



# Community Connections

## STELLAR BREW

Ever since Andrea Jones took over as Stellar Brew's new owner on June 1, things have changed for the greener. Between an attempt at worm composting (it got too cold for the worms to survive), biodegradable cups, and using local products to shrink the coffee shop's carbon footprint, Jones is moving forward in the green revolution.

Stellar Brew is focused on being a central gathering place in town that "pushes going green by eating more greens," Jones said.

All of the shop's fruits and veggies come from local growers, and according to Jones using a paper cup is grounds for firing among her employees, so she is practicing what she preaches. Jones strives to buy her dishes from the Cast Off and places supply orders with other local businesses, such as Sierra Sundance, so that she doesn't have to call for extra trucks to make deliveries.

This winter bring your own bowl to Stellar Brew and enjoy some soup while you catch up with friends.

Jones also hopes to offer suppers with live music as the days grow colder.

## FINDERS KEEPERS

After having a baby and realizing how quickly kids grow out of their clothes, 18-year Mammoth local Melissa Reeves opened Finders Keepers in March. The shop takes gently used children's items and resells them.

Reeves offers clothing for newborns through tweens, for kids up to size 14. She also offers toys, cribs, books and maternity clothing.

"I'm one of the few places in the Eastern Sierra to offer maternity items," Reeves said.

Reeves handpicks all the items in the shop to ensure that they are of good, clean quality. She encourages people to bring in their gently used items to receive store credit or to sell on consignment. Whatever items she can't take she passes on to IMACA and Wild Iris, so the inventory continues to move on.

Finders Keepers touts no waste, no land clearing, no manufacturing chemicals or dyes, benefits to local economy, and little transportation pollution. Stop by and check out their large selection of Halloween costumes at 94 Laurel Mountain Rd., Suite 204.

## MOKLER ARCHITECTS

What does an architect do to survive in a marketplace where new buildings are "upside down" upon completion? Nobody in their right mind would start such an endeavor, but that is where the industry is today, and not just in the Eastern Sierra.

What impact does this current marketplace have on sustainable design? According to Mokler Architects founder Pete Mokler, a LEED certified architect, energy efficient buildings and communities that are site, material and environment sensitive make intuitive sense. "But if we're oversupplied with existing buildings, then it doesn't matter what the new ones may be like if none of any type are on the boards."

Under these conditions, Mokler says the company is planning for the future. Mokler Architects has two goals: First: Survive to design another day. Second: Continue the education and training to bring the most current trends and technologies to Eastern Sierra clients.

Construction may have slowed to a crawl, but developing technologies are accelerating. "All of these technologies require training and we're hard at work today so that we will be ready to bring them to you tomorrow," he said. "It's our goal to always bring the best current options to our clients and demonstrate the potential cost savings to be found in these technologies."

"Most importantly, we're local and we'll stay that way," he said, "a one-stop shop for architecture, engineering and construction management."

## FLEX YOUR POWER

High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF) Director of Special Projects Leslie O'Berry concluded the Foundation's Flex Your Power grant period on Sept. 5 with a "Leave Your Mark" presentation before a Labor Day weekend crowd in the Village at Mammoth's Events Plaza. HSEF was selected from a record number of applicants as a recipient of one of the state of California's Flex Your Power community outreach grants, the purpose of which is to promote energy efficiency by helping people learn easy energy saving tips for their own home.

Throughout the program, HSEF has had a presence at various local events

and festivals, at which visitors to its booth signed pledge leaves promising to save energy. At the Leave Your Mark event, an 8-foot "tree" was decorated with the more than 700 pledge leaves signed so far. Those included several collected by Mammoth Middle School's 6th Grade Earth Science class and even one signed

by Councilmember Skip Harvey, on behalf of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. A raffle drawing in conjunction with the program is still ongoing. O'Berry is taking leaves through the end of September. Get in on the drawing and turn in your new leaf ... email [oberry@highsierraenergy.org](mailto:oberry@highsierraenergy.org).

# Community Calendar



## UPCOMING

**Saturday, September 26/ Inyo Craters Work Party/National Public Lands Day.** The Summer of Stewardship, brought to you by Friends of the Inyo and MLTPA, comes to an official end. Celebrate the season of giving back, and National Public Lands Day with a trail work project and winter prep at Inyo Craters at 8:30 a.m.

That evening, the party continues with Friends of the Inyo's annual member party just down the road at the Obsidian Group campground on Deadman Creek! Go to [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org) for information about the day, and [www.mltpa.org](http://www.mltpa.org) for Summer of Stewardship details.

**Third Annual Living with Wildlife Festival.** Turtles and snakes and bears oh my! Bring the whole family to Bishop City Park between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to learn about the diverse needs and habitats of wildlife living around us. Check out [www.easternsierralandtrust.org](http://www.easternsierralandtrust.org) for updates and details about the day's events and programs.

**Saturday, October 3/ Leavitt Meadows Hike.** Fall colors and great views abound on this moderate amble in the new Hoover Wilderness Additions. Meet at 9 a.m. at the U.S. 395/Hwy 108 junction, or 9:30 a.m. at the Leavitt Meadows trailhead. Call (760) 873-6500 or visit [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org) for more information.

**Friday, October 23/ Sierra Green Building Association, Eastern Sierra Chapter Membership Drive.** Info: contact Tammy Hooper, 760.937.7300.

**Saturday, October 24/ Friends of the Inyo Granite Mountain**

**Hike** on the edge of the Great Basin in the ruggedly beautiful Granite Mountain Wilderness area. Meet at the U.S. 395/Hwy 120 East intersection at 9 a.m.

More info: call 760.873.6500 or visit [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org).

**Monday, October 26/ Title 24 Class** sponsored by High Sierra Energy Initiative & Cerro Coso Community College. Full day & short courses available. More info: call High Sierra Energy Foundation office, 760.934.4650.

**Friday, December 4/ Holiday LED Light Exchange** during Town Tree Lighting Festival in the Footloose parking lot, corner Old Mammoth and Main, 6-7:30 pm. Mammoth Lakes residents can exchange regular holiday lights for LED energy efficient lights for free!

**Friday & Saturday, December 4&5/ Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival.** Friends of the Inyo is bringing the film fest back for the third year! Sponsored by Patagonia, the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival on tour entertains and inspires us to make a difference! The film fest has been wildly successful — such a big hit that we needed bigger venues!

Screenings will be held Friday, Dec. 4, in Mammoth and Saturday, Dec. 5, in Bishop at Cerro Coso Community College's two Eastern Sierra campuses. More info: call 760.873.6500. or visit [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org).

**Coming Spring 2010/ MCWD starts delivery of recycled water** to Sierra Star Golf Course with its Kick-off event!

THE UNITED STATES USES 25% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENERGY USED →