

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

Saturday, May 9, 2026

FREE

Vol. 24, No. 19

CULINARY INSTITUTE OF MAMMOTH



A Mammoth High School Culinary Arts class opened its mock restaurant to the public last Friday.

By Fisher

Mammoth High School students got a taste of culinary school this year, and throughout May, the public can taste the results.

Under the guidance of first-year culinary instructor Stacey Slichta, students transformed the school's previously dormant culinary program into a hands-on restaurant incubator modeled after the teaching philosophy of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America.

Slichta arrived in Mammoth this year after a 25-year career as a private chef in Los Angeles. She moved to the Eastern Sierra for her 14-year-old son, a competitive snowboarder, and stumbled across the teaching position almost by accident.

"I'm a trained chef, so that's the perspective I took with this job," she said. "I took it in line with the CIA, the building block system of education."

Over time, the five culinary classes (roughly 50 students total) began catering district functions, including school board meetings and events.

"We've done probably close to \$100,000 worth of food production this year," she said.

By the second semester, students were ready for the program's final project of creating fully functioning restaurants from the ground up.

Each class developed its own restaurant concept, handling every aspect of the business themselves. Throughout May, each student-run restaurant will operate one Friday night service open to the public.

They brainstormed concepts, designed logos and websites, developed menus, assigned front-of-house and back-of-house roles, built budgets, ordered ingredients, selected dishware, and will ultimately

prepare and serve the meals themselves.

To help students prepare, Slichta organized field trips tailored to each class's concept and interests. Some groups traveled to San Francisco, Las Vegas or Reno to study restaurants and hospitality operations firsthand, while others stayed in Mammoth Lakes.

She also collaborated with Career Technical Education construction instructor Mike VanWinkle to build student-designed props and screen print restaurant uniforms.

Though Slichta said she spent more money than program had spent in previous years, she believes the student catering work more than offsets the cost.

"For example, we've done the in-service for the staff," she said. "Last year, they spent \$10,000 on it. This year, we did

more MHS, pg. 8

IS IT HANT-ING YOU?

By Fisher

Hantavirus is once again making headlines.

That's not unusual here. Mono County saw three confirmed deaths from the virus last spring. But recent reports of an infected cruise ship have pushed the disease back into the national spotlight.

Which begs the question, why does Mono County see hantavirus cases year after year, while most of California rarely does?

A new line of ecological and evolutionary research suggests part of the answer may lie in the region's rodents and the unusual way their populations overlap here.

That was the focus of a recent talk at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL) by University of California, Berkeley PhD candidate Tommy Herrera, a mammalogist and evolutionary biologist studying the relationship between deer mice and hantavirus.

Out of roughly 2,000 mice sampled by his team across Mono County, about 80% tested positive for Sin Nombre virus, the primary strain of hantavirus in North America.

Hantavirus itself isn't a single virus, but a group of related viruses carried by rodents. First identified in modern science near the Hantan River in South Korea in 1978, its history stretches back much further, with suspected outbreaks recorded as early as 960 A.D. during China's Song Dynasty.

Globally, hantaviruses fall into two broad categories. In Europe and Asia, they tend to cause hemorrhagic fever affecting the kidneys, with relatively low fatality rates. In the Americas, however, strains like Sin Nombre attack the lungs, causing hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, a far deadlier illness with a fatality rate of roughly 35-50%.

For comparison, fatality rates for COVID-19 hover around 1%.

Even within the hantavirus family, risks vary. The Andes virus, likely recently identified in the cruise ship case, is one of the few known strains capable of human-to-human transmission.

Sin Nombre virus, by contrast, spreads from rodents to humans, primarily through inhalation of aerosolized particles from dried urine or feces.

Its emergence in the United States dates back to 1993, when a cluster of sudden deaths among young, otherwise healthy people in the Four Corners region puzzled health officials.

At first, investigators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suspected influenza or environmental toxins. Only after extensive testing did they identify a new form of viral hemorrhagic fever.

But while federal scientists searched for answers, local Indigenous communities already had one.

Navajo and Hopi oral histories had long warned of a connection between rodents and disease, particularly following wet years. Tribal elders pointed to earlier outbreaks, in 1918, 1933, and beyond, that followed periods of heavy precipitation.

The pattern held up in 1993. An El Niño event brought increased rainfall, leading to a surge in pinyon pine nuts, which are a key food source for deer mice. The rodent population exploded, and with it, the virus.

When researchers began listening to those accounts, the investigation ultimately accelerated.

Herrera's work hinges on that principle, that to understand a disease you must fully understand the host.

In California, that means understanding deer mice, not as a single species, but as several genetically distinct populations.

more HANTA, pg. 8

Stuck in the Middle

p. 6/

Orwellian Doublespeak

p. 6/

Party Poopers

p. 13/

The Third Degree

p. 14-15/

MLPDepressed

p. 4/

HERE COME THE JUDGE

Inyo County’s Judicial candidates were in Bishop on Wednesday evening for a candidate forum held at the Methodist Church.

As Attorney Gerard Harvey, who is opposing incumbent Judge Steve Place for one seat on the bench, observed, the four candidates represent more than 120 years of legal experience.

As he said, “Lack of experience is what leads to messes ... and I’m not referring to Judge Place.”

The other race pits District Attorney Dana Crom against Attorney Taylor Fitzmaurice.

A few off-the-cuff reactions.

There was an interesting back-and-forth dynamic between Place and Crom, though they are competing for different seats. Place would reference or piggyback off of something Crom said or vice-versa.

It felt as if they were running as a ticket.

Both were recently endorsed by retired Judge Dean Stout and former D.A. Tom Hardy. Crom also referenced an endorsement from retired Sheriff Bill Lutze. Though Crom is not an incumbent, it feels like it. As she said in her opening remarks, she has spent the past three decades working in the County Counsel’s office, in private practice, and then at the D.A.’s office, before being appointed District Attorney last year.

Place has sat on the bench for eight years. He emphasized that it is not a seamless transition from attorney to judge. So why make a change now that he’s been broken in?

Fitzmaurice’s challenge hinges upon the idea that the court can be run more efficiently. The idea of a better incorporation of Zoom for criminal defendants seems like a natural. In such cases, local attorneys tell me the Mono Courts work more efficiently and defendants show up far more frequently as a result.

Crom warned that while Zoom is convenient, sometimes it’s imperative that defendants appear in person, given that they are potentially surrendering significant rights and need to have an attorney there to guide decisions. As Gerard Harvey said, “You’ve got to be next to your client to get [a reading on] the temperature.”

But those conversations could also be had ahead of time. Might just a take

the
sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

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

JACK LUNCH
PUBLISHER

- Ted Carleton Jack of all Lunches
760.937.4613 / lunch@thesheetnews.com
- Paige Fisher Editor
sheetfisher@gmail.com
- Ulla-Britt Libre Writer
libresheet@gmail.com
- Harold Hartley Victim of McCarthyism
hart6399@yahoo.com
- Jon Klusmire Faulkner in pajamas
jonklusmire@yahoo.com
- Spike Todd Beverage Consultant
Box 8088, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760.937.4613/jacklunch@yahoo.com
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a little more work and few more advance phone calls.

Fitzmaurice’s idea of maximizing court usage by having one judge in Indy and another in Bishop on the same day to hear more cases is nice on its face, but impractical.

Crom kinda tore the suggestion apart. It works in Mono, she said, because you have two courtrooms under the same roof.

But with limited staff, separate locations, trying to coordinate schedules and availability, et.al. - it sounds like a non-starter. “Logistically, it’s an idea,” she opined diplomatically, “but we’re already the busiest judicial court in California.”

Harvey’s candidacy rests on two pillars - his judicial as well as personal experience. He comes across as a man of the people. He shared one anecdote where he’d help a client in court, and then pick that same client up hitchhiking on the way home. He insists he’s not a bleeding heart, but he’s become more empathetic over time, particularly as he’s overcome his own addiction struggles.

And he’s clearly a smart, self-deprecating, no b.s. guy.

The question is whether that translates into defeating an incumbent who’s measured, conservative and tends to hit things down the middle.

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Congratulations to Lunch's daughter who graduated from Pepperdine University last weekend. She heads to the University of San Diego Law School next year.

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go.





mammoth film lakes festival

may 20-24

Narrative Feature • Thurs. May 21, 5:30pm



Mono 222

A gorgeously colorful, kaleidoscopic, semi-documentary look at the world of curious and creative multi-cultural 20ish-year olds, loving, fighting and lighting up the night in Los Angeles. A snapshot of a generation learning, losing, and longing in the restless heart of the city. Director/writer: Quinton Dominguez. World Premiere

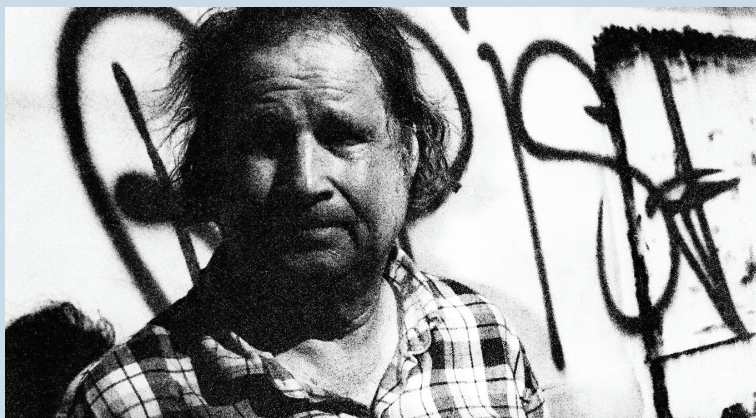
Documentary Feature • Fri. May 22, 6:30pm



The Moths & the Flame

Young, playful, caring Black fathers in Florida experience the inevitable life changes around starting a family. It subverts stereotypes about young Black men, using a rigorous visual aesthetic, exploring the vulnerability and humor of its subjects. Premiered at Berlinale 2026. Directed by Kevin Contento. N. American Premiere

Narrative Feature • Fri. May 22, 8:30pm



Ten Will

Newly-released sex offender Ten tries to survive on the streets of Los Angeles, rejected even by other homeless people. Dynamic zooms, high-stakes scenes and a comedic sensibility that lands somewhere between Harmony Korine and John Waters. Directed and written by Max DeFalco.

Narrative Feature • Sat. May 23, 12:30pm



Toronto Apartment

A madcap low-fi comedy anchored by a spectacular lead performance from Tristan Wheeler; an absurdist, satirical take on the struggle to pay rent in the big city — reminiscent of Boots Riley's sensibility and classic Jim Carrey comedies. Director/writer: Tristan Wheeler. World Premiere

www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.com

THEY SAID IT...

Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) Sergeant Jason Heilman gave the following statement to the Mammoth Lakes Town Council Wednesday evening on behalf of the Mammoth Lakes Police Supervisory Association (MLPSA).

Public safety should be the number one priority of any community.

A community cannot thrive without safe neighborhoods, safe schools, safe events, and without those who victimize others being held accountable for their actions. This is no different for the town of Mammoth Lakes.

Safety isn't guaranteed because we live at 8,000 feet in a beautiful mountain town, or because we are far removed from the big city. Instead, safety is a result of a well funded, well staffed, well trained and well equipped police department.

Unfortunately, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department's (MLPD) sworn staffing levels are down 35% with no significant relief insight. Currently, the department is funded for 19 sworn positions, but today, we sit at 12 active sworn members. This is a considerable decrease from the department's height of staffing in 2008, when there were 23 sworn members.

Our current staffing is even below the 15 sworn members the department started with in 1986. The fact that MLPD is below the sworn staffing numbers from 40 years ago, when the town was much smaller and saw less visitation, should cause serious concern to town council and the public.

This situation didn't happen overnight. 16 years ago, then-Chief Dan Watson addressed the issue of inadequate police staffing in a memo provided to town council. In the memo, Chief Watson stated MLPD was minimally staffed with 18 sworn officers. Minimally staffed numbers then are still far above the 12 we currently have.

If the department was struggling then, it's absolutely struggling now.

Here are the facts when compared to the nearest public safety agency, the Mono County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department has 25 officers, and the police department has 12. The sheriff's department has a sheriff, an undersheriff, two lieutenants, and one administrative sergeant. We have a chief of police. For investigations, the Sheriff's Department has two detectives, one school resource officer. We have one detective.

But this is where it differs. The Sheriff's Department had 621 calls for service year to date, MLPD had 1071. The Sheriff's Department had 36 arrests, MLPD had 79. The Sheriff's Department had 204 cases, MLPD had 319. Nearly twice the crime with half the cops.

MLPD is simply unable to provide adequate police services with our current staffing and structure. The department lacks proper middle management, has only one detective, no school resource officer, no dedicated traffic unit, no animal control, and is unable to provide 24-hour patrol staffing.

Many shifts, the department is running

two officers on patrol. This means when an arrest is made, one officer transports to jail in Bridgeport, and the other officer remains in town and does not respond to calls until their backup returns. Recently, we've seen instances where both officers are forced to transport due to a violent and combative arrestee, leaving no officers in town.

This is unacceptable for the town of Mammoth Lakes, both its residents and visitors. Unacceptable for a town of 7,000 permanent residents, millions of visitors each year, over 30 events a year, with many of them alcohol related.

A major ski resort, weekly apres ski events, K-12 education, a junior college, an expanding hospital system, growing housing projects, and additional hotels going up. Unacceptable for a town with recent criminal activity that includes attempted murder, domestic violence, grand theft, vehicle theft, robbery, felonious assault, and all sorts of narcotics violations.

The town has poured millions of dollars into housing, which has generated an increased workload for MLPD and our already insufficient staffing. For example, since January 2025, the Parcel has generated 33 MLPD cases, and the Innsbruck has generated 14 MLPD cases in addition to approximately 100 calls for service. The MLPSA supports the town's housing initiatives, but council must consider the increased workload this housing has created for public safety.

The bottom line is, officers are leaving

MLPD in numbers not seen since the bankruptcy.

In the past year, MLPD has lost two to retirement, two to Inyo County, one to Bishop Police Department, one to Mono County, and one who resigned from training. That's seven officers with over 75 years of combined experience.

Additionally, MLPSA can say there are currently MLPD officers with applications at other departments awaiting openings. Officers who left to join other departments left because they don't see things getting better. They see the town's priorities are trails, housing, arts, and banning plastic water bottles. All while public safety is struggling.

Additionally, we cannot continue to rely on recruits to replace experienced officers because the department has seen only one successful recruit out of the five we have sent to the academy. If officers continue to leave, the already limited patrol coverage could drop down to one shift, where the town only sees police coverage from noon to midnight.

The town may lose our one detective to patrol, and cases won't be properly investigated. Losing experienced officers means there won't be anyone to train new recruits, who graduate from the academy and enter the field training program. This is the harsh reality and a real possibility.

The MLPSA is not here to cast blame, but we are requesting town council make fixing this situation a priority before it's too late, and we are past the point of recovery.

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PATCHING UP OLD WOUNDS

By Fisher

Necessity is the mother of invention, and for Northern Inyo Hospital District (NIHD), that invention is looking like a collaboration. Though NIHD previously sued Southern Mono Hospital District (SMHD) which operates Mammoth Hospital, over a competing orthopedic clinic in Bishop, the now-indebted district is pivoting toward collaboration, seeking to jointly provide services across the Eastern Sierra.

At an inaugural joint board meeting Monday, the contrast between the two districts was hard to miss. Mammoth Hospital CEO Melanie Van Winkle highlighted a hospital on solid financial footing and in expansion mode, while NIHD CEO Christian Wallis made a candid case for confidence in a district still working to stabilize.

To put it lightly, NIHD is in a precarious position, driven by a long-standing gap between expenses and revenue and heavy reliance on unpredictable IGT funds, which are a Medicaid funding mechanism that supplements rural hospital revenue.

It is currently running a \$9.4 million operating deficit, only partially offset by \$5.4 million in non-operating gains.

The hospital faces deeper structural issues, including limited space for growth, aging facilities, costly essential services, and looming debt. Its maternity ward, which delivers about 200 babies a year, loses roughly \$12,000 per birth.

Plus, until recently, the district was not placing its funds in high-yield accounts typical for public agencies, effectively missing out on interest income.

By contrast, Mammoth Hospital is financially stable and growing, with rising patient volumes, expanded services, and ongoing upgrades. Its focus is forward-looking, centered on completing a \$158 million North Wing expansion largely funded through reserves, while managing staffing and demand.

“You can show the iteration of progress... it’s so great. We hope to be at that point someday,” Wallis said. “We haven’t made strides. Every year, we just hope something different happens and it doesn’t.”

Both CEOs are new to their roles; Van Winkle stepped in as interim in January before formally taking the position last month, and Wallis started in October 2025.

“It took new blood” to get this collaboration off the ground, noted NIHD board member Jean Turner. Historically, the relationship has been strained.

During the meeting, board members alluded to past conflicts, most notably a 2017 lawsuit brought by NIHD through the Local Agency Formation Commis-

sion after Mammoth Hospital opened an orthopedic clinic in Bishop.

“I sat on the LAFCO board and saw the money just...” NIHD board member Lara Smith trailed off. “Going to the attorneys?” Van Winkle replied, prompting nods around the room.

Still, despite that history, there was a clear effort from both sides of the aisle to reset the relationship.

“There is a rivalry, we are somewhat different cultures, but ultimately, people need healthcare, and the better we in this room can help achieve that, the community benefits,” said SMHD board member Ryan Wood.

Under the proposed arrangement, the hospitals would not merge but instead form a legal collaboration to coordinate services and jointly assess regional needs. NIHD is currently undergoing an external provider needs analysis by Wipfli, and Mammoth Hospital could conduct a similar study, with both districts aligning recruitment and service lines based on shared results.

For example, if both hospitals show a need for half of an orthopedic surgeon, one provider could serve both commu-

nities. The model could also allow one hospital to scale back certain departments while the other expands.

“There’s a lot of synergy that can be gained,” said SMHD board member Yuri Parisky. “I would prefer having cardiology at your elevation.”

He added that better coordination could also improve patient outcomes.

“It’s always impressed me that, for some reason, we would send our patients who are oxygen starved in their recovery, north. Why not utilize sending them south for their recovery?”

The collaboration could also strengthen applications for state and federal funding.

“[The Feds] are really pushing the rural districts to work together,” Van Winkle said.

There was brief discussion of including the Toiyabe Indian Health Project, but extending the partnership to Southern Inyo Hospital, the only other regional hospital district, was quickly ruled out.

The hospital, located in Lone Pine, came out of bankruptcy in September 2020, and is now getting by “month to month,” relying on the same unpredictable IGT funding streams as NIHD.

“As much as we’d like to help them, we can’t be sunk,” Parisky said.

Next steps include developing a legal framework for the partnership and holding a follow-up meeting, this time on NIHD’s home turf in Bishop, as the two districts test whether cooperation can succeed where competition failed.

“
We haven’t made strides.
Every year, we just hope
something different happens
and it doesn’t.”

- Christian Wallis, NIHD CEO

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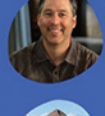
April 28
Alpine Visions: The Mauna Kea Telescope Dispute & Native Hawaiian Religious Vitality
Greg Johnson, Professor, Department of Religious Studies, UCSB and Director, Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life



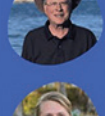
May 5
Evolution of deer mice and hantavirus across California: Past, present, and future of a mouse and deadly zoonotic pathogen
Tommy Herrera, Ph.D. Student at UC Berkeley, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology



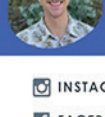
May 12
Golden mussels in the Golden State: How an invasive species creates an unprecedented threat to eastern Sierra waters
Nick Buckmaster, Supervising Fisheries Biologist, Bishop Field Office, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife



May 19
The Benefits of Dark Skies, Light Pollution and Prevention, Astronomy and Astrophotography
Jeremy Evans - Photographer, Filmmaker, Amateur Astronomer, and Delegate for Dark Sky International



May 26
Deep Time in the Mono Lake Basin: Nature and History over the Last 10,000 Years
Robert Marks, Professor Emeritus of History and Environmental Studies at Whittier College



June 2
Mono Lake's Black Belt: A Natural History of the Alkali Fly (Ephydra hians)
Steve Root, Alkali Fly Research Advisor, Mono Lake Committee

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MAMMOTH IS BECOMING A GHOST TOWN?

By Libre

The question of livability for the middle class loomed over the Mammoth Lakes Town Council on Wednesday evening.

It was a story told by statistics, presented in a middle-income housing needs survey by Marcus Sproll, the Housing Manager for the town.

Sproll began by telling the council the town lost approximately 1,200 residents, or 14.5% of its total population from 2010 to 2025. The decline marked the largest population loss of any jurisdiction in the Eastern Sierra.

"There's a projected further 9% decline by 2040," Sproll said. "A lack of housing certainly contributes to the decline."

The survey outlined a need for 1,200 new housing units, including 560 for middle-income residents.

Currently, there are 9,649 total housing units in Mammoth. Of these, 66% of them are vacant second homes, and 34% are occupied primary residences. For the 3,318 occupied units, 624 are dead restricted. Meaning they are off limits to those in the middle-income tax bracket.

"At this income level, publicly financed, low-income housing, like a lot of what we have been building at the parcel, is not available," Sproll said. "And the market rate housing is marked at an unaffordable level for this."

Mammoth's average rents are roughly 15% higher than major California cities, with San Francisco being a notable

exception, and 10% higher than most Colorado and Utah ski towns.

"Rents in Mammoth are most similar to those in Vail and Breckenridge in Colorado," Sproll said.

The middle-income bracket are individuals who earn 81-120% of the area median income (AMI). According to California census data, this is \$118,500 for a household of four. In Mammoth, most people in need of housing are looking for single person households, where the AMI is \$82,950. These individuals tend to be invaluable community members, such as teachers, firefighters, nurses, and small business owners.

The town has been working to build housing, especially since adopting its Housing Now! initiative in 2019. But the majority of housing built from this solely targets the lower income bracket, or individuals earning between 30-80% AMI.

"We've made a lot of progress on low income. We're essentially halfway to the need," Sproll said. "But for middle income, we've barely got a quarter."

There are 797 units needed for low-income housing, according to Sproll's survey. The town has already built 408 of these. Conversely, there are 766 units needed in the middle income bracket.

Currently, only 206 of these exist, of which 131 are siloed for employee housing.

"Hearing there's a population decline, if we were able to wave a magic wand

and build 560 units, I don't know if the current market would be very much affected," Mayor Amanda Rice pondered.

"But do we suspect that the population decline is driven by the lack of availability?"

Councilmember Chris Bubser jumped in, "And could that change if we had housing available for people?"

"I think definitely," Sproll said.

He continued by laying out market rent prices. Mammoth market rates for one bedroom units, which are the most desired by middle-income tenants, are roughly \$2,700 per month. He floated the possibility of building a restricted middle housing product, which would lease these units at \$2,000 to \$2,800 per month.

"The weakness of these units is the challenge to finance these types of developments," Sproll said. "There are significant public finances and creative

ownership structures that need to be developed... we are in the process of developing a middle income rental model."

Sproll did not elaborate on what building these types of units would look like, but said there would be more of an explanation of financing these types of middle income rentals during the next housing presentation, scheduled for May 20th.

One June 3rd, council plans to discuss a model middle income project proposal, and on June 17th, the group expects to vote on middle income project resolution.

The issue is urgent, said Mono County supervisor Jennifer Kreitz during public comment.

"Our rural, isolated commutes are becoming ghost towns," she said. "It's not just Mammoth, it's Mono County. It's the Eastern Sierra. Because of housing."

LETTERS

The Abortion Complex

Dear Editor,

In a world of increasing Orwellian doublespeak, the abortion complex remains the undisputed king.

Abortion organizations are invariably about one and only one choice – abortion, by drug or cannula. The only time the industry wants to talk about alternate choice organizations, it is to disparage them, as in the recent article.

"Family planning" means eliminating the thing that makes a family – the incipient infant. Planned Parenthood's website odiously calls the human fetus "pregnancy tissue." "Barriers to reproductive health" means nothing more,

in deep blue, celebrate-your-abortion California, that there are no full-time abortionists on the east side because of insufficient demand.

The word "abortion" itself is carefully omitted from the title of abortion industry organizations and avoided whenever possible in favor of euphemisms like "reproductive health care," a curious usage considering that the "health care" accorded to the fetus always ends up ending his or her life.

And abortion, we are told by the anonymous advocate, is actually "pro family." Some might wonder if there is a less disingenuous way to refer to the termination of pregnancies which are necessary for families to exist.

In California, abortion is and will remain legal. It is and will remain subsidized as though a public good. It is and will remain promoted by far more money than is spent on non-abortion alternatives.

To modify a phrase, if you like abortion you can keep abortion. No one will ever take it away in this state. So given all that, why the obsessive need for subterfuge? Why not just come out and say it: for the majority of abortions, the life of a fetus begotten by consensual sex is terminated by chemical or mechanical means because the would-be mother (or father!) does not want to deal with the naturally designed consequences of sex.

If this phrasing does not bother you, you have no need for unctuous euphemisms. If it does bother you, you might ask yourself why.

John Rogitz
Mammoth Lakes




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MHS

continued from page 1

it for \$2,500.”

If it isn’t clear already, Slichta is not a conventional teacher and she has no intention of becoming one.

“You don’t understand,” she said of her plans for the future. “I’m not even at 50%.”

Raised in Buffalo, New York, Slichta attended Rutgers University on a rowing scholarship while working at the Hyatt as a room service cashier to help pay for school. Over time, she worked her way up through the hotel industry and eventually landed a position in San Francisco as a director of catering.

There was just one problem. She had no formal or practical kitchen experience.

So, largely out of necessity, she applied to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. She jokes that the chefs she worked with had to exaggerate her kitchen background just to help get her admitted.

“I was just doing it so I could talk chef-y with people,” she said. “All these people were hardcore, and here I am, making mashed potatoes look like a smiley face.”

Instead, she discovered a talent for the craft.

One of her mentors later pushed her to audition for a private chef position with the family of Donald Tober, the late CEO of Sweet’N Low, and Barbara Tober, former editor-in-chief of Bride magazine.

Slichta approached the audition

casually, cooking mostly with ingredients from the family’s garden. She was stunned when they offered her the job.

That opportunity launched a decades-long career cooking for wealthy and high-profile clients, though Slichta doesn’t like to view her work through the lens of status.

“Cooking for a famous person is just as important as cooking for your family,” she said. That’s a lesson she hopes to instill in her students.

Though she originally moved to the Sierra intending to retire, she couldn’t ignore the opportunity she saw in Mammoth High School’s vacant culinary position.

“Coming to a resort town and seeing that they didn’t have a culinary arts program was mind blowing,” she said. “I couldn’t understand why nobody has ever done this.”

Her hope is to teach students life skills, like organization, budgeting and food preparation. But some have taken it further, and eight culinary arts students have found jobs in local food and beverage institutions.

Slichta’s classroom reflects the energy she has brought to the program.

One wall features a tongue-in-cheek “wall of injuries” displaying framed photos of just three minor kitchen cuts.

Student birthdays are marked on the classroom calendar, and she bakes each student a cake for their special day. Googley eyes decorate the refrigerator, while student-made decorations shift

with the seasons, from Valentine’s Day roses to butterflies hanging from the ceiling.

Next year, Slichta hopes to expand the program further by turning her Culinary 2 classes into what is essentially a student-run catering business — if she can convince administrators to sign off on it. Her classes are already full.

For now, though, the public will have to settle for one-night-only dinners at Mammoth High’s student-run restaurants.

The first event in the series featured handcrafted pastries and artisanal aguas frescas. This Friday, May 8, students will host Greek restaurant “Aionios.” On May 15, students will open Chinese buffet concept “Iron Hoof Kitchen.” The final Friday of the month, May 22, will feature Cajun soul food restaurant “Soul in the Sierras.”

Reservations for “Iron Hoof Kitchen” can be made by emailing ironhoofkitchen2026@gmail.com. Dinner costs \$35 per person for dine-in service or \$20 per plate for takeout.

Reservations for “Soul in the Sierras” can be made by emailing soulinthesierras2026@gmail.com. Dinner service begins at 6 p.m. and costs \$45 per person for dine-in service or \$20 per selection for takeout.

Payment for all events is cash or Venmo only, and all proceeds support Mammoth High School’s culinary arts program.

HANTA

continued from page 1

Northwestern, northeastern and southern lineages all converge in the Eastern Sierra, particularly in Mono County.

That overlap may create ideal conditions for viral exchange and evolution, increasing the likelihood of new variants emerging.

“What we see is that the Eastern Sierra is a hotspot,” Herrera said. “Not only for spillover, but for novel emergence of viruses.”

Environmental factors add to the risk. Snowmelt supports lush seasonal growth, boosting food availability for rodents. At the same time, the region’s dry climate allows viral particles to become airborne more easily once contaminated material dries out.

Together, those conditions may help explain why Mono and Inyo counties, which are home to just a fraction of California’s population, account for a disproportionate number of hantavirus deaths.

The good news is that the Sin Nombre virus is relatively fragile outside a host. Sunlight, disinfectants, and proper ventilation all break it down quickly.

Which means prevention is straightforward.

If you encounter rodent droppings indoors: ventilate the space for at least 30 minutes. Wear a mask. Saturate the area with a 10% bleach solution and let it sit for 10 minutes before wiping it up.

Avoid sweeping or vacuuming, which can send particles into the air.

With the right precautions, the risk drops significantly.



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Pursuit of Happiness Hour Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for **live sports**, other than across the parking lot @ **Main Street Pizza and Tap**. *More Liberty info, see ad p. 15*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p.6*
The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bar. Food and drink specials.
Main St. Pizza - *See ad this page.*
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.
Whitebark @ The Westin. Half-off lounge menu and drinks daily from 4-6 p.m. and 9-close.

Friday, May 8/
Patio Party at Bishop Country Club with Bob Snow. A happy hour to start your weekend!

Sunday May 10/
Chris Baron plays Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Monday, May 11/
Open mic night @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13/
Locals' night means **live music @ the Mountain Rambler Brewery** in Bishop. Starts 6 p.m.

Thursday May 14/
Elizabeth Petra plays Distant Brewing. Time: 7-9 p.m.

Friday, May 15/
Easy Wind (Grateful Dead tribute) plays Liberty in Mammoth. Starts 9:30 p.m. No cover.

TOWN STUFF

Friday, May 8/
MHS softball and baseball play Desert High at home. Time: 3:15-5:15 p.m.

Saturday, May 9/
Eastside Student Center "Adult Prom" @ the Bishop Civic Auditorium. 7-10 p.m. 21+. *Info: eastsidestudentcenter.org*
Playhouse 395 20th anniversary gala. Share in our 20 years of performances from Sound of Music, Music Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Mamma Mia. Shows at 2 and 6 p.m. Tix: \$20.
Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day in Adobe Valley with Eastern Sierra Land Trust and the Eastern Sierra Bird Alliance. *Info/register with gena@eslt.org.*
Get ahead of Mother's Day by enrolling in the **Mother's Day Necklace craft workshop @ C5 Studios.** *Info/register @ c5studios.org*
Mono Arts Council presents its 2nd annual Student Art Show @ the MAC Gallery at 501 Old Mammoth Rd. #5. Time: 4:30-7:30 p.m.
High Sierra Poets and Writers Poetry Club with Eva Poole-Gilson. Come share a poem you wrote or love from 2-4 p.m. Location: C5 studios.

TOWN STUFF

Sunday, May 10/
It's Mother's Day. Don't blow it. Celebrate Mother(s) in your life.

Tuesday, May 12/
Mono County Board of Supervisors meets. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Bridgeport Courthouse or online via monocounty.ca.gov.
Inyo County Supervisors meet. Public session starts 10 a.m. Location: 224 No. Edwards St. in Independence or online via inyocounty.us
The Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab (SNARL) lecture series continues. Time: 7 p.m. Location: Page Center at 1016 Mt. Morrison Rd. Topic: Golden Mussels and their threat to local waters, Lecturer: CDFW's Nick Buckmaster
Mammoth Lakes Recreation Board meets at 5:00 p.m. Location: 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes.

Wednesday, May 13/
Inyo County will hold a community workshop on understanding taxes, bonds and their public impact. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: The COB at 1360 N. Main St, Suite #100
Bishop Chamber of Commerce Full Board Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Location: Conference Room at Alta One Federal Credit Union in Bishop. Virtual option available.

Thursday, May 14/
SCE hosts a public meeting to discuss Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).

TOWN STUFF

Time: 6 p.m. Location: The COB in Bishop (1360 N. Main)
CSA#1 is hosting a Senior Lunch. Location: Crowley Lake Community Center. Time: 11-1 with lunch served until noon.
The Cutoff film premieres @ Wind Drift Studios. Join for a feature-length documentary set inside Cocodona 250 mile ultramarathon across Arizona. Time: 6-9 p.m.

Friday, May 15/
Sierra Star Golf Course opening day.

May 15-16/
The Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra presents a free concert with music by Mozart (his "Magic Flute Overture"), Fanny Mendelssohn, von Suppe and Rossini. Friday show @ the Cerro Coso campus in Mammoth. Time: 7 p.m. An encore performance will be held on Saturday at Cerro Coso in Bishop, also at 7 p.m.
Community Clean-up Day and Sustainability Fair with the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Bag pick up and details at the Town of Mammoth Lakes Office, the Mammoth Disposal Office, and Community Recreation Center. Time: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

UPCOMING

May 19-24: 56th annual Mule Days
May 20-24: 12th annual Mammoth Lakes Film Festival

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LUNCH SPECIALS

Monday-Thursday, 11am-2pm

- \$2 Off All 10" Pizzas
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Monday - Friday

3-6 PM

- \$3 Cheese Slice \$4 Pepperoni Slice
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Help Wanted



Footloose Sports is hiring an experienced Bike Mechanic for the summer season!

We're looking for a highly skilled, hands-on bike mechanic with strong knowledge of bike builds, maintenance, and components. The ideal candidate is confident working independently, efficient in a fast-paced environment, and committed to delivering top-quality service.

If you're passionate about biking, detail-oriented, and thrive in a team setting, this is a great opportunity to spend the summer with one of Mammoth's most well-known shops.

Please submit your current resume to footloose@footloosesports.com, stop by the shop, or fill out an application on our website.

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

 **Police Officer - Lateral**
\$108,871.24 – \$132,334.72 Annually
Plus guaranteed 3% increase July 2027

 **Arts & Culture Manager**
\$83,625.00 – \$108,714.00 Annually

 **TEMPORARY & PART-TIME**
Seasonal Positions
\$19.63 – \$31.82 hourly

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



(760) 965-3604
townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Help Wanted



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

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

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

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

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.

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

For Rent

Newly built Hilton Creek 1 BDR /1 BA ADU contiguous to main home, on serene private wooded lot with brooks on property. \$2,250/mo. Photos & further info on Zillow.com. Search for 267A Juniper Dr., Crowley Lake. Contact: steve@stephenpappas.com

Business Opportunity

Well established catering company for sale. Includes commercial kitchen & supplies, vehicle, rentals, and more. Please enquire at 562-480-3647.

Help Wanted



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

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



Mammoth Roots now hiring for a Bud-tender. Must have references. Pls. email resume to info@mammothroots.com

PERSONALS

In search of ... a cougar for Mother's Day. If you'll be my Dianna Russini, I'll be your brave Patriot, and ride you like Paul Revere! More than the British are coming!

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

FT, year-round e-commerce position processing and fulfilling online and telephone orders at **The Troutfitter** in Mammoth. The job has advancement potential including creating and maintaining product listings on Amazon, eBay and our website, and ordering product for the store. Willing to train the right person.

Candidate must be organized, have good computer skills, excellent communication and be a competent fly angler.

If you love to fly fish, you can make it your profession.

Please come by the store and fill out an application, call Todd at (760) 934-2517 or email todd@thetroutfitter.com.

Hilton Creek Community Services District in Crowley Lake is seeking a **Full-Time Wastewater Treatment Plan Operator II**. Hourly Range: \$33.43 to \$40.64 with benefits. For more information visit <https://www.hiltoncreekcsd.com/employment> or email info@hiltoncreekcsd.com

Have a problem with Alcohol ?

We can help

Eastern Sierra Alcoholics Anonymous

Reunión en español Para más información: (760) 937-5772

Todos los domingos a las 4:00 p. m. Conéctate por Zoom y en vivo en Mammoth Sierra Wellness Center, 181 Sierra Mannor Rd.

**Mammoth** talk to a member(760) 914-4327

**Bishop** talk to a member (760) 873-6700

**aa-intergrup.org** find a meeting 24hrs a day any Language.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 04-16-26-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REPORT OF SECURED DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER CHARGES AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

WHEREAS, staff of the Mammoth Community Water District (“District”) has prepared the Report on Secured Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges as of March 31, 2026, containing a description of each parcel of real property within the District for which water and sewer service charges are delinquent, along with the amount of such delinquent charges, together with interest and penalties thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Report on Secured Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Mammoth Community Water District that a public hearing on the Report of Secured Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges is set for May 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the District office located at 1315 Meridian Boulevard, Mammoth Lakes, California. The hearing will take place both in-person and virtually. At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will hear and consider all objections and protests to said written report. If the Board of Directors adopts said report, or revises, changes, reduces, or modifies any charge thereon, the delinquent charges, together with penalties and interest thereon, as stated in the adopted report, shall be added to the Mono County tax roll for the purpose of collecting such delinquent charges, shall constitute a lien against the respective parcels of real property described in the

adopted report, and shall be included by the County Tax Collector in bills for taxes levied against the respective parcels of real property and be collected for the Mammoth Community Water District in the same manner, at the same time, and by the same person as taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board of Directors is hereby directed to publish this Resolution in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the District. Such publication shall be for not less than once a week for two weeks prior to the date set for the hearing with the first publication at least fifteen (15) days prior to the public hearing. A notice of the public hearing shall be sent to each person listed on the Report. The published and mailed hearing notices shall detail the information to attend virtually. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Mammoth Community Water District at its regular meeting held on April 16, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT
Thomas R. Smith, President, Board of Directors
ATTEST: Clay Murray, Secretary, Board of Directors

TS #2026-0051

Notice of Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 04-16-26-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REPORT OF UNSECURED DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER CHARGES AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

WHEREAS, staff of the Mammoth Community Water District (“District”) has prepared the Report on Unsecured Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges as of March 31, 2026, containing a description of each parcel of real property within the District for which water and sewer service charges are delinquent, along with the amount of such delinquent charges, together with interest and penalties thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Report on Unsecured Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Mammoth Community Water District that a public hearing on the Report of Unsecured Delinquent Water and Sewer Service Charges is set for May 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the District office located at 1315 Meridian Boulevard, Mammoth Lakes, California. The hearing will take place both in-person and virtually. At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will hear and consider all objections and protests to said written report. If the Board of Directors adopts said report, or revises, changes, reduces, or modifies any charge thereon, the delinquent charges, together with penalties and interest thereon, as stated in the adopted report, shall be added to the Mono County tax roll for the purpose of collecting such delinquent charges, shall constitute a lien against the respective parcels of real property described in the adopted report, and shall be included by the County Tax Collector in bills for taxes levied against the respective parcels of real property and be collected for the Mammoth Community Water District in the same manner, at the same

time, and by the same person as taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board of Directors is hereby directed to publish this Resolution in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the District. Such publication shall be for not less than once a week for two weeks prior to the date set for the hearing with the first publication at least fifteen (15) days prior to the public hearing. A notice of the public hearing shall be sent to each person listed on the Report. The published and mailed hearing notices shall detail the information to attend virtually.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Mammoth Community Water District at its regular meeting held on April 16, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT
Thomas R. Smith, President, Board of Directors
ATTEST: Clay Murray, Secretary, Board of Directors

TS #2026-0052

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT EXHIBIT A

UNSECURED DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026 FOR PLACEMENT ON MONO COUNTY TAX ROLL

ASMT #	NAME	DELINQUENT AMT.
860-000-492-000	C. & J. ALMEIDA	566.92



JUNE 2, 2026, PRIMARY ELECTION

The elections official shall provide notice to the public and shall conduct a test or series of tests to ensure that every device used to tabulate ballots accurately records each vote, no later than seven days prior to any election. The exact methods employed in this test shall conform to the voting procedures for the specific voting systems, as adopted by the Secretary of State, pursuant to Elections Code §15000.

LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING LOCATION:

Mono County Elections, 74 School St., Annex I, Bridgeport, CA 93517

LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING DATES AND TIMES:

Begins no earlier than 10 A.M. on Monday, May 11, 2026, to 4:00 P.M. daily until completed (excluding weekends and holidays).

Elections: 760-932-5537
<https://monocounty.ca.gov/elections>

TS #2026-0055

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT EXHIBIT A

SECURED DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026 FOR PLACEMENT ON MONO COUNTY TAX ROLL

ASMT #	NAME	DELINQUENT AMT.
022-370-012-000	WEST/HINDMAN TRUST	539.18
031-032-010-000	W. MADSEN	539.16
033-081-001-000	R. & J. NELSON	3,618.74
039-040-042-000	S. & K. PAINTER	222.14
033-133-021-000	MAMMOTH MONO CH 23 LLC	217.14
031-180-043-000	R. CONTRERAS	685.68
031-180-042-000	R. CONTRERAS	803.22
040-013-014-000	S. PASHKOV	258.56
040-013-026-000	V. PASHKOV	258.56
035-262-025-000	A. ESTRADA	206.62
035-251-109-000	C. & D. PECK	136.34
035-262-029-000	T. HOGAN	127.10
035-252-141-000	C. & D. PECK	126.90

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ROBERT EVAN CARROLL. MONO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO.: 26PRM14

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERT EVAN CARROLL. A Petition for Probate has been filed by MEGAN CHAPMAN in the Superior Court of California, County of Mono.

The Petition for Probate requests that MEGAN CHAPMAN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of decedent.

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

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: May 28, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Department 2, Mam-

moth Courthouse, 100 Thompson Way, PO Box 1037, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

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

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

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

TS #2026-0053



REVISED Notice of Intent to Adopt (NOI) Notice of Public Comment Period

This is a Revised Notice due to the maps in Appendices being illegible and Appendix H missing from the posted documents. The review period has been extended unit 6/4/26.

Notice is Hereby Given that pursuant to Section 15072 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Town of Mammoth Lakes hereby gives notice that a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the 474 Joaquin Road Project is available for review and comment. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt the IS/MND is hereby distributed. As Lead Agency, the Town of Mammoth Lakes is circulating for public review the IS/MND.

Project Description and Location: The proposed project is located at 474, 562, and 2604 Joaquin Road (APNs: 033-170-003-00; 033-170-004-000; 003-170-005-000). The Project proposes development of a multi-family residential neighborhood that includes 38 residential units in a mix of two (2) triplexes and 16 duplexes (total 84,946 square feet), 76 enclosed parking spaces and 18 exterior guest spaces, 5,700 square feet of open space, and 23,460 square feet of snow storage, as well as the realignment of the existing multi-use path along the north, east, and south sides of the Project Site. The Project also includes two storm drain systems: one to collect runoff from the existing drainage around and along the south and east sides of the Project Site, and a second storm drain system with storage piping for retention to capture runoff from on-site improvements and the off-site surface runoff from the west.

Comment Period: A 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/MND began on April 17, 2026 and has been extended to end on June 4, 2026. Town staff will respond to all comments received on the Draft IS/MND. Comments may be submitted by facsimile, letter, or electronic mail. Copies of the Draft IS/MND are available during the 30-day public review period at the following locations: Town of Mammoth Lakes, Community and Economic Development Department, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; Mono County Library, 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; and Town of Mammoth Lakes website: <https://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/1075>.

All comments and responses to this notice should be submitted in writing to: Michael Peterka, Associate Planner, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Community and Economic Development Department, P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, or drop off at the Town offices at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, via facsimile at (760) 934-7493, or via email at mpeterka@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov. For additional information, contact Michael Peterka via email or by phone at (760) 965-3669. Public comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2026.

TS #2026-0054

PUBLIC NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement The Following Entity Is Doing Business As: Cake Me Away Mayra Lopez P.O. Box 7856 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on April 27, 2026 File Number 2026-0051 TS #2026-0058 (5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30)	Fictitious Business Name Statement The Following Entity Is Doing Business As: MAMMOTH PEAK STAYS & HOSTING Diana Victoria Vaz 58 Goldhill – P.O. Box 8835 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on April 9, 2026 File Number 2026-0047 TS #2026-0043 (4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16)
Fictitious Business Name Statement The Following Entity Is Doing Business As: Mammoth Summit Rentals Chase Realty Advisors, Inc. 1934 Meridian Blvd. #279. Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on April 1, 2026 File Number 2026-0042 TS #2026-0042 (4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9)	Fictitious Business Name Statement The Following Entity Is Doing Business As: MAMMOTH PEAK Diana Victoria Vaz 58 Goldhill – P.O. Box 8835 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on April 9, 2026 File Number 2026-0047 TS #2026-0044 (4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16)

Notice of Unclaimed Checks

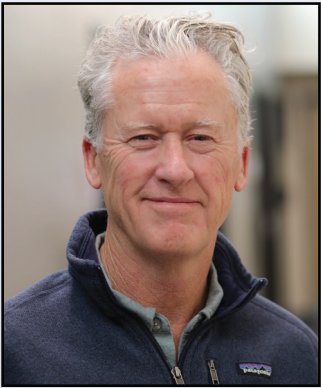
SOUTHERN MONO HEALTH CARE DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE - UNCLAIMED CHECKS. Pursuant to State of California Government Code Section 50050, notice is hereby given by Southern Mono Health Care District that the following checks, not the property of the District, have been held by the District in the Unclaimed Checks Trust Fund for more than three years. These amounts will become the property of Southern Mono Health Care District if no verified complaint is filed and served by May 14, 2026. Any persons possessing	an interest in this property may inquire at the Southern Mono Health Care District Finance department, 85 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, Ca 93546, or call 760 924-4036 Name of Payee: SHAYE WILLIAMS, KYLE TOWERS PATRICK HAYES, ERIC O'REAR, CHRISTOPHER VARGAS, PARAMA PRAMANICK TS #2026-0057
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Mammoth Hospital

Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Services

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

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



Patrick Fitzgerald, MD



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

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THE TRAIL END OF IT ALL

By Fisher

At last Wednesday’s Mammoth Trails meeting at the Mammoth Brewing Eatery, various leaders in Mammoth Lakes’ recreation planning space gave the following updates.

The Cost of A Crapper

How much would you pay to poop? Well, technically, you might be paying about a million if you’re a taxpayer in Mammoth Lakes.

The town’s Park and Recreation Commission is beginning to set aside funds to replace the Shady Rest Park restroom, of which the total is about \$900,000 between design and construction.

The existing restroom, according to Public Works Director Haislip Hayes, is “inadequate for our needs and is past its useful life” and will be turned into storage once the new structure is complete.

The new structure, slated to sit adjacent to the existing restroom, will be heated and functional throughout the year. It would be similar to the bathroom at the park in the Parcel.

That’s what makes the price tag so astronomical. Hayes estimates winterizing the bathroom is \$6-700,000 alone.

“Building a pit toilet? Not that expensive,” Hayes said. “Having something that’s got heat? Expensive.”

SHARPening up

Last year, trail crews completed roughly five miles of new trail in the Sherwins, according to Mammoth Lakes Trail Manager Andrew Mulford.

This work represents the latest phase of the Sherwin Area Recreation Project (SHARP), a long-winded project to expand and organize the trail system which spans from Hayden Cabin to the end of Old Mammoth Road.

Some of the miles of trail developed are user-created routes that already existed but couldn’t be maintained because the USFS didn’t officially recognize them. By reworking and adopting them into the Town’s network, officials hope to transform the region’s spiderweb of paths into maintainable single-track for cyclists, hikers, and equestrians.

“We didn’t really want to advertise them right away,” Mulford said. “The soils out here don’t have much clay, so they take time to recover. We soft-opened the trails and let them settle in.”

After a winter of snowpack and moisture, those trails are now in much better shape.

“I was just out there walking them and they’ve embedded nicely,” he said. “I think they’re ready to use.”

A new connector near the library and Cerro Coso Community College links into the Town Loop before dropping to Sherwin Creek Road. From there, a scenic stretch winds through the forest toward Sherwin Creek Campground, while another

er route climbs from Sherwin Creek Road to the Sherwin Lakes Trailhead.

About eight miles of additional approved trail are slated to be built this summer.

Once all the new trails are complete, the planners will diminish existing user trails. Roughly 7.6 miles of informal, user-created routes have been identified for closure and restoration.

With major progress in the Sherwins, trail planning efforts are beginning to shift north of town, centered around Shady Rest Park and the Inyo Craters area.

Town and Forest Service partners first began exploring the area in 2019, but the effort was paused as resources were directed toward advancing the SHARP plan. Now, with that project nearing completion, Mulford said there is renewed capacity to move the northern network forward.

The landscape presents both an opportunity and a challenge. While the area contains an extensive web of roads (roughly 600 miles) there are relatively few connected singletrack trails, particularly for motorized use.

“We’re looking at how to connect what already exists into something that actually functions as a system,” Mulford said.

Early concepts focus on linking fragmented routes into a cohesive network that could serve a broader range of users, including dirt bikes and e-bikes, uses that are not permitted in the Sherwins. The idea is to provide a designated space for those activities while reducing pressure on non-motorized trail systems closer to town.

Plans also include additional non-motorized trails near Shady Rest, with longer, more gradual segments that could accommodate a wide range of users, from beginner riders to families and hikers.

“If we’re restricting certain uses in one place, we need to provide good opportunities somewhere else,” Mulford said.

The project remains in early planning stages, and will require environmental review, public input, and coordination before any construction begins.

A Picnic at the Postpile

At Devils Postpile National Monument, infrastructure upgrades and shifting visitor demand are prompting a broader rethink of how space is used, especially along the river corridor.

According to site manager Rebecca Wong, the park is also currently constructing a new, winterized restroom facility designed to better handle visitation.

At the same time, the monument’s 20-site campground, which has been closed since 2016 due to infrastructure issues and repeated winter damage, is being reevaluated.

Rather than simply reopening it in its current form, the National Park Service is exploring a potential redesign of the space in coordination with landscape architects.

“We’re looking at reconfiguring that area,” Wong said. “One option is to move away from traditional campsite layouts and rethink how the space serves visitors.”

The goal is now to shift the former campground away from overnight use and toward day-use recreation.

“That could mean fewer defined campsites and more open space for picnicking and gathering along the corridor,” Wong said.

Notice of Public Hearing

Mono County Behavioral Health is seeking public comment for its Behavioral Health Services Act FY 26-29 Integrated Plan.

Interested parties may access the plan at monocounty.ca.gov/behavioral-health/BHSA, send comments via email to MCBHQA@mono.ca.gov, and/or attend a public hearing on June 8, 2026 at 3 pm at 1290 Tavern Rd Mammoth Lakes, Dana Room or via Zoom: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/89324302929>; Call in: +1 669 900 6833; Webinar ID: 893 2430 2929.

TS #2026-0056

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES GET THE THIRD DEGREE

By Klusmire

The three candidates for the Inyo County Supervisor District 3 seat covered familiar ground as they addressed housing, infrastructure, county finances, water, taxes and how to deliver county services in light of reduced state and federal funding.

The trio offered ideas and a few jabs in front of about 60 people during a May 5 candidate forum hosted by Inyo 350 held in the Bishop Methodist Church.

First came three questions provided beforehand then queries from audience members. District 3 includes the Bishop Paiute Reservation and the subdivisions on South Barlow and south of Manor Market.

Incumbent supervisor Scott Marcellin defended his and the county's work over the past few years and ongoing efforts to address troublesome issues.

The two challengers, Steven Orihuela and Ted Carleton, were less charitable about the past and outlined some different approaches to handling county business.

All three gave brief opening remarks.

Orihuela, a Paiute tribal member born and raised in Bishop, said he wanted to put "people over politics." The county is facing "big challenges" and needs "a leader who listens and takes action." His years of experience on the Bishop Paiute Tribal Council gives him perspective on local issues and government experience, he said.

Carleton landed here 25 years ago,



Scott Marcellin

living first in Mammoth and now in Bishop and is the founder/owner of The Sheet newspaper. He is well-versed about current issues but added no one knows what to expect in the future, so voters should back the candidate with the "experience, wisdom and character" to make hard decisions. (Note: Carleton did not read or edit this article before publication.)

Marcellin, a lifelong Bishop resident and third generation business owner, said he offers "hard work, fiscal knowledge and integrity" and wants to continue the county's ongoing work on housing, infrastructure and other issues. He wants to prioritize "people who keep Inyo County running every day."



Ted Carleton

Housing

The first prepared question asked if Inyo County faced a housing crisis and, if so, what would could be done to address it.

Orihuela said after visiting 300 homes, residents told him there is a housing crisis. High costs and a shortage of housing make it "near impossible" for people to stay and work in the county, he said. Housing is "basic infrastructure" that can be encouraged by "streamlining" the building permitting and approval process.

Partnerships with the county, tribes, the city of Bishop, state and federal agencies could generate more housing, particularly "workforce housing," he said. "People who work here should have a fair chance to live here," he said.

Carleton said housing is "certainly a problem," but the passing of the Baby Boom generation might open up enough housing to ease the problem. He was leery of state housing grants that come with "strings attached" and income limits that leave out teachers and nurses, for example, which has happened in Mammoth Lakes.

Downpayment assistance for employees to buy existing housing would be more effective, he said.

Marcellin said housing is a "regional issue," that, if not addressed, could add to a declining population which could lead to "our community dying." But housing is linked to infrastructure, he said, pointing out Bishop and Big Pine need to expand their sewer plants to handle any additional housing. A county "needs assessment" noted Inyo needs about 1,400 new housing units, which should be for local and workers,



Steven Orihuela

"not homes for the rich," he said. The county is working to push for the release of federal land close to towns to accommodate more housing, he added.

Tribal relations

The next question was about the "relationship" between Inyo County and the Bishop Paiute Tribe.

Carleton pointed out Orihuela endorsed Marcellin in 2022, but now is running against him, "so I'm guessing they don't get along that well, but I could be wrong." He questioned how the county prioritized a \$10 million grant for improvements in Tecopa instead of focusing on the need for sidewalks and other improvements for the larger population on the Bishop reservation.

Marcellin countered, "Steven and I get along just fine and have a good working relationship." The tribe and county's relationship is "much better than in past years," with multiple county departments "working well" with the tribe on day-to-day issues and longer-term plans. "Work is being done" by the county on numerous projects with the tribe, he said.

Orihuela said the relationship "has improved, but there is still work to do." The Bishop tribe is one of the "largest governments and service providers in the county," he said. There needs to be a "true government to government relationship" between the county and the tribe, "not just occasional outreach." With a "stronger partnership ... think what we could do if we all worked together," he said.

see DISTRICT 3, page 15

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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?



DISTRICT 3

continued from page 14

Budget shortfalls

The final question by INYO350 asked what the candidates would do in the face of federal budget cuts to health and food programs that could impact between 700 and 1,500 county residents.

Marcellin said the county was working with numerous organizations and its state representatives to advocate for millions in state funding to help ease the impacts, especially for the county’s cost for mandated “indigent care.” Grants and other funding for both local hospitals are also on tap from the state but not approved yet, he noted.

Orihuela said making up those lost funds, “is a tall order, but it can be done.” There should be an assessment to determine the impacts and outline plans to make sure “no one falls through the gaps,” he said. Nonprofits and schools and other organizations could also “help blunt the impacts.” The county, though, does need to review its “core services” and make sure “legacy costs” don’t just roll over without funding in place.

Carleton said if state funding currently paying for county staff, primarily in Health and Human Services, falls short, “people will have to be let go.” The county can’t use General Fund money to “backfill” the loss of state and federal funding. Getting outlying subdivisions such as Starlite and Mustang Mesa into the Bishop/Rural fire protection district so those homeowners pay the district’s tax could increase revenue and allow the district to fully take over EMS (ambulance) services.

What will you do?

The first audience question asked for two items the candidates would accomplish if elected.

Orihuela said “the communication issue could be improved” between the county and residents with more outreach and personal updates. Housing should be addressed with “mixed use” projects including commercial, residential and workforce housing. “It’s an ambitious

goal, but it’s doable.”

Carleton said hiring a capable County Administrative Officer would be first, then getting the county’s “fiscal house in order,” paying particular attention to the 40% increase in General Fund costs from wages and benefits, which he said was “unsustainable.”

Marcellin admitted he had “fallen short” on communication and would improve if reelected. Housing and infrastructure are linked and both have to be addressed with partnerships with community service districts, tribes, the city of Bishop and the county, he said.

Water

Regarding the county relationship with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Carleton said the county should consider paying for its own groundwater and environmental studies and not rely on LADWP. Orihuela stressed holding LADWP accountable and enforcing current agreements. Marcellin said the county had been successful in stopping LADWP’s plans for new wells, which could impact groundwater and current private wells in West Bishop and beyond.

Tax hikes

There was no enthusiasm from any candidate for the county to provide financial assistance to Northern Inyo Hospital or Southern Inyo Hospital despite looming cuts to Medi-Cal and Medicare.

When asked if the county should raise taxes, Carleton said, “seriously?” which drew a laugh from the crowd. All three said no to increasing taxes. Orihuela said “every little thing in the county budget” should be reviewed and there should be a “long overdue” look at “sunsetting grants” and other “legacy” costs.

Marcellin said he and no one else wants to pay more taxes, then said “someone up here [Carleton]” wants more tax money to create full-time EMS services in Bishop and the rest of northern Inyo County.

TIPPING THE SCALES

PHOTOS: LIBRE



On Tuesday morning, the Crowley Fish Foundation (CFF) held its inaugural trout stocking, depositing approximately 1,600 pounds of one to three pound triploid rainbow trout via a stocking truck into Crowley Lake at Hilton Bay.

The fish were raised at the Desert Springs Fish Farm in Summer Lake, Oregon, then were approved for stocking in California by the state’s Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Among these released trout were ten specially tagged trophy trout, weighing roughly five pounds each. Any tagged trout that is caught will be redeemable for a prize from CFF, including guided trips and gift cards to local establishments.

The event’s audience included the Mammoth and Bishop Chambers of Commerce, Mammoth Lakes Tourism, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes.



Above, Chris Leonard of the Crowley Fish Foundation cuts the ribbon on the event. Below, fish are transported from the truck to the lake through a tube.



Here's Dubz!

What a big tank full of love and fun. He's mentoring a scared puppy to not be afraid and come out for walks with his protection. Cool dog.

Please meet him and others like him that are in search of their forever home – at the Inyo County Animal Shelter, located at 1001 County Road in Big Pine. For more information, call (760) 938-2715. To see more dogs available for adoption, visit www.easternsierradogrescue.com



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The Lodges #1163 - \$1,395,000

This 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhome in The Lodges boasts a 2-car garage, gourmet kitchen, spacious primary suite, two decks, AC, and MORE! This retreat backs to open space and has great mountain views. Sold furnished, this property is a Must See!

**CONDO
BEDS: 3
BATHS: 3.5
SQFT: 2009**



CreekHouse #1463 - \$1,499,999

Stunning view town home in the popular CreekHouse community! This home boasts modern construction complete with 2 large decks, a gourmet kitchen, open floorplan and more!! Move in before summer!

**CONDO
BEDS: 3
BATHS: 2.5
SQ FT: 1696**



IN ESCROW!

26 Sugar Pine Drive - \$1,775,000

Charming 4-bedroom + loft and office, 3.5-bath mountain home with 2-car garage near Eagle Lodge and The Village. Open living with wood-beamed ceilings, multiple fireplaces, and an expansive deck with hot tub in a beautiful natural setting.

**HOME
BEDS: 4/LOFT
BATHS: 3.5
SQFT: 3229**



NEW!

Snowcreek V #745 - \$1,790,000

Rare Mammoth Lakes gem set on the Snowcreek Golf Course's 3rd green with sweeping views of Mammoth Rock and the Sherwin Mountains. 2260 Square feet featuring two levels, four bedrooms, three baths, and easy access to year-round recreation.

**CONDO
BEDS: 4
BATHS: 3
SQFT: 2260**



IN ESCROW!

Hidden Valley Village #113 - \$499,000

Cozy 1 bdrm/2 bath in serene setting! This ideal mountain retreat gives one the feeling of being in a tree house! Located in a well-kept project with amenities, this turnkey property is a must-see!! Great Rental, washer/dryer, close to The Village!

**CONDO
BEDS: 1
BATHS: 1
SQ FT: 712**



The Lodges #1105 - \$929,000

Beautiful single-level residence in The Lodges featuring warm wood floors, gourmet kitchen, and spacious great room. Large laundry/mudroom and single-car garage add convenience. Enjoy a peaceful deck with mountain views and soothing water feature. A MUST SEE!

**CONDO
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 2.5
SQ FT: 1867**



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