



# A pint, a quart, a cup...no matter how you measure "S," not everyone agrees it's the best ingredient for MUSD

By Stacey Powells  
Mammoth Times Staff Writer

Like many organizations who have suffered from budget cut after budget cut, the Mammoth Unified School District didn't sit around and lick its wounds for very long. The Mono County Board of Supervisors authorized a resolution to put Measure "A" on the ballot four years ago, and it passed, giving the school district some much needed funding through a \$59 parcel tax.

Now Measure "S" is on the special election ballot for Nov. 6, but not everyone is in favor of the new measure, which, according to MUSD Superintendent Mike DeRisi, is exactly the same as the previously approved measure. "It is simply an extension of Measure "A," not an additional tax. Measure "A" gave the District money for four years and hopefully Measure "S" will do the same.

One of the myths going around town is that money from the Parcel Tax goes toward meal programs at the schools. "That is simply not true," DeRisi said. "None of the Parcel Tax money goes toward meal programs at any of the schools. Those are all paid for through federal funding."

Another misconception is that the Mono County Board of Supervisors decides where the money goes. "The Board does not administer or allocate the funds," said Board member Gwen Davis. "An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee oversees and allocates all parcel tax money." The resolution passed by the Board states that, if approved, the money must go to a list of specific programs such as books and supplies, class size reduction, high-quality teachers, technical support and computers, and counseling and library services. The Citizens' Oversight Committee meetings are always public meetings and anyone can attend.

"This is one of the wonderful things about the parcel tax," Davis said. "It is local money with local control that directly benefits the kids of this community. The state cannot touch these funds."

The state also mandates the school curriculum but it doesn't fund districts for all the books they need. "Textbooks and instructional materials will be the big expenditure. We are in dire need of replacing the math curriculum," DeRisi said. Grades K-8 have an approved list of books from the state and for the most part the state funds those books. The secondary books, however, grades 9-12, have to be paid for by the district. Each secondary book costs between \$80 - \$100 apiece. Same as the price for college books in math, Language Arts, social studies and science. "The funding we get from the state is unrestricted so it goes to other programs, not just textbooks."

The recent expenditures from Measure "A" from 2004 through 2007 have just been released and are as follows:

CLASS SIZE REDUCTION	\$500,000
MATH & SCIENCE TEACHERS, MMS & MHS	\$477,000
RECRUIT & RETAIN QUALITY TEACHERS	\$386,000
COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY	\$240,000
TEXTBOOKS & INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS	\$186,000
READING SPECIALIST	\$ 42,500
DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	\$117,000
LIBRARY BOOKS AND LIBRARIANS	\$ 53,000
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR	\$ 30,000
DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	\$117,000
INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES	\$ 17,000
FOOD SERVICE WORKER, MMS	\$25,000
TOTAL MEASURE "A" FUNDS SPENT	\$2,190,500

Mammoth area resident Ray Doblick is against Measure "S" and is in the process of talking with Senator Cox in Sacramento regarding how much money the schools get and how it is distributed. "As far as commenting on what I think, I'm against it [Measure S]. It's taxation without representation," Doblick said. "I'm going through the state because I don't trust the school district and I don't trust the oversight committee. Why do



PHOTO COURTESY OF STACEY POWELL  
Mammoth Elementary School was able to install this new computer lab through funds collected via the Measure "A" parcel tax.

they need a committee if they can't spend the money correctly in the first place?" Doblick asks. Doblick thinks the district administration is running the business of school into the ground while making justifications that they don't have enough money. He is in the process of writing a rebuttal to those "for" the measure and didn't want to say too much to the Mammoth Times without having his facts from the state all in a row, but did add that his

letter will be sent to the press within the next few weeks.

If Measure "S" doesn't pass, DeRisi will try to keep cutbacks out of the classroom, but it might mean staff reductions through attrition, increased class sizes and cutbacks in library availability. "We would also curtail the purchase of certain books and there will be definite cutbacks in acquiring technology for our students."

## Town Bulletin

### Featured Event:

**Public Arts Commission Workshop – New Town Gateway Monument, Suite Z, 4:00 p.m.**

The Public Arts Commission (PAC) has been charged with the creation of a new Town gateway entry monument to replace the existing sign on the north side of Hwy 203 and wants your input. PAC believes the monument should be of significant size so that it stands out in the landscape, promotes a "sense of arrival," and encapsulates the unique attributes of Mammoth and the Eastern Sierra. If you're unable to attend the workshop but would like to comment, please forward your suggestions onto Paul Jurewitz at [barjur11@aol.com](mailto:barjur11@aol.com).

### Public Meetings:

**October 17:** Town Council Meeting, Suite Z, 6:00 p.m.

**October 18:** Parks and Rec. Ice Skating Programming Meeting, T&R Conf. Rm., 5:30 p.m.

**October 23:** Public Works - Town Projects Workshop, Suite Z, 4:00 p.m.

**October 24:** Planning Commission Meeting, Suite Z, 9:00 a.m.

### Stu's News:

Stu's News is your direct source for Town news, events, meetings and announcements. Subscribe by sending an e-mail to [sbrown@visitmammoth.com](mailto:sbrown@visitmammoth.com)

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## LOCAL NEWS

# MLTPA presents "CAMP: SUMMER"

## Trails and Public Access Foundation's multi-day workshop set for Nov. 1-4

The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) announced last week that it will launch CAMP: SUMMER, a free, multi-day public workshop on summer trails and recreation in Mammoth Lakes, Nov. 1-4. The event will be based at Canyon Lodge and is an opportunity for the community to participate in the Trails and Public Access Concept and Master Planning (CAMP) process via interactive exhibits, hikes, community and user group meetings, and trails network workshops.

The weekend will kick off with CAMP: SUMMER Opening Night on Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. in Canyon Lodge. The public will have the opportunity to meet planning con-

sultant team members from Alta Planning + Design and Trail Solutions, MLTPA staff and Board members, and other CAMP Partners. Informational and interactive exhibits will be on display throughout the event, and MLTPA staff will be on hand all weekend to field questions and receive feedback.

Upon special invitation by MLTPA, Corbin Design will present "Signage and Wayfinding in Mammoth Lakes: The Essential Steps to a Successful Program" on Saturday, Nov. 3, at Canyon Lodge, 7:30 p.m. Other CAMP: SUMMER events include an introduction to the Web-based user's group community of "Mammoth Trails" and a Sunday-afternoon wrap-up and "next steps" session focused on the future of trails and public access in Mammoth Lakes.

Event schedule, registration, and details are available at [www.mltpa.org](http://www.mltpa.org) or by calling (760) 934-3154. All are welcome, but registration is recommended.

CAMP: WINTER, a similar workshop devoted to winter recreation and trails in Mammoth Lakes, is scheduled to take place early next year in February 2008.

The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation dedicated to trails and public access issues in Mammoth Lakes, and the immediate Eastern Sierra region. MLTPA partners with local jurisdictions and agencies, businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals to connect people to nature and to provide a forum for all trail users to be involved. -Press Release