

# Heartbeats

Volume 12 ♡ September 2004

A Community Service of Mammoth Hospital  
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Lori Ciccarelli, Editor

## Mammoth S.P.O.R.T. Center To Open in November

By Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director

The Southern Mono Healthcare District (SMHD) is proud to announce the opening of its newest facility on the hospital campus in early November, **The Mammoth S.P.O.R.T. Center**. The project is a 13,000 square-foot, two-story orthopedic, sports medicine, and rehabilitation therapies clinic with convenient covered patient parking on the ground floor. The project is the culmination of a four-year vision on the part of the SMHD Board to establish a world-class orthopedic, sports medicine, and physical rehabilitation facility on the hospital campus. "The completion of **The Mammoth S.P.O.R.T. Center** puts us one giant step closer to attaining our long-range vision of establishing an **Orthopedic Center of Excellence** here in Mammoth Lakes," said Don Sage, M.D., Chair of the District Board. "We have two of the finest young orthopedic surgeons in the country who have made Mammoth Lakes their home and who have the skill and determination to lead our orthopedic program and our hospital to the forefront of orthopedic medicine. With their highly specialized skills in minimally invasive fracture repair, knee and shoulder arthroscopy and ligament reconstruction, and total joint replacement, we wanted to

ensure they had a premier facility to support their plans to conduct clinical research, expand their teaching and training role with University of Nevada and other medical school and residency programs, as well as accommodate the needs of thousands of local patients and visitors seeking quality orthopedic care."

The second-story of the new facility will house the practice of orthopedic surgeons Jack Perry, M.D. and Mike Karch, M.D., Team Physicians for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Teams, along with sports medicine specialists Richard Price, M.D. and Peter Clark, M.D. (who is the 2004 head team physician for the U.S. Snowboard Team) and Tom Savedra, Physician Assistant. The 10-exam room clinic has its own x-ray and casting facilities, patient education room, and comfortable reception area. The third floor of the new center will be dedicated to physical therapy and occupational therapy services in addition to a large classroom and meeting space for all District use. The ground floor of **The Mammoth S.P.O.R.T. Center** features a solar heated, resistance exercise therapy pool with an underwater treadmill and underwater viewing ports, the first of its kind in the Eastern Sierra. Drs. Perry, Karch, and Price will move their practice in early October from their current location on Laurel Mountain Road. Karilyn Myers, P.T., former owner of Myers & Associates Physical Therapy, has accepted an offer from the SMHD to manage the new rehabilitation therapies unit of **The Mammoth S.P.O.R.T. Center**. Most of her former staff at Myers & Associates will be joining the hospital team as well.

"The Mammoth S.ierra P.ark O.rthopedic & R.ehabilitation T.therapy Center brings valued medical services onto the hospital campus for everyone's convenience and efficiency," said Joe Bottom, Chief Operating Officer for the District. "Patients will have easy access to MRI and other diagnostic imaging services and providers will enjoy the convenience of being next to the emergency department and surgery unit as well as close proximity to hospital inpatients. Communication, quality care, and patient service should be greatly enhanced by having everyone here on the hospital campus," said Bottom. Watch for upcoming details on our Open House in November and come and tour this exciting new facility.



CHERRYL CANNON PHOTO

The new Mammoth S.P.O.R.T. Center under construction.

# Welcome Husband and Wife Medical Team

Please welcome Drs. Katie and Richard Price. Katie Price, MD, pediatrician, is the newest team member at Sierra Park Pediatric Clinic (SPPC). Dr. Price recently completed her residency training in Salt Lake City and worked there in private practice for a year before joining SPPC. Dr. Price earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Boston College and her medical degree from Georgetown University; she is board certified in pediatrics and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "My philosophy about pediatrics is to describe the pediatrician as a teacher," says Dr. Price. "I believe that I can best help my patients and their parents by not only treating their problems, but also teaching them about disease and health." Her teaching efforts have not gone unnoticed, upon completion of her residency, Dr. Price received all three residency program teaching awards presented from the faculty, the students, and fellow residents. Dr. Price grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, and though she is a Midwest girl at heart, she has fallen in love with the mountains. She and husband, Richard Price, MD, recently moved here from Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dr. Richard Price has joined both Sierra Park Family Medicine and Sierra Park Orthopedic & Sport Medicine Clinics. He earned his bachelor's degree in science with an emphasis in biology from Colorado State University, received his medical degree from Georgetown University, and completed his residency and fellowship training at the University of Utah. His area of focus is family practice



*Drs. Katie and Richard Price*

and non-operative sports medicine and orthopedics. "I look forward to becoming a part of the community and building a long-term doctor/patient relationship for years to come," says Dr. Price. Both Katie and Richard enjoy the great outdoors that includes skiing, hiking, and biking.

*\*Look for a featured article on our new psychiatrist in our next issue of Heartbeats.*

## Meet our Nurse Practitioners from Sierra Park Family Medicine

By Cherryl Cannon, PR Coordinator  
**Mary Heller, RN, MS, CFNP**

Mary Heller, CFNP, has been practicing in Mammoth Lakes since 1988. She graduated from the University of Vermont in 1977 with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She received her master of science degree from the family nurse practitioner program at the University of Utah in 1981 and is nationally certified as a family nurse practitioner (CFNP). Prior to moving to Mammoth Lakes, she worked as a family nurse practitioner in Ruidoso, New Mexico and Salt Lake City, Utah. Her past experience includes family practice, urgent care, sports medicine, and pediatric development disorders. She has a strong interest in women's health, preventative health maintenance and the management of diabetes. You can meet Mary in the Sierra Park Family Medicine Clinic at Mammoth Hospital.



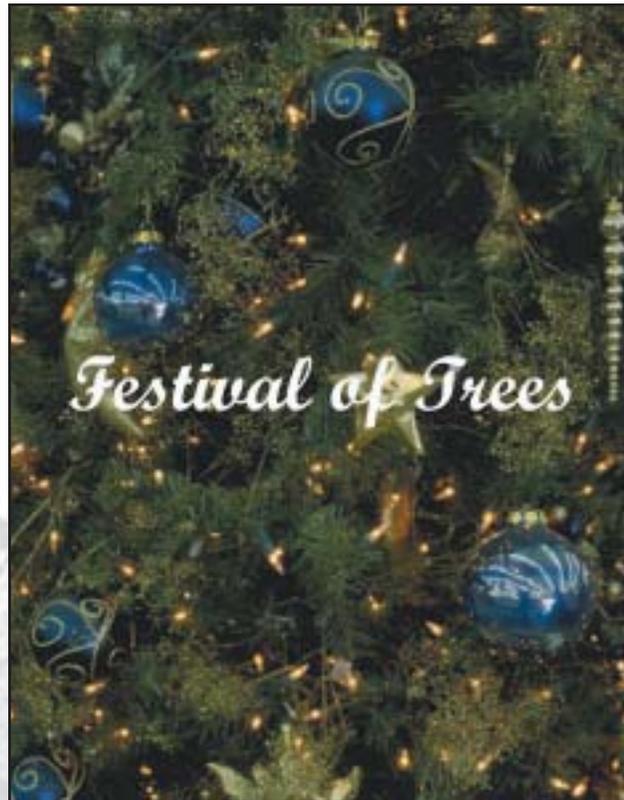
**Shelly Vinatieri, RN, MN, CANP**

Shelly Vinatieri, CANP, graduated from Humboldt State University in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. In 1982, she completed a certified family nurse practitioner program and received her master's in nursing from UCLA. After practicing in an internal medicine setting in Santa Barbara for eight years, Shelly was hired as a staff nurse at Mammoth Hospital in 1991. When the Sierra Park Family Medicine Clinic opened in 1995, she resumed her role as a full-time family nurse practitioner. Shelly is also a certified coproscopist, and holds national certification as an adult nurse practitioner. Her professional interests include primary care, adolescent and women's health.



## Spectacular Festival of Trees

Before you know it, we will be replacing our suntan lotion with mittens and boots. At Mammoth Hospital, we are already preparing for our most spectacular holiday gala event ever, **Holiday Healthcare Magic, a Festival of Trees**. This event will take place during Thanksgiving week on Saturday, November 27, 2004, in the Old Gondola Room, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. We will be celebrating the debut of our new hospital Foundation with a gala dinner and live auction of elaborately decorated holiday trees each with its own unique theme; exciting presents will be placed under each tree. Beautifully decorated wreaths, gingerbread houses, and center pieces will be available for purchase as well. At this event, we will be unveiling our new hospital Foundation name, logo and mission. All proceeds of this event will support our new emergency department expansion focusing on equipping each ER suite individually. If you would like to attend this spectacular event, please contact Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director, at (760) 924-4015. Seats are limited, so reserve your tickets today.



CHERYL CANNON PHOTO

### Connecting Worlds...



*Mammoth Hospital interpreters completed the Connecting Worlds Healthcare 40-hour Interpreter Training course with Katharine Allen of Sierra Sky Interpreting and Translation.*

## Patient Accounting Updates

By **Jim Smith**, Chief Financial Officer  
**New Bill Payment Address**

During the past several months, a great many of you have told us that you sent your patient account payments to us, but your checks were never received and deposited by the hospital. There have also been occasions where several items arrived in our mail postmarked one to two months earlier. In an effort to minimize these problems, Mammoth Hospital has opened up a box at Mail Boxes Etc. (MBE) in Mammoth Lakes. The potential benefit stems from the fact that mail addressed to P.O. Box 100 is not sorted at the Mammoth Lakes post office. It is placed in a bin at the Mojave regional post office, transported to the Mammoth Lakes post office, picked up by MBE staff, and sorted by MBE

staff. The new mailing address for patient and health insurance payments is:

P.O. Box 100, PMB #700  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

The new address will soon be reflected on billing forms, return envelopes, letters, notices and statements.

### **Please Carry Your Insurance Card**

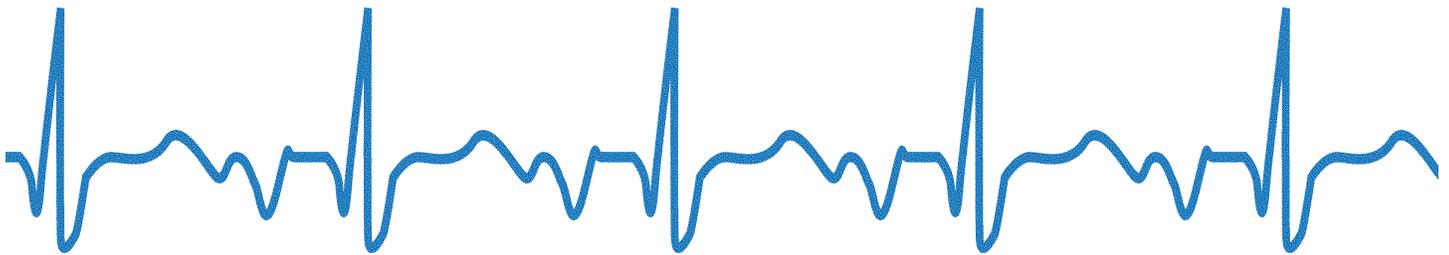
Just a reminder to please bring your health insurance card with you when arriving for services at Mammoth Hospital and the Sierra Park Clinics. This applies to Medicare, Medi-Cal and commercial insurance plans. We will scan the card into our system, thereby minimizing the possibility of a name misspelling or incorrect subscriber number when billing your insurer.



P.O. Box 660  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA  
PERMIT NO. 66

**Boxholder**  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546



WALLY HOFMANN/MT PHOTO



*In June, Mammoth Hospital Foundation hosted the first Cancer Outreach Golf Tournament Benefit raising just over \$12,000 to support the hospital's cancer outreach program. Volunteers pictured with local resident Brian Venneman, cancer survivor.*

### SIERRA PARK CLINICS

Family Dental .....	924-4007
Family Medicine .....	934-2551
General Surgery .....	924-4014
Internal Medicine .....	924-4001
Orthopedic & Sports Medicine .....	924-4084
Pediatric .....	924-4000
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*  
Nancy Hilmo, *Executive Assistant*

### Southern Mono Healthcare District Board of Directors

Donald Sage, M.D., *Chairman*  
Lynda Salcido, P.H.N., *Vice Chair*  
Craig Schragger, D.D.S.  
Helen Shepherd  
Stan Riffel

