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THE MODOC COUNTY
RECORD
 ESTABLISHED IN 1892

Vol. 124, No.47

Alturas, California

April 21, 2016

50 Cents

22 Pages



It's really wet. . .

JESS VALLEY is wet and according to Duane McGarva, the weather service reporter for that area, his station recorded 2.25 inches of rain from April 9-13. The Valley is covered in excess water, as shown in the above photo by McGarva. He said his area is two inches above average annual moisture and it is just April.

Modoc Grand Jury indictment of Nessling dismissed
DA files direct misdemeanor complaint after court action

On Wednesday morning, Modoc Superior Court Judge David Mason granted a demurrer motion in the Modoc Grand Jury indictment of Deputy Dan Nessling. That decision dismisses that indictment.

Just after that decision was made, District Attorney Jordan Funk filed a direct complaint against Nessling with the assault charges.

That February 25 Modoc Grand Jury indictment charged Nessling with assault under color of authority.

Nessling's legal counsel Joshua Olander, from Sacramento, argued successfully that the Grand Jury could not indict on misdemeanors, only felonies.

District Attorney Jordan Funk disagreed with Olander's opinion, but Mason ruled in the defense's favor.

Another hearing on the case has been scheduled for May 2, 11 a.m. Olander did not enter a plea for Nessling on Wednesday and Nessling did not appear.

"I was fully aware, when I sought a misdemeanor, as opposed to a felony indictment against Mr. Nessling, that there was a jurisdictional question---a significant legal issue as to whether the grand jury was empowered to indict only on a misdemeanor," Funk said. "There is legal authority or argument favoring both sides of that question. Therefore, I am not wholly surprised Judge Mason dismissed the indictment. I thought it would be a close question either way. The ruling was not necessarily unreasonable."

He said it is important to note that Judge Mason's ruling was a technical ruling on jurisdictional grounds; it had nothing whatsoever to do with the strength of

see Nessling, page 3

BV voters to decide ALS service May 3

Voters in Big Valley will decide in a Special Election May 3, 2016 to consider forming a special district and adopting a tax assessment to fund local ambulance, emergency medical response and training. Below is a continuation of an article published last week on the Big Valley Town Hall meetings.

The election will be

mail-in only ballots and voters will decide on Measure E to form the District and Measure F to approve a \$65 per parcel annual tax to fund the District.

Since the proposed Southern Cascades Community Services District in northwestern Lassen County and southwestern tax issue has been voted down by slim margins two times, organizers are counting on the third time getting them over the two-thirds majority hump.

If passed, the ambulance would be stationed in Adin. As it stands now, Big Valley residents must rely on ambulances from either Modoc Medical Center in Alturas or Mayers Memorial in Fall River Mills. The response time for either ambulance is often more than 40 minutes.

The Big Valley Emergency Medical Services Working Group set up a series of Town Hall meetings in Big Valley recently and some of highlights and concerns of those meetings are below. The article is continued from last week.

The new concept of Community Paramedics was talked about by several of the panel. There is see Big Valley, page 4

MMC enjoying and earning solid finances

Modoc Medical Center in Alturas has shown financial and service improvements recently and the last two years have shown healthy operating profits. The fact that it is now a tax supported special district has been vital, but operating income is also in the black.

According to its 2015 audit, operating income for 2015 was positive \$1,029,284 and total profit was \$4,370,886. For reference, operating income for 2009 was a negative \$2.6 million. Operating income for 2014 was even better at positive \$2,079,382. In 2013, operating income was in the red by \$1,202,741.

The District property tax amounted to \$2,316,041 in 2015 and \$2,332,849. Those totals are part of the total profit, but are not included in operating income profit.

"We have been blessed with some very supportive community members and some generous donations that have really helped to kick start our implementation of new services and to deliver some of the same services at a higher level," said Kevin Kramer, Chief Executive Officer. "This coupled with some changes in the Medi-Cal program and incentive funds related to electronic medical records have helped us the past couple of years. In addition, our staff has really come together as a more

cohesive team and I believe that they have helped to produce a better bottom line for the organization."

Kramer also said there have been some significant non-operating revenues that have been received by the organization that are having a large impact on the financial performance of MMC including ongoing support in the form of the tax assessment from members of the Healthcare District, a large donation that was received from the John Wall Trust, along with another large donation that was received to help construct the laboratory department in the new facility from Bernice and Herbert Bell. (This donation will be recorded in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016).

MMC continues working towards the construction of a new medical facility. The budget for the project remains at \$40.6 million. The facility is planned for land already purchased between 12th and 8th Street.

The local USDA office is reviewing the feasibility study and other application components that were submitted by MMC. There have been a number of data requests that have been submitted to the USDA as part of that local review, which is almost complete.

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Woman living out the dream on a bike tour of the world

By Jean Bilodeaux
 Special to the Record

As a young woman Heike Pirngruber of Heidelberg, Germany became fascinated with bicycling. All through school she dreamed of exploring the world on her bicycle. While many of her friends were getting married and having children, she would work at a job, save her money, then embark on a weekend bicycle adventure.

Her dream was to ride her bike to Australia. Jobs, earning a living, boyfriends and life intervened, threatening to make that dream a distant wishful memory.

But the day finally came when she decided there would be no more excuses. She packed all her belongings in a couple of cardboard boxes and stored them at her Mother's home. She then put everything she needed for her journey into two large pannier bags toward the rear of her bicycle, plus into two small panniers near the front tires.

On May 14, 2013 Heike embarked on her journey, not just to Australia, but

around the world.

That was nearly 3 years, 30 countries, and more than 25,000 miles ago. She has earned her place in the small cadre of solo female cyclists who travel the world.

She is cycling, not as a tourist, but as a traveler.

"Riding a bicycle puts you in contact with the landscape. You see little things that you wouldn't notice driving in a car. The snakes, the pretty rocks, majestic views, the wildlife and the people," said Heike.

During her travels, she's become known as the pushbikegirl. In most countries, other than the US, a bicycle is called a push bike, meaning you propel yourself by pushing the pedals with your feet. That way there is no confusion with a bike being a motorbike-motorcycle.

Heike headed east out of Germany, see Bike, page 4



HEIKE Pirngruber of Heidelberg, Germany getting ready to continue to see the world.