

Heartbeats

Winter 2006

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

New Hospital Wing Takes Shape

By Gary Myers, Chief Executive Officer

With winter snows in full swing, construction workers on the new 38,000 square-foot addition to Mammoth Hospital are snug and warm indoors and making great progress toward their completion date of August 15, 2006. The new facility will house a new 15-bed emergency department, a 10-bed surgery center with three operating suites, an all-digital medical imaging center, and a new obstetrics unit. The \$25 million project is being funded in part by general obligation bonds authorized by the voters in 2001 and by donations, gifts, and tax-exempt financing.

We're very pleased with the progress made to date by ProWest Constructors of Temecula, CA, project managers for the District. The goal was to have the structure weather tight by Christmas to allow for work to proceed through the winter and to keep the project on schedule for a summer completion. So far, we're right where we want to be.

The new hospital wing will feature many new technologies. Hospital senior staff is immersed in the procurement process of nearly \$6 million in new digital radiology and other high-tech medical equipment and furnishings for the new facilities. With our heavy emphasis on developing our Orthopedic Center of Excellence, we made the strategic decision to fully computerize our medical imaging services with the new facility. This will allow our physicians to capture and

store all C.T., M.R.I., x-ray, and ultrasound images digitally, view and manipulate the digital images in ways that are not possible with film, such as three-dimensional modeling, and obtain expert consultation from select consultants anywhere in the world over secure internet connections. This greatly enhances patient care by improving the quality of imaging information available



to physicians as well as facilitating planning for medical or surgical intervention. This is very advanced technology for a small community hospital like ours. We're very excited to offer this level of service to our residents and visitors.

As the resort corridor of the Eastern Sierra develops and the demand for excellence in health care services in Mammoth Lakes continues to grow, Mammoth Hospital will continue to strive for ever-improving levels of quality medical services. Our residents and guests in Mammoth expect and deserve the very best in health care services. Incorporating new technologies and developing new facilities allows us to attract the very best and brightest in health care today in a very competitive labor shortage nationwide. That's key to attaining our goal of becoming the very best resort hospital in the country.

To find out more about the hospital donor program supporting the new wing, contact Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director at (760) 924-4015 or email lori.ciccarelli@mammothhospital.com.

Dr. Peter Clark Becomes Olympic Physician

By Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director

Peter Clark, MD, Sierra Park Family Medicine Director at Mammoth Hospital has joined the US Olympic Committee as a volunteer physician providing sports medicine and general medical care. As an Olympic doctor, he cares for predominantly sports injuries that arise in athletes from many disciplines. He will be working at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy, at the snowboard alpine, half-pipe and snowboard-cross events.

As an Olympic medical provider, part of his role has been as the covering physician for the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista. Competitors of many types that are chosen by their national governing bodies go there to train, for consultation with physiologists and coaches regarding performance improvement, and for injury rehabilitation. "The variety of athletes present was the most interesting aspect," says Dr. Clark. "For instance, at that time there were athletes from track and field, bobsled, skeleton, archery and women's softball training at the Center. I had never actually met a bobsled athlete, nor had been exposed

to the intense training routine that these unusual sports demand. The exposure made me appreciate the enormous amount of 'behind the scenes' training and preparation that goes into the



Olympics. There are athletes out there already looking ahead toward the 2010 Olympics—planning strategies that will allow them to peak at the right time. It's not just an every four-year event. It's amazing to think that these kids are already thinking every day about a competition that won't be happening for years. The dedication is impressive." U.S. Snowboarding, for which Dr. Clark is the Head Team Physician, will choose their Olympic line-up sometime in January from a deep and talented field that includes many local Mammoth riders.

Mammoth Hospital to Televisive Live Surgeries

By Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director

The Sierra Park Orthopedic Surgery Group continues to put Mammoth Hospital on the international health care map through innovative technology, minimally invasive surgical procedures and new initiatives. The hospital will televise two live hip surgeries to the Mammoth Mountain Conference Center during a week-long medical conference in January sponsored by AO North America attended by 100 of the top orthopedic surgeons in the world. According to Steve Schwartz, Senior Vice President and Logistical Director of AO North America, world-renowned hip surgeon Reinhold Ganz, MD, from Switzerland will perform the surgeries; he is touted to be the most talented hip surgeon in the world. Orthopedic surgeons Drs. Jeffrey Mast and Jack Perry of Mammoth Hospital will be assisting with the surgeries as Mammoth Hospital orthopedic surgeon Dr. Mike Karch will be working behind the scenes in the operating room overseeing and directing the camera crew. "This is a teaching

symposium. The surgeons attending this conference will be able to perform these techniques when they leave," says Dr. Mast. "Most of the surgeons attending this symposium also attended our first hip symposium presented in Mammoth in 2003."

AO North America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of patient care in orthopedics and spine surgery. They recently announced International Teaching designation to the Mammoth Hospital Orthopedic Center of Excellence for minimally invasive management of orthopedic and sports trauma. They are funding a year-long fellowship for a post graduate orthopedic resident to live in Mammoth and work at the hospital under the direction and mentoring of the hospital's orthopedic physicians, and to conduct clinical research for publication. Their mission is to improve the care of patients with musculo-skeletal injuries and their outcomes in North America, through education and research in the principles, practice and results of treatment.

Welcome New Dentist to Hospital Team

By Jennifer Hansen, PR Assistant

Suelene Chen, DDS, recently joined the Sierra Park Family Dental Clinic at Mammoth Hospital from Huntington Beach, California. Dr. Chen completed her dental education at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1995. After several years in community outreach, she returned to Boston University and received her certificate in pediatric dentistry. She claims to be a true advocate in children's health and dental outreach. She has skied here for many years and has wanted

to make Mammoth her home. One of Dr. Chen's passions is playing soccer. She played competitively and continues to participate with the local soccer teams. Dr. Chen looks forward to her new home and meeting the people in Mammoth while providing care at the Sierra Park Family Dental Clinic.



A Magical Night

Second Annual Festival of Trees a Huge Success

By Lori Ciccarelli, Community Relations Director

It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas when over 200 guests entered the Mountain Conference Center for the second annual Festival of Trees on November 26th hosted by the Healthcare Trust of Mammoth Lakes and the Gull Lake Marina. Thirteen trees were showcased fully designed around themes, many were accompanied with gifts. A silent auction hosted wreaths, gingerbread houses, wine and travel packages in addition to spa and celebrity gifts. Net proceeds and donations totaled \$67,000; a great jump start for Mammoth Hospital's \$300,000 full field digital mammography initiative.



a family in Lee Vining that recently lost their home to a fire; it took up residence in the Lee Vining 5th and 6th grade classroom because the family's temporary living quarters were too small.

The top bidders for the tree "Think Pink" donated their tree to a breast cancer patient. This tree was designed around the hospital's mammography initiative focusing on angels representing lives that have been saved through mammography and early detection. Three additional trees were donated back to the hospital in which they were displayed in the various clinic lobbies for the entire clinic community to

enjoy. A big thank you to all who volunteered, to the tree designers, and to all who sponsored this event. Special thanks to Gail Jacobs, Yuri Parisky, M.D., the Mammoth High School Choir, Eric Stovesand, Adrienne Regan, and Daniel Hansen.

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You can Help Save a Life

We need your help!!!! You can make a difference by helping with the \$300,000 funding for the full field digital mammography system. This type of mammography has gained FDA approval for the screening and diagnosis of breast cancer, and touted to be the "single biggest advance in mammography in the last 30 years." Full field digital mammography allows for faster acquisition, fewer total exposures, and less patient discomfort. Early detection of breast cancer greatly increases the chance for survival. Currently Mammoth residents travel out of the area to receive this type of screening as it is not available locally. Unfortunately, mammograms are then put off because of the travel involved.

"The timing for the mammography system could not be better for the hospital as it nears completion of a 38,000 square-foot expansion project that will include a completely filmless radiology department," says Gary Myers, hospital CEO. "The hospital anticipates having this full field digital system in place in 2006." Dr. Yuri

Parisky, Senior Mammographer of the Lee Breast Center at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center is heading the multi-disciplinary effort to introduce breast cancer screening at Mammoth Hospital. Dr. Parisky is an internationally recognized researcher and expert in breast and oncological imaging. He is a partner in the radiology group providing services to Mammoth Hospital. He has also been instrumental in educating the community and the hospital staff regarding breast cancer and the importance of annual mammograms. If you are interested in contributing to this initiative, please contact the Community Relations department at (760) 924-4015.



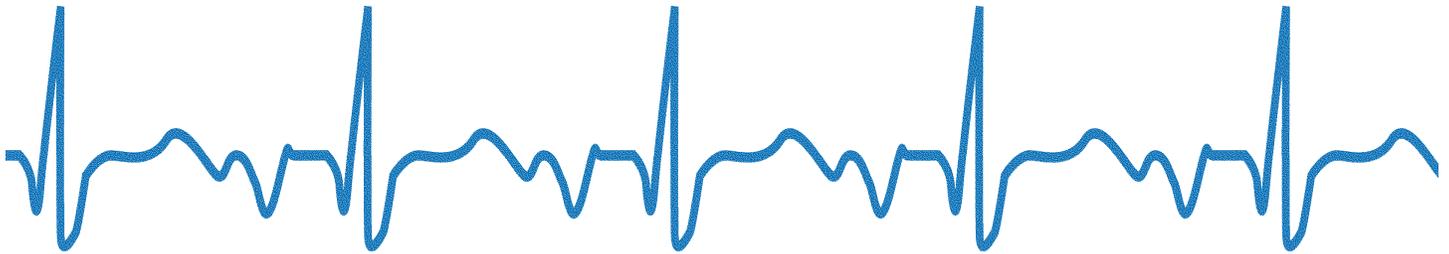
Mammoth Lakes Rotary Club donates \$5,000 for Mammography initiative



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California Automated Immunization Registry

By Keely Ferguson, Chief Information Officer

The Sierra Park Pediatric clinic is participating in the Central Valley Immunization Registry which is one of many regions of the California Department of Health Services Immunization Program. The clinic uses the California Automated Immunization Registry (CAIR) software to track immunization histories that contains advance features providing a broad range of patient and vaccine recordings as well. The Central Valley registry includes the counties of Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern and Mono (Inyo to be included in the future). Mono County Health Department has been participating in the Central Valley registry since June 2005. With the participation of Mammoth Hospital, Mono County can expect to cover the recording of almost all of the immunizations in the county. This program is exciting for parents because it will eliminate the hand written "yellow card" that each parent keeps as their child's immunization history. The CAIR system can generate yellow cards on demand and serve as an electronic reference for school systems, doctor's offices and child daycare centers with appropriate access. The system also has the capability to send out reminders for vaccines that are due. The Pediatric clinic will begin with children under five years of age. Disclosure statements will be sent to those families and they will have the option of not participating in the registry. For information please visit www.cviis.org or contact Margoree Neer, PHN, at mneer@mono.ca.gov or call 760-924-1830.

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.

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