

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Bill Egan, Stacey Crockett, Mary Walker, Larry Walker @ Mammoth Hospital Foundation's 23rd annual Brian Venneman Memorial Cancer Outreach tourney. More photos p. 10

Saturday, August 15, 2026

FREE

Vol. 24, No. Bird

CAN WE SUPERSIZE IT, PLEASE?

By Fisher

Rockspring just got a little bigger.

Developer Mark Rafeh got approval Wednesday from the Mammoth Lakes Planning and Economic Development Commission to add nearly 6,000 square feet of amenity space to the resort condominium, nearly two years after the project was first approved and with construction already underway.

The Rockspring project was originally approved in April 2024 with 118 units, 198 bedrooms and a range of guest amenities. The development team later reduced the project to 110 units, a change approved in May 2025. Foundation and structural permits followed in June 2025 and February 2026, and the team submitted the current application for a major project change on June 23.

Commissioners voted 2-1 in favor of the expansion, with

Commissioners Billy Deaver and Lana Grand absent and Dawn Vereuck dissenting. And despite only having two votes, the approval still counted, according to Town Attorney Andy Morris.

"For Design Review applications, an affirmative vote of a majority of Commissioners present is required for the Commission to take action, with at least three members present for any such vote," he said in an email.

The addition bumps up the center part of the building, situated between the towers, by nearly 11 feet and includes lounges and meeting spaces "oriented to owners and guests of the project," which only vaguely describes the goals of the space and who is welcome there.

Commissioner Vereuck asked whether people outside the Rockspring property could

rent the new amenity space for events, such as to host the Board of Realtors or something like a wedding.

Developer Mark Rafeh confirmed that the space could be rented for events of any size, but got shaky when it came to how he'd supply parking for all that activity.

"We weren't going to not allow local entities, like if the Realtors wanted to have lunch there," he said. "If it was like a formal event of some sort, like a wedding, I mean, we have valet parking. Obviously, those are some things that the operator of the amenities space will have to address."

The approval was amended to require an events management plan addressing noise, parking and traffic. The plan would set parameters around how loud an event could get and give MLPD the ability to

more ROCKSPRING, pg. 5



Renderings of the Rockspring project, both before (above) and after (below) the design change approved Wednesday.

NOT ROADLESS. LESS ROADED

By Fisher



A roadless area near Convict Lake

Policy issues are all about perspective. And for the third time, I've been given the opportunity to see Friends of the Inyo's policy concerns from the perspective of the sky.

Friends of the Inyo frequently partners with EcoFlight, a nonprofit that uses six-seat airplanes to fly over threatened conservation areas. On Tuesday, August 4, they invited me to join them for two of these flights.

On the first flight, taking off from Mammoth Airport, we circled around Laurel Mountain, flew over Convict Lake and passed through the Glass Mountains.

It was hard to believe, with all the various roads cutting through these landscapes, that they have one designation in common – that they are "Roadless Landscapes."

"It's not actually roadless, but less-roaded," Friends of the Inyo's Allison Weber said.

The Roadless Rule, adopted in 2001, established prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction and timber harvesting across nearly 60 million acres of inventoried roadless areas, with limited ex-

ceptions, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Although these areas are designated "Roadless," roads that existed before the rule's adoption remain.

Today, the 2001 Roadless Rule applies to nearly 45 million acres of National Forest System lands.

Among those acres, 52,867 surround Glass Mountain. Looking down from above, the area appears truly wild. There are no buildings, just a vast expanse of sagebrush and dark streaks of obsidian.

Within this landscape live bighorn sheep, greater bi-state sage grouse, golden eagles and threatened whitebark pine.

Another 40,044 acres sit within the Laurel-McGee area, which contains the headwaters of Laurel, Convict, McGee and Hilton creeks.

Last year, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced her intent to rescind the Roadless Rule, arguing that it "goes against the mandate of the USDA Forest Service to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands."

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Senor Grouch

On the Colorado

Sounds of Summer

Cherry Pit Spitting

Eight is Enough

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DIARY OF AN OLD CRANKY GUY

I don't know where to start.

Perhaps at the end - the end that ultimately claims us all - even The Sheet.

I received a press release this week from Shanna Johnson, Director./Owner at Discovery Point Kidz in Bishop. The P.R. was about Discovery Point receiving WASC accreditation.

But I'd never heard of Discovery Point. And as I read through the press release, I can't figure out why it's relevant to me, The Sheet, et. al. In other words, the press release assumes we know who Discovery Point Kidz is. This is an innocent mistake for a person/organization not used to writing press releases.

Instead of writing a nice note back asking for clarification, I'm in a pissant mood. Impatient. Irritated. All the things I would counsel against. All the things I am too often guilty of.

My reply: "The press release offers zero context. Where is Discovery Point based? Who does it serve? Why should I care?"

Johnson: We are based in Bishop, CA and have three programs for children 18-36 months, preschool and a private elementary school we serve around 90 families each year. This accreditation is a big milestone for our school and community because it reflects our commitment to high-quality education and continuous improvement. Maybe you don't care...no worries.

Again, I could have been a bigger person and asked polite follow-up questions to glean what I wanted. Nope. Pissant mode.

Lunch: I care. The press release, however, was poorly written. Please don't take offense. Further ... where are you located? How do people apply or get more information about the services you provide? Do you offer scholarships to those of lesser means? Etc.

Johnson: I have two locations, The Early Learning Center is at 687 West Line Street, the preschool, after school program and Elementary Academy are all located at 711 North Fowler. They can visit us on Instagram or on our webpage www.discoverypointkidz.com Yes, we do offer scholarships through our PTO which is a 501c3 non profit designed to raise funds for extra curricular activities, field trips, and scholarships.

If she's this patient and professional with me, imagine how she'd be with your kids. I'm sold.

This exchange, of course, made me question whether I still have the elastic-

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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ity to effectively perform this job. Is this the end, my only friend, the end?

Another revelation courtesy of Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan. Noonan's a straight shooter. She doesn't whack people without cause.

Noonan wrote a piece on Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) from 1984 to 2022, in the August 1-2 weekend edition.

Fauci also served as President Biden's Chief Medical Advisor from his inauguration through the end of 2022.

The column got into Fauci's pandemic diary, which should be a reminder to every public official on the planet NOT to keep a diary.

I hadn't really paid attention to it, figuring it was more partisan nonsense, but you look at these diary entries and are reminded just how much politics is personal.

And how much leash a vain, career bureaucrat can have. The far-reaching impact of an unelected man placed in an extraordinary position of power.

Whose character and temperament for the occasion was oversold

The entries are so embarrassing. He comes across as an attention-starved teen. The sample from Noonan's column:

Jan. 30: "All my friends kept saying I was a national hero" and that they "felt safe in my arms."

March 8: "Nice profiles of me in Politico and NY Times today."

March 15: "I did all 5 Sunday shows today (My third 'Fauci 5')"

Then an aside from Noonan: Apparently this is Fauci's version of 'the full Ginsburg' named for Monica Lewinsky's attorney, when he did five Sunday shows in one morning.

March 26: "Donuts are being named after me; T shirts have my picture on them."

April 7: "Press still hot and heavy about me."

May 21: "POTUS seems to be enamored of me."

As Noonan says, "It screams Seven Deadly Sins. He gave in to his pride ... I saw no deep reflection on the sufferings of his countrymen"

Noonan concludes her piece with this:

"Looking back on the Covid crisis, a lot of professionals were trusted beyond the point they deserved. So were many politicians. As people on the ground in America rose up against lockdowns, closed schools, mask mandates, closed churches, they were often unheard, or heard slowly, reluctantly and disrespectfully. The medical and scientific establishment didn't seem

more LUNCH, pg. 8

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LOCAL NEWS

PARTY OF FIVE OR EIGHT IS ENOUGH

Upcoming Mammoth council election boasts healthy field of candidates

By Lunch

As of Wednesday afternoon, there were five certified candidates for the upcoming Mammoth Town Council election.

Another three were in the process of having ballot signatures verified.

The Sheet reached out to the five certified candidates (Tarek Nuttall, Danielle Bauman, Stacey Slichta, Steve Shatkin, Cory Rice) on Wednesday evening to get a first take on why they decided to toss their hats in the ring.

In order of response ...

Stacey Slichta runs the culinary arts program at Mammoth High School. She has lived in town for one year, and has a 14-year old son.

She suggested the success of the culinary arts programs in her year at the helm demonstrates her ability to lead and get things done.

"I walked in two days before school started and built it [the program] from scratch ... I feel like I've made an impact within the community," she said. "Twelve of my students are now in the local workforce."

Slichta believes that her short-termism in Mammoth would prove a strength as a council member.

"I'm less jaded, and my perspective is not clouded [by the skeletons of the past]."

She described herself as a "hands-on person." Her pet peeve: the procrastinatory nature of government. "I don't like seeing things constantly getting pushed out."

Cory Rice is the husband of current Mayor Amanda Rice, who is not seeking reelection.

So he definitely knows what he's signing up for.

The Rices moved to Mammoth 20 years ago, and their biography is a classic one. They lived in a one-bedroom, he worked at Wave Rave, she worked at Charthouse. Over the years, they bought a condo, a business, and eventually a house.

Their two children are now in fourth and sixth grade.

"We have navigated the Mammoth experience, and hope we can help others do the same," Rice said.

And that's Rice's main thing - to protect and support the local community.

"When I treat my employees well, they treat the customers well," he said.

Similarly, he said, we'll be better hosts [in our little resort town] if people feel more secure in their lives.

Three issues he cares about: Housing, wildfire prevention and responsible development.

As to getting up to speed as a councilmember, Cory would of course have his wife (who teaches 3rd grade (dual immersion) at Mammoth Elementary as a sounding board. "She remembers everything. She's a good resource."

Steve Shatkin owns the Mammoth Coffee Roasting Co. and Ursa with his wife Tracie.

Shatkin has been coming to Mammoth since the '80s. "I never knew I was going to wind up here," he said.

In his relatively short time year as a permanent resident, in addition to running two businesses, Shatkin has also served as a member of the Mono County Grand Jury, as a board member for Access Mammoth, and is also a member of the Mammoth Lakes Rotary. He was just named as co-chair of the Mammoth Restaurant Assn. and serves on the Chamber's economic planning committee.

In short, he's involved.

"For me," he said, "it's not about money, but about the betterment of people as a whole and quality of life ... as a business owner, as a resident, I see how things can

be improved."

His goals are more broad than just a single issue. "Let's think about 20 years from now and where we want to go," he said.

Danielle Bauman is the daughter of former, longtime Mammoth Councilman John Eastman. She was born and raised in Mammoth and graduated from Mammoth High School.

She went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from San Diego State University.

A mother of two, she formerly worked as the Executive Assistant at Mono County Superior Court before making a career change into real estate.

Bauman's candidacy is borne of a desire to get involved and give back.

Her real estate experience has illustrated firsthand the scope and challenge of finding solutions for the "missing middle"

We hope to follow up next week in our introductions with Nuttall and whomever else is certified.

Breaking news ... the three additional candidates were certified Thursday morning. They are Jason Elwell, Lakota Mikulich and Mark Barrow.



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ROCKSPRING

continued from page 1

enforce those limits if activity fell out of bounds. It would also require Rockspring to give notice to nearby businesses.

And, per a public comment request, the Commission agreed to add a sound study to the deal to ensure the addition complies with the California Environmental Quality Act.

When the Sheet asked Rafeh why the variance was not introduced in the initial planning but rather two years after the fact, he didn't answer the question directly.

He said the idea emerged as the team worked with the hospitality management company and refined the building's interiors.

The project team decided to add a separate gathering and dining space after realizing that the main lobby would be too open, noisy and congested to serve all of those functions. The space would also provide a place for guests and owners to work, addressing the lack of a business center in the original design.

The need for additional communal space became more apparent after changes to the second-floor layout. Robert Schaubmayer, co-owner of the nearby Alpenhof lodge, which houses Clocktower Cellar, said he saw the delay in bringing this variance forward as "more of a bait and switch."

"We all see the writing on the wall, I mean, what it's going to turn into," he said of the expansion. "It's gonna turn into more people, more traffic ... the whole area cannot sustain what this is, this disaster, essentially."

"They're gonna farm it out to a separate operator and they're gonna let that separate operator deal with it," he continued.

50/50 Brewing No More

The putative anchor project of the Mammoth Mall, 50/50 Brewing, has pulled out of the deal, Community and Economic Development Director Nolan Bobroff said in his director's report at PEDC Wednesday.

"There had been rumors off and on for a while as to whether that was happening," he said. The brewery was slated to open fall/winter of 2025.

No replacement project has been identified yet, and there are a few "code compliance issues" with the space.

In the meantime, Bobroff said the town is hoping to remove the fence to make it look less like a construction site.

North Village Parking

Also in his director's report, Bobroff explained, why, if you've tried to park at The Village this summer, you've found construction instead.

Two major parking projects are underway in the North Village area, one to

install electric vehicle chargers and another to rehabilitate existing parking as the Mammoth Crossing project moves through the approval process.

At the hillside lot (next to the Westin), crews are finishing work on a new electric vehicle charging station, a project that has kept the parking lot closed for much of the summer.

The project was initially approved last year for six fast chargers, with an option for two additional chargers. Construction was delayed after Southern California Edison required changes to retaining structures and other infrastructure.

The town issued a new permit in July after the issues were resolved. The remaining work includes connecting the site to SCE's underground infrastructure and patching the parking lot, which requires making a pretty large trench in the ground.

The lot is expected to reopen by the end of next week, though intermittent parking-space closures may continue as crews finish installing and connecting the chargers.

Across the street from Mammoth Brewing, grading work is underway on the northwest corner of the North Village area as part of Mammoth Crossing, a larger development proposal.

The applicant submitted a full entitlement package for Mammoth Crossing in early July, including a tentative tract map, design review, use permit and a zoning amendment. The project would encompass three corners of the North Village area.

The project is still a long way from approval. Town staff have completed an initial review of the application and identified items that still need to be submitted before it can move forward.

In the meantime, the applicant is rehabilitating existing parking areas on the three sites for potential public parking. The grading currently underway is on the southwest site, where an existing parking lot is being improved.

It's not clear yet whether that lot will be free or paid, but we can probably guess the answer.

The work also follows the demolition of several structures on the properties, including an old building that had been abandoned for years.

A historic cabin remains on the site and is being considered for relocation in coordination with the Southern Mono Historical Society.

The historical society has not responded to The Sheet's inquiries about where the building will be relocated to.



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LOCAL BRIEFS

MMSA at Fault for Cole Murphy's Death

Just months after citing Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for safety violations following the death of ski patroller Claire Murphy, Cal/OSHA has again cited the resort after another patroller, Cole Murphy, was killed in an avalanche this winter.

This time, the agency issued three citations carrying a total of \$126,000 in fines – nearly five times the \$26,810 Cal/OSHA imposed following Claire Murphy's death, according to SFGate.

Cole Murphy died Dec. 27, 2025, after being buried in an avalanche at Mammoth Mountain a day earlier while performing avalanche mitigation. He was the second Mammoth ski patroller to die in an avalanche in less than a year.

On Feb. 14, 2025, 25-year-old ski patroller Claire Murphy, was buried in an avalanche after a storm and later died in a hospital from injuries sustained in the avalanche.

Following an investigation into Claire Murphy's death, California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) determined that Mammoth Mountain had failed to provide necessary safeguards for ski patrollers. The agency issued three citations carrying \$26,810 in fines, according to SFGate.

Now, following Cole Murphy's death, Cal/OSHA has issued three additional citations against Mammoth Mountain Ski Area LLC, with fines totaling \$126,000, according to SFGate.

The largest fine, \$90,000, stems from a finding of inadequate training to ensure ski patrollers could properly deploy ava-

lanche airbags. Cal/OSHA classified the violation as "willful," meaning the agency determined Mammoth knew the safety hazard existed, made no reasonable effort to eliminate it and committed an "intentional and knowing" workplace safety violation.

The other two citations, each carrying an \$18,000 fine, involved communication failures and a failure to ensure no one was standing in an avalanche path before explosives were set off.

Cal/OSHA said Mammoth has corrected all three violations since Cole Murphy's death.

In July, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area filed to contest the citations.

Lee Vining is Turning 100

Mono County and the Mono Basin Historical Society proudly invite residents and visitors to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Lee Vining during a special two-day Centennial Event on Friday, August 28, and Saturday, August 29, 2026.

Established a century ago in 1926, Lee Vining originally grew as a hub for local commerce, resource management, and travelers exploring the Eastern Sierra.

Over the past 100 years, the town has developed a rich legacy shaped by local families, Indigenous traditions, agricultural heritage, and pioneering conservation efforts to preserve Mono Lake.

Today, Lee Vining is the vibrant heart of the Mono Basin, the eastern gateway to Yosemite National Park via Tioga Pass, and an iconic community along Highway 395. *More info: See ad p. 17*

JAKE WHISENANT 1996-2026

Jacob "Jake" Whisenant, a Mammoth Lakes resident and accomplished climber, died Monday following a climbing accident in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, SFGate reported Aug. 11.

Search and rescue teams responded Aug. 2 to a "climbing-related incident" in the parks' wilderness and later located Whisenant's body, according to Holly Streit, a spokesperson for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

The Tulare County sheriff-coroner ruled Whisenant's death an accident. Officials have not released additional details about the incident or identified where Whisenant was climbing.

Whisenant moved to Mammoth Lakes in 2024, after years of traveling throughout the Mountain West to climb, his fiancée Emma London, wrote in an obituary for Climbing Magazine.

That same year, Whisenant and climbing partner Brant Hysell climbed Lurking Fear on El Capitan in 2 hours, 55 minutes and 32 seconds, setting a new speed record on the route. The pair also climbed The Prow on Washington Column in 2 hours, 52 minutes and 29 seconds.

In 2025, he and Leo Franchi established Wonka's Way on Hershey's Kiss in Kings Canyon.

He also completed a fastest-known time on Bear Creek Spire's North Arete, car-to-car, and tackled the White Mountain Traverse on skis with friends.



Whisenant grew up in Scottsdale, Arizona, and studied environmental studies at UC Santa Barbara, where he met London. After college, he began spending weekends in the Sierra, eventually setting his sights on California's 14,000-foot peaks and Yosemite's big walls, she wrote.

"Countless people have shared with me how much Jake's drive and creativity in the mountains continually inspired them. He approached climbing with a fresh, passionate eye that is rare and unique," London wrote.

"Getting to share life with Jake over the past decade was the honor of a lifetime."

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LUNCH

continued from page 2

to be a part of the public anymore, but handling the public. And by the end, a lot of people thought they couldn't trust the politicians and couldn't trust the scientists."

I guess stories like this always unnerve me because of the age we live in - the age of self-dealing crony capitalism, of taxpayer-supported fiefdoms.

Capitalism these days largely flows from the state, not vice-versa.

And Musk, Zuck, Bezos ... they're all at the head of the line with their hands out.

When I started The Sheet, believe it or not, the advertisers were entirely small businesses.

We were not an adjudicated paper, nor were we recognized as a legitimate news source by public agencies.

These days, probably half our business comes from the public sector - the same sector we are largely tasked with covering.

The potential for abuse is substantial.

You can see in Fauci's diary entries how easily he was able to sway the media in his favor. The carrot being a reserved place at the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program)/Covid handout trough.

There was definitely financial interest in alignment.

What has become apparent to me is how reliant we are locally on the good character of public officials, who have incredible latitude in how they do, or don't do, their jobs. Whom they favor. Whom they ignore. How selectively they "listen."

I recently finished "The Village on the

Edge of the World: Writing and Surviving in Ceausescu's Romania" by Herta Muller.

This book features a back-and-forth dialogue with Muller and her editor Angelika Klammer.

Muller, born in the early '50s, grew up in Eastern Europe behind the Iron Curtain. And deserves a larger review (next week?).

But just one anecdote I'd like to share here. There's a point where the secret service approaches Muller about becoming an informant. And much to their absolute disbelief, she refuses (because, well, no one refused).

Of course, her refusal and subsequent punishment convinces those around her that SHE MUST BE an informant.

Anyway, there's a passage in the book where Muller describes her fellow work colleagues.

"For them, it went without saying that you would work for the secret service. And it was beyond comprehension that would do yourself injury. They weren't malicious, they didn't view my refusal as treason, they simply didn't believe in anything: not in any form of Socialism, nor any party. They wanted to rise up into the nomenklatura, that was all. They got special food, special doctors, were awarded privileges by all the authorities, could buy Western cosmetics and clothing ... privileges stemmed from a mixture of physical beauty, calculation and political indifference."

ROLLISON'S GOT MO' PROBLEMS

Convict Greg Rollison charged with assault of 85-year old woman

By Lunch

You'd think, being sequestered away in state prison, that Greg Rollison would be immune to further prosecution.

Think again.

Rollison, who was sentenced to nine years in state prison for a variety of offenses stemming from an incident which occurred on Nov. 17, 2023 in northern Mono (domestic violence, attempted murder of a peace officer, felon in possession of an armory of firearms, etc.) was recently extradited to Broward County, Florida in connection with a 1987 break-in and sexual assault at knifepoint.

According to a Coral Springs News story dated Aug. 3, advances in DNA technology helped break the case and identify Rollison as the perp.

"On July 16, 1987, a then-unknown attacker scaled the side of an apartment building in Deerfield Beach and broke into a sleeping woman's home through her balcony door in the middle of the night

He tied her up, beat her, sexually assaulted her, then rifled through her apartment before sexually assaulting her again."

The victim in this assault was 85-years old.

"Less than two weeks later, a similar incident was reported involving Rollison, then 21. He was charged with armed sexual battery, burglary



Greg Rollison

and carrying a concealed weapon but was only convicted of the latter two [charges]."

Detective Andrew Gianino investigated the attack on the 85-year old woman (now deceased) back in 1987. He is now a cold-case investigator, and took the initiative to reexamine the rape kit.

Rollison now faces new charges of sexual battery and burglary with battery.



Thank you for making the Mammoth Hospital Foundation's 23rd Annual
Brian Venneman Memorial Cancer Outreach Golf Tournament a great success!
Together, we raised \$130,000 for locals fighting cancer.

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Pita Pit • Richard Kasa • Rick's Sport Center • Ridge Merino • Salon 437 - Amy Wild • Sea and Pine Interior Design • Simply Massage • The Clay Corner
The Good Life Café • The Mogul • The Rolling Chef 395 • Town of Mammoth Lakes • Vinos Unidos • Waterdogs Professional Cleaning Services
Wind Drift Studios**

And thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who make this event possible!

For more info on the Mammoth Hospital Foundation, contact Gardiner Miller at Foundation@MammothHospital.com.

www.MammothHospitalFoundation.com

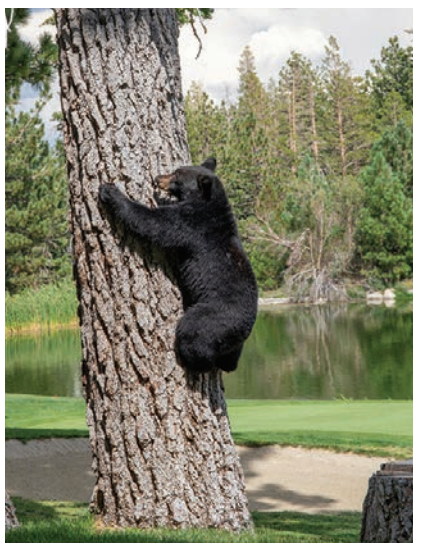


ON THE GREENS

GOLF FOR A GOOD CAUSE

PHOTOS: EHREN GOETZ

The Mammoth Hospital Foundation's 23rd Annual Brian Venneman Memorial Cancer Outreach Tournament took place August at the Sierra Star Golf Course in Mammoth Lakes.



Bottom Row, L-R: Greg McDonough, Jon Thibault, Craig Balogh, Eric Smith; Chris Howley; Alex Sanguily, Chris Howley, Joel Bowman.

WOOLLY'S AFTER HOURS

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Nominate YOUR Local FAVORITES!



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- Submit a nomination in one or all eight categories.
- The NEW category for 2026 is Trailblazer!

Nominations close August 31, 2026

Scan the QR code to NOMINATE
OR go to mammothlakeschamber.org



NOMINATE TODAY 



RISING ABOVE
 THE
PEAKS
 OF EXCELLENCE

ROADLESS

continued from page 1

“Once again, President Trump is removing absurd obstacles to common sense management of our natural resources by rescinding the overly restrictive roadless rule,” Rollins said in a 2025 statement.

The stated reason for removing the rule is to improve wildfire response and increase access for firefighters.

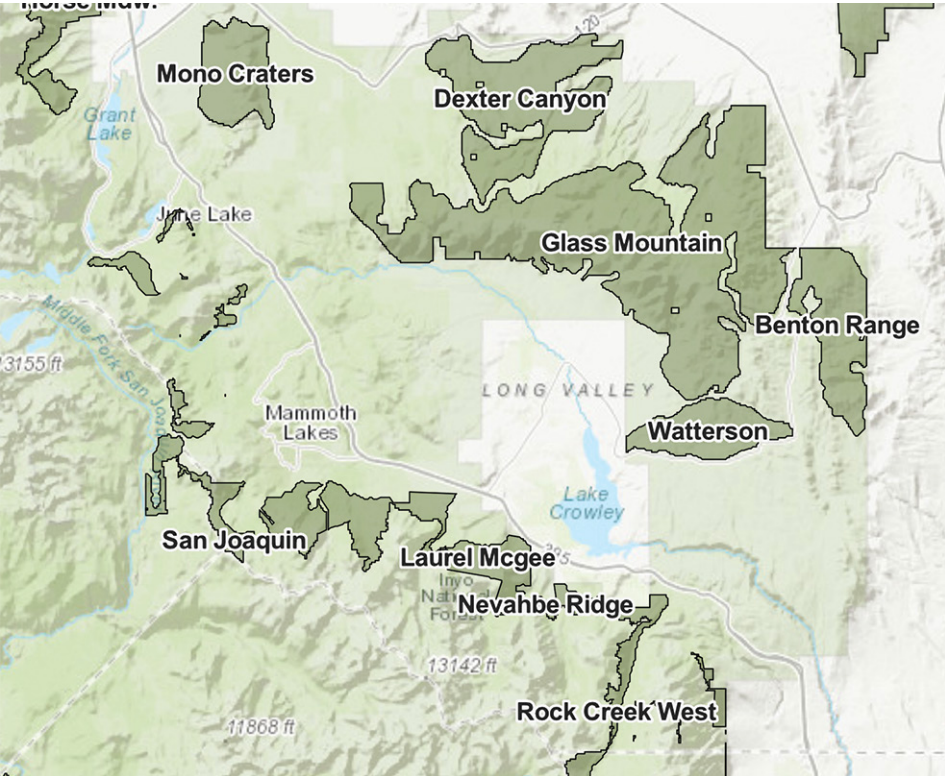
Friends of the Inyo disagrees with that reasoning, arguing that roads can also create wildfire risks by increasing vehicle access and human activity.

“The rule was passed in 2001. They’ve been able to fight fires the whole time,” said Jora Fogg, Conservation Lands

Foundation public lands policy associate director, during the flight.

For conservation groups, roadless protections also represent one of the remaining tools available to challenge development, including extraction projects, on public lands, especially as other environmental review processes have changed.

Under the Trump administration, the Department of the Interior announced reforms to its National Environmental Policy Act procedures, describing the changes as a way to reduce regulatory barriers, accelerate project approvals and streamline environmental reviews.



A map of the USFS inventoried roadless areas near Mammoth Lakes.



A map of KORE's proposed mine at Hot Creek

The reforms, announced in February 2026 and led by Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, rescinded more than 80% of the Interior’s previous NEPA regulations, moving many provisions into a streamlined Departmental NEPA Handbook of Implementing Procedures.

The second flight of the day offered a different view of the same debate, a trip over the proposed mining site at Hot Creek, where Friends of the Inyo is opposing future development.

Because of changes to how federal agencies implement NEPA, Friends of the Inyo says the public may have fewer opportunities to learn about the proposal early in the approval process or provide comments before decisions are made.

The current proposal is expected to be a revised version of a previous mining proposal that was approved by the U.S. Forest Service but later overturned in

court in 2021.

**For further explanation of this history, see the April 11, 2026 issue of The Sheet.*

From above Hot Creek, the proximity of the proposed mining area to the waterway is immediately visible. The closest point of the proposal sits approximately 0.3 miles from Hot Creek, Weber said.

But beyond the policy debate, the landscape itself is difficult to ignore. Winding tributaries cut through broad green meadows, with fauna popping up wherever there’s water, surrounded by a sweeping mountain backdrop.

From the sky, the reason this landscape has drawn so much attention is clear.

EL FUTURO DE NUESTROS BOSQUES

reunión pública

19 de agosto, 2026

Mammoth Lakes Cerro Coso Campus:
Eastern Sierra College Center
101 College Parkway
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546-1865

Alza la voz por tus bosques nacionales.

5:30 pm - 8pm

5:30pm - Apertura de puertas, refrigerios
6:00pm - Panel con expertos locales
7:00pm - Comentarios del público

Habrá traducción disponible.

Public Townhall

THE FUTURE OF OUR WILD ROADLESS FORESTS

August 19th, 2026

Mammoth Lakes Cerro Coso Campus:
Eastern Sierra College Center
101 College Parkway
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546-1865

Join us to speak up for your national forests.

5:30 pm - 8pm

5:30pm - Doors open, refreshments
6:00pm - Panel with local experts
7:00pm - Public comment

KLUSMIRE

COLORADO RIVER (INDIRECTLY) DRIES UP OWENS VALLEY

The Colorado River is dying, which could also ring the death knell of multiple dreamy scenarios centered on Los Angeles drastically reducing the amount of water it pumps, moves and exports from the Eastern Sierra. With the city’s supply of Colorado River water shrinking and likely to shrink further in the years to come, the value of Eastern Sierra water supplies only increases, which will stall if not forestall any fundamental changes to the LA Aqueduct system.

The Colorado has been shrinking and shriveling for decades, but thanks to this year’s warm, dry winter, the snowpack feeding the river’s massive watershed hit some of the lowest levels on record. With the current water deal between seven Western states expiring, the federal government (the Bureau of Reclamation) stepped in and announced reductions in the amount of water Southern California and Los Angeles will be getting from the Colorado River.

The exclamation point on the Colorado River crisis was delivered this week when water levels in Lake Mead, the feeder reservoir for the entire West, dropped to record lows. The lake hasn’t been this low since river water started backing up behind Hoover Dam in the 1930s. Same for Lake Powell. Both big, shrinking reservoirs are close to hitting water levels that would stop hydro power

generation, which helps keep the lights on in SoCal and the West.

The future doesn’t look any wetter: since 2020, the river flow has averaged 32% less than in the 20th century, according to federal data. No one expects that trend to be reversed. And please don’t throw a Pollyanna Hail Mary about a Super El Nino saving the day. The two reservoirs are a bit above 20% of their capacity. One wet year is a drop in the bucket, as it were.

The federal deal forced on the seven states and 35 million people relying on the Colorado will cut supplies to Nevada,

“
Since 2020, the [Colorado] river flow has averaged 32% less than in the 20th century.

- Klusmire

”

Current Status & 1 Year Chart

Pct of Capacity: 22.71%, 179.42 ft below Full Pool (3700'), and down 31.97 ft from a year ago. Water year begins Oct 1st. Depth at Dam: ~389 feet deep, is ~151 ft above Dead Pool (3370') and is ~31' above Power Pool (3490')



This graphic comes courtesy of the Lake Powell water database. Powell is primarily fed by the Colorado River.

Arizona and California by about 3-million acre feet over the next two years. Arizona and Nevada, latecomers when it came to soaking up Colorado River water, will be soaked more than California.

California will cut its use of Colorado River water by about 12% through 2028, meaning at least a reduction of about 200,000 acre feet going to the Metro Water District, which doles out water to SoCal cities, including LA.

Arizona will take about 31% less and Nevada 28% less. Both states have lawyers on speed dial. Meanwhile, the four upper basin states, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, escaped any cutbacks, since they noted less runoff means less water for them. (The unspoken undercurrent: We have the snow, you desert states can go pound sand.)

The Colorado River leg of Los Angeles’ three-legged water stool is getting shorter, and the city has minimal control over that source. It is at the mercy of national and regional politics and legal battles. The other leg, the California Aqueduct, is a tad less precarious, but it’s still a state-wide political and environmental battle every year.

Then there’s the LA Aqueduct. The city has pretty much absolute control over the Aqueduct system, making it reliable as long as the snow and rain keeps falling.

Which brings us to cold hard cash.

Part of the chants demanding LA cut its Aqueduct exports point to “local” sources in the LA basin. Namely, groundwater, recycled water and storm runoff. Conservation is on the list but it will likely see slower growth (here we bring out the hoary reality of the city using less water than in 1970 with millions more people thanks to conservation, which represents the low-hanging water fruit, so to speak).

Back to cash.

The LA Aqueduct serves the cheapest water to Los Angeles. By millions. Clearly, the less water LA gets from the Colorado River, the more valuable Eastern Sierra water becomes. No LA politician will impose higher water rates on LA citizens by curtailing, much less abandoning the city’s cheapest source of water for pricier options.

A highly detailed, 22-page report lays out what the Los Angeles Department of

Water pays for water. The item in question is named, “Estimated Water Supply Cost, Water Quality Improvement, and Owens Valley Regulatory for January 1, 2026 Through December 31, 2026,” which was duly approved by LADWP board. The LADWP 2025-26 Owens Valley Operations Plan provided the total amount of water used in the city by source.

Water isn’t cheap. LADWP will spend roughly \$510 million to secure about 457,000 AF of water this year.

The LA Aqueduct is estimated to carry about 227,000 AF of water to Los Angeles, about 47% of the city’s annual water supply, at a cost of \$108 million (\$1.2 per hundred cubic feet (HCF)).

Water purchases from the Metro Water District will deliver about 37% of the city’s water, at a cost of \$245 million (\$4.1 per HCF).

Pumped LA basin groundwater will deliver about 13% of the city’s needs, for \$95 million (\$3.4 per HCF).

Recycled water and stormwater capture will generate about 3% of the city’s needs, for about \$30 million (\$6.8 per HCF).

Water Conservation measures are budgeted for \$32 million, with no estimate on how much “savings” will be generated to offset consumption.

Not much analysis or interpretation needed on the financials.

Or the reason LA is happy to endure all the teeth-gnashing, finger-pointing, appeals to environmental justice, and general grief the Eastern Sierra can dish out to keep its cheapest source of water flowing.

Jon Klusmire of Bishop is always surprised about what lurks in the corners of the LADWP webpage.

**Final Note: “What about Owens Lake, dude?” You are correct. The ongoing, 2026 operating costs for LADWP’s dust control and other work on Owens Lake and the Lower Owens River Project cost about \$48 million, with another \$27 million for Owens Lake capital costs. However, those costs are in a separate accounting column, not the LA Aqueduct/Water column, and LADWP is able to “recover” those expenses, thanks to its ratepayers. Thanks for coming to my TED talk.*

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JULY

- 23-8/1 ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE
- 24-25 MAMMOTH VILLAGEFEST
- 24-26 MAMMOTH LAKES OPEN AIR ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR
- 25 MAMMOTH PEDALPALOOZA
- 25 KIDS FISHING FESTIVAL
- 30 TRASHY THURSDAYS
- 31-8/1 MAMMOTH ART WALK

AUGUST

- 5 FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE VILLAGE
- 5-16 SHAKESPEARE IN THE WOODS: KING LEAR
- 7-8 MAMMOTH MARGARITA FESTIVAL
- 13 SIERRA SUMMER NIGHTS
- 14-15 MAMMOTH WINE WEEKEND
- 21-22 MAMMOTH ROCKS
- 27 TRASHY THURSDAYS
- 29 WAVE RAVE SKATE CONTEST

SEPTEMBER

- 4-6 MAMMOTH ROCK N RYE
- 6 SUMMIT SUNSET PARTY
- 11-12 MAMMOTH ROLL AND SOUL
- 12 MAMMOTH GRAN FONDO

SEPTEMBER CONTINUED...

- 18-20 MAMMOTH TUFF
- 19 ANNUAL LAKES BASIN CLEANUP
- 20-27 PAINT MONO COUNTY PLEIN AIR COMPETITION
- 24 TRASHY THURSDAYS
- 26 MAMMOTH LAKES HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR
- 24-27 MAMMOTH TRAILFEST

OCTOBER

- 2-6 THE MAMMOTH
- 8 REBELLE RALLY

NOVEMBER

- 13-14 EASTERN SIERRA SNOW AND AVALANCHE WORKSHOP

DECEMBER

- 5 EASTERN SIERRA COMMUNITY CHORUS WINTER CONCERT
- 12 NIGHT OF LIGHTS



SCAN HERE for more details & events
or go to VISITMAMMOTH.COM/EVENTS

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calendar of events

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For more information, to subscribe to job alerts, and to apply: townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
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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. 8*
Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. *More info: See ad p. 18*
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
Whitebark @ The Westin. Half-off lounge menu and drinks daily from 4-6 p.m. and 9-close.
Mountainside Bar and Grill (Mammoth Mtn. Inn) happy hour daily 4-6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to close. *See ad p. 6*

August 14-15/
Mammoth Wine Weekend, highlighted by the Village wine walk on the 15th. More info/tix: www.mammothwineweekend.com
Jam Band Shakey Feeling plays Liberty bar, music starts 9:30 p.m.

Friday, August 14/
Kickoff of **Tropical August nights @ Wanaaha Casino** in Bishop. Every Friday night in August features live DJ, food & drink specials, and don tropical attire for \$10 in free play. *See ad p. 5 for more info.*
Derik Olson plays the Bishop Country Club patio party. Time: Happy hour. Start your weekend right!

Saturday, August 15/
Woolly's After Hours takes place every Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at Woolly's Adventure Summit. Save on activities, enjoy live music and food & drink specials.

Sunday, August 16/
Live music Sundays @ Cardinal Village (Aspendell). Time: 12-3 p.m. This week: Brooks Maguire
Joey Henderson plays Distant Brewing (568 Old Mammoth Rd.) from 7-9 p.m.
Stax Johnson plays Mammoth Brewing Company starting @ 4 p.m.

Monday, August 17/
Open mic Mondays @ Distant Brewing. Time: 6-9 p.m.
Robert Henry & the Repeaters (Pacific Northwest honky-tonk band) play Mill Creek Station. \$\$\$

Wednesday, August 18/
The Midwatch Band plays locals' night @ the Mountain Rambler Brewery in Bishop. Starts 7 p.m.

TOWN STUFF

August 14-16/
Sierra Classic Theatre's summer Shakespeare production of "King Lear" continues and runs through August 16. Wednesday-Sunday. Showtime at 7 p.m. Suggested donation. *See ad p. 2.*

Friday, August 14/
Mixer with the Sierra Business Council at the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center (269 N Main St. in Bishop) from 5:30-7 p.m.

Saturday, August 15/
Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery's annual BBQ fundraiser on the hatchery grounds in Independence (1 Golden Trout Circle.) Dinner, live music and raffles. Admission is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Time: 4-7 p.m.
Grand opening of Through Nature's Window, artist Courtney teNyenhuis' new storefront, located on the second floor above Gear Exchange (106 S Main St, Suite 203, in Bishop). Time: 5-7:30 p.m.
Free Seminar in Budgets and Estate Planning for Artists from 10 a.m. to noon at the ICA Gallery (150 Willow St. in Bishop).
Jeffery Pine Forest Field Trip with Whitebark Institute. Meet at June Lake Junction at 10 a.m.
June Lake Triathlon races take off. For courses and full race schedule, see alpha.win/events/june-lake-ca-triathlon-2026.
CNPS Bristlecone Chapter Native

TOWN STUFF

Saturday, August 15 (cont.)/
Plant Sale @ White Mountain Research Center (3000 E. Line St.) from 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, August 16/
Summer Outdoor Movie Night: Smurfs @ The Village at Mammoth. Starts 7:30 p.m. Dress warmly!
Powers of Observation: Exploring Rock Creek Through the Seasons, a walk with Friends of the Inyo to explore local wildflowers and wildlife. Meet at Rock Creek Trailhead at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 18/
Not Your Grandma's Bingo Night at Warming Hut (343 Old Mammoth Road) to benefit Sierra STEM from 6-8 p.m. *See ad p. 6.*

Wednesday, August 19/
Mammoth Lakes Town Council meets 4 p.m. in Suite Z of the Minaret Mall (437 Old Mammoth Road).
Public Townhall on the Roadless Rule with Friends of the Inyo and the Sierra Club. Time: 5:30-7 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Cerro Coso Campus (101 College Parkway). *See ad p. 11.*
Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meets 1 p.m. in Suite Z of the Minaret Mall.

August 20-23/
Brown Design Group Warehouse Sale at 67 Oak Tree Way. *More info, see ad p. 2*

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Monday - Friday

3-6 PM



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

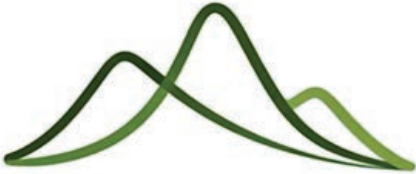


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Help Wanted



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

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



Behind every great community is a great team! The Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce is looking for an Operations Assistant to help keep the Chamber running smoothly while supporting our local business community. Position is year-round, part time (20 hours/week) and in-office. Details can be found on the Chamber's website: mlchamber.org. Send resume and cover letter to Brianna Goico at bgoico@mlchamber.org.



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H.E.A.R.T.S Connection Family Resource specialists in Inyo & Mono Counties is hiring!

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Contact Ann Bason @ 661.531.3498/Ann.Bason@heartsrc.org

Help Wanted



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

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

Hilton Creek Community Services District in Crowley Lake seeks a **PT Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I, II or III.** Salary \$65,000-\$85,000 negotiable, based on experience. For more information visit <https://www.hiltoncreekcsd.com/employment>, email info@hiltoncreekcsd.com or call (760) 965-9696

Hilton Creek Community Services District also seeks FT or PT, General Manager with **Grade III California Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.** Salary negotiable based on experience. info@hiltoncreekcsd.com <https://www.hiltoncreekcsd.com> for job description and application

Shilo Inn seeks FT housekeepers, FT maintenance worker and Front desk/night auditor. Immediate Front Desk opportunity starting at \$18/hour. Pls. call Human Resources (Sarina Quintero) at 925.813.2331/email resume to squintero@marquisshotelgroup.com.

Help Wanted

Restaurant Server for Eagles Landing Restaurant at the popular Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake CA. Experience in restaurant service, computers and working as team member are essential. Full and part time available, health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. Great place to work. Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Restaurant Bartender for Eagle's Landing Restaurant at the popular Double Eagle Resort and Spa. Experience in restaurant bartending, computers and working as a team member are essential. FT and PT work available. Health benefits, fitness membership, PTO. Great place to work. Email Lodging@doubleeagle.com

Cooks and Prep Cooks jobs available at the famous Eagles Landing Restaurant in June Lake. We offer health benefits, fitness membership and PTO. A great place to work! Email lodging@doubleeagle.com



MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT'S Finance Department is currently recruiting for one permanent Principal Finance Analyst position.

FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION/TO APPLY: Please see the District website at <https://mcwd.dst.ca.us/employment/>.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. ORD 26-007

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UPDATING “Title 17 SUBDIVISIONS” OF THE MONO COUNTY CODE

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that Mono County Code Title 17 Subdivisions in its current form was mostly enacted in 1974 to implement the state Subdivision Map Act; and

WHEREAS, although some ordinance amendments have since been adopted, most of Title 17 over 50 years old, with some sections obsolete and inconsistent with current law and local circumstances. As an example, Title 17 includes obsolete requirements for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, which incorporated in 1984 and is no longer subject to Mono County land use planning authority; and

WHEREAS, this update focuses on legal adequacy, deference to the state Subdivision Map Act, consistency with General Plan policy, and application of updated Public Works Standards. It attempts to reduce verbiage, avoid repetition, update terminology, integrate with local and state process and procedures, and rely on other state requirements, such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and California Department of Forestry and Fire (CalFire) Protection standards; and

WHEREAS, substantive modifications include clarification of decision authority and procedure; exemptions to the conversion of residential facilities from rental to ownership; clarification of soil report and map waivers; clarification of standards; addition of voluntary mergers; and elimination of variances, development fees, and construction of bridges and major thoroughfares sections; and

WHEREAS, the update qualifies for an exemption from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) and §15305 because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the ordinanceby itself will have a significant effect on the environment as the ordinance merely aligns with state law and does not change any physical development standards, and no changes in land use or density result from the ordinance update; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2026, the Planning Commission recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the ordinance with a few minor edits and clarifications; and

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

The Lodge at North Village

Mammoth Hospitality Management LLC
10001 Minaret Rd.
P.O. Box 24
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1980. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on June 24, 2026

File Number 2026-0071
TS #2026-0097
(8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

North Village Hotel

Mammoth Hospitality Management LLC
10001 Minaret Rd.
P.O. Box 24
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1980. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on June 24, 2026

File Number 2026-0072
TS #2026-0095
(8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Mammoth Luxury Home Rentals

Mammoth Hospitality Management LLC
10001 Minaret Rd.
P.O. Box 24
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1980. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on June 24, 2026

File Number 2026-0072
TS #2026-0094
(8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22)

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2026, the Mono County Board of Supervisors held a duly noticed public hearing to receive public input and deliberate the amendment.

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

SECTION ONE: This code amendment qualifies for exemptions under CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) and §15305.

SECTION TWO: Title 17 of the Mono County Code is amended and will read as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

This ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the date of its adoption and final passage, which appears immediately below. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall post this ordinance and also publish the ordinance in the manner prescribed by Government Code section 25124 no later than 15 days after the date of this ordinance’s adoption and final passage. If the Clerk fails to so publish this ordinance within said 15-day period, then the ordinance shall not take effect until 30 days after the date of publication.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of August 2026, by the following vote:

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

Jennifer Kreitz, Chair Board of Supervisors, County of Mono
ATTEST: CLERK OF THE BOARD: Queenie Barnard
APPROVED AS TO FORM: COUNTY COUNSEL Christopher Beck

Exhibit A

The Amended Title 17 of the Mono County Code is available in its entirety at:

https://monocounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3255/1A-Subdivision-Ord-Update-bos-clean-07-14-26

or by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Board at BOS@mono.ca.gov or (760) 932-5530.

TS #2026-0102

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

The Hotel at North Village

Mammoth Hospitality Management LLC
10001 Minaret Rd.
P.O. Box 24
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1980. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on June 24, 2026

File Number 2026-0073
TS #2026-0099
(8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

North Village Hotel & Resort

Mammoth Hospitality Management LLC
10001 Minaret Rd.
P.O. Box 24
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1980. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on June 24, 2026

File Number 2026-0073
TS #2026-0098
(8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22)

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

North Village Inn

Mammoth Hospitality Management LLC
10001 Minaret Rd.
P.O. Box 24
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein in 1980. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on June 24, 2026

File Number 2026-0071
TS #2026-0096
(8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22)

Notice of Vacancy

MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a vacancy in an unexpired term exists on the Town Council due to a resignation. The term of appointment will expire on December 2, 2026.

The Town Council meetings are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Members of the Town Council receive a monthly stipend of \$1131.90 and are eligible for the Town’s health insurance benefits.

Interested parties should file an application with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, August 24, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Application forms (“Application for Public Appointment”) may be obtained from the Town’s website, www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov; Town Clerk at the Town Offices, Minaret Village Shopping Center; by writing to P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, Attention: Town Clerk; by phoning 760-965-3602; or by email at jgray@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Dated: August 6, 2026
Jamie Gray, Town Clerk
TS #2026-0103

Notice of Ordinance

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES

Notice is hereby given that on August 5, 2026 the Town Council introduced an Ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2.04.040 OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO TOWN COUNCIL COMPENSATION.

A copy of the complete text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, and/or a copy may be obtained from the office of the Town Clerk at a nominal charge.

Dated: August 6, 2026
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes

TS #2026-0104

Notice of Ordinance

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES

Notice is hereby given that on August 5, 2026 the Town Council adopted an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RENEWING THE TOWN’S MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE POLICY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 7071 (AB 48).

by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Sauser and Wentworth, Mayor Pro Tem Truax, and Mayor Rice
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
DISQUALIFICATION: None

A certified copy of the complete text of the Ordinance is posted and may be read at the Town Offices, Minaret Mall, Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, and /or a copy may be obtained from the office of the Town Clerk at a nominal charge.

Dated: August 6, 2026
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk
Town of Mammoth Lakes

TS #2026-0105

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The Following Entity
Is Doing Business As:

Navia Electric Inc.

Navia Electric Inc. – Ivan Avalos
1407 Rocking W Dr., Bishop, CA
P.O. Box 8146
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on March 3, 2022. This statement was filed with the Mono County Clerk on June 26, 2026

File Number 2026-0077
TS #2026-0101
(8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29)





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OFF THE SLOPES

THE SOUNDS OF SUMMER

By Steve Shatkin

There are certain sounds that tell you summer has officially arrived in Mammoth Lakes. The snowmelt. Kids laughing. Mountain bikes clicking down the trails. The occasional Harley climbing Highway 203.

And then... There is that bird. You know the one. The feathered demon that apparently believes the sun rises at four in the morning simply because it says so.

Every. Single. Day.

Now, I should point out that I get up at 4:30 most mornings anyway, so it's not as though this bird is ruining a leisurely morning of sleeping until noon.

But there is something deeply offensive about being awakened thirty minutes before your alarm by a creature that sounds like it's auditioning for a horror movie. It doesn't chirp. It doesn't sing. It doesn't even politely announce its presence. It cackles. Loudly. Outside our bedroom window.

I am reminded of that classic scene in the movie "My Cousin Vinny" when Joe Pesci, after yet another sleepless night thanks to a screech owl, marches outside with a revolver and

starts firing into the woods. To be perfectly clear, I would never do that. The thought may have crossed my mind. Briefly. Very briefly.

Now don't confuse this bird with the beloved "cheeseburger" bird. You know the one that happily sings "cheese... bur-ger... cheese... bur-ger..." all day long. Around here, hearing that little guy is as much a sign of summer as seeing the first anglers hauling float tubes toward Crowley Lake. He's cheerful, predictable, and frankly has earned his place in the neighborhood. The 4 a.m. Cackling Menace has not.

Then there are the woodpeckers.

How can something that weighs about as much as a stick of butter sound like a construction crew remodeling your roof?

Tap.

Tap tap tap.

RATATATATATATAT.

Morning. Afternoon. Evening.

These little carpenters work harder than most contractors I've hired.

Somewhere out there is a tree with a punch list that apparently has no end.

Of course, no Mammoth soundtrack would be complete without the squirrels.

Our local squirrels operate what can

only be described as the most over-funded neighborhood watch program in California.

A dog walks by. Chirp! Chirp! Chirp! A child rides a bicycle. Chirp! Chirp! Chirp! A pine cone falls. Chirp! Chirp! Chirp! The wind changes direction. Everybody panic!

If squirrels had access to emergency broadcasting systems, we'd all be receiving evacuation alerts every twelve minutes. They react to every perceived threat as though we've reached DEFCON 1 and a nuclear launch is moments away. Tracie and I call them, "The Squirrel Alarms."

The funny thing is, after a while, you stop noticing most of it.

The cackling bird becomes part of your morning routine. The woodpeckers become nature's contractors. The squirrels continue protecting us from dangerously suspicious pine cones. And somewhere in the background, the cheeseburger bird keeps reminding us that another beautiful Sierra

summer day has begun.

These sounds become part of the rhythm of life here. They're the soundtrack to morning coffee on the deck, evening walks through the pines, backyard barbecues, and cool mountain nights. Yes, they can be loud. Yes, they can occasionally test the patience of even the most devoted nature lover. But I'd take every cackle, peck, chirp, and cheeseburger song over city traffic, sirens, and car alarms any day.

Because with all the wonderful, ridiculous, noisy sounds of summer, day and night, I still can't imagine a better place in the world to call home than Mammoth Lakes.

Steve Shatkin is the owner of Mammoth Coffee Roasters/Ursa, and is a candidate for Mammoth Lakes Town Council.

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HARTLEY

CHERRY PIT SPITTING AND CORN HOLE

We're almost out of the dead zone - that zone of endless baseball and lousy golf, and some cornhole, and now this.

My brother posed this question to me the other day: "What the hell is a cherry-pit spitting contest doing on ESPN?"

He had put up with cornhole but this was too much.

ESPN can fire everyone but pay Pat McAfee \$30 million a year and fill the rest of its schedule with this?

ESPN sucks.

But the NFL is (almost) back!

First thing (so I can get this out of the way quick), leopards don't change their spots. By week 5, Steeler QB Aaron Rodgers will be changing plays in the huddle and badmouthing Coach Mike McCarthy. And then McCarthy will respond by putting him on "injured reserve" with a fond farewell.

JJ McCarthy officially lost the Viking QB "competition" to Kyler Murray. Of course, that "competition" was over the day Kyler signed. The Vikings are just hoping McCarthy can show in the smallest way that he knows how to play QB so they can sucker some dumbass team (Steelers) into trading for him. An NFL coach or exec said

anonymously that "football looks hard for him [McCarthy]." Brutal.

WR Ricky Pearsall of the Niners is hurt ... again. No, he didn't catch a stray bullet this time. Apparently his knee has been hurting since ... September of last year. For some reason they decided he didn't need surgery until last week. Huh? Do the Niners just have insanely stupid doctors? So now Pearsall is getting paid to sit out the year.

It's like saying, "Hey I am going to take a flight to China tomorrow ... maybe I will apply for a passport TODAY." What? You can't put off a knee like it's a dental cleaning.

Please, dentists and hygienists, it's just an example.

Buc QB Baker Mayfield was HEATED about the team not paying him. He felt "disrespected" by his 2 year, \$100 million extension offer. He was making like \$7 million a couple years ago and did deserve a raise. But Baker went off a bit.

"I wanted a deal done and set the deadline and told them it was gonna be all ball after that," he explained. "I did mean that, and I don't know if they thought I was just gonna take some of the offers they gave. I'm at the point in my career, understanding what I've

brought to this franchise - I'm very, very thankful for the chance they gave me, don't get me wrong about that - but I also know, I really know what I brought to this franchise, leadership-wise and play-wise. It's been some of the best years of my career, and I think it's only gonna trend upwards, just being comfortable and feeling that.

So, disappointing in that regard to not have ... to feel disrespected a little bit. That's really the disappointing part, to feel undervalued after thinking you've earned it. This is not a 'poor me' thing. There's a lot of people who have it way worse off. But I can sit here and look at other quarterbacks and peers and evaluate myself based on that and put myself in certain categories that I deserve to be compensated for that.

I think I'm a franchise quarterback. I've been told I'm a franchise quarterback. It's been said publicly from ownership down here ..."

Ouch. He might not be the QB of that franchise for long. He even tore into them about not paying Nose Tackle Vita Vea. The funny thing is people saying they can just franchise him next year. Well, you see they can't because his contract was done in a way such that if they franchise him for \$47.5 million he will count \$80 million against the cap.

So he has them by the balls. If he balls out, either the Bucs or someone else will have to pay him market rate next year. Well played, little fella.

Raven WR Zay Flowers got \$140 million for 4 years. WTF? This dude is getting paid \$10 million per TD scored in 3 total years. Must be tight with Lamar, who ran Harbaugh off and got Zay paid! Well I know one thing, he will be getting 140 targets this year. In an

attempt to prove he is worth it.

Team owners can't help themselves. They toss money around carelessly on average players, and then bitch about the exorbitant contracts during the collective bargaining negotiations.

Bill Belichick is under investigation - again. This time for NIL violations at the Univ. of North Carolina. And his GM Mike Lombardi is suspended while being investigated for other things.

1. I am surprised it took this long. After listening to Lombardi for years on his GM podcast, I knew he would get blown out at some point.

2. I am glad Lombardi is getting blown out because I loved that podcast and now he can get back to doing it.

3. If they have NIL violations, why are they so bad? How do you cheat and still suck as bad as they do?

4. Where is Bill's 'girlfriend'? School is back in session. Did he send her off to boarding school?

Here's a little nugget. Recent #1 overall draft pick Fernando Mendoza signed a rookie contract averaging over \$14 million a year. Sam Bradford signed a contract back in 2010 that averaged just over \$13 million a year. So it took 16 years for the rookie contract to reach the level it was back in 2010. The owners getting that rookie cap implemented was smart thinking. Imagine what they would be paying the #1 overall pick now?!? Can't even fathom that. Funniest thing is that Ja-Marcus Russell and Sam Bradford were so bad that they broke the NFL player salary structure.

see HARTLEY, page 19




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HARTLEY

continued from page 14

On with the season. The predictions begin:

NFC SOUTH (A dreadful division worthy of looking at only for fantasy purposes.)

Bucs 10-7. We call it the Mayfield Effect. He is going to go OFF. But this is their last hurrah. They let WR Mike Evans go. They won't pay Vea. They keep bringing back Chris Godwin so he can continue to tear everything in his lower body. Next year, Mayfield signs with Steelers and Bucs attempt to resurrect the career of JJ McCarthy ... and go 3-14.

Saints 8-9. QB Tyler Shough returns to the mean and RB Alvin Kamara is 40. I like what Coach Kellen Moore did last year. But not enough talent. Yet.

Panthers 7-10. So long as they play the little guy at QB, the upside is omny so much. They are relying on Chuba Hubbard and another RB who has missed like 2 years with torn ACLs to carry them. I don't see it.

Falcons 6-11. And that is being generous. You know how I feel about their bookend, left-handed, oft-injured QBs. Maybe if one was right-handed and one was left-handed they could put them both on the field at the same time and try to trick people? Stefanski is a two time coach of the year. I think the shine comes off this year.

AFC South

Titans 6-11. New coach, same dysfunctional organization. I am not sure why they brought in Brian Daboll to be OC.

I want to see the young QB (Ward) play well, but that roster is trash.

Colts 7-10. Speaking of bad contracts. Daniel Jones is making \$50 million on a bad achilles. Then they paid Alex Pierce some ungodly sum as a one-trick pony WR.

Jags 10-7. Their head coach is very creative as an OC. QB Trevor Lawrence will start off hot because he is streaky. By the middle of the season he will be bored and miss a week of practice to go surfing instead.

Texans 11-6. I think that defense is so good they are going to try to pound the ball with the run and just smother teams. I would say that was the Tomlin way, but his DEFENSES SUCKED and the STEELERS QUIT RUNNING THE BALL WELL UNDER HIM, TOO. I just needed to toss some shrapnel at Tomlin.

Meanwhile, Texan QB CJ Stroud calls Baker Mayfield to commiserate about how it feels to not get paid by the Texans and goes OFF this year.

*For the record, I wouldn't pay Stroud yet either.

AFC WEST

Chiefs 11-6. I expect the Chiefs to bounce back. Coach Andy Reid is rejuvenated by his new shampoo scent - Pulled Pork. QB Pat Mahomes is on a mission. Rashee Rice, for the 3 games he plays before going to prison again, will help out while the offense gels. Matt Nagy is gone as Offensive Coordinator so that is addition by subtraction. (Note to anyone betting, take away 4 wins from the Giants

expected total due Nagy getting their OC job).

Broncos 10-7 and that is a little generous. The defense is great, but they won a lot of close games last year. That usually evens out. They trailed in 15 games and won 14 of them? That's insane. QB Bo Nix - I still don't believe in him. The smoke and mirrors won't last but they're good enough to win 10. that.

Chargers 9-8. Every August the Chargers are Super Bowl champions. Then they start playing games and the Chargers are the Chargers. They blame injuries. They blame lack of talent around Herbert. They never blame Herbert. They'll more likely blame El Nino. Herbert is a great stat QB and looks the part but is trash in crunch time. He is a bigger, more athletic Kirk Cousins.

Raiders 5-12. The Raiders are a fixer upper. I know they changed coaches and QBs but they are the house you buy to remodel and you don't even have running water so you use an outhouse for a while. Just getting some running water and a functioning bathroom is what they are now. Kirk Cousins is the outhouse 'til they get to #1 pick, QB Fernando Mendoza, being a functional bathroom.

NFC WEST

Rams 12-5. Added Myles Garrett and two CBs ... then got greedy and bringing back Aaron Donald? This team is loaded. I would have added another WR since Puka Nakua seems to be on the Rashee Rice fast track to legal trouble. I would also have gotten a better backup QB in

case Stafford gets hurt. Ty Simpson and Stetson Bennett aren't the answer. Wasn't Stetson a cologne back in the 80s and 90s. And it smelled as bad as that commercial, too. There used to be a song too ... STETSON COLOGNE, STETSON FITS, CUZ THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF STETSON IN EVERY MAN. Wait, they still sell that shit?

Hawks 10-7. I won't say Super Bowl hangover. It's the Pacific NW, they drink a lot of hoppy beer up there. They don't hangover much. New OC, players with a little complacency. Good season but no championship. Darnold throws 23 interceptions.

Niners 10-7. This might change before the season starts. There are bad vibes in the Bay. I am watching this one for the next couple weeks and may adjust this down. McCaffrey had like 900 touches last year. Last two times he had insane touches, he was trash the following year. Injuries, coach injured, team old ...

Cards 5-12. You know what the House of Cards is like. See the Raiders. You might have at least 1 working bathroom with a hole in the wall so you can see into the Living Room and gotta cover it with newspaper to take a dump so no one can see you, but you got a bathroom. You also got bad ownership so trying to turn it around is always suspect.

They drafted Carson Beck and he is NOT the answer. He is the college version of Justin Herbert. Crumbles under pressure. It was amazing Miami got to the championship game with him last year. They drafted a RB with the 4th pick after signing Tyler Allgeier and still have James Connor. Someone has to get traded.

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Mammoth Huskies

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Mammoth High School · Mammoth Unified School District

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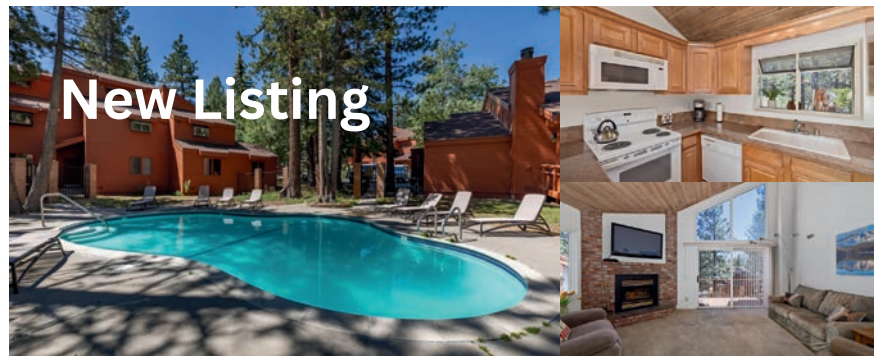


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BATHS: 2.5
SQFT: 2236

New Listing



Woodlands #29 - \$835,000

Live the Mammoth life in this 3bd, 2.75ba Woodlands townhome. Enjoy vaulted ceilings, sunny exposure, and tree-filtered views in a complex with all the amenities! Close to shuttle, restaurants and recreation.

CONDO
BEDS: 3
BATHS: 2.75
SQ FT: 1549

In Escrow

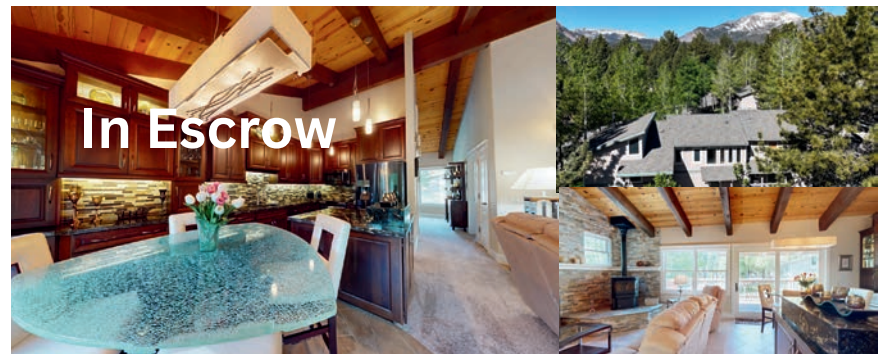


1310 Timber Creek Rd - \$1,799,000

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

In Escrow

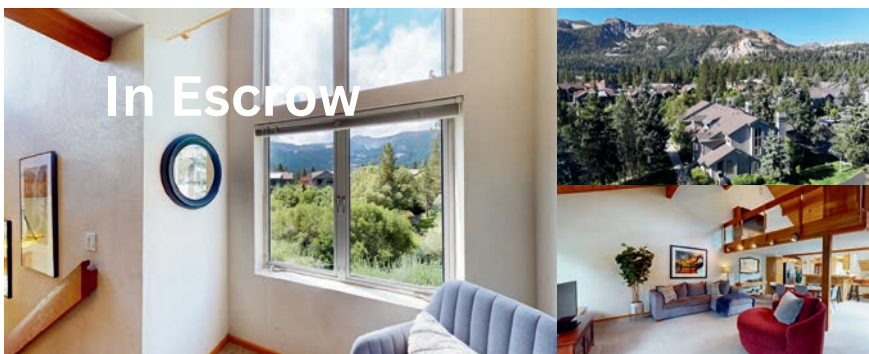


Chateau Sierra #58 - \$959,000

Remodeled 3BD/3BA townhome plus bonus room in a prime location. Features granite, stainless appliances, designer finishes, and a large balcony. Amenities include a pool, spa, and sauna. Ideal retreat, rental, or full-time living.

CONDO
BEDS: 3
BATHS: 3
SQFT: 1572

In Escrow



Snowcreek IV #640 - \$1,225,000

Peaceful Creekside Living – Corner end-unit 3-bedroom plus loft townhome on the creek in Snowcreek Resort, privacy, views, south-facing light, vaulted ceilings, pellet stove, open living, loft/office, west balcony, near trails, club, and transit, sold furnish.

CONDO
BEDS: 3+Loft
BATHS: 2.75
SQ FT: 2111

In Escrow



Forest Service Cabin #22 - \$299,000

BHistoric 1935 Forest Service log cabin in Mammoth Lakes' Lake Mary Tract. Featuring 2 beds, 1 bath, stone fireplace, creekfront setting, and separate gear cabin. Pure rustic mountain charm!

CABIN
BEDS: 2
BATHS: 1
SQ FT: 687



LISTING DETAILS! CA DRE #01812140

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