Yes, there is still plenty of snow ... in the spring!
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To our readers:
Sierra Views offers a view of the events, activities, and fun up and down the Eastern Sierra and beyond. In this issue, we tell what happened at the Isabella Lake Fishing Derby, take a peek at snowy conditions in Mammoth, preview the Kern River Festival, and get acquainted with a racer who visited the High Desert.

On the cover:
Snow covers Mammoth Mountain during a late winter, showing that there are plenty of activities for the region in the spring. (Courtesy photo)

To the right:
Stephanie Cemo and Jack, her French Bulldog, pose in front of her custom built racing Corvette at Cal City Airport. (Kane Wickham/Mojave Desert News)
The Isabella Lake Fishing Derby celebrated its 30th birthday with plenty of fishing action over the weekend of April 13-15. There were nearly $27,000 in prizes given out, the largest being the $1,000 awards given to two individuals who caught trout over two feet long.
The full list of winners is as follows:

**Men’s Longest Trout:**
1. Ramon Anzaldo, Lake Isabella: 25 3/8 inches • $1,000
2. Ryan Crawford, Lancaster: 24 1/4 inches • $1,000
3. Jeremy Hill Jr., Bakersfield: 23 1/2 inches • $800
4. Scott Sawa, Torrance: 23 1/8 inches • $600
5. Marcos Nuno, Bakersfield: 22 7/8 inches • $250

**Women’s Longest Trout:**
1. Heidi Hodge, Trona: 22 3/4 inches • $2,000
2. Julie Akin, Lake Isabella: 20 3/8 inches • $1,000
3. Laura Valdez, Bakersfield: 20 inches • $400
4. Patricia Thomas, Bakersfield: 19 1/8 inches • $300
5. Stacy VanRensselaer, Kernville: 19 inches • $500

**Youth Longest Trout**
1. Ryleigh Nuno, 5, Bakersfield: 22 1/2 inches • $500
2. Jonathan Heu, 14, Clovis: 22 1/8 inches • $800
3. Gloria Brand, 11, Lake Isabella: 22 inches • $600
5. Jayden Lilly, 14, Bakersfield: 21 inches • $100
The Eastern Sierra Nevada's Kirman Lake was once a tremendous brook trout fishery that produced trout the size usually only seen in Labrador, Canada. It was simply California's premier trophy brook trout fishery, regularly producing brook trout from three to six pounds. A 14-inch brook trout from Kirman would weigh an honest two pounds. They were that fat.

My long-time friend Dick Dahlgren, who I fished Kirman with a number of times in the late 1970s and early 1980s, simply called the big brookes, “air-brushed footballs.” The brookies from Kirman were bigger and fatter than any brook trout from any other water in the state.

The problem with Kirman is that it does not have a place where the DFW is promising to restore Kirman Lake as trophy brookie fishery

BY JIM MATTHEWS
Outdoor News Service

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trout can spawn naturally. There is no stream running into or out of the lake where the trout could find moving water to spawn. That means the fishery was and is entirely dependent on plants of fingerlings or subcatchables from the Department of Fish and Wildlife hatcheries. And that is a big problem.

Then the DFW also started experimenting with Lahontan cutthroat trout in Kirman, and they also grew to enormous sizes – even bigger than the brookies. Cutthroats to eight pounds were caught, but they weren’t as colorful or as popular as the brookies. They also didn’t get those incredible girths the brookies sported. Kirman was just another water where there were big cutthroats, and there are roadside waters with cutts that big. The big brookies are what made Kirman unique and special. But the DFW favored the cutts because they were the native fish of that drainage (even though the cutts the DFW has planted are the wrong strain of cutthroat trout for the West Walker River drainage).

The statewide 2008 lawsuit against the state’s trout stocking program really sealed the fate of brookies at Kirman Lake, finishing off the job of eliminating the brook trout plants at Kirman the DFW had already started with its shift to cutts. Even after the suit was settled and the DFW got back to planting trout the region, brook trout were planted inconsistently and in low numbers because the hatchery system was and is switching to rearing and planting native fish.

Yet, the DFW insists brook trout “were planted annually by CDFW until 2015 when hatchery problems prevented the raising and delivering of the fish,” according to a recent press release touting their noble work to restore the fishery. That is an exaggeration, at best.

Actually, the noble work consists of moving 1,300 small brook trout removed from Silver Creek to protect a newly-established population of cutthroat trout. However, reports from on-site suggest fewer than 100 trout were actually moved to Kirman. And with the DFW eliminating brookies from the hatchery system, where future fish would come from is a serious question the DFW can’t answer.

Anglers who remember what this brook trout fishery was like hope and pray the DFW is sincere in its efforts to restore this amazing fishery (which has even been mentioned in several fly-fishing books), but anglers familiar with today’s DFW aren’t holding their breath.

Guzzler restoration project near

Bishop needs volunteers May 7-13

Volunteers are needed for a multi-day guzzler restoration project on public lands near Bishop, according to Cliff McDonald with Desert Drinkers for Wildlife (formerly Water for Wildlife). The group plans to restore six to eight man-made water catchments used by wildlife on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands north of Bishop.

Volunteers will be camping at the Millpond Campground six miles north of Bishop off Highway 395, and volunteers can camp free of charge Tuesday through Saturday nights. Meals (breakfast and dinner) will also be provided to volunteers all days they participate.

This is the group’s final project for 2019.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Cliff McDonald via e-mail at 760-449-4820 or via e-mail at bigmc@citlink.net. There is also more information on the group’s website at

Desert Area Resources and Training

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Briefly noted....

California Deer Association Fundraising banquet May 18: The Southern California Chapter of the California Deer Association will have its 17th annual fundraising banquet and auction beginning 5 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the San Bernardino Elk Lodge, 2055 Elks Dr., San Bernardino. The event will feature dinner, a live auction, silent auction, and general raffle. Dinner tickets start at $75. For more information, contact Mike Bouman at 909-841-7006 or go to caldeer.org.

Lake Perris boating fees go to $10: Boat use fees at Lake Perris State Recreation Area will jump from $8 to $10 per vessel beginning May 1, according to California State Parks. This fee is charged in addition to the day-use fee of $10 per vehicle. The fee increase puts Perris at the same pricing as other state parks in the region.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

50/50 Lake Trout Lotto
Daniel Colantuono, Hesperia: $143

Early Registration
Mark Blair, Victorville • $250

Bobber Bowl
30 winners, total of $3,200

Blind Bogey
60 winners, total of $3,000

Kayak
John Voightsberger, Bakersfield

Generator
Gilbert Montes, Lancaster
$500 cash prizes
Caren Griffin, Mountain Mesa; Mike Ellis, Costa Mesa

Blake Embree poses with his catch.
May is time for History Days, the Kern Valley Museum’s way of thanking the community for their support. So put on your best western duds and come on out and join the fun!

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., there will be marvelous Dutch oven cooks giving tastes, Native American crafts, demonstrations of butter churning and gold panning, and tractors on display in the field across from the Museum. There will be Museum tours and don’t miss the gift shop!

On Sunday, there will be live music at the Pack Station, at the Museum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It’s a great way to visit with all your friends!

The Museum is located at 49 Big Blue Road in Kernville.

For over 70 years, AltaOne has been a community partner of the Indian Wells Valley and Eastern Sierra regions. Our nine original members who started the credit union at China Lake, would be proud that their sense of community and family tradition exists after all these years.

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Plenty of powder remains in Mammoth

Spring might have arrived to the High Desert, but for those who would want to turn back the clock, a drive just a few hours north would do the trick.

Mammoth Mountain experienced a particularly heavy winter snow season — so heavy, in fact, that there is still plenty of riding and skiing going on today.

Mammoth received a total of 460 inches worth of snow. As of mid-April, the conditions at Mammoth Mountain are 135 inches of snow at the Main Lodge, 165 inches at McCoy Station, and 205 inches at The Summit. Through the month of April, the resort has tallied 10 inches of snow, 33 inches since the first day of Spring.
The 54th Kern River Festival returns to Kernville from April 27-28 at Riverside Park.

The festival begins on Friday, April 27, with event setup at Riverside Park. There is a Brush Creek Extreme Race, an extreme downriver race complete with waterfalls, slides, and a great granite amphitheater for viewing. The cost is $25 individual plus $5 ACA insurance. Registration for the race is on Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. A racer’s meeting is on Saturday at 11 in the Brush Creek Parking Lot; the race follows the meeting.

To get to Brush Creek from Kernville:
• Head northeast on Kernville Rd toward Big Blue Rd/Blue Rd 0.5 mi
• Turn left at County Rd 521/Sierra Way 3.2 mi
• Continue onto M-99 Destination will be on the left 15.7 mi

Wild and Scenic Triathlon
On Sunday morning, there will be the Kern River Festival Wild and Scenic Triathlon. Racers will meet at Riverside Park at 8:15 a.m; the race begins at 8:30 a.m. The triathlon features three different segments: the pedal, plod, and paddle.

• The pedal is an 8.2-mile journey from Riverkern Park to Wofford Heights and back. The turnaround is at Reel Cinema at the intersection of Wofford Heights Blvd. and Park Way. The course begins at the corner of Sirretta and Kernville Road.

• The plod is two miles from Riverside Park to KR3 Powerhouse.

• The paddle is two miles from KR3 Powerhouse to Riverside Park River Trail, also known as the “Lickety” Run. This trail is a Class II and III. Previously acquired whitewater skills are required. Classes include individual women or
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For questions or more information, call the China Lake Museum at 760-677-2866 or email at chinalakemuseumstoremanager@gmail.com.

The China Lake Museum Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Tax ID #77-0340083
First Friday Fun Fest will be celebrated at Tehachapi Treasure Trove, on Friday evening, May 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. The Treasure Trove will be featuring Karen’s Fiber Arts Supplies. Karen Stevens has recently acquired the Fiber Arts Supply area within the store. Join us to greet Karen, check out the supplies, enjoy food and wine and listen to music by Art Larson on clarinet.

Karen has been working with fiber arts for 65 years. She started learning knitting and crocheting from her Grandmother when she was 8 years old. She then learned embroidery, needle point, cross stitch and tatting on her own. For several years, Karen has been teaching fiber arts at the Treasure Trove. She primarily teaches crocheting and knitting but will teach the other fiber arts upon request.

With Dawn and Steve preparing to move to Alabama, Karen was excited by the opportunity to acquire the fiber arts consignment at the Treasure Trove. Since then, Karen has been busy rearranging the area, increasing yarn stock and filling in other holes. She has added additional stock for embroidery and counted cross stitch and increased the selection of knitting needles and crochet hooks.

Tehachapi Treasure Trove is located at 116 E Tehachapi Boulevard, right across the street from the water tower in Railroad Park. Hours are daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Be sure to stop by and see our collection of uncommonly eclectic and unusually unique stuff. Remember we also carry an extensive line of art and craft supplies and artist services along with books and music. For additional information on any of our activities, classes and events, please call 661-822-6794 or visit www.facebook.com/Tehachapi Treasure Trove. ✿
CALIFORNIA CITY — Another round of Hollywood came to California City, and this time out brought one fast filly to town. That being the professional auto racer, and driving instructor Stephanie Cemo of Cemo Racing. Cemo brought her custom-built racing Corvette to town for the Hollywood sound crew to record it going through the gears really, really fast.

If you’ve never heard of her, it’s because she’s so fast she passed right through the competition to establish herself in the world of racing in literally one weekend.

According to her website, Cemo is originally from Houston, Texas, and currently lives in Irvine, California. Since being a little girl, the love of motorsports has been in her blood and was kicked into high gear 10 years ago with a trip to the drag strip at Houston Raceway Park. This trip led to an eight-month love affair with drag racing until a friend of Cemo’s invited her to Texas World Speedway.
try on road racing. In a period of one weekend, Cemo moved through the ranks from the beginner to advanced group and was hooked. Two months later, she was asked to be a driving instructor at the track. After four years instructing at two tracks outside Houston, Cemo decided to move back West after 10 years of being back in her hometown.

In 2010, Cemo moved back to California and quickly felt the lure of the race tracks calling and decided her fourth Corvette would be a ZR1. Just about every weekend, you could find her participating in track days and Time Attack events to become more seasoned and achieve faster lap times. After putting in the time learning as many tracks she could get too, along with winning three Time Attack Series Championships in 2014, she decided it was time to try on wheel to wheel racing and added a 2009 purpose built Z06 race car to the mix. Currently, Cemo is competing in Global Time Attack and Redline Time Attack, and racing in SCCA GT2, NASA ST1 and Trans Am TA3.

Her accomplishments include:
2003: Skip Barber Race School – Laguna Seca | Finished 3rd in Class
2003: Driving Instructor | Texas World Speedway & MSR-H, Houston, Tx – 4 Years
2007: May Issue of Vette Magazine | Car: Modded 2004 C5 Z06
2008: May Issue of Corvette Fever | Car: Heavily Modded C6 Z06
2012: Inaugural Shift-S3ctor Airstrip Attack | 1st Place – Tuner Class
2012: BOOTH CAR – K&N Filters | SEMA – Las Vegas, NV
2012: Optima Street Car Challenge | Camera Car, Spring Mountain, Pahrump, NV
2012: BOOTH CAR – DynaPack | Performance Racing Industry Show (PRI) – Orlando, FL
2013: Global Time Attack ProAm | Buttonwillow Raceway Park – 2nd Place – UNLIMITED RWD
2013: Speed Ventures – Corvette Challenge Series Champion (10 races) | UNLIMITED
2014: MotoIQ Radio Show Guest with Joon Maeng, Kyle Mohan and Yukio Taira (March 5)

Stephanie Cemo and Jack, her French Bulldog, pose in front of her custom built racing Corvette at Cal City Airport.
Another view of Cemo’s car.

She brought along what she refers to as her kid, that being Jack, her French Bulldog who sits the racing out. Cemo took the day off from racing to bring her most recent monster pro-race 640 HP 2800 FPT custom built Corvette she bought in Florida from a “rich guy” who passed on to her the Excalibur she currently wields on the track blowing her male competitors off the track with. She stated that many of them do not take that well when she beats them on the track, most of whom only see the backside of her Vette as it goes by.

Cal City has quite a history of Hollywood coming to town for this very type of recording as Cal City is the closest place to Los Angeles where the recording teams can bring such cars and run them at the speeds they drive them in the films that people watch on Netflix daily now. To get that real sound of the cars, sound crews strap microphones to the back of these cars and record the actual exhaust sounds form them. To get the authentic sound the cars in the films make they must use the actual cars most of the time.

Back when Warner Bros/Appian Way films made the Ben Affleck 1920’s gangster themed film “Live by Night”, the sound recorders brought up actual 1920’s Ford Model A’s and ran them up and down the alternate runway at CCMA (Cal City Municipal Airport) and record the sounds for authenticity.

One never knows what exotic cars might be seen at CCMA on any given day other than the one man who makes it all happen and collects money for Cal City for it-CCMA Manager Robert King who has single handedly shepherded the Hollywood crowd and kept them coming back for more.

Back when Warner Bros/Appian Way films made the Ben Affleck 1920’s gangster themed film “Live by Night”, the sound recorders brought up actual 1920’s Ford Model A’s and ran them up and down the alternate runway at CCMA (Cal City Municipal Airport) and record the sounds for authenticity. When Furious 8 was being finished in post production, the actual custom built ‘Ice Charger’ was brought to Cal City to record the authentic sounds of it.

So, if you see some wildly exotic car flying up and down the runway at Cal City’s municipal airport while eating at Foxy’s Restaurant, you are likely looking at the latest Tinsel Town hot car to be on film.
Wherever life’s adventures take you...
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