

AT A GLANCE

Sierra Highlands CSD
BISHOP – The Sierra Highlands Community Services District Board of Directors will meet Monday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of Van Tassell CPA offices, 550 Central Ave., Bishop. For more information, call General Manager Fred Finkbeiner, (760) 920-0680.

Community Night
BISHOP – Join Toiyabe Indian Health Project on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. in the Barlow Lane Gymnasium, 390 N Barlow Ln., Bishop. Help promote suicide awareness and prevention while bringing our community together for a night filled with presenters, dinner, and hope. For more information call (760) 873-6394 ext 303.

Walk for Life
BISHOP – Participate in the 16th Annual Walk for Life in the hopes to reduce stigma, help recognize warning signs, create connection and support people affected by suicide loss. Check in at Toiyabe Indian Health Project, 250 N See Vee Ln., Bishop on Friday, Sept. 25 at 6 a.m. and the race starts at 7 a.m. For more information call (760) 873-6394 ext 303.

Pabanamanina Pow Wow
BISHOP – The 2026 Bishop Pabanamanina Pow Wow takes place from Sept. 25 – Sept. 27. Events kick off with the California Indian Days Parade on Friday, Sept. 25 at 10 a.m., followed by traditional dancing, drummers, handgame tournaments, and a Saturday, Sept. 26 community barbecue. All dancers, drums, vendors and visitors are welcome. For more information call Joan Huff (760) 920-2332.

Composting, Cover Crops, & Cold-Weather Gardens
BISHOP – Celebrate the equinox with projects to improve your garden's soil health and elevate your food-growing abilities during this time of transition. There will be free seed, resources, and hands-on activities for all. Meet at the Bishop Community Garden Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9-10:30 a.m. For full details and to register visit eslt.org/events.

Youth Chess Tournament
LONE PINE – The second annual Lone Pine Youth Chess Tournament will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. at the Lone Pine Branch Library, 200 N Washington St., Lone Pine. Registration is free with a chance to win cash prizes and trophies. For more information call Abhi Itharaju (765) 247-2244.

Bodie Ghost Walk
BRIDGEPORT – Join us for a ghostly night of Bodie fun, after-hours on Saturday, Sept. 26. The park is open to all visitors from 6-10 p.m. There are three ticket options to choose from; Town Tour, Cemetery Tour, or Stamp Mill Tour. To buy tickets and for full details visit www.bodie-foundation.org.

Free Concert
MAMMOTH LAKES – Three generations will be bringing an exciting mixture of 20th century gospel classics and original music to Mammoth. Earnie Couch & Revival will be performing a free concert Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Mammoth Community Church, 280 Thompson Way, Mammoth Lakes. Everyone is welcome. Food will follow the event.

Candidate Forum
LONE PINE – The Lone Pine School Board Candidate Forum will be held Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Lone Pine High School Auditorium, 538 S Main St., Lone Pine. Lone Pine and Olancho Community Members are encouraged to attend this free event, moderated by Matt Kingsley the former District 5 Supervisor, and hear directly from the school board candidates. There will be an opportunity for an audience Q&A.

(For more upcoming and ongoing events, see the community calendar on page 8)

Anglers win big with CFF’s tagged trophy trout program

By Chris Leonard
Special to The Register

What’s more fun than catching a trout on Crowley Lake? Catching a trophy with a bright red Floy tag hanging off its back! Crowley Fish Foundation continues its tagged trophy trout program, which awards fun prizes to anglers who, through luck and skill, end up nabbing one of the fanned treasures.

So, what’s the latest report of tagged fish at Crowley Lake as we move into the fall fishing season?

“There’s something in the net!”

Those were the words of Torry Cardon when she was netting her husband Mitch Hunt’s fish, as she noticed the bright red Floy tag that was easily visible as a part of the catch.

Hunt’s first thought was that he’d caught a Department of Fish & Wildlife fish, as he was unfamiliar with Crowley Fish Foundation and its tagged trout program.

He caught this particular 4.25-pound rainbow trout on an inflated nightcrawler. He was fishing a Carolina Rig in Little Hilton Bay at a depth of 15 feet of water. Mitch was in the Eastern Sierra for a two-week trip and was lucky enough to join a small yet elite club of anglers who’ve caught a tagged fish in Crowley Lake.

“This was my first tagged one, and it was a dandy,” he said, “well acclimated to the water.” Its colors were beautiful.

When Hunt learned that he won an official CFF shirt and a \$100 gift certificate to Tom’s Place Resort, he said, “I love Tom’s Place!” The only thing better than catching a trophy rainbow trout is one that will buy you an enjoyable dinner for two at Tom’s Place Resort.

Speaking of prizes for catching a tagged trout, I recently hosted brothers Brayden and Bobby McMillian of Crowley

Lake for a half-day of guided fishing on Hot Creek. Their grandfather — and retired Mammoth area trolling guide legend — Don Meier caught a tagged trout back in May after CFF’s first stocking of the season. He won a half-day guided trip and asked me to take out his grandsons, and the three of us spent a productive morning on Hot Creek working on internalizing proper small creek fly fishing techniques and tactics. This is a great way to give back to the community, with an emphasis on teaching fishing to tomorrow’s leaders of the angling world.” Hooking a couple of big fish added up to a ton of fun.

Sam Vasily of Sierra Troutdoorsman Guide Service has had a great year on Crowley Lake. When he was guiding Rob Hernandez only two days after the May stocking, Hernandez caught the first tagged fish and won a half-day guided fishing trip with CFF President and Performance Anglers guide Joe Contaldi. Like me, Contaldi is one of several CFF team members volunteering time guiding as a prize.

Later in the summer, Vasily was fishing on his boat in the afternoon after a morning of guiding when he caught a tagged trout himself, while midge fishing off Sandy Point. He won CFF swag, a coffee mug and a hat, besides a \$100 gift certificate to Tom’s Place. He has the hot boat this summer for catching tagged fish.

There are still a handful of tagged fish in the lake, and CFF will hold future fish stockings. If you’d like to learn more about the CFF tagged fish program, look on the website at crowleyfishfoundation.org/floy-tags.

(Chris Leonard is Crowley Fish Foundation's board secretary and also a guide with Kittredge Sports.)



Mitch Hunt with the Crowley Fish Foundation-tagged trophy trout he caught at Crowley Lake.
Photo courtesy of Crowley Fish Foundation

OBITUARY NOTICES

GEORGE JEFF III 1975 – 2026



George Jeff III passed away peacefully on September 01, 2026 surrounded by his family. As a longtime resident of Bishop, California, he will be remembered as a blessing in the lives of those who knew him and he will be greatly missed.

A Cry Dance will be held for George at sundown on Friday, September 18, 2026 at the Jeff Residence; 318 Winuba Lane, Bishop, CA 93514.

A Funeral Service will be held the following morning, Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Jeff Residence with a Graveside Service to follow at the Sunland Cemetery in Bishop, CA.

Following the ceremonies, a pot luck will be held back at the Jeff Residence. Please join the family in continuing the Celebration of George's life.

The Jeff family would like to thank everyone for their help, thoughts and prayers during this time.

For further information please contact Louella at (928) 925-3095 or Cheryl at (760) 937-0429.

Brune Mortuary

325 West Elm Street • Bishop, CA 93514 • 760-873-4266

OBITUARY NOTICES

JOHN GARETH ‘GARY’ LEROY JOHNSON

May 5, 1954 – August 27, 2026



It is with great sorrow and sadness that we announce the passing of John Gareth ‘Gary’ Leroy Johnson on August 27, 2026, at Renown Regional Hospital in Reno, Nevada, with loving family members and his faithful dog, Lacey, by his side.

Gary was born at Saint Francis Hospital in Lynwood, California, on May 5, 1954, to Jacquelyn and Sidney Johnson. As the oldest of what would eventually become a family of seven children, Gary spent his younger years in Lynwood playing Little League, riding Sting-Ray bikes, and making memories during large gatherings with his aunts, uncles, and cousins.

In 1968, Gary’s parents packed up their children and belongings and moved the family to Bishop, California. It was there that Gary attended grammar school and graduated from high school, forging deep, lifelong friendships that he cherished and maintained for the rest of his days.

Not long after high school, Gary began working in construction. His career took him across California and various western states, pouring concrete and building residential and commercial structures. He eventually joined the Carpenter’s Union, where he remained a proud member for 31 years and became an exceptionally talented finish carpenter.

In his early adult years, Gary met Lee Sonderland, and together they shared a chapter of life. During those years, Gary became an important part of Tyson’s life and was blessed with two daughters, Terah and Tenaya, who brought immense love and happiness to him.

Gary loved the outdoors; he and his wife Cece spent many wonderful days hiking and exploring the mountains and the deserts throughout the western states. Gary and his cousin John embarked on long, memorable road trips across Texas, Florida, and Canada on their Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Above all, Gary was passionate about trout fishing. He loved nothing more than taking friends and family out on the water and teaching them how to catch fish.

Later in life, fate brought Gary back together with his high school love, Cecelia Green. Their reunited bond led him to pack his bags and move to Fish Lake Valley, where the couple married and shared a beautiful life together surrounded by the community and landscape he came to love so dearly.

Gary was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Cece Johnson; his parents, Jacquelyn and Maurice Sonnek, and Sid Johnson; and his two loving sisters, Alisa Johnson and Misty Misquez.

He is survived by his daughters, Terah Johnson Hicks and stepdaughter Aaron of Calabasas, CA; Tenaya Johnson Nunez and husband Adam of Camarillo, CA; his stepdaughters, Sarah Green and husband Andres Cikota of Bishop, CA; and Chavonn Green Smith and husband Clint of Tonopah, NV; his stepson, Tyson Sonderland of Lancaster, CA; his brothers, Eric and wife Cindy Johnson of Bishop, CA., Chris Johnson of Sparks, NV., Matt and wife Delene Misquez of Reno, NV., and Mauri and wife Cynthia Sonnek of Aurora, CO; Also survived by his Grandchildren Jenika, Myah, and Levi Hicks; Danny and Juan Nunez; Rowen and Emerson Cikota; Abel and Penny Smith; his aunt, Patricia Belgarde of Bishop, CA; and his closest cousin and lifelong friend, John Anderson of Dyer, NV. He also leaves behind numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and many close friends; his wonderful dog Lacey, and the community of Fish Lake Valley, who were so incredibly good to him

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life in honor of Gary Johnson will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 12:00 noon at the Fish Lake Valley Community Center (Dyer, Nevada). Guests are kindly asked to bring a potluck side dish to share. For questions or further details, please contact Sarah Green at (707) 688-5306.

THOMAS (TOMMY) CHARLES CROWL, JR. 1967 – 2026



Thomas (Tommy) Crowl, Jr. was born on September 8, 1967 in Bishop, California to Thomas Crowl, Sr. and Jeanne Lee (Hess) Crowl. Tommy passed away at home in Bishop on Saturday, September 12th at the age of 59 years old, after a short battle with cancer. Tommy was the oldest of three boys, his siblings are Tim and Terry. Tommy was an enrolled member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe. Tommy attended the Bishop schools from kindergarten through high school. After high school Tommy enrolled at Antelope Valley Jr. College in Lancaster, California and Lassen Community College in Susanville, California. In 1987 Tommy also attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas where he made many life-long friends. While in school and college Tommy excelled in football, baseball and basketball. In addition, Tommy later attended and graduated from the Nevada Law Enforcement Academy in Carson City, Nevada. While attending the P.O.S.T. Certified Academy he was awarded the plaque for the highest, overall testing from start to finish. After graduating from the Nevada Law Enforcement Academy, he joined the Fallon Tribal Police Department. After his career with law enforcement, he began his true love as an all-around truck driver, driving long haul from the east to west coast. He was well-known as a construction truck driver, specializing in transfer trucks. He enjoyed the triple trailers, as it was challenging and also hauling heavy equipment. A lot of the ‘ole time truck drivers in Nevada gave him the nickname of “Cochise.” Tommy continued his career as a truck driver up until his passing.

Tommy is survived by his father, Thomas Crowl, Sr. and brothers, Tim and Terry Crowl. During Tommy’s illness with Stage IV cancer, his brothers (Tim and Terry) were his 24-hour caregivers. Tommy is also survived by his six (6) children whom he truly loved: Tyler, Aaron, Isaiah, Alexceah, Leah and Zack; seven (7) grandchildren and nephew and niece Jalen and Sierra Crowl. Tommy is also survived by uncles — Rudy Willis and John Crowl, Jr., Jim and Mervin Hess and aunts Earleen Hess-Williams and Lynette Hess-Blossom and many cousins. Tommy is preceded in death by his beloved mother, Jeanne (Hess) Crowl, grandparents Barbara and Earl Hess and Margaret and John Crowl, Sr. Tommy will be remembered for his kindness, sense of humor, generosity and his love for family.

The family would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Taema Weiss, Jeanne Walter, FNP/Hospice, Amber Arnsen, LVN and Micah Lent, Case Worker (Toiyabe Indian Health Project) for the wonderful care of Tommy.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the House of Mercy Pentecostal Church located at 393 South Pa Ha Lane, Bishop, CA. Burial will follow at East Line Street Cemetery.

Brune Mortuary

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