

TOT increase back on next agenda for resolution

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council. Council member Perri Melnick wondered by the county or neighboring areas such as Lake Arrowhead weren't included in the comparisons. Christie Brewster of Robinhood Resort in Big Bear Lake said occupancy is down. She said traditional lodging can't compete with short-term rentals. While the TOT is paid by the consumer, the financial burden affects small businesses, Brewster said. She suggested a two-tiered system.

Jeff Holoubek, who is a member of the Big Bear Lake Planning Commission and has owned vacation rentals in the past, said one can't compare Palo Alto or Desert Hot Springs to Big Bear. The communities are too different, he said. Holoubek said vacationers don't necessarily look at separate costs when making decisions on lodging, they look at the total costs. He said the areas used for comparison are places where there is a higher level of disposable income.

Mike Rotman, who manages rental properties in the Valley, said an increase on top of inflation, recession and gas should be noted and that increases do make a difference to travelers. He said the cities in the comparison are as far as 400 miles away. It's much smarter to compare neighbors across the street. There are areas in Big Bear where a rental on one side of the street is within the city limits at 11 percent and the other side of the street is in the county at 7 percent. People will turn left for a lower rate, he said.

Robert Manning, a local lodge owner and member of the Visit Big Bear board, said the council needs to look at what's happening now, not 2010. The economy is falling and all locations around the state and country are suffering, Manning said.

Erin Lanza said she finds it odd that the council can discuss measures that will make tourists go away but plans to charge those who do visit more. It's odd to hear both messages at the same council meeting, Lanza said. Earlier the council discussed the citizens initiative to limit short-term rental licenses and contracts.

Council member Randy Putz said he too is uneasy with the increase with the economic uncertainty of inflation, a



Council member Randy Putz is not in favor of a TOT increase of more than 1 percent at this time.

recession, the low lake levels and even a natural disaster, all of which could have a significant impact on the city's economy. He could get behind a minimal increase of 1 percent and made a motion toward that, which died for a lack of a second.

Council member Alan Lee has been a proponent of increasing the TOT for some time and favors the higher rates, he said. He hinted that if the council doesn't put a TOT increase on the ballot, a citizens initiative will happen.

It's a matter of needs versus wants for Melnick and while she shares Putz and Mote's concerns, she could be comfortable with a 1 or 1.5 percent increase.

Mayor Rick Herrick's motion to increase the TOT by 2 percent for short-term rentals and 1 percent for traditional lodging was approved 3-2 with Mote and Putz voting no. The matter will now be back before the council on June 6 for consideration of a resolution to place the matter on the November ballot.

TOT funding options

By Judi Bowers
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If the matter makes it to the ballot, and if it is approved by voters, there are several options for how to spend additional TOT revenue in the city of Big Bear Lake.

The Big Bear Lake City Council is moving toward adding a transient occupancy tax general tax increase to the November 2022 ballot. At the May 16 meeting, the council voted 3-2 to move ahead with a tiered increase. The vacation rentals would be assessed an additional 2 percent and traditional lodging would be assessed an additional 1 percent. The current rate in the city of Big Bear Lake is 11 percent, with 8 percent going to the city coffers and 3 percent to the VBA under the tourism business improvement district assessment. Council members Randy Putz and Bynette Mote voted no.

If the matter is on the November ballot and voters in the city approved the rate hike, there are five categories of possible recipients of the funding based on council discussions. They include Replenish Big Bear, public safety, public transit, parks and other priorities such as workforce housing. Based on estimated financial needs, the price tag for all items is \$2.4 million. To fund the entire list would require at least a 4 percent increase in TOT.

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COMMUNITY MARKET

Sale Price good through 05/24/2022

USDA Choice Boneless
TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS \$6³⁷ Lb.

Fresh Pork
BABY BACK RIBS \$5⁸⁷ Lb.

Random Sizes
CHEDDAR CHEESE \$2⁵⁷ Lb.

From Our Deli
Imitation
CRAB MEAT SALAD \$2⁸⁷ Lb.

Quantities may be limited to shelf stock

Your East Valley
Grocers since 1960

- Highest Quality Meat on the Mountain!
- Deli
- Fresh Baked Items
- Rotisserie Chicken
- Special Orders Welcome

Also Check our
In-Store Specials!

STORE HOURS:

Sun - Thurs. 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. - 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

909-585-2641



100 East Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear City



DEPARTMENT OF
WATER AND POWER

REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/23 BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water and Power Board of Water and Power Commissioners Public Hearing to review the FY 2022/23 Budget has been rescheduled to Friday, May 27, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held both in person at 41972 Garstin Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA and through a Zoom via <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86048041821>

Password: bigbear or dial into +1 253 215 8782 or +1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 860 4804 1821 Password: 7323721.

The public is invited to attend and participate in the discussion and review of the proposed budget. The Budget is scheduled to be adopted at the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

For more information, please call (909) 866-5050.

MEMORIAL DAY HOURS & DEADLINES

CLOSED

Memorial Day May 30

Classified ad deadline
Noon on May 23 for ALL Classifieds
for the May 25 issue

Deadline for all ads
5 p.m. on May 27 for ALL ads for the
June 1 issue

Big Bear Grizzly

The media of the mountain

909-866-3456

March in Riverside



Photo courtesy of Annie Aldrich

A group of Big Bear residents attended the Bans Off Our Bodies march in Riverside On May 14. Pictured are, from left, Rob McKenzie, Annie Aldrich, Shelley Egan, Mickey Laws and Jeanne Avery.

In Brief

Historical Society hosts taco fundraiser

It's Dollar Taco Day at Sonora Cantina Monday, May 23, and it's all for a good cause. The annual Big Bear Valley Historical Society fundraiser is from noon to 8 p.m.

After ordering your plate of dollar tacos, feel free to check out the items at the silent auction. There is also an opportunity drawing. Purchase tickets and enter your bid on silent auction items before 8 p.m. The drawing will be held at the close of the fundraiser event.

Sonora Cantina is at 41144 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake.

Interact Club hosts car wash

The Big Bear Rotary Interact Club hosts a Stay in Your Car — Car Wash Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, at Worldmark in Big Bear Lake.

The event originated at the beginning of the COVID outbreak in 2020. It was a safe way to host a fundraiser and provide a service to the community. The car wash was such a success it has now become tradition. The Stay in Your Car — Car Wash is a safe and eco friendly event.

Car washing begins at 10 a.m. each day. Worldmark is at 240 Starvation Flats, Big Bear Lake.

Girls love football, too

The annual Big Bear High School Powder Puff game is on. Sophomores and seniors team up to battle the freshmen and juniors in an all-girls flag football game Tuesday, May 24. The game starts at 3 p.m. at Minder Field in Big Bear Lake. The event is a fundraiser for the animal shelter.

Minder Field is located on Jeffries Road behind Big Bear Middle School.

Options for spending TOT funds

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It comes down to needs versus wants for council member Perri Melnick. She considers public safety a need, along with Replenish Big Bear.

Mayor Rick Herrick agrees that some of the things on the list are needs and Replenish Big Bear is a definite need. There is nothing worse than an empty lake, Herrick said. Public safety also can't be ignored, he said. The city currently helps fund the free trolley program, which is a pilot program. Herrick said transportation needs can be funded through San Bernardino County Transportation Authority.

Mote said she wants to wait until the county considers a TOT hike, but Herrick said he doesn't believe waiting

is wise. The city needs to move forward with covering its needs, Herrick said. If the Valley loses the lake it would be devastating, Herrick said. The council needs to be responsible to the community.

Putz said when the council removed a previous TOT increase from the ballot two years ago, it was before the pandemic. No one had any idea what would happen, Putz said. He hoped to get support for a 1 percent increase but couldn't get a second on his motion.

No specific decisions were made as to what would be funded, and it's not necessary for a general tax increase. The matter will return to the council on June 6.

Worship Guide

Please check with your selected place of worship regarding COVID-19 regulations and policies

Bear Valley Center for Spiritual Enrichment

A Religious Science/New Thought Community
For information about our center and current meetings, please visit our website at BVCSE.org or email us at BVCSE2000@gmail.com

Bear Valley Church-Big Bear

Pastor Jay Walden
Services offered inside, and live online
Sundays at 10 a.m.
View 24/7 Online
Check for services updates at bvcbigbear.org
41960 Big Bear Blvd, Big Bear Lake
909-866-3951 • www.BVCBigbear.org

Big Bear Believers Chapel

Pastor Eric Hoerger
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
aturday: Cowboy Church 1 p.m. at Wyatt's
Wednesday Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Thursday: Food Pantry 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
42180 Moonridge Road, Big Bear Lake
909-866-2552

Big Bear Foursquare Church at the Big Bear City Airport

Pastor Dr. Michael Erickson
Saturday Worship: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible study: 6:30 p.m.
909-856-6259 • www.bigbearfoursquare.com

Bridges Presbyterian Fellowship

Non Traditional Marriage Affirming
Women in All Leadership
Christ-centered
Sunday Worship 10 a.m. & on Facebook Live
579 Knickerbocker Road, Big Bear Lake
909-866-5683 • bigbearpresbyterian.org

Calvary Chapel

Jesus Lives
Pastor Mike Fulmer
Bible Study: Wednesday 6 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Nursery, Toddler, Children & Youth services provided
1001 Holden Ave., Big Bear City
909-866-9328

Christian Faith Center

Pastors John & Michele Dunn
Equipping Believers for Successful Christian Living and the Work of the Ministry
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. & on Facebook Live
Word Warriors Monday: 10:30 a.m.
New location
39853 Crocus Dr., Big Bear Lake
909-273-9234 • www.cfcbigbear.com

Church of Christ

Romans 16:16
All the Churches of Christ Greet You
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Wednesday Services: 6 p.m.
41035 Big Bear Blvd, Big Bear Lake
909-866-2828

Community Church Big Bear

Pastor Mike Barnes
Worship Services: 8:45 & 10:30 a.m.
Children's Program & Youth Group
Wednesday Night Dinner/Studies: 6 p.m.
40946 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake
909-866-7523

First Church of Christ, Scientist

A branch of The Mother Church
The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Mass.
Sunday Services: 10 a.m. • Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Wednesday Meeting: 3:30 p.m.
Reading room: Wed. & Sun.
before & after services or by appt.
550 Squirrel Lane, Big Bear Lake
www.cschurchbigbearlake.org

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Michael McMillan
A family-friendly, bible-believing church with richly casual traditions.
Worship: 11 a.m. each Saturday morning, followed by the best lunch anywhere!
Bible study for all ages and stages (come to worship and get connected)
349 E. North Shore Drive, Big Bear City
909-585-2275
www.BigBearSeventhDayAdventistChurch.org
www.facebook.com/BigBearAdventist

Shepherd in the Pines Lutheran Church (LCMS)

The Rev. Dr. Elroi Reimnitz, Pastor
Welcome. We are open indoors.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
42450 North Shore Drive, Big Bear Lake
909-547-0934 • www.SITPBigBear.org

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Now partnering with
St. Columba's Episcopal Church
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
42324 North Shore Drive, Big Bear City
909-866-7239 • Find us on Facebook

St. Columba's Spirit of Peace Church

Father Stuart Swann
Sunday Service with Holy Communion: 10 a.m.
Saturday Life challenges support group: 9:30 a.m.
42324 North Shore Drive, Big Bear City
909-866-7239
www.stcolumbas.bigbear.com

St. Joseph's Catholic Community Church

Father Paul Smith C.R.
Monday- Friday Mass: 8 a.m.
Saturday Reconciliation: 4 p.m.
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 11 a.m. (Spanish) 1 p.m.
Office hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
42242 North Shore Drive, Big Bear Lake
909-866-3030

Summit Christian Fellowship

Assemblies of God
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. • Fellowship: Following Service
Wednesday: Adult Bible study 6:30 p.m.
41965 Garstin Drive, Big Bear Lake
909-878-HOPE(4673)
www.SummitChristianFellowship.com

Freedom of Religion is one of our most cherished freedoms. We invite you to visit your chosen place of worship.

**Call or email Kelsey at 909-316-6819
kbowers.grizzly@gmail.com
for more information on listing in this directory.**