIEFS, pg. 9



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TOML OPTS FOR STINGIER ZONE DEFENSE

Triples resort zone parking fines

By Fisher

The Mammoth Lakes Town Council sealed the deal this week on policies cracking down on parking laws and fines for residents and visitors alike... except for those living out of their vehicles.

In a series of votes at Wednesday's meeting, the Council hiked the costs of parking citations and limited street parking. At the same time, it advanced a temporary overnight parking program to support residents sleeping in their cars through the winter.

On the enforcement side, the Council adopted a resolution creating a designated "Resort Parking Zone" covering high-violation areas in North Village, Canyon Lodge, and Eagle Lodge.

Within that zone, standard parking citations jumped to \$350. The Council also approved a \$525 citation for impeding traffic flow townwide and a \$1,000 penalty for ADA violations, effective as soon as the Public Works department can post signs.

The changes follow a 2023 increase from \$45 to \$110, which staff said failed to deter illegal parking.

The item was initially posed as a \$500 fee (\$750 for impeding traffic), but councilmember John Wentworth proposed dropping the fee to give "headroom" in case the Council needed it more. His timeline was also more lenient than the proposed item, which offered enforcement of the fees on March 1.

Public Works Director Haislip Hayes

says it will take at least a couple of weeks to get the signs posted, likely more depending on the snow levels.

Council member Chris Bubser was vehemently opposed to Wentworth's advocacy for both the price drop and the loose timeline, while Mayor Amanda Rice was more lukewarm in her distaste for the adjustments, but both provided dissenting votes.

"I think that we're not doing our duty to the community if we don't implement this as quickly as possible," Bubser opined.

But council members Brent Truax, Bill Sauser, and Wentworth all voted yes, giving the motion a majority and allowing it to pass. The three yaysayers liked that fees would not increase until the signs said so.

"I have a concern about enforcing new rates that are as high as what we're talking about here without having the signs to say what that rate would be," Sauser said.

A second item on the agenda verified that clearer signage will accompany the new restrictions, along with updated fine information.

But quietly nestled within the item's language, staff included that parking would be removed on one side of Rainbow Lane and Lakeview Boulevard, near Canyon Lodge, to improve emergency vehicle access and accommodate snow storage.

Mammoth Mountain CEO Eric Clark took issue with this, saying his stud-

ies show that over half of the resort's visitors want to park at Canyon Lodge and that the reduction would do those people an injustice. He estimated the total loss would be about 62 spaces.

"That's not giving our people what they want," he said. "In addition, I didn't see any mediation for that. Where are those 62 spaces gonna go?"

Which is funny because the first time the council considered hiking the fees, on Feb. 4, some council members worried that harping on the parking issue in the resort zone would just spread throughout town, especially without more parking resources available. At the last meeting, they decided it not necessary to immediately create more parking, as the bus system is available (see p.19 for the reality on that).

This time, Wentworth waved away these concerns with a plea of public safety.

"It had to do with fire, it had to do with transit getting through. It was an emergency situation. I think the rationale for moving forward is specifically tied to public safety," Wentworth said.

The other council members supported Wentworth's reasoning, and the item was approved unanimously.

Then, after all this fuss and fury over cutting down on parking, the Council carved out an exception for members of the public living in their vehicles.

Declaring an urgent winter need, the Council unanimously authorized staff to establish a temporary 90-day over-

night parking program, either through an agreement with a private property owner or, if they can't find one, on Town-owned land.

Under the new policy, participants will be required to verify local employment, undergo background screening, sign liability waivers, and comply with program rules in exchange for access to a safe, legal overnight site. The Town anticipates subsidizing operational costs, including snow removal, trash service, restrooms, and security.

Dawn Vereuck, owner of Mountain Living Interiors & Design, said she has people sleeping in her parking lot "overnight constantly" and was worried about the access these individuals might have to showers and restrooms if they are permitted to do so.

"I think it's important to set this up and have people able to sleep in their vans and cars safely, but at the same time, we need to address the issue of hygiene."

To this, Rice clarified that "getting the placard doesn't allow you to just park anywhere overnight," and explained that the police department will continue to cite people who park on properties that don't allow overnight visitors or who don't have the placard.

Rob Patterson said there might be opportunities for the Town to put porta-potties "in more remote locations," but that showers will likely not be available.

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Vanessa Oelke
REALTOR® / DRE #01944319
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(760) 914-7599



Donnalisa Knowles
BROKER-ASSOCIATE / DRE #01246275
dlsellsmammoth@gmail.com
(760) 914-1797



Celia Stewart Hooper
BROKER-ASSOCIATE / DRE #01141058
celia@celiastewart.com
(760) 914-0508



Ruth Hensley
REALTOR® / DRE #02146362
ruth@mammothmrg.com
(760) 297-0628



Jesse Reyes
REALTOR® / DRE #01965423
jesse@mammothmrg.com
(760) 709-6677



Janice Gray
REALTOR® / DRE #00831051
janice@mammothmrg.com
(760) 914-0927



Dee Ward
REALTOR® / DRE #01874192
dee@mammothmrg.com
(530) 258-6688



Rosie Rotberger
REALTOR® / DRE #00931119
395rose@gmail.com
(760) 937-0218



Kimmy Benchetler
REALTOR® / DRE #02126983
kimmy@mammothMTNproperties.com
(530) 277-2229



Cameron Schwartkopf
REALTOR® / DRE #02133199
cameron@mammothmrg.com
(760) 965-6273



Jes Schwartkopf
REALTOR® / DRE #00988263
jes@mammothmrg.com
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TURD

continued from page 1

household items, and some retirement accounts.

These asset tests are an old policy that was suspended in recent years and is now returning. As a result, Peterson estimates that 450 to 500 Mono County residents could be affected.

Also, on Jan. 1, the "Beautiful Bill" narrowed options for immigrants. Adults without "Satisfactory Immigration Status" (meaning a citizenship, green card, or non-citizen status) will no longer be able to enroll in full Medi-Cal.

Those already enrolled can keep their benefits, provided they complete renewals on time and continue to meet income and California residency requirements. But if coverage lapses, they have a three-month window to re-enroll.

After that three-month window closes, affected individuals may qualify only for restricted-scope Medi-Cal, which only covers emergency services, pregnancy-related care, and nursing home services. Routine doctor visits, specialty care, and ongoing treatment would no longer be covered.

Then, on July 1, Medi-Cal members subject to the new immigration rules will lose full dental coverage. They will retain emergency dental benefits, but routine cleanings, fillings, and preventive services will likely not be covered.

Peterson estimates that another 450 to 500 Mono County residents could be affected by these changes.

Further pressure on immigrants is expected Oct. 1, when the federal government revises how it classifies certain immigration categories, potentially ruling out refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, and survivors of violence with pending cases. However, state guidance on this item is still forthcoming, and Peterson said they do not yet know how many residents could be affected.

But the most dramatic changes are expected to arrive in 2027.

Beginning Jan. 1, adults enrolled through the Affordable Care Act expansion (which applies to adults under age 65 with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, a federal income measure defining who qualifies as low income) will face new employment requirements.

Under the "Beautiful Bill," these people must document at least 80 hours per month of work, job training, education, or volunteer service, or meet a minimum income threshold to maintain coverage.

"This is a big one," Peterson said.

Adults in the expansion group must verify eligibility every six months instead of annually. Missing a deadline may result in loss of coverage, putting roughly 1,000 to 1,500 Mono residents on a far more frequent renewal cycle.

Retroactive coverage will shrink. Medi-Cal currently covers up to three months of medical bills incurred before someone files an application. Starting in 2027, Medi-Cal will limit this to one

month for adults without children and two months for other groups.

Financial obligations will follow.

Beginning July 1, 2027, some Medi-Cal members will be required to pay a small monthly premium to maintain full coverage. If the premium is not paid, coverage will shift to emergency-only benefits. Mono County estimates that 500 or fewer residents may be affected.

Then, beginning Oct. 1, 2028, some adults may face copayments for some non-emergency services, such as "seeing a specialist doctor, cardiologist, dermatologist," or getting certain tests.

The laws cap copays at 5% of annual household income. These do not apply to emergency care, preventive services, prenatal care, pediatric care, mental health treatment, substance use services, or care at community health centers or rural health clinics.

Still, Peterson estimates that 400 or fewer Mono County residents could see new out-of-pocket costs.

As Medi-Cal eligibility tightens, county officials are preparing for possible increases in enrollment in the County Medical Services Program (CMSP), a program so old and underutilized that many residents may not remember it.

Established in 1983 after California eliminated Medi-Cal eligibility for medically indigent adults, CMSP serves as a pooled-risk health benefit program for smaller counties with populations under 300,000.

Before the Affordable Care Act ex-

panded Medi-Cal in 2014, CMSP was the primary indigent healthcare program for participating counties.

After the ACA expansion, more than 90% of CMSP members transitioned to Medi-Cal coverage, and enrollment dropped sharply. In Mono County, active CMSP users fell from roughly 215-250 in fiscal year 2011-12 to fewer than 10 by 2019-20.

Program director Brownstien anticipates roughly 100 residents could seek CMSP coverage after losing Medi-Cal or Covered California subsidies.

CMSP exists under state law requiring counties to provide medically necessary care to indigent residents as a provider of last resort. The program helps counties meet that obligation, but it does not eliminate county responsibility.

While CMSP maintains a fund balance, Brownstien said that rising enrollment could strain resources over time.

Because of this, CMSP's governing board is already considering how to scale the program back to manage potential enrollment surges.

"What happens when our program's larger and we have larger expenses, and we don't have the revenues?" Brownstien posed.

County participation fees, currently waived, could be reinstated. Mono County's fee, if reinstated, would total approximately \$25,469 annually.

She plans to bring more changes and updates to the program for the board to consider in May.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Flush with sewer money

The City of Bishop is flush with sewer cash thanks to a pair of recently approved multi-million-dollar grants. The city secured about \$7.1 million after successfully wading through state and federal wastewater grant rules and regulations. The city council gladly accepted the grants at its Feb. 16 meeting.

The biggest chunk of change, \$4.7 million, will be used to repair damage suffered by the city's wastewater collection system in 2022. Heavy rainstorms in November flooded streets and elevated groundwater levels, which resulted in "significant inflow and infiltration" in the sewer collection system, according to a staff report from Nora Gamino, the city Public Works Director. The storms received a Presidential disaster destination, making the city eligible for federal grants from the USDA Rural Development 2022 Disaster Water Grants Program.

The city hired consultants to complete a preliminary engineering report outlining the storm impacts and a scope of work. The work that will be funded by the \$4.7 million federal grant includes rehabilitation of 12,733 feet of existing sewer main pipelines, installing new seals on 67 manhole covers, and installing a new flow meter in the sewer main system. The work will "address damage and system vulnerabilities" and improve the reliability of the wastewater collection system, according to Gamino.

The first wave of cash is also set to flow toward a new sewer plant, thanks to a \$2.4 million grant from the California Clean Water Revolving Fund, Gamino reported. Bishop and the Eastern Sierra Community Services District, which serves the subdivisions ringing the city limits, formed a Joint Powers Authority to get the new plant built.

Due to federal regulations, the city will handle the grant administration chores. The grant does not have to be repaid and there are no local matching funds required.

The money will get the project through the planning and environmental review process. It will also fund about one third of the preliminary engineering design work. Money for completing the final engineering and design work and ultimately paying to build the new sewer plant will have to come from other sources, she noted.

There is no firm estimate at this time for the total cost of the new treatment facilities.

- Klusmire

Condom-nation

The free condoms at the athletes' village in Cortina d'Ampezzo were depleted after three days, as reported by Italian newspaper La Stampa last Thursday. In response, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) restocked the supply to ensure the athletes remained healthy, and, well, active.

Previous Games had more athletes and provided more condoms. For the 2024 Summer Olympics, 300,000 condoms were supplied for over 10,000 athletes.

This year, 2,900 Winter Games athletes went through about 10,000 condoms initially supplied.

IOC spokesperson Mark Adams said, "Valentine's Day is in full swing in the village, and I do not have further comment on the matter," according to USA TODAY.

Kate Gray goes to finals

In local and unrelated Olympic news, local athlete Kate Gray made her Olympic debut Thursday in the Women's Freeski Halfpipe Qualifier, placing twelfth, meaning she'll face off in the finals on Saturday.

Ed note: The commentator described Gray as the "pride and joy of Crowley Lake," likely to the dismay of Mammoth Lakes Tourism.

Three Mammoth Snowboard Team Alumni also competed in the games this year. Chloe Kim earned silver in the snowboard halfpipe, while Bea Kim finished eighth. Maddie Mastro placed third in the Women's Snowboard Halfpipe Qualifier last Wednesday and later competed in the finals, finishing twelfth overall.

In March, Kate Delson, a Mammoth-

based Paralympic snowboarder, will compete in the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games.

Art on the road

In a unique and ambitious project, C5 Studios Community Arts Center and Inyo Council for the Arts proudly present "From Here to There; A Regional Touring Exhibition," which opens Friday, Feb. 20, in both venues in downtown Bishop. The exhibit will then travel to locations in participating venues in Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Mono and Tuolumne counties through September 2026.

Following a call for submissions in October 2025, over 150 works of art were submitted.

Thirty-one artists were selected, includ-

ing 12 Inyo or Mono County-based artists. Inyo County artists included in the show are Nora Akino, Brittany Colt, Jael Hoffman, Jenny Kane, Carla Spencer Napoles, Paul Stone, Rodney Thompson, Steve White and Amy Wicks. Mono County artists are Dana Ellis, Roberta Lagomarsini and Alyssa Marquez.

The exhibit is the inaugural project of the Sierra 7 Arts Alliance, a collaborative network of arts organizations, funded through Sierra Jobs First.

The opening events for "From Here to There" will be held on Friday, Feb. 20 at C5 Studios from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and at the Inyo Council for the Arts, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information visit www.c5studios.org/sierra-7-from-here-to-there or contact C5 Studios at contact@c5studios.org.

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SIP AND SWERVE CLUB

By Libre

What do hundreds of Eastside residents have in common? A DUI. At least, that's what LA-based criminal defense attorney Shepard Kopp will tell you.

"A DUI is probably the single most common crime that cuts across the socioeconomic strata," Kopp told The Sheet. "I mean, George Bush has three of them."

A Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charge is a criminal offense issued when an individual operates a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol, illegal drugs, or over-the-counter medication. The legal limit for a driver is a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08%, though a DUI can be issued if driver's BAC is lower and they exhibit clear impairment.

How common are DUIs in Inyo and Mono County?

According to Bishop California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer Nicholas Vasquez, Inyo County saw 248 DUIs in 2023, 174 in 2024, 131 in 2025, and so far, in 2026, six.

Similarly, according to the Mono County District Attorney's office, Mono County saw 143 DUI arrests in 2023, 151 in 2024, and 202 in 2025. The Mono CHP claims there have been eight DUI arrests so far in 2026.

"[DUIs] are as common as snow in the Sierras," said Gerard Harvey, Big Pine based attorney and candidate for Inyo County judge. Harvey has been practicing law on the Eastside since 1995. He estimated he'd seen over 2,000 DUI cases during his time here.

Vasquez pointed to a few different reasons why the numbers for DUIs have

fluctuated prominently in Inyo County over the past three years. These included road closures caused by weather events and the amount of higher priority calls the CHP receives, such as those for domestic violence.

"It really depends on how many officers are already on the road enforcing DUIs at the time," Vasquez said.

A few DUI numbers in the annual Mono County count could be attributed to a switch in case management, Anderson hypothesized.

"Some of it has to do with the reporting and the case management system," Mono County District Attorney Dave Anderson said. Mono County switched their case management system in 2020, though there were reporting policy changes in 2023.

Harvey had another hypothesis: the age of the CHP officers enforcing DUIs.

"A couple of young officers were overly aggressive ... all of a sudden, the kids grew up," Harvey said.

The Sheet doesn't have evidence of this. There are currently 26 Bishop CHP officers, though the experience level of these officers is not public information.

Conversely, the numbers of officers in Mono County are constantly in flux.

"They transfer in and out all the time," Anderson said. "In one particular year, you might have more seasoned officers, in others, you might have more rookies. It really just depends."

DUIs, though common, are expensive. A DUI in Inyo County costs roughly \$1,869 in fines, if the defendant has a public defender and therefore no lawyer fees. In Mono County, fees for a DUI first

offense can be up to \$1,781.49 and up to \$2,215.50 for a second offense.

However, if the client doesn't qualify for a public defender because they have a higher income, this individual could be subject to a flat rate attorney fee of approximately \$2,500. The costs increase when factoring in the \$125-\$300 three to eighteen month class the defendant must take with the Department of Motor Vehicles in Bishop in order to reinstate their driver's license, though a license can be suspended anywhere from six months to four years.

Car insurance premiums can also increase by 90% once an individual has been convicted of a DUI.

"Even if you don't have to pay for a lawyer and you get the minimum fines and fees, by the time you take the insurance hit, it's going to cost \$5,000," Kopp said.

In some instances, a first time offense for a DUI can result in jail time. In Mono County, if the individual's BAC level is two times over the legal limit (.16%) or an injury occurs as a result of the DUI, they receive 48 hours of jail time.

"It's a little different in Mono County than a lot of counties, because that person will serve that jail time," Anderson said. "The studies have shown that on the first DUI, having even just two days in jail is a significant deterrent from any sort of recidivism that person might have."

Most counties, including Inyo, have work release programs, Anderson explained. For example, the convicted individual might pick up trash on the weekends instead of sleeping in the county jail for two days straight.

Jail time increases with each subse-

quent offense. In Mono County, the standard for a second DUI is 20 days in jail, and for a third, is 180 days. By the fourth offense, the DUI is considered a felony, and results in three years in prison. These sentences can be expedited by good behavior and work time when an individual is in jail.

"That's up to the jail's discretion," Anderson said.

In extenuating circumstances, an individual can pay up to \$500 per night to spend their jail time in a different county, Anderson added. For example, if a visitor from LA received a DUI in Mono County, they could pay to spend their jail time in LA County.

Meanwhile, in Inyo County, a first time DUI offender can get five days in custody, if their BAC count is twice the legal limit. Custody, meaning either a work release program or time in the county jail. For a second offense, regardless of BAC level, the defendant must spend five to 15 days in custody, and for a third, the jail time increases to a minimum of 120 days. Fourth time offenders are again convicted of a felony, and given a minimum of one year in jail.

"People don't have to drink and drive," Inyo County District Attorney Dana Crom and candidate for Inyo County Judge said, "I would like to see people serve time in jail."

But during the first two DUI sentences, it's not up to the District Attorney's office to choose whether a defendant will spend custody in jail or participate in Inyo County's work release program. The defendant can plead guilty, leaving the judge to decide the individual's sentence.

DUIs often are dolled out in clusters. Over the holidays, for example, there tends to be an uptick in cases. Kopp hypothesized that perhaps the lack of Ubers in Mammoth and on the Eastside contributes to an increase of DUIs around these times.

"It's always cheaper to take a cab," Kopp said.

Harvey echoed his sentiment.

"I think it's wise to have a designated driver."

Unfortunately, not all locals agree.

"There are a lot of people that I spend time around who choose drinking and driving over having a designated driver... it's just easier in a small town than the alternative of planning ahead," an anonymous party animal said.



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Matthew Lehman

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FEBRU-BURIED!



PHOTO: FISHER

A storm starting Monday brought 51" of snow to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) by Thursday, bringing a hoard of skiers and riders to the resort in anticipation of winter's great return after a very dry January.

However, on Tuesday, MMSA did not open. The decision was a result of hazardous weather conditions and observations on the hill Tuesday morning, according to a statement from Joani Lynch, MMSA's vice president of marketing and sales.

"The amount of new soft snow, combined with high winds, which limits the ability for our grooming crew and patrol to move around the mountain safely, contributed to the decision making," Lynch's statement said. "The mountain had already called for a delayed opening and had communicated broadly about plans to reduce operations to lower lifts at Canyon and Eagle if conditions permitted. They did not permit."

The statement briefly touched on a "snow immersion emergency with an employee performing work on the hill." Lynch's statement did not divulge any more detail, though sources indicate that the incident was related to a snowmobiling accident.

"Thankfully, due to the quick response of our team, the individual was successfully rescued," Lynch concluded.

The mountain reopened Wednesday with limited lifts and terrain.

- Libre

SPORTS

BISHOP GETS SHANGHAIED



PHOTOS: LUNCH



The Bishop Broncos girls basketball lost 47-25 to the The Santa Ynez Pirates in Wednesday's match up. Above, Faye Spoohunter (left, #4) and Analee Guerrero (right, #15) race to corral a loose ball in the third quarter. To the left, Ellie Boyd (#22) gets overtaken by two Pirates as she makes a move headed to the basket.



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BINGO! AT THE ELKS LODGE

By GAYLA WOLF



It was a packed house at the Bishop Elks Lodge on February 13 for Bingo night - based on turnout, one can expect plenty more Catch-22 and Vitamin B-12 calls in the near future.



Kindergarten & TK Enrollment

2026

Mono County Child Care Council



Learn how to enroll your child in Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten, meet the teacher(s), and get your Kindergarten Readiness Backpack.
***If your child is new to the TK-12 system, please bring them to enroll.**

**At all sites except Mammoth: The first 30 mins is the enrollment event and the last hour is the health and safety fair.
Families with children birth-5 are welcome to attend the fair.**



Información sobre cómo matricular a sus niños en Kindergarten y Transicional Kindergarten, para presentarles a las maestras, y recoger su mochila.
**Si su hijo es nuevo en el sistema TK-12, tráigalo para inscribirlo.*

*Si su hijo es nuevo en el sistema TK-12, tráigalo para inscribirlo.

En todos los sitios excepto en Mammoth: Los primeros 30 minutos son el evento de inscripción y la última hora es el feria de salud y seguridad. Las familias con niños desde el nacimiento hasta los 5 años pueden asistir a la feria.

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

Tuesday, April 21st, 12:30-2:00 pm
Bridgeport Elementary School
 205 Kingsley St, Bridgeport

Wednesday, April 22nd, 1:00-2:15 pm
Antelope Elementary School
 111527 Hwy 395, Coleville

Friday, April 24th, 12:30-2:00 pm
Edna Beaman Elementary School
 25541 Hwy 6, Benton

Tuesday, April 28th, 10:00-11:30 am
Lee Vining Elementary School
 132 Lee Vining Ave, Lee Vining

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.

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

Martes, 21 de abril, 12:30-2:00 pm
Bridgeport Elementary School
 205 Kingsley St, Bridgeport

Miércoles, 22 de abril, 1:00-2:15 pm
Antelope Elementary School
 111527 Hwy 395, Coleville

Viernes, 24 de abril, 12:30-2:00 pm
Edna Beaman Elementary School
 25541 Hwy 6, Benton

Martes, 28 de abril, 10:00-11:30 am
Lee Vining Elementary School
 132 Lee Vining Ave, Lee Vining

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.

The Mono County Child Care Council actively leads a community-wide effort to develop and sustain accessible, high-quality, and affordable child care and education. To learn more or to get involved, visit monocccc.org or call 760-934-0031.

calendar of events

B&B Advisors

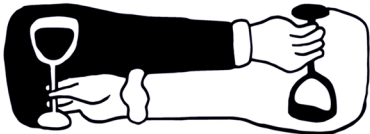
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Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 19.*

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 20-21/
Ray Jaurique (Blues/Rock/Soul) plays Liberty in Mammoth. Shows start 9:30 p.m. No cover.
Weekend apres parties @ Canyon Lodge. DJ. 21+. Starts 2:30 p.m.

February 20-22/
Arc'teryx Backcountry Academy returns to Mammoth, delivering three days of mountain education and community events. **Film premieres** and **athlete conversations** Friday and Saturday night at Wind Drift Studios (94 Old Mammoth Road) and, after, Canyon Lodge and the venue space in The Village (formerly known as Kitchen 53) come alive with an **electrifying lineup of DJ sets**. Ticket prices vary by event. For tix/schedules, go to mammoth.arcteryxacademy.com.

Sunday, February 22/
Jeff Livingstone (singer-songwriter) plays Distant Brewing. Time: 7-9 p.m. Location: 568 Old Mammoth Rd.

Monday, February 23/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25/
Cassie Dunn plays Shelter Distilling in Mammoth. Time: 6-9 p.m.
Karaoke @ Mammoth Rock 'n Bowl with MC Maurice. Discounted bowling! Starts 8 p.m.

Thursday, February 26/
Skyler Lutes (reggae/island sounds) plays Distant Brewing. Time: 7-9 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

Friday, February 20/
Sierra 7 Arts Alliance touring art exhibit comes to Inyo County. **Opening receptions tonight** from 5:30-8 p.m. at C5 (210 S. Warren) and from 6:30-8:30 p.m. @ Inyo Council for the Arts (150 Willow).
Girl Winter Film Tour comes to Minaret Cinemas in Mammoth. Speakers 6 p.m. with film at 6:30.

Saturday, February 21/
Bird Babes birding group meets at Blue Heron Farm in Wilkerson. Time: 9 a.m. *More info: bird-babes.com.*
C5 Studios in Bishop celebrates the Lunar New Year with Tea & Qi. Time: 10:30 a.m. 'til 12:30 p.m. Location: 210 S. Warren St. \$\$\$ More info: 760.258.1059/contact@c5studios.org.

TOWN STUFF

Saturday, February 21 (cont.)/
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.

Galentines Free to Flow Chair Movement Experience at Bar Sierra from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Tickets \$55, available at outboundhotels.com

Monday, February 23/
Bishop City Council meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers @ 377 West Line St. or online via cityofbishop.ca.gov
Community Creative Flow Yoga from 5:30-6:45 at C5 Art Studios (210 S Warren St.). Sliding scale donation.

February 23-26/
Small Business Association holds disaster loan outreach assistance at the Lee Vining Community Center from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. *More details, p. 5.*

Tuesday, February 24/
Bishop Planning Commission meets. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers @ 377 West Line St. or online via cityofbishop.ca.gov
Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce Power Lunch @ Harmony Brazilian Steakhouse. Time: Noon. \$25 for members and \$40 for non-members. *Program: Fuel your business growth with practical insights*

TOWN STUFF

Tuesday, February 24 (cont.)/
into current SBDC (Small Business Development Center) programs built to support local entrepreneurs
SIGHT's 2nd annual "Live Full, Die Well" film series @ C5 Studios in Bishop kicks off from 6-8 p.m. \$. Screening then discussion.

Wednesday, February 25/
BUSD Parent Series continues. This week's topic: Connection. Location: Bishop Elementary Library. Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Childcare provided.

Thursday, February 26/
Community Coffee online from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Join the link at https://business.mammothlakeschamber.org for webinar and a voucher for free coffee.

Mammoth Lakes Fire Dept. Firefighter Academy orientation dinner. Time: 6 p.m. Location: Fire Station #1 at 3150 Main St.
Bishop Parks and Recreation Commission meets @ 6 p.m. Location: Council Chambers @ 377 West Line St. or online via cityofbishop.ca.gov.

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

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP

Superlative East Coast, Thin-Crust Pizza

LUNCH SPECIALS

Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm

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

HAPPY HOUR

Monday - Friday
3-6 PM

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

Lunch
Specials!

Happy
Hour
Specials!

GELATO

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

NO CLASS-IFIEDS

Help Wanted



Footloose Sports is hiring Bootfitters and Demo Ski Technicians. 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

AN EXPERIENCE IN ALPINE DINING

SKADI

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

3228 MAIN STREET
SKADIRESTAURANT.COM

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



Sports/Action Photographers needed
Competitive Wages offers
Info: bc@captivatingphotos.net

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

JOB OPENINGS

WAGE RANGES SHOWN
IN COMPLIANCE WITH
CALIFORNIA LAW

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

- Police Officer - Lateral
\$126,959 – \$154,320 annually

TEMPORARY & PART-TIME

- Summer Seasonal Positions
Parks & Recreation
Outdoor Recreation
\$19.63 – \$31.82 hourly

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

(760) 965-3604
townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONO**
The Superior Court of California for Mono County invites applications for the position of
Fiscal Manager
in the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse
Salary Range:
84A \$6,963 - 84G \$9,331
with excellent benefits
Application and job description available at:
<https://mono.courts.ca.gov>
or call the court at
(760) 923-2321 or email
hr@mono.courts.ca.gov
Open Until Filled
The Mono County Superior Court is an equal opportunity employer

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

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.

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

us deliver outstanding service to our owners and guests, please fill out our online job application today at www.fivestarlodging.com."



Forest Health Project Manager
Whitebark Institute is hiring a manager to coordinate and oversee all aspects of forest restoration and fuels reduction projects. Salary \$62,400-\$80,000/year, benefits, hybrid work. Apply at whitebarkinstitute.org/careers

Forest Health Seasonal Field Technician
Whitebark Institute is hiring seasonal technicians for its 2026 Forest Health Program. Duties include field-level support for program operations. Hourly rate \$24-\$28; housing may be available. Apply at whitebarkinstitute.org/careers

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

Join Now

We Are Hiring!

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

Why Work with us?

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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/join/25327764376302?p=qry9jG9cO7YgZsB2R>
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 Summons

Notice is hereby given that on January 8, 2026, Mono County Superior Court granted an order for alternative service in case No. 25FLM32.

Steven Matthew Luke Meiers, Petitioner v. Aida Cecilia Ferguson, Respondent.

The Respondent, who was present in court, has made a request to modify a restraining order.

The alternative service is made in accordance with the court’s California Code of Civil Procedure.

The matter is set for March 5, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in Mammoth Court Room #1.

TS #2026-0009

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

RE/MAX OF MAMMOTH

Mammoth Altitude Inc.

587 Old Mammoth Rd. #1

P.O. Box 100, PMB 577

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant has yet to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Jan. 16, 2026
File Number 2026-0006
TS #2026-0010
(1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21)

Notice of Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. ORD 26-001

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AMENDING TITLE 15 OF THE MONO COUNTY CODE PERTAINING TO BUILDING REGULATIONS AND UNIFORM CODES

WHEREAS, Title 15 of the Mono County Code contains the Mono County Building and Construction ordinances and the Mono County Building Regulations, International Codes, and Uniform Codes; and

WHEREAS, the California Buildings Standards Code (“State Code”) sets forth the uniform and international building standards by way of adoption of specific uniform and international building codes and standards by the California Building Standards Commission that is binding on the state, other public agencies, and private parties; and

WHEREAS, the California Building Standards Commission has adopted the 2025 California Building Code regulations based on the International Building Code, and has adopted revised codes including the 2025 California Wildland Urban Interface Code, the 2025 California Electrical Code, the 2025 California Plumbing Code, the 2025 California Mechanical Code, the 2025 California Energy Code, the 2025 California Historical Building Code, the 2025 California Fire Code, the 2025 California Residential Code, the 2025 California Green Building Standards Code, the 2025 California Administrative Code, the 2025 California Referenced Standards Code, the 2025 California Existing Building Code; the 2024 International Property Maintenance Code; and the 2016 Edition of the American Concrete Institute 306R Guide to Cold Weather Concreting. Pursuant to state law each of the adopted state codes becomes effective as of January 1, 2026; and further, local agencies are required to adopt such codes by reference pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17922 and Government Code Sections 50022.2 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, 2025 amendments to Heath and Safety Code sections 17958, 17958.5, and 17958.7 restrict the adoption of local changes or modifications to the Codes that are applicable to residential units, but allow local changes or modifications to be adopted where “the change or modifications are substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed by the governing body of the city or county and were in effect as of September 30, 2025, and

WHEREAS, local agencies, including the County of Mono, may modify the provisions of the adopted State Building Codes when the local agency determines, and expressly finds, that such changes or modifications are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions as provided in Health and Safety Code Sections 17958.5, 17958.7, and 18941.5; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has previously made findings, and hereby expressly ratifies said findings, that all of Mono County is a snow area requiring specific ground snow load requirements, and that due to the climatic, geological, and topographic conditions found in Mono County that application of high-rise buildings requirements set forth in Section 403 of Chapter 4 of the 2025 California Building Code shall apply to any development of structures designed to have occupied floors (such as hotels and condominiums) located more than 50 feet above the lowest levels accessible to fire department vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that local climatic, geological or topographical conditions, including snow loads, high winds, and freezing temperatures, require the addition of the certain specified appendices of the 2025 California Building Code including Appendix C (Agricultural Buildings), and of the 2025 California Residential Code including Appendix BO (Existing Buildings and Structures) and Appendix BB (Tiny Houses).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONO ORDAINS as follows:

SECTION ONE: That Title 15 of the Mono County Code is amended and Chapter 15 entitled Building Regulations and Uniform Codes that will read as set forth in Attachment “A,” which is incorporated herein by this reference and available for review in the Mono County Community Development Department offices in Bridgeport (74 N. School Street) or Mammoth Lakes (1290 Tavern Road).

SECTION TWO: The previous ordinances set forth in Chapter 15 of the Mono County Code are hereby repealed.

Fictitious Business Name Statement

The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

REAL ESTATE OF MAMMOTH

Mammoth Altitude Inc.

587 Old Mammoth Rd. #1

P.O. Box 100, PMB 577

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant has yet to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on Jan. 16, 2026
File Number 2026-0006
TS #2026-0011
(1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21)

SECTION THREE: That if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Mono County Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

SECTION FOUR: This ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the date of its adoption and final passage following a public hearing to be held pursuant to Government Code Sections 50022.2 et seq.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall post this ordinance and also publish the ordinance or a summary thereof in the manner prescribed by Government Code section 25124 no later than 15 days after the date of this ordinance’s adoption and final passage.

Attachment A will be available for review in the Mono County Community Development Department offices in Bridgeport (74 N. School Street) or Mammoth Lakes (1290 Tavern Road). If the Clerk fails to so publish this ordinance or a summary thereof within said 15 day-period, then the ordinance shall not take effect until 30 days after the date of publication.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 10th day of February, 2026 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors Duggan, Kreitz, McFarland, Peters and Salcido.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

JENNIFER KREITZ, Chair
Mono County Board of Supervisors
ATTEST: Queenie Barnard, Clerk of the Board
APPROVED AS TO FORM: Christopher Beck, County Counsel

TS #2026-0019

Notice Inviting Bids

REQUEST FOR BIDS
Mono City Well #3 Project

In general, the Work involves the construction and testing of a residential supply well within the community of Mono City (Lee Vining, CA). The well will be located 500’ from the community’s existing supply well, within an established BLM Right of Way. When complete, the new well will provide a redundant supply source in conjunction with the existing well.

1. Sealed bids will be received by the Lundy Mutual Water Company prior to 1:00 p.m. (local time) on Monday, March 16, 2026, and following said deadline all bids will be publicly opened and read. Bids shall be submitted by mail to P.O. Box 323, Lee Vining, California 93541, or hand delivered to the Mono City Fire Department Building at 1057 Silver Lake Way, Mono City, California 93541, only during the last hour before the specified deadline. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Mono City Fire Department Building.

2. Bidders must submit all questions no later than 2:00 P.M. (PST) Monday, March 9, 2026.

3. Bidding Documents, including design specs, bid forms and sample contract, may be obtained in electronic format by email request to lundymutual@gmail.com.

4. Prevailing Wage Rates: Pursuant to Section 1770, California Labor Code, the successful Bidder shall pay not less than the prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of California Department of Industrial Relations. A copy of such prevailing rate is on file at the offices of the Lundy Mutual Water Company, which copy will be made available for examination during business hours to any party on request: Prevailing wage rate information is also available on the internet at the following website address: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlsr/PWD>.

5. This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

6. OWNER reserves the right after opening Bids to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality or non-responsiveness in a Bid, or to make award to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder and reject all other Bids, as it may best serve the interest of the OWNER.

TS #2026-0018

PERSONALS

I saw you ... are a big fan of the Dark Sky Festival. Well, come by my place, we'll turn off the lights, and I'll show you my Cassiope_____

I saw you ... have been watching the Olympics and are a big fan of luge. Makes sense, given how much you like to slide on your back.

I heard you ... have been obsessed with Olympic curling. Sounds like you need to cut back on the recreational drugs.

I heard you ... joined the sip and swerve club. Sounds like I need to swerve into your DMs and offer you a few rides.

KLUSMIRE

BREAK OUT THE FOOT MASHIE!

Oh sure, you betcha, yeah, yeah yeah, snow-mageddon is on the way says the forecast and wait for it, Bishop is in the bullseye. Yawn. Heard it before, seen it evaporate like a puff of a Jr. high student's vape exhaust. Snore.

Just in case, since it is getting cloudy and sort of cold, I'd better go to the grocery store so I don't have to cannibalize those ancient frozen tater-tots and that frosted over, Covid-era chunk of some sort of meat in the freezer. And toilet paper, another Covid-era angst-fest I don't have to angst over anymore. Until I'm down to one roll. Ah the memories.

Whoa, whoa, whoa, what is this? Little white specs falling from the sky. Gotta be kidding. Nope. Snow. Even better it's being driven sideways by the wind. Better find a warmer coat than my ratty little fleece that has been in service all winter except for that string of 70-degree days when a shirt was just fine. My coat inventory reveals two black fleeces, a red fleece ("why, oh why," the winter fashion Gods ask), a rain shell, a canvas jacket that sheds rain but isn't warm, and finally, a little heftier jacket making this year's winter debut.

Okay, maybe my Colorado-warm knit cap? It's in here somewhere, but I haven't seen it in over a year. Not there. Oh well. Death Valley National Park ball cap – hot, right?

Off I go and it's now an official blizzard. Which feels good. Wind-whipped snow stinging my face, bouncing off my frosty little ears and nose. I leave my coat open to get a good chill and let snow pile on my shirt. It finally feels like winter.

When I finally come out of the store it's a serious blizzard, almost a whiteout with snow sticking on the shrubbery and cars. What a hoot. Almost forgot such things can happen here in the Paris of the West.

Now I'm getting excited. Snow is piling up on sidewalks and coating tree limbs. Snowing and blowing so hard I can barely see streetlights as night falls. Mushy, wet, heavy snow, the classic Sierra Cement.

Time to get ready for the morning and "digging out."

So, look in the closet. Where did all these sweaters come from? Oh, I remember. I used to wear sweaters over a shirt in the winter. Crazy. Barely remember those cold days. For years all I've needed is a nice flannel shirt. And a fleece. It's probably been a decade since I informed anyone who would listen that, "it's colder than a well digger's ass." (Sorry, not sorry for using my Dad's favorite saying.) Anyway, if it's even sort of cold in the morning I might wear a sweater for old times' sake.

I won't wear it over one of these heavy duty flannel shirts from L.L. Bean. Montana warm. Parked ever since I got to Bishop. I will only look longingly at my Pendelton wool shirts, who have been winter bystanders for years.

Boots. Lots of light, low-cut boots that seem to be fine these days for winter duty. The high-tops are stuck in back, almost under the bed.

Night brings more snow and the whomp whomp of snow falling off tree branches and tree branches falling off

trees. Winter stuff. Measures about 5 inches of soggy snow. Great. A veritable deluge.

Morning is sunny. Sort of warm, which is disappointing. First on the list is brushing off the car. Long-sleeve long underwear (I will not call it base layer, dammit) and a flannel shirt, boots, gloves, Death Valley hat and I'm in the snow. Don't even need a fleece. Sigh. Ice crusted snow on the car. Nice. Sweep it all off and the sun takes care of the leftovers. Now it's time for a favorite winter pastime: driving over the piles of slushy snow plowed into long strips on residential streets, splashing snow and water everywhere. I doesn't take much to entertain me. After a couple laps around the neighborhood I park and

eyeball my short sidewalk.

Shovel? Surely you jest. I had one years ago, but it broke and I tossed it. Still, the snow is 3-4 inches deep and mushy and heavy. I break out the "foot mashie." Golfers and golf history buffs know what I mean: when you find your wayward golf ball in the rough, kick it with a "foot mashie" and report, "there it is, edge of the fairway."

I go down the sidewalk kicking snow off 30-feet of skinny concrete.

Almost break a sweat.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is almost ready to give away two of his four winter comforters.



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IN-HOME CHILDCARE PROVIDER WANTED

Location: Northern Mono County

Servicing the communities of June Lake, Lee Vining, and Mono City



Provider Benefits:

- ✓ Non-Profit and County Assistance
- ✓ Subsidized Housing
- ✓ Licensing Process Support

APPLICANTS WANTED NOW – OPERATIONAL DATE AUGUST 2026

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Email: junelittleloopers@gmail.com

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ALWAYS SKI OR RIDE WITH A PARTNER

AVOID TREE WELLS

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FACILITIES OPERATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INYO NATIONAL FOREST



OBITUARY

JAMES S. REED 1938-2025

Jim Reed never let his hat hang on the nail for long. His late parents, DeWitt and Itha Ashworth Reed, were descendants of pioneering Nevada families. He was raised in McGill, Nevada, a small town he dearly loved, filled with amazing people.

At White Pine High School, he was the Yearbook Editor, Drum Major, a student body officer, played the clarinet and sax and also played basketball. He told us he should have studied, but there just wasn't enough time. He played on the McGill baseball team that won the state title in 1953. The position he played that year, he said, was "center bench."

He attended the University of Nevada on a scholarship and took a de-

gree in economics at San Diego State University. After a stint in the Army, he graduated with honors from the University of California's San Francisco law school. He was appointed chief counsel of the California Legislature's Assembly Judiciary Committee, where he worked on many laws which remain on the books today, including major revisions of family and corporate security laws, and especially the iconic California Environmental Quality Act, which was a focus of his law practice for decades.

He served on various committees studying environmental and economic issues as an appointee of the governor, senate and assembly. As an appointee of the Assembly Speaker, he served eight years on the governing board of the Bi-State Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, which is composed of seven members each from Nevada and California. He often said that any small thing he did to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe and its environs was the major achievement of his professional career.

He wrote articles for professional journals and taught environmental



and constitutional law.

Along with his family, he also loved running and ran four marathons. He especially enjoyed watching his sons run the Boston and California International marathons. He also loved backpacking and ascended an untold number of peaks in the Sierra.

In fact, he was a founder of SKUM (the Silver King Unorganized Mountaineers), a backpacking group with an annual hike that has gone on for more than half a century. With his granddaughter now a veteran hiker, SKUM is well into its third generation.

Later in his career, tired of the flatlands, he built a house in Mammoth Lakes and was a partner in the law firm of Liebersbach, Mohun, Carney and Reed. He enjoyed his partners and the wonderful staff.

In retirement, he wrote a book titled "The Fatal Affair in Convict Canyon" which was very well received (Sheet Publisher Jack Lunch says it ranks among the top three books written by local authors in the 21st century).

The book has since been adapted into a screenplay. Perhaps someday he will have a film credit.

He also wrote dozens of stories on Nevada and Eastern Sierra history for a wide variety of publications.

He loved and played music. Artists he enjoyed included Beethoven, Mozart, Joplin, Willie, Johnny and Merle. He possessed the scores of the nine Beethoven symphonies. In his later years, he would walk a few feet from his writing desk to his piano, which he played from age ten.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his son Jim, sister Karen and brother-in-law Jim Dewar. He is survived by his son and traveling companion Joe, former wife and great friend Maureen, granddaughter Ellie, daughter-in-law Karla, cousins with whom he enjoyed annual reunions, and many folks whose friendship he cherished.

Along with those of his son Jim, his ashes will be scattered high in the Sierra in the valley of the Silver King, which they both called the most beautiful place on Earth.



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?

Here's **Millie & Mindy!**

These medium sized young ladies are friendly and playful. They both walk politely on a leash, are well behaved and lots of fun.

You can meet them and others in search of their forever home - at the County Animal Shelter, located at 1001 County Road in Big Pine.

For more information, call (760) 938-2715. To see more dogs available for adoption, visit www.easternsierradogrescue.com

WOOF

Save a life. Adopt a shelter dog.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

TOWN OF Mammoth Lakes

DID YOU KNOW?

→ **Did you know that Mammoth Lakes has a Park and Ride?**

- The Mammoth Lakes Park and Ride is located at the corner of Old Mammoth Road and Tavern Road.
- Open daily, year-round, the Park and Ride lot provides 60 parking spaces with an additional 13 head-in spaces on Sierra Manor Road.
- Overnight parking or camping is NOT permitted.
- The Park and Ride lot connects to Town transit on Old Mammoth Road, including a bus stop for the Red Line that provides service to the Village and Main Lodge.
- The Park and Ride lot connects to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority's long route stop on Tavern Road.
- The lot provides easy access to sidewalks along Old Mammoth Road.
- Built in 2003, the Park and Ride was funded by the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- A Tesla SuperCharging Station with eight chargers was an added amenity when the facility was built. Additional chargers from EVRange are planned for the future.
- Currently some spaces have been leased to Mammoth Hospital to support its construction workers.

TownofMammothLakes.ca.gov

Town of Mammoth Lakes

OP/ED

WHEELS ON THE BUS GO ROUND AND ROUND

By Libre

Last week, Lunch gave me the seemingly strange assignment of driving my car to the Mammoth Yosemite airport, then calling town council member Chris Bubser to give me a ride, per her comment that the Town would “drive you around [all weekend] for free” to advert the parking crisis (quoted in the Feb. 7 issue).

The goal was to take the free public bus for the week and immerse myself in the experience of being a tourist in my own town.

I did not drop my car at the airport. I did not call Bubser begging for a ride. I did, however, take the bus everywhere that wasn't my 6:30 a.m. Canyon Lodge Coffee Bar shifts on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning.

The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) bus system gets a lot of flak. Validly so, considering there is absolutely no mechanism for me to get from where I live near Old Mammoth to Canyon Lodge on time, because the Teal Line starts to run at 6:55 a.m. and my shift begins at 6:30 a.m. So my GMC, and every other employee's car, takes a parking spot from an LA tourist.

“That is why there's a parking shortage [at Canyon],” Lunch aptly stated in an email to me. Moreover, it's impossible to take the bus to any time-sensitive event, because when they do start running, they are unreliable and sporadic. Hidden beneath promises of “the yellow line comes every 20 minutes” is the pressing question: at what times?

“I waited for an hour on Mono Street only to learn the Teal Line wasn't running,” a ski instructor told me Tuesday morning.

Meaning this individual waited in the pounding snow at 7 a.m., trying desperately to get to work on time, only to find her usual transportation method wouldn't get her there.

Yes, it's unreliable. Yes, I can't reasonably take the Mammoth Lakes public transportation to my Mammoth Mountain job. But there's another side to public transportation. The pursuit of the analog and the gravity of community.

My youth has been consumed by my iPhone and social media. I feel the need to be constantly tethered to my cellular device. Driving in my car only

expedites this process. I find myself texting and driving, or finding the perfect song to fit my driving mood on Spotify. I find driving in my car further isolates me. I am alone with the confines of my GMC, glued to the digital pacifier of my Apple CarPlay.

Conversely, taking the bus is a deeply communal experience. Everyone waits 15 to 30 minutes for the same line, each going to different places, but using the same method of transportation. For 15 to 30 sweet, sweet minutes, we exist on the same plane of communitas. I can stand beside perfect strangers, book in hand, and lean into the slow, mundane experience of riding the bus.

The majority of my time on the bus is spent with the four-year-old I nanny, taking the Yellow Line around and around between Eagle Lodge and the Village.

The Yellow Line, with its adorable trolley cars and perfectly wooden interiors, serves as endless entertainment. He sits dutifully in the back on the bus, his knees on the bench meant for the handicapped, his forehead pressed against the glass window pane. On Fridays, when I watch both him and another schoolmate of his, they point and wave to different cars tailing behind the bus.

“That one is friendly. That one is chasing is us. That one goes boom, boom, gone,” they say in fluent four-year-old.

The Yellow Line facilitates their childhood-driven whimsy. As I ride the bus with them, I find myself watching in adoration as the town of Mammoth Lakes unfolds slowly before my eyes. I love watching the flow of people enter the bus – the tourists who gawk at the intricate interior; the locals who depend on the line to venture home. Sometimes, the child falls asleep in my lap, and we ride the bus over and over again until his eyes gently open.

This past week of intentional bus taking also brought plenty of time for me to ride the bus alone.

On Saturday, I took the bus to Mammoth Mountain. On Sunday, I took the bus to Vons. In both of these situations, I had to allot myself an extra hour to get to these locations and remove any expectations of the time I would arrive.



Kids enjoy the sights of Mammoth Lakes from the trolley.

I stood alongside 20 other people for 30 minutes, waiting for the Red and Teal Lines, respectively. None of us spoke to one another. I leaned against the snow bank and read my book, dutifully waiting for the moment when I could sit in the back of the bus and listen to 93.3 FM blast through the speakers.

Ultimately, my time on the bus this week showed me the free pub-

lic transportation system is a double edged sword. In the most romantic light, taking the bus forces me to slow down and engage with my community. But the truth is, taking the bus to work will never be a reliable option for me or anyone else who works in town early. Employee drivers use the parking intended for tourists, definitely perpetuating the parking crisis.



JUNE
LAKE
BREW
ING

LOCATED INSIDE JOHN'S PIZZA WORKS

HAPPY HOUR
Monday-Friday, 4:00-6:00pm

FRIENDLY MOUNTAIN ATMOSPHERE

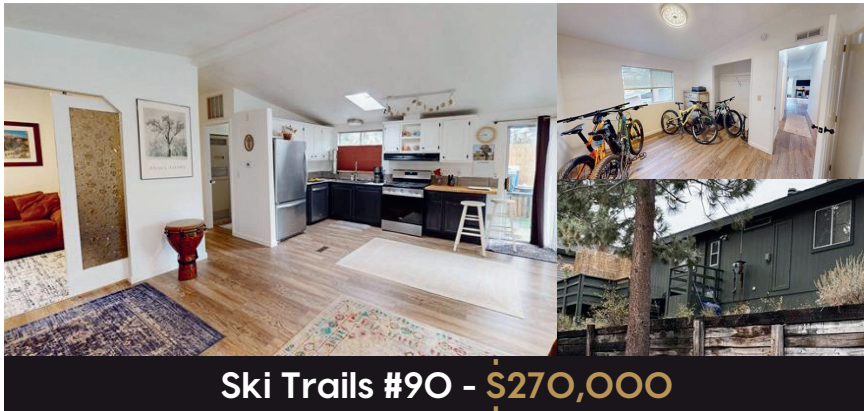
DINE IN & TAKE OUT Open Daily Mon-Sun 11:30am -10:30pm

Watch your favorite sports on our large-screen HD TVs!

Two Scoops Ice Cream Parlor

3499 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes
(769) 934-4065 • johnspizzaworks.com
Use the QR code at right to view our full menu!

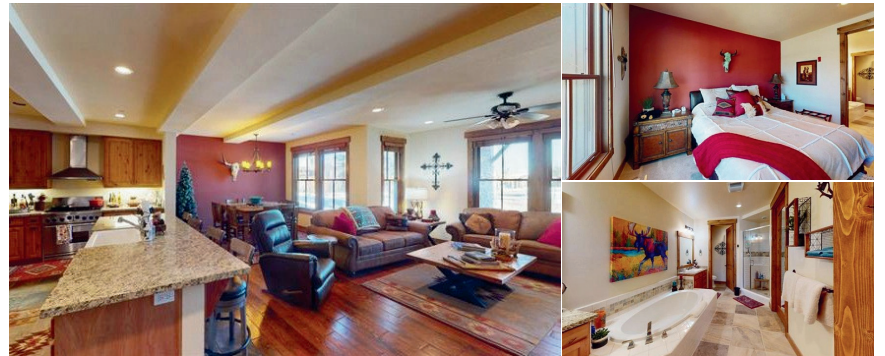
YOUR Mountain Home IS CALLING



Ski Trails #90 - \$270,000

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

MOBILE
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2
SQ FT: 1160



The Lodges, 1101 Pyramid Peak Dr - \$1,049,000

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

CONDO
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2.5
SQ FT: 1867



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

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

LOT
SQ FT:
85,378



**New Listings
Coming Next Week!**



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

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

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



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



LISTING DETAILS! CA DRE #01812140

The Snowcreek Property Company
5 Fairway Drive, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 934-3334
info@snowcreekproperty.com
www.snowcreekproperty.com



THE SNOWCREEK
PROPERTY COMPANY