Trish Qualls recently retired from her job at Mammoth Unified School District as the Nutrition Services Director and Culinary Arts Instructor.

Qualls moved to Mammoth Lakes thirty one years ago to run a restaurant in June Lake called the Mountain Rose. Soon after, she also got a job at Mammoth Unified.

She's always had a passion for the food and restaurant business. When Qualls was able to combine her passion with teaching, she loved it even more.

Qualls and her “eight awesome team members” prepared meals every day for hundreds of students. “It takes a lot of planning, ordering, meeting dietary guidelines, and making it appealing with a small budget” she recalls.

“Pizza, for sure!” was Qualls’ quick response when asked what the kids’ favorite meal was. She couldn’t pinpoint her favorite meal to make because above all, she just enjoyed working with the kids no matter what she was cooking.

“What’s the trick to getting kids to eat their veggies?” I asked. Qualls laughed and said, “You have to start in elementary school. We’re getting there!” She also explained how it’s a state requirement to serve a different colored vegetable each day, so there’s a lot more veggies on the menu now!

Handling kids with poor manners is no doubt a difficult part of the job. Qualls emphasizes the importance of dealing with each tough situation and personality separately. However, “there weren’t many of those” she said. “Mammoth is a great place for working with young people.”

One of her most memorable experiences working on the job was letting a student with a challenging situation at home come live with her. As a culinary arts teacher and food service director, she wore a lot of hats and had a lot on her plate (no pun intended!). Although it was tough making everything work together with two jobs, Qualls fondly says the most rewarding part was “seeing the bright, eager faces every morning” as students waited in line for their breakfast and snack.

Qualls is thankful for working with so many incredible people throughout her career. She thanks former superintendent Lois Klein, saying, “I learned so much from her and have carried it throughout my life. She taught me how to shine when working with a group of people. It is so complex meeting everyone’s needs while still fulfilling the demands necessary to complete your own benchmarks. Know your people, their needs, always be humble and kind …”

Sheet: How many of your former students work around town? Anyone we might see Qualls, page 14

Mammoth Council losing patience with NGO

Mammoth Lakes Recreation’s three-year contract with the Town of Mammoth Lakes expires at the end of June. On Wednesday, MLR Executive Director Matt McClain pleaded for MLR’s very life before Mammoth Town Council.

Town staff had recommended “the agreement not be renewed under a similar form.”

The issue: Dissatisfaction with MLR over a lack of “deliverables” and an overarching question as to why MLR exists at all.

What does MLR do and is this different than what the TOML Parks and Recreation Department does or what Mammoth’s Recreation Commission does?

MLR is funded by Measure R, a sales tax measure. Sales tax revenues have fallen off a cliff since March. Dedicated Measure R allocations to the Multi-Use Facility, trails, et. al. must be paid.

The easiest way for Patterson to balance the projected budget deficit is to eliminate MLR staff.

MLR was formed in 2014. One of its main responsibilities (at the time) was to facilitate the allocation of Measure R and U tax funds. The most recent three-year contract, signed in 2017, gave a set of deliverables to be met. Fundraising was among those deliverables.

The staff report reads, “The larger fundraising goals for MLR have not been achieved. This includes raising ongoing operational funding of $100,000 per year or more by the end of the current agreement… The implementation of the plan with a target minimum goal of $2 million for the term of this agreement has not materialized.”

While MLR has had some success, the overall ability to enhance, support and deliver recreational experiences, to raise capital funds, and to increase self-sustainability have not been achieved.

The report smacked of infanticide.

Colin Fernie, who serves on the board for MLR, presaged Wednesday’s carnage at Tuesday’s MLR Board meeting.

“I think it is a little bit of an odd agenda item that we have in front of us because essentially we are being asked whether we follow a Town Staff recommendation that would eliminate the organization. Or we go with a MLR staff recommendation that would balance the budget and keep the organization moving forward. And really, the only fundamental difference between those two proposals that we are seeing is $100,000.”

And on Wednesday, when his turn came up, Matt McClain’s argued for his life.

And he argued for one hour and two minutes, bringing up every arcane thing MLR has ever done.

And he defended his fundraising record.

On why he couldn’t raise $2 million, never mind $20,000, McClain told Council that you can’t fundraise for items that aren’t approved.

How do you fundraise for an ice rink that may never happen? Why would people park their money with you?

see MLR, page 5

Survivors p. 2/
Father’s Day ideas p. 11/
Foster the People p. 7/
Take this swab and shove it p. 8/
Mow the lawn! p. 15/
See full story, see p. 8.
Rich McAteer grew up in Southern California. He graduated from Whittier College, studying history and political science, and then went into teaching. He was living in Whittier post-college. And driving home one day, he thought to himself, so many never leave Whittier once they finish school there. They stay in the area the rest of their lives. He wanted something different.

He knew a nurse who was going back to Massachusetts for a few months. He thought, well, if I try the east coast, at least I’ll know someone when I get there. He applied for four jobs. Landed one in Westford, Mass. teaching English and Social Studies.

He met and began dating Jan Hanlon while he was there. And then got drafted in 1966.

He was subsequently sent to Vietnam. Got lucky and was assigned to a Field Depot and didn’t see combat.

Got lucky still and asked Jan to marry him during his hitch while he was stationed outside Saigon. She said yes. They got married in Hawaii while he was on a seven-day leave.

And luckier still when he finished his tour and left Vietnam one month before the Tet Offensive would’ve placed him in harm’s way.

They leave with their marriage, their wits and their bank account intact. And a legacy of thrift and industriousness and fair play.

Today, we’ll celebrate a couple (though the interview was conducted with just one-half of the equation) that departs Mammoth on Monday after a successful 46-year run.

When he got home, Rich decided he wanted to get a Masters in School Counseling. “I thought I’d do the G.I. Bill and convince Jan to stay in California for a year.”

After finishing the program, he applied for jobs. But only on the west coast.

“If I didn’t get one, we’d go back to New England.”

“Maybe it’s the island living theme. Or maybe it’s the scramble for limited jobs and resources. So few people manage to eke out a living and raise a family here on a long-term basis.

“If you can make it there …” Sinatra could just as easily have been singing about Mammoth as he did about New York.

Some twenty years later, Rich and Jan moved to Mammoth. Their first purchase was a three-bedroom condo near the Village. “We wanted a place to raise our future children.”

They sold the condo two years later. And then bought a house on Colusa Avenue.

“I wanted to live in a house, and I wanted to own a horse.”


He had become management. He ultimately served as Mammoth Unified School Superintendent from 1982-1991 and then as Mono County School Superintendent from 1994-2006. In between, he started the continuation school with Betty Kittle.

“Jan says I went to the dark side being part of administration,” laughs Rich.

“When I was in Duarte, I was a union negotiator at one point, so … I’ve sat on both sides.”

His general observation about negotiating: “It takes both sides to recognize the other’s need. How do we make it work for both of us? Politics is too much for or against these days. There’s very little dialogue.”

When Joe Maruca became principal, he tapped McAteer as his lieutenant. He had become management. He ultimately served as Mammoth Unified School Superintendent from 1982-1991 and then as Mono County School Superintendent from 1994-2006. In between, he started the continuation school with Betty Kittle.

“Jan says I went to the dark side being part of administration,” laughs Rich.

“When I was in Duarte, I was a union negotiator at one point, so … I’ve sat on both sides.”

His general observation about negotiating: “It takes both sides to recognize the other’s need. How do we make it work for both of us? Politics is too much for or against these days. There’s very little dialogue.”

Recalled one instance where he was in a negotiation with Rob Barker and Dave Smith from the teacher’s union and he made some sort of error, and Barker and Smith, rather than crucify McAteer publicly for it, simply notified him of the error so he could fix it before it could have blown up into an “issue.”

Part of the reason for the error, said McAteer, was because he had violated his own “three-day” rule.

“I have a three-day rule on decision-making,” he says. “I have just found that the times I made decisions that had to be in the moment [without having time to pause for reflection], I made more errors.”

In Mammoth, McAteer continued to invest in property. That was part of his retirement strategy. He sold the nine rental apartments he had acquired over time last year.

In Mammoth, McAteer continued to invest in property. That was part of his retirement strategy. He sold the nine rental apartments he had acquired over time last year.

He had a couple of friends who rented McAteer’s units. They said he would always come to the door on the first of every month to collect the rent in person.

“I’d do that because … you need a basic relationship with your tenant, and that creates familiarity. It also gives you a chance to look around. Half of it is … it keeps a dialogue going if you talk about things that have nothing to do with business.”

His basic strategies: For purchase, McAteer used unit cost. He asked himself, “What’s a reasonable rent in the area?” And he wanted the cash flow to break even. Figuring inflation and appreciation were going to do the trick [and make it profitable in the long run].

And for each purchase, he calculated a minimum ten-year time horizon.

There was a second Jan in Rich’s life. Jan Work. Namesake of the Jan Work Community School run out of the Office of Education.
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GRILLED TRI-TIP
Tri-tip, pesto aioli, arugula, caramelized onions, balsamic glaze

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

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

POKE SALAD
Ahi tuna, arugula, cucumber, carrots, pickled onions, ginger, wasabi, sriracha aioli, cilantro, ketchup, relish

HOT DOG
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DRINKS, WATER, COFFEE, BROWNIES

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**LETTERS**

**Don’t pick on the police**

**Dear Editor:**

In response to Ms. Claire Landowski...

Shame on you for vilifying our Mono County Sheriff’s Department when so many are good moral people who risk their lives each and every day so you may be safe to walk down the street, go to the store, eat out without having to look over your shoulder. You reference opposing posting mug shots for “low-level” crimes. So if the outcome of the crime was much different and the officer(s) were not there to apprehend the suspect that was breaking the law and God forbid may have killed someone, would you still consider it a “low-level” crime? A speeding vehicle is and can be a deadly weapon! Or does your anecdotal theory not apply to ALL lives? It seems to me it is easy for you, Ms. Landowski, to point fingers without walking a minute or second in a law enforcement officer shoes.

Or should there not be ANY consequences for people’s actions?

Your comments that “the post is tone deaf and racist”; are you not offering your own sympathetic twist into modern racism against law enforcement.

My echoed response to Matthew Lehman’s letter, I too express my gratitude for our law enforcement.

Lana Hansen
Lee Vining

**Meanings Sometimes Change**

**Dear Editor:**

The Buddhist symbol called Manji in Japanese is a left facing and horizontal swastika used on maps of Japan to indicate the location of Buddhist Temples. It is a symbol, both left facing and right facing, used in many Eurasian cultures/religions and has been used for thousands of years. It is a symbol that historically has been used by civilizations the world over. In the 1930’s it was appropriated by and became a dominate symbol of the German Nazi Party.

In Japan the symbol is repeated throughout the architectural details of Buddhist Temples. It is a historic symbol that has peaceful meanings to Buddhists worldwide. To almost everyone else it is the symbol of the Nazi Party and white supremacy.

The meaning of a symbol may change over time. Though the original meaning is understood by informed people, the current meaning may be the most important. Police Chief Davis may be right in the original intent of the “Thin Blue Line” symbol, but a large group of people now associate it with a very different meaning.

What if the police department adopted a Buddhist belief system and placed left facing Buddhist Manji stickers on their rear bumpers? I believe the out cry to have them removed would be tremendous. The meaning of a swastika has, unfortunately, changed forever. Any justification of their use by the police would be wrong.

Of course police officers can put the “Thin Blue Line” stickers on their personal cars. But Chief Davis, please remove the stickers from the bumpers of our police cars.

Bruce Woodward
Mammoth Lakes

**New generation impresses old lion**

**Dear Editor:**

I am very proud of the young high school students who put together the Mammoth Lakes march and protest recently. They have learned that young voices can be heard. We are seeing all races and ages coming together to make a safer and saner world. This old man has renewed hope that our country can come out of the coronavirus and the killing of George Floyd stronger and able to truly change the way we see ourselves and others.

Bob Kittle
Mammoth Lakes

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**Fictitious Business Name Statement**

**Is Doing Business As:** Elite Sports and Therapy Consulting, Inc.

Elite Sports and Therapy Consulting, Inc. 1208 Majestic Pines Dr., P.O. Box 5068 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant has commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mono Country on June 12, 2020. File Number 20-106. 2020-0100 (6/20, 6/27, 7/4, 7/11)
**MLR continued from page 1**

Saucer told McClain that if MLR couldn’t accomplish a deliverable then the obvious course of action is to tell Council that the deliverable is un-achievable.

Last year MLR had about $1.2 million in its emergency fund. This would not count as a funding source. But if some crazy event like a pandemic were to happen, MLR would have some insurance.

“The reason that staff put this forward, you know, we made a commitment of $1.2 million out of reserves. That was all of our rainy day money,” said McClain, “Because a year ago we stood behind [the CRC]. We were told hey, here is a new option. We think we can do this and we made that leap of faith as a board. It wasn’t a clean vote, it wasn’t a unanimous vote.”

$1.2 million to a project that was over budget and therefore rebid. It hasn’t been spent. But it sure ain’t coming back to MLR - unless Council relents.

Town Manager Dan Holler then told the board there were many options between funding and defunding. For example, Option 2 is a ‘slow wind-down of MLR as a Town funded Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).’ This would give MLR 3-6 months to complete its current programs in order to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities.

**THE COUNCIL WEIGHS IN**

The actual Council deliberation got off to a rocky start. After 25 minutes of Holler and more than an hour from McClain, Mayor Bill Sauser was not a fan.

Said Sauser: “I had no idea I was going to get a two hour, slick, sales presentation. I’m not happy about not being notified about that or where it leads to.”

The show must go on.

Every public comment supported re-signing MLR’s contract.

Sandy Hogan, speaking as a member of the public, was in Suite Z to explain that at first, upon MLR’s inception in 2014, she was against MLR. But according to her letter to Council, “The current organization, with its solid Board and subcommittees, Executive Director and small team are now functioning well. To dismantle this long effort and once again ‘start fresh’ without giving it another year, at a reduced budget as proposed, will just be another costly effort ‘toss on the shelf.’”

Betsy Truax, Chair of Mammoth’s Recreation Commission, spoke “as a member of the public,” and gave her support.

David Page, MLR Treasurer, kept his comments short and sweet. “I think the timing on this is problematic and unfortunate. The Town Manager deemed us non-essential so we had a meeting last night. I would just encourage [Council] to think about what the return on investment is on the proposed $142,000 with another year’s contract with MLR.

I think the conversation about deliverables is incredibly disingenuous especially listening to the deliverables for MLT for a $6 million contract.”

Page urged Council to at least give MLR a yearlong contract so it can properly handle some of its projects related to trails.

Finally, Council was set to make a decision.

The deliberation lasted about 12 minutes. In that time, Council managed to come up with a new solution that blended a couple of the recommendations from Town Staff.

Councilman John Wentworth made the motion, “A staff direction to engage with the board leadership of MLR to negotiate a contract whereby the Town is requesting the following services. Ongoing recommendations for Measure R and U funds, oversight of the Mammoth Trails program, and continued oversight of the Eastern Sierra Recreation Coordinator. And for the mutually agreed upon financial arrangement to be brought to the Council for consideration.”

Council member Cleland Hoff seconded the motion. Sauser asked if there was any further deliberation. Councilman Kirk Stapp confirmed what was happening. “Basically the contract will be brought back to us with deliverables and everything so that we can see what we are buying?”

“Correct,” said Wentworth. “And it will be a much shortened deliverable and contract?” Asked Sauser.

“Yes,” responded Wentworth. The motion passed 4-1 with a no vote from Sauser.
Recent events have forced a national conversation on law enforcement training, methods, and accountability in both large cities and rural areas. The Eastern Sierra hasn’t been immune to these dialogues and a number of community concerns and questions led Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun to create a presentation for the County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday that aimed to address those concerns and explain how her office handles particular situations.

“It’s an important conversation, one that is not just happening here in the state and in the nation but around the world about how law enforcement interacts with their communities, how they treat their communities,” Braun began. The Sheriff’s presentation specifically focused around the changes recommended by 8 Can’t Wait, a non-profit that aims to introduce policy and legislation that would potentially reduce the risk of harm to suspects or civilians when interacting with law enforcement, in addition to community concerns. 8 Can’t Wait’s policies ask for eight policy changes for law enforcement:

1. Ban chokeholds and strangleholds
2. Require De-Escalation
3. Require warning before shooting
4. Require exhausting all alternatives before shooting
5. Duty to intervene when excessive force is used by other officers
6. Ban shooting at moving vehicles
7. Establish a use of force continuum
8. Require comprehensive reporting

Braun was joined by CHP Bridgeport’s Chuck Mairs, Mammoth Police Chief Al Davis, Chief Probation Officer Karin Humiston, District Attorney Tim Kendall, and Mono County Behavioral Health Director Robin Roberts.

The presentation highlighted key existing points of California law, including respect for human rights and dignity and use of deadly force only in defense of human life. In addition, Braun referenced training standards that include de-escalation, bias, mental health, cultural competency, and alternatives to deadly force.

Braun also addressed each individual aspect of 8 Can’t Wait’s policies. She expressed hesitation about the chokehold ban, noting that, “my deputies are often an hour away from their nearest backup and if they’re fighting for their lives, I don’t want them to hesitate for even a heartbeat to use something that would save their lives.”

In regards to de-escalation, she again referenced the delay in getting backup, explaining “You don’t wanna have to use force when you’re by yourself, you want to be able to talk somebody into the handcuffs.”

She also pushed back slightly on the warning before shooting, pointing to extreme cases where a suspect may just begin shooting at officers and there is no time to provide warning of return fire.

According to Braun, many of the other changes suggested in 8 Can’t Wait are already written into California law as well as the Sheriff Department’s own policy. Others, like not shooting at a moving car, are simply practical; while the driver may be stopped, they are no longer in control of the vehicle and could cause more damage.

“California has been way ahead of rest of country in terms of training requirements,” Braun said, “there are a lot of things going on with California that isn’t common throughout the country.” She then spoke to community concerns, specifically focusing on the Claire Landowski’s letter from the previous week’s meeting.

Braun stated the Sheriff’s department already has an internal review board for use of force as well as an external review conducted by the District Attorney’s office. In addition, officers undergo racial, bias, and cultural training during their initial training period, followed by a refresher course every five years.

The role that mental health plays in police interactions and emergency calls was addressed by Robin Roberts, who explained that Mono County has been interested in joining a consortium of counties that aims to implement crisis services into emergency response.

She explained that while having someone physically able to respond 24/7 wasn’t feasible for a department of her size, they would be experimenting with a “dispatcher” who could assist responding officers via remote communication.

Braun also outlined recent plans to create a citizen’s advisory/oversight board for the Sheriff’s department, a concept that she wholeheartedly supports. Beginning in July, the newly-formed board will meet with the Sheriff’s department every other month to discuss law enforcement issues in the community and provide feedback for the department to work with.

After Braun’s presentation concluded, the board was allowed to voice its opinions and discuss other potential action to be taken.

Supervisor John Peters spoke on the integration of local law enforcement with the community, noting that many law enforcement officers also serve with volunteer fire departments or engage with local RPAC’s.

“Many of them were born in local hospitals here,” Peters said, “They wanna be that leader in the community having lived here and grown up here.”

“I do think we need to talk a little bit more about what is at the heart of the protests,” Board Chair Stacy Corless noted. “Bias and systemic racism impact our work, not just in police but in our work as the government.”

Corless referred to recent events in California, including apparent Lynchings, that demonstrate the need for urgent change within communities.

“I don’t have that knot of fear that I’m going to get pulled over and something terrible is going to happen to me,” Corless stated. “We don’t know what it feels like and we need to know what it feels like.”

The board encouraged on-going discussions between local law enforcement and the communities they serve, with Supervisor Rob Gardner suggesting that they take time each month to have a board discussion on matters related to racial equality.
Foster THE PEOPLE
Pat Foster, candidate for MLT Board seat, makes his case

Scott McGuire’s departure from the Mammoth Lakes Tourism board in June leaves an open “At-Large” seat on the non-profit’s governing body.

The board was originally set to fill that seat at its June 3 meeting but debate surrounding interpretation of the by-laws, related to definitions of eligibility, pushed the selection back to the board’s next meeting on July 1.

There are two applicants for the vacant position, Pat Foster and Barbara Maynard, in a limbo of sorts; Foster was the selection committee’s choice by a vote of 2-1, but Treasurer Rhonda Duggan explained that, according to current bylaws, Foster could be ineligible due to a) his residency in Bishop as opposed to “the Mammoth Lakes area” and a) a requirement that those filling the At-Large seat must hold a business license in Mammoth Lakes.

Foster is a born-and-bred local who has spent 21 years as president of Hot Creek Aviation, an aviation service provider based out of Mammoth Yosemite Airport, that Foster describes as “really the first step in hospitality in Mammoth.”

“I think it’s important growing up here to have those local roots and understand the local community,” Foster said of his local upbringing.

Foster’s sister Pam was the former Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing.

A good portion of Hot Creek Aviation’s work is related to private planes (chalking wheels, fueling planes, unloading bags), but Foster’s work also extends to the airlines that operate out of the airport as well.

While he acknowledges tourism’s importance in the region, he added that “a big part of me wants to protect the natural resources that make people want to come here,” a goal that he feels could be achieved in part by serving on the MLT board.

In addition to his role with Hot Creek Aviation, Foster is also heavily involved in the Motocross world as a bike tester, having been a bicycle and dirt bike racer in his youth.

That second branch in his career is one that Foster feels has provided experience and relationships that he feels would be valuable as a prospective board member.

“It’s important that I’ve traveled a lot,” Foster said. “Just being here, you lose touch with the outside world.”

According to Foster, the time he spends traveling also helps to keep him informed on how travel evolves and how others are accommodating guests around the country.

In addition, his work with various marketing departments through the testing industry has allowed him a greater understanding of how brands pitch their products to consumers effectively.

In terms of his eligibility for the position, Foster explained his feelings that the Mammoth Lakes area included Bishop and that the original definition of residence was more to keep second homeowners from joining the board.

“I’ve been at the airport for 21 years, he said, “I’ve been doing the drive every day for 21 years.”

Foster emphasized that his connections to both communities would be an asset to the board, in addition to his work in the air service industry in both locations.

Regarding the clause about having a business license, he explained that his business partner founded Hot Creek Aviation in January 1999 and he joined as president in April of the same year. In other words, Foster has essentially been running the business since its inception.

When asked if his business interests could in anyway represent a conflict of interest due to the planned air service shift to Bishop, he noted that he ran Hot Creek Aviation for 10 years prior to formal air service in Mammoth and added that, “anything we can do to ease the transition [to Bishop], we’re happy to do that.”

“Is it the best for my business? No but is it better for the whole community, yes,” Foster said.

Foster also cleared up confusion on his role in the lawsuit between Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, noting that “I had no affiliation with that company” and emphasizing that he worked with local authorities and town representatives to continue airport operations at the time.

Ultimately, Foster emphasized his strong ties to local community, both through business and personal relationships as the keynotes for his candidacy.

“I’m good listener and have a good relationship with a lot of folks that have a lot of good ideas about where we should go,” he said. “They’re not necessarily my ideas. Im representing all those business owners that don’t fall into those [retail, lodging, and restaurants].”

Editor’s note: The Sheet called Barbara Maynard to set up an interview for next week, only to be told that she had received an email on May 11 notifying her that she had been bypassed for the At-Large seat was still at large. Apparently not.

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TWO GENTLEMEN OF CORONA
Sheet staffers submit to Covid-19 testing

By Page and Hite

If you were unaware, Mono County Public Health Department (MCPHD) is offering free pop-up COVID-19 testing two times a week. Every Wednesday MCPHD is in Mammoth Lakes, at the promenade on Main Street, and on Mondays the team is at a different location in Mono County. For location info visit: coronavirus.monoounty.ca.gov/pages/health.

Originally, the testing was limited to about thirty per session but as testing capabilities increase MCPHD can now test “upwards of 160 people a week.” From 6/11-6/17, 130 people were tested. A portion of these people were tested through Verily. ‘Project Baseline’ by Verily is a service that allows Mono County residents to sign up online for drive-through testing. This is available on Tuesdays in Mammoth Lakes and various dates in North County. Again, the County website has all of this information.

Still, 130 people in a week with zero positive cases. The last positive case in Mono County was on June 9.

The experience

The Sheet (Hite and Page) rolled up to the testing facility around 12:30 p.m. There was an older gentleman getting a test at the time and no one else. Bryan Wheeler, the Health Program Manager for Mono County was in the testing facility around 12:30 p.m. Page elected to take the test first. It looked extremely uncomfortable. Page winced as the swab was in his nose and Wheeler paused and looked at the camera.

Page: Getting the test itself is an odd sensation. While the swab isn’t more than a few inches long, it feels as though the bottom of your brain is being tickled. Imagine the sensation of breathing water through your nose. Now imagine the water rushing in and out. Then imagine the water as a plastic stick. It tickled but not in a fun way and left me teary and coughing. But the whole experience couldn’t have lasted more than ten seconds but it definitely felt a lot longer than that. Perhaps time is more elastic when you’ve got a plastic swab all the way up your nose.

Hite wasn’t too keen on the idea of getting the test. It appeared … painful. While The Sheet was getting its testing done, Citizen Sandy Hogan showed up to get a test. Hite grabbed his notebook and Wheeler paused and looked at the camera.

Hogan did not make a public comment, as she tends to do about everything. Prior to testing, one of the workers took down personal information so that test results could be forwarded. After doing this, and confirming one’s date of birth, the subject was instructed to sit down and blow their nose to remove any potential blockage. Once that was completed, the real fun began.

Page to sit down and blow their nose to remove any potential blockage. Once the sample collector had entered his nostril. Once it was in, Wheeler made a quick thumbs-up for the camera, held the pose, and then withdrew the swab, leaving Hite coughing and perturbed.

It tickled but not in a fun way and left me teary and coughing. But the whole experience couldn’t have lasted more than ten seconds but it definitely felt a lot longer than that. Perhaps time is more elastic when you’ve got a plastic swab all the way up your nose.

Page: The relative ease of the whole experience was the most striking aspect by far. Test takers were in and out in under three minutes, carrying a complimentary reusable mask and a small sample of hand sanitizer.

Was it uncomfortable? Absolutely. Was it scarring or brutal? No. The swabbing sensation is incredibly brief and then you’re on your way.

COVID-19 update

Currently, 1,090 people have been tested in Mono County. 22 tests are pending, 1,030 are negative, and still only 37 are positive. There hasn’t been a positive test in two weeks.

Inyo County has had one new positive case since June 6 and 24 positives overall.

The Mono County Health department is holding pop-up testing clinics four days a week. “An updated schedule for our pop-up testing will be coming out this week,” said Health Program Manager Bryan Wheeler in the Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday. Due to supply shortages, the health department is no longer conducting rapid tests except for emergency cases. All results will be sent out and received within 2 to 4 days.

On Friday, June 19th, all hotels and lodging establishments will be permitted to reopen for tourism and individual travel.

Mammoth Hospital still does not have antibody tests as they remain unreliable. The hospital does not feel confident enough to recommend the use of antibody tests until they prove to be more accurate.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism’s food bank has served its purpose, as it will be discontinued on Friday, June 26th.

COVARIANCE UPDATE

For location info visit: coronavirus.monoounty.ca.gov/pages/health.
Keep on Dreaming

The U.S Supreme Court handed the Trump Administration a defeat on immigration Thursday, 5-4, by denying its plan to dismantle the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) policy established under Obama. The act, which grants temporary legal status to qualifying immigrants brought to the US during childhood, currently protects more than 600,000 “Dreamers” in the United States. President Trump vowed to continue the program within a few months of taking office and his plan to do so was earlier blocked by lower courts before being heard by the Supreme Court.

In 2017, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions declared DACA illegal and unconstitutional without providing justification for doing so, arguing only that it circumvented current immigration law.

Chief Justice John Roberts, author of the majority opinion, explained that “We do not decide whether DACA or its rescission are sound policies.” Roberts wrote, “Here we address only whether the Administration complied with the procedural requirements in the law that insist on ‘a reasoned explanation for its action.”

In response to the decision, Trump tweeted “Do you get the impression that the Supreme Court doesn’t like me?” He is reportedly weighing his options as to how best to proceed.

More Essential

Effective Friday, June 19 additional personal services within counties with attestations (including Mono County) are permitted to reopen with modifications, by approval from the Mono County Health Officer. These services include personal care that requires touching a client’s face: -Facials, Electrolysis, Waxing, Esthetician Services, Skin Care Services, Cosmetology Services, Nail Salons, Body Art Services, Tattoo Parlors, Body Piercing, Massage Therapy (in non-health care settings)

Bishop 4th of July fireworks

The Bishop Volunteer Firefighters Association has decided that against all odds, it wants to give the community something to celebrate, even if it’s impossible for everyone to gather for the traditional tailgate parties.

“We don’t want to hurt the ability of all of our community’s businesses from opening up,” said chief Joe Dell. “If a COVID case was traced back to our event, that would be a strong possibility. Therefore, we want to provide a celebration that will fall within county and state guidelines.”

The “Celebrate at Home” fireworks show will take place in the night sky above Bishop at around 9:20 p.m. on the night of July 4. Per the request of the Inyo County Public Health Department, the specific location of the show will remain undisclosed to prevent gatherings, however the height of the fireworks should make the show visible throughout the greater Bishop area. The community is invited to celebrate the Fourth of July and enjoy the fireworks show from home. Tune in to KIBS radio, 100.7 FM to enjoy patriotic tunes alongside the fireworks show.

Traditionally, the cost of the fireworks show is covered by sponsors and gate fees. The pandemic has put a tremendous strain on many of those sponsors, and this year’s show is short $7,000. The association chose to pay for this difference out of their own fund.

A GoFundMe has been set up to help offset the cost of the show. It can be found at https://www.gofundme.com/f/bishop-volunteer-firefighters-association. Anyone who would like to send a check may do so to the Bishop Volunteer Firefighters Association at P.O. Box 1236, Bishop CA 93515, with “Fireworks” on the memo line. Any funds raised in excess of the cost of the show will go to the Bishop volunteer firefighters’ equipment fund.


FYI: Mammoth is offering zilch for fireworks, so this is likely the closest show for the majority of our readership.
The Covid-19 pandemic has forced local event operators to cancel events en masse, removing many traditions from the summer calendar. Everything from races to concerts to food-and-drink festivals have seen the axe fall on their hopes for 2020.

Others, like Summer Jam and the Mammoth Yoga Festival have been moved to the end of the summer, with operators betting that positive developments in the course of the pandemic reopening will allow them to move forward.

One local event that remains on the calendar in the face of adversity: Sierra Classic Theatre’s annual Shakespeare in the Woods production.

When initially confronted with the prospect of putting on a theatrical production in the midst of Covid-19, the SCT board voted to outright cancel the summer production.

But as things progressed, director Allison McDonnell Page, who faced her own personal bout with the virus in March, began to reconsider the decision and ultimately decided to give Shakespeare a shot. The turning point was an online survey, issued to SCT’s mailing list, that gauged how willing audience members would be to watch a play while complying with local health ordinances.

With an estimated 85% of respondents comfortable with attending while following social distancing and masking rules, the possibility of doing a play during a pandemic became much more real.

McDonnell Page believes that the SCT production may very well be the only one of its kind occurring this year, at least in California. “I cannot find another company that is doing a play for real,” McDonnell Page said, “I was sort of hoping I could find one so that I could talk to them and say hey, ‘let’s talk about how we’re going to do this’.”

One of the reasons why SCT can go ahead while others can’t is overhead: SCT’s actors, designers, and theatre personnel are volunteers and as such, the productions are not oriented towards reaping massive profits.

Once the production was tentatively approved, the next issue was selecting a mood-appropriate play to stage. McDonnell-Page initially explored doing something other than a Shakespeare play, opting instead for something with a smaller cast. The next choice was potentially a spoof, but she felt that it wouldn’t resonate well with audiences who may not be too jovial these days.

Romeo and Juliet was also considered but the combination of tragedy and difficulty of choreographing large group scenes meant it was ultimately ruled out.

McDonnell Page ultimately landed on The Tempest and went with it, citing small group scenes, a smaller cast, and its more hopeful conclusion.

The concerns related to Covid extend beyond the production’s thematic content. The audience will be given assigned seating locations six feet apart, asked to bring their own refreshments, and be masked whenever they leave their seats.

“I feel like I can keep the audience safe,” McDonnell Page said, “We can reserve their places. We can literally put them in those places.”

Her bigger concerns were for the cast, who could unknowingly infect each other if they were to contract Covid in another setting. Initial rehearsals and readings were conducted on Zoom to keep people apart but beginning this past week, McDonnell Page began holding in-person rehearsals at the Wood Site on Minaret Road.

Actors are instructed not to touch one another and stay masked, bring their own chairs and water, and stay at least six feet apart while waiting for their turn on the stage.

“I don’t want the audience to be uncomfortable with how physically close we are on stage. I want to visibly represent to them that we’re keeping people safe,” McDonnell Page said.

Hanging over all of the planning is the very real possibility that the production could be shut down by local health authorities; the county will need to be in stage 3 for the audience to be present. McDonnell-Page readily admitted, “I think it is a lot easier for us to not have done this play,” but added “as long as we can keep the good experience for the whole time, whatever happens, happens.”

Said McDonnell Page: “There’s something about Shakespeare and the outdoors, that it’s been happening since the 1600’s; it makes you feel like we’ll get through this.”
SHEET SURVEY

With Father’s Day this weekend ...

The Sheet asked people on the street: What are you doing for Dad on his big day?

“A nice card.”
- Zoe (Mammoth)

“Visit him in Thousand Oaks.”
- Maya (Mammoth)

“A phone call.”
- Natalie (Mammoth)

“We’re going to have a crawdad cook-off.”
- Pete (Arizona)

“Write a letter.”
- Jo (Arizona)

“A card, a dinner and a hike.”
- Kira (San Diego)

“Make him dinner.”
- Kaya (Mammoth)

“Bake him some goodies.”
- Connor (Mammoth)

“A nice card.”
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“Visit him in Thousand Oaks.”
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“Bake him some goodies.”
- Connor (Mammoth)
TOWN STUFF

Friday, June 19/ Snowcreek Golf Course opens for the season. Info: See ad p. 2.

Monday, June 22/ FREE COVID-19 testing at Crowley. The pop-up private health clinic will be at the Crowley Lake General Store from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free testing, masks, hand sanitizer and flyers. Bishop City Council meets, 6 p.m. Visit http://www.cityofbishop.com/government/city-council for agendas, packets and to view.

Summer Reading Program with Mono County Libraries. Starts June 22 and runs through August 1. The 2020 Summer Reading Program is designed for kids. Register by emailing participants name, age, and local library to cdervine@monocoe.org.

June 23-26 Junior Livestock Online Auction and Sale at Inyo-County Fairground. Those interested in purchasing an animal should register as a buyer at SCONLINESALES.COM. The livestock show will be viewable via Zoom. More info @ https://tricountyfair.com/

Wednesday, June 24/ FREE COVID-19 testing at the Public Health pop-up clinic in front of the Mammoth Food Bank from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free testing, masks, hand sanitizer and flyers. Inyo County hosts a weekly business to business webinar hosted by Asst. CAO Leslie Chapman. Time: 3 p.m. For details/link, visit www.inyocounty.us.

AT THE MOVIES

Movies Playing This Week 06/19 to 06/25

Friday
Trolls World Tour 3:00pm & 5:30pm

Saturday
The Way Back 1:00pm & 3:05pm

Sunday
The Way Back 1:30pm & 5:30pm

Monday
The Way Back 1:00pm & 5:30pm

Tuesday
The Way Back 1:30pm & 5:30pm

Wednesday
The Way Back 1:00pm & 3:35pm

Thursday
The Way Back 1:30pm & 5:30pm

Friday, June 26/ Mammoth Mountain Bike Park and Scenic Gondola open for the season. More info on what’s opening at the mountain @ https://www.mammothmountain.com/covid

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

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

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

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

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AT THE MOVIES

THE SHEET | Saturday, June 20, 2020 | www.thesheetnews.com | 13
Work was instrumental in helping make McAteer’s tenure at the Mono Office of Education successful because “she had all the skills I struggled with.” While Rich handled the budgeting side of things, Work’s forte was program development. “She always had an idea of where we were and where we wanted to be ... and she wanted to do things that had a real impact on kids.”

And in terms of brick-and-mortar achievements, give a small nod to McAteer every time you visit the Mammoth Library. It was perhaps his signature achievement in terms of bringing partners together to make the project happen, and it’s been far more popular than McAteer ever imagined. “It’s used a lot more than I had anticipated,” he said.

“And we did get $100,000 out of Rusty [Gregory] for the library,” remarked McAteer drolly. This led to a brief discussion about the changes McAteer’s seen locally over the past half-century. He believes there’s less of a commitment to the town from the ski area than there used to be. That Dave McCoy was far more concerned about the school district, the hospital district, the infrastructure components that make a successful resort community.

“The greatest change has been the [ski area’s acquisition by Alterra Resorts and] move to Denver. There’s no longer the same history, the same culture. I’m disappointed that Rusty says he has a soft spot for Mammoth, but the soft spot hasn’t translated [into significant investment].”

Rich and Jan raised two boys here. One, Todd, lives in San Clemente. He serves as the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources for the Oceanside Unified School District. Sheet: So does Jan think Todd’s gone to the dark side, being a part of administration?

Rich (laughing): No way. That’s different. That’s her son.

Son Timothy is a doctor (married to a doctor) and lives in Portland, Maine.

The four grandchildren range in age from 6 to 17.

Jan and Rich will live in Naples, Maine.

Addendum: Wife Jan believes her husband downplayed his accomplishments in this story and wished to elaborate on one point.

“He was responsible for building the elementary school (phase one and two), the addition to the high school, the County Administrative officers well as the library. All on budget and on time.” -Jan McAteer
GEMINI: The Stars are saying that this is a lucky year for you. To help make the most of it, here are some lucky things for your sign. Your lucky color is yellow, so long as you don’t have jaundice. Your lucky numbers are 5 and 9, but not necessarily 9 to 5. Your lucky cities are San Francisco and Melbourne, but since traveling is frowned upon right now, it’s best to try it vicariously by eating Rice-A-Roni and washing it down with Foster’s. And your lucky day is Wednesday, which is called hump day for good reason.

CANCER: This month, four different planets are going retrograde at the same time. This may cause many folks to feel stagnant, frustrated, tired and confused. But that’s okay. These feelings aren’t bad things. In fact, they are really agents of change. The key is to not wallow in the negative but rather rejoice in the positive. Sometimes we need to use a slap of reality to get us moving again and if we’re actually brave enough to accept it, we might even discover we like it.

LEO: Numerous studies have shown that a healthier to sleep naked. It is better for your skin and increases the release of growth hormones and melatonin, which make you sleep better, heal more and age less. It also makes spooning much more enjoyable. If you need more reasons than this to sleep in the buff, perhaps you should stop sleeping with your head up your butt.

VIRGO: This is the time to embrace your dreams. So accept them, write them down and be thankful for them, even if they seem far from arriving. To help you get there, try to be as open-minded as possible. This is the time to preserve by fellow Virgo, musician Eric Hutchinson, “Cause if they want to rock they rock. If they want to roll they roll. It’s never been fixed, and that you should try anyway. They can roll with the punches as long as they feel like they’re in control.”

LIBRA: Humans are deuterostomes, which historically means that the first thing we develop is an anus. The term itself actually translates as “mouth comes second.” While we all get big-er, some people never really become more than big-a-holes. So your new tagline is: “I’m turning my memoir. “I saw you ... in line getting tested for CoVID-19. When you’re new motto, “I never half-ass anything. It’s all ass or nothing for me!”

CAPRICORN: Did you know that brushing your teeth with your dominant hand improves brain functioning? Did you know that it usually takes the average person seven minutes to fall asleep? Did you know that Chinese, Spanish and English are the most popular languages on earth? Did you know that the most commonly used letter is E? Did you know that you probably agree with Easy E when he said, “If you wanna get your point across you gotta cuss.”

AQUARIUS: Music tends to help set the mood for most Aquarians. That’s why Clouds would like to add a new tune from some of your astrological opposites to your soundtrack. The first one comes from Cancer, Amos Lee, “My love is a flower that blooms every hour. I believe in the power of love.” And the other one comes from Capricorn, Eddie Vedder: “Gonna rise up. Find my ace in the hole.”

PISCES: Omnism is the belief that no single religion offers the absolute truth, but that wisdom can be found in them all. This type of philosophy fits spiritual people like Pisceans well. It’s also why those of this sign tend to be easy to get along with, because you know just about everyone has something to offer, except of course, Mitch McConnell who’s here to remind us that a few people will always suck.

ARIES: Life can be tricky, especially during challenging times like these. Sometimes all we need to remember is to Stay Safe, Stay Local, Stay Active, and Be Kind. If that doesn’t work, grabbing a beer or a boogie or a fishing rod can do the trick. If all that fails well then you’ve got to stop being your worst enemy. That’s a job for somebody else anyway.

TAURUS: In case you’ve been feeling out-of-sorts recently, Clouds would like to remind you that self-care isn’t selfish, that you shouldn’t ever run back to what broke you after you’ve been fixed, and that you should shag more often, but you already knew that.

TOWN YARD
299 Commerce Drive
(Town Yard, not Transfer Station)

MAMMOTH DISPOSAL
420 Broadway
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Community Clean-Up Day
Take pride in our Town by volunteering to beautify our streets, parks, trails and public spaces. A bag per person really helps!
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020
Bag Pick-up: 9:00am-11:30am at Footloose Sports. Receive supplies, complimentary trash bags and community clean-up assignments.
Bag Drop-off: 8:00am-3:00pm, 299 Commerce Drive (Town Yard, not Transfer Station)

Learn More & Volunteer: For additional information or to volunteer for the event, please register online at ves.galaxydigital.com.
contact Kathleen Taylor, Volunteer Eastern Sierra at (760) 815-9950.

What you CAN drop-off: Pine cones/needles, grass clippings, leaf debris, tree limbs less than 1/2" in diameter, dog waste and community trash (no household trash). The drop-off location will be monitored throughout the event and anyone trying to drop-off excluded items will be turned away.

What you CANNOT drop-off: Household, HOA or property trash; large bulky items (furniture, appliances, old tires, mattresses, etc.); metal objects (refrigerators, snow stalks, motorized equipment, etc.); recyclable materials, Hazardous Waste (HHW); food waste; and e-waste (TV's and electronics). These items must be taken to the Mammoth Disposal Transfer Station at 59 Commerce Drive for a fee per rate schedule.

COVID-19 Precautions: To keep our community safe, we ask volunteers to wear face coverings, bring their own gloves, and stay 6 feet away from others not in the same household unit.

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