

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra



Mammoth Lakes Film Festival Founder and Director Shira Dubrovner and Festival Programmer Paul Sbrizzi at Wednesday's opening reception held at the Polo Event Center in Mammoth

Saturday, May 25, 2019 FREE Vol. 17, No. 21

# READY FOR THE PARADE



Home Street Middle School Band Director Dan Daugherty took his charges to the street this week to practice for the Mule Days Parade this Saturday.

PHOTO: GAYLA WOLF

# TIME TO GET WILD

Author Cheryl Strayed will deliver keynote at 2nd Mammoth Yoga Festival **By Lunch** 

Bestselling author Cheryl Strayed will give the keynote address at the Mammoth Yoga Festival three weeks from now on Friday, June 15. She'll follow it up by teaching a writing workshop the following day.

The writing workshop already has eighty people signed up, a testament to Strayed's enduring popularity following the publication of her memoir "Wild" in 2012. "Wild" chronicled Strayed's journey of self-discovery as she set out to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT).

The book not only landed Strayed the honor of being the first author featured in Oprah's resurrected book club - which

**Two Good** 

also involved a three-hour pal around with Oprah herself but it also got turned into a Hollywood film starring Reese Witherspoon.

The Sheet spoke with Ms. Strayed about her upcoming trip to Mammoth, her accidental career as a public speaker, and about what it takes to lift the weight one cannot lift.

Strayed's accidental career, in some measure, is due to the nature and volume of the dramatic strands in her life.

She's a child of divorce. Once-divorced herself. Her mother died of lung cancer when she was just 45.

see STRAYED, page 20

# MAMMOTH LAKES FILM FESTIVAL IS GROUNDLING ZERO THIS WEEKEND

Cheri Oteri and other Groundling Theatre and School alumni will accept Sierra Spirit award this Saturday

By Lunch

ammoth Lakes Film Festival (MLFF) will honor The Groundlings this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Forest Service auditorium.

The Groundling Theatre and School, established in 1974 in Los Angeles, has been the launching pad for countless television and film actors over the past four decades, and has been a de facto Triple AAA farm club for NBC's Saturday Night Live (SNL).

Groundling alumni who've made the jump to SNL include Melissa McCarthy, Phil Hartman, Kristen Wiig, Jon Lovitz, Laraine Newman, Will Ferrell, etc.

Three Groundling/SNL alums will participate in this weekend's event (Jordan Black, who wrote for SNL, and Julia Sweeney and Cheri Oteri, who performed as cast members). The non-SNL alum, Ryan Gaul, is doing just fine, thank you, as he currently appears in the hit series "The Last O.G."

The Sheet spoke to Cheri Oteri this week about her life and career, so perhaps the following will give you a bit of a warmup for Saturday's moderated panel.

As Cheri Oteri was growing up in the Philadephia

suburbs, her dream wasn't to be a Groundling, or on SNL. Initially, she wanted to be a singer. Which made sense, as her father Tommy was a music producer. But she didn't have the voice for that dream, so she moved to Los Angeles and got a job at A&M Records, working in radio promotions.

But from the first, it was pretty clear that Oteri was a spitfire.

"A lot of people told me I should try stand-up," Oteri recalled. "Do stand-up, do stand-up, but I didn't really pay attention. Until someone told me I should do Groundlings,

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Commercial takeoff

Oster gets green

**Stalking Flula** 

**A Simpler Plan** 

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JOIN US THIS WEEKEND!
YOTEL BACKYARD BBQ
Sunday, May 26th · 2 pm - 5 pm
YOTELPAD Presentation Center
6040 Minaret Drive, Mammoth Lakes

BBQ · INFO · SITE TOURS · GAMES · MUSIC



## VISION QUEST

ammoth Lakes (May 21, 2019) — More than two dozen students at Mammoth Middle School tried on their new glasses for the first time to commemorate a project by nonprofit Vision To Learn, which provided mobile vision services at seven schools in Mono and Inyo Counties.

Vision To Learn provides students in need with free eye exams and glasses, using a mobile clinic that travels to school sites. Over two weeks this spring, Vision To Learn visited schools in Mammoth Unified, Bishop Unified, and Eastern Sierra Unified, and provided 448 students with eye exams, and 354 with glasses.

"Vision to Learn provides kids with the glasses they need to succeed in school and in life," said Vision To Learn President Ann Hollister.

Approximately one in four students has an untreated vision issue, according to the American Optometric Association and Vision To Learn's own vision screening data. This issue is particularly prevalent among students in low-income communities. Students living in rural communities, where seeing an optometrist may involve traveling a long distance, face additional hurdles.

Vision To Learn's program in Mono and Inyo Counties is supported with funding from the State of California and Anthem Inc.

Vision care in the Eastern Sierra is limited and difficult to access. Currently, there are no optometrists practicing in Mono County. In Inyo County there are three optometrists, two in private practice in Bishop, and one at Toiyabe Indian Health Project who accepts government funded plans.

About a year ago a vision collaborative of community stakeholders was coordinated by Mono County Public Health Director, Sandra Pearce, in an effort to identify solutions to increase vision care within the County.

One strategy to address local needs was to partner with the non-profit agency, Vision to Learn, to provide

eligible students in both Mono and Inyo Counties with on-site vision exams and glasses as needed.

Colleen Moxley, School Nurse for Mono County and Chantal Linnastruth, School Nurse for Bishop Unified School District worked in collaboration with Vision to Learn to help organize students who had failed their vision screenings or had known vision impairment. They both contributed many hours to ensuring the project's success.

#### **About Vision To Learn**

Vision To Learn, a non-profit charity, started with one van in Los Angeles in 2012 and now helps kids in low-income communities in over 300 cities in 13 states; about 90% of kids served by Vision To Learn live in poverty and about 85% are kids of color. Since its inception, Vision To Learn has helped provide vision screenings to over 1,000,000 kids, all free of charge. For more information on Vision To Learn, please visit www. visiontolearn.org.



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