MAMMOTH LAKES (PLUS ONE) TOURISM?
MLT contemplates changing bylaws, adding non-resident to board
By Page

With Scott McGuire departing his position as an at-large member on the Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board, that same board took up the question of who will be McGuire’s replacement at MLT’s board meeting Wednesday.

Two individuals have expressed interest and applied for the seat, Barbara Maynard, Owner of ActNowStrategies and Pat Foster, President of Hot Creek Aviation.

MLT’s nominating committee, consisting of Chair John Morris, Secretary Jeremy Goico, and Treasurer Rhonda Duggan, put forth their thoughts on the candidate list, with Morris and Goico supporting Foster, while Duggan supported Maynard.

Duggan’s logic for supporting Maynard rested in a) her ideas and prior board experience and b) MLT bylaws that dictate that this specific at large seat be filled by a resident of ‘the Mammoth Lakes area’ and hold a business license in Mammoth Lakes.

Under Duggan’s interpretation, the bylaws make Foster ineligible for the seat.

For Morris and Goico, the feeling was that Foster’s longevity in the community, attendance at MLT meetings, and Foster’s connections to air service and Bishop make him a potentially valuable asset to the board.

In regard to Duggan’s concerns about the bylaws, Goico and Morris believe the see MLT, page 20

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS - PART II

Early on in Mono County Finance Director Janet’s Dutcher FY2020-2021 budget presentation at Tuesday’s Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting, she put an ominous slide on the screen. In large bold letters at the top: “It is imperative that Mono County adopt a structurally balanced General Fund Budget”, and below in red: “The fiscal modeling we present today predicts the General Fund carryover is ZERO by June 30, 2021. Future budget deficits, if they continue, must be financed from economic stabilization and general reserve balances, and other sources.”

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the county had planned to cut deficits by approximately half in the FY2020-2021 budget, from $3 million to around $1.2 million. The economic downturn resulting from the pandemic created resource losses for the county to the tune of $1,234,000.

At the beginning of FY 2019-2020, the county’s general fund contained $6,481,000. Approximately $2,138,000 of those funds are not available for spending by the county, as that amount has been previously earmarked for line items such as advances to the Solid Waste Fund, Community Development Block Grants and the new Jail Project. The combined deficit from the FY2019-2020 budget, $1,919,000, and the projected $2,424,000 deficit from FY2021-2021 will leave the General Fund carryover at a fat zero if changes aren’t made.

That doesn’t mean the county is entirely out of money. By June 30, 2021, Dutcher estimated that, between funds in the General Reserve (restricted to certain emergencies) and Economic Stabilization Fund (no-strings-attached funding), the county will have $5,375,000 in reserves remaining.

Based off of that estimate, the county will run out of money in 3.2 years come the end of June, 2020.

The number of moving parts that comprise the county’s budget are too numerous COVIDONOMICS, page 9

Saturday, June 6, 2020 FREE Vol. 18, No. 23

ICE-CAPADES

Husky Seniors

ART OF THE DEAL

PERSONALS PROTEST

STAYING POSITIVE

P. 6/
P. 21-23/
P. 20/
P. 17/
P. 14/

While there was an attempt to cancel Tuesday’s Black Lives Matter protest in Bishop, young activists went forward anyway, with cries of “Black Lives Matter!” and “I Can’t Breathe!” For more photos from Gayla Wolf and Jack Lunch, see pages 10-11.
AND OH WHAT HITES WE’LL HIT ...

Strange as it sounds, there can be a benefit to lousy reporting.

First, Mammoth Mountain Vice-President Eric Clark’s excerpted remarks at Wednesday’s Mammoth Lakes Tourism board meeting:

“I wanted to comment on an article in the paper as it was related to the TBIDness. In that article, it gave a perception that Alterra/ Mammoth Mountain Wednesday’s Mammoth Lakes Tourism board meeting:

... So the way Urdi left it with Clark was: let’s not redirect money within the budget to accommodate your request. Let’s just throw money into the budget - ostensibly from reserves.

But in a fairly stunning rebuke, board members McGuire (Urdi must be tickled pink McGuire is leaving the board. Too smart and asks too many questions), Duggan and Salcido rejected Urdi’s request that the Chamber of Commerce be funded out of reserves, which leads one to believe they won’t be keen on funding Clark’s proposals out of reserves either.

Point is, Urdi’s got too many fronts right now, and not enough munitions. No more $8 million war chest. Real choices required. Efficiency required.

And the most logical retreat and repositioning would be as follows.

Create a true in-house marketing department, repurposing the local talent you have at your disposal (Maybe Clark is right. You don’t need to send Mike Vanderhurst to Pyeongchang when Philadelphia might do. And maybe in the Covid age you don’t send him at all, but his new territory becomes the good ol’ USA). Have Marketing Director Gebo negotiate the ad placements with Facebook and Google. Reach out to talented local designers and artists and filmmakers to create some content when appropriate.

Be nimble.

You got the palpable sense on Wednesday that Urdi wishes to resume all his old tried-and-true strategies as soon as possible. And the playbook the passengers, if the Red’s Meadow shuttle is canceled, if there is no Whitmore pool, no summer camps ... But the last thing a marketing organization wants to see happen is the town fill up without being able to take full credit for it. So trust me, there will be a marketing campaign.

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Dump the uber-expensive Sacramento ad agency run by the buddy you attend World Series games with.

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Be nimble.

You got the palpable sense on Wednesday that Urdi wishes to resume all his old tried-and-true strategies as soon as possible. And that the playbook will not change. Eras end, Mr. Urdi. Time to buckle up and channel your inner Bill Belichick.
Welcome Back to All of Our Friends!

Hiking, Fishing, Dining, Boating - Fun In the Sun

Mask Up, Social Distance and Stay Safe!

PH: 760-934-3800   www.convictlake.com

This institution is an equal-opportunity provider. This program is operated under special use permit with the Inyo National Forest.
B is for ... brilliant

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the Mono County Board of Supervisors for choosing the well-thought out Option B moving forward during this tough time. After all the phone calls pushing for an early opening, I felt the rest of us in Mammoth and Mono County were not being heard. I am greatly relieved that you are continuing to stay the course and proceeding with caution and care. Dr. Boo and the EOC have been working incredibly hard, using their many years of knowledge and expertise, to keep us safe during this pandemic and I for one greatly appreciate all they have done.

Margaret Wahl
Mammoth Lakes

Cage-free

Dear Editor,

Not all support for re-opening more quickly is coming from frustrated and angry business owners in Mono County. I am not one of those people, yet support a quicker re-opening than public health officials want to do. I have four close friends and relatives who got COVID-19 and recovered and know through my personal and business associations about half a dozen more. I believe Governor Newsom and Mono County Public Health Officer Dr. Boo’s public policy relative to the known science about this virus is wrong. Flat out wrong. I think their continuing support of extensive “shelter in place” hinders low risk, healthy people from getting exposed to the virus and fighting it off with their own natural healthy immune systems and thus developing active immunity to the virus. That needs to happen extensively in our low risk population to get the entire population closer to herd immunity, which will ultimately be how we “beat” this virus. This should be happening during a year of time when the risk of other normal seasonal infections like influenza and rhinoviruses are at their lowest. Like now...

They haven’t said it this way, but I suspect the public health authorities will be keeping mitigation measures in place until an effective vaccine is available and the vast majority of the high-risk populations have gotten it.

But no one will be able to force people to get a vaccine once one is available. (I know I won’t be getting one. I never want to be the guinea pig for a new medication rushed to market.) So how will our populace develop herd immunity most quickly and effectively? By healthy people getting exposed to the virus and fighting it off.

Remember, a vaccine only gives a person passive immunity, not active immunity like being exposed to the virus and fighting it off does. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) even says that active immunity is better than passive immunity in fighting off infections like the novel coronavirus. Most experts think we will have to get to about 80% population immunity to be able to develop an effective herd immunity to COVID-19. The quicker we can take the risk of COVID-19 infection out of our population, the further we get from risk of death and the faster we get out of public health mitigation measures.

The key metric public health officials should be monitoring is not how many cases develop, but how many hospitalizations we get in our healthcare system. We should actually want more infections to happen. We should want courageous people to risk getting the disease, but not so many that our healthcare system gets overloaded.

Frankly, it seems to me that we save lives overall by shortening the calendar time the virus is still dangerous to us. In my opinion, our public health officials should be supportive of low-risk people circulating around in society so they can get exposed and fight it off. We’ve already proven that big shutdowns can be effective in limiting the spread if it gets bad, so if our healthcare system starts to get overwhelmed, we can shut things down again to put the brakes on. Whether we re-open slowly or quickly, high risk people will have to behave the same as they have all along in this pandemic. Changing the public policy direction on shelter in place should not change how high risk people behave. They should be super defensive and self-protective and stay away from high risk exposure circumstances. That won’t change until we have great confidence that herd immunity has taken hold in the overall population. Re-opening more quickly could mean the difference between governmental mitigations being around for 24 months rather than 36 months.

Kathleen Cage
Mammoth Lakes

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

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Margaret Wahl
Mammoth Lakes

U.S. Forest Circus

Dear Editor:

We are now into the month of June, and the GATE into the Lakes Basin is still not open. All of the lakes, except Twin Lakes, are inaccessible, except by foot/helicopter. Why? The local Circus office will say that the road is not open, because it is doing “tree work.” Yet, there is “road work” being done at South Lake above Bishop, and still traffic is being allowed to access that lake by means of simple “traffic control.” Therefore, the excuse of “tree work” is clearly a pathetic one. With only a 63% snowfall season, and ALL of the snow on the roads being melted, snow is not an issue.

Why has the Mammoth Lakes Basin become such a black sheep with the local Circus office? Access to June Lake, Gull, Silver and Grant Lake is ALL open. Down south, just a few miles away, the South Lake Basin, including South Lake, Lake Sabrina (which has been open since April) and North Lake is ALL “open” and has been open for several months.

Kathleen Cage
Mammoth Lakes
LETTERS

continued from page 4

weeks now. These lakes are at the same elevation, get the same amount of snowfall, have a similar number of visitors, etc. In the old days, the Lakes Basin was open ASAP, with snow banks along the roadways throughout the Basin. It was a part of the High Sierra experience. Not anymore. Each summer, the Circus has some new reason to delay opening the Lakes Basin. Again, Why?

So, locals and visitors are being kept from using "OUR" Public Lands and recreational resource, because of INCOMPETENCE at the local Forest Circus office. This office is not responsible to anyone locally. They feel pressure from no one to do their job. And their insensitivity, both recreationally and economically, to our small community is glaring. This is truly an outrage.

But, hopefully, the fact that today, the Circus is not respected by a great majority of citizens, will give them some sleepless nights and guilt them into getting the Lakes Basin gate/road open NOW.

John Eastman
Mammoth Lakes

Suspend TBID

Mr. Mayor,

With visitors still not welcome in the community, and the lodging ban extended through June, I would request that council place forbearance on TBID collection until such ban is lifted because all business is locally-based right now. It would be the right thing to do during this pandemic.

For clarification, we should notify the business community to not collect/remit TBID until this tourism ban is lifted. I don’t want it to sound as if businesses are looking to collect and not pay, which is not the message.

Michael Raimondo
Mammoth Lakes

Thanks to the Bank

Dear Editor:

Next week will be the 4th month that the Mammoth Food Bank, in conjunction with Mammoth Lakes Tourism, has been dispensing food. We (along with two of our three daughters Cayla and Carly) have had the pleasure of working with many dedicated volunteers as we serve those community members in need. We have been “front row” observers, witnessing Mammoth’s huge need.

Up to 75% of our population was living paycheck to paycheck prior to the Pandemic. And people who had been working two and three jobs are now reduced to one job or no employment.

We are so thankful that the Mammoth Lakes Tourism organization stepped up and organized one of the best food banks in the Sierras. Every day that we have had the opportunity to work at the food bank, we encounter very thankful people, who may otherwise have to choose what meals they may need to skip, or explaining to their children that “there is not much food today.”

We have also been told that the Food Bank is enabling people to stay in town rather than leaving for “greener pastures.” Most of the the folks receiving this food are the employees and “life-blood” to the community’s businesses.

Many of the people we serve Food Bank packages to are our friends and co-workers and we are humbled to be able to provide hope and camaraderie in the notion that we are all in this together. Thank you to those who have volunteered time and/or donated funds and food to the Food Bank. We also would be remiss in not thanking Mammoth Lakes Tourism for jumped in and taking charge so quickly.

Marc and Lou Margulies
Mammoth Lakes

Don’t line to me

Dear Editor:

Today, I passed by a couple of Mammoth Lakes Police Dept. cars and noticed they both had "Thin Blue Line" stickers on the back. It stuck with me in an uneasy way, so I looked it up when I got home. Here is the first Google hit:

“During the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville in 2017, the thin blue line flag was used by white nationalist groups to symbolize support for police and opposition to the Black Lives Matter movement.” (Wikipedia)

This is a racist symbol.

Regardless of their intention, that symbol should not be on our town’s police cars. Those cars are public property and should NOT have any political symbols. Even if our law enforcement put those stickers on their cars as a sign they support law enforcement, that is akin to liking your own Instagram post. Of course the person driving a cop car supports law enforcement.

From MLPD’s mission statement: “The Mammoth Lakes Police Department’s mission is to provide quality law enforcement services, while building partnerships to prevent crime, maintain public trust and enhance the quality of life throughout town. We are a full service law enforcement agency and responsive to the community’s needs, using both traditional and non-traditional police methods. We hold ourselves to the highest ethical and professional standards of conduct, always treating people with dignity, fairness and respect.” (https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/823/ Mission-Goals)

I would like to think that we would never have a police officer murder a black man in our town. Take the sticker off and check yourselves.

Ryan Carey
Mammoth Lakes

The Sheet called Police Chief Al Davis, who gave the following response to the placement of the stickers was allowed. They’re stickers showing an American flag with a blue line in it. No one’s complained ‘til now. The blue line is meant to represent that line between anarchy and freedom. Doesn’t necessarily mean we have anything to do with that (nationalist) group.

He then corrected himself. Some of the cars have just a thin blue line versus the line through a flag. But it “still represents the same thing,” said Davis.

$399/month

Dear Editor:

Just an FYI from someone with almost 30 years of self storage experience which is irrelevant. A recent call to Mammoth Mt. Self Storage revealed that a drive-in 12 x 24 garage suitable for a car/motorcycle is $399/month. In case MLT decides to charge its Executive Director back rent for storage.

Allen Brown
Mammoth Lakes

Wretched act

To the Editor,

The news that the Mammoth Lakes Foundation has jettisoned Shira Dubrover is wretched. This woman has championed theatre and the arts since she first got to town. She’s never waivered. Between theater and film, and her active support and knowledge, her contribution to the arts in Mammoth Lakes has been substantial. Terrible behavior on the part of the Executive Committee of the Foundation. Even worse is their withdrawal of support for the arts in Mammoth Lakes, which is certainly what it sounds like when you consider they’ve long had a dual mission of higher education AND arts and culture.

I’m so saddened. Given the Foundation’s likely abandonment of the MACC performing arts center, it seems like it’s throwing the arts under the bus.

Diane Eagle Kataoka
Mammoth Lakes

LETTERS

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Diane Eagle Kataoka
Mammoth Lakes
The Town of Mammoth Lakes finally discussed the bids it received for the proposed multi-use facility (MUF) at its regular meeting Wednesday. The MUF or CRC (Community Recreation Center if you’re into rebranding) would feature an ice rink in winter that can be repurposed into communal space and recreational programming in the summers. The saga of the MUF has been Odysseyian in scale, stretching more than a decade.

Council has “hard-capped” the price tag for this project at $13 million. A majority of the funding would come from sources (like Measure U) that are set aside specifically for recreation purposes (like Measure U) that are set aside specifically for recreation purposes (like Measure U) that are set aside specifically for recreation purposes (like Measure U) that are set aside specifically for recreation purposes.

Preconstruction and design cost will about $1.3 million and buying the Sprung Structure, chillers, and ice rink boards adds another $3.3 million.

“A sprung structure is a huge, extremely durable tent. Similar to the tents at Eagle Lodge and the Mammoth Airport,” said Commissioner Sean Turner.

Four bids came in ranging from $11.8-$12.5 million. With fixed costs at approximately $5 million, the price tag easily exceeded the $13 million cap.

“Obviously the [Recreation] Commission is very disappointed with this bid outcome. To say the least it is quite disheartening,” said Betsy Truax, Recreation Commission Chair, at Wednesday’s Town Council meeting. At the Recreation Commission meeting on June 2, the sentiment by Truax was shared by her fellow board members. “I’ll just say this is very frustrating. And I know we are going to hear about it from the public,” said Commissioner Sean Turner.

“I’m not real thrilled that we are at this place again,” said Commissioner Laurel Martin while maintaining a desire to move forward towards rebidding.

Which is the next step according to TOML Engineering Manager Haislip Hayes. “The recommendation we have to reject the four bids we have received and to authorize staff to rebid the project with modification,” Hayes said at Wednesday Council meeting. “When we asked the contractors if we could get this under budget, we received an overwhelming ‘yes’.”

Town Staff believes it can get the rebids to a lower amount. Hayes gave a brief explanation of what this would likely mean for the MUF but didn’t want to commit to a list of amenities that will be scrapped from the design proposal.

The second floor community space and the infrastructure to support the second floor has something that will be removed from the future design proposal. Those two things alone contributed in excess of $2 million to the cost according to Hayes.

“The expensive finishes’ as described by Hayes is another item likely to be removed as it costs ‘100s of thousands of dollars.’ Same with the office spaces, the kitchen spaces, and the concession spaces. Hayes did mention that they will, “still stuff these areas with utilities,” just in case they want to add things to the project later. But, no second floor.

Hayes added: “The time to rebid the contract is now. Those numbers will hold true for a certain amount of time. Because of all of the uncertainty, construction costs are down."

Council was nearly split when it came to final discussion and action. “I’m confident that if we rebid, [the MUF] will satisfy the original idea of doing this project. Some bells and whistles will be lacking,” said Councilman John Wentworth, “The much more significant thing for me, at this point, is the stimulus and economic activity in our local economy. I would be willing to build an ark if we could get $2-3 million more dollars and precious jobs in our local economy."

The staff report laid out the estimated benefit. “[The MUF] would at a minimum return $3 to $4 million to the local economy.”

Additionally Hayes mentioned that all bids are required to display subcontractors in their bid. The subcontractors were between 5-67% locally sourced. Discouraging on the low end but for a multi-million dollar project that is more than 50% locally sourced, this was slightly encouraging.

Hayes noted that up to 50% of the budget for this project could be labor costs under a prevailing wage. Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Salcido was also convinced by Hayes. “Much of what Councilman Wentworth said were things that have also been on my mind. Initially, I thought we would need to put this on the side. What I thought about a lot though was the rebuilding process in this current environment. What is the better time to rebid than this right now. Based on that alone, I think it is worthwhile to go through with this.”

“At this time, yes, let’s go out for another bid,” said Councilman Kirk Stapp. “But I still think the conversation has to be a little bit bigger as to our future revenues [what will operating margins look like].”

Hay was not as gung ho, “I can tell which way the wind is blowing. Does it really matter what I say at this point? I’ve heard a lot about the future and what this is going to do. I see a really great future for Mammoth and this is not it.”

Mayor Bill Sauser simply said, “I want to look beyond the economic impact. I think emotionally for the townspeople, who have been shut off for three months, to see that we are still able to move forward gives us hope for the future.”

With that, Sauser called a motion. Wentworth made the motion. Sauser seconded it. The motion passed 3-2 with ‘no’ votes from Hoff and Stapp.

There were two letters in the Council packet, pro and con, regarding the MUF/CRC.

The pro side came from the Cole family (Colleen, Jay and Devon).

“Nothing fundamentally has changed. Let’s not lose sight of the value and importance of a community recreation center. Devon (our daughter) and I have witnessed first hand our community in action. We have been volunteering at the food bank with familiar faces and have seen the impact of the MUF/CRC.

Devon (our daughter) and I have witnessed first hand our community in action. We have been volunteering at the food bank with familiar faces and have seen the impact of the MUF/CRC."

The con side was expressed by long-time MUF/CRC critic Sharon Clark.

“The CRC Staff Report is a bit confusing. It appears that Staff is recommending that you authorize a third bid for a scaled back project eliminating some segments within the building. What are we left with... an Olympic rink in a shell? For 5 years, 3 Town Council members and Staff have made a valiant effort and have spent $1.8 million planning a new ice rink facility. It’s become obvious we simply do not have enough Measure M money to build the facility we truly want. Now, Covid-19 dictates it’s time to be very creative, think outside the box, ask tough questions and make very conservative financial decisions.

Awhile back, Staff said our existing ice rink was inadequate and that we should not complete Phase II, i.e., adding the roof. We were told the rink had an uneven surface, was not designed to support a roof, needed major repairs and “estimates” to repair the facility would be too high. Yet, in 2015, the town tried to purchase the MUSD land on which this same “faulty” ice rink sits! Has the ice rink really deteriorated so much in a few years? Why has no one requested an actual estimate to build Phase II? Before destroying our $2.5 million investment in the existing site, shouldn’t we be certain it’s too expensive to be completed? It would be fiscally irresponsible not to get a genuine estimate. Please ask these important questions.”
**WHAT’S THE OPEN DOOR POLICY?**
Hoff asks about consequences of opening town in defiance of state

By Hite

**C**leland Hoff sparked an interesting discussion at Wednesday’s Mammoth Town Council meeting with just one question. “If we do open up sooner than the governor’s orders,” she asked, “What does that mean?”

“I feel that, that is a great question,” replied Town Attorney Andrew Morris, “We have seen other counties take different approaches... Some counties have simply said ‘we know what the rules are and we don’t care.’ That feels a little weird to me.”

But then Morris acknowledged that opening before the governors orders is a possibility. “A different approach is to not overtly go against the state. Just kind of decide what is going to be an enforcement priority. It is hard to say what the Town or County might do. The rules are changing almost every day.”

This was the rest of Council weighed in. Kirk Stapp simply suggested that we make sure we have the ability to accommodate people.

Cage, Director on the Board. “This approach allows us to legally and equitably represent our constituencies and small businesses. Some of the results of these programs will offer grants of up to $5,000 to small businesses. The selection committee, composed of members of the Planning and Economic Development Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, Mono County Economic Development and Town Staff, will help determine the need of a business and amount of money to be given.

**MCWD reduces bills**

On May 21, the Mammoth Community Water District Board of Directors voted unanimously to reduce water bills for all customers for three months in response to economic hardship created by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

MCWD customers will see a 25% reduction in their water and wastewater base rates on their May, June, and July bills.

Customers can further reduce their bill by practicing conservation and eliminating any water waste.

“We recognize for some customers it is a small token, but the District wants to support our community,” stated Tom Cage, Director on the Board. “This approach allows us to legally and equitably provide some relief to all of our rate payers, while still encouraging conservation of our local water resource.”

Approximately $300,000 of financial assistance will be provided to the community through the rate reduction. The District is also offering payment plans for customers experiencing financial hardship and has a robust rebate program available to support customer conservation efforts.

“if we were to end our short-term rental ban in Town, we still need to remind people that there is a state order,” said Mayor Bill Sauser. “However, I would suggest we not enforce it ourselves because it becomes an untenable position. Let the State enforce it. But not against us. Against the lodging partners who would then be renting illegally.”

Sauzer then mentioned that the Forest Service has the authority to open anything it would like. The decisions are made on a local level.

“The other thing everybody is asking us to open. We cannot tell people they can open. That is State mandated. We can only tell people, that there is no local ordinance stopping you from opening. If we decide to get to that point, Sauzer kept on firing. “At some point it becomes impossible for us to represent our constituencies and [record on tape] the inconsistencies coming out of the State. At some point I believe we are going to have to make our decision, even if the State doesn’t, to end our short-term rental ban on a local level,” Councilman John Wentworth agreed. Council then urged Town Staff to put action items on the agenda so it can make a decision, about whatever opening dates it wants, on a moment’s notice.

**Other notes:**

Council received an update on The Parcel. Town Staff is meeting with The Pacific Companies, the development partner for the project, on a bi-weekly basis. The next step is a series of technical studies revealing different environmental impacts. By May/June, Staff will have some information on grant awards. And by July a drafted agreement with Pacific will be presented to Council.

In mid-April, Mono County Economic Development branch ran a survey of small businesses. Some of the results are as follows: “The respondents to this survey were overwhelmingly small businesses with 84% of the respondents reporting that they had less than 10 part time employees. 92% of businesses reported that they are operating at reduced revenue levels with 50% not receiving any revenue at this time.

Only 2.6% of businesses were operating at normal/anticipated revenues.

Five businesses had already closed their doors permanently.

38% of businesses respondents said that they have less than a month remaining if the current economic conditions persist”

Other municipalities have started a small business fund loan to help constituents. Based on these programs, Town Council directed staff to set up one of these programs to be brought back for final approval on June 17. The program will offer grants of up to $5,000 to small businesses. The selection committee, composed of members of the Planning and Economic Development Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, Mono County Economic Development and Town Staff, will help determine the need of a business and amount of money to be given.

Total program funding contemplated: $300,000.

**LOCAL BRIEFS**

MCWD’s front Administration Office is open to the public (as of Monday, May 11): All customers must check in at the Administration Building’s front desk and will be directed accordingly.

**Charges:**

*Felony reckless driving*

*Failing to yield to an emergency vehicle*

*No driver license*

*Speeding over 100 MPH*

*Speeding in a construction zone*

**MCWD reduces bills**

On May 21, the Mammoth Community Water District Board of Directors voted unanimously to reduce water bills for all customers for three months in response to economic hardship created by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

MCWD customers will see a 25% reduction in their water and wastewater base rates on their May, June, and July bills.

Customers can further reduce their bill by practicing conservation and eliminating any water waste.

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**LOCAL BRIEFS**

MCWD’s front Administration Office is open to the public (as of Monday, May 11): All customers must check in at the Administration Building’s front desk and will be directed accordingly.

**Bill Pay:** Customers are still encouraged to utilize electronic bill payment: https://mcwd.dst.ca.us/payment-options

**Experiencing Financial Hardship?**

Contact the District’s Finance Department at 760-934-2596.

**Disinfecting Wipes:** Please DO NOT flush disinfecting wipes, this includes wipes labeled ‘flushable’. Wipes do not wipe labels. Wipes do not break down and cause clogs in pipes, leading to sewer backups and overflows.

**High speed chase**

The Mono County Sheriff’s Office was involved in a high-speed pursuit on June 1.

The pursuit began south of Lee Vining, at approximately 8 a.m. when a Nissan Altima sped past a deputy at a very high rate of speed in excess of 100 miles per hour. The chase came to an end outside of Hawthorne, Nev., where Mineral County deputies deployed spike strips.

The driver, later identified as Robert Williams, was arrested by Mineral County deputies.

**IMPROVE MONO COUNTY GOVERNMENT! APPLY FOR THE 2020-2021 GRAND JURY TODAY**

The Superior Court of California, County of Mono, is recruiting applicants interested in serving on the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury is composed of citizens from Mono County seated from July to June, annually. Grand Jurors are charged with local government oversight through investigations, addressing concerns, and making suggestions for improvements.

**Mono County needs your participation.**

Members are reimbursed for trainings, meetings, and travel. The group decides amongst itself the best meeting times and locations.

Committees operate the same way. The Court is equipped to facilitate virtual meetings. The time commitment is not huge, but the responsibilities are serious.

“The honor of being selected and serving on the 2018 - 2019 Mono County Grand Jury has been just that, an honor,” stated Richard Sanfilippo, former Mono County Grand Jury Member.

“Step up and say yes to serving on our Grand Jury! You have my word you will see it as an honor too!”

The Court is requesting all applications to be submitted by June 12th, 2020.

For more information on the Mono County Civil Grand Jury, including past final reports, and an application to serve, please visit:
http://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/generalinfo/jury-grandjury.html or Call Danielle Bauman, Executive Assistant at (760) 923-2321
ANOTHER LETTER

12 years of woe

Dear Editor:

I am writing this after 12 years of frustration with the local Postal Office. Although I am not moving fingers at any one individual, I personally find the Mammoth Lakes Postal office often times very inefficient and illogical.

Take for example the PO Box issue: their rules state “only one PO Box per address.” And when you fill out the paperwork for a PO Box, you must show proof of residency at a physical address in Mammoth. The Post Office then attributes this physical address where you are residing to the PO Box number they supply you with.

Because the Post Office associates each PO Box with a physical address in town — they assume, and so therefore only offer, one PO Box per home/apartment/condo. This is under the same assumption/correlation that if they were to actually deliver mail to your home mailbox — you can only have one mailbox per home.

This works — until you have to move to a new home, condo, apartment in Mammoth. Where someone already lives and already has a PO Box. Which is most often the case here in Mammoth. Because we relocate to new homes often.

Take for example my dilemma. I relocated from an apartment to a home, sharing this home with someone that already lived there. And this home already had one PO Box associated with this address/home.

This leaves me, a middle-aged professional in town with an established business and a 12 year old PO Box, in a dilemma in order to continue to receive mail from the US Postal Service. In order to continue to receive this mail I must:

1. End the use of my PO Box because I moved my home to another home on another street STILL in Mammoth
2. Share the PO Box with my new roommates — using their home’s PO Box, causing me to redesign, update and reprint all my business Marketing pieces— business card, ads, websites, etc.
3. Pay a $56 annual fee in order to keep my current PO box of 12 years...

after much discussion. The Post Office claims it is “not because they don’t have enough boxes for all of the residents. But because each house only gets one mailbox.”

I have no issue with a fee... as long as it makes logical sense (new people pay for the first 2 years?). However, to ask a local of over a decade, to begin paying for postal services just because they moved where they sleep from one location to another in Mammoth... what does that have to do with a PO Box?

Why can’t the PO Box stay static and not move when we see OUR COMPANY — the people— have a right to ask for postal services just because they relocated from an apartment to a home, and this move relocate to another in Mammoth... what does that have to do with a PO Box?

I understand this is backwards from the US Postal ‘structure and policy.’ But it is the way in which our town operates. I KNOW I am not the only resident with this issue.

And I don’t expect anything to change or to become more efficient overnight.

Not until more of us stand up and ask for rules to be altered to accommodate our town’s ‘special circumstances’ around Mammoth’s unique housing issues.

The Postal Service is a ‘for and by the people’ Government organization. We — the people — have a right to ask for change when we see OUR COMPANY — per se — not being run efficiently/logically for our needs.

So I am asking each one of us to take note of the local Postal rules that are illogical. Rules than can and should be altered to accommodate us— Mammoth residents.

Let’s create a more efficient community moving forward. By expecting — and asking — for our expectations. Rather than settling for less.

Remember it takes a community.... To make change.

Jul Ann Sprunger
Mammoth Lakes
Mammoth Community Water District’s past fiscal year, April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 was filled with notable changes and achievements. The annual report discusses long-term efforts to provide redundancy for the community’s groundwater supply, improvements made to our water and wastewater systems, as well as conservation efforts on many fronts. All of these accomplishments were made possible by the support of our Board of Directors, ratepayers and a very talented and knowledgeable District staff. As General Manager, I look forward to working with staff and our stakeholders towards common goals while continuing to build relationships within our community. Looking to the future, our goal is to continue to innovate and improve the District’s water and wastewater systems while maintaining strategic planning efforts and initiatives that reflect our commitment to delivering the highest quality water and reliable services to our customers for the present and future.

Mark Busby, General Manager

Visit https://mcwd.dst.ca.us for the full Annual Report.

Highlighted Projects
- Groundwater Development – Well 32
- Sewer Lining and Water Line Maintenance
- Grit Removal at Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) Replacement
- Lakes Basin Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
- Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Preparation
- Conservation Program and Finance Overviews

MCWD Quick Facts
Date of Formation: August 5, 1957
Number of Connections: 3,600
Population Served: 8,200 – 37,500
Miles of Water Lines: 80
Miles of Sewer Lines: 75
Water Sources: Surface, Ground, Recycled
Surface Water Source: Lake Mary
Ground Water Source: 9 Production Wells
Service Area: 5.8 Square Miles
Recycled Water for Reuse: 37,000,000 Gallons in 2019
Solar Array: 1 Megawatt Solar Array

Mission Statement: The Mammoth Community Water District is committed to carefully and effectively managing and maintaining our local water resources. We are committed to our customers and the environment in which we live.
More than one hundred people staged a protest on the sidewalk outside Bishop City Park along Highway 395 on Tuesday morning to support Black Lives Matter. Luke Kinney initially organized the protest, but then called it off on Monday night after he had received threats that violence may occur if the protest went forward. It went forward anyway, largely due to a vocal contingent of Bishop-area students. A Mammoth-based protest is being contemplated for this Saturday in the Village at Mammoth at 1 pm.

Photos by Gayla Wolf and Jack Lunch
OBITUARY

THADDEUS TAYLOR 1946-2020

In 1969, at the height of the Vietnam War, Thaddeus Warsaw Taylor III graduated from Arizona State University and joined the Army.

Assigned to the Military Intelligence Corps, Counterintelligence Special Agent, he was stationed primarily in the Republic of Korea.

“Think of James Bond on a budget,” he would say, a reference to his wheeled travel carry-all filled with American cigarettes and bourbon, used to coax subjects for information.

Four years later, a Captain with two commendations, Thaddeus was honorably discharged. He went to work at Dean Witter in the Bay Area as a stockbroker, where he met his wife, Marie. They married in 1976 and three years later, moved to Bishop where Thaddeus started the Dean Witter office.

They settled in 40 Acres at the home they called Fort Taylor, and raised their children, Dan and Sarah.

An avid outdoorsman and fly-fisherman, he became the Inyo County manager for California Trout. In 1985, he was appointed to the Inyo County Water Commission and helped negotiate the 1991 long-term water agreement between Inyo County and City of Los Angeles. He pushed to include the Lower Owens River restoration project.

Greg James, former Inyo County Counsel and Water Department Director recalled, “Thaddeus was particularly forceful when one of LADWP’s negotiators claimed, ‘It’s our land and our water and we can do what we want with it.’ He never hesitated to call ‘BS’ even if the claim was made by the Mayor of Los Angeles ...

“He could be outrageous when expressing his opinions—occasionally causing all in the negotiating room to roll their eyes—but it was done in the service of seeking to protect the valley. He was an extraordinarily valuable team member and a very forceful negotiator who always sought to protect the Owens Valley from LADWP’s groundwater pumping, water exports and other water activities. He donated a huge amount of time and energy to the County and its citizens. We owe him a debt of gratitude.”

Thaddeus served as Chairman of the Inyo County Republican Party, twice, from 1996 to 2005 and 2007 to 2016. Ron Nehring, former Chairman of the California Republican Party, said, “Thaddeus Taylor was one of those Republican leaders I could call on for ideas and advice. He wasn’t the leader of the most populous county, or of some faction whose votes I needed, but he carried a lifetime of wisdom and insight upon which I frequently called.”

Two years ago, Thaddeus suffered a stroke. Never fully regaining the ability to walk, he continued to work and write: “Inyo County should continue to be an island of civility in California. We should have government officials who are responsive to its citizens and ever mindful of their responsibilities. Our water resources should be protected and beautiful environment enhanced because that is what brought us here and gives us strength.”

Before sunrise on May 19, 2020, at the age of 74, Thaddeus Taylor died at Fort Taylor, in the place he loved.

Thaddeus with Henry Kissinger.

Thaddeus Taylor receiving one of his many assignments.
Economics is considered a science, but it is concerned with variable human behavior, past and future, and complicated by a great number of variations of economic systems.

Unlike physics or biology or chemistry, it has no single or dominant set of rules or laws which all its practitioners follow, but rather, it includes a number of competing maxims and theories, many of which contradict each other.

Further complicating the practice and understanding of economics is its role in partisan politics where the veneer of expertise is often employed for more ideological than scientific goals.

We have, for some time, lived in an age in which “experts” are regarded as dispositive. But experts often disagree among themselves robustly, particularly about the future.

This has been made clearer than ever by the current pandemic crisis. Many medical experts were routinely wrong about its immediate impact when they tried to contrive models. Some were more useful by setting down varying scenarios.

Everyone, of course, was guessing.

With the current stage of the pandemic beginning to diminish, the economic experts are stepping up with pronouncements --- mostly of already irreversible dire consequences of the business shutdowns.

A few contrarian economists, however, are suggesting that if the nation’s commerce reopens now, there will be a quick rebound. (The current stock market rally appears to agree with the latter.)

Of course, if the economy is shut down long enough, it will collapse. (It is worth pointing out that for many retail businesses a huge percentage of their annual revenue is received in the holiday shopping season between Thanksgiving and Christmas.)

In any event, a carefully managed reopening now designed with consideration for the health and safety of the public is likely to restore jobs lost in the shutdown --- and restore much consumer confidence and resources.

The full extent of any economic damage will not be known until 2021, although some businesses have closed or will close permanently, precipitated in many cases by the shutdowns. Small businesses, as I have written previously, are particularly vulnerable. It must be remembered, however, that in a free market economy, individual businesses fail all the time, including during boom periods.

Stimulus payments to individuals and companies can be necessary and helpful in the short-term, but beyond that, restoring jobs and re-employment is the key to any real recovery.

In the intermediate and perhaps longer term, the conditions of the workplace might be changed, especially for white collar office jobs.

Returning to “normal” will not, in many cases, be returning to jobs just as they were. In some cases, the emergency will provoke innovation or improvement --- just as often happens during and after wars.

Economics can be a useful subject and practice. We need talented and thoughtful economists.

The truest economic experts will now take U.S. ingenuity and optimistic spirit into their forecasts. That’s not exactly scientific either, but it is what has happened at critical moments time and again for 244 years and counting...

Barry Casselman is a syndicated columnist who has been covering national politics since 1972. You can find more of his work at www.barrycasselman.com.
I was thinking of getting one, since I tested positive for the virus and its antibodies. The thing is, it would make me feel like a fake.

I'm at body would produce the antibodies that it would be a perfect person to donate plasma antibodies that could be used to help save others. But you call us and make the request. We won't call you again. "We think there's lots of folks like you out there," I was told by a health district staffer. It was the first thing I'd heard about the coronavirus that actually made sense.

This disease, the COVID-19 pandemic, obviously isn't nearly as scary for most of us as it's been made out to be. Many of us won't even notice we have it. Some of us apparently can't even get it if we share a bed, or a hug, or a bag of chips with someone who has it.

I've stopped watching the news and reading the fear-filled op/eds and social media posts about COVID-19. All I read about it now are the studies and the stories of hope. Maybe I'm just one of the lucky ones. Maybe, probably, most of us are.

I am technically a COVID survivor, and if you're reading this and you're still fighting to make the most out of your life, then you are, too.
A new store or “Tiendita” opened in the Main Street Promenade two weeks ago next to Mountain Sol Yoga. What’s for sale? A little bit of everything. Pictured: Amy and Amadela Perez with mother (and owner) Patricia Dominguez

NEW BUSINESS

THE NEW AIRBNB

The wild west prevails when it comes to dispersed camping. This spot just below Convict Lake Drive certainly has nice views.

FIRST CHAIR

FIRST CHAIR IS STILL OPEN!
FIRST CHAIR IS STILL IN THE FOOTLOOSE PARKING LOT!
FIRST CHAIR IS STILL THE BEST GRAB-N-GO FOOD IN TOWN!

HAVE YOU STILL not tried us?!

BREAKFAST

BREAKFAST BURRITO
Eggs, Mayan pork, potatoes, salsa, cilantro, cheddar, caramelized onions

LUNCH

SANDWICH OR BOWL
BÁNH MI
Hanoi chicken OR Hoisin pork... With pickled carrots & onions, fresh cucumber, jalapeños, cilantro, sriracha aioli

GRILLED TRI-TIP
Tri-tip, pesto aioli, arugula, caramelized onions, balsamic glaze

POKE SALAD
Ahi tuna, arugula, cucumber, carrots, pickled onions, ginger, wasabi, sriracha aioli, cilantro, sesame seeds

GYRO
Beef & lamb, cucumber, pickled onions, tomato, arugula, tzatziki sauce, pita

BBQ CHICKEN QUESADILLA
Chicken, cheddar cheese, BBQ sauce, cilantro

HOT DOG
Cheese, grilled onions, jalapeños, mustard, ketchup, relish

DRINKS, WATER, COFFEE, BROWNIES

8 - 3 DAILY
MENTION THIS AD FOR A FREE BAG OF CHIPS WITH YOUR NEXT MEAL!
Give your home the protection it deserves.

Dave R. Easterby, Agent
Insurance Lic#: 0H65719
437 Old Mammoth Road Suite J
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Bus: 760-934-7575

Your home is where you make some of your best memories, and that’s worth protecting.
I’m here to help.
LET’S TALK TODAY.

*Newsflash*
State Farm is now offering homeowners insurance without restriction in Mammoth Lakes and June Lake.
Call today for a quote.

We are moving! Effective Dec 30th 2019.
See our new location at 629 Old Mammoth Rd.

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyd's, Richardson, TX

STATEFARM

MAMMOTH REAL ESTATE

Hometown Strength, National Clout.
MammothRealEstate.com

Contact our expert Team of Agents:
(760) 934-2562 local
(800) 266-6966 toll free
3293 Main Street
(Next to Schat's Bakery)

Award Winning Office
Celebrating 43 Years of Real Estate Service

EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

SHELTER DISTILLING
Small Batch Craft Distillery, Brewery & Kitchen

Free Local Delivery In Mammoth Lakes On Bottles, Canned Cocktails & Canned Beer.

Place An Order Online Before 2pm & We will Deliver Between 3pm-5pm Everyday!

MADE IN MAMMOTH LAKES, CA
100 Canyon Blvd In The Village At Mammoth // SHELTERDISTILLING.COM
Mammoth Spa Creations is looking for an additional member for its team. We currently have an immediate opening for a spa Maintenance Technician position, as well as an opening for an Office Assistant position. There are also openings for seasonal positions. Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd., Mammoth. Mammoth outdoor-related retail businesses are seeking an individual with desire and experience to pursue several upcoming grant opportunities. USDA Rural Facilities Grant, CIL, and Proposition 183 monies are available as well as housekeeping positions. Please apply by telephone at 760-934-8372 or via email at vacasa employment@vacasa.com.

Vacasa is fulling and part-time housekeepers in Mammoth Lakes/Lake with pay starting at $18/hour. Apply at vacasa.com/careers.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for office staff for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-914-7433. www.mammothtaxi.com.

White Mountain Fire Protection District is in need of a Grant Writer to assist in preparing of grant applications and fiscal oversight of LF ESP and SIER. To apply, please send a resume and letter of interest to Jamie Gray, Town Clerk, 5001 Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Dated: May 29, 2020. mammothlakes.ca.gov.

The Alpenshof Lodge is accepting applications for full-time & part-time year round and seasonal positions. Applicants must be available to work weekends and holidays. Front desk, day and evening positions are available as well as housekeeping positions. Please apply in person at 6080 Minaret Rd., Mammoth. Mammoth outdoor-related retail business seeks year-round, full time store manager. Basic computer skills i.e., Word, Excel, etc. required. Salary negotiable based on experience and what applicant brings to the table. Call 760-914-1746.

For Sale

2006 Subaru Forester. 150,000 mi., for sale, Bishop/Mammoth. Recent timing belt, AC, windshield, front fair iast good, 3596 OBI, 626.893.3025

For Sale by Owner: rarely available Bigwood Condo, 2BD, 2BA, T.V., DVD, has 1-car garage, deck, ski locker, recent upgrades, close to pool/spa. $265,000. Call Jake: 760.914.1877.

For Rent

2 BDR/1 BA unfurnished ML apt. Ground floor. Huge kitchen. Deck. No garage - two car max. Backs to green belt. $1,750/mo.

Vacasa has full and part-time housekeepers in Mammoth Lakes/Lake with pay starting at $18/hour. Apply at vacasa.com/careers.

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For Sale

2006 Subaru Forester. 150,000 mi., for sale, Bishop/Mammoth. Recent timing belt, AC, windshield, front fair iast good, 3596 OBI, 626.893.3025

For Sale by Owner: rarely available Bigwood Condo, 2BD, 2BA, T.V., DVD, has 1-car garage, deck, ski locker, recent upgrades, close to pool/spa. $265,000. Call Jake: 760.914.1877.

For Rent

2 BDR/1 BA unfurnished ML apt. Ground floor. Huge kitchen. Deck. No garage - two car max. Backs to green belt. $1,750/mo.

Vacasa has full and part-time housekeepers in Mammoth Lakes/Lake with pay starting at $18/hour. Apply at vacasa.com/careers.

Mammoth Taxi is accepting resumes for experienced drivers with great customer service and clean driving records. We are also looking for office staff for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. Please inquire with Scottie at 760-914-7433. www.mammothtaxi.com.

White Mountain Fire Protection District is in need of a Grant Writer to assist in preparing of grant applications and fiscal oversight of LF ESP and SIER. To apply, please send a resume and letter of interest to Jamie Gray, Town Clerk, 5001 Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Dated: May 29, 2020. mammothlakes.ca.gov.
Notice of Public Hearing

EASTERN SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

As required by Education Codes 42120, 42127, and 52522, the Eastern Sierra Unified School District will hold a public hearing to solicit public comment on the 2020-2021 proposed Budget of the District, prior to final adoption.

The meeting will be held at a Special Board Meeting on June 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting. Details for the Zoom Meeting will be released with the Board agenda on June 10, 2020 and any interested party may apply for permits to conduct transient rentals subject to certain conditions and with a possible cap on the total number of rentals that may be approved.

If approved, all Highlands properties will be eligible to apply for permits to conduct transient rentals subject to certain conditions and with a possible cap on the total number of rentals that may be approved.

The Budget can be inspected by the public beginning on the 2020-2021 proposed Budget at their regular board meetings on June 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and June 23, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Notice of Vacancies

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COM- MISION AND RECREATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning and Economic Development Commission (LAFCO) will hold a Special Meeting and conduct a public hearing on June 23, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget. For more information, contact Melissa Bell at 760-932-5480 or mbell@monocounty.gov.

If approved, all Highlands properties will be eligible to apply for permits to conduct transient rentals subject to certain conditions and with a possible cap on the total number of rentals that may be approved.

The Budget can be inspected by the public beginning on June 22, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. and June 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Melissa Bell at 760-932-5480 or mbell@monocounty.gov.
**Calendar of Events**

**TOWN STUFF**

Friday, June 5/ Special Graduation Cruise In Bishop. 6:45-8 p.m. Main Street, Bishop.

Saturday, June 6/ Black Lives Matter protest. Village at Mammoth plaza. 1 p.m.

Monday, June 8/ FREE COVID-19 testing at the Public Health pop-up clinic at Benton Community Center in Benton. 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free testing, masks, hand sanitizer and flyers.

Continuation of the Wednesday, June 3 Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board meeting. Time: 1 p.m. Attend via Zoom/Suite Z, Minaret Mall in Mammoth.

Tuesday, June 9/ Inyo County Board of Supervisors meets starting 8:30 a.m. over teleconference. For Zoom link: visit https://zoom.us/j/868254781. Agendas available at inyocounty.us

Mammoth Lakes Town Council Special Meeting @ 2 p.m. Visit the Town website @ www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to attend via granicus.

Wednesday, June 10/ FREE COVID-19 testing at the Public Health pop-up clinic in front of the Mammoth Food Bank from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free testing, masks, hand sanitizer and flyers.

Inyo County hosts a weekly business to business webinar hosted by Asst. CAO Leslie Chapman. Time: 3 p.m. For details/link, visit www.inyocounty.us

Mammoth Lakes Town Council Special Meeting @ 2 p.m. Visit the Town website @ www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to attend via granicus.

Thursday, June 11/ Mono County’s Covid-19 weekly community conversation. 5:30 p.m. Log-in information at coronavirus.mono county.ca.gov

Mammoth Trails Committee Meets. 3 p.m. Visit the Town website @ www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to attend via granicus.

Friday, June 12/ Eastern Sierra Committee Of Governments meets. 8:30 a.m.

Ongoing: Mammoth Taxi Delivery brings you free local restaurant deliveries. Call for availability. 760.937.8294.

Vons offers two hours of shopping Monday-Friday from 7-9 a.m. for those shoppers who may be virus-vulnerable.

Mammoth Food Bank open 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on MWF

As of May 26, most Mono County Library locations will offer pre-arranged pick ups for library materials. You only need a library card and an internet connection. Visit monocolibraries.org for a link to a video tutorial using the online catalog to search and place a hold on a title.

The U.S. Census is hiring. Immediate need for applicants to fill our Census Taker positions. No experience necessary; Paid training, Paid weekly; Flexible Schedule; 57 Cents per mile driven! Please call: Vicki Lewis, Recruiter 661.447.7238 or email @ Victoria.lewis@2020census.gov for immediate registration

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bylaws could interpret Bishop as "Mammoth Lakes area" and that Foster's lack of a business license didn't mean much as he acts as president of a local company.

McGuire expressed an interest in amending the bylaws to clear up any confusion on the matter and tighten up definitions, an action that fellow board member Lynda Salcido agreed with.

Goico took issue with this, recalling a conversation between himself, Salcido, and McGuire that concluded with an agreement to leave those specific bylaws as written. Salcido claimed to not remember the conversation in question while McGuire explained that the conversation had happened while Town Councilmember Cleland Hoff was still on the MLT board.

"I find it somewhat problematic that we would amend our bylaws to bring somebody on," Goico said, "that kind of has red flag all over it when I have no problem with the way it's written right now."

The board ultimately opted to form a committee to tighten up the bylaws.

And the hits just kept coming

Executive Director John Urdi gave a presentation on MLT's FY 2020-2021 fiscal and strategy plan, outlining steps that the organization is taking to get back online as quickly as possible while the economy reopens.

Urdi explained that marketing efforts would be primarily focused on the drive markets (i.e. within California or Nevada) as travelers have reported a decreased interest in air travel as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. After that, they will seek to re-establish destination tourism by first targeting the west coast and then the rest of the country by fall.

The economic downturn has severely impacted MLT's budget for the upcoming fiscal year, as the majority of its money comes from tourism-related tax revenue.

The anticipated revenue for MLT in FY 2020-2021 is 30% to 40% lower than projections made for 2019-2020. Urdi proposed that one way to reduce the non-profit's deficit would be by asking Town Council to use joint tourism reserve money to fund the Chamber of Commerce, an ask in the neighborhood of $264,000.

The board disagreed, with Salcido noting Urdi "should be able to find that in MLT's budget."

Air service funding also proved contentious, as Urdi advocated for cutting the funding town while Mammoth Mountain Vice-President (and board member) Eric Clark argued in favor of not only keeping existing air service, but aggressively expanding marketing efforts to the Northeast (where Alterra has a slew of resorts and customers that may wish to visit).

The difference in their respective visions amounts to about $1.5 million.

"I want to protect and not pigeonhole service," Clark explained, recommending that the extra expenditures can be covered by MLT reserves.

"What it comes down to," Urdi said, "is what are we anticipating for winter air service?" He added that the reduction in funding was an attempt to limit risk.

Clark disagreed, arguing that Denver service is "imperative to keep," adding "there's info out there that they don't wanna fly through LA, New York, they would rather fly thru different hubs."

"It's a really important issue for me, we are focused on the air service through this entity," he said. "It hasn't been anything that we're trying to hide."

McGuire expressed concern about the logic of paying Measure A dollars to help something (Bishop Airport) that lies outside of the Mammoth Lakes region, noting that it could constitute a violation.

Urdi responded, stating that MLT is responsible for air service, not the physical infrastructure of the proposed airport in Bishop.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. ahead of a 4:30 p.m. Town Council meeting and will readjourn on Monday, June 8th at 1 p.m. to conclude deliberations and vote on the budget.

THE COCKTAIL CLUB

Covid times call for creativity and on Thursday evenings, the Breakfast Club is transforming itself into the Cocktail Club from 4-6:30 p.m. Drinking is just not for breakfast anymore.

BOOKS

A WING AND A PRAYER

The Art of the Deal
Donald J. Trump and Tony Schwartz
Ballantine
367 p.

Published in 1987, "The Art of the Deal" by Donald J. Trump will likely be a relic studied for years: how did that guy become president?

The book's authors are, "Donald J. Trump with Tony Schwartz." And as soon as you research how the book was written, it becomes contentious.

Trump calls the book his "second favorite book of all time behind the bible," and has said it is one of his proudest accomplishments.

Schwartz called writing this book the "greatest regret in [my] life." When asked a question, "The book starts with a chapter dedicated to a week in the life of Trump. The next chapter is titled, "Trump cards: elements of a deal." And the rest of the 367 page book is the life of Trump, told through stories of his experiences in the real estate industry.

In 1987, Trump was 41. He is now 73. Nearly 40% of his life is not in this book and that provides a certain mystique. The character we see today is, in part, on the pages of this book. But the degree to which the previous sentence is true is nearly impossible to say.

For example when it comes to Trump's encounters with the media and his general rhetoric towards journalism, he hasn't really changed his opinion.

"Instead when a reporter asks me a tough question, I try to frame a positive answer, even if that means shifting the ground. For example, if someone asks me the negative effects the world's tallest building might have on the West Side, I turn the tables and talk about how New Yorkers deserve the world's tallest building, and what a boost it will have to that honor again ... I call it truthful hyperbole. It's an innocent form of exaggeration - and a very effective form of promotion."

Throughout "Art of the Deal" he mentions how valuable the media can be. Such as his story of building the Wollman Rink.

The backstory: Trump was fed up that New York had spent over six years trying to renovate the rink and offered to build it himself. The mayor at the time, Ed Koch, denied Trump in a public fashion. Then the New York Times, according to Trump, slammed Koch and New York, urging the city to give the contract to Trump. New York obliged. Trump then built the ice rink within six months.

Trump views the media as a tool. Something to force the hand of politicians - people he is doing deals with.

Here is an excerpt from the book right after the Wollman rink fiasco, "If there's one thing I've learned from dealing with politicians over the years, it's that the only thing guaranteed to force them into action is the press- or, more specifically fear of the press."

This is the general theme of the book. Trump's reductionist view of society. He claims he was smarter than most people at college. Dismisses surveys and number-crunchers. Says "committees are what insecure people create in order to put off making hard decisions."

And then on consultants, "I like consultants even less than I like committees." Trump, multiple times, says that stockbrokers do nothing more than push a button to execute a trade. And he hates lawyers.

So what does Trump trumpet?

"His instincts. "It pays to have your instincts," is the exact quote. Over and over, Trump signs deals or backs out of them based on his gut.

"Like a deal he had in Cincinnati. "Now, I'm someone who responds to people I have respect for, and I listen. Again, it's instincts, not marketing studies. So I spent an extra two days in Cincinnati, and I rode around, and I saw that there was trouble brewing, that neighborhoods were getting rough." And then Trump sells the deal. Just like that. Two days of driving around Cincinnati and Trump knew he had to back out of the deal.

It is hard to say what the book means. We have the ability to judge past events with knowledge of how the future turned out. And even though Schwartz claimed the book should be "reclassified as fiction," Trump comes off as a winner. Trump is a salesman to the people in the book and the reader.

He even was a salesman to the people of America. He used the same sales pitch as he did in the '80s when he was selling units in the Trump Tower. "We took our strengths and promoted them to the skies. From day one, we set out to sell Trump Tower not just as a beautiful building in a great location but as an event. We positioned ourselves as the only place for a certain kind of very wealthy person to live - the hottest ticket in town. We were selling fantasy."

Trump was selling a fantasy then. He sells fantasy now. And if he loses in November, it won't be pretty, "If I went down, it would have been kicking and screaming ... That's just my makeup. I fight when I feel I'm getting screwed, even if it's costly and difficult and highly risky."
Mammoth High School’s commencement takes place next Friday, June 12. The following three pages feature MHS Senior photos. Principal Annie Rinaldi compiled bios of many of these students which can be found on Instagram at mhs_huskies.mammothsd.
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