

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

Saturday, May 16, 2026

FREE

Vol. 24, No. 20

EXPERIENCE THE (TONY) ODYSSEY!

12th annual Mammoth Lakes Film Festival kicks off Wednesday

By Hannah Saraisky

On Memorial Day weekend, the town of Mammoth Lakes becomes a lively center for independent cinema. The Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, which will take place May 20-24, showcases

independent feature films and shorts from around the world while highlighting emerging filmmakers and smaller productions.

This year's festival is set to feature 19 narrative and docu-

mentary features alongside 79 short films and music videos, offering audiences a range of stories, perspectives, and visual styles.

This year's selections for the **more FILM, pg. 9**

A SPECIAL LAWN SERVICE



On Tuesday, Bishop FFA (Future Farmers of America) celebrated the 17 seniors raising animals this year; 15 of them are State FFA Degree recipients and spent four years in the program. Clockwise from top left: Cassidy Cervenka, Riley VanNest, Reuben Nicholson and Konnor Johnston



From left: Snowcreek hip-hop dancers Georgia Fogg, Maddie Nelson, Caitlin Toups and Charlee Correa. Snowcreek's Dance Academy has two recitals this weekend @ Mammoth Middle School.

BYPASS BISHOP?

By Klusmire

When it comes to figuring out how to divert semi-truck traffic around Bishop, Mayor Stephen Muchovej is like a dog with a bone; he just won't drop it.

After years of failed concepts and numerous plans, Muchovej and the Bishop City Council are taking another stab at getting Caltrans to build a "designated truck route" that would divert semi-trucks east of Bishop. As Muchovej explained at the May 11 council meeting, the suggested route would intersect with U.S. 395 somewhere between five and seven miles south of Bishop and loop around the town past the Bishop Airport and then link into U.S. Hwy. 6 north of Bishop somewhere in the vicinity of Laws.

The new road would not be a bypass of U.S. 395, he noted. Instead, he said it should be considered an extension of U.S. 6, which currently ends at U.S. 395 at the Tri-County Fair-

grounds. Linking to Hwy. 6 is critical since traffic counts from Caltrans confirm that "a vast majority" of the semis rolling through Bishop turn onto Hwy. 6, Muchovej said.

The new road would be a mandatory alternative truck route, Muchovej said, that would direct semis around town while allowing passenger vehicles to continue through Bishop on 395 as they head north to Mammoth Lakes, for example.

Muchovej is the latest in a long line of Bishop leaders and downtown promoters who have been vexed by the challenges of getting semi-trucks to go around Bishop while maintaining a steady flow of visitor and tourist traffic through town and into local small businesses.

For years, ever since being elected to the city council, he and like-minded downtown enthusiasts have been battling around ideas for a truck route.

more BYPASS, see pg. 9,

HEY MACCARENA!

Using the MACC is gonna cost you some cheese

By Libre

Last week, the cost and operation of the Dave and Roma McCoy Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) debuted on the stage of Mammoth Lakes Town Council.

Spoiler alert -- it's not a money maker.

The information was presented by Bill Blake, the principal of AMS, an arts focused consulting firm that has partnered with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Mammoth Lakes Foundation to build the center.

The cultural center is set to open in the spring of 2027. Once completed, the MACC will be roughly 7,482 square

feet and include both a 259-seat Performing Arts Theatre and a renovated 38-seat Edison Theatre.

Funding for the MACC construction came from a myriad of sources: the Kern Community College District, which operates Cerro Coso College, contributed \$7.5 million, \$3 million came from the Mammoth Lakes Foundation, \$500,000 came from the Tambour Foundation, and the town's contributed a combined \$5.82 million.

The theater will continue to be funded by an annual contribution of \$300,000 from the

more MACC, pg. 5

Flock off

MLPD seeks answers

Can't pool your cash

Vegas, baby!

What Wood Fitz do?

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PURE LUCK

On Wednesday evening, Inyo County hosted a “bond workshop” at the Consolidated Office Prison (COP) on North Main.

I suppose the purpose was to allow citizens to bitch to elected officials about taxes.

And for the elected to nod in agreement and feel their pain.

I thought the most interesting back-and-forth occurred between Bishop resident Randy Short and Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Barry Simpson.

Short observed that school districts are increasingly inclined to ask voters to approve bond measures to fund capital improvements rather than set aside money in their operational budgets to do so.

Simpson replied by saying that 85-90% of district budgets are spent on staff salaries and benefits. And if too much was maintained in reserves (for capital improvement projects), the teachers would balk and demand the money be distributed out in additional wages.

So Short said, “The unions are just getting hungrier and hungrier ... it’s up to us [as taxpayers] to say no.”

Short said if we say no on bonds as the default answer, it puts pressure on those asking for money to do a better job at being transparent and convincing taxpayers of the necessity of the ask.

You can’t just get by anymore by saying “it’s for the kids,” added Short. That’s no longer a good enough sales pitch on its face.

Northern Inyo Hospital District CEO Christian Wallis is growing on me. Wallis made quarterly reports to Bishop City Council and Inyo Supervisors this past week.

He talked about the \$6 million hit from Medicaid cuts courtesy of the Feds, then about the \$8 million windfall NIHD received when the IRS restored pandemic-era funds related to employee retainment during Covid.

The windfall has improved the district’s cash position significantly. It now has 99 days cash on hand, up from 64 days a month previously.

“That was luck. Pure luck,” he said.

A dose of humility. How refreshing. And then I liked how he followed it up. “We need to drive our own future,” he said, versus waiting for the next thing to happen to us. He said NIHD revenue growth has been stagnant for years - so it’s time to explore what services are in demand and how the district might pivot.

He was also candid in saying, “I have no idea whether we are overstaffed or

the
sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

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

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not.” He says NIHD is currently undertaking a “benchmarking process” to help evaluate staffing needs.

The A-Frame noise has been waning within the Bishop City Council Chambers, but the Flock Security commentary has been picking up steam.

The City of Bishop, like Mammoth, contracts with Flock Security to place videocameras along busy thoroughfares. Bishop’s contract is for \$187,000 over five years.

The argument for the cameras is that they provide another evidentiary tool for the police.

The argument against is that they represent an intrusion upon civil liberties.

About a dozen people spoke in opposition to Flock. Some cited the 30 cities and towns who have already canceled contracts based upon data and other security concerns. Others cited the mere one minor crime the system has apparently helped solve since its implementation.

But Starlite resident Robert Hardin had the most incisive comment - but he was quoting Ben Franklin, so how could he lose?

“Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.”



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MACC

continued from page 1

town’s Measure U funding and \$175,000 from its general fund.

That government funding will be critical even under optimistic outlooks.

During a typical year, Blake hoped the MACC would generate roughly \$352,000 from admissions, facility rentals, event labor and technical assistance, food sales and facility fees. In sum, the center would generate \$827,000 in revenue, which would off-set the \$827,000 in operating costs.

He referred to a typical year as “a base year, which is the fourth, fifth, or sixth year after you’ve opened.”

This distinction is important because, “the first couple of years can have some wild variations,” Blake said.

Blake predicted that MACC would host 200 days of activity during a typical year. These would range from 12 visiting performances, 137 resident tenant performances and rehearsals (including Sierra Classic Theatre, Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre, and Chamber Music Unbound), 23 town performances, and 24 outside rental performances.

Tickets for these events would cost around \$40, when calculated for the theatre sitting at 75% capacity.

“\$40 is a smooth, rounded average,” Blake said. “Your lowest price could be \$20 or \$25, and your highest might be \$60 or \$65, depending on how your theatre manager wants to do things.”

The center also plans to open a concessions stand, though Blake did not give specific details as to what would be

sold there.

“It’s [to be determined] as to how concessions are going to operate and whether or not there will be a liquor license,” Blake said. “But those [concession] fees can add up to be a significant source of revenue.”

During performances, resident tenants will pay the center a rental fee of \$500 per night for the main theatre, and \$250 per night for the smaller Edison theatre. Other non-profits will pay \$800, and for-profits \$1000. This price decreases slightly during stage rehearsals, clocking in on the main stage at \$250 for resident tenants and \$400 for other groups.

These price points made some individuals in the room nervous.

Chief among these concerns came from Roger Rea, the treasurer of the Eastern Sierra Community Chorus. The non-profit does not currently charge for tickets.

“Last Friday, we were at the St. Joseph’s Catholic Church and we had about 125 people come in. We took in \$495,” Rea said during public comment. “We do get lots of other donations, but when I hear the numbers of \$500 for an event and \$250 the night beforehand, it doesn’t quite sound affordable to me.”

During the final moments of the presentation, the tone shifted to the feasibility of the project overall.

“I want to make sure we’re not over-estimating what this could generate,” mayor Amanda Rice said.



The MACC, currently under construction

“I don’t think we’ve undershot you on cost,” Blake countered. “Given that these are done in 2026 dollars. I don’t know what 2028 or 2029 dollars will look like.”

“The wiggle,” he said, lies in whether the total cost of the operation would be \$800,000 or \$850,000.

“Where is the red ribbon, and where are the scissors sharpened?” asked councilmember John Wentworth. The audience erupted in laughter. But Wentworth was serious. “What happens if you bring in the act, pull up the curtain, and no one shows up. Where is that going to fall?”

Wentworth wasn’t looking for an answer, but somewhere to place responsibility. That’s show business, baby.

The Dave and Roma McCoy Arts and Cultural Center will be owned by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and operated by an Arts and Culture Manager.

AMS and the town have yet to hire this individual, though they are hopeful this role will be filled soon, as this person would be responsible for “positioning the venue as the premier regional hub for performing arts in the Eastern Sierra.” Applications for the role are now open.

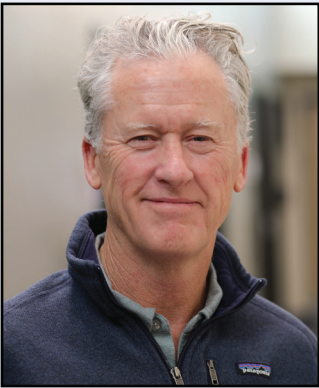
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MLPD SEEKS ANSWERS TO STAFFING WOES

By Libre

During last Wednesday's Mammoth Lakes Town council meeting, Sergeant Jason Heilman dropped a bombshell: the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD) has lost seven officers in the past year.

Two of these officers retired, one resigned, one began work for the Mono County Sheriff, another for the Bishop City Police Department, and the final two are now located at the Inyo County Sheriff.

The MLPD is funded for 19 sworn positions. But today, the department only has 12 active sworn members - less than the number it had when the Town incorporated in 1984.

MLPD is struggling to laterally recruit officers, leaving the rest of the staff without key support systems. It's a problem that began when the town went bankrupt in 2012, and cut the department's staffing.

"It has not really grown back since," Heilman told the Sheet.

The longlasting impact of the MLPD's staffing shortage is felt throughout the department.

Typically, three officers would patrol every night. However, currently, the numbers only allow for two. Zero patrol occurs between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m., because there are not enough officers to patrol 24/7. Responding to a call becomes complicated when there are only two officers available, as they often both have to arrive at a scene, leaving the remainder of town unmanned.

For Heilman, the short-staffing means working around the clock, often battling his own exhaustion and sacrificing time with his family in order to keep up the grueling demands of his job.

"My husband worked a 13-hour shift the other night," said Erin Heilman, Sgt. Heilman's wife, at last week's town council meeting. "He came home at four in the morning, slept for two hours, then was called back out for a 17 hour shift... that should concern everyone in this room. Your families are safe because my family sacrifices on a daily basis."

Moreover, the department no longer retains a school resource officer.

"Historically, we've had one dedicated school resource officer," Mayor Amanda Rice told the Sheet. "I'm a teacher, so I'm very dismayed to see that."

Heilman also raised concerns about the strained MLPD's ability to police crime in the town's affordable housing units.

"The stats for the Parcel and the Innsbruck don't lie," he said. "Anytime you have low income housing, history shows, it causes increased workload for public safety."

So why is recruitment so difficult?

The MLPD offers a competitive salary, ranging from \$108,871 to \$132,334 (see ad in the classified section) for laterally recruited officers. Benefits include health, vision and employee-paid life insurance.

In February, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council ratified a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Mammoth Lakes Police Officer's Association, which will be active through June 30, 2028. The MOU, created by Chief Daniel Casabian and Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Rob Patterson added incentives for the MLPD's March recruitment cycle such as longevity for laterally recruited, sworn personnel.

Typically, this longevity operates by increasing salary by 3% when a town employee has worked for ten years, adding another 3% for 15 years, and a third 3% for 20. The new recruitment package allows these longevity incentives to transfer to any experience an officer has accrued prior to working for the MLPD.

In April, Casabian and Patterson collaborated again to add recruitment incentives such as a \$5,000 signing bonus, a \$5,000 relocation reimbursement, and six months of housing in town condos. With these new incentives, the MLPD hired two candidates during its hiring cycles in March and April, respectively.

Still, Casabian hopes for more. "We didn't get the amount of applications we were hoping for," he said. "[Most]... were not qualified."

The problem isn't just limited to Mammoth. It's nationwide, both Casabian and Heilman told the Sheet. Departments everywhere are struggling to hire and maintain their forces.

"When I went to the police academy in 2003, I felt like there were 100 applicants for two positions," Heilman said. "Now, I feel like there's two applicants for 100 positions."

Casabian agreed.

"It's just so hard to find candidates that want to get into law enforcement," he lamented.

Multiple police agencies throughout the state advertise a myriad of hiring bonuses, an indication of the universal struggle to recruit officers. For example, the Torrance Police Department offers a maximum salary of \$188,000 and a \$100,000 signing bonus, the Monterey department offers to pay for a gym membership, and Coronado's department offers a \$2,000 education reimbursement. Each of these departments have flashy websites, with slogans like "More than a career. It's a calling."

Casabian and Heilman pointed to the 2020 George Floyd murder, the defund the police movement, and the Trump administration's deployment of ICE as hindrances for Gen Z to join law enforcement.

"There were some negative views towards law enforcement," Heilman said. "That may have turned the younger generation away from going into the police academy."

"[Incidents] keep building and building, which makes it a lot more difficult for law enforcement to hire," Casabian added. "It feels like more and more

people are not interested in coming into the profession."

Heilman believes the Mammoth community still supports its local police force.

"I believe the public absolutely supports and appreciates us," he said. "I think we truly embody community policing."

Casabian noted that while the community is impacted by the news coverage of law enforcement and the national discourse around police, he doesn't think the public's perception of MLPD has changed.

"We still have a great relationship with the community," he said. "There's been an outpouring of support from the community when they heard about our hiring struggles. A lot of people ask, 'What can I do, how can I help?'"

However, this community relationship was tested last March, when local resident Jesus Uribe was shot and killed near the public library. Police were deployed to the scene because Uribe was "throwing rocks at passing vehicles," the MLPD statement read. The comments left on the MLPD's official statement Instagram post regarding the killing reflected a conflicted public reaction.

"We got a lot of sensitive cops in Mammoth and Bishop," @ohjeezluis said. "It was a matter of time before they ended up killing someone."

"God bless," @deathvalleyalex said, on the flip side. @_adamsadventures_ left six clapping emojis and commented "Amazing job MLPD."

The mixed perception of this event has endured.

"There were no non-lethal de-escalation tools used whatsoever before four police chased the man and fired multiple times, killing him," an anonymous community member wrote to the Sheet.

"Though Mr. Uribe was clearly having a crisis and was unpredictable, he did not deserve to die."

She suggested that perhaps the struggle to recruit officers is systemic, rather than generational.

"Alternatives to policing exist. Though establishing them is no easy task, anything that reduces the presence of guns in public interactions and incidents is a step in the right direction," she wrote. "If we're serious about change, shouldn't we focus on fixing the system instead of the people within it?"

For now, the MLPD and the Town of Mammoth Lakes will continue to focus on hiring more officers.

"We need to look at our hiring practices and see if there's anything we can improve on to get more people here," Rice said. "I'm hopeful we will be able to get more staff and fix this problem, because I'm mom and a teacher. I would love a fully-staffed police department."

Patterson and Casabian are continuing to work on adding lateral recruitment benefits, with the hope of hiring more officers in the June cycle. Casabian hopes the community will understand the effort MLPD has put towards lateral hiring, especially since the new MOU's ratification in February.

"My goal is to staff this organization to a level that can provide 24 hour coverage for the Town of Mammoth Lakes and ensure the safety of my officers," he said.

New for this year, Chair 4 will be spinning for faster laps.



Mammoth

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LOCAL BRIEFS

More ambulance subsidies

Inyo County, the City of Bishop and the Bishop Paiute Tribe will be pitching in to provide \$254,028 to keep the Sierra Life Flight Ambulance service rolling in the Bishop area. The current ambulance contract expires July 1, which is when the latest round of subsidies for the next 12 months will kick in.

Inyo County said it has received a qualified bid for ambulance service in the area but has yet to conclude final negotiations with the bidder. If a new contract is approved and put in place, the “cost sharing agreement” between the three governments will be “modified.”

The costs to each government were broken down based on population.

Inyo County will pay \$141,181, which is 55.5% of the total, based on a population in the “surrounding greater Bishop area” of 7,195; the City of Bishop will pay \$75,172, which is 29.5% of the total, based on a population in the city limits of 3,851; the Bishop Paiute Tribe will pay \$37,674, which is 15% of the total, based on a population on the reservation of 1,920.

The Bishop City Council approved the cost-share plan at its May 11 meeting.

Going Nuts in Ridgecrest

Inyo County is staying out of the water war raging around Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley.

The Indian Wells Valley Water District appears to be sniffing around the lake at Little Lake Ranch in the south end of Inyo County to bolster its shrinking water

supplies. The Indian Wells Valley aquifer has been declared in “overdraft” for several years. The groundwater pumping in the valley sped up when large pistachio orchards were planted west of Ridgecrest. The orchards are visible from U.S. 395 and are a shock of greenery in the high desert.

The Indian Wells Groundwater Authority wrote a letter to the Inyo County Supervisors that states the Water District agendas have had executive sessions, “pertaining to real property negotiations with Little Lake Ranch, Inc.” The Groundwater Authority theorized the Water District was seeking to buy the surface water rights to the flows filling the lake at Little Lake.

The letter asked Inyo County to confirm its longstanding refusal to export or use any water from Inyo County to help replenish the Indian Wells Valley aquifer, which was clearly stated by the board in 2020. The county confirmed it would not support the water transfer, said County Counsel John Vallejo in an email to the Sheet. The Groundwater Authority also asked if the Water District had any contact with Inyo County regarding the water purchase and transfer plan. That was also a no.

The Groundwater Authority, formed under state law, just like the Inyo County Groundwater Authority, and the Water District, have been in court battles over the authority’s attempt to slow groundwater pumping and place a fee on such pumping. The pistachio growers have also been in court on the matter, pointing out Kern County officials encouraged the development of the pistachio orchards

using groundwater for irrigation.

The county’s stance in 2020 against moving any local water to the Indian Wells groundwater basin arose when the Indian Wells Water Authority asked the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to sell water from the LA Aqueduct to replenish the groundwater basin. A quick “no” from LADWP along with Inyo County’s stance squelched that plan.

No Independence from Caltrans

Independence residents were serenaded by the sound of heavy construction May 12 as work began on upgrading and repaving U.S. 395 through town.

The work is part of the Caltrans Manzanar Pavement Project. The \$57 million project will repave 44 lane miles of pavement on U.S. 395 from about 2.5 miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor Center, through the town of Independence, to 0.3 miles north of Fish Hatchery Road leading to the Historic Mt. Whitney Hatchery, Caltrans announced.

Drivers can eventually expect single-lane traffic on 395 as construction and repaving work picks up steam.

“Not only will repaving the road create a better driving experience for motorists and cyclists, but it will also defer the need for major and intrusive maintenance projects,” according to Caltrans.

Along with pavement and asphalt work, other major features of the project include: a pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon with a mast arm at Market Street in the middle of Independence; pedestrian sidewalk bulb-outs at

about 10 intersections in Independence; and new traffic signs.

No completion date has been announced.

Cash is all wet at Bishop Pool

Don’t send the kids to the Bishop City Park Pool with a wad of cash.

The city has stopped taking cash for entrance fees and concessions/snacks at the pool. Credit and debit cards are the only payment options. Well, sort of.

More than a few residents have chastised the city council for going cashless at the pool. At the April 11 council meeting, City Manager Pam Foster and Community Services Director Dan McElroy explained the thinking behind the change.

First, McElroy said the city auditors have had some issues for years with the cash accounting at the pool, that “needed to be cleaned up.”

When pressed for more details, Foster said that the seasonal pool crew is made up of teenagers “and their cash handling hasn’t been great” and has been an ongoing problem.

She said parents can come to city hall with cash and “load” a payment card to be used at the pool and concession stand. McElroy noted swimming passes for the season are also a good option.

The cashless operation at the pool is actually a “soft rollout,” noted Foster, and if absolutely necessary, pool staff will take cash.

more BRIEFS, pg. 14

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TOWN OF Mammoth Lakes

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that there are rules specific to E-bikes in Mammoth Lakes?

E-bike use continues to grow so understanding etiquette is more important than ever!

- To be classified as an e-bike, the bike must have pedals. Pedal-less electric bikes are not considered e-bikes and are classified as electric motorcycles.
- All classes (1, 2, and 3) of e-bikes are allowed on the paved multi-use pathways (MUPs).
- E-bikes are permitted on all streets, roads, off highway vehicle (OHV) routes, and soft surface trails within the Mammoth Mountain Bike Park.
- E-bikes are **NOT** permitted on soft-surface non-motorized trails outside of the Mammoth Mountain Bike Park.
- All bicycle riders are required to wear a helmet and follow the same laws as cars when riding on streets and roads.
- Unless modified to be street legal in conjunction with a motorcycle license, pedal-less electric bikes are only permitted on OHV routes and are **NOT** permitted on any town roads, sidewalks, or MUPs.
- **The speed limit on the multi-use pathways is 15 mph. You must yield to foot traffic, be respectful of others, and watch your speed!**

 TownofMammothLakes.ca.gov

  [Town of Mammoth Lakes](#)

FILM

continued from page 1

festival are the documentary feature “Sugarfly” and the international narrative feature “Tony Odyssey.” Although different in style and storytelling, both films seek the audience’s emotional attention while exploring larger social themes.

“Sugarfly,” directed by Max Schoenfeld, follows the lives of two Native American drug addicts living in Seattle as they navigate addiction, mental illness, rehabilitation, and chronic health issues.

The documentary centers on Skye, who cycles in and out of rehab, and his friend, nicknamed “Big Jake,” whose physical health deteriorates throughout the film.

“Sugarfly” focuses on the humanity of its subjects, not sensationalizing addiction, but focusing on the emotional complexity of each characters’ lives.

The film captures intimate moments of vulnerability and exhaustion. It humanizes the experience of addiction, revealing how it can be both an extremely isolating condition and also a deeply communal experience.

In one particular moment, Big Jake reflects on the world of drugs and alcohol that he was surrounded by as a young child and says that he is “trapped in my own world...because I don’t know anything else...I never had a choice in this.”

At points, the documentary is difficult to watch, but its emotional honesty is what makes it so compelling. More than anything, the strength of “Sugarfly” is that it tells a story that might otherwise remain completely unexplored and undocumented.

By contrast, “Tony Odyssey” is a surreal and visually experimental narrative. Directed by Brazilian filmmaker Thales Banzai, this international film starts as the main character Tony and his friend/accomplice Ivy steal a mysterious drug that throws them into a mind bending experience.

The film’s five chapters follow as the two characters embark on a psychedelic journey that blurs the boundaries between their real and imagined versions of reality.

The film’s use of black and white shots, distorted imagery and montages, and layered editing techniques gives it a distinct visual tone and pace. As Tony and Ivy move through a series of strange encounters, they wrestle with issues of spirituality and ask probing and, at times, unnerving questions about God and the meaning of life.

These two films reflect the diversity of stories being highlighted at the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, and they demonstrate the festival’s commitment to stories that push creative boundaries.

More information and tickets for the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival are available at <https://www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.com/>.

BYPASS

continued from page 1

This time, however, the city council is taking the initiative. It approved a formal request to Caltrans District 9 to “initiate a Project Initiation Document (PID) to evaluate potential alternatives for rerouting heavy truck traffic around the City’s downtown corridor.”

That letter to Caltrans would be the first step on a very long road. Muchovej said the initial PID study could take two to three years. Since Inyo County has fewer than 40,000 residents, Muchovej said Caltrans would pay for the PID. If the PID determines the truck route is worth building, the new road would probably take another 30-40 years to actually build, he said. Completing environmental studies, obtaining the right-of-way, design and engineering, then bidding and construction are the big steps, he noted.

Muchovej had plenty of numbers to back the push to get started on the alternative route. The surge in truck traffic is confirmed by Caltrans traffic counts. In 2024, there were 867 semis going through Bishop, with 521 then turning onto Hwy. 6 and 346 going north on U.S. 395. In 2017, about 673 trucks went through Bishop, with nearly an even split between Hwy. 6 and North 395.

That means truck traffic has increased by 40% from 2017 to 2024, Muchovej said. “And it’s getting worse.”

In 2019, Caltrans projected the number of big rigs on U.S.395 driving through Bishop in 2040. That number that was exceeded in 2023, he said. The letter states that, “Caltrans forecasts continued growth in regional freight traffic over the coming decade,” and urges the agency to “proactively plan for these changes.”

Besides the numbers, public comment on the Bishop Downtown Plan and literally every other planning document puts reducing truck traffic on Main Street as a top concern, he added. (Aside: The letter the city sent to Caltrans overflows with the appropriate planning and transportation jargon stressing safety, a commitment to moving traffic efficiently, and on and on.)

Without a full-service truck stop, truck drivers don’t generate significant business in town. The looming completion of a large truck stop at the Fort Independence Paiute reservation would quickly become the preferred stop for truckers, he noted.

The first of three previous bypass routes proposed by Caltrans was in the 1970s. Several of those imagined routes went close to residential areas and were designed to take all traffic, passenger vehicles and semis, around Bishop. Local businesses said moving through-traffic off Main Street would have serious, negative economic impacts.

“A PID would provide the appropriate framework to objectively analyze these and other considerations, including environmental constraints, engineering feasibility, cost, and community impacts,” the letter states.

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BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/

The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill

Pursuit of Happiness Hour

Daily 3-6 p.m. Live Music. Best viewing spot in town for live sports, other than across the parking lot @ Main Street Pizza and Tap. More Liberty info, see ad p. 15

Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour

Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. More info: See ad p.2

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 15/

Easy Wind (Grateful Dead tribute)

plays Liberty in Mammoth. Starts 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Saturday, May 16/

Snowbunny Burlesque @ Liberty in Mammoth. Ticket req'd. Ooh-la-la.

Easy Wind heads down the hill to Mill Creek Station

to perform a different set list. But this time it costs \$20 @ the door. Shave \$5 off by buying presale @ millcreekpresents.com.

Sunday May 17/

Bishop's teen sensation band, Amperage,

plays the Mountain Rambler Brewery. Time: 3-5 p.m.

Monday, May 18/

Open mic night @ Distant Brewing.

Time: 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19/

Legendary guitarist Richard Smith plays C5 Studios

in Bishop. Time: 7 p.m. Tix online (c5studios.org) or in person at 210 S. Warren St.

Wednesday, May 20/

Locals' night means live music @ the Mountain Rambler Brewery

in Bishop. Starts 6 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

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.

Snowcreek Dance Academy recital @ Mammoth Middle School.

Friday's show highlights Recreational Dance while Saturday's show features the Mammoth Lakes Dance Company. Showtime 5:30 p.m. both nights. Get tix @ snowcreekdance.com.

TOWN STUFF

Saturday, May 16/

Take a self-guided Pollinator Garden inspiration tour courtesy of Eastern Sierra Land Trust. Visit eslt.org/events to get your map. Time: 8:30 a.m. 'til 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 17/

Enjoy an evening of Swing Dancing @ the Paradise Fire Station (5300 Old Sherwin Grade Rd).

It's a donation/potluck event. Time: 6-8 p.m. with a 20-minute beginner lesson at 6. Info: sierraswing760@gmail.com/760.582.5151

Monday, May 18/

Inyo Associates meet this month @ the CopperTop BBQ in Big Pine. 5:30 p.m. social and 6 p.m. dinner. Cost: \$30. RSVP by the 17th to Coppertopbbq@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 19/

Mono County Board of Supervisors meets. Time: 9 a.m. Location: Civic Center in Mammoth at 1290 Tavern Rd. or online via monocounty.ca.gov.

The Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab (SNARL) lecture series continues.

Time: 7 p.m. Location: Page Center at 1016 Mt. Morrison Rd. Topic: The Benefits of Dark Skies

May 19-24/

56th annual Mule Days

in Bishop @ the Fairgrounds. Parade is Saturday at 10 a.m! For full schedule/tix, visit muledays.org.

TOWN STUFF

Wednesday, May 20/

Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets.

Time: 4 p.m. Location: Suite Z, Minaret Mall or online via townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

May 20-24/

12th annual Mammoth Lakes Film Festival.

*For everything you need to know, see this week's wrap or front page story.

Thursday, May 21/

Mammoth Lakes Tourism launches its latest Certified Unreal campaign @ Gomez's Tequileria in Mammoth. Time: 5 p.m.

Farm to Table Market @ the Methodist Church (205 N. Fowler) in Bishop. Time: 4-7 p.m. Live music, demos, workshops, more.

Saturday, May 23/

Hayden Cabin/Mammoth Museum opens for the season.

Sage Brush Zine Fest event to showcase local artists. Tables of sellers, sharers and workshops. Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Location: Crowley Lake Community Center

May 22-25/

Memorial Day weekend Arts & Crafts Fair @ Bishop City Park.

Friday-Sunday 9-6 and Monday 9-2.

MAIN STREET

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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.

JOB OPENINGS

- 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:



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townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

Help Wanted



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

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

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

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

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

I saw you... at the MACC construction project. Sad to see you're not a cheap date. I saw you... were in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, you forgot that what happens in Vegas should stay in Vegas.

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

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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

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

Mammoth Community Water District

Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Intent to Adopt the 2026 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

The Mammoth Community Water District (District) will be holding a public hearing regarding its draft 2026 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) at 5:30 p.m. on May 21, 2026, at the District office, 1315 Meridian Blvd., Mammoth Lakes, California 93546. The draft 2026 WSCP provides measures for conserving water when the District water supply is in a shortage condition due to drought or other emergencies.

The public is invited to provide comments during the hearing in person at the District office or by the remote attendance methods provided below. For members of the public interested in viewing and having the ability to comment at the public hearing via Zoom, an internet-enabled computer equipped with a microphone and speaker or a mobile device with a data plan is required. Use of a webcam is optional. You also may call in to the hearing using teleconference without video. Members of the public who wish to participate in the hearing may do so by joining the following Zoom Videoconference Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/7609342596> (meeting ID: 760 934 2596) OR join via teleconference by dialing 1-669-444-9171, 760-934-2596#

Copies of the draft 2026 WSCP are available for public inspection at the District office, on the District website, www.mcwd.dst.ca.us, and at the Mammoth Lakes Public Library at 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, California. **Comments, concerns, or suggested revisions on the draft 2026 WSCP must be submitted by close of the public hearing on May 21, 2026.** In addition, oral comments may be submitted on the plan during the hearing. Correspondence prior to the hearing may be transmitted to:

U.S. Mail: Mammoth Community Water District
WSCP
P.O. Box 597
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Email: mdraper@mcwd.dst.ca.us
Subject: WSCP

TS #2026-0047

Mammoth Community Water District

Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Intent to Adopt the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan

The Mammoth Community Water District (District) will be holding a public hearing regarding its draft 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) at 5:30 p.m. on May 21, 2026, at the District office, 1315 Meridian Blvd., Mammoth Lakes, California 93546. The purpose of the UWMP is to ensure that the water supplier has an appropriate level of water supply reliability sufficient to meet the needs of its customers during normal, dry, and five consecutive dry years within a 20-year planning horizon. The UWMP describes water supply, water demand, and specific measures implemented to reduce water usage. The Urban Water Management Plan must be updated and adopted every five years.

The public is invited to provide comments during the hearing in person at the District office or by the remote attendance methods provided below. For members of the public interested in viewing and having the ability to comment at the public hearing via Zoom, an internet-enabled computer equipped with a microphone and speaker or a mobile device with a data plan is required. Use of a webcam is optional. You also may call in to the hearing using teleconference without video. Members of the public who wish to participate in the hearing may do so by joining the following Zoom Videoconference Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/7609342596> (meeting ID: 760 934 2596) OR join via teleconference by dialing 1-669-444-9171, 760-934-2596#

Copies of the draft 2025 UWMP are available for public inspection at the District office, on the District website, www.mcwd.dst.ca.us, and at the Mammoth Lakes Public Library at 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, California. **Comments, concerns, or suggested revisions on the draft 2025 UWMP must be submitted by close of the public hearing on May 21, 2026.** In addition, oral comments may be submitted on the plan during the hearing. Correspondence prior to the hearing may be transmitted to:

U.S. Mail: Mammoth Community Water District
UWMP
P.O. Box 597
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Email: mdraper@mcwd.dst.ca.us
Subject: UWMP

TS #2026-0046



PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Ordinance

ORDINANCE 2026-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ESTABLISHING A SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR RECOVERY OF COSTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 2021-01

WHEREAS, MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (“District”), is a Fire Protection District duly organized and existing under the Fire Protection District Law of the State of California (Health & Safety Code Sections 13800 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 13916 authorizes a district board to charge fees to cover the cost of any service which the District provides or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee is charged; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary from time to time to revise the District’s fees that assist in defraying the costs of specific services rendered by the District; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 13916(b) provides that a district board shall adopt an ordinance establishing a schedule of fees; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 13919 allows the Board of Commissioners (“Commissioners”) of the District to waive the fees established by such an ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Authorization and Purpose

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13916 et seq. The purpose of the Ordinance is to recover the District’s costs of providing enforcement of locally adopted life safety regulations and local enforcement of state-regulated occupancy requirements, mandated programs, and other fees for services. Except as otherwise provided, the definitions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Health and Safety Code Sections 13800 et seq., the “Act”) are incorporated by this reference. The Ordinance shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the Act. The fees imposed by this Ordinance are required to be able to cover the costs to the District of providing the service or the cost of enforcing any regulations. The fees help the District to meet operating expenses including employee wages and fringe benefits; purchasing or leasing of supplies, equipment or materials; contracting for services with specialized firms or individuals; and other costs found to be reasonably related to the actual expenses incurred by the District for the services described in Attachment A.

This Ordinance and the schedule of fees set forth in Attachment A, attached and incorporated herein by this reference, shall be in force May 28, 2026.

SECTION 2. Applicability

This Ordinance shall indicate each fee and the amount to be charged by the District, as permitted by the Health and Safety Code Section 13916(a). As authorized by Health and Safety Code Section 13918, public agencies that are not covered by a mutual aid agreement shall be charged accordingly, unless the District waives the involved fees pursuant to Section 3 of this Ordinance.

By adopting this Ordinance, the District is enacting user fees to defray costs associated with enforcement of state occupancy requirements, mandated programs, annual fire safety inspections, plan review, permit issuance, emergency medical services, and general service functions as permitted by this Ordinance.

The Board of Commissioners delegates its authority to the Fire Chief or his/her designee to administer the fees set forth in Attachment A, consistent with Sections 1 through 5 of the Fee Schedule.

SECTION 3. Waiver of Fees

As permitted by Health and Safety Code Section 13919, the District Board may waive fees established by this Ordinance if it determines that the fees would not be in the public interest. Examples include, but are not limited to, reciprocal services provided by other public agencies, employee welfare, and personal hardship. Before waiving payment of any fee, the District shall adopt a resolution specifying the policies and procedures governing waivers.

SECTION 4. Specified Fee

Unless waived pursuant to Section 3, every public agency and or party involved shall pay a specified fee for the service provided. The fees shall be set by the District Board and shall not exceed the costs reasonably borne by the District in providing the service or enforcing the regulation for which the fee is charged.

SECTION 5. No Waiver of Other Means of Costs Recovery

This Ordinance does not preclude the District from pursuing any additional means of cost recovery. Such means include, but are not limited to, actions pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13009 (for negligent actions which cause the use of services or facilities of the District) and actions against parties whose willful, grossly negligent, or criminal conduct causes the use of District services or facilities.

SECTION 6. Severability

If provisions of this Ordinance are declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, that holding shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining fees or provisions, and the Board declares that it would have adopted each article, section and part of the Ordinance, irrespective of the validity of any other article, section or part.

SECTION 7. Effective Date

MLFPD Ordinance 2026-01 is hereby released effective May 28, 2026.

SECTION 8. Repeal of Ordinance 2021-01

This Ordinance repeals and supersedes District Ordinance 2021-01.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON this 28th day of April, 2026, at the regular meeting of the District Board of Commissioners in Mammoth Lakes, California with the following roll call votes:

AYES: Commissioners Bulkley, Easterby, Karell, Mendel, and Truax
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

Chris Bulkley, Board Chair
ATTEST: Caroline Sanderson, Clerk of the Board
APPROVED AS TO CONTENT: Ales Tomaier, Fire Chief

*A complete copy of the attachment is on file at Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, Station 1 and is available for public inspection and copying in that office in accordance with the California Public Records Act, Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1.

TS #2026-0059

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

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

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

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

TS #2026-0053

LETTERS

continued from page 4

personally. I may not claim to have a perfect solution, but I am committed to practical, thoughtful improvements that better serve our community.

I am proud of the work I have done for the people of Inyo County, and I remain committed to continuing that work with fairness, diligence, and respect for the law. I look forward to continuing conversations with members of our community about my experience, qualifications, and my commitment to a court system that serves everyone fairly and effectively.

Taylor Fitzmaurice, Esq.
Bishop

Integrity Matters

Dear Editor:

I have been a practicing attorney in the Eastern Sierra for 35 years with offices in Mammoth and Bishop, following my 14 years of practice in Southern California. I have appeared before numerous judges in countless civil litigation and family law cases, including before all of the judges in Inyo County, for decades.

I know all four of the candidates for the two Superior Court judge positions. I attended the recent judicial candidates’ forum in Bishop in which the candidates responded to questions presented by the forum moderator and the audience. The most important qualities of a judge are honesty and integrity. Judges are required by their canons of ethics to uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary, which requires high standards of conduct. These duties are necessary for the benefit of the public appearing in our local court system. My view is that without personal integrity and honesty, a judge cannot fulfill his or her duty to uphold the integrity

GOT DEBT?

California Indian Legal Services - home to E.S.L.A.P. - now offers **FREE** bankruptcy services to qualified Eastern Sierra residents.

760-873-3581

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:

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)

of the position he or she occupies.

I have been on the opposite side of many cases with candidates Steven Place, Dana Crom and Taylor Fitzmaurice in Inyo and Mono County courts. I am familiar with the style, knowledge and ethics of each of them. I was impressed at the forum with the qualities displayed by Dana Crom and Steven Place. Their knowledge and experience convinced me that they both have the character and temperament to decide cases fairly and impartially. This is why I strongly support both of them.

I cannot support Taylor Fitzmaurice. Her statement at the forum that she came to this community in 2003 does not square with her divorce proceedings in Mono County from 2012-2016. Her complaint that the court needs to fix the problems which result in a delay in completion of cases failed to acknowledge that since 2017, when she began to practice family law in Inyo County, her own actions caused many family law matters to drag out for weeks, months and sometimes years. Simply stated, the statements by Taylor Fitzmaurice at the Bishop forum are inconsistent with the actual facts.

Based on my knowledge and experience with all of the candidates, I believe that Dana Crom and Steve Place have the experience, wisdom, temperament and integrity to fairly decide cases which will come before them. Taylor Fitzmaurice does not.

I respectfully urge your support of Steven Place and Dana Crom for Superior Court judge.

Rick Wood, Esq.
Mammoth Lakes

Editor’s Note: Given the nature of voting these days, we feel it’s only fair to give Ms. Fitzmaurice a chance to reply to Mr. Wood’s criticisms in real time, rather than having them hang out there for a week. She said, “In 2012, Rick Wood represented my former husband in our divorce proceedings. Since that time, I have successfully protected many people from his litigation antics. A respected judge once told me, ‘don’t take the bait.’ I did not take the bait. Instead, I took it as a compliment, because it meant I was doing my job well -- protecting members of this community against his aggressive tactics. I don’t take the bait, especially not from Rick Wood.”



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)

DANCE YOUR HEART OUT

Snowcreek's Dance Academy has recitals Friday and Saturday @ Mammoth Middle School starting at 5:30 p.m. From top to bottom: hip hop ages 7-8, tap ages 9-11, and musical theatre ages 9-11

PHOTOS: FISHER



MORE LOCAL BRIEFS

BUSD cancels Student Center contract

On Monday, May 11, BUSD Superintendent Katie Kolker informed Eastside Student Center Executive Director, Tyler McManus, of the district's intent to terminate the relationship at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Since 2023, BUSD has contracted the Eastside Student Center to serve 5th and 6th grade while conducting TK through 4th at Bishop Elementary School, a program known as Ram's Club.

BUSD receives funding annually from the California Department of Education's Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) and, in turn, is required to provide afterschool programming that meets the department's standards for TK through 6th grade.

The Student center said the district allocated \$392,000 to the program for the 2025-26 school year.

The district proposed a revised contract amount of \$194,000 for the 2026-27 school year, which the Center had previously deemed insufficient to run its operation.

As a result, the district decided not to renew the contract for next year and instead plans to directly operate a 5th and 6th grade ELO-P cohort within the District's overall program structure.

Without the BUSD contract, The Eastside Student Center will "shutter this summer" and "jeopardize" the jobs of the eight employees of the center.

Moreover, "off-campus afterschool

programming has been shown to improve youth mental health," McManus said.

The Sheet plans to attend the BUSD board meeting to discuss the contract Thursday evening.

Medi-Can't

Vice President JD Vance announced Wednesday that the federal government will defer \$1.3 billion in Medicaid reimbursements to California.

The move, part of a broader federal anti-fraud initiative, temporarily withholds funding from California's Medicaid program, known as Medi-Cal.

Vance said the state had "not taken fraud very seriously," alleging improper prescriptions and misuse of services, though he did not provide detailed evidence or a timeline for the deferral.

The announcement came during a press conference focused on combating fraud in federal health programs, an effort tied to a task force established earlier this year.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom criticized the decision, arguing it targets programs that help seniors and people with disabilities remain in their homes rather than enter institutional care.

State officials warned the funding delay could affect vulnerable populations, while the administration indicated further action could follow if fraud concerns are not addressed.

FERIA DE EMPLEO

PUESTOS EN ALIMENTOS Y BEBIDAS

ÚNETE A NUESTRO EQUIPO. SÉ PARTE DE ALGO *Extraordinario.*

COCINEROS/AS ANFITRIONES/AS (HOST) CATERING BAR MESEROS/AS PERSONAL DE LIMPIEZA

CONTRATANDO PARA MÚLTIPLES CONCEPTOS DE RESTAURANT

JUNIO 1, 2, 3 2026 **2PM - 6PM**

EN VULCANIA RESTAURANT
MAMMOTH VILLAGE

GRAN EQUIPO UBICACIÓN INCREÍBLE HAZ CRECER TU CARRERA PAGO COMPETITIVO BENEFICIOS PARA EMPLEADOS

Buena comida. Buena gente. Experiencias inolvidables.

¡APLICA EN PERSONA! ¡SE ACEPTAN SIN CITA PREVIA!

¡TE ESPERAMOS!

HIRING FAIR

FOOD & BEVERAGE POSITIONS

JOIN OUR TEAM. BE PART OF *Something Special.*

COOKS HOST CATERING BAR SERVERS JANITORIAL

HIRING FOR MULTIPLE RESTAURANT CONCEPTS

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AT VULCANIA RESTAURANT
MAMMOTH VILLAGE

GREAT TEAM AMAZING LOCATION GROW YOUR CAREER COMPETITIVE PAY EMPLOYEE PERKS

Great food. Great people. Unforgettable experiences.

APPLY IN PERSON. WALK-INS WELCOME!

OP/ED

THE PROMISE OF VEGAS

By Libre

I've said it once and I'll say it again. The promise of America is alive and well in Las Vegas, Nevada.

What could I possibly mean? It feels like an adult, sinful Disneyland, where instead of taking a picture with Mickey Mouse, people come from all corners of society to lose their shirts and dignity playing Blackjack. It's ridiculously, frivolously expensive. Gondola rides inside the Venetian are \$156 and meals at the Eiffel Tower restaurant overlooking the Strip are \$200 per person. One night at the Cosmopolitan is \$500.

I'm not here to defend Vegas. I can't pretend to know the intricacies of casino policies or of the sex work industry. I can't ignore the frat boys passing out cardboard discount coupons for prostitutes or the elderly women hunched over the Flamingo's slot machines for hours. It's not an easy place. It's certainly not a palatable one.

But Americans crave feeling like they are a part of the elite. And Vegas puts elitism on a platter for all to enjoy. The blatant consumerism pressed against the backdrop of the dancing Bellagio Foundations makes wealth feel attainable, like if you just tried your hand at Roulette once more, you could win it all. And if that isn't America, I don't know what is. That earnest, bright eyed hope, even in the midst of struggle, is what makes me love this country.

"Vegas is beautiful at night. It's not about the money, you just like the lights," MJ Lenderman so prophetically sang in his indie-rock hit song "She's Leaving You."

He's right. It's not about the money. I do just like the lights.

On a recent Friday night, my brother Fletcher and I drove five hours from Mammoth to Vegas to see Phish play at the Sphere. Phish is more his thing, but the tickets were a Christmas present from our mom, and I couldn't pass up the opportunity to spend time in the promised land.

Fletcher is a 6'5" suave college senior with an ear piercing. He's like me but much, much cooler.

He likes dubstep and plays guitar in a band. His pulse on the Phish discovery is strong. He appreciates things like how "tight" Trey Anastasio's tone is. He has a favorite live Phish album.

At no point during the show did he turn over to me and whisper "what song is this?"

My brother wore his favorite Ween shirt. I was clad in a neon blue flapper dress and knee high boots. One of us belonged. The other did not.

Sitting in the back of the sphere, we were engulfed in visual splendor. During "Tela" an enormous bird spread its wings and exploded into a psychedelic frenzy. Their 26 minute version of

"Crosseyed and Painless" featured an intense red laser foray. At one point, during a song I did not recognize, drummer Jon Fishman stood up and put his mouth on the hose of a vacuum-cleaner. His vacuum solo.

Intermittently, Fletcher would turn to me and say, "this is soooo sick."

It was so sick.

What really killed me was the people watching. The group of ten in the row in front of us wore hats that said "phun." A man in a space suit across the aisle with a "100 shows" banner slung over his shoulder. Another dude in a Phish donut shirt kept saying "this is my 243 show and I've never seen this song before!" A third guy in neon pink booty shorts and a neon green visor gave me a sticker on the way out.

"Here you go, gorgeous," he said. "You'll need this."

A tiny replica of him, holding a disco ball, that read "Phish Ken."

Vegas, I kept telling myself, holds a version of promised America for these people too. Only here could they lose their faces in Trey Anastasio's glory while watching bathed in trippy art. The Sphere was their place to let their freak flags fly.

The next night, we decided to hit the town. We allocated ourselves \$100 in cash each and met up with my boyfriend, who was conveniently there for a Magic the Gathering convention.

Ah, Vegas. There's something for everyone.

After walking along the Strip for some time, we decided to gamble in the Venetian. I didn't know how to play Blackjack and the boys vetoed the slots. We settled on Roulette.

Fletcher put \$25 on red. Zing! Success. We moved on. Stopped while we were ahead.

At the next table, I placed \$15 on black. It was a hit. I did it again. Hit. A third time. Hit.

Suddenly, I'd made \$65 in house money. Fletch, who placed on red each time I went black, was losing cash fast. Soon enough, he'd lost everything. Then for me, a loss, another loss, and a third.

I kept thinking I'd win it back. How wrong I was.

Then the three of us headed to Fremont Street, away from the Strip. Fremont is a step away from the glitz and glamour of the rest of the city. It felt real, more authentic. The streets were dirty, unlike those by the Bellagio, which are kept immaculate by custodians. We traded in New York, New York for live music and a group of dancers.

Eventually, we found a secluded set of stairs, lit a cigarette, and called an Uber. On our way into our driver's Tesla, Fletcher slipped on a pile of puke.

Promises are meant to be broken. I couldn't hold onto my casino cash forever and Fletcher's Vans were ruined.

Vegas's glory crumbled before us. What remained were the bonds of siblinghood.



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Mammoth

If you haven't completed the Mammoth Tri, now's the time. Ski in the morning, ride the Bike Park in the afternoon, and cap it off with 9 holes at Sierra Star or Snowcreek golf course.

Starting May 22
MAMMOTHMOUNTAIN.COM

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Liberty Sports Bar & Grill
FREE LIVE MUSIC

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EASY WIND
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DOMINIQUE & THE DIAMONDS
OUTSTANDING COUNTRY MUSIC!

5/16
Snowbunny Burlesque
must have ticket for entry

MAIN STREET PIZZA & TAP

Liberty_sports_bar_grill

YOUR Mountain Home IS CALLING



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



1310 Timber Creek Rd - \$1,799,000

Mountain views and abundant natural light highlight this beautifully appointed, spacious CreekHouse retreat featuring soaring ceilings, wrap-around deck, gourmet kitchen, en-suite bathrooms, two-car garage, and proximity to amenities and bike path.

CONDO
BEDS: 3
BATHS: 3.5
SQFT: 2251



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



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



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