THERE'S A BIT OF A JOKE whenever a new pregnancy is announced in Mammoth—“Congratulations! So...when are you moving?”

Childcare isn’t easy to access for parents of young children. The demand is high and there are a lot of reasons for that, but it boils down to affordability. Most Eastsiders are imports, and in the early 2000s, the number of younger couples able to afford homes, and many home childcare providers are young mothers who wish to stay at home with their kids, so they end up providing for others’ children and making some extra money in the process.

“There is no affordable space available,” said Jennifer Joyce, who is closing her in-home childcare center. Jennifer Joyce Family Childcare, at the end of this school year, Joyce “aged out” of the career, as her children are now in high school and junior high, and is moving out of state where she and her family can afford to buy a home. “I have a person who I wanted to pass off my school to ... and she can’t find a space,” said Joyce. “There’s nothing to rent as far as houses go, and she totally wants to do childcare.”

According to Queenie Barnard, Mammoth Site Director for Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA), three family childcare providers in Mammoth have closed or are closing this year. There were only 13 providers in Mono County to begin with—leaving just ten this coming year. There are also two private centers, the Mammoth Mountain-run Kids Corner and the Lutheran Preschool, both of which are currently full. “Have you considered becoming a childcare provider yourself?” Barnard inquired when The Sheet called to ask about the situation. This doesn’t include the State-run preschools, which have the same hours as schools and take in kids from the ages of about 3-5. The Head Start preschool in Mammoth has a capacity of 22 kids, and is full. Two new preschools opened this year in Benton and Bridgeport under the Head Start umbrella, and “Benton just got full in the last two months,” said Molly DesBaillets, Executive Director of First 5 in Mono County. “Bridgeport was full from the get go.” Those preschools care for 10 and 16 students, respectively. DesBaillets recognizes the need for more childcare in the area, and extolled the

CHILD CARE, page 9

GET ON THE BANDWAGON

The Equestrian Trails Incorporated Carrafe 14 Western Wagons traveled from Bishop to Lone Pine during the week of May 15. Twenty-four people traveled in four restored covered wagons pulled by ponies along the Owens River. The trip is a 65-mile ride, and follows the historic route of Owens Valley settlers in the 1800s. This is the 17th year that the wagon train has followed the route. More western stories, p. 19.

HACK MY LIFE

MHS database breached by student

By Bodine

A student database of personal and academic information at Mammoth High School was compromised by a student earlier this month, resulting in the altering of grades and attendance records, according to Mammoth Unified School District Superintendent Lois Klein. The same system was also compromised in May, 2012. Klein did not say how the student got into the system. Klein said once the school became aware of the situation, the system was shut down. All teachers and staff will have new, complex passwords and Klein said the District is making sure all operating systems have the latest protection software, district-wide. She said she considers the student hacker to be a thief. Some students were suspended for their involvement.

MONO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY TIM KENDALL said on Thursday, May 25 that the investigation is ongoing and that his office had not yet filed charges. A letter from MHS sent to parents on May 18 states that the school confiscated the device that is believed to have been used to access the system. It doesn’t specify what the device is. There are cheap devices for sale on the internet such as the “keystroke logger,” about $60, that can hold up to 32 pages of text that would likely contain passwords, according to a sales pitch on hackershomepage.com. Aeries Systems, a software and data management system that contains the personal and academic information of individual students, was the system that was accessed.

STUDENT HACKER, page 21

PITCHING IN

Georgia Fogg, Renee Strong, Jona Fogg, and Judy get their hands dirty on Saturday, May 20 at the June Lake Clean-Up Day, sponsored by June Lake Breeze, Tiger Bar, Trout Town Joe’s, Ohana’s 395, and Karen O’Keefe.

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DUDE, WHERE’S MY CLEVENGER?

Given that Mammoth Lakes Tourism is now running full-page advertisements in the Filly Center, I wonder whether I’m due a sales commission.

I’ll fill you in on the latest public records request made by The Sheet which seems to have triggered the ire of MLT Executive Director John Urdi.

When I last looked at MLT’s books, I noticed that a lot of business expenses are run through personally held credit cards—which means that the rewards associated with the cards also go individuals, as opposed to the organization.

It didn’t make sense to me. If you’re making purchases on a card which are reimbursed with public funds, shouldn’t the rewards bonus belong to the taxpayer as well as opposed to the employee?

So I made a public records request asking for an accounting of John Urdi’s credit card rewards—what points he had accrued and how he had spent them.

This is the reply I got from John Morris, MLT Board Chairman.

“Thanks for your email regarding John Urdi’s Capital One credit card. A little background:

When MLT was formed in 2010, the formation Board looked into obtaining a corporate credit card. Being a new non-profit organization, this was difficult at best and the limits available were so low that the card would have been all but useless.

After John Urdi was hired, the then MLT Board of Directors asked John to again look into obtaining a corporate card (summer of 2012 if memory serves me right). The results were basically the same. John indicated that he could obtain a personal Capital One card with a sufficient limit ($25,000 at that time) and that he was willing to assume the risk associated with this card. MLT would pay all business related expenses, with detailed receipts provided, and John would be permitted to use any accrued reward points for personal use since he was assuming liability for the account.

The current MLT Board understands that for many reasons, including removing John’s personal liability, it would be best to have a corporate card. We are currently looking into this once again. When do obtain such a credit card, I am confident that the Board will agree to mandate that rewards or points associated with that card be used for MLT related business, and the specific use of those points will then become public record. At this time, the Board considers the specific use of the rewards/miles in question to be private information.”

I will defer to Morris on his recollection of the deal the MLT Board made with Urdi, but that deal is not outlined in his contract.

The upshot: The public request was denied.

Meanwhile, I noticed in the general ledger for 2015-2016 that MLT spent $1,600 on an employee Christmas party held at Rock Creek Lodge (not a TBID remitter). If one must spend taxpayer money on an employee party (never mind the various birthday parties MLT also holds for its employees at taxpayer expense), perhaps it can, at the very least, use rewards benefits for such expenditures.

Or imagine this. They pay for such parties with the money we pay them in salary. Or do as the Town does and if you’re going to have a party for your employees, make it communal and invite everyone in town to join you.

A few other expenditures that didn’t seem right. A $1,200 expenditure on gifts of Vern Clevenger prints for departing Board members. Yes, board members are volunteers and put in a lot of unpaid time, but is this necessary? What’s weird is that when I asked the two board members (Lehman and Raimondo) I could think of who departed the Board during that time frame how they were enjoying their prints, neither knew what I was talking about.

Another Board member acknowledged that he had seen the framed prints in John Urdi’s office and knew who they were for, but never knew what happened to them.

It was later determined that there had been a “snafu” and that the gifts had never been distributed to Lehman and Raimondo and were still sitting in the MLT offices.

I summariy sent Rea down to MLT to offer to pick up the prints and drop them off to their intended designees.

The prints were not to be found and employees said they had a recollection of the prints but don’t know what happened to them.

Then there were about $2,500 worth of Visa gift cards that were purchased by John Urdi and MLT employees (on private credit cards and then reimbursed) for what were described as promotional giveaways. It would seem to be more proper to buy gift certificates from local businesses for a giveaway than to hand out cash cards that are pretty much untraceable. I mean, did we collect information to put into some database for our trouble, or did we just hand cash away in the hopes it would engender some loyalty and business?

For an organization obsessed with ROI (return on investment) metrics, this seems out of character.

I know the argument. The organization now brings in $9 million a year. Why should anyone be bothered about a few grand here and a few grand there? That to bring up such things is grasping and petty. And yet … it gnaws at me.

“Correction: In the May 20 story, “Mining Mess at Stamp Mill,” Giles incorrectly stated that California Trout detected concentrations of mercury at the Valentine Reserve spring source above the EPA’s standard for safe drinking water and that set by the California Toxic Rule. That study detected elevated levels of manganese, not mercury.”
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A USED SWEATER BOUGHT, A LIFE SAVED
Sometimes you really do reap what you sow

By Bodine

This winter, Judy Bornfeld, the president of the Mammoth Hospital Auxiliary, needed a piece of medical equipment bought by her organization to save her own life. The Auxiliary is a group of volunteers that work to raise funds for new medical equipment at Mammoth Hospital. Since moving to Mammoth, Bornfeld has volunteered many hours to The Cast Off Thrift Store in Mammoth, which is run by and generates proceeds for the group run by Bornfeld. The hospital provides the Auxiliary with a wish list of needed equipment and other items from which the Auxiliary picks items to purchase. It has purchased gurneys, heart and vital sign monitors, imaging equipment and completely remodeled the pediatrics room with funds raised by sales at the Cast Off Thrift Store.

Since opening its doors in 1978, the Auxiliary has gifted more than $4.5 million in equipment to Mammoth Hospital, along with college scholarships and high school achievement awards, according to Bornfeld. Luckily for The Sheet, Bornfeld had a few minutes to talk Monday at the Cast Off before going to volunteer at the Blood Drive. Bornfeld was not comfortable talking about herself and, as might be expected from a person who gives of themselves without compensation, she didn't want the story to be about her, but rather the Auxiliary. She beamed when she talked of the hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours put into the Cast Off and the fact that the donated clothing, furniture, and sporting equipment is put to good use again in the same community. Donating or purchasing a used sweater and a lamp can save a life. “Aren’t we great,” Bornfeld said.

When an ulcer Bornfeld had developed hemorrhaged on January 14, she got the opportunity to try out some of that lifesaving equipment first hand. She said she was rushed to Mammoth Hospital where the staff and Dr. Fru Bahiaei treated her well, “And not just because I’m president of the Auxiliary.”

Mammoth Hospital’s laryngoscope wouldn’t have been long enough to reach Bornfeld’s ulcer if not for an extension the Auxiliary had purchased in 2016. After four days and three blood transfusions, she was let out of the hospital. A few weeks later she followed up with a specialist at Cedars Sinai in Los Angeles. As she told the story, she wiped a tear away and smiled at how impressed “the Big City doctors” were at the expertise and sophistication of the procedure performed at a rural hospital like Mammoth’s. They were surprised she was even alive.

“They (the specialists) said they wouldn’t have done anything differently,” Bornfield said. Bornfeld is a mother of four daughters and has six grandchildren. She is not only the Mammoth Hospital Auxiliary President but also a blood drive volunteer, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Mammoth Lakes Foundation. Bornfeld also manages her husband Michael Bornfeld’s Law Practice.

When asked if she was retired, the 75-year old replied, “Would you call this retired?” The Cast Off is located next to Mammoth Rock and Bowl, 3059 Chateau Road, open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
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HELTER SKELTER, EPISODE 2
The Barrus family initiates another high-speed car chase, just for the heck of it
By Bodine

On Tuesday, May 16, a family of Sovereign Citizens, American-born right-wing militia extremists, allegedly shot and killed Inyo County Sheriff’s Deputy Mason Moore, a pursuit that began on March 17 when they were pulled over by Nevada Highway Patrol. The incident was followed by a 20-hour standoff with the suspects barricaded in the rocks of the Panamint Mountains. What followed was a 20-hour standoff with law enforcement.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, Broadwater County Sheriff’s Deputy Mike Maarteuse, took Nevada Highway Patrol on a 70-mile, high-speed chase with guns blazing right here in the Eastern Sierra. Barrus and crew eventually made it to Death Valley, where they ditched their stolen BMW, grabbed an armful of firearms, and barricaded themselves in the rocks of the Panamint Mountains. What followed was a 20-hour standoff with law enforcement.

The March 2000 incident in Death Valley was similar to the May 2017 standoff in Montana. The incident was followed by a 20-hour standoff with the suspects barricaded in the rocks of the Panamint Mountains. What followed was a 20-hour standoff with law enforcement.

In March of 2000, the patriarch of that family, Lloyd Barrus, along with his son, Jeffrey Barrus and Lloyd’s girlfriend, Cheryl Maarteuse, took Nevada Highway Patrol on a 70-mile, high-speed chase with guns blazing right here in the Eastern Sierra. Barrus and crew eventually made it to Death Valley, where they ditched their stolen BMW, grabbed an armful of firearms, and barricaded themselves in the rocks of the Panamint Mountains. What followed was a 20-hour standoff with law enforcement.

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The AP reported that Maarteuse was shot with a 9mm pistol. He said in interviews after his arrest that he was hoping for a suicide by cop because no one got killed in Death Valley.

Lloyd Barrus, Sovereign Citizen and domestic terrorist.

The FBI defines as “domestic terrorists” those who believe they are free of legal restraints, belief taxation or drug laws. In 2014, the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism ranked Sovereign Citizens as a bigger terrorist threat to national security than Islamic Extremism. Hardy speculated that Lloyd Barrus’ distaste for government and his anti-establishment views may have manifested after a grievance he had with a child support case in Alaska. Deputy Moore is survived by his wife and three children.
GROWING ROGUE IN BENTON

Mono County discovers regulating pot is a lot more complicated than the State made it seem...

By Bodine

At the May 8 meeting of the Mono County Supervisors, 2nd District Supervisor Fred Stump told the story of a marijuana grow near Benton that had moved him to change his views on the subject.

The grow he described is in its second year and, contrary to a circulating rumor, is not on tribal land. It is, however, on a rural residential parcel with no dwelling unit, for which the operator does not have a permit from the county to allow for small-scale agriculture. The county issued a permit for temporary power use to the growers in 2016, for growing trees.

Last year the grow operation had 60 plants, and this year it has 300, according to Stump. In recent months, Stump said the neighbors have complained about the smell, the Sheriff’s Office and District Attorney’s Office have taken reports on the grow, Code Compliance has issued a Notice of Violation and Southern California Edison has disconnected the electricity. Nonetheless, the operation persists.

“The grow is less than a quarter mile from the Edna Beaman Elementary School. On May 5, an attorney representing the growers contacted the county, arguing that state law, which allows “caregivers” to grow pot wherever they wish, supercedes county regulations. Caregivers grow for medical marijuana patients that can’t grow for themselves,” Stump said. He added his constituents are asking what good codes and regulations are if there are loopholes and ways around the laws.

“Caregivers grow for medical marijuana patients that can’t grow for themselves. “The growers are currently going about their business and appear to be throwing this in the county’s face,” Stump said. He added his constituents are asking what good codes and regulations are if there are loopholes and ways around the laws.

“What this situation is pointing out to me is exactly what you don’t need if you are a commercial marijuana proponent, this is a philosophical question and is now having a direct impact on District 2 residents. I’ll say that if you are a commercial marijuana proponent, this is exactly what you don’t need if you want to see the county move forward with a regulatory set.”

Dr. Dale Gieringer, Executive Director for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), California Chapter said the county can argue its rules supersede state law and ban marijuana in the county altogether, but warned that other counties, like Fresno, that have banned weed are facing mounting lawsuits from growers and medical marijuana patients.

Additionally, the state does not provide clear guidelines for caregivers as to what constitutes “medical use” and how much of a given crop will actually go to patients, Gieringer said.

Michael Draper, Mono County planning analyst, said the situation in Benton is a zoning issue. The growers did not have a permit for a commercial grow, which would apply to any crop, whether apples or marijuana. The regulations are spelled out in the county’s General Plan, and include the definition of a commercial grow, as well as what constitutes a large and small scale grow. To find these regulations, a grower would have to dig through the General Plan, and include the definition of small scale agriculture.

Draper explained that, according to guidelines set in Senate Bill 420, which allowed for medical marijuana use and regulation and was passed by California voters in 1996, local government doesn’t have the ability to ban grows by caregivers. Draper said he was surprised there hasn’t been a contentious case like this prior to the one in Benton.

For recreational marijuana, which was made legal by voters in 2016 through Proposition 64, counties can impose taxes on top of what the state would require. A 15-percent tax on sale plus a $9.25 per ounce tax on the grower would have to dig through the General Plan, and include the definition of small scale agriculture.

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By Bodine and Rea

Fatal Motorcycle Crash in DV

According to the California Highway Patrol, at about 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 7, Karig McCloskey, 52, of Thousand Oaks was riding a motorcycle southbound on Panamint Valley Road at approximately 70 mph, and Kenneth Wheeler, age 47, of Sylmar was riding a motorcycle directly behind him when Wheeler moved over into the northbound lane to pass McCloskey. McCloskey drifted into the northbound lane just as Wheeler was passing him, and the two motorcycles collided, ejecting both riders from their vehicles. McCloskey succumbed to his injuries on the scene. Wheeler was transported via ambulance to Ridgecrest Regional Hospital with moderate injuries.

Missing hiker found dead

According to the Inyo County Sheriff’s Office, at noon on Tuesday, May 23 Dongying “Cindy” Qiu was located deceased at the base of a frozen waterfall near Outpost Camp. Qiu set off on Sunday, May 21 to climb Whitney with two other climbers but was not at the trailhead when the other climbers returned. A search for Qiu began Monday, May 22.

It is believed that she fell approximately 60 feet through a snow chute at the top of the waterfall. “This is an incredibly tragic situation and based on the extreme snow conditions in the backcountry, this could have happened to anyone,” stated Inyo County Sheriff’s Corporal Nick Vaughn. Support for the search was provided by Sierra Madre SAR, San Bernardino SAR, China Lake Mountain Rescue Mountain Rescue Group, Inyo SAR and aerial support provided by Army National Guard and CHP H-80.

Keep the change

On Saturday May 20, at approximately 10:40 p.m., the Brideleauuseum in Big Pine was burglarized, according to the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department. The suspect allegedly forced the change machine open and took the money from it. The suspect was wearing a grey zip-up sweater and blue jeans. The suspect is approximately 5 foot 6 inches tall, and has no facial hair. Through surveillance footage, the Sheriff’s Department determined the suspect was driving a dark-colored 4-door sedan and was believed to have parked his vehicle in the parking lot of the Big Pine Post Office.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department at 760.678.0383.

Gabe Proctor dies

Gabe Proctor, former member of the Mammoth Track Club, died on Saturday, May 20, at his home in Lyndonville, Vermont. Proctor, who suffered from severe depression, is reported to have taken his own life. He was 27.
CHILD CARE
continued from page 1
opportunities for those who might consider going into the field of early childhood education and care. To start a licensed "childcare center," such as Kids Corner or the Lutheran Preschool, providers need to complete 24 units in early childhood education. "You can only obtain the education you need at Cerro Coso [College], without having to leave the area," said DesBaillets, who says first 5 is focused on "creating a teacher pathway for the High School in Mammoth" for students who want to go into childcare. The other option is to create a "family childcare home," which does not require licensing but does not require courses in early childhood education. IMACA is currently offering help with start-up funds for checking to open childcare homes, and assistance with licensing procedures, said Barnard. "We can walk them through the process of becoming licensed, help them fill out an application, and pay up to $500 for orientation fees, start-up costs... we are totally willing to help them pay for it.

Any caregiver who accepts infants is in especially high demand. "I've been on the wait list for Kids Corner since I was four months pregnant, and I'm still second on the list," said Sarah Vigilante Ranson, whose son is now four months old.

"We're the only center that takes infants and toddlers," said Julie Winslow, who runs Kids Corner.

Adds Barnard, "Something to keep in mind is that the more infants a provider has in their care, the less their overhead capacity could be."

Say a small family childcare home was licensed for eight children, "if they had four infants, that's it," said Barnard. "If they have six children in their care, no more than three can be infants. The incentive for a provider to take in an infant is not that high, because that takes away more spots from their home."

Patricia Robertson, who is the Grant and Financial Associate for Mammoth Lakes Housing, has an eight-month-old son and said she was extremely lucky to find care for him. "I think that a lot of new families are feeling the pressure, because once [their kids] can go to preschool, it seems like there's more space available," she said. Her son's original caregiver, Yvonne Hill, is one of the providers that is closing this summer. Robertson said that she was able to secure a Spanish-speaking caregiver, as she is bilingual. "So I feel like that opens more opportunities to me, whereas someone who doesn't speak Spanish, maybe they're starting to call because they can't communicate..."

Before she secured childcare for her son, Robertson said, she considered reducing her work week in order to care for her child. "It's just a really big burden for you and your partner when you juggle when the options are so limited. I think the new moms that I know have been really lucky because their employers are flexible and/or understanding, and that helps take some of the pressure off, but it doesn't solve the problem." In addition to a need for infant care, there's also a need for care outside the typical work week. "A lot of families are in hospitality and [off hours] are when they're the busiest, and there's not a lot of providers," said Barnard.

Mono County Superintendent of Schools Stacey Adler is focused on getting a childcare center built at the present site of the ice center, on the school-owned property adjacent to the Mammoth Lakes Library. The goal would be a 15,000 square foot facility, built of modulars, that would have the capacity to care for 108 children per day, with 24-7 care options available.

"Our first priority is really to serve the zero to five [year old] population, with rooms available for infants, and we would also have a room for mildly ill children," said Adler. Most providers will, understandably, not accept students that are ill. School District employees would staff the center, said Adler, and it would be a learning opportunity for Mammoth High School students.

Culinary arts students could cook for the center, and there would be an "opportunity for Cerro Coso to develop a child care development pathway and get these kids the opportunities and experience they need," said Adler. There are, of course, a lot of pieces that need to fall into place for this to happen. Town Manager Dan Holler told The Sheet that the Town's building schedule would have the proposed Multi-Use Facility (ice rink) open by the winter of 2018. The Town has leased the current ice rink site through the winter of 2017-18, so, even if everything went perfectly, construction on the child care center could not begin until after the rink is moved.

Adler says that a realistic schedule would have the facility open by 2020, and that there are interest-free federal grants available for the project, which she estimates would come in at about $5-6 million in hard construction costs and about another $2 million in soft costs. Other entities, seeing the struggles of employed parents as they battle childcare, are taking immediate steps to maintain their work pool. Ranson, who works for Mammoth Hospital, told The Sheet that the hospital has "established a task force to look at setting up a daycare for hospital employees."

"There's two fundamental things that you need to survive, especially if you have children. You have to have a home, and you have to have someone to watch your children while you work," said Jennifer Halferty, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing. She sees the two issues—lack of housing and lack of childcare—as intertwined. "She's not alone. It's a very desperate situation," said Shelley Mayfield, who ran Sunny Slopes Preschool out of her home but now works for Mammoth Elementary School. "There's a big need here. There are more options in Bishop. I just think Mammoth is too expensive, unfortunately. We need more full time workers here, more full time homeoweners."

Barnard said that Inyo County has about 100 licensed options for childcare. "It's a pretty huge difference," she said. "With the severe lack of spots, a lot of parents aren't even looking for quality right now, they're just looking for someone who can take their kid" "I see it as an economic development issue," said DesBaillets, noting "how critical it is to your county as an economic development driver, to have childcare.

Courtney Singer, who runs Singer Family Daycare, says that she enjoys "working at home, working in my pajamas, setting my own schedule, and the incredible tax benefits" as perks of being a childcare provider. However, becoming a childcare provider is "not for the faint of heart," said Kacee Mahler, whose Mahler Family Preschool closed last June. She worked in the field for about 14 years, raising her own children alongside others. Most of the providers who closed their businesses this year told The Sheet their children either "aged out," or they are leaving for more affordable pastures. Mahler now works with "raising a Reader," and is still, to her delight, surrounded by kids in her work. However, she admits that the problem with childcare in Mammoth has reached a point where it must be addressed. "It's a crisis. It really is. We need quality childcare."
MLPD Officer Ruben Ramos let go after 18 years on force

By Rea

Mammoth Lakes Police Department Officer Ruben Ramos has been terminated from his employment with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Chief of Police Al Davis told The Sheet on Tuesday, May 24. Davis was unable to tell The Sheet why Officer Ramos had been terminated, saying that it was “an internal process,” and “a closed, private personnel matter.” Ramos has been on administrative leave since March 3 of this year, Davis said. He began using his own leave time on May 1, and was part of a hearing on Thursday, May 18, the subject of which Davis could not disclose.

When asked if Ramos had been accused of any improper behavior in his time as an officer with the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Davis responded, “I decline to comment on that.”

When asked if Officer Ramos was fired following allegations of sexual misconduct, Tim Kendall, District Attorney for Mono County, told The Sheet that there were no such complaints logged with the District Attorney’s Office, and that any complaints would be logged with the MLPD. Ramos was hired with the Mammoth Lakes Police Department in 1999, according to Hannah DeGoey, Assistant to the Chief of Police. When asked if the results of Ramos’ hearing would ever be made public, Davis responded that “outcomes eventually are public, but detailed information, even after the outcome, I’m not sure at what level we can provide, because this is a personnel matter.”

However, Davis added, “The integrity of the job is extremely important to me and I want the community to know how important that is to me. While I can’t provide information, I want [the public] to know that I hold my officers to a high standard, as they should be, and any improprieties will be investigated.”

The Sheet asked people on the street: Would you perform a sexual favor for a police officer to get out of a DUI?

“Hell no! Hell! No!” - Jacob Haataja, Mammoth Lakes

“Well it depends on how drunk I was.” - Ellie Hacker, Boulder, CO

“Well, I would never put myself in that situation, but if it came down to it, I’d do whatever it takes.” - Jon Brusky, Mammoth Lakes

“Only if his or her moustache is smaller than mine.” - Jason Compton, Mammoth Lakes

“A lady cop? I’m in.” - Billy Callahan IV, Mammoth Lakes

“Hmm. Probably not.” - CJ, Mammoth Lakes
SUMMER FUN AT
The Village
AT MAMMOTH

SUMMER EVENTS

JUNE
6/16 - 6/17 ..... Half Marathon Weekend
6/23 - 6/24 ..... Village Summer Jam

JULY
7/1 - 7/4 ........ Fourth of July Celebrations
7/7 - 7/8 ........ Mammoth Jazz
7/14 - 7/15 ...... MLF Wine Walk
7/21 - 7/22 ..... Reggae Fest
7/28 - 7/30 ..... Village Fest

AUGUST
8/4 - 8/5 ........ Village Summer Free Concert Weekend
8/11 - 8/12 ....... Margarita Festival
8/18 - 8/19 ..... MMSA Wine Walk
8/25 - 8/26 ..... Mammoth Rocks

SEPTEMBER
9/1 - 9/3 ........... Mammoth Rock-N-Rye
9/9 ................. Mammoth Gran Fondo
9/22 - 9/24 ....... Oktoberfest

MOVIE SERIES

6/22 ..... 8:35PM ..... On Any Sunday (PG)
6/25 ..... 8:35PM ..... The NeverEnding Story (PG)
6/29 ..... 8:35PM ..... Deepwater Horizon (PG-13)
7/2 ..... 8:30PM ..... The LEGO Batman Movie (PG)
7/6 ..... 8:30PM ..... Pelé: Birth of a Legend (PG)
7/9 ..... 8:25PM ..... Sing (PG)
7/13 ..... 8:25PM ..... The Wizard of Oz (G)
7/16 ..... 8:25PM ..... Finding Dory (PG)
7/20 ..... 8:15PM ..... Queen of Katwe (PG)
7/23 ..... 8:00PM ..... Ghostbusters (2016) (PG-13)
7/27 ..... 8:00PM ..... Central Intelligence (PG-13)
8/3 ..... 8:00PM ..... Doctor Strange (PG-13)
8/6 ..... 8:15PM ..... Groundhog Day (PG)
8/10 ..... 7:50PM ..... Fences (PG-13)
8/13 ..... 7:50PM ..... North By Northwest (PG)
8/17 ..... 7:50PM ..... Fantastic Beasts (PG-13)
8/20 ..... 7:50PM ..... Rogue One (PG-13)
8/24 ..... 7:45PM ..... La La Land (PG-13)
8/27 ..... 7:45PM ..... Moana (PG)
8/31 ..... 7:35PM ..... Captain America: Civil War (PG-13)
9/7 ..... 7:30PM ..... Casino Royale (PG-13)

FOR MORE EVENTS, SALES, SPECIALS, AND MORE, VISIT: VILLAGEATMAMMOTH.COM

@VILLAGE_AT_MAMMOTH
Residents of the June Lake Loop may have noticed helicopters flying overhead in the past two weeks, part of an effort by Southern California Edison to ensure that water levels in the Rush Creek Hydroelectric System remain safe, said Rudy Gonzales, Government Affairs Representative for SCE.

“I’m not worried about us, we’re way above the high-water mark,” said Ritchie at the Grant Lake Marina. “But there sure is a lot of snow up there…” he said, eyeing the hills above the campground.

Rush Creek is the largest stream in the Mono Basin—it flows into the June Lake Loop just north of Silver Lake Resort and carries over 40 percent of the total runoff in the Mono Basin. The Rush Creek Hydroelectric System consists of three separate dams at Gem Lake, Agnew Lake, and Waugh Lake. The lakes have dams which were built in 1917, 1916 and 1925, respectively.

“The dams have been in place for about 100 years now,” said Gonzales, who said that the structures are inspected on a monthly basis. They’re also subject to an annual Federal Energy Regulatory Commission inspection, as well as a detailed evaluation by a hired consultant every five years.

“DAM! THAT’S A LOT OF WATER!”

SCE’s actions are an attempt to “get ahead of” record snowmelt stemming from a snowpack that is over 200 percent of normal, Gonzales said. The helicopters have been flying in industrial-size pumps, which can accommodate 100 cubic feet of water per second, to Agnew Lake as a redundancy measure to insure already-established control measures, said Gonzales. They will function if necessary to control water levels, he said. When asked what the cost of these measures were to SCE, Gonzales said he did not have a ballpark figure as of press time. “We are [installing the pumps] out of an abundance of caution,” he said.

The three lakes have agreed-upon restricted water levels, Gonzales told The Sheet, and SCE actually anticipates that Waugh Lake, with a capacity of 5,300 acre-feet, “will be filled to capacity and might actually overflow.” He believes it will exceed its restricted water level for a 40-day period between June and August. Waugh lake is in a designated wilderness area, and is the furthest lake from the SCE powerhouse.

The biggest concern, Gonzales said, is that a seismic event could damage a dam at an overfilled lake and cause flooding. However, “there have been literally hundreds of earthquakes in the last 100 years, and none have damaged [any of the dams].”

“If there were an exceedance, were some sort of earthquake, the water from Waugh would be able to be impounded at Gem before it even reached Agnew. There is no risk of exceedance in the two dams close to the June Lake community” Gonzales emphasized. “We believe by managing the levels of Gem and Agnew [lakes], we can mitigate risk to the community below.” Gem Lake, the largest in the system, has a capacity of 17,200 acre-feet, and Agnew is the last reservoir before water enters the SCE powerhouse.

Gary Jones, owner of the Silver Lake Resort which sits in the Rush Creek drainage, said that he’d noticed the helicopters, but didn’t see any of his fellow June Lake Loop residents fretting about the dams. “I think there’s some minor concern, but I think [SCE is] on top of it,” said Jones.

As the weather warms, water levels along the loop are already rising. Just south of Silver Lake Resort, water lapped onto the road on Wednesday, May 24.

SCE is also working with local entities to be prepared for any eventualuity. A “tabletop exercise” is scheduled for May 31 in conjunction with Mono County Sheriff’s Office, “so in the event we have an incident we would be prepared to deal with it,” said Gonzales. “We are working with local emergency personnel to do a simulation of what would occur in the event that there was an incident like a dam rupture.”

Gonzales said that SCE’s actions are “not to raise anxiety, but to minimize anxiety. To let [the community] know that we’re prepared for just about anything.”

A Town Hall meeting is also scheduled for June 19, to which the community is invited. Check The Sheet’s calendar for the event as it nears.
TOWN CLEAN UP DAY
SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD
TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD & VOLUNTEER TO HELP CLEAN UP OUR TOWN

Beginning at 8am on Saturday, June 3rd, you can drop off your TRASH, RECYCLING & GREEN WASTE at the TOWN CLEAN-UP STATIONS conveniently located throughout town.
You can also drop off these items NOW during normal operating hours and beat the crowds. Regular drop-off less apply on days except June 3rd.

LOCATION
1. MAMMOTH CREEK PARK
   601 Mammoth Rd.
2. MAMMOTH DISPOSAL STATION
   59 Commerce Dr.
3. SIERRA VALLEY SITES
   407 Manzella Rd.
4. KNOLO'S COMMUNITY CENTER
   1000 Forest Trail

ACCEPTING TIMES
INFORMATION, MAPS & BAGS 8AM-NOON
LARGE BULKY ITEMS 6:30AM-2PM
METAL OBJECTS 8AM-2PM
RECYCLABLE MATERIALS 8AM-2PM
YARD WASTE 8AM-2PM

TOWN CLEAN-UP DAY STATIONS
LARGE BULKY ITEMS Furniture, appliances, old tires, heavy metal, mattresses, etc. Refrigerators must be delivered to Transfer Station.
METAL OBJECTS Appliances, large metal objects, snow stakes, metal waste, etc.
RECYCLABLE MATERIALS Plastic, glass, etc.
YARD WASTE Pine cones, needles, grass clippings, leaf debris, etc. Please empty bags into large roll-off bins.

NO FOOD OR CONSTRUCTION WASTE PLEASE!
Mammoth Disposal Transfer Station

ITEMS TO DELIVER TO MAMMOTH DISPOSAL TRANSFER STATION
METAL OBJECTS Snowmobiles & Snowblowers (all, gas & gas tanks must be removed), Refrigerators, Snow Stakes, Washing Machines, etc.
HHW: HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE ITEMS Hazardous Liquids neuro & ot, yard, pest control, batteries, fluorescent tubes, light bulbs, TV's, electronics
FOOD WASTE Food scraps, compost items, etc.
YARD WASTE Pine cones & needles, grass clippings, leaf debris, etc.
TREE LIMBS All limbs less than 12" in diameter. The USFS & MUFPO will recycle these materials FREE of charge on this day.

Please do not leave bags on the side of the road, as they will not be picked up. Please deliver these items to the Town Clean-Up Day Stations conveniently located throughout town, or directly to the Mammoth Disposal Transfer Station, in the Industrial Park.

The Town encourages property owners, renters, community groups, local non-profit organizations, and homeowner associations to purchase trash bags, engage their constituents and pitch in to clean up their neighborhood.

For information, to volunteer, or to arrange collection of abandoned vehicles, please contact Shervin Sanders at (760) 955-3636 or Mammoth Disposal at (760) 934-2201 Mon-Fri.

For information please contact: Mammoth Disposal: (760) 934-2201,
Town of Mammoth Lakes: Sherine Sanders, (760) 965-3636, Or visit: www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
Michael Ferro sows seeds in Mammoth

By Lunch

Michael Ferro is a strawberry grower in Ventura County. He started in the business with his uncle forty years ago and currently harvests 350 acres of strawberries and employs between 300 and 400 people, depending upon the season.

As for partners, his uncle has been replaced by his son.

He’s also been married 41 years to his wife Sharon, whom he met in the 2nd grade.

So … this is a guy who makes and fulfills long-term commitments. He made a long-term commitment to Mammoth about a decade ago when he bought a Gateway Home on Main Street.

At the time, he bought the place to enjoy with his wife and four grown children. Three have since married and now have five grandchildren. So he’s selling the Gateway place for a Hooper-built Gray Bear home.

Sheet: How’d you decide on a Gray Bear?

Ferro: I can see them going up from my back window. He can also see Sierra Star Golf Course and the Sherwins from his living room/kitchen, his favorite room in the house.

Ferro says he visits Mammoth about 10-12 times a year. While he comes up year round, he said he particularly likes the fall shoulder season. Most years, the family spends Thanksgiving in Mammoth.

He rented the home out for the first 12-18 months he owned it, but hasn’t rented it since.

The family’s favorite activities: snowboarding, mountain biking and fishing.

Ferro said he became familiar with Mammoth as a young buck when he rode in the Mammoth Motocross.

He did not learn to ski until he was in his mid-20s. He likes to escape to Mammoth in part because “It’s far enough from work so I can’t come back if they’re yelling at me.”

As for the issues confronting a small businessman these days, they seem to proliferate one piece of paperwork after another.

“The work isn’t the problem,” he says about the produce biz, “it’s the paperwork that kills you. You never know what they’re gonna hit you with next.”

Tammy Hooper is the listing agent on Ferro’s Gateway home, which is priced at $727,000. For more information, details and photos of the home, see the ad on the opposite page.
Mammoth Gateway Village

Big Love... ski, golf, bike and fish from your Mammoth home base camp!

Best location to everything Mammoth, on the trolley route. Sunny, spacious three-bedroom + loft townhome-style home with mountain views. Upgrades include granite, natural stone, hardwood floors, stainless appliances, private Jacuzzi, nest remote FAU system, gas log fireplace, extra storage, laundry and much more. Excellent rental potential. Low HOA.

Mammoth Gateway Village / 3771 Main Street #17
3 BEDROOM + LOFT / 2.5 BATHS / 2-CAR GARAGE / Approx. 1,995 sq. ft.
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www.RockStarRealEstate.com
THOUGHTS ON THE MERGER

Oster weighs in on Mammoth sale

By Paul Oster

Okay, It has been a month-and-a-half since the announce-
mant for some time, and for good reason. It has been chasing a deal for Mam-
other American ski industry (it was recently announced that Mam-
company (a public company) will no longer exist. That is my conjecture. I quoted Benjamin Franklin; “we must
have no idea what the new
itself, for the sake of the
the sales to Intrawest in 1996 and
mammoth won’t rate in the new moniker). The existing ownership entities are
likely to maintain a certain amount of the shares and control of the enter-
price is at an all-time high. These
revenue. Their stock
is new?” means it will
be sold to the public. Tim-
ing is critical to maximize the financial
potentially. And there may be a real
sense of urgency. The IPO market is
currently healthy, but that window of
portunity can close at any time.

The existing ownership entities are
likely to maintain a certain amount of the shares and control of the enter-
prise. It is clear that Intrawest as a
public company will no longer exist. The fact is that Vail Resorts is the eco-
model. Recent SEC (Securities Exchange Commission) filings repeat-
edly point to Vail Resorts and their
successful operation. I recently wrote in my newsletter
that all of these resorts in the new
Aspen/Squaw Resorts alliance really need to band together and do this out
of necessity. That is my conjecture. I quoted Benjamin Franklin; “we must
all hang together or most assuredly we
will all hang separately.” It was con-
jecture until I dug through some other SEC filings. In the 2015 Intrawest 10K
filing, the report alarmingly stated,
“We face significant competition.”
Here is the problem; the Aspen/
Squaw Resorts entities all sit outside the publicly-held juggernaut known as Vail Resorts. Vail’s Epic Pass follow-
ning now exceeds 650,000. Do some simple math; that’s ~$500,000,000 in
annual ski pass revenue. Their stock
price is at an all-time high. These
resorts that make up the new consor-
tium are getting their butts kicked by Vail Resorts. And some are also loaded with crushing debt (a public company
is perfect for those who are addicted to restructuring debt).
But most of this may have happened quite by happenstance, or not. There
are some facts which point to both.

The Intrawest sale is a total of $1.7 billion or $23.75 a share. That may be a premium considering just 18 months ago the stock was valued under $10
per share. Immediately following that Intrawest sale was the inking of the deal for Mammoth Resorts.

Mammoth CEO Rusty Gregory immedi-
ately started talking about the “$100 million” he now has to invest in the resort as part of the sale/merger. But oddly he was saying the same
thing last summer. So the KSL/Ashen acquisition of Intrawest was hap-
piness. And ultimately Mammoth Resorts too? It is anybody’s guess. I’ll
leave it to your own conjecture.

And as I have previously pointed out, I would think Rusty is a big player
at the table. And why not?, we live in
this new “Art of the Deal” era. Look at the leverage he had. If he sells Mam-
moth to Vail Resorts (they were trying to buy) then the remaining resorts are
in far worse shape competing against Vail. Mammoth (and the customer
base) is what puts the Aspen/Squaw
Resorts deal over the top. He had tre-
mendous leverage in that. Would he use it to his advantage.

Rusty has assured us that with the
“sale” there will be an “acceleration of
merger, page 17
capital investment” in Mammoth. But this is a broken record. Nearly 20 years ago the original buyers at Juniper Springs Lodge (Intrawest’s first condo hotel development in Mammoth) were promised great things at Eagle Base. But what we got was a couple of plastic tents and some premium parking.

Now the caveat is that the community has to make some investment too. So my conjecture is Mammoth Lakes is in for some corporate conditional love and more deal making. Many local residents believe nothing of substance will happen as a result of this sale/merger. But the Vail Resorts model is (should be) the blueprint for what is to come, and it shows they make solid capital investments in their resorts. So I’m foolish enough to believe Rusty this time.

Mammoth has already been through the private equity template of heavy debt and cost cutting. A publicly-held company model might be refreshing. Mammoth’s revenue was reinvested over the period was $60 million. That should wake some people up as to how valuable those deals were. So the moves by Vail Resorts of the last few years by acquiring premier resorts, selling incredible amounts of season passes, spreading risk, investing capital, etc. have made them a formidable competitor in the ski industry. The merger of KSL Aspen, Intrawest and Mammoth Resorts is an “imitating success” inevitability. There will likely be another major resort (there aren’t many left) added to the group on the sheer basis of survival. Where this leads is anybody’s guess. Hopefully change is good.

Paul Oster is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX of Mammoth. For other timely real estate information you can go to www.MammothRealEstateBlog.com. For legal, accounting, or construction advice, please seek out the appropriate professional.
KEEPING UP WITH STEPHANIE COOK
By Lunch

Some people succeed by figuring out how to fit in. Mammoth Realty Group owner Stephanie Cook has succeeded by being very unabashedly herself.

Cook, who has an architectural design degree, moved to Mammoth in 1993 and began working as a realtor at Coldwell Banker. She immediately stood out for her other-ness.

“I wore a lot of suits. I was corporate. I looked different … and because of my background [from Southern California] and education, I relate to my second-home clientele.”

Her strength as a realtor derives from 1.) Her eye. She has a talent for sizing up a property and seeing its potential. 2.) Hard work. “I work seven days a week,” she says. “Whatever it takes to help a client.”

“In a resort market, you need a local, experienced agent who knows the market, and its history.”

Mammoth Realty Group (MRG) has two locations in Mammoth (one on Old Mammoth Road in the old Ace building next to Tonik and one on Main Street next to Base Camp cafe) and 30+ agents. Cook says MRG did 28% of local sales last year.

The Old Mammoth location was built out in Cook’s image. “I wanted high-end interiors and I want a high level of service … the offices reflect who we are.”

Her take on the Aspen-KSL acquisition of Mammoth: Aspen is a family-driven business owned by the Crown family, maybe not so bottom-finish … I’m hoping they create an atmosphere for investment. I’m seeing a lot of new blood and new buyers coming in. There’s an opportunity now to change the price-point. I anticipate a bump (price-wise) of up to 40%.

On what she looks for in prospective new talent: I want a person who’s passionate about what they’re applying for with a desire to learn and to study, who’s looking for a career. It can’t just be a job … getting into real estate is a great opportunity for young people.

Mammoth Mountaineering Supply’s 20 Year Anniversary Sale!

20-70% off store wide

All our Alpine Touring, Telemark, and Splitboard demos on sale now!

WE OFFER THE BEST BRANDS: Dynafit, Patagonia, Arc’teryx, Icebreaker, Black Diamond, Altra, Merrel, La Sportiva, Osprey, Big Agnes, Thermarest, Jetboil, MSR, Darn Tough, & Western Mountaineering

Stay safe out there! Visit the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center website before you ski or ride: esavalanche.org

LETTERS

Grateful in June Lake

Dear Editor:

My husband and I were traveling down Highway 395 a couple of weeks ago. We stopped at McDonalds to have lunch. I left my backpack there and didn’t realize it until we were in Olancha. We went back. The man who found it handed it to me. His name is Cory Bryant. Everything was there and untouched. We were very grateful. I gave Cory a reward for being so honest. The manager of McDonalds and the entire crew should be very proud to work with him. Thanks again Cory!

Anonymous

June Lake

All ears for Bears Ears

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the article about Bears Ears National Monument, including information on what we can do to protect it and the deadline for the comment period. While it’s always important to stay informed about such issues, the current political climate makes it particularly so.

Stephanie Sheltz
Bishop

Dear Editor:

The Mammoth High School Graduating Class of 2017 would like to express gratitude towards the community for supporting the class throughout the years. The class would also like to thank Toomey’s and Gomez’s for their contributions to the Senior Dinners in October and in April. Thank you also to “Hole in the Wall” for printing the class sweatshirts. We thank the following local businesses and organizations for their donations to the Spring Senior Dinner Raffle: Ben & Jerry’s, Yons, Graphic Conclusions, Z Pizza, Wave Rave, The Town of Mammoth Lakes, Eastside Edge, Stellar Brew, Boosky Joint, Another T-Shirt Shop, Mammoth Mountaineering, Alpine Sports Outfitters, Black Tie Ski Rental, Burgess Restaurant, and the Fun Shop.

Jonathan Morales Arellano
MHS Senior Class President

---

Sergio The Fast Snail, Exiled From The US Olympic Team For Hop Doping

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Super Awesome Beer

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THE ART OF THE WILD WEST IN WALKER

Photographer Sandy Powell is preserving the Eastern Sierra’s history one photograph at a time

By GiFFs

This spring, photographer Sandy Powell opened, of all things, an art gallery in Walker. The gallery is in a little house with a front porch, right next to Walker Burger. Powell initially opened the gallery thinking she would sell her own photographs. After networking with other artists in the area, she realized that many of them were seeking a place to display their work.

“I’m not aware of another Western Art Gallery in California,” said Powell in an interview this week, adding that she thought it was fitting it be in Walker. “There’s still a lot of western life in the Eastern Sierra. We have wild horses, a rich history of shepherding, and there are plenty of people up here who still drive their cattle.”

She’s only been open for a few weeks, but she’s already showcasing the work of 16 local artists (one is from Texas), as well as her own photographs, which have been featured in Western Life Magazine. Powell specializes in photographing western scenery, as well as equine, vaquero, and portrait photography. “I try to capture and document the spirit of the old west in my photos...to keep the traditions and spirit of the pioneer alive,” said Powell in an interview this week.

Powell said that Walker is the perfect place to open an art gallery that featured western art. “We’re only Western Art Gallery in California,” said Powell currently has artwork from 17 artists, 15 of whom are based in the Eastern Sierra, on display at the gallery. It is the only Western Art Gallery in California.

Photographer Sandy Powell in her new space, the Walker Western Art Gallery, next to Walker Burger on Main Street. Powell currently has artwork from 17 artists, 15 of whom are based in the Eastern Sierra, on display at the gallery. It is the only Western Art Gallery in California.

Powell has been hooked ever since. “You have no idea how interesting the people who restore wagons are. They’re craftsmen, and there are fewer and fewer of them,” said Powell. After meeting some wagon enthusiasts while photographing the Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive a few years ago, Powell was invited to accompany a group of teamsters called the Equestrian Trails Incorporated Corporation of 14 Western Wagons, also known as the Death Valley 49ers, on an 11-day wagon trip through Death Valley.

Powell made it clear that, although she has photographed rodeos in the past, she’s far more interested in mule teams. She called the rodeo photography world “a bit of a good old boys club.” Instead, she favors the down-to-earth, unpretentious world of mule teams, packers, and waggoneers.

“I’m just a wagon nut,” said Powell. “You have no idea how interesting the people who restore wagons are. They’re craftsmen, and there are fewer and fewer of them,” said Powell. After meeting some wagon enthusiasts while photographing the Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive a few years ago, Powell was invited to accompany a group of teamsters called the Equestrian Trails Incorporated Corporation of 14 Western Wagons, also known as the Death Valley 49ers, on an 11-day wagon trip through Death Valley.

Powell has been hooked ever since. “They’ve been doing the ride annually for fifty years. It’s not just the incredibly remote, rugged terrain, but the stories and the music, the characters. My goal is to capture that spirit, those stories, with my camera.” Powell added, “Showing up to take a picture at the end is one thing, but to experience it is another.” When Powell goes on a wagon trip or photographs a cattle drive, she leaves her cell phone behind, packs for the backcountry, and rides with the teamsters, occasionally darting ahead to climb an embankment, a ladder, or crouch for a photo. Last weekend, Powell partook in and photographed an annual wagon ride from Bishop to Lone Pine. She is looking forward to another Death Valley trip later in the year, which will involve two weeks of travel through the desert with little or no support beyond the wagon team she’ll be accompanying.

Among the artists showcased at the Walker Western Art Gallery are Lou and Marye Roesser, who owned and operated the Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit and Sierra Meadows Equestrian and Ski Touring Center for thirty-eight years. In addition to being a packer, Lou was a Hollywood location scout. His photographs feature scenes of cattle ranch life, mule packing, horse drives, and the occasional set from a locally shot western film or commercial. Marye paints similar subjects and landscapes, but her medium of choice is watercolor. The couple now live in Walker.

Powell said she hopes to make the gallery a destination on the Highway 395 corridor, and that it will provide “good art at a reasonable price.” “I’d like to keep the spirit of the wild west alive. People don’t have to come to buy anything. I’d just like them to find something they didn’t know was there, something they didn’t know was right in their backyard.”

The Walker Western Art Gallery is open Friday-Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., May through October, or by appointment.

Western art photographer Sandy Powell in her new space, the Walker Western Art Gallery, next to Walker Burger on Main Street. Powell currently has artwork from 17 artists, 15 of whom are based in the Eastern Sierra, on display at the gallery. It is the only Western Art Gallery in California.
GOING OFF THE RAILS ON THE CRAZY TRAIL
Tech startup in June Lake is insane

When The Sheet visited John DeCoster, he was on the phone with software developers in Budapest, Hungary. He was trying to make sure they have all the information they need from him, and all the bugs cleared out from their latest project. See, DeCoster works with people all over the globe from his shop and tech startup in June Lake.

He owns and operates Insane Jeep Audio, manufacturing one-of-a-kind, in-dash multimedia and navigation systems for the off-road aftermarket, specifically for Jeep Wranglers and Toyota FJ Cruisers. Insane Jeep Audio hopes to expand to more vehicle models in the future. These systems are Android-based, so users can download apps like Netflix, or games, into their vehicles.

DeCoster told The Sheet that there is no other system like the one he’s made. He gets software and parts from worldwide. He takes the day after this interview. He bought the building next to D395 directly when he opened his shop—there’s a connection port 395 (D395) specifically to get connected to the lightning-fast system, but he said he’s going to make do.

“The thought it was a front for a weed store,” when he first approached Mono County with his business idea, and name, he said. Since then though, the County has been nothing but help and name, he said. Since then though, the County has been nothing but help and support. DeCoster explained. “There have been happy to help him in any way they could.”

DeCoster said that there are plenty of smart people in Los Angeles or San Francisco or Seattle, where he recently moved from, but those places are congested and full of traffic. Instead of running the rat race, DeCoster says, now “we’re closed on powder days.”

His product looks like a glorified stereo, but its capabilities go way beyond XM Radio. Among other features, Insane Jeep Audio’s in-dash systems feature three-dimensional mapping and WiFi connectivity. The sky’s the limit when it comes to what DeCoster is designing—for example, he’s introduced a Bluetooth-compatible breathalyzer connected to the dashboard to check alcohol levels.

DeCoster said he didn’t understand why cell phones had better technology than any system currently in a vehicle, so he saw a niche.

He took the idea of building on an open platform, on top of the Android system, and created a unique product that’s faster than a laptop.

DeCoster is the poster child for Mono County’s push for tech-savvy entrepreneurs to ditch the city and plug into a different lifestyle in the mountains, while still running their businesses. An avid off-roader, DeCoster also loves to ski and fish, and owns a home in June Lake, which is his true passion.

For more information about DeCoster and his products, visit www.insanejeepaudio.com.
by the hacker, according to MUSD.

Richard Lloyd, Vice President of Aeries Software, said the services it provides its clients are confidential.

Klein did not divulge how many students were suspended for one day for being involved. She did confirm that there was no evidence to suggest students paid the perpetrator to change their grades. She did not say what disciplinary action the perpetrator will face.

Students interviewed for this story called the hacker both a genius and a jerk. One student who wished to remain anonymous called him “Robin Hood,” taking from the rich and giving to the poor (Ed. huh?) but said the perpetrator was still a jerk.

An MHS Senior told The Sheet, “In my humble opinion, the only person to blame is the school itself. The American school system is predicated on grades. If you get this grade, you’re a genius, if you get this grade, you’re stupid. "We can’t be mad, because this kid’s got a bright future ahead of him.”

The senior added that he heard “from the horse’s mouth” that the hacker also broke into the California State Servers because “[hacking into] cell phones got boring.” That information could not be confirmed. The California Department of Education was unavailable for comment.

Bill Gates, Microsoft Founder, was a hacker. He said in a 2016 interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation that he once fudged schedules so he could be the only male in a class of all women.

Mammoth Lakes Police School Resource Officer Andy Lehr deferred any questions about the incident to MHS Administration.

The perpetrator had allegedly started at MHS this school year, transferring from Bishop Union High School after allegedly being expelled for similar computer hacking activities. Students’ disciplinary information is not made public due to the age of the students, Kristin Carr, Administrative Assistant for Bishop School District explained, and Carr could not confirm the allegation.

Though illegal, hacking skills are coveted as the world’s information becomes increasingly digitized.

Mike Swift, CEO and co-founder of Major League Hacking, said he considers hacking a hands-on approach to science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. Major League Hacking even operates a league for student “hackathons.”

A 2014 Federal Trade Commission study on child identity theft concluded children’s identities are sought after by hackers and clients. “A child’s Social Security number can be used by identity thieves to apply for government benefits, open bank and credit card accounts, apply for a loan or utility service, or rent a place to live,” the study warned.

Klein said there is no evidence that Social Security numbers had been compromised.

The perpetrator could not be contacted by The Sheet as of press time.
RIDING FOR GOOD
Rick Gunn brings messages of service, cycling to Mammoth
By Rea

Over a decade ago, journalist and photographer Rick Gunn shelved his workday life and set out to see the world on a pair of wheels.

In three years, Gunn rode his bike 26,000 miles around the planet. He traveled through 33 countries, went through “at least ten pairs of bike tires, five iPods, five pairs of bike shoes…and, mysteriously, only one pair of underwear,” he said, laughing.

“The one thing you realize when you do a bike trip for three years is how amazing the human body is, because everything else breaks.”

See more...
BARS & MUSIC

Happy Hour/
The Liberty Sports Bar and Grill. Pursuit of Happiness Hour, 3-6 p.m. Off tap or draft beers, $2 off wine, $4 well drinks, $2 off specialty drinks. $5 Flatbread.
Outlaw Saloon. Monday All Night Happy Hour: 4- Midnight, Tues/Fri 4-6 p.m. Tuesday $2 Tacos 4-10pm; 6-9 pm Wing Wednesday 50% off all wings; new time! Thursday Burger & Beer special 4-9 pm.
Roberto's 4-6 pm every day.
Austria Hof. 5-8 pm daily.
Whiteberk Restaurant Bar & Lounge Unwind with daily drink and food specials 4-6 pm. Half price sushi Monday.
Clocktower Cellar Happy Hour 4:30-7 pm daily and all day Sunday. $5 dollar menu items, drink specials.
Happy Hour @ Sushi Rei. 4-5 p.m. daily. Half off apps and $5 hand roll «small sake. Sundays are all-night happy hour. Late night happy hour Fri-Sat 9-11 p.m.
Happy Hour @ The Bistro at Snowcreek. 4:30-6:30 pm daily.
Mammoth Tavern Happy Hour Tuesday-Sunday 3:30-5:30 pm. Closed Mondays.
Smokyard weekend Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. in the bar only.
Side Door Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m.
Mammoth's famous Slocums Happy Hour: Monday thru Friday 4-6; Saturday 4-5. Closed Sunday.
Giovan's Happy Hour. daily 4-6 p.m. Large pizza and a pitcher of beer gets you free wings.
Lakanuki Happy Hour daily 3-6 p.m., $4.50 margaritas, Mai Tais. Happy Hour drink specials 10 p.m.- close.
Black Velvet Coffee's Happy Hour, from 4-6 p.m. every day. $9 glasses of wine.
Morrison's Happy Hour Daily 4-6 p.m. $50 for two-person three course meal on Wednesdays.
Food Cache Cafe Happy Hour 3:30- 6:30 Thursday-Saturday, Street tacos $2.50, $3.50 beers, $7.50 beer/wine Happy Hour specials 4-6 p.m.

May 27-28/
Saturday, May 27/
Jelly Bread plays Batters for Mammoth Film Festival After Party. Starts 10 p.m. Tickets: $25. See ad. p. 21.

Sunday, May 28/
Dreddie Poppins and The Professionals play the beer garden @ Mammoth Brewing Company. Starts 5p.m. Free.

Monday, May 29/
Bowling II Beasts: Summer of Love. Costume party with DJ Chronfucius, $3 games at Mammoth Rock and Bowl. Starts at 9 p.m. See ad. p. 8.
Open Mic at Black Doubt Brewing Co. Starts 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 31/
Wild Wing Wednesdays @ John's Pizza Works. 50 percent off all wings. See ad. p. 12.
Open Mic @ Mammoth Brewing Co. Starts 6 p.m. Weekly beer specials.
Mammoth Lakes Film Festival tickets available

This year’s festival will run this week and weekend, May 24-May 28 in Mammoth Lakes. At 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, there will be a program of funny, hand-made cartoons made by the Bum Family from Alberta, Canada just followed by a presentation by the Bum family to show kids how to make their own animations. Tickets are $20 per family.

VIP Passes are available for $195 and include access to 10 film screenings, including opening night of the festival, advance screening selection, access to the filmmaker lounge from 9-11 a.m., and admission to 4 parties. Additionally, you can purchase a Movie Pass for $125 that gives you admission to all screenings and advance screening selections. Individual screening tickets, as well as Individual Gala Event and filmmaker passes, are also available. For tickets, visit www.mammothlakesfilmfestival.com.

A Sidewalk on Main Street!

Construction of a six-foot wide sidewalk on the north side of Main Street/State Route 203 from Mountain Boulevard to Minaret Road is anticipated to begin the week of May 15 with minor activity outside the pavement area. Also included are street lights, a new retaining wall and transit shelter. The Public is advised to take extra care in the area throughout the construction period, expected to run from mid-May through early September. Once work begins, there will be traffic control and no street lighting for most of the 1,600-foot section. Motorists are advised to reduce speed. Pedestrians are advised to use the south side of Main Street.

The project is funded by a combination of State Transportation Improvement Program funds (STIP), the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and the developer of the future Mammoth View Project. The $3 million project is being constructed by Spiess Construction with oversight by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Caltrans District 9.

Pamper Pedal registration open

Registration is now open for Eastside Velo’s (ESV) 11th Annual Pamper Pedal, an all female, 44-mile bike ride from Mammoth Lakes to Bishop. This year’s event starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 3. Registration is $50 and includes an annual membership with ESV, entry to the post-ride party in Bishop, and support during the ride. $15 from every entry fee will be donated to Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps to fund first-time female backpacking trips for women in the Eastern Sierra.

Registration is open to women riders of all ages and skill levels. Register at www.eastsidevelo.org.

Mule Days celebration

Mule Days will kick off at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 23. The weekend’s activities include packing competitions, rodeos, barbecues, western entertainment, the world’s largest non-motorized parade, and clinics. Tickets can be purchased by calling 760.872.4263 or online at www.muledays.org. Unless otherwise stated, events are held at The Charles Brown Auditorium at the Tri-County Fairground in Bishop. For full schedule of events and clinics as well as camping info, visit www.muledays.org. The schedule of special events is as follows:

Mule Days on Saturday, May 27, at 10 a.m. and will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September. Admission is free, but there is a $5 suggested donation and memberships are encouraged.

The Hayden Cabin is housed in the original 1920’s log cabin built by Emmett Hayden, map maker of the Eastern Sierra. It contains artifacts from that period as well as historic photographs and displays.

The museum will open for the summer season on Saturday, May 27, at 10 a.m. and will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September. Admission is free, but there is a $5 suggested donation and memberships are encouraged.

Mural opening for Summer

Bodie State Historic Park has opened for the summer, with limited services (no water is available and the restroom in the main parking area is closed, but outhouses are located on the north side of the main parking area). For information, visit www.mono county.org or call Bodie at 760.647.6445.

A multi-media presentation by photographer Rick Gunn, 7 p.m. @ Edison Theater, Mammoth. For tickets ($12) visit www.eventbrite.org. See ad, p.8.

AT THE MOVIES

Minaret Cinemas

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (PG-13): Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) tries to save the pirate community from Captain Salazar and hordes of undead sailors.

Alien: Covenant (R): Directed by Ridley Scott. The crew of the spaceship Covenant struggles to escape after landing on an unknown planet.

For movie times, call 760.934.3131 or visit mammothlakesmovies.com.

Sanctuary! I Need Sanctuary!

Your Holiness, The Embattled President of the United States!

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NOTICE OF Impending Power to Sell Tax-Defaulted Property

Pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code sections 3691 and 3692.4, the following conditions will, by operation of law, subject real property to the tax collector's power to sell to the highest bidder at a public sale and to become real property of the county upon which the taxes and other charges have not been paid in full. Any person may present the county's tax assessor with a bond of $3,000.00 against and for which property taxes and assessments are due and the property may be sold at a public sale if said bond has been in effect for five or more years at the time the tax certificate is issued. Any person may present the county's tax assessor with a bond of $500.00 against and for which property taxes and assessments are due and the property may be sold at a public sale if said bond has been in effect for three or more years.

The tax assessor issues tax certificates to property owners for nonpayment of property taxes. A tax certificate is issued to a property owner whose taxes have not been paid in full and who has not provided evidence of payment to the county tax assessor. The certificate lists the property owner's name, the property address, the tax year, and the amount of taxes and fees the property owner owes. The tax certificate is used to sell the property at a public sale to satisfy the taxes and fees owed.

The tax assessor may sell the property at a public sale if the property owner fails to pay the taxes and fees owed and does not provide evidence of payment. The public sale is advertised in a newspaper and the notice of sale includes the property address, the date of the sale, and the amount of taxes and fees owed. The property owner has the right to redeem the property by paying the taxes and fees owed and any interest and penalties imposed by the county before the public sale.

The tax sale is conducted by a county official, such as the tax collector, who conducts the auction and accepts the highest bid. The property is sold to the highest bidder who submits a bid that is equal to or greater than the amount of taxes and fees owed plus any interest and penalties.

The property owner has the right to redeem the property after the public sale by paying the taxes and fees owed plus any interest and penalties. The property owner has the right to redeem the property by paying the taxes and fees owed plus any interest and penalties within a specified period of time, usually 30 days, after the public sale.

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Notice Inviting Bids

CAP 17-002
The Town of Mammoth Lakes will receive sealed bids for the work shown on the plans entitled:
GLASS MOUNTAIN APARTMENT ELECTRICAL REMEDIATION
In the Town of Mammoth Lakes for The Town of Mammoth Lakes, California. Bids will be accepted by the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes located at: 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546 until 2 p.m. on June 20, 2017 at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

Proposal forms and Contract Documents for this work are included in the specifications.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Project includes replacing the electrical distribution system, installing separate electrical panels, and providing Code compliant receptacle and appliance circuits in Glass Mountain Apartments located at 25 Mound Boulevard, Mammoth Lakes, CA. The engineer estimates for this project is between $250,000.00-$300,000.00.

The project uses Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The work includes full commercial and residential services.

The work shall be completed within the time set forth in the Contract.

Plans and specifications may be obtained for a NON-REFUNDABLE FEE as listed below:

- Plans & Specifications (incl. bid forms) $25.00
- Shipped UPS, FedEx, or US Mail $50.00

To order the plans and specifications by telephone call (760) 965-3654 or (760) 934-7493. Oral clarifications are non-binding and any changes shall be issued by written addenda only.

The Town requests that all potential bidders return a mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the conference room in the Town Offices on June 12, 2017, at 2:00pm, located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R, Mammoth Lakes, California.

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The contractor shall have a valid Class C10 Contractor License and a current Business Tax Certificate and shall maintain all required licenses throughout the duration of the Contract. The Contractor shall demonstrate his qualifications by having adequate equipment, in good working order, experience, and ability to perform work. The Town will be the sole judge as to whether the submitted bids are acceptable or not.

Notice Inviting Bids

If awarded a Contract, the Bidder and its subcontractors, of any tier, shall maintain active registration with the Department of Industrial Relations for the duration of the Project.

This Project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. In bidding on this project, it shall be the Bidder’s sole responsibility to evaluate and include the cost of complying with all labor compliance requirements under this contract and applicable law in its bid.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22300, the successful bidder may substitute certain securities for funds withheld by the Town to ensure performance under the Contract.

The Contract will be awarded to the responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid on the base bid alone. The Town reserves the right to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid. The Town of Mammoth Lakes reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or to utilize any alternative procedures authorized by the Public Contract Code Sections 22400 et seq and 20167. Submission of a bid shall be deemed conclusive evidence that the bidder has thoroughly examined the plans, specifications and the site of all work and the bid takes all costs into account. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond in the sum of not less than 10% of the estimated cost of the work and a performance bond each equal to 100% of the bid amount.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The Director of Industrial Relations has determined the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the county and locality in which this work is to be performed for each craft or type of worker needed to execute the Contract which will be awarded to the successful bidder, copies of which are on file and will be made available to any interested party upon request at Town Hall or online at http://www.mammothlakes.ca.us/Bidder. A copy of these rates shall be posted by the successful bidder at the job site. The successful bidder and all subcontractor(s) under them, shall comply with all applicable Labor Code provisions, which include, but are not limited to the payment of not less than the required prevailing rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract, the employment of apprentices, the hours of labor and the debarment of contractors and subcontractors.

Because the work involves federal funds or otherwise requires compliance with the Davis-Bacon Fair Labor Standards Act, the successful bidder and all subcontractors shall pay the higher of the state or federal prevailing wage rates.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors and subcontractors that wish to bid on the project shall be entered into proof of the contractor’s and subcontractors’ current registration with the Department of Industrial Relations. Because the project follows federal procedures, the successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall be properly registered by the time the Contract is awarded. No contract will be entered into without proof of the contractor’s and subcontractors’ current registration with the Department of Industrial Relations to perform public work.

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This Project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. In bidding on this project, it shall be the Bidder’s sole responsibility to evaluate and include the cost of complying with all labor compliance requirements under this contract and applicable law in its bid.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22300, the successful bidder may substitute certain securities for funds withheld by the Town to ensure performance under the Contract.

The Contract will be awarded to the responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid on the base bid alone. The Town reserves the right to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid. The Town of Mammoth Lakes reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or to utilize any alternative procedures authorized by the Public Contract Code Sections 22400 et seq and 20167. Submission of a bid shall be deemed conclusive evidence that the bidder has thoroughly examined the plans, specifications and the site of all work and the bid takes all costs into account. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond in the sum of not less than 10% of the estimated cost of the work and a performance bond each equal to 100% of the bid amount.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The Director of Industrial Relations has determined the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the county and locality in which this work is to be performed for each craft or type of worker needed to execute the Contract which will be awarded to the successful bidder, copies of which are on file and will be made available to any interested party upon request at Town Hall or online at http://www.mammothlakes.ca.us/Bidder. A copy of these rates shall be posted by the successful bidder at the job site. The successful bidder and all subcontractor(s) under them, shall comply with all applicable Labor Code provisions, which include, but are not limited to the payment of not less than the required prevailing rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract, the employment of apprentices, the hours of labor and the debarment of contractors and subcontractors.

Because the work involves federal funds or otherwise requires compliance with the Davis-Bacon Fair Labor Standards Act, the successful bidder and all subcontractors shall pay the higher of the state or federal prevailing wage rates.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors and subcontractors that wish to bid on the project shall be entered into proof of the contractor’s and subcontractors’ current registration with the Department of Industrial Relations. Because the project follows federal procedures, the successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall be properly registered by the time the Contract is awarded. No contract will be entered into without proof of the contractor’s and subcontractors’ current registration with the Department of Industrial Relations to perform public work.
THE GODFATHER OF INDEPENDENT FILM

Lunch talks movies, the creative process, and film school with director, writer John Sayles

John Sayles, considered the “Godfather of Independent film,” according to Mammoth Lakes Film Festival Director Shira Dubrowner, will be the second recipient of the Festival’s Sierra Spirit award. He will be honored this Saturday evening at an event which will also feature a screening of his 1983 film “Baby, It’s You.”

The lead actor in that film, Vincent Spano, will also be in attendance. The Sheet spoke with Sayles last week about a variety of topics, including the casting of the leads in “Baby,” Spano and Rosanna Arquette. For both, it was their first lead role in a motion picture.

Sayles said he had seen both actors in other things. Spano, he recalled, had been in a film called “Over The Edge” with Matt Dillon.

“It was quite an elimination tourney,” says Sayles, who said Sean Penn, Ray Liotta and Tom Cruise all read for the part.

As for Arquette, in 1982, she had earned an Emmy award nomination for the TV film “The Executioner’s Hood,” which she played in its made-for-TV sequel. Sayles said he had seen both actors there, and he didn’t have a car, so I never saw any of those movies.

For both, it was their first lead role in a motion picture.

In the interview, he talks about growing up in upstate New York. “Back in those days, you couldn’t get movies on video, so if you were going to see a movie more than once, you really had to pay attention to find it. And then the stations might cut different scenes, or it might be in a different format. There were movies, like King Kong, that I really liked, and might have seen five times over a 15-year period. I didn’t live near a revival house or anything. I grew up in Schenectady, New York, and there was an art theater that was far too far away. I also was Catholic growing up, and once a year, we all stood up and pledged not to go to movies that the Catholic Church had condemned, and that extended to, “Don’t even go to the theater where those movies play.” So even though there was an arthouse within a 20-minute drive from home, my parents never went there, and I didn’t have a car, so I never saw any of those movies.”

The Sheet used this as a starting point in its brief phone conversation with Sayles last week.

Sheet: Does on-demand access for content affect artistic development?

Sayles: If you’re really into film, well, it’s great for you. But for me, growing up, it could be years before I saw that movie, or heard that song … I don’t think it affects artistic development, but it does affect attention span. People are more used to multi-tasking.

Sheet: When it comes to attention span, does it affect how you write?

What do you think when you watch some of your old movies? Do they stand up? Are they too slow?

Sayles: It affects how I write for other people. I’m probably not quite as subtle.

When he goes back over his old movies, Sayles added that it’s not the pacing that bothers him. “There were things I didn’t like then [when making the films],” he says. These are the same things that bother him now.

Sheet: Can an aspiring filmmaker learn as much from a bad movie as a good one?

Sayles, who said he attended the same film school Quentin Tarantino did (i.e. none) replied, “I start to see the dialogue type on the page. The notes from the studio executive’s desk …”

His advice: Turn the sound off. Watch where the camera goes and keep asking why. Is the story being told by the way the camera moves?

Sheet: We read that the 1948 film “The Treasure of the Sierra Madre” was one of your all-time favorites. In a recently published memoir, Stanley Weiss talked about seeing the movie and then literally traveling down to Mexico to become a gold miner. Did the film similarly inspire you?

Sayles chuckled. Not quite to that degree, he said, but “movies do inspire people to do crazy things … like make movies.”

Sayles’ film “Baby It’s You” screens at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the USFS Welcome Center in Mammoth. The screening will be followed by a Q & A session with the director and the presentation of the Sierra Spirit award. As of Thursday, there were a few tickets remaining for this event.

FOREVER CREEPY

By Lunch

Robert Berchtold and Jan Broberg.

“Forever B” is a film that will haunt any man with a 12-year-old daughter.

Oh hell. I have 12-year old daughter. What was Shira Dubrowner thinking when she suggested I review this film! “Forever B” is a documentary set in a Latter Day Saints (Mormon) community in Pocatello, Idaho in the 1970s. The Berbergers are a happy, unassuming family with three young daughters. The Berchtolds, who have five children, move into the community. Robert Berchtold, the 36-year-old father, develops an unnatural interest in 12-year-old Jan Broberg.

And he’ll go to any lengths to be with her.

We live in a far more fearful and distrustful age. Anyone who grew up in the ’70s in the suburbs or a small town can recall a time where kids could roam freely around the neighborhood, literally stop by friends’ homes uninvited, ride one’s bike anywhere and everywhere. There were no cellphones to keep track of us. And no deep suspicions of our neighbors.

As you watch this movie, you’ll wonder how folks in the ’70s could all be so naive while at the same time, if you lived through the ’70s, being wistful about the loss of innocence.

As I watched this movie, my wife could hear me talking back to the screen on multiple occasions. “Wait, what, no!” She then came over to see what I was watching. She then literally forgot about her chores, and sat down next to me.

The twists and turns in the narrative, and the heartfelt and completely honest and vulnerable interviews given by the family make this a film you just can’t turn away from, and won’t easily forget.

MLFF screening at 8 p.m. Friday at the USFS theater. Tic: $12
Olancho, directed and produced by Chris Valdes and Ted Griswold, is a story about a band, called Los Plebes de Olancho, who are renowned for their cartel ballads, a genre of music known locally as "narco-corrido." As frontman Manuel, whose last name is never revealed, tells viewers, "Los Plebes" are the region’s farmers, who struggle to survive.

According to the film’s website, Olancho is "the most lawless province in Honduras, the most murderous country in the world." In the opening scene of the film, Manuel, the band’s front man and primary songwriter, tells a radio host on air that, “Olancho is famous for its machetes and guns … They say in Olancho: ‘Enter if you want, leave if you can,’ and it’s true.”

The region is also known for its lush mountains conducive to growing coffee, and its low valleys, where ranching is the predominant industry. About ten years ago, that same landscape made it a popular last stop for planes smuggling cocaine into the United States. Now, it’s run by cartels. All the main characters carry guns in their belt loops, and it’s impossible to book a gig if you don’t have a cartel ballad in your repertoire.

At one point, Manuel explains that farm workers make less than $5 per day in Olancho, and that singing cartel ballads is a dangerous but effective way of making money and music. Olancho is a collection of stories from the two years Griswold and Valdes spent following the musicians from their remote mountain village to performances at rowdy "narco-parties" hosted by the most powerful drug lords in Latin America.

Los Plebes de Olancho are a compelling set of characters. Manuel’s brother manages the band, but spends most of his days working for his father and playing with his kids. Orlin, the accordion player, sings folk songs for their grandmother, but steals away in the night to perform solo for drug lords who pay him in cash and cocaine, which his brothers say allows him to play accordion for 10 hours at a time.

Eventually, Manuel is forced to flee Olancho or die after he writes a hit ballad for one cartel and the rival threatens to kill him if he can’t write an equally popular hit for them. He makes his way, harrowingly, through Mexico to the United States, where he spreads mulch and cleans bar rooms. He sings ballads about the people he meets instead of the cartels, and hopes to someday return to Olancho and to his family.

At the end of the film, Manuel is shown singing folk songs at a radio station. He introduces them, saying, “This is for all my people in Olancho,” and sings, “My beloved land of Olancho, that land of happiness, land of my life, land that taught my heart to be free and that taught me how to lose…”

The film is characterized by a vibrant sense of humor, delivered by its subjects. They laugh and sing, greet each other with joy, and drive around town in a van with a loud speaker and a flamboyant announcer, coercing people to come to their shows.

The movie will screen at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 27 at the USFS Theater. Tickets are $12 at the door.
On Thursday, May 18, the Inyo County Board for the Superintendent of Schools held its 2017 Community Star Awards at Cerro Coso Community College in Bishop. The award honors parents, community members and businesses that have shown great commitment to improving the lives of students and teachers in Inyo County. Each school uses its own criteria in deciding whom to honor. The only requirement was that honorees must not be employed in any fashion by the school district. Most honorees would be an intrepid school volunteer, a generous benefactor or a business that supports the school. Each honoree received a bouquet of flowers, and a glass Star Award after principals and superintendents from each school or school district made a short statement about the honoree.

This year’s list of awardees:
- Big Pine Unified School District: Paula and Mike Carrington; Owens Valley Unified School District: Bruce Mather, Alice Hay and Megan Leon; Home Street Middle School: Eddie Davis; Palisades Glacier High School: Curt Mulder; Round Valley JESD: Erin Boehme; Bishop Elementary School: Emilee Norcross; Bishop Union High School: Bishop Lions Club; and Countywide Recipients: Julie Faber and Chris Ellis with Coso Geothermal Operating Company.

—James

ICSOS SUPERSTARS

Congratulations to Dieter Fiebiger, member of the Mammoth Lakes Lions Club, who was awarded the “Service Above Self” honor at the Rotary Club of Mammoth Lakes’ fundraiser on Saturday, May 20. The event raised money for Rotary’s new scholarship and mentoring program, which is available to Mammoth High School students.

The 2016 recipient, Calvin Forsythe, will have his tuition fully funded by the Mammoth Lakes Rotary Foundation upon successful completion of his Bachelor’s degree. Forsythe plans to transfer to a four-year school from community college.

Photo, from left to right: Marlene and Dieter Fiebiger with Rotarian Sheryl Saari. Photo courtesy of Dave Easterby.
**HORRORSCOPES**

By Clouds McCloud

**Taurus:** Since May is National Masturbation Month, this would be a good time to have some time for yourself. Since this also just so happens to be a key for the next year of your life, your birthday gift to yourself should be to do at least one thing every day that your future self will be proud of and another your current self will be pleased with, and after which may need a nap.

**Gemini:** A new study has revealed that smoking marijuana is actually beneficial for brains as we age. If you’re looking for better news than this you should probably live somewhere else.

**Leo:** Leos are in the midst of the birth of new life. Since births can be uncomfortable and messy affairs of pure joy and love, please remember these lines from the Dalai Lama: “Great love and great achievements require great risks.” And from George Bernard Shaw “Life isn’t about finding yourself, it’s about creating yourself.”

**Virgo:** People who send sexts regularly report that they’re more happy overall with their sex lives than people who don’t, especially when the recipient actually wants to see photos of your Kibbles and Bits. A new study has shown that alcohol, when taken in moderation, is a better pain reliever than aspirin. Therefore, it looks like your advice is to send more nudes and to drink more. Perhaps this helps explain why Clouds got all Cs on the way to a big gold chain, stay true to yourself.

**Capricorn:** Self-acceptance is a very important ingredient in finding love. The great creator doesn’t want you to defined by a pimple or paunch or being bad at things like math or skiing. Therefore, it looks like your advice is to send more nudes and to drink more. Perhaps this helps explain why Clouds got all Cs on the way to a big gold chain, stay true to yourself.

**Aries:** This much we know is true: The best things in life aren’t things. Most of things we worry about never happen. The girls on the ads for the strip joint are never the girls working in the strip joint. When in doubt, it sometimes helps to mumble. Stop, drop and roll doesn’t work very well in Hell.

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**TRAIL DAYS**

**SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US FOR TRAIL DAYS!**

Join the Town of Mammoth Lakes in partnership with Inyo National Forest for this season’s volunteer Trail Days events along with a special two-day workshop on the Mammoth Lakes Trail System

**NEW TRAILS!**

- **JUL 1** Mammoth Rock Trail Connector
- **JUL 8 & 9** “Developing SMARTER Trails” Workshop
- **AUG 5** Meadow Trail Connector
- **SEPT 16** Lakes Basin Cleanup

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome!

**PERSONALS**

I see ... that May is National Masturbation month. Shoot, it’s almost over. Better get to work! I hope to meet you ... at the Film Festival because you are one of my favorite directors and I’d love to experience your visual creativity in my singlewides. Did I mention I have a waterbed? We could do a scene from Butt Pirates of the Caribbean!

In search of ... a walk-on part in the war, but will accept a lead role in your cage. I hope to see you ... at the Male Days parade. In honor of Trump, I’m gonna make it a Moscow Mule Days parade.

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