

Heartbeats

Spring 2005

A Community Service of Mammoth Hospital
Published by the Community Relations Department
Lori Ciccarelli, Editor

Give Kids a Smile

Give Kids a Smile is a national program that dentists of the American Dental Association, the California Dental Association and local dental societies volunteer to bring public awareness about oral health, and access to care for underserved children. February was National Children's Dental Health month; to help celebrate, Drs. Santos Cortez, Estela Sanchez, Ana Planells and John Guijon volunteered their time to provide oral health services for children in our community at Sierra Park Family Dental Clinic, Mammoth Hospital. The dentists are all pediatric dentists who practice together in Long Beach.

"There are many children in our state who have little or no access to care



in underserved areas such as rural communities and poor urban areas, so we are trying to do our part," says Santos Cortez, DDS. "We are happy to volunteer to donate our time and expertise to the children of this area as we know that there is great need for pediatric dentists here." Mammoth Hospital and the Sierra Park Family Dental Clinic have been committed to increasing services for children and provide dental education, regular dental care as well as sedation and general anesthesia for children that require it. For more information, call Sierra Park Family Dental at (760) 924-4007.

Take a Swing Against Cancer

By Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director

The sun is out, the snow is melting and it's that time of year to PLAY GOLF!!! Get ready for Mammoth Hospital's second annual golf tournament to raise funds and awareness for the hospital's cancer outreach program. Proceeds of this event will help provide support, resources, and financial assistance to cancer patients living in both Mono and Inyo Counties. Last year's tournament raised \$12,000; since that time, we have contributed over \$11,000 in assistance to local cancer patients. This money helps offset travel expenses while receiving cancer treatment out of the area. Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000.

Brian Venneman, local cancer survivor, is again our host. Join him on Friday, June 24th at Sierra Star Golf Course for another fun event for a great cause. If you would like to be a sponsor, would like to purchase raffle tickets, or would like to participate as a golfer, please call 924-4015, or email lori.ciccarelli@mammothhospital.com. Space is limited, so reserve your space early.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."



Brian Venneman, cancer survivor

Gone Fishing

Mammoth Hospital's Adopt-A-Room program has been very successful. Now patients can stay in rooms that no longer have that "hospital feel" but have been designed around a theme. Thanks to contributors Lanie & David Baumwohl along with Suzi and David Jackson, patients can enjoy another adopted room with a "Gone Fishing" theme. In this room, muralist Bridget Busby created a "feel" of residing in a fishing cabin overlooking a lake. For more information, contact Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director, (760) 924-4015.



Great News with Billing Services

by Cheryl Cannon, Public Relations Coordinator

Great News!!!! We are happy to announce that Mammoth Hospital is now providing billing services for the emergency room (ER) physicians. The ER doctor billing is now included on a single bill with Mammoth Hospital's emergency department charges. "These changes took place January of this year. The billing collaboration is a win-win situation for all. The new emergency physicians billing will help both the patient and the hospital enormously," says Jim Smith, Chief Financial Officer. **More great news**, now Blue Cross Blue Shield discounts apply for ER physician services since Mammoth Hospital is a preferred provider.

What does this mean?

- First, patients will receive one less bill in the mail. Receiving just one bill should make things easier for the patients, part of the District's continuous efforts to simplify and improve the billing process.
- Second, since the District is contracted with Blue Cross, patients carrying this insurance may be able to pay a smaller co-pay when visiting the emergency department.
- Lastly, the billing department will be able to assist with questions concerning a patient's emergency room visit. In the past, many confused patients would call Mammoth Hospital about questions regarding their ER bill. Unfortunately, our billing representatives were unable to answer inquiries but instead would have to refer calls to the direct line to the outside billing company for the emergency department physicians.

For billing questions regarding physician services for the emergency department prior to January 2005, please call (760) 876-4376.

As a reminder, we bill for Mammoth Hospital, all Sierra Park Clinics, emergency department physicians, hospital-based pathologists and radiologists. Outside service providers such as anesthesiologist, Mono County paramedics, and outside reference laboratories are still billed separately for their services.



Spending Time with the USSA Snowboard Team

by Lance Georgeson, M.P.T.

Sierra Park Physical and Occupational Therapy

In early November 2004, I had a wonderful opportunity to work with the USSA Snowboard Team for some early season training. Fortunately, our early season snow conditions were perfect and enabled us to have a great early season training camp. Many of the U.S. team participated including a lot of local riders like Tommy Czeschin, Luke Wynan, Chris Nelson, and many others who call Mammoth their home. In the past, I have been able to work with some of these riders individually providing rehabilitation for their various injuries. However, this was my first time providing therapy services for the U.S. team as a whole.

My days consisted of providing actual on-the-hill training with athletes in the morning providing some rehabilitation services including taping, stretching, injury assessment, and treatments. And then in the afternoon, I was available for clinic hours to

provide specific treatment to any injuries that needed assistance.



The past four years in Mammoth have provided great experiences for me. It has prepared me to be able to work with high level athletes such as the USSA Snowboard Team. I remember earlier when I was applying to physical therapy school, I was asked what my ultimate goal would be as a physical therapist. My answer was to provide therapy services for the US Ski or Snowboard Teams. I believe that moving to Mammoth was the greatest step that I have taken towards that goal, and I am pleased to say that after only six years of being out of school, I have started to reach my goal. I am looking forward to continuing to provide services for the U.S. Snowboard Team and to our local population for years to come.

Keeping up with Technology



Tony Huntsinger, Radiology Manager, utilizing Mammoth Hospital's new high speed CT scanner.

Due to the rapid growth of our community and health technology field, it was time to replace Mammoth Hospital's five-year-old computed tomography (CT) imaging equipment. This new GE NX/I Pro High Speed Dual Slice CT is considerably faster, has improved cooling capabilities for longer scan acquisitions, and reduces scanning times by more than half. With this new technology, Mammoth Hospital can now perform 3-D and volume 3-D imaging of skeletal and vascular anatomies in record time. The images from the new CT will aide the medical staff in the diagnosis and treatment of patients in a timely matter.



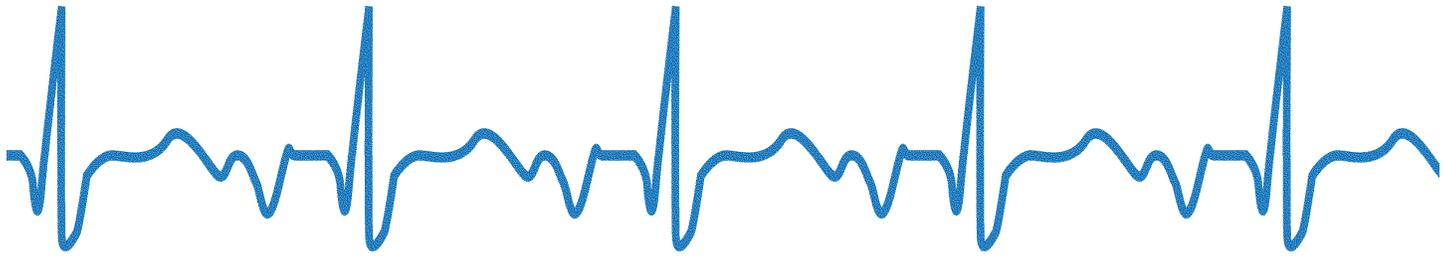


MAMMOTH HOSPITAL
Southern Mono Healthcare District **USSA**

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Upcoming Community Seminars

May 18th –
 “Starting a Cycling Fitness Program”
 Kevin Thomas, Sierra Park Physical Therapy

June 7th –
 “High Altitude Illness & Training”
 Peter Clark, MD, Sierra Park Family Medicine

May – offering discounted lab tests.

Look for more upcoming details. For more information, contact Kathy Romagnino, Non-Clinical Education Coordinator, at (760) 924-4063

SIERRA PARK CLINICS

Family Dental	924-4007
Family Medicine	934-2551
General Surgery	924-4014
Internal Medicine	924-4001
Neurology	924-4084
Orthopedic & Sports Medicine	924-4084
Pediatric	924-4000
Physical & Occupational Therapy	934-7302
Women’s Health Services	924-4044
Bridgeport Family Medicine Clinic	932-7011

Vision

The Southern Mono Healthcare District is dedicated to excellence in the preservation, enhancement and restoration of the health and well being of all members of our residential and visitor communities.

Mission

The mission of the Southern Mono Healthcare District is to:

- ♥ Deliver excellent, compassionate health care services for our residents and visitors;
- ♥ Provide appropriate health care services which conform to the highest standards of care and are directed toward improving the overall health of our community;
- ♥ Ensure sustainability through sound governance, quality management and financial responsibility; and
- ♥ Facilitate continuity of care through the development of local and regional collaborative relationships with businesses and other providers.

Administration

Gary Myers, *Chief Executive Officer*
 Jim Smith, *Chief Financial Officer*
 Joe Bottom, *Chief Operations Officer*
 Kathleen Alo, *RN, BSN, Chief Nursing Officer*
 Nancy Hilmo, *Executive Assistant*

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