

THURSDAY, May 7, 2026

Mammoth Times

THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER OF MAMMOTH LAKES AND THE EASTERN SIERRA

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In memory of children 'who should be here with us'

Children's Memorial Flag Raising serves as call to strengthen families

**By Louis Medina
Mammoth Times Staff**

About 100 people — including 25 well-behaved infants, toddlers and preschoolers from the Mono County Office of Education's Curious Cubs Learning Center — gathered around a couple of poles last week near the entrance to the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The poles were not maypoles, but rather flagpoles, and those gathered weren't there to play.

In their innocence, the little ones most likely didn't understand the significance of the event.

But the adults knew. Mono County's Children's Memorial Flag Raising Ceremony took place in front of the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse on Thompson Way Thursday morning, April 30, as part of a statewide commemorative effort to honor young lives lost to violence in

recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"Flags are a symbol, a rallying point for all of us," said Presiding Judge Mark Magit of Mono County Superior Court, one of several speakers that morning.

He said this year's statewide theme for the flag raising ceremony, "Strong Families, Safe Futures: When we care together, families thrive," is a call to strengthen families with the support, resources and coping tools necessary to help them raise children in such a way that they feel nurtured, loved, protected, and "are more likely to lead healthy and successful lives."

The event was hosted by the Mono County Child Abuse Prevention Council in partnership with Mono County Health and Human Services, Mono County Office of Education, and First 5 Mono.

Representatives from among Wild Iris Family Counseling & Crisis Center, town and county elected officials, and law enforcement were also present to witness the raising of the Children's Memorial Flag together with the U.S. flag.

The Children's Memorial
See FLAG, page 5



The Children's Memorial Flag, which Mono County raised in an April 30 ceremony in front of the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, features paper-doll-like figures of children holding hands, with one figure missing and only outlined in white, symbolizing the loss of life to violence.

Louis Medina/Mammoth Times

**Inside
the
Times**

Calendar,
See page 2

Eastern
Sierra's
Spring
Fever
Continues,
See page 3

Police
Blotter,
See page 4

Inyo SAR
Volunteers
Help
Injured
Skier Near
Mount
Emerson,
See page 5

Classifieds,
Puzzles,
Birthday
Club,
**See pages
10-12**

'Walking the talk' of stocking the lake



Doug DiMezlio of Oregon's Desert Springs Trout Farm uses his foot to weigh down a chute that delivered more than 700 trout to Crowley Lake Tuesday, courtesy of Crowley Fish Foundation and its donors.

Louis Medina/Mammoth Times

Crowley Fish Foundation brings 1,600 pounds of trout to Mono County reservoir

**By Louis Medina
Mammoth Times Staff**

The praise for Crowley Fish Foundation from dozens gathered on the Hilton Bay shore of Crowley Lake on Tuesday morning was as plentiful as the spring rain that had been falling steadily since the night before.

Alisa Mokler Harper, chair of the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce board, called the foundation "a relatively new yet very important non-profit for the Eastern Sierra."

"There are no better stewards of our waterways than fisherpeople," Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember Chris

Bubser said.

"Thank you for your dedication to fishing in the Eastern Sierra," said Tawni Thomson, executive director of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Information Center.

Betsy Truax, Mammoth Lakes Tourism's vice president of community engagement, said the foundation shared her organization's values of conservation, sustainability, education and community, and that the passion the organization puts into its work is "contagious."

The work Crowley Fish Foundation was specifically conducting that morning was its inaugural stocking of trout on the lake — some 1,600 pounds of quality sport fish raised at the Desert Springs Trout Farm in Summer Lake, Ore.

"We're so excited about today," foundation president Joe Contaldi said. "This has been two years in the planning. We

See CROWLEY, page 6



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CROWLEY

Continued from page 1

worked very hard. And the commitment we've gotten from all the people who donated to the foundation has been just amazing. We've come a long way in a short period of time. And so, this is finally where we say, 'We talked the talk, today we got to walk the talk.'"

Established in May 2024, and having gained its nonprofit status last November, according to foundation board secretary Chris Leonard, Crowley Fish Foundation raised just upwards of \$9,800 to pay Desert Springs for Tuesday's stocking — cash on delivery.

The manager of the hatchery, Ethan Negus, had driven 10 hours overnight with the precious cargo of more than 700 fish, most of them weighing about 2 pounds each. However, among them were 10 specially tagged trophy trout weighing up to 5 pounds apiece, according to Contaldi.

Any of these trophy trout, if caught, will be redeemable for a special prize, including guide trips and gift cards to local businesses, Contaldi and Leonard explained.

With Negus' help, Crowley Fish Foundation board members took turns releasing the 10 trophy trout into the lake one by one. Then, Negus and his coworker Doug DiMezlio hooked up a chute to the tanks of the live fish transport truck to release entire streams of them into the lake, to the excitement of several photographers and videographers from the foundation and local media outlets who documented the occasion.

Leonard said the foundation works to ensure that future generations can enjoy world-class trout fishing in southern Mono County, and sees teaching kids how to fish and opening up fishing opportunities for veterans as "a cornerstone" of its work. It regularly hosts free fly tying clinics in the local community, too, he said.

He added that Crowley Fish Foundation partners with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, supports scientific research efforts and surveys conducted at Crowley Lake and its tributaries, and works to preserve the region's reputation as a world-class fishing destination.

Truax said that in Mammoth Lakes Tourism's most recent visitor profile study, which surveyed both warm and cold weather visitors to the area, close to one out of two warm weather respondents and close to one out of three cold weather respondents cited fishing as an activity in which they or someone in their party participated. She said this makes fishing one of the area's most sought-after activities.

Leonard and fellow board member Michael Tu said the organization is planning two more similar stockings of trout for the lake: one in July, and another in September or October. Depending on donations received, they said, those efforts could be larger than Tuesday's.

To support the Crowley Fish Foundation's work, visit crowleyfishfoundation.org.

EVENTS

Continued from page 3

Eastern Sierra Land Trust's GardenFest

To help local gardeners kick off the growing season, Eastern Sierra Land Trust held its annual GardenFest on Saturday, featuring a native plant sale with greenery provided by the Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Among other exhibitors were the Inyo County Office of Education's School Farm, the Bishop Paiute Tribe's Food Sovereignty Program, and Blue Heron Farm.

Live music from Hay Blackbird and Asian fusion treats from Uncle Shyam's added to the family-friendly fun at ESLT and the adjacent Church Street parking lot on the corner of Church and Fowler streets.

Kid's Day (Día del Niño) Family Fun Day

Piñatas, face painting, raffle prizes, folklorico dances, a resource fair, and food and drink vendors were included in the fun prepared by the City of Bishop for Kid's Day (or Día del Niño), which took place Saturday at the back end of Bishop City Park.

Some presenting organizations included Inyo County's Office of Education and Probation Department, First 5 Inyo, H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection, St. Vincent Preventative

Family Care, Bishop Volunteer Fire Department and Bishop Area California Highway Patrol.

Sierra Spark Festival

More than a dozen exhibitors braved windy weather at Bishop City Park on Sunday for the first ever Sierra Spark Wildfire Ready Festival, organized by the Whitebark Institute with funding support from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Southern California Edison, and volunteering assistance from the Rotary Club of Bishop.

Organizations such as Cal Fire, Ready Inyo and Ready Mono, Firewise USA, High Sierra Energy Foundation, Camp Like a Pro, Sierra Forever, and others engaged the public with information and giveaways to promote fire safety in nature and around one's home.

Some took advantage of the free green waste collection that was a part of the outreach event to motivate fuel clearance around homes in the wildland-urban interface — which are numerous in the Eastern Sierra.

Interactive educational games for kids, a prize raffle, food vendors and live music from The Felt Cutouts added to the festive mood of the event.

Astronomy Watch
May 7, 2026

Sunrise: 6:26 AM
Sunset: 7:14 PM

All times are PDT and for a uniform horizon of 5½°

The Moon
3rd Qtr New 1st Qtr



May 9 May 16 May 23
Moonrise: 1:21 AM
Moonset: 9:28 AM

Planets
Before sunrise:
Saturn: very low E
After sunset:
Venus: low WNW
Jupiter: mid-skyW

Active Meteor Showers
Activity is low and the Moon hinders observing.

A star has been caught fleeing our galaxy at extraordinary speed and its story begins in the Milky Way's dark heart. Astronomers have identified DESI-HVS1, an ancient, metal-poor star hurtling through space at over 300 miles per second, fast enough to break free of the galaxy entirely. Hypervelocity stars like this are thought to be launched when a supermassive black hole tears apart a passing pair of stars, flinging one outward like a cosmic slingshot. DESI-HVS1's trajectory points straight back to the galactic center, suggesting it was hurled outward 13 million years ago, a lone survivor of a violent gravitational encounter.

By Dr. Mark Hodges of Caltech's Owens Valley Radio Observatory

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invites applications for the position of **Fiscal Clerk** in the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse
Salary Range:
57A \$25.34 - 57G \$33.95
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Full time position for Journeyman Plumber. Full Benefits. Job is located in Mammoth Lakes.
Contact **760-914-1266**
info@sweetwaterplumbing.com



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- Mental Health and Wellness Service Technician**
Classified Management Step 10
\$53,611-59,107
190 + 14 Holidays
Certified Wellness Coach I/II (2 positions)
204 days/yr/ 6.5 hours a day
\$22.69/ \$23.76
MESP Salary Schedule Step 22/24
- MHS Boys Soccer Head Coach**
2026/2027 Stipend \$3,949.74
- MHS Assistant Football Coach #2**
2026/2027 Stipend \$3,193.11
- MHS Cheerleader Director**
2026/2027 Stipend \$3,949.74

CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAW

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