**READY, SET, MUNCH**

Mammoth Taxeaters vote to place TOT hike on November, 2020 ballot

Come next November, Mammoth Lakes voters will hit the polls to vote on, among other things, the Presidency, State Assembly representative, and Paul Cook’s successor in the House of the Representatives. Also included on that loaded ballot: more taxes.

Mammoth’s Town Council voted on Wednesday to float a 1% increase to the current Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) in town, bringing TOT to 14% on its own, and 15% if TBID is included in that figure.

The decision to increase the tax was the result of a presentation by Town Manager Dan Holler on exploring “special” taxes that would generate revenue for a specified purpose. In this case, the funds would be designated for housing, something Holler referred to as “a pretty big nut in terms of the Parcel project.”

“The focus is not on how to fund a single project,” wrote Holler in his report, “but on creating a revenue stream to address a larger community need.”

“Special” taxes, as the name would indicate, have a different set of requirements for passage than a general tax. In the case of a general tax, voter approval required to pass the tax is a simple majority - but then, you have to trust your elected representatives to fulfill their promise as to how the funds will be designated. In the case of approving a special tax, like Measure R, voter approval would need to land at or over two-thirds - but elected representatives can’t go back later and decide to spend it on something else.

In addition, funds from special taxes must be placed into a separate account and the taxing agency must publish an annual report outlining the tax rate, revenue collected and expended, and the status of any project that the special tax funds are used for.

The proposed November 2020 voting date isn’t necessarily the fixed date, as special elections may be called for special taxes, with the Town of Mammoth Lakes footing the bill. Sponsoring an election and own a salon in Mammoth’s Town Council, “I think the movement to install pedestrian-friendly crosswalks along Highway 395 so that crossing Main Street in Inyo County doesn’t turn into a daily game of Frogger.

Never mind her key role as the DJ and lip-sync coordinator for Independence’s signature fruitcake festival, which will take place next weekend.

Davenport-Conway, 53, grew up in San Bernardino, and it was always a dream of hers to move to the Eastern Sierra and get involved in politics. But her path has included a long and successful detour to the Bay Area.

She moved to San Francisco in 1989, and opened a salon in 1997, expanding it from three to seventeen chairs, and then opening a second salon in Oakland, winning accolades along the way.

Her business experience makes her a difficult candidate to pigeonhole - she’s a bit of democrat/libertarian mix. And as she’s joked with some of her more conservative colleagues at the Civic Club, “I own a handgun, a 4WD vehicle and I eat beef.”
WHY CAN’T I LET IT GO?

So I’m in Palm Springs over Thanksgiving with my daughters and the eldest, who enjoys putting her father in the line of fire, breaks out pre-Christmas gifts prior to our heading out to see Frozen II.

The requirement was that we had to wear our new Frozen pajamas to the theater.

Which was fine. They were quite comfy.

But the movie ... Well, the kids liked it. Margaux thought there was more “action” than in the original. But (spoiler alert) I couldn’t get over the fact that they made one of the villains of the movie ... the dam. That’s right. A dam. Apparently, if you have a dam, there’s a pox upon the land, but if you blow it up, voila, nature flourishes and ecological balance is restored and reindeer prance happily in neverending circles of joy.

Of course, Elsa was there downstream to freeze the water with her magical powers before it engulfed and flooded the hamlet/country/kingdom of Arendelle - estimated population 327.

Just seems ironic that Hollywood screenwriters who rely upon dams and aqueducts for their water supply can write this stuff without choking on their own sanctimony.

I was fairly entertained by Hite’s coverage of the June Lake CAC meeting on page 5. Nice to know that this issue will be on the shelves when Mr. Gregory arrives this week for Night of Lights - it’ll make him feel like he never left.

I was not entertained by Page’s front page story regarding Mammoth Town Council’s plan to place a 1% TOT increase on the November, 2020 ballot. Not one peep from any elected official or town staffer as to why soaking the taxpayer/visitor isn’t a good idea. They’re all for more taxes. They believe the well is bottomless.

They don’t wish “to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.” That would be the marketing budget. Don’t touch that. The thinking seems to be that we can continue to dazzle them with pretty pictures and pickpocket them while they’re distracted. Maybe so. But I think we ignore the value equation at our own peril.

Increasing taxes is the easy way out. It’s the Kirk Stapp way out. Aw hell, if MLT wishes to tap that reserve, it has to petition the town and gain approval. The current deal is that any overage beyond 2.35% of the Town’s budgeted TOT revenue goes into a “joint reserve” held by the Town and MLT.

For any overage in TOT over the next four years.

I spoke to a Councilmember this week who supports a TOT increase because this person just doesn’t want to have one more tax increase which hits locals. Admirable, but … if I were a guest, I’d start to wonder how much Mammoth Lakes really cares about me.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism is super savvy. Last week, it executed a glorious public relations gambit in stating that MLT would not petition Town Council for any overage in TOT over the next four years.

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Arts, Culture and Mobility. We voted FOR these new taxes because they would raise over $2 million dollars each year. We voted for Measures R and U. Both new taxes are similar to sales tax. That proposal was estimated to generate $17.5 million over twenty years. Another possibility was the creation of a new type of tax altogether, a Lift Ticket (Admissions) Tax. Holler referenced areas like Breckenridge (4%), Vail (4.5%), and Santa Cruz (5%), which draw on admission and registration charges for attendance at events and activities. Crested Butte added 4% to any event that starts, finishes, or enters town limits. In the case of Mammoth Lakes, a potential lift tax would be applied to lift tickets and could generate $12.5 million over 20 years. This choice also came with a number of unknowns, including length of ski season, dynamics in the sport, competition, and the taxability of the IKON pass.

Prior to designating a means of collecting revenue with a special tax, the council first had to vote to approve a tax, a designation for that tax (housing) and a timeline, all of which were unanimously approved. Councilmember Kirk Stapp said that while he could support a TOT increase, "We also need to look at a lift tax." Stapp saw Mammoth Mountain's status as the biggest employer in the region as a key factor in the housing issue. He repeatedly referenced to the Mountain's decision to bus its employees to and from Bishop as a point of contention, citing environmental impacts along with the lack of affordable housing in town. Councilmember John Engen countered that the unknowns involved in a lift tax made it much more complicated to implement and regulate, noting additional reliability concerns.

Tom Hodges, Vice President of Mountain Development at Mammoth Mountain, took the podium to give his opinion and pushed for (shocker) focusing on the TOT as opposed to implementing a lift tax. Hodges pushed for laying out the needed amount of money along an implementation plan. He also urged council to "consider incremental TOT developments that will be generated by very large hotel developments."

Hodges referenced the Mammoth Hotel at the Sierra Center Mall and the Limelight project adjacent to the Westin as TOT boons, potentially bringing in an additional $1 million in TOT from each project. "We absolutely gotta get housing to the people," said Hodges. "We've got to support it." Wentworth agreed, "Housing in the destination world is a cost of business ... Aligning tax with TOT makes the best sense. It's a revenue stream that likely is going to be the most reliable." Wentworth expressed the view that a TOT increase would be "sellable to the community." "In order for us to be successful," said Wentworth, "we have to lean on the visitors coming up here.

Councilmember Cleland Hoff advocated for moving the special election to November 2022, with concern that the busy election cycle in 2020 could take attention away from the tax increase. "When there is a lot to vote about, it's not one of the issues that [voters] really think about. I think that could work against the town," said Hoff.

Other councilmembers pushed back, with Wentworth noting that "it'll be a very exciting election," with increased "enthusiasm for voting." Stapp cited an estimated need of 506 units by 2022 as reason to keep the tax increase on the ballot in 2020. "We need to get funding in place," said Stapp. "It's going to have a huge impact on our budget if we do this funding program." Mayor Bill Sauser closed out councilmember comments, noting that his problem was "with the Mountain itself and a distrust of things that they do and how they do business." If they decide they're gonna hose us and pull out of TBID, "continued Sauser, "We could be hosed far worse putting our dollars on than not."

In the event that the Mountain were to attempt to circumvent the special tax, "Boy, I'm more than ready to tax the ..." Sauser decided to stop himself there, leaving the end of that particular sentence to the imagination. He also cautioned the other councilmembers repeatedly that "this may come back to bite us."

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**R U Serious?**

Dear Editor,

About ten years ago, Mammoth Lakes voted for Measures R and U...both new taxes for us to pay. Together these taxes raise over $2 million dollars each year. We voted FOR these new taxes because they would raise over $2 million dollars each year. We voted for Measures R and U. Both new taxes are similar to sales tax. That proposal was estimated to generate $17.5 million over twenty years. Another possibility was the creation of a new type of tax altogether, a Lift Ticket (Admissions) Tax. Holler referenced areas like Breckenridge (4%), Vail (4.5%), and Santa Cruz (5%), which draw on admission and registration charges for attendance at events and activities. Crested Butte added 4% to any event that starts, finishes, or enters town limits. In the case of Mammoth Lakes, a potential lift tax would be applied to lift tickets and could generate $12.5 million over 20 years. This choice also came with a number of unknowns, including length of ski season, dynamics in the sport, competition, and the taxability of the IKON pass. Prior to designating a means of collecting revenue with a special tax, the council first had to vote to approve a tax, a designation for that tax (housing) and a timeline, all of which were unanimously approved. Councilmember Kirk Stapp said that while he could support a TOT increase, "We also need to look at a lift tax." Stapp saw Mammoth Mountain's status as the biggest employer in the region as a key factor in the housing issue. He repeatedly referenced to the Mountain’s decision to bus its employees to and from Bishop as a point of contention, citing environmental impacts along with the lack of affordable housing in town. Councilmember John Engen countered that the unknowns involved in a lift tax made it much more complicated to implement and regulate, noting additional reliability concerns.

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A Christmas Karell

Kirk Schaumbayer’s resignation from Mammoth Lakes Tourism earlier this fall left a position to fill on the Mammoth Lakes Tourism board as lodging representative. After initiating a call for letters of interest from members of the lodging association, MLT Chair John Morris received a single response - from Jess Karell, Sales and Events Manager at Sierra Nevada Resort. Morris interviewed Karell in person, and then recommended her approval to the board.

Morris explained that Karell was no stranger to MLT, as she’d worked with the Town in the past in coordinating FAM (familiarization) trips and traveled to trade shows on MLT’s behalf.

Karell will serve the remainder of Schaumbayer’s term, ending in June 2020, and then will be eligible for re-election by the lodging association.

Karell moved to Mammoth Lakes six years ago from Orange County, but has been coming to the area with her family since she was young. Karell has been at Sierra Nevada Resort and Spa for five and a half years as the Sales and Events Manager, a position responsible for driving sales, which, according to Karell, “also consists of selling the Town and the experience that Mammoth has to offer.”

Karell’s prior involvement with the Chamber of Commerce and MLT influenced her decision to put her name forward, as she “wanted to become more involved with the tourism and hospitality of the town as a whole.”

New MLT Board member Jess Karell

She described predecessor Kirk Schaumbayer as “a great friend and fantastic colleague to have,” noting that she had some big shoes to fill in succeeding him on the board.

Also on the docket Wednesday afternoon: Executive Director John Urdi’s monthly air service update, which revealed that the Federal Aviation administration (FAA) was near certain that Bishop would have the proper certification to operate its airport by October 2020. A key aspect of the process at this point centers on getting travelers up the grade to Mammoth, something that Urdi hopes to accomplish using coach travel between Mammoth Lakes and Bishop.

Mammoth Town Council representative Lynda Salcido jokingly recommended, “adult beverages for adults and separating kids to the back — get them away from mom and dad and entertain them.”

According to Urdi, MLT will be “working with a company out of Napa that can charge of snow removal at the tract, for a fraction of the price, so it seized the opportunity to do so.”

While Bishop is set to take over as the regional hub, the plan for Mammoth Yosemite is to transition the commercial terminal to a charter terminal while retaining the general passenger terminal. In addition, the Town of Mammoth Lakes is set to invest funds in an Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP), which Haislip Hayes, Town of Mammoth Lakes Engineering Manager, touched upon at Wednesday’s Town Council meeting.

Where’s my snowplow?

At its meeting Wednesday, the June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee also discussed snow removal, or lack thereof, in the Peteron Tract.

On December 1, during a snowstorm, community members who live on the Peteron tract were stranded in their homes. In an email to The Sheet, one resident claimed plows didn’t arrive until 9 p.m.

The outrage comes from the move by Mono County Public Works to take over the Peteron Tract snow removal effort by adding the area into one of its “zones of benefit.”

When the road was built, it was deemed not up to County standard, which is why it was always handled as a private jurisdiction handled by a contractor.

The County decided it could do the job for a fraction of the price, so it seized the Tract’s dedicated funding. Jason Small, a road supervisor in charge of snow removal at the tract, explained his operation, “I have four guys including myself. There are two allocated to June Lake and in the future I will have one at the Peterson Tract and one in Town. We start in Lee Vining and work our way down.”

The CAC asked Small what, if any, roads were priority for his team. Small responded, “The roads are classified on a 1-4 scale, and you can look at the Mono County snow priority website to see which roads are which.”

“And what classification is Peterson Tract?” asked committee member Sarah Holston.

“I believe it is class three because it is a cul-de-sac,” answered Small.

Some members of the June Lake Community believe that the Public Works snow removal team is “understaffed” and “under-equipped” leading to speculation that the funds are being mismanaged.

Mono Supervisor Bob Gardner addressed the path forward, “Everything is on the table. There are practicalities and legalities that we have to deal with. But if anyone has a better option, let’s hear it. Everything is on the table.”

The agenda item was allotted 20 minutes of conversation. A further public meeting to discuss the matter will be held on December 17 from 5-7 p.m. at the June Lake Community Center.
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S

million Americans who listen to it every

20% (Since 2014). There are around 121

that spoken word audio listening is up

In a conversation with the Sheet, Platt

how Americans consume media/news.

of the shift taking place in regards to

sudden people who have this particular,

He told Simmons, “With audio, all of a

version was outselling the hardcover.

books specifically, and Adler believes the

libraries.

Platt explained that the podcasts he

was referencing pertained to authors and

books and what makes them so impress
guests he had heard from all around the

world... "Our podcast is the broadest ... there

reasons but they all stay because the love

was people come here for a variety of

story short, Copeland never made it to

driver took her to Mammoth first. Long

Copeland was hitchhiking from Malibu

disabled Sports Eastern Sierra Executive

Eastern Sierra which influenced her mi-

research and information on the

migrate to the area. The other guest was

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra Executive

and Copeland never made it to

The adventure aspect of the podcast

Platt was trying to get across

was people come here for a variety of

Platt told the Sheet some of the goals for

“We wanted to showcase the environment we live in. It is a unique

area and the pushing literacy part is just a sub-agenda.” Then Adler chimed in,

“The adventure part is the hook.”

The adventure aspect of the podcast

brings a palpable familiarity. Whether

you have attempted to catch crawdads

like Adler or you have kayaked South

Lake like Platt, the journeys they em-

bark on force the listener to reminisce

on their own experiences in the Eastern

Sierra.

Despite their noticeable chemistry

and every other aspect mentioned in

this article, they were quick to praise

their podcast producer Doug Thornburg. “Shout-out to Doug, he is so good at

producing the show,” said Adler while

mentioning his ability to clip audio into

the show. “When the Mammoth High

Jazz band played at June Lake, he put a

portion of it into our podcast.”

So how’d they get started? Adler and

Platt had a shared love of reading, pod-
casts and adventuring which led them to

the idea of actually doing a podcast. But

Thornburg’s background in radio,

broadcasting and even some podcasting

gave them the ultimate assurance that

they could do it.

The Oxygen Starved Podcast operates

without ads, but the pair hope they can

generate enough weekly listeners to start

reaching out to local businesses who

might want to advertise through their

channel.

“The best thing people can do is to

listen and tell their friends. Ratings and

reviews is how you get more visibility,

and we want the audience feedback to

help our show,” said Adler.

The podcast can be found wherever

you listen to your podcasts. Reaching

out to Adler and Platt is encouraged as it

helps the show and they may even want

to have you on as a guest.
SHEET SURVEY

With Santa’s annual excursion upcoming ...

The Sheet asked people on the street: If Santa ever retired, who’d be the best person to take his place?

“Dave McCoy.”
- Austin Long

“Channing Tatum - I’d like to have him come down the chimney.”
- Marissa Vicari

“Myself.”
- Alex Stenzel

“Nick Offerman.”
- Alex Pina

“Benny Ryerson (local ski coach).”
- Carly Wood

“Richard: Myself. Son: Dad.”
- Richard and Colby Coats

“Dave McCoy.”
- Barbara King

“John Muir or Bernie Sanders.”
- Tyler Homen

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1708136
Local brewery changes both name and location

By Hite

Black Doubt is weeks away from moving to a new location and rebranding the brewery as “Distant Brewing.”

Co-owner Drew Wallace (the other co-owner is Kirk Wallace, Drew’s brother), reassured “Black Doubt” fans that this is just a name change. “We are rebranding partly because we needed a new LLC for the brewery. But we are bringing over the old system and will have a lot of the same recipes. It is basically two breweries now,” he told the Sheet in a conversation at the new site (in the former police station building flanked by Lynne’s Garden of Eat’n and the Sierra Design Studio).

The current location of Black Doubt is in the Sierra Center Mall occupying a 1,200-square foot unit next to Charros Taqueria. Wallace said it was officially a nano-brewery due to the size and the small batches they make allowing them to experiment with a variety of flavors. They currently serve some of these unique concoctions such as ‘Peanut Butter Cinnamon Imperial Stout,’ or the ‘Buried: Coconut Porter’ which uses fresh coffee from ‘Black Velvet.’

Drew grew up in San Diego and moved here in creating ‘Distant Brewing.’ He moved here late 2018 and spent the first couple months living in an RV before settling into a place with his fiance. Kirk claimed it was the right decision, “I like the town, it is a lot smaller than San Diego. But I like how in a small town you recognize people on the street. And it is really nice to be able to walk/ride everywhere because nothing is more than five minutes away.”

Drew expressed similar feelings. “I like this town even though it is small. The snow can be hard but everything outside is free and fun.”

In regard to the name change, Drew told The Sheet, “We are far out. People on vacation travel a long way to get here and we have far out beer for distant people.”

Assistant Brewer Zach Petersen, hired this year in preparation for transition to the new location, told the Sheet why he wanted to work for Distant. “They always seemed to have something crazy and new on tap and I wanted to know how they came up with that. The new location has 27 taps to fill. We already have our staples but that many taps lets us get real weird with it to keep our list full. Super stoked to see what we come up with.”

The new space triples the occupancy of the old location, 30 people to 90 (and 3,777-square feet), and allows the brewery to highlight what it thinks is important. “We are going to focus on music and art. We will have two pool tables that we will host tournaments at and we will continue our usual Monday night karaoke that we have been doing since 2015. The space will allow us to focus on bands and art that people can showcase,” said Drew.

Another change is the new location will have food available to patrons. The menu isn’t finalized but Kirk said, “We will have flatbread pizzas and grilled cheese options.”

The Wallace brothers couldn’t confirm an official opening date but mentioned it should be open in the next 2-3 weeks. For updates on the grand opening, food items, and the latest small batch recipes, readers can check out their new website: www.distantbeer.com
Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Mono County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Dec. 19, 2019, on the Board of Supervisors, Mono County Courthouse, Bridgeport, CA, to consider the following:

1:05 p.m. VARIANCE 19-011 Stump Plot

Request to construct two new, single-family residences on a 1.249 square feet (sf), or 14.8% of the total 8,401.5 sf lot area. An exemption from the Monterey County Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is proposed for the project.

Notice of Cancellation

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Notice is hereby given that the regular meeting of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Governing Board scheduled for January 2, 2020 has been cancelled.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Mono County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Dec. 19, 2019, on the Board of Supervisors, Mono County Courthouse, Bridgeport, CA, to consider the following:

1:05 p.m. VARIANCE 19-011 Stump Plot

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**BARS & MUSIC**

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill.
Happy hour 3-6 p.m. 1/2 off wings on Monday. More info: See ad p. 3.

Outlaw Saloon Happy Hour Mon.-Fri.,
Happy Hour from 4-6 p.m.

Morrison’s Happy Hour 5-6 p.m.
Sunday through Thursday in the bar.
More info: See ad p. 7.

Mammoth Rock ’N Bowl
Mon. DJ 9:00 p.m. Thurs. DJ 10 p.m.
Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour: 4-7 p.m.
daily. $6 dollar menu items, drink specials. Info: See ad p. 2.

Pete’s happy hour. 5-7 p.m. Signature cocktails, special menu. See ad p. 3.

Roberto’s Happy Hour: 4-6 p.m. daily.
The Public House Local Mondays (all local beers $5 a pint). Karaoke Tuesdays @ 8-1. Priced Wine Wednesdays, Open Mic Thursdays.

Famous Slocums Happy Hour
Weekdays: 4-6 p.m. Saturday 4-5:30 p.m.
More info: See ad p. 5.

T-Bar Social Club in June Lake.
Entertainment virtually every night.

Giovanni’s Happy Hour daily 4-6 p.m.
Lg. pizza & pitcher of beer = free wings.

Shelter Distilling Open 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Daily Happy Hour: 3-5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday/Half Off All Drinks Info: See ad p. 7.

Side Door Café & Wine Bar
Happy Hour: 3-4 p.m. daily
Sunday Football: Happy Hour all day.

The Mogul happy hour 5:30-6:30 p.m.
in the bar with food and drink specials.

Bleu Daily Happy Hour 5-6 p.m.
$5 Beer, Wine and Small Plates.

Devils Creek Distillery tasting room hours.
3-6 p.m. weekends. Location: Industrial Park, 123 Commerce Dr.

53 Kitchen & Cocktails happy hour Friday-Sunday. Time: 2-4 p.m.

Black Velvet Coffee happy hour 4-6, Wine tastings on Wednesdays.

Rafter’s daily happy hour 4-6 p.m. All night happy hour on Thursday.

Jimmy’s Taverna 1/2 off select bottles on Wine Wednesday. 4-6 p.m. Happy hour every day 4-6 p.m. with special menu at the bar.

Lakanuki happy hour 3-6 p.m. daily.
Mammoth Tavern Happy hour 4-5:30 p.m.
Half off draft beer, well drinks and wine. App specials

Friday, December 6/
Pato Banton plays the T-Bar Social Club.
Grammy-nominated reggae musician from England. Time: 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 8/
Catch all the NFL action @ Liberty.
Clocktower, Gomez in Mammoth and the Palate in Chase in Bishop
Open Mic Night @ Sky Bar. Time: 7 p.m.

Monday, December 9/
Monday Night Football @ Liberty Bar.
1/2 off wings and extended happy hour 3-8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 10/
Team trivia at Mammoth Brewing Co. Time: 7 p.m.

Karaoke @ Public House. 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 11/
In the Biz Wednesdays @ Mammoth Rock ’N Bowl.
$1 games and $1 shoes after 9 p.m.

Thursday, December 12/
Open Mic Night @ Public House. 8 p.m.
1/2 off wing night and extended happy hour for TNF @ Liberty.

**TOWN STUFF**

Saturday, December 7/
Cardinal Village Tree Sale and Christmas Fun @ Cardinal Village Resort.
Stop by to pick up a freshly cut pine tree for Christmas, with free ice skating and a visit from Santa (Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sunday: 2-5 p.m.)

Info: see sidebar pg. 13.

Unbound Series #2: Rail Jam @ Mammoth Mountain Main Park. Spend the day as a spectator or sign-up to compete, with a chance to qualify for USAFA championships. Head down to the Village afterwards for an appearance from Santa and Woolly. Time: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Registration/info: https://www.mammothmountain.com/

**MAMMOTH LIQUOR**

Beer lovers’ candy store
Selection of more than 300 beers
MESSAGE FROM YOUR FRIDGE:
DON’T IMPEACH BEER

(760) 934-6260
Main St. Next to Rick’s

**TOWN STUFF**

December 6-8/
Mammoth Outdoor Winter Classic @ Town of Mammoth Lakes Ice Rink. Support youth hockey. Round robin tournaments. Start time: 12 p.m. each day.

Sierra Classic Theatre and Mammoth Lakes Children’s Theatre present an original play ”Juvie at Sea” written by Middle and HS students. Fri. and Sat. at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.
Location: Edison Theater in Mammoth.
Cost: $5. Reservations req’d at sct@ sierraclassictheatre.org

Friday, December 6/
Backcountry Film Festival @ Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. Hosted by Friends of the Inyo. Popcorn, beer, and wine will be on sale, with a raffle featuring prizes donated by supporters, local businesses, and corporate sponsors. Time: 5-9 p.m. Cost: $15.

Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony @ Pioneer Home Health, Bishop. A $10 donation lights a bulb in honor of a loved one and benefits the hospice. Time: 5:30-7 p.m.

December 7-8/
Cardinal Village Tree Sale and Christmas Fun @ Cardinal Village Resort.
Stop by to pick up a freshly cut pine tree for Christmas, with free ice skating and a visit from Santa (Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sunday: 2-5 p.m.)

Info: see sidebar pg. 13.

**INTERIOR DESIGN & AFFORDABLE REMODELING**

Sierra Design Studio
590 Old Mammoth Rd. • 760-934-4122
Mammoth Lakes CA • sierradesignstudio.com

Call for FEE CONSULTATION
Robin Stuter - Designer
Working with local contractors since 1970.

**OWNERS/BROKERS**

Eric Olson
LIC # 078348
LIC # 0189200
info@MammothInsurance.com
625 Old Mammoth Rd, Mammoth Lakes, MammothInsurance.com

CALL 760-934-2200

**MAMMOTH TUNNELS**

**GYM**

**MAMMOTH COMMUNITY CENTER**

**SCHOOLDAY**

**8311 E. SIERRA CLASSIC THEATRE ROAD**

**POLO PLUS**

**VILLAGE**

**SIERRA CLASSIC THEATRE**

**CRACKER BARREL**

**KIDDIE CAFE**

**THE SHEET Saturday, December 7, 2019**

www.thesheetnews.com

**NEWSPAPER OF THE EASTERN SIERRA**

**ADVERTISING SALES**

**YOUR AD HERE MAKES YOU $$$!**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADVERTISERS!**

**dentinelocal.com**

**www.creativemammoth.com**

**TOWN STUFF**

Saturday, December 7/
Santa Mile @ Main Street, Bishop. 1 mile walk/run right before the parade. Hosted by the Rotary Club, all proceeds go to Polio Plus. Time: 3:45 p.m.

Street of Lights Celebration @ Bishop.
Parade starts 4:30 p.m. on Main Street at High Country Lumber and ends at the Park. Downtown shops open until 9 p.m. Music, refreshments, lighting fires, that Claus couple and fun!

Community Tree Trimming @ June Lake Community Center. Come by to pitch in and decorate the center’s tree. Sponsored by the June Lake Loop Women’s Club. Time: 7 p.m.

Alabama Hills Natural History Interpretive Hike: “These Alabama Hills Are Alive” Meet at Eastern Sierra Visitor Center. Explore the mysteries hidden within the Hills. Moderately strenuous hike with occasional steep sections of trail. Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Info: call Dave Kirk at 760.872.5000 or Molly Trasunt at 760.872.1209.

Topah Spoonhunter Talk at Manzanar.
Artist Topah Spoonhunter discusses his work. Location: Edison Theater in Mammoth.
Cost: $5. Reservations req’d at sct@ sierraclassictheatre.org
**Harassment Prevention Training**

What: Harassment Prevention Training for Employees, Supervisors, Managers, and Owners with Attorney Carrie M. Shields


Visit ESDDInstitute.com for company member discounts and to register.

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**White Out Extravaganza**

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra is hosting its annual Whiteout Extravaganza on Saturday, December 7. The Extravaganza includes a silent auction, live music from Afterparty, a dinner, and a wine grab; white attire encouraged.

Tickets can be purchased at online from Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra website, the DSES office, or at the Second Chance Thrift Store.

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**Cardinal Village Christmas Festival**

Cardinal Village is hosting its 5th annual Christmas Festival this holiday season. The festival kicks off Thanksgiving Weekend and is open to the public.

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**One Man Christmas Carol**

Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre presents: “A Christmas Carol: The One Man Play”, adapted by Gus Kreiger and running from December 20 to 29. Watch one actor perform every role from this beloved holiday classic. From Tiny Tim to the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. Tickets are available online or at the box office and are sure to go quick, so get yours ASAP to catch this special holiday show.

Topah Spoonhunter will be discussing his newest gallery exhibition at the Manzanar Historical Site this Saturday at 11 a.m. Spoonhunter is an enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe and grew up on the Big Pine Paiute Reservation in Big Pine, California. With a formal education in business, his professional career has included work for non-profit organizations, local government, and various tribal governments. He is a self-taught artist and designer who is always looking for new challenges. His pieces explore themes of Indigenous in Payahútíniñdi (The Land of Flowing Water), what is known today as the Owens Valley. The exhibit will run through January 31, 2020. Free and open to the public.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Beyond the movies**

**Upstage Down Decorated**

The historic Upstage Down House has been decorated for the holidays, in upside-down fashion, an annual tradition of the Mono Basin Historical Society. Peeking in the cabin windows reveals even more topsy-turvy seasonal surprises. The famous Upstage Down House was created in 1956 by Nellie Bly O’Bryan, along US-395 north of the Tioga Lodge. It was inspired by a children’s story—“Upstage Down Land”. After Nellie died in 1984, the house fell into disrepair until it was rescued and moved to the Mono Basin History Museum grounds in Hess Park, in Lee Vining, in 2000. The history museum is closed for the winter, but historic equipment on the grounds is always available for viewing. Donations to the non-profit Society can be dropped into an upside-down donation box (a small replica of the larger house).

**Other Events**

**Fifth Annual Winter Bazaar**

With Unbound students performing music favorites, including Chamber Music, Bach, Mozart, and more. The Felici Piano Trio’s annual fundraising party, Champagne & Classics, will take place this year on Saturday, December 7th. Always a treat, Champagne & Classics fundraiser in the Village at Mammoth. 5-8 p.m. Four locations: Lakanuki, Grotto, Shelter, Clocktower. $40 buys you three cocktails & food. Eastern Sierra Council of Governments meets. Time: 8:30 a.m. Location: Bishop City Council Chambers. Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra holiday concert at St. Joseph’s Church in Mammoth. Time: 7 p.m. Enjoy a free program of classical and holiday favorites, including Chamber Music Unbound students performing music from the movie, “Frozen.”

**Children’s Wellness 101: Preschool Topics @ Inyo Office of Education, Bishop. Join Charlotte Helive, MD, FAAP, for a discussion focused on preschoolers. Open to the public, child care offered with advanced notice.**

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**Monday, December 9/ Tuesday, December 10**

**Tri-County Fair Board meets**

**Mammoth Lakes System**

**Full Moon Snowshoe Tour**

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**Mammoth Lakes Trail System meeting. Time: 5 p.m. Location: Mammoth Lakes Library, Tri-County Fair Board meets. Time: Noon. Location: Fairgrounds Patio Bldg.**

**Friday, December 13/ Saturday, December 14**

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Help Wanted

Town of Mammoth Lakes

Open Positions
Temporary Snow Removal Operators
$23.76 - $27.50/hr
Ice Rink Staff
$12.60 - $14.59/hr
Assistant Site Coordinator – Ice Rink
$13.60 - $15/hr

Vacancy is full-time and part-time hours available for the winter months. For more information and to apply, visit townofmammothlakes.ca.gov, or call (760) 965-3604

Mammoth Taxi is accepting experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for a person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-964-7433. www.mammoth-taxi.com.

Mammoth Lakes Foundation is seeking an Office Manager - who represents the initial point of contact for communications into and out of the Mammoth Lakes Foundation, with primary responsibility for guest services and acting as a liaison to MLB Directors. For more information, please visit www.MammothLakesFoundation.org and click on APPX.

Vacancy is hiring full and part-time housekeepers in June Lake with pay starting at $14.00 - $15.00/hr. Apply at vacasa.com.

Tonik is seeking PT/FT help. Fun place to work! Call us if you’re interested in a good and fast-paced job. Stop by the store on Old Mammoth Road for an application. 760-924-7727

City of Bishop is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Finance Director, a mid-management position reporting to the City Administrator that will assist in the planning, organization, and management of the Finance Department; assist with the preparation of the City’s annual budget; perform responsible technical accounting and budget work in the preparation of financial statements and the preparation of accounting records and financial transactions; research and development of revenue; perform analysis of the City’s financial statements and audits; and perform a wide variety of responsible work in benefits administration and other related duties as required. Prior experience with public agency desired. Generous benefit package includes health, dental, vision, vacation and retirement benefits. The salary is currently fixed at $7,389 per month. A detailed job description and application forms are available online at cityofbishop.com or by calling 760-873-3643. The deadline for applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2020. EOE.

Come work where you play, in the beautiful Owens Valley! We are looking for a Lead Bookkeeper. This position needs YOU! We have an immediate opening for a versatile, energetic team member to join our team! Please email your resume to res@email.com

Alpenhof Lodge is accepting applications for winter employment. We are looking for full and part-time team members for year round and seasonal positions. Applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. Day and evening front desk shifts, housekeeping and maintenance shifts are available. Please apply in person at 6083 Minaret Rd, Mammoth Lakes Foundation is seeking a Finance Director. For more information, please visit www.mammothlakesfoundation.org and click on APPX.

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DEENA continued from page 1

When pressed about how her business experience influences her politics, Davenport-Conway said, “I’m very community-oriented, very people-oriented, but it [running a business for so long] may make me more fiscally conserva-
tive because I’ve worked so hard and pay a lot of taxes.”

And she also believes the foundation of a community resides in the health of its businesses.

“The reason I was able to buy my house for $199,000 isn’t necessarily a good thing,” she said, pointing to the empty storefronts along Highway 395 in Independence.

“There are four perfectly good store-
fronts in Independence that are rotting away,” she says. At the very least, she adds, a conversation has to be initiated with LADWP to see if L.A. will release certain properties into private ownership.

On most issues, she is pragmatic and mainstream. She is very supportive of the development of Bishop Airport. On mining issues, she leans toward the Friends of the Inyo positions. “We’ve punched enough holes in our beauti-
ful mountains,” she says. “Giant mining sounds like a nightmare.”

She was also against the various pumped storage projects proposed this year.

What makes Davenport-Conway’s candidacy unique is that she’s a rela-
tive newcomer, and as she (and all of us) observe, there’s a lot of influx in the area. “People are moving here in droves. And they have a lot of energy. There are three new businesses in Big Pine. Young families are coming, tech people, et. al.”

Davenport-Conway is about harnessing that energy, inspiring people and learning new things along the way.

“The day you stop doing that [learning new things] is the day you start doing tasks and it becomes work.”

And it really all wouldn’t have hap-
pened without Gunner, whom Daven-
port-Conway met in 2011.

“She was in beauty school with my assistant, who kinda set it up,” explains Davenport-Conway (Gunner is a Conway-Davenport).

The couple were on their honeymoon in 2013 when they made a detour be-
cause Gunner simply said, “I’d rather be in Big Pine Creek.”

They then visited here every week for the next year as a test, before purchas-
ing a home in 2014.

Gunner shares the Cobwebs space with Deena’s salon, where she houses her Indy Coffee Roasting Company.

Davenport-Conway’s foes in the District Four race include Donald Keith Bright, Jennifer Roeser and former two-term Supervisor Carroll “Butch” Hambleton, who served from 1997-2005.

LUNCH continued from page 2

approval by council vote.

So ... accessing that money is and was a huge pain in the ass. Because it was like trying to get your wife to co-sign on a $60,000 truck, or like trying to get your husband to co-sign on thirty goats.

You could have all the reasons in the world why you needed that truck, and you could even whine that you put the damn money in the bank in the first place so you DESERVED that truck.

But no wifey signature, no truck. Yeah, it was joint money, but MLT couldn’t just go to the bank and get it, so MLT saying it would forego the joint reserve over the next four years was like a guy telling a bank teller he decided not make a withdrawal after all because, you know, he doesn’t really want the truck after all. Which we all know is BS. A beautiful, big, bold, empty gesture.

Meant to protect MLT from an even more sinister suggestion - that maybe, just maybe, you can market this little town more efficiently - and put the sav-
ings into housing. And not raise taxes.

Question: Is the Golden Goose the marketing department, or the guest?

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