A nother contender to the throne presented itself to Mammoth Town Council at its regular meeting via Zoom on Wednesday. The contender is the Little Nell Hotel Group, owned by Aspen Skiing Company, which wishes to develop the seven-acre parcel adjacent to the Westin Monache, bordering both Canyon Boulevard and Lake Mary Road. Various lawyers, architects and senior vice-presidents were on the call. Their ultimate goal: To negotiate a development agreement (DA) with the Town.

Little Nell consists of two brands: Little Nell and Limelight. It features properties in Aspen, Snowmass and Ketchum, Idaho (Sun Valley), with projects under development in Boulder (scheduled opening 2024) and Mammoth. Little Nell is wholly owned by Aspen Skiing and not affiliated with Alterra Mountain Company.

The proposal for Mammoth: A true hotel (as opposed to a condo-hotel) consisting of 151 rooms and 23 residences, 5,000-square feet of conference/meeting facilities, 10,000-square feet of outdoor event space and 250 understructure parking spaces.

The project would be expected to create 80 full-time jobs. Little Nell V.P. of Development Andy Reed (not to be confused with the Andy Reid coaching in the Super Bowl this weekend) suggested certain improvements, like a pedestrian bridge to the Village at Mammoth or an extra deck of parking, which could be achieved via a DA.

The presentation Reed gave mentioned the Town’s Walk, Bike, Ride plan countless times. It also talked up Little Nell’s environmental record and various awards the company has received in that realm.

Which resonated with at least two Councilmembers. “The crunchy-hippie in me loves the presentation,” said Councilmember Sarah Rea. “We’ve long looked for this type of partner,” added Councilman John Wentworth.

As is Council’s wont, Councilmembers at one point began to get a bit ... expansive, talking about all the various problems that their new romantic partner might solve. Reed wasn’t as starry-eyed. “I get nervous when I hear about the Town’s litany of asks,” he said bluntly.

Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to begin working with the applicant on a DA.
OUT OF THE PARKER

Mammoth Hospital CEO Tom Parker was gracious enough to spend some time with me this week talking about the state of affairs at the health district and what opportunities and challenges may lie ahead.

In a wide-ranging conversation, Parker began by saying we know enough about the downsides of the pandemic and its impacts, but what are the positives? What are the silver linings?

1. The rise of telemedicine. The pandemic, said Parker, “drove operationally things we haven’t pushed hard before.” One of those things was telemedicine, which Parker said, until now, has been horribly reimbursed by insurers. But the pandemic has changed that, and payers are seeing the benefits. “And we do not anticipate a scale back in that payment reform,” said Parker.

“The future has been accelerated by five years,” he added, and he anticipates that remote monitoring of patients will also accelerate. “Now that we’ve demonstrated demand, tech companies will invest in systems to help us do that [practice remote medicine].”

1. The pandemic has deepened partnerships and relationships, particularly with Mono County Public Health. The hospital recently partnered with Health and Human Services on a community needs assessment.

2. The pandemic has deepened partnerships and relationships, particularly with Mono County Public Health. The hospital recently partnered with Health and Human Services on a community needs assessment.

3. Policy development around infectious disease. In the first three months, the hospital’s Incident Management Team developed forty policies and met three hours per day, seven days per week. Three critical areas addressed involved increasing surge capacity, limiting the hospital as a trans-and met three hours per day, seven days per week. Three critical areas addressed involved increasing surge capacity, limiting the hospital as a trans-

4. Outcome for care delivery. “When we look back, I think we’re going to look back with a feeling of accomplishment.”

In terms of financial impact, Parker said the hospital district has weathered Covid pretty well. At the outset, elective procedures were curtailed but ultimately just pushed revenues out a quarter as those procedures still got done — they were simply done in June versus March. Parker said clinic visits are just starting to return to previous levels, and certainly, ER visits have been down, but Parker says he is not worried.

“Pain causes us to take action,” he says. You can’t put off the doctor for ever. And with the stay-at-home order lifted, a key patient population, visitors, will return in broader numbers.

Despite the pandemic, Parker noted that Mammoth Hospital’s credit rating has remained stable. Last month, Standard and Poor’s maintained the District’s A- with a positive outlook rating.

Some areas of improvement: Behavioral Health and Dental. Parker’s clearly a big believer in the numbers. In both these areas, Mammoth had lagged behind the state average in terms of providers per capita. So Parker went out and changed that.

In Behavioral Health, Mammoth had 1 provider for every 520 residents as opposed to the state average of 1 for every 310.

“We’ve doubled the number of providers over the past year,” said Parker. Similarly, with dental, Mammoth has half the providers per capita, so Parker says the hospital is in the process of building out its number of chairs from three to six and then will recruit the staff to meet the new capacity.

The Hospital has also hired its first Internist, Dr. Yaris, in several years (if ever - Parker’s not sure if they’ve had one before) and is also recruiting for a Neurologist.

Finally, we asked Parker if there might ever be a merger (or at least a greater collaboration) of Northern Inyo Hospital District and Southern Mono Hospital District.

“We’ve communicated a lot more [during Covid] than we’ve had before, and Kelli Davis (NIHD Interim CEO) and I speak regularly and we’ve worked together to share resources, but there is still ongoing litigation [in regard to Mammoth’s Orthopedic clinic located Bishop - a case Mammoth won the first time around], and it’s hard to partner with someone who keeps filing lawsuits.”

A few odds and ends ... I received a call this evening from Maya Jamal, who complained about the same issue Dan McConnell writes about in his letter which appears on page four.

Jamal said the Town’s website literally features multiple photos of people parked in the same spot. She raised the MLPD for generally doing a great job, but in this instance ... she thinks someone may have eaten an extra bowl of Wheaties that morning before going out to write tickets.

She didn’t actually mention Wheaties, but ... you get the drift.

In regard to the crowds last week, Page has the following report:

With Mammoth Mountain destined to be packed last weekend, many locals opted to head for tried-and-true June Mountain to enjoy the new snow and get away from the crowds.

Except for the fact that June decided to stop letting guests into the parking lot and up the hill within an hour of opening; ans no one was allowed to even enter the lot on foot, even those who were there to get a refund for their day passes.

For Mary Pierson, the day was supposed to be spent making tracks from Maya Jamal, who complained about the same issue Dan McConnell writes about in his letter which appears on page four.

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For Mary Pierson, the day was supposed to be spent making tracks and kicking up powder. At least that’s what she thought it would be when she left her home in the Peterson Tract in June Lake just before 9 a.m. When she was told she wouldn’t be able to get into the lot with her car, she turned around, parked at home, and walked to the entrance with her snowboard in hand. But she was told she couldn’t enter the property at all. A request to speak with management was met with the same response.

When she wouldn’t relent and eventually walked past the gate to speak to someone at the lower ticket office, Pierson, 67, had security called on her by June employees.

She was told by mountain representatives that “it’s unprecedented times”
**STEP 1**

Pre-register yourself to be vaccinated by completing the online confidential Vaccine Questionnaire. Hold your camera to the QR code and open the Vaccine Questionnaire, or visit webapps.mono.ca.gov/covid19/vaccinate-mono-form.

Call (760) 924-1830 and follow the vaccination prompts for help completing the vaccine questionnaire or for vaccine questions. Be prepared to leave a short message with your name and phone number.

Email COVID19help@mono.ca.gov for help completing the vaccine questionnaire or for vaccine questions.

The completion of the vaccine questionnaire does not automatically register you for your vaccination. Once clinics are scheduled for your established criteria you will receive an invitation at the appointed time to register for your first and second vaccination. **Clinics are by appointment ONLY.**

**STEP 2**

Once clinics are scheduled for each tier/phase, you will receive an invitation at the appointed time to register for your first and second vaccination. **Please do not arrive at any clinic unless you have an appointment.** On-site registration is not available at this time and slows down the vaccination process for others. 

Vaccination appointments are for people who work or live in Mono County, regardless of immigration status. Your ID or proof of local employment and/or full-time residence may be required at the vaccination clinic.

**STEP 3**

Arrive at your clinic at your appointed time. Wear a t-shirt under your layers. You will receive your vaccination card on-site, which you will need for your second vaccination.

**STEP 4**

Continue to keep wearing a mask, wash your hands, stay 6 feet apart, and do not gather indoors with those outside of your immediate household unit until the vaccine has been widely distributed. #VaccinateMono

---

**PASO 1**

Completa el cuestionario confidencial en línea a preinscribirte para la vacuna. Sostenga la cámara sobre el código QR y abra el cuestionario o visite webapps.mono.ca.gov/covid19/vaccinate-mono-form.

Llame al (760) 924-1830 y siga las indicaciones para la vacuna para recibir asistencia en completar el cuestionario o si tiene preguntas sobre la vacuna. Esté preparado para dejar un mensaje corto con su nombre y número de teléfono.

Envíe un correo electrónico a COVID19help@mono.ca.gov para asistencia a completar el cuestionario o si tiene preguntas sobre la vacuna.

Al completar el cuestionario de la vacuna no lo inscribe automáticamente para su vacunación. Una vez que las clínicas estén programadas por los criterios establecidos a que perteneces, recibirá una invitación a la hora designada para registrarse por su primera y segunda vacunación. **Las clínicas son por sitio solamente.**

**PASO 2**

Una vez que las clínicas estén programadas para cada nivel y fase, recibirá una invitación a la hora designada de su inscripción por su primera y segunda vacunación. **Favor no llegue a ninguna clínica a menos que tenga una cita.** Inscripción en el sitio no está disponible en este momento y retrasará el proceso de vacunación para los demás. **Las citas de vacunación son para personas que trabajan o viven en el condado de Mono, independientemente de su estado migratorio.** Es posible que se requiera su identificación o comprobante de empleo local y/o residencia a tiempo completo en la clínica de vacunación.

**PASO 3**

Llave a su clínica a la hora indicada. Use una camiseta debajo de sus capas de ropa. Recibirá su tarjeta de vacunación que necesitará para su segunda vacunación.

**PASO 4**

Continúe poniéndose la mascarilla, lavándose las manos, manteniéndose 6 pies de distancia, y no reunirse adentro con personas que no sean parte de su hogar inmediato hasta que la vacuna se haya distribuido ampliamente. #VacunarMono

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**STAY INFORMED: VACCINATE MONO WEBSITE**

For updated Mono County COVID-19 vaccination information, community resources, a vaccine dashboard, immunization schedule, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), informative videos and more, please visit coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov/pages/vaccinations, or hold your camera to the QR code.

**MANTENGASE INFORMADO EN EL SITIO WEB DE VACUNAR MONO**

Para información actualizada sobre la vacunación contra el COVID-19 en el condado de Mono, recursos comunitarios, el panel de datos de la vacuna, el calendario de vacunación, preguntas frecuentes, vídeos informativos y más, visite coronavirus.espanol.monocounty.ca.gov/pages/Vacunas, o apunte su cámara sobre el código QR.
Dear Editor:

... is solving a parking problem with a more of a problem.

This winter someone decided to move the winter closure gate on Lake Mary Road a few more hundred feet past the Tamarack turn. When I first saw this, I knew it was making a parking problem worse. And, I was right. When the first snows of November came, I saw a Sprinter Van there trying to turn around at the gate in a spot cleared so that the plow could turn around.

Well, the road is slanted, because it is the beginning of a curve, and it’s icy and no chains. And there is no sign that read ’Road Closed Ahead’.

There weren’t any ’No Parking’ signs. I actually moved a sign that I found buried in the snow into the middle of the road to warn people not to go further even though it looked like a good place to park.

Moving the gate made no common sense. I have been going to the Lakes Basin in the winter for 40 years. I lived at Pokonobe Lodge one winter, and never want to shovel that much again.

I have been parking at the end of the road for that long, too.

I have never gotten a parking ticket - until this winter.

Unclear signage and vague guidelines. Poor planning.

I went into the MLPD office with the ticket and the issuing officer happened to be there. They told me to fill out a form and wait for a response. I filled out the form I asked to meet with someone from the right department to talk about the problem and help them solve it. I never heard back from MLPD. I called Mayor Bill Sauser and he met me at the location and we talked about what to do. Bill agreed with some of my ideas. It is hard to explain the parking problem if you haven’t experienced trying to park at the Winter Closure on Lake Mary Road. But there needs to be more parking up there. Plowing further up the road and not opening it for parking doesn’t make any sense. Why can’t you park in an area that is cleared? If parking isn’t allowed then make a “hard” closure across the road so that people can’t drive beyond a certain point. And, there should be a Winter Closure sign at the turn to Tamarack. Common sense.

I am not whining about a ticket. I want to help solve this problem.

Dan McConnell
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Fatal Fall in Death Valley

A canyoneer died in an accident in Death Valley National Park on Saturday, January 30. Justin Ibershoff (38) of Los Angeles, was descending a technical route down Deimos Canyon with six friends. The group was very experienced, and most members of the party had descended this canyon several times before. The incident occurred while Mr. Ibershoff was descending a steep, rocky slope to the top of the third rappel anchor. He apparently stepped on a rock that moved, triggering a rockslide that swept him past two companions and over the edge of the 95-foot tall dry fall.

The group used an emergency locator beacon to call for assistance. The group’s ability to send more detailed information via texts through the emergency beacon aided rescuers. After assessing Mr. Ibershoff’s condition, the emergency beacon aided rescuers. After assessing Mr. Ibershoff’s condition, the

Inyo County SAR team members and Navy’s VX-31 helicopter were able to continue active rock fall. The group continued down the canyon due to the ongoing active rock fall.

Inyo County search-and-rescue (SAR) and Death Valley park rangers were assisted by helicopters from California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. Crew from the Navy’s VX-31 helicopter were able to reach Mr. Ibershoff a few hours after the accident and establish that he had passed away. At that point, the incident response transitioned into a body recovery.

Inyo County SAR team members and CHP’s H-82 helicopter from Apple Valley recovered Mr. Ibershoff’s body the next day.

Conditions in that area of the canyon remain unstable and canyoneers are advised to avoid the upper section of Deimos Canyon.

Man Dies in Snowed-in Car

On January 29, 2021, at about 12:40 p.m., Mammoth Lakes police officers were dispatched to the Footloose parking lot in response to a report of an unconscious male sitting in his vehicle. The adult male was not visible until someone removed the snow from his windows. Mammoth Lakes police officers, Mono County paramedics, and the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department arrived on the scene. Mono County paramedics determined the subject was deceased.

The male has been identified as Daniel Freshney, 54, of Michigan. Mono County Sheriff’s Department tracked down a friend of Freshney’s who said he had been traveling the West. The autopsy revealed no disposition as to cause of death.

His car had been completely buried in the Footloose parking lot for two days before a tow truck was called to pull it out. That is when the body was discovered.

Hollowell’s Re-Tort

The Sheriff of Inyo County, Jeffrey Hollowell, elected in 2018, has filed a $20,000,000 Government Tort Claim against the County of Inyo. This action was taken in connection with the illegal release of confidential records, libel and slander, and arises from the actions of the Deputy Director of Personnel, her nephew former county employee Reuben Bradley, and former county employee Joshua Nicholson according to Mr. Hollowell’s attorney, Anthony M. Perez.

“A Government Tort Claim is something that precedes the filing of a lawsuit which will be filed in the United States District Court shortly,” stated Perez, who is based in Sacramento. “The County of Inyo has 45-days to accept, reject or avoid responding,” Perez said. “This is a unique, disgraceful and outrageous case with strong evidence supporting Sheriff Hollowell’s claims,” Perez added.

Sue you, Newsom

A number of Mammoth Lakes business owners have banded together to sue Governor Gavin Newsom, former State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, county and state health officers, and town officials.

The group, which includes Cindy and Timothy Abshire, Alan and Monica Butts, Nomadness Corp., and the Mammoth Lakes Business coalition, allege violations of the Fifth and Fourteenth amendment as well as the Commerce Clause.

Plaintiffs say that the constantly changing health orders and guidelines, coming from the state and local levels violate their business rights. From the complaint, filed Monday, February 1:

“The orders and restrictions are based on arbitrary classifications of activities as ‘essential’ or ‘non-essential’ that are not rationally related to promoting public health, promote the interests of favored groups without reference to the impact of the activities in question on the transmission of COVID-19, and shift the burden of the response to COVID19 to a limited class of persons and businesses.”

Wrongful Death Suit Filed in Mountain View Fire

The family of Sallie Joseph has filed a wrongful death suit against Liberty Utilities, alleging that the utility’s longstanding neglect of circuits and disregard for safety regulations led to Joseph’s death in the Mountain View Fire.

“The complaint further alleges that the fire was started when an energized conductor, owned and operated by Liberty Utilities, fell from a pole into a "receptive fuel bed."

In addition to the wrongful death claim, the plaintiffs have seven other causes of action listed: inverse condemnation, trespass, public nuisance, private nuisance, violation of CA utilities code, health and safety code, and premises liability.
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Another thing people are upset about:
*The tradeoff, of course, is that if you go
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For all the doub-
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forgot one basic and
very important principle: Unlike MAM-
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die, other places know how to get things
done.
The Environmental Assessment (EA) is
expected to be released later this month
for public review.
The new runway and taxiway projects
have been completed.
The airport will Part-139 compliant and
can handle aircraft up to 126’ in length. A

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WHEN BEING “PO” IS WORTH $8.8 MILLION

... while the rest is largely Po-stponed for Mammoth Lakes Tourism

By Page

Commercial air service will not be returning to Mammoth-Yosemite airport for the foreseeable future. A press release issued by Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) on February 1 announced that public charter service to the area via Advanced Air would be further postponed - forget the rest of this ski season. The relationship between Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Advanced Air will continue when commercial air service moves to Bishop in late-2021; private charters, however, are still available through the company.

Executive Director John Urdi also announced at MLT’s regular board meeting on Wednesday (held via Zoom) that United Airlines services had also been officially cancelled for the season. Urdi said that given state travel restrictions such as mandatory quarantines and a lack of momentum, “It didn’t make sense to risk subsidy we had out there.”

He also spoke on the Advanced Air postponement, saying that the risks outweighed the rewards for the remainder of the season, even with the airline’s flexibility. The risk in question: approximately $250,000 in subsidy to the airline’s flexibility. The risk in question: a video of Vanderhurst’s dog, Po, jumping through a snowdrift, that was posted to the VisitMammoth Instagram.

Vanderhurst’s video, represented nearly $8.8 million in value for the town. And just how valuable was Po in the international travel market has all but evaporated. The budget variance in marketing is a $400,000 reduction from what had been projected, sales were down about $53,000, PR was nearly $8,000 under, and special events spending was $173,000 below what had been projected.

All of which translates to substantial savings, which Urdi indicated could very well be reinvested for the next fiscal year to drive local economic recovery efforts.

Po Boy!

As Michael Vanderhurst, Director of Sales and International Marketing, noted, some of the best marketing done this year occurred recently, arose organically and cost nothing to produce.

The material in question: a video of Vanderhurst’s dog, Po, jumping through a snowdrift, that was posted to the VisitMammoth Instagram. Vanderhurst explained that the video had gained immense traction in international markets, which he highlighted by showing a clip from an Australian news broadcast that featured the dog.

And just how valuable was Po in the international market? Vanderhurst reported that the video, along with photos of the storm, represented nearly $8.8 million in value for the town.

MLT Communications director Lara Kaylor said that the domestic value of the video/storm images was about $200,000. According to Kaylor, the PR generated in the last week alone for Mammoth Lakes was greater than any other month on record.

That news comes just in time, as the combined effect of the storm and the lifting of California’s stay-at-home order may just provide the boost needed to salvage the fiscal year.

Urdi reported that TOT and TBID both took a significant hit in December and January, with revenues projected to be much lower than what had been budgeted. Strong months in February, March and April could be enough to counteract those deficits.

And that could very well be the case: board chair John Morris reported that lodging operators have seen hundreds of thousands of dollars in reservations since the stay-at-home order was lifted, with weekends already beginning to reach capacity.

Mammoth Mountain representative Eric Clark said that MMSA had already generated over $200,000 in lodging revenue in February, bolstered by a requirement that any guests who choose to stay on a Saturday night must book a four-night stay.

Meaning, many had to stay over on Monday, February 1.

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MAMMOT...
IT’S NOT EASY BEING GREENBERG

Nate Greenberg’s had a tough week.

Mono County’s Information Technology Director, who also serves as President of the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center’s (ESAC) Board of Directors, has been pummeled on social media this week after he triggered a large slab avalanche on Saturday, January 30 while backcountry skiing in the Punta Bardini area of the Sherwinds in Mammoth Lakes.

The avalanche had a three foot deep crown, was 400 feet wide and ran for approximately 1,000 vertical feet.

According to the preliminary report (https://www.esavalanche.org/incidents) posted on ESAC’s website:

Steve Mace, Forecaster
Saturday, January 30, 2021 - 1:30 pm

Red Flags: Recent avalanche activity, Recent loading by new snow, wind, or rain, Obvious avalanche path, Terrain Trap

An incident occurred today in the Punta Bardini area of the Sherwinds known locally as the “Main Bardini Chute.” A party of four toured from the propane tanks to the top of the old-growth and skied one lap through the old-growth trees stopping above the features known as the “Tele bowls.” After one lap they returned to the summit and descended down a low angle slope on an NNW aspect to the top of their chosen line.

Skier 1 (Greenberg) descended a steep entrance section and triggered a large avalanche. Skier 1 was carried through the entrance section and triggered a large slab avalanche that ran on weak layers within the old snow.

The Sheet spoke to several experienced backcountry skiers/forecasters this week.

The consensus: General surprise that an experienced backcountry skier would go out in such conditions.

A third noted that the National Weather Service had avalanche warnings posted all weekend.

But... we all make mistakes. And fortunately, this mistake was not fatal, unlike what happened to three skiers in San Juan County, Colorado earlier this week.

ESAC issued a press release this week which stated, “ESAC’s nine-member Board of Directors has met, discussed the incident, and unanimously retains its full confidence in Nate to remain on the Board and in his position serving to fulfill ESAC’s mission to inform and educate the public on avalanche conditions in the Eastern Sierra backcountry. Nate and the rest of his party look forward to having a public discussion regarding the incident but need additional time to reflect and process before doing so.

This incident serves as a reminder that current conditions include a complex snowpack and even experienced backcountry users can make decision-making errors. Please continue to read the forecast and select terrain that is appropriate given the conditions and is suitable for your group. The current ESAC avalanche forecast is issued daily and is available at https://www.esavalanche.org/"

Covid-19 is on the decline locally but mutant strains may be cause for concern

By Page

Things appear to have turned a corner in terms of the local economy as well as local spread of Covid-19; with the stay-at-home order lifted, tourists came back to the region in droves last weekend. Meanwhile, local Covid-19 case numbers are steadily decreasing, a sign that post-holiday surge may be coming to an end. Mono County has reported 19 positive cases in the last 7 days; by the state’s metrics, the county is at 27.9 new cases/day/100k residents with a 9.1% positivity rate.

Inyo is clocking 44.4 new cases/day/100k residents, with an 8.8% positivity rate.

While neither set of statistics will permit the counties to move into a less restrictive tier of state guidance, the numbers have come down significantly. A county needs to record below 8 new cases/day/100k residents and a positivity rate below 8% for two consecutive weeks to be considered for tier movement.

As of Thursday afternoon, Mono County has administered 3,386 first doses of vaccine and 606 second doses out of a total 5,600 doses received. Inyo County has reported that it is receiving about 300 doses/week, with no count of how many have been administered thus far.

At Tuesday’s Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting, Mono Public Health Officer Tom Boo said that January had been the deadliest month of the pandemic so far for the United States, with the death toll fast approaching 500,000.

While death rates are increasing in California, Boo said, case rates are decreasing at a steady rate.

He also addressed concerns that people were gaming the vaccine system to obtain a vaccine before they were actually eligible.

People showing up to vaccine appointments will be required to demonstrate proof or residency/employment to verify their eligibility.

“We don’t want to put up huge barriers but we do want to strike a balance,” Boo said, “We want to make sure there’s enough vaccine for people in our target tier.”

Boo later told The Sheet: “I’m a doctor, we’re in a pandemic. I wish we could vaccinate everyone who wants it right now. But the vaccine manufacturers can’t make enough to meet the demand yet.

He continued: “So we are trying to stick to the State rules, which are now shifting away from what kind of work people do to focusing first on people at higher risk of getting really sick ... This makes the most sense to me, and we’re glad to see the change in State guidance.”

When asked about mutations and more contagious strains, he said, “I’m very concerned about the potential impact of the new mutant strains, but part of that concern is related to how little we know about them. We know the UK strain is more contagious (transmissible) than the strain that took off from Wuhan City a little over a year ago. Available evidence, which is only preliminary, suggests that our vaccines will work against this strain, which CDC predicts will become the dominant strain in the United States.

People write and talk about a race between the virus and the vaccine, and I’m afraid we’re not going to beat the virus in that race.”

In terms of moving forward, he said that the amount of visitors to the area is potentially a cause for concern and “I do worry that we will see a reversal in our progress as a result.”

“It will be a few weeks before we can tell,” Boo said, “And you combine the increased visitation with the fact that the new strains are spreading in California and we could very easily be going the wrong direction as weeks go by.”

What that could mean for lodging, restaurants, etc. remains to be seen.
Temp Snow Removal Operator $24.54 - $28.41/hr

CDL required, looking for someone to start immediately!
Full-time hours available.

For more information and to apply townofmammothlakes.ca.gov to apply.

Sale of Abandoned Property

NOTE: NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien on the personal property pursuant to sections 21700-21701 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2501 of the Civil Code, section 533 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding, on February 26, 2021, at 5:30 PM on the premises where said property has been stored, at Source Safe Storage, 58 Commerce Dr., Mammoth Lakes, CA, County of Mono, State of California, the following:

• Miura Griscola: Camellia mountain bike; 1 plastic, 4 fishing poles, extra set of tires for bike; Kodak projector and screen; remote control helmet; sleeping bag, 2 backpacks; fishing pole (tube), bike trailer and two; bike trailer, bike helmet; bike gloves; ski poles; lots of metal boxes

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of sale. Subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligor and/or lien following the auction.

Date: this 6-th day of February & this 11-th day of February, 2021.
Gary Cramer, Auctioneer Bond # 209762
760-934-9415

Successful Bidder

_ La Parrilla Grill & Tacos

Daniel Gamon
P.O. Box 113,
Juniper, CA 93529
(760) 965-6420

Fictional Business Name Statement

For the Following Person:
Is Doing Business As: La Parrilla Grill & Tacos

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business in the Town of Mammoth Lakes under the fictitious business name listed herein.
This statement was filed with the District Clerk of Mono County on January 05, 2021 and in Number 2021-13.
2021-0013 (1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20)

I, I saw you... I saw you... I triggered an avalanche and got reamed for it. So here’s the path to redemption. Trigger some other local internet service!

Housekeepers Wanted in Mammoth Lakes!
Flexible hours, $18/hr (Seasonal pay bump to $23/hr from 11/29-4/1) + Drive time paid & mileage reimbursement, free health benefits depending on hours worked, sick time and PTO! To apply please go to www.vacasa.com/careers!

Sierra Employment Services, Inc is hiring for the following positions:
Delivery Driver - B $22-26 PR & Bookkeeper - ML - $22
General Laborer - B ML $15-22 Driver - W/ Hazmat CDR- C $12-10 Retail Cashier - ML - $15 Call by 760-924-0523 or 760-873-8599
www.SierraEmployment.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. We are also hiring an Office Assistant. These are Full Time positions (Monday through Friday). These positions offer vacation accrual, benefits and paid holidays. Experience is preferred, but not required. Heavy lifting is required. Please call 760-924-3091 or stop by the store located at 1401 Tavern Road Mammoth Lakes for more information and to pick up an application. Resumes can be mailed to mammothspaspa.com.

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 760-914-7431. www.mammothtaxi.com

Mono Superior Court is hiring for the right person with great organizational skills and customer service background. The Mono Superior Court Commissioners will primarily hear matters brought by the Department of Child Support Services in Inyo and Mono Counties as part of the Title IV-D child support enforcement program. For additional information go to https://www.mono.courts.ca.gov/generalinfo/employment.htm.

Second Chance Team is looking for a bright, cheerful, upbeat applicant, ready for front line retail with potential to grow. Must be able to safely and efficiently handle exception customer service skills, and desire to learn. Visa/Debit/ATM cashier/customer service associate. Must be able to work days, weekends, or alternating shifts, with shift changes. Additional shifts may occur during the week. Call 760 924 0523 or 760 873 8599.

The Planning and Economic Development Commission (PEDC) considered ZCA 20-001 as recommended by staff. ZCA 20-001 was recommended to the Town Council approval of ZCA 20-001 as recommended by staff.

CEDA Determination: Exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21003.1 and CEDA Guidelines Section 15136.

Location: Town-wide; Zoning: All Zones
Proponent: Town of Mammoth Lakes

All persons having an interest in the proposed application request may appear before the Town Council either in person or represented by counsel and present testimony or may, prior to said hearing, file with the Town Clerk written evidence supporting or opposing the application. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009(b), if the matter is subsequently challenged in court, the challenge may be limited to issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Mammoth Lakes at or to the public hearing. For additional information or to obtain a copy of the staff report which will be published no later than 2/12/21, contact Chandler Van Schaack, Senior Planner, at (760) 965-3817 or e-mail cvanschaack@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

MONO SUPERIOR COURT
979-3914 - 3637 MAIN ST IN MAMMOTH
JOB OPENINGS

Temp Snow Removal Operator $24.54 - $28.41/hr

CDL required, looking for someone to start immediately!
Full-time hours available.

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2021-0013 (1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20)
**TOWN STUFF**

**Sunday, February 7**

Application deadline for those interested in becoming an UCCE Inyo and Mono Counties Master Food Preserver. Virtual training course w/ online classes March-August. Info: Melissa 760.873.7854/melyeager@ucanr.edu

**Monday, February 8**

Mammoth Lakes Lodging Round Table meets 10-11 a.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88670501007.

Mono County Democratic Central Committee Zoom meeting: Time: 5 p.m. Meet CADEM candidates Delane Eastin, Betty Yee, Jenny Bach and Diana Love. Get updates on MCDCC strategic vision. Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/620-CpT4sGdNCulM1-advYXzCwY7r1YUR

Bishop City Council meets. 6 p.m. Attend online. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_7h0-pjtkioG8efGI13LhA/live

**Tuesday, February 9**

Inyo County Supervisors meet. 10 a.m. Attend via https://zoom.us/j/868254781 or access via county website.

Mono County Supervisors meet. 9 a.m. Attend via https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/94564350697

**Wednesday, February 10**

Mammoth’s Planning and Economic Development Commission meets. 2 p.m. Attend via Zoom. Access via www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

**Saturday, February 13**

Eastern Sierra Audubon Society COSA bird walk, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Join ESAS and volunteers on an easy walk around the Bishop Paiute Tribe’s Conservation Open Space Area (COSA). Meet behind the U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management building (351 Pacu Lane, Bishop). Limited supply of binoculars available.

**Sunday, February 14**

Inyo Beyond the Mask. Goodwill will celebrate our wonderful community of Inyo and beyond by inviting everyone to share poetry, songs, dance, and more. We’ll be hosting our first event remotely! The schedule:

- 7-8 p.m. Family-friendly programming 8-8:15 pm. Intermission 8:15p-9:15 pm—mature programming (21+)
- Suggested donation: $10/person

Info: www.goodent.org/760-582-2808

8:15p-9:15 pm—mature programming
8-8:15 pm. Intermission

The schedule:

We’ll be hosting our first event remotely!

**Upcoming**

Inyo County Grand Jury is taking applications for the ’21-’22 cycle. Submit an application to the Office of the Jury Commissioner at PO Box 1508, Bishop, CA 93515. To obtain a copy of the application or for further questions or comments, please visit the Grand Jury’s website at http://www.inyocourt.ca.gov/generalinfo/jury_civilgrandjury._htm or contact the Grand Jury Assistant at 760.873.5157.

**Covid Vaccination**

Pre-register for your Covid-19 vaccination in Mono County, or to coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov, call 211 or see ad P. 3 for more information. Inyo County vaccine registration can be accessed via the county website @www.inyocounty.us.

**PROVIDING FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR ALASKA**

Eric P. Wasserman
Senior Financial Advisor
540 Old Mammoth Rd, Ste 12
P.O. Box 1917
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760-645-4600
www.waflinc.com

**MAMMOTH LIQUOR**

Beer lovers’ candy store
Selection of more than 300 beers
WHAT A VARIETY!
TRY BLENDED WHISKY

934.6260
Main St. Next to Rick’s

**TOWN STUFF**

Entry deadline for the annual Bodie Foundation photo calendar. The Bodie Foundation sponsors this competition and invites photographers to submit their favorite photos of Bodie State Historic Park. Complete information and requirements are available at bodiecalendarcollection.com.

Ongoing

Mono County Libraries Storytime Live! Join Ms. Chelsea for a story and fun activities on the Mammoth Lakes Library Facebook page. Time: 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. Or start your week off with a community storytelling. Mondays at 10:30 a.m. on the Mono County Libraries Facebook page.

All Visitor Centers (Mono Basin, Mammoth, White Mountain, Lone Pine) are closed, but visitor questions are being answered via phone daily, 8-4:30.

Mammoth: 760.647.3044
Mammoth: 760.924.5502
White Mountain: 760.873.2500
Lone Pine: 760.876.6200

Mono County Libraries currently operating under Call Ahead for Pickup Service.

**Covid testing**

Bishop: Tri-County Fairgrounds, Tallman Pavillion on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday - participants must be in a vehicle to get tested. Mammoth Lakes testing Mondays and Thursdays at the Mammoth Lakes Foundation, 100 College Pkwy. 11 a.m. ’til 2 p.m. No appt. necessary.

Walker/Coleville testing Fridays at Walker Community Center 9 am-12:45pm.

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TOURNAMENT OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

MAMMOTH YOSEMITE AIRPORT

Award of the Project

Awarded on the basis of the Base Bid of the Bidder or Offeror who submits the lowest bid, as determined in accordance with the specifications for the previously described project and the procedures set forth in the specification booklet.

BIDDING REQUIREMENTS:

The successful bidder shall furnish a payment bond and a labor and material bond in the amount of 10% of the contract price to secure fulfillment of all the bidder’s obligations under such contract and to assume payment as required by law for liens, claims, or judgments that may arise in connection with the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

FEDERAL PROVISIONS:

The contract price is funded in whole or in part by means of a grant made by the United States acting through the Federal Aviation Administration. The contract price is subject to the Federal provisions, statutes and regulations as set forth below and in the project specifications.

The contract price is funded in whole or in part by means of a grant made by the United States acting through the Federal Aviation Administration. The contract price is subject to the Federal provisions, statutes and regulations as set forth below and in the project specifications.

The estimated range for the construction cost of the entire airport improvement project is $10,000,000 to $12,000,000.

The estimated range for the construction cost of the entire airport improvement project is $10,000,000 to $12,000,000.

The Engineer’s Estimate will be made public at the Bid Opening.

OBTAINING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS:

Plans and Specifications may be obtained for a NON-REFUNDABLEFee of $250.00 per set at the Town Office or at the Engineer’s office as listed below.

Description Specification, Bid Forms, 1 set of hard- sized (3 sets) with 3 sets of electronic downloadable files.

Pick up at the Town or Engineer’s Office.

(760) 965-3654 or email at sshultz@townof-mammoth-lakes.ca.gov.

To order the plans and specifications by telephone call Sierra Shultz at (760) 965-3654 or email at sshultz@townof-mammoth-lakes.ca.gov to obtain a link to download the bid package. Please provide all bidder contact information including name, affiliation, phone number, and email address in order to be added to the project list. The bid package will only be provided to prospective bidders that provide all of the necessary information. Requests for electronic and hard copies of plans and specifications downloaded electronically.

Technical questions should be directed to Donna Brandon, Engineering Department, or the project architect of the Mammoth Lakes Business Tax Certificate, and shall maintain all required licenses and permits as defined in Sections 20166 and 20167 and accept such bids as are to the best interest of the Town.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to award any of the contracts.

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

The California Department of Housing and Community Development announced the availability of approximately $184,000,000 in funding for grants to fund construction of affordable housing units (contracted for or under construction) for low and moderate-income families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FY 2021-2022 General Fund budget may include funding for the California Department of Water Resources to cover small agricultural businesses that are facing changes in the California Consumer Price Index. The budget will not be adopted at the same meeting during which this public hearing is conducted. Rather, the Governing Board will consider adoption of the budget at its next regular meeting, scheduled for May 6, 2021.

The public hearing will be conducted at a special meeting of the District Governing Board to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021 via teleconference (TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION: As an authorized Governor Newsom’s Executive Order, N-29-20, dated January 29, 2020, the governing board will hold teleconferences with members of the Board attending from separate remote locations. The meeting is accessible to the public via telephonic, video or computer at: https://www.zoom.us/j/99635098489?pwd=QWx5TVhWb1Rou2tvTVF3Y1NCQlF1Zz09). The Governor will consider adoption of the budget at its next regular meeting, scheduled for May 6, 2021.

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HELP JIM ALONG THE COMEBACK TRAIL

Jim Lambert’s been sick lately. Which may come as a surprise, because you figure nothing can lay low a performer like Jim. He’s been battling cancer since 2019. Went in one day to remove a “benign” tumor, and the next thing you know, it’s not benign, and it’s metastasized and you’re lying on an operating table for 13 hours. If you’d like to join the battle on Jim’s behalf, consult the end of this interview/story for details. But first, some thoughts from Jim and then wife Lina.

When/where were you happiest? Sitting on my front porch, at home, before this cancer

What’s your most meaningful possession? My wife

Describe your first car 1967 Mustang 289 Fastback, dark green. I wish I still had that car.

If you won Wheel of Fortune, where would you most like Pat Sajak to send you for an all-expenses paid vacation? Phuket Island, Thailand - a random chat room meeting sparked a friendship with another cancer survivor who lives in Thailand and I want to meet him in person.

What’s your favorite song to play in a crowded bar? A rocking crowd would be California Huddle & Flow or Mustang Sally.

Or Friends in Low Places with the secret 3rd verse What’s your favorite song to play in a quiet moment? Imagine by John Lennon Favorite song to make ‘em swoon? Hustle & Flow or Mustang Sally.

What’s your favorite meal? My wife’s cooking.

Favorite song to play in a quiet moment? Far, far away from the gondola

Favorite song to play in a crowded bar? No "quit your day job."

What’s your favorite run at MMSA? Jimmy’s turn.

Favorite meal? Chicken fried steak at Tom’s Place.

If you were sitting down for the last game of cards you’d ever play, who’s sitting at the table?

My cellphone (I play solitaire a lot) My children. And my wife.

From Lina ...

Jim and I met on Match.com in 2007. The computer randomly matched us and when we started to chat, we realized we had a lot of friends in common, including his bandmates in Flashback. Our first “date” was at the Holler at the Jazz Jubilee.

I lived in Mammoth and he was in Chalfant and for years we commuted back and forth, until I moved in at his Chalfant Chalet in 2012. We were engaged for several years, always delaying a wedding, but in 2017, a couple of months before my 60th birthday, we eloped and my dream of being Mrs. Lambert came true.

The music was always our “thing.” His son once said “you guys work your day jobs just so you can do the music on the weekends” and he was right. It was our common thread and passion, and I was his biggest fan. A true groupie, camera in hand and business cards to hand out for the next gig.

... One of my favorite moments in life is when both hands (his hand as well as my children’s band) played at the same event in Bishop, around 2009. The Peacocks opened for Flashback and I got to experience a magical moment, when both of my kids and the new love of my life all performed on the same stage.

He has two adult kids, a daughter (married, with a 16-month old daughter - Jim’s only grandbaby), and a son (engaged to be married in October). I have two adult kids as well, Spencer (32) and Amanda (30).

Jim is my “person.” It took us other marriages and a stroke of fate and luck to meet, but once we did, we both knew it was “it.” I am his biggest cheerleader and advocate. I believe in miracles and will not stop praying for that spontaneous healing to happen for him. I have read about it enough times and know it is real and true. And I am just waiting for it to be Jimmy’s turn.

The GoFundMe was started by our friend Stacey Powells after she astutely noticed that I was having one meltdown after another. She said “enough” and went into action to help. The funds are for the medical not covered by insurance, the constant declines of certain coverages, the organic diet, and a mirage of supplements to offset the toxicity of the chemo and radiation. And not to mention, early forced retirement just doesn’t reach far enough.

We didn’t plan all that well for being this age. If advice could be given to the younger crowd, it would be to plan for retirement. It isn’t just a cliché. Life, insurance, 401k, savings, wise choices ... neither one of us planned very well and we were caught without some of these obvious financial means.

But as much as the fundraiser is a tremendous help to us financially, it is so much more than that. It is also a SPirit Trayer. The connection of true friendship and fellowship has blown us away. The way folks have reached out directly to Jim has given him hope and a new motivation to keep going. I think it has been a shot in the arm (and for once not an infusion) for him to realize that people really care about him and that his music and songwriting has made an impact on people, and they want more of it. He has this uncanny ability to arrange songs. His arrangement of “All Along The Watchtower” is phenomenal.

The fundraiser, and the outreach and camaraderie has made me realize that there is more to this than meets the eye. I am not sure what it is, or what is next - but I just hope my intuition is true and that Jimmy’s journey will turn out to be something really awesome and good in the long run.

He was at Brit’s Diesel when the diagnosis hit, and he was forced to retire early. He loved that job and didn’t want to stop working. The crew and owner (Brit) have been so helpful. I want to give them a shout-out.

Check out this video. It’s two-minutes long and gives a quick synopsis. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eouC-VBg5E&feature=youtu.be

#getjimbak is the tagline to the fundraiser.
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