

THURSDAY, July 2, 2015

Mammoth Times

THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER OF MAMMOTH LAKES AND THE EASTERN SIERRA

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Events

Fiddlin' Pete Dinner Concert, July 2

"Freedom Songs!" Come out to Convict Lake at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 2. Begin your Independence Day celebration with an upbeat patriotic concert celebrating freedom! Enjoy a fabulous dinner prepared by Convict Lake Restaurant, along with a fun live show featuring Fiddlin' Pete Watercott and Neil Gebvin! \$50 Adults/ \$20 Young 'uns/ \$25 concert only. (7:00 PM concert) Seating is limited. For reservations call Pete 760-920-6008, or buy tickets online at fiddlinpete.com

Register for signature youth summer camps

Summer recreation camps are filling up fast. Both the Wilderness Camp and a new Mini Camp take place on Monday, July 6. Other activities continue throughout the summer. For more information, visit apn.activecommunities.com/mammothrecreation/Home.

Free youth cross-country mountain bike rides, June 25-Sept. 17

The Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation is offering free youth mountain bike rides from June 25-Sept. 17. The rides will be held every Thursday, from 5-6:30 p.m. and will begin and end at the Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge Adventure Center. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and MMCF are partnering to provide the free rentals and pedal passes for these rides. Community members will volunteer to lead the rides, which are geared towards high school and middle school-age kids. However, riders of any age and ability and their parents are welcome (parents must pay their own way).

who reside outside the district will have to pay a nominal fee of \$5 per class. Unless otherwise noted, all classes are held at the Crowley Lake Community Center. For more information or to pre-register, contact Isabel at 760-935-4089 or isbxoxo@gmail.com

Volunteers needed for June Lake Triathlon, July 10-11

"The toughest race in the most beautiful place" is back in town on July 11. A large variety of volunteer positions need to be filled for the event, with times available to suit any schedule. The race will be held on Saturday, July 11, though volunteers are also needed the previous day. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer visit highsierratri.org.

Mammoth Villagefest, July 24-26

The countdown for Mammoth Villagefest is here! The 12th annual festival with the highest cookoff in the country ... for ribs, chili, chicken and crawdads. All three days (and nights) are free and open to the public. The beer and beverage garden is optional, for a fee, as is the taste testing for the ribs, chicken and chili. Guests can even sign up to be judges.

Local bands will be playing throughout the weekend (local favorite Halfway to Benton takes the stage on Sunday at noon), along with tribute bands of Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, AND some great country and rock. For a weekend of music, fun and dancing, come on out to Mammoth Villagefest, July 24 to 26th. For a full lineup of events visit <http://mammothvillagefest.com/>. For more info on judging, contact Lina Myers at 760-914-0931.

Mammoth BeeZoo now

Court releases ruling on geothermal suit

Mono County Superior Court decides in favor of Great Basin on conditional approval of Casa Diablo geothermal facility

By Mike Gervais
Managing Editor

Mono County Superior Court announced this week that it has reached a decision regarding a lawsuit filed by the Mammoth Community Water District and

two union groups against Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.

The courts ruled in favor of Great Basin, supporting its decision to provide conditional approval of a new geothermal project in the Casa Diablo area of the Inyo National Forest.

Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District approved the geothermal project, proposed by Ormat Technologies, Inc., as part of a joint federal and state agency review of the project. In addition to Great Basin, the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service signed off on the proposal.

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look the same as when it was built in 1970? What types of upgrades and/or improvements are needed to make it acceptable to you?

3. How long has the property been on the market? The days on market can provide insight to what is going on with the property. If it has just been listed, the seller likely has had no offers and is optimistic of selling for the asking price. If it has been on the market 6 months or longer, the property either is over-priced and has had no offers or has not received any acceptable offers.

4. Do you have any contingencies in your offer? Offers that are contingent upon an appraisal, financing, and the sale of your current home or other conditions are less attractive to the seller than are offers that do not include such requirements.

Once you have the answers to all of the above, you are ready to determine how much to offer. Equally important is identifying your budget ahead of time. Be honest with your agent about how much you are willing to spend and stick to the budget.

For past articles, visit www.SonjaBush.com

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Courts rule in favor of Great Basin

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The Mammoth Community Water District filed suit, claiming that the project posed a risk to local groundwater and did not do enough to remedy any problems with water quality, should they arise.

According to Great Basin, the geothermal reservoirs and drinking water aquifers located about two miles from the proposed project site, are separated by a layer of "impermeable rock."

"The court held that the extensive record of evidence, including expert opinions and scientific studies, established 'substantial evidence that there is no connectivity between the deep geothermal reservoir and MCWD's groundwater aquifer,'" a press release from Great Basin states.

Great Basin's approval of the project also mandates a groundwater monitoring plan that must be approved by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service and implemented by Ormat before new wells can be drilled for the geothermal project.

The Mammoth Lakes Community Water District also worked with Ormat to select locations for monitoring wells to ensure the geothermal plant does not impact the local water supply.

Water District General Manager Pat Hayes said Wednesday that the district is continuing negotiations with Ormat, the BLM and Forest Service to ensure that monitoring and mitigation of the project is adequate.

"While we are disappointed by the decision, the bigger story is we've been carrying on with discussions for the last several months," Hayes said. "By no means are

the negotiations complete, but we're on an encouraging track.

"The lawsuit was seeking the kinds of outcomes we seem to be reaching in these negotiations with Ormat."

Great Basin said it shares the Water District's goals of safeguarding the local drinking supply.

"The Great basin has been committed from the beginning to protecting the drinking water and the environment," said Great Basin Air Pollution Control Officer Phil Kiddoo.

"This has always been its priority and of utmost importance.

"We appreciate the court's extensive review of the volumes of evidence, scientific studies and independent expert opinions.

"The court correctly found that substantial evidence supported the Great Basin's decision to approve the project if proper monitoring and other precautions to protect groundwater are approved and implemented."

According to Great Basin, the geothermal plant will support the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio standard, which requires the increased use of renewable energy sources.

"The project will support California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which directs that the use of renewable energy be increased to 33 percent by 2020," a press release from Great Basin states.

"The project is anticipated to produce enough clean energy for approximately 33,000 people and six new permanent jobs for the community."

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