

## ONE DOWN, 999,999 TO GO



Bob Ward The Aspen Times

Pamela Hart, founder of a new nonprofit called Plant Trees 4 Life, places a young Engelmann spruce in the ground near Difficult Campground on Wednesday. For her organization's first tree-planting, she received help from Mark Fuller of the Independence Pass Foundation. By partnering with various organizations, Hart hopes to plant 1 million trees in 10 years.

## Skico puts its money behind smart energy referendum

Aspen Times staff report

The Aspen Skiing Co. is the largest single contributor to the campaign urging passage of Referendum 1A — the Energy Smart Local Improvement District measure on the Nov. 3 Pitkin County ballot.

The company is also a backer of a similar campaign in Eagle County.

Skico Environmental Director Auden Schendler is helping spearhead the Pitkin County campaign. In addition, Skico gave the Yes On 1A-The Energy Smart Campaign \$1,000, and the Skico's Environment Foundation, supported by company employees, also gave \$1,000, according to a campaign finance report filed Tuesday with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office. Schendler also gave \$96.80 individually.

The Aspen Business Center Co. donated \$500 to the cause.

Twenty or so individuals also donated to the campaign, in amounts generally ranging from \$20 to \$100, though Aspen Mayor Mick Ireland gave three separate contributions totaling \$100 in cash and \$439 in in-kind contributions, according to the report. County Commissioner Rachel Richards gave \$75 in cash and \$272 in in-kind contributions.

Several firms in the building/design/energy trade gave to the campaign, which reported a \$750 in-kind

contribution from Lighthouse Solar in Glenwood Springs and \$500 cash from Sunsense Inc. in Carbondale. Referendum supporters have noted the energy district program would put local tradesmen and women to work — a side benefit to the envisioned environmental gains.

The Aspen Chamber Resort Association provided a \$100 in-kind contribution.

According to the report, the campaign took in \$4,223 in cash contributions by Oct. 8 and spent \$1,054, primarily on a fundraising mailer. The campaign also reported \$1,640 in non-monetary contributions.

Referendum 1A would authorize the county to borrow up to \$7 million in bonds to create a pool of loan money to fund energy-efficiency projects for residential and commercial properties. Property owners would opt into the program and repay the money through their property taxes.

A similar measure is on the Eagle County ballot, though it seeks up to \$10 million in funding. The Energy Smart Eagle campaign reported taking in \$3,978 in contributions through Oct. 8 and spending \$1,071 on a website, postcards, lawn signs and stickers.

Various companies in the building/energy trades gave to the Eagle County campaign, and the Skico donated \$250, according to the Energy Smart Eagle report.

# Deer shot illegally on Aspen Mountain

## Wildlife officials seeking information into killing

Janet Urquhart

The Aspen Times

State wildlife officials are offering a reward leading to the prosecution of the person or persons who illegally shot and killed a mule deer buck on Aspen Mountain in recent days.

The animal was found on the ski area by Aspen Skiing Co. personnel, who notified the Colorado Division of Wildlife, said Kevin Wright, the division's district wildlife manager for the Aspen area.

"We don't know for sure when it was shot. I think it's fairly recent — probably last weekend," Wright said Wednesday.

The antlers were removed from the mature buck, but they have been recovered by the DOW, Wright said. He declined to offer additional information, as the incident is under investigation.

The meat from the animal was not taken.

"They just shot it and left it," Wright said.

Anyone who provides information

that leads to the prosecution of the individual or individuals responsible for killing the buck are eligible for a cash reward up to \$500 from Operation Game Thief, according to Wright.

A report can be made anonymously by calling Operation Game Thief at 1-877-265-6648 or, from a Verizon cell phone, by calling #OGT.

The person responsible for the shooting could face a slew of charges and penalties, as the deer was shot out of season and was simply left, Wright said.

The elk rifle season began last weekend in Colorado, but the combined deer/elk rifle season does not start until this weekend.

Willful destruction of wildlife is a class 5 felony that

carries potential penalties of a \$1,000 to \$10,000 fine and/or six months to six years imprisonment, plus the suspension of one's hunting and fishing privileges for one year to life, according to Wright.

Other possible charges include hunting without a license, with a fine of \$890; wasting of wildlife, which carries a \$411 fine; and unlawful taking of a mule deer, which carries a \$700 fine plus a \$259 surcharge.

## 'They just shot it and left it.'

Kevin Wright, district wildlife manager

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## School district, Snowmass close to housing agreement

Jeanne McGovern

Special to The Aspen Times

It appears the Snowmass Village Town Council and Aspen School District are close to being on the same page with regard to deed restrictions for the district's proposed 15-unit housing project on Owl Creek Road.

The Town Council on Tuesday night discussed the issue and directed town staff to draft a revised intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and declaration of covenants for the property to be voted on at Monday's council meeting. The school district will also discuss and approve that document at its Monday meeting.

"The concepts being used in this new agreement are those that were discussed by the two groups at Monday's meeting," said Snowmass Town Manager Russ Forrest, referring to a meeting where the sides agreed to compromise on the permanency of a deed restriction on the property.

Among the points addressed in the new IGA and covenants, which should be available for public review Friday, is that the property be limited to employee housing and/or legitimate school district uses. Within this framework, it allows for some flexibility for selling a unit to a district employee and for selling a unit to a non-district employee under affordable housing guidelines.

Perhaps most important to town officials, however, is what happens to the property should the district sell it on the free market.

"If it were to be sold to the private sector, the property would really have no approved occupancy, and the new property owner would have to go

## 'It is not — and never was — our intent to sell the property.'

Charla Belinski, school board president

through the town's process and would be subject to standard land-use regulations and mitigation," Forrest explained.

This is a compromise the school district seems ready to accept, according to school board president Charla Belinski.

"It is not — and never was — our intent to sell the property," she said. "But by placing a permanent deed restriction on the property, we all know it would have lessened its value. And we have a fiduciary responsibility to future school boards to ensure the property's value."

And though district officials had yet to see the final proposed IGA, Belinski believes the two entities "are definitely headed in the right direction."

If the respective boards approve the revised IGA on Monday, the Snowmass Planning Commission will review the project Oct. 21, and the local review process should be complete by the end of November. The school district is hoping to have the housing ready by next fall.