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Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

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AROUND THE RESORT



Grooming Dept. Gets Top Grades. Read More on Page 21

Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

could execute then and even fewer can today. Over the years, he played a pivotal role in constructing most of the lifts at Palisades Tahoe and contributed to building lifts across California. This expertise has made him an indispensable resource for new construction, emergency repairs,

'Jimmy's presence is known through his dedication, his optimism and his unsurpassable work ethic.'

-Ron Cohen, Alterra Executive VP of Regional Operations, Former COO of Palisades Tahoe

and upgrades, both at Palisades and at other resorts.

While he started in lift maintenance, his wisdom of these mountains exceeds those bounds, as according to industry veterans he has managed one of the most challenging and difficult mountains to operate for over 40 years.

Mountain Manager Jimmy King Passes the Torch

After a remarkable 50-year career, Palisades Tahoe Mountain Manager Jimmy King has passed the torch. King has taken on the role of Senior Advisor this season, while Kyle Crezee assumed the position of Mountain Manager with Chris Woo serving as Assistant Mountain Manager.

"Fifty years at the resort and forty years as our leader, forty years of being first on

the mountain, and forty years of being first on the scene—Jimmy has truly seen it all," says Michael Gross, Vice President of Mountain Operations.

"His sixth sense, infinite experience, and ultimate wisdom have guided us through countless highs and lows. He has influenced hundreds of employees, industry professionals, suppliers, vendors, and community partners, setting a

'This is Part of Me.'

How do you simmer down 50 years of gratitude into words; I'm not sure, but here we go. There are quite a bit of feelings and emotions encompassing this transition.

First of all, a tremendous thank you to Hans Burkhart and Ron Cohen for helping to propel my career in the correct trajectory throughout the decades, I have been beyond fortunate to work alongside and interact with a wide variety of personalities, schools of thought, attitudes, dimensions, and demeanors; yet never finding a person or agency I couldn't work with. Through these experiences a wealth of priceless knowledge was imparted by all. These teachers have been peers, co-workers, employees of every level, friends, and even a few customers.

It is through this knowledge base of collective knowledge, experiences, edu-

cation and training, and trial by fire that I have gained the skill set to do this job at this magnitude. There is a library of knowledge that must now be passed down to the next in line. The opportunity to be able to remain until I feel this institutional knowledge has been passed on and demonstrated, is one that I am forever grateful for. To use past experiences good and bad and to alchemize them into the teachable moments that each experience provides; for this mountain to function at an optimal level for all to enjoy for generations to come.

An immense thank you to Michael Gross and Dee Byrne for giving me this opportunity to close out this beautiful chapter in a way that works for us all. This mountain is a part of me and I a part of it; it is my desire that the legacy of these mountains lives on, for them to be experienced and loved by all."

— Jimmy King



Photos courtesy PT

Jimmy King leaves a lasting legacy.



tremendous example for the new generation on how to lead with heart and intelligence. His high operational standards foster a culture of excellence and continuous improvement, driving Palisades Tahoe towards future achievements. Thank you, Jimmy."

King began his career in Olympic Valley in the autumn of 1973, joining the lift maintenance department. Starting in lift operations and maintenance, he quickly earned a reputation as one of the top lift builders in the industry. Notably, Jimmy mastered the rare and specialized skill of splicing cables—a technique that few

"Summarizing Jimmy King's career in a few words is as impossible as so many of the things he accomplished across the past five decades," says Ron Cohen, Alterra Executive VP of Regional Operations, Former COO of Palisades Tahoe. "Whether he was in the middle of building every kind of lift imaginable (and sometimes building it for the second time), or leading the mountain operations team of one of the most complicated, exposed, and challenging ski areas in the world, Jimmy's presence is known through his dedication, his optimism, and his unsurpassable work ethic." *

SoCal Fundraiser Brings in Over \$200k for Relief Efforts

Over the past Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, Palisades Tahoe hosted its Ski for a Cause fundraiser, uniting the ski community for Southern California fire relief. The event drew 903 participants and raised \$89,397 through \$99 lift ticket sales. Thanks to dollar-for-dollar matching by Palisades Tahoe and Alterra Mountain Company, the total donation soared to

an impressive \$269,191.

The funds go directly to support the California Fire Foundation, providing essential relief for wildfire victims. Proceeds will be used for emergency assistance, community rebuilding efforts, and long-term support for those impacted by devastating wildfires.

"We're thrilled by the turnout and generosity from our guests," said Patrick Lac-

ey, PR Manager at Palisades Tahoe. "This event demonstrates the power of our community to come together and make a meaningful impact for those in need."

In a statement, Palisades Tahoe extended its heartfelt gratitude to all of their guests who participated in Ski for a Cause. "Their generosity and enthusiasm made this fundraiser a huge success, turning a day on the slopes into mean-

ingful support for families and communities recovering from the devastating effects of wildfires."

For those who were unable to attend Ski for a Cause, there's still an opportunity to support this critical effort. Visit the California Fire Foundation at www.cafire-foundation.org to make a direct donation and help these communities impacted by wildfires recover and rebuild. *

TAHOE RICK

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Photo by Lynn Gibson

Valle Nevado Brings Southern Hospitality to Resort

Olympic Valley resident Craig Tackabery won a free trip to the Valle Nevado resort in Chile at a recent IKON Pass holder party and wine tasting at the KT Bass Bar. Joining Craig from Valle Nevado are (left to right) marketing representatives Dominique Rudlof and Paz Pilasi and Palisades Tahoe Conference Planning Coordinator Sky Stone.

Valle Nevado Ski Resort, one of the 50-plus destinations which are part of the IKON Pass, is considered Chile's premier ski resort, offering the largest amount of terrain and the most modern lift system in the Southern Hemisphere. Valle Nevado offers IKON pass holders in North America the opportunity to ski and ride year-round and keep an endless winter alive. The resort offers 2400 acres, 2658 feet of vertical and receives an average of 240 inches of snow annually. For more information on the IKON Pass go to ikonpass.com.

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Photo by Michael Kennedy

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jeff.cleeland@compass.com DRE 01375249



Samantha Hall
530.412.3956
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THE MOUNTAIN MONEY MONITOR

Financial Observations from 6,225 feet

by Robert B. Green Jr., CFA & Trent B. Green

A Time for Small Caps?

Over the past decade, small-cap stocks have underperformed their large-cap counterparts. This has reduced investor confidence in small caps, which, in turn, has helped fuel their recent poor relative performance. However, the small-cap market, generally represented by the Russell 2000 Index, has not always played second fiddle to large-cap firms represented by the S&P 500 Index. Historically, small caps have outperformed large caps by roughly 2% on average annually. Small caps are economically sensitive and utilize times of economic growth to springboard start-up capital

into financial success. This trend has been a staple of the U.S. economy and domestic employment for the past century and is not likely to change. In the recent past, commencing in 2014, small-cap performance could not keep up with their larger company competitors. Commercial credit standards started tightening in 2015, so credit was hard to come by and smaller companies suffered. This situation was magni-



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fied first by the COVID-19 epidemic, which crushed many small companies, and then again in 2023 by the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic Bank, which exasperated credit tightening during a period of high inflation.

The Success of the 'Magnificent Seven'

On the other side of the relative performance spectrum, the S&P 500 has

been accelerated by the success of the "Magnificent 7." The Magnificent 7 (Amazon, Apple, Google (Alphabet), Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla) are stocks that have been experiencing superior growth since the global pandemic and have driven the performance of the S&P 500. These companies have enjoyed robust growth, massive cash on their balance sheets, and easy availability of capital. These seven stocks made

Continued on p.10



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up over 33% of the value of the S&P 500 as of December 2024. Their recent success is responsible for over half of the S&P 500's 2024 total return of 25%. These seven stocks grew an average of 63%. The outperformance of the S&P 500 in comparison to the Russel 2000 is not reflective of the all 500 stocks in the S&P index but rather a reflection of the Magnificent 7. The S&P 500 Equal Weight index is the 500 largest public companies in America treated as if they all had the same value. The S&P 500 Equal Weight index actually underperformed the Russell 2000 in 2024.

The key difference between large companies and small companies is their source of capital. Large compa-

Small caps are out of favor with Wall Street and Main Street, which leaves the door open for opportunity.

nies are able to finance growth through the bond market. This enables them to lock in longer term debt at a fixed interest rate. Smaller companies rely on bank credit and other financing to grow and become profitable. These bank loans are shorter term in nature and offer variable rates of interest. So,

the Fed's fight against inflation has hurt small companies more than larger corporations. In addition, many large companies have war chests full of cash, which have enjoyed outsized returns lately due to high real interest rates. So, what will happen as the Federal Reserve continues slowly cutting the Fed Funds Rate? Smaller companies will enjoy lower cost of capital while larger corporations will see a drop in the rate of return from their cash.

Small caps are out of favor with Wall Street and Main Street, which leaves the door open for opportunity. The outlook for smaller companies is improving as inflation ebbs, earnings growth returns, and the memory of Silicon Valley Bank is left in the rear-view mirror. The relatively low P/E multiples, especially when considered in terms of their growth potential, suggests that small cap stocks are primed to, at a minimum, revert to the mean and offer large upside potential.

Small-cap valuations are at historic lows and there are suggestions in the market for a reallocation taking place - hinting at a small-cap rally. With an eye on the past, small caps have delivered impressive outperformance in comparison to their large-cap peers. Now may be the time to dust off your list of small cap equities in expectation of relative outperformance in the years to come.



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	S&P 500	Russell 2000
Distribution Yield	1.19%	1.27%
Weighted Average Price to Earnings Ratio	26.94	19.18
Weighted Average Price to Sales Ratio	3.10	1.45
Forecasted P/E Ratio	21.69	15.51
Forecasted Earnings Growth	5.54%	1.70%
Forecasted Revenue Growth	8.80%	6.56%

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Bill Jensen
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Layout & Design
Amy Goldberg (530) 277-6509
info@livemusicart.com
www.livemusicart.com

Cover Photo
by Jeff Engerbretson

Public Relations
Debbie Kelly-Hogan

Contributors
David. E. Carmazzi, Hank de Vré, Keoki Flagg, Craig Fox, Jeff Engerbretson, Siobhan Jones, Michael Kennedy, Court Leve, Nancy O'Connell, Tom O'Neill, Barry Thys

A Defining Moment

The VIII Olympic Winter Games Put the Resort on the World's Stage

On Thursday, February 18, 1960, under storm threatening skies, the greatest winter athletes in the world gathered in Squaw Valley, a ski resort only 11 years old. As the sun broke through briefly, 2,000 pigeons were released into the air. A throng of 1,000 competitors and 20,000 spectators stood hushed as the Olympic Torch completed a 9,000-mile odyssey from Europe and was placed in front of the Tower of Nations. Following the Olympic Oath and the Star Spangled Banner, Avery Brundage declared the Games "open" while the sky erupted into a kaleidoscope of fireworks and colorful balloons.

Thus Began the VIII Olympic Winter Games

At that time the 1960 Winter Games were the largest ever held, with 34 nations competing in 15 alpine and ski jumping events, 8 speed skiing contests, 3 figure skating competitions and 28 hockey matches. Making its Olympic debut was women's speed skiing and the men's biathlon, a combination of nordic skiing and rifle marksmanship.

The Squaw Games were highlighted by many other Winter Olympic firsts: They were the first Winter Games to be nationally televised and to house the athletes in their own Olympic Village. For the first time in Winter Olympic history artificial refrigeration was utilized for speed skating events and electronic computers were used to tally results. Instant replay was used but not for broadcast.

The VIII Winter Olympics propelled Squaw Valley into the world spotlight and spurred a tremendous growth in winter sports in America - especially alpine skiing. In 1960 Squaw Valley had four double chair lifts and a rope tow.

This season the resort celebrates its 75th anniversary, marking decades of



The Tower of Nations provided a spectacular centerpiece for the Opening Ceremonies.

innovation, history and legendary alpine athletes. Palisades Tahoe has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal as the best ski resort in the United States and is Lake Tahoe's largest resort destination. The two areas, Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows span 6,000 skiable acres across eight peaks, connected by the one-of-kind Base to Base Gondola. Palisades Tahoe averages 400 inches of annual snowfall, offering Lake Tahoe's longest ski season, traditionally keeping its slopes open through Memorial Day. The Village at Palisades Tahoe is a vibrant year-round hub for events, dining, and shopping. Skiers and riders can explore Palisades Tahoe and beyond with the Ikon Pass, which provides access to over 50+ top ski destinations.

Olympic Highlights

- **The Opening and Closing Ceremonies** were orchestrated by Walt Disney, and involved 5,000 participants, 1285 instruments and 2,645 voices from 52 California and Nevada high school bands.

- **The Tower of Nations**, now located at the entrance of the valley, stands 79 feet tall and 29 feet wide. Crowned with the five Olympic rings, each eight feet in diameter, displayed the crests of all the competing nations. The five rings represent the five continents and are linked to signify friendship and sportsmanship.

- **Nearly one-half million spectators** watched the Games. Lodging costs were \$5 to \$10 per night per person.

- **Daily admission**, which allowed a spectator to see five major events cost \$7.50. An 11-day pass for all skiing events was \$60, and a reserved seat at Blyth Arena was \$200.

- **Squaw Valley had 20 feet of snow** prior to the Games, but a massive rain washed most of it away. However, Mother Nature came to the rescue in the nick of time, dumping 12 feet on the resort just before the start. Local military troops boot packed the slopes.

- **What did it take to feed 1,000 Olympians?** How about 6,600 lbs. of prime rib, 3,200 lbs. of top sirloin, 4,500 lbs. of ground beef, 1,600 lbs. of roast beef, 1,800 lbs. of stew meat and 1,500 lbs. of liver. In all, over 10 tons of meat.

- **In the first "Miracle on Ice,"** an unsung U.S. Hockey Team stunned a highly-favored Soviet Union squad 3-2 and then overwhelmed Czechoslovakia 9-4 to capture America's first-ever gold medal in the sport. Twenty years later at Lake Placid, NY, history repeated itself.

- **Frenchman Jean Vuarnet**, well-known as the namesake for a popular sunglass company, won the men's downhill. Penny Pitou, from Laconia, New Hampshire, captured the silver medals in the women's downhill and giant slalom to emerge as America's top alpine performer.

- **There was no bobsled competition** as only nine nations had agreed to compete, and the cost to build a course was deemed too expensive.



Walt Disney, left, orchestrated both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.



France's Jean Vuarnet celebrates downhill gold medal.

Winter Games Got Off to a Stormy Start

by Eddy Starr Ancinas

Editor's Note - This is an excerpt from *Olympic Valley & Alpine Meadows, Tales from Two Valleys* written by Eddy Starr Ancinas. The book was recently re-released by The History Press (historypress.net) with a foreword by Olympian and World Cup racer Edith Thys Morgan.

Four days before the Olympics were scheduled to begin, a warm Pacific storm blew over the Sierra, lashing the valley with rain and sleet. Alpine competitors, eager to run the downhill, couldn't inspect the course, and course setters worried that the five courses they had so carefully prepared would dissolve in the deluge. Wind gusted over 100 mph. Trees fell, taking power lines with them. Rock debris skimmed across the practice rinks. Organizers and officials huddled to discuss alternate plans. Legions of boot packers waited for commands,



The official map of the VIII Olympic Winter Games shows the alpine race courses.

outside in the storm, a drum roll performed by hundreds of California and Nevada high school bands signaled the raising of the flags of Greece, the VIII Olympic Games, the American Flag and the Olympic Flag. Then, the flags of 31 nations reached the top of their standards, and as the Olympic Band played "The Parade of the Olympians," the athletes followed their flagbearers into the arena and stood in groups under the vast ceiling, as snow flew by outside.

While Prentis Hale, president of the Olympic Organizing Committee, made his welcoming speech, and Vice President Nixon declared the games open; all eyes looked up to Papoose Peak. The snow had stopped; the sky cleared, fireworks exploded, and thousands of balloons and pigeons (doves of peace) rose up into a blue sky. Andrea Meade Lawrence, 1952 double-gold medalist, skied down through the fresh powder carrying the Olympic torch and handed it to 500 meter speed skating champion, Kenneth Henry. After a lap around the outdoor rink, he climbed the steps to the urn at the Tower of Nations and lighted the Olympic cauldron for the 1960 Winter Games.

Athletes and spectators, to this day, ask themselves if legendary eventmaster, Walt Disney, included weather control as part of his Olympic opening spectacle. *

through the valley and obliterated the road. U.S. Vice-President and Mrs. Nixon, unable to arrive by helicopter as planned, crept along with the masses in a stop-and-go slog of cars making their way into the valley to Blyth Arena, where they joined hundreds of hooded spectators groping their way through the blizzard to their seats in the ice arena.

At 1 pm, just one hour behind schedule, with the athletes lined up



The Games were front page news across America.

ty patrolmen and women prepared for early morning treks to the highest peaks and ridges.

Wayne Poulsen looked with dismay at the parking lot on his land in the western end of the meadow. Months ago, when he learned that the planning committee was going to pave 130 acres for a parking lot, he convinced them that a better solution would be to compact the snow and

mix in a layer of sawdust on top—a great idea, as long as the ground was frozen. Now, the day before thousands of cars would arrive for the opening ceremonies, the parking lot was thawing into 130 acres of mud.

On February 17, the night before the opening ceremonies, temperatures dropped, and the parking lot froze. Rain turned to snow and covered the race courses, swirled in gusts

VIII Olympic Winter Games Resources

Want to know more about the VIII Olympic Winter Games? Here's where to look:

Snowball's Chance: The Story of the VIII Olympic Winter Games - by David Antonucci
Local historian recounts the improbable tale of how the fledgling resort garnered the Olympic Games against overwhelming odds. Featuring photos by Bill Briner.

Amazon Kindle and www.booksurge.com.

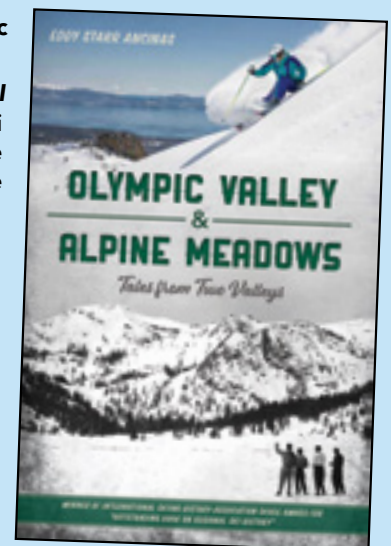
Olympic Valley & Alpine Meadows: Tale From Two Valleys - by Eddy Starr Ancinas
Local author, who married Argentine Olympian Osvaldo Ancinas, offers historical and insightful glimpses of the transcendental Games. www.historypress.net

SNOW Sports Museum, Tahoe City

Located in the Boatworks Mall, the museum offers photos, artifacts and memorabilia from private collections. Admission is free. www.thesnowmuseum.org

Olympic Museum, Palisades Tahoe

Located at High Camp at the top of the Aerial Tram, the museum showcases a unique collection of memorabilia, news articles and video presentations detailing the VIII Winter Olympic Games. Admission is free with Aerial Tram ride ticket. www.palisadestahoe.com/events



How the Winter Games Aided the Nevada Civil Rights Movement



Nevada officials with the traveling “ Gateway to the Olympics “ semi-trailer truck.

If you're well-versed in Olympic lore, you'll remember SVSC President Alexander Cushing was inspired to make a bid to host the Olympics after reading a small news item about Reno's bid for the 1960 Winter Games. Cushing correctly surmised that the United States Olympic Committee was not likely to select Reno as a site, given the state's reputation as a divorce haven and offering legalized gambling and prostitution. He was correct, and on

January 7, 1955, the fledgling ski resort was selected as the United States Olympic site. Several months later in Paris, Cushing won the bid over the odd-on favorite, Innsbruck, by the slim margin of two votes.

Those Games were widely known for the number of firsts, but it was not widely known that it was also the first time Reno was integrated as a city. While the Olympic events would take place in Olympic Valley, only 40 miles across the Nevada state line, Reno

would be the “Gateway City” to the Games, with an airport, abundant lodging facilities and other amenities to cater to the thousands of spectators eager to attend the Winter Olympics in the High Sierra.

During the struggle for civil rights, Nevada gained the moniker “the Mississippi of the West.” According to interviews with activists,

worldwide interest. It certainly would have been embarrassing for Nevada to have had segregated hotels and restaurants which visitors could not patronize if they were black,” Sawyer said in a 1991 interview. On this point, Sawyer understated the severity of the situation.

However, for three weeks in February, 1960, the signs came down and

Those three weeks served as the catalyst for the civil rights movement in Reno and in Nevada.

In 1965, Governor Sawyer signed the Nevada Civil Rights Act into law.

most business establishments displayed “Whites Only” signs at their entrances, as far back as the mid-1930s. Such openly racist culture was a direct affront to Olympic ideals and everything the Games stood for and symbolized. As the games approached, the eyes of the world turned to Squaw Valley and Reno.

Nevada Governor Grant Sawyer had to address the issue. “People would be coming to our state from all over the world . . . and we had to advocate a special departure from common practice to facilitate an event of

everyone was welcomed. After the Games were over, Reno went back to its Jim Crow ways. But those three weeks served as the catalyst for the civil rights movement in Reno and in Nevada. In 1965, Governor Sawyer signed the Nevada Civil Rights Act into law.

- Nancy O'Connell

Three Weeks: The 1960 Winter Olympics and Reno's Civil Rights Movement, an award winning, 30-minute documentary short film is available at www.palisades-press.com.

Blyth Arena Replica Coming to SNOW Sports Museum

For the past 75 years, skiers and visitors driving into Olympic Valley have looked across the wide open meadow and up to the mountains, perhaps planning which lift and runs to take. From 1960 until 1983, they would have seen Blyth Arena at the foot of Papoose Peak, where Andrea Mead Lawrence carried the Olympic torch to light the flame for the opening ceremony of the 1960 Winter Olympics.

Built in 1959 for 8,500 people, over 10,000 stood and cheered for the U.S. Hockey Team when they defeated the mighty Soviet Union and went on to win the gold medal match at the 1960 Olympics. Carol Heiss and David Jenkins made history with gold medal performances in figure skating. With no inside supports to obstruct the view on the south side, spectators could watch speed skaters on the outdoor rinks, look up at the 70- and 90-meter ski jumps and admire skiers swooping down Red Dog. The 300-square foot roof span sloped up as high as an eight-story building.

After the Olympics, the bleachers on the south side of the arena were folded back in, and Pete Bansen, manager of the building and its skating

programs, purchased rental skates, a used Zamboni to clear the ice, and ran popular programs from Tiny Tots in the morning to nightly broom-ball battles between teams from ski areas, volunteer fire departments and local groups. Jimmy Grogan, 1960 bronze medal Olympian and his wife, Barbara Wagner, Canadian pairs gold medalist, ran a figure skating program for local children and adults. During daily open-skating sessions, hundreds of skiers, skaters, locals and tourists returned to stumble or glide around the ice under the cavernous ceiling, where the Olympic scoreboard remained fixed at: “USA 3-2 USSR”.

On a blustery day in March, 1983, Bansen entered the arena to find strange and suspicious conduits out of line on overhead beams, failing cables and wires that “periodically would break with a chilling flat twang,” he reported. Convinced that something was very wrong, Bansen cleared, closed and locked the building and went to report to Jimmy Mott, Squaw Valley's Assistant Manager.

“As I got about half-way across the lot,” Bansen recalls, “there was a resounding boom and the center section of the east side of the roof col-



Blyth Arena hosted the ice skating and hockey competitions.

lapsed. A huge cloud of dust rose out of the Arena, and I remember seeing the west side roof bouncing up and down as it rebounded.”

For the generations that knew Blyth Arena as an iconic and permanent structure representing the legacy of the 1960 Olympics, and for the generations that will see only photos; the SNOW Sports Museum, in keeping with preserving and presenting our

local snow sport and Olympic history, has obtained the original architect's model of Blyth Arena from the Oakland Museum of California.

With funds from a TOT-TBID grant that supports community vitality in North Lake Tahoe, the model will be installed in March at the SNOW's interim exhibit space in the Boatworks, and later—at the future SNOW Museum at the entrance to the valley.

- Eddy Starr Ancinas

Keoki Flagg's Adventurous Fine Art Photography



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Guests can start loading the Tram starting at 3:45 p.m. The next scheduled Happy Hours are set for Feb.15-16 and Feb. 18-19. More dates may be added during the season.

Tickets may be purchased online and will also be available until 5 p.m at the base of the Aerial Tram building. For more information or assistance call 1-800-403-0206.

Snowshoe Dinner at the Chalet

After the mountain closes and the winter moon rises, experience a snowshoe tour to the mid-mountain Chalet at Alpine Meadows and enjoy a four-course, Bavarian-inspired dinner. This dining adventure starts at Last Chair Bar in the base lodge with a hot glass of mulled

wine. This 15-minute walk goes up a moderately pitched ski trail. All participants must be able to walk to and from the Chalet.

Upon arrival at the Chalet, a complimentary glass of Korbel champagne will be waiting at your table. The Chalet fea-

and reservations must be made at least one week in advance.

The next Snowshoe Tour is scheduled for Feb 28., however additional dates may be added.

Cost is \$140 per person, 21 and over only. Meet at the Last Chair Bar in the Alpine Lodge no later than 4:30 p.m. Tour and dinner usually lasts around 2.5 hours. For more information contact 1-800- 403-0206 or email alpinebanquets@palisadestahoe.com.

MORE HAPPY HOURS

Jake's on the Lake

Jake's, located in the Boatworks Mall in Tahoe City, offers Happy Hour from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and all day Thursday with a special menu featuring all items under \$20. Go to jakestahoe.com or call 530-583-0188.

River Ranch Lodge

Located on the banks of the Truckee River near the en-

trance to Alpine Meadows, the historic River Ranch offers Happy Hour prices on libations and a variety of menu selections from 3-5 p.m., Sun.-Fri.

The Ranch also offers weekend breakfast and lunch. For more information go to riverranchlodge.com or call 530-583-4264.

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR WINE

Sharing a bottle of wine with friends is the perfect way to end to a day on the slopes. If you're staying in the valley, you don't have to go far.

PlumpJack Café

PlumpJack patrons can peruse an extensive wine list which includes over 600 selections from a wine cellar that holds over 3000 bottles.

A friendly, knowledgeable staff is on hand to recommend or assist with a food pairing. Plumpjackcafe.com

Uncorked

Uncorked in the east end of The Village stocks their shelves with vintages from around the globe, reflective of the season. They also offer a Wine Club which features a monthly theme. There are Uncorked locations in Tahoe City and Truckee, too. Uncorked-tahoe.com

Tahoe Wine Collective

Located in the Boatworks Mall in Tahoe City, TWC features a wine tasting menu that changes weekly highlighting different boutique producers from the Sierra Foothills. They also offer charcuterie and cheese plates, display local artwork on the wall and sometimes spin vintage vinyl on weekend and host comedy shows. Tahowinecollective.com 🍷



Happy Hour at High Camp offers alpenglow valley views and the sun setting over the Sierra peaks.
Photos by Michael Kennedy

tures a full bar with draft beer, wine, and specialty cocktails available for purchase.

Guests will receive a complimentary glass of champagne upon arrival, hand-selected wine pairings with each course, and beer and wine will be available for purchase. Snowshoes are provided free of charge and diners should wear appropriate warm clothes. Guests must be 21 years of age to participate



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Valley Vibe



U.S. Mogul Freestyle Championships brings high-level competition to the resort in March.

Since the resort is celebrating its 75th Anniversary season, it's no coincidence that there are several events and activities on tap that commemorate and relive festivities from the past. This year's SNOWFEST winter carnival, which originated in the valley in 1982, features several 'throw back events' around the resort. Enjoy these "blasts from the past!"

For more details, go to: palisadestahoe.com

Le Chamois SNOWFEST 'Back to the Valley Throwback Party'

SNOWFEST returns to Olympic Valley Feb. 28 for the 75th anniversary of the ski area. Celebrate with a DJ, drinks and food at the legendary Le Chamois and Loft Bar. Wear your finest Le Chamois throwback valley ski outfit and party like its 1982. Support SNOWFEST with a purchase of a one-of-a-kind Le Chamois commemorative T-shirt. Benefiting the Lake Tahoe Ski Club Foundation. Runs 2- 5 p.m.

Town League Race Series: SNOWFEST 'Throw Back in the Valley Night'

The Town League Race Series, a

staple during the '80s, returns March 5. Local racers of all levels come together to compete in a series of exciting alpine races. The community competition is perfect for skiers and snowboarders looking to challenge themselves and showcase their skills. The series continues every



Sherry McConkey, center, is the driving force behind the PMS Classic.

Wednesday night through April 9 with a new theme each week. Party on the KT Deck w/ DJs and libations afterward.

River Ranch Snow Sculpture Contest

The River Ranch Snow Sculpture Contest on March 9 is one of SNOWFEST'S longest-running events and brings the winter carnival to a close. Hosting teams from non-profit organizations mold, shape, carve, color and decorate mounds of snow into masterpieces. Teams compete for cash prize donations to their NPO. Come for food, fun, live music and celebration on the banks of the Truckee River. Runs noon-4 p.m.

Related SNOWFEST Events

The Origins of Freestyle Riding in Lake Tahoe

A week-long exhibit at the Watson Cabin in Tahoe City showcases the evolution of snowboarding in the Lake Tahoe region featuring artifacts, photos, videos, and historical information detailing the early pioneers of snowboarding in the area, key developments in the sport, and how Lake Tahoe became a prominent snowboarding destination, all presented within the context of the historic Watson Cabin museum. Runs March 1-7 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission.

Tahoe Art Haus & Tahoe Tap Haus "BlizzardFest" Brewfest

The Tahoe Art Haus & Cinema and Tahoe Tap Haus' annual BrewFest, aka BlizzardFest, returns March 1. Located in the Cobblestone parking lot in Tahoe City, there will be multiple breweries pouring beer and DJs spinning beats on the Edna the Elephant art car. Benefits the Shane McConkey Foundation. It's the best outdoor dance party of the year and it's free. Runs noon-7 p.m.

Presidents Day Celebration

Palisades lights up the the night sky and lofts lively sounds through the air on Feb.16. Join the fun at the KT Bass Bar for a spectacular evening of fireworks and music.

KT Bass Bar Music Series

The series, presented by Coca-Cola, brings vibrant energy and a lively après-ski scene to the KT Bass Bar Deck on weekends and holidays. Enjoy live music, great company and refreshing drinks in a festive outdoor setting. The KT-22 Bass Bar Music Series is a free event and open to everyone, so bring friends, family and good vibes.

UPCOMING BIG EVENTS

Pain McShlonkey Classic, 3/22

Celebrate the memory of legendary skier Shane McConkey with radness and gladness to extend kindness at the Annual Pain McShlonkey Classic which coincides with International Snowblade Day. Festivities include the Snowblade Hot Dog Downhill, awards and



Fireworks and music are part of the Presidents Day holiday celebration.

a huge raffle. Stream the virtual event and post a picture to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag #SnowbladeDay and you will be entered into the photo contest. Benefits the non-profit McKonkey Foundation. For more information go to shanemckonkey.org.

The Mothership Classic, 3/23

A pledge-driven event held each Spring on the world's greatest chairlift, KT-22. Each participant will challenge themselves to hot lap KT-22 as many times as possible from first chair to last on skinny skis, retro snowboards, mono-skis, snow blades, etc. Nostalgic ski attire is encouraged. Must raise \$150 to participate.

Awards are given out for a variety of categories including:

Most Laps

Most Money Raised

Best Costume

Raddest Goggles & more!

All funds raised go directly to the healing efforts of athletes that have suffered life-changing injuries through the The High Fives Foundation. For more information go to highfivesfoundation.org.

U.S. Mogul Freestyle Championships

Palisades hosts the nation's top men and women freestyle competitors in moguls and dual moguls on March 20-25. The exciting competition will be held on the slopes of Red Dog, allowing excellent viewing for spectators. More details coming soon at www.palisadestahoe.com.



PORTRAITS BY AMY

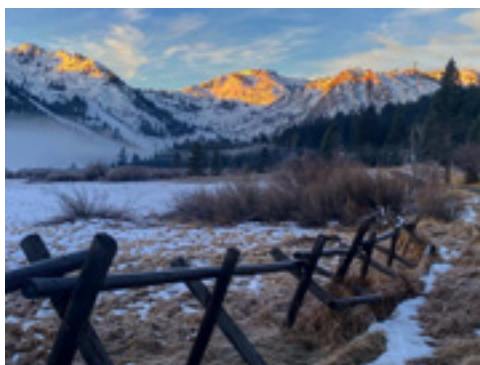


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Feb 28 - Mar 1	The Polish Ambassador 2 Night Run! Place World House Dead Polish	\$30 ADV \$35 DOS

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Photos courtesy PT

ment required but not included. Conditions permitting, used video as a learning aid. Palisades dates: Feb.14; Alpine dates: March 14.

Disco Tubing

Disco Tubing is a thrilling, family-friendly experience on the tubing lanes at the SnoVentures Activity Zone, featuring flashing lights, lasers and a live DJ. Gather your crew, wear fun costumes and ride down the neon lanes from 5-7 p.m. Dates include: Feb.14-16, & 22-23 and March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. Subject to change, weather and conditions permitting.

Free Mountain Orientation Tours

Join the Palisades Mountain Hosts, who wear bright yellow jackets for easy recognition, for free mountain tours on Thursdays at Alpine and Fridays at Palisades Must ski or ride at an intermediate level or above. Meet at 9:15 am next to the Base to Base Gondola.

Snowshoe Tours

Alpenglow Expeditions, located in The Village, offers private and group tours. Professional guides lead treks along the popular and stunning Shirley Canyon trail, which can be seen from above from the Aerial Tram.



Sierra Sightseeing Pass

One of the best ways to see the Lake Tahoe region and the surrounding mountains is from the resort's three enclosed lifts. Palisades Tahoe uniquely offers a Base to Base Gondola, an Aerial Tram, and a Funitel, and the Sightseeing Package provides all-day unlimited access to all three. Visit any ticket window to pick up a complimentary \$5 food voucher with purchase of a pass.

All-Day Experience Clinics

Featuring PT's top instructors and designed for solid intermediate through expert skiers to help unlock more of the mountain through better skills. Learn techniques and tactics to improve in bumps, steeps, powder, and spring corn while exploring the peaks and bowls of our vast terrain with our experienced pros. Includes a full day of guided instruction and a lunch voucher. Lift ticket and equip-



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QUICKTURNS

by Michael Kennedy

Smooth Operators

Grooming Dept. Utilizes High Tech & Teamwork to Create Optimal Conditions

Have you ever wondered what it's like to ride in a 600 PistenBully Snowcat high on the mountain, carving its way through the night? For those of us who revel in pristine, groomed slopes each morning, there's a hidden world of skilled craftsmanship and cutting-edge technology behind the scenes that makes it all possible.

I've always been fascinated by these giant crustacean-like machines, methodically working and tilling the mountains of Palisades Tahoe, transforming the slopes for the perfect ski day ahead.

But how do they do it? What kind of magic happens on snow-covered mountains when the lifts are closed? Who are the people inside the Snowcats, and what technologies do they use to create the flawless corduroy everyone loves?

Meet The Groomer

I got to ride along with Jeff Morrison, one of 63 groomers employed by Palisades Tahoe. Jeff has over three decades of grooming experience and a passion for his work. With his in-depth knowledge of the mountain, his intuitive feel for snow conditions, and his top-notch skills behind the joystick, Jeff gave me a front-row seat to the artistry that happens on the slopes while most people are home asleep.



Meet the Fleet

Palisades Tahoe has 55 Snowcats in operation, the largest fleet in CA, which cover around 1,225 groomable acres (750 at Palisades, and 475 at Alpine Meadows). Putting things in perspective, one acre is equivalent to around one football field. In other words, that's well over 1,200 groomable football fields being serviced by the grooming team every night.



Veteran groomer Jeff Morrison at the helm of a PistenBully “ makes every pass count.”

Making Every Pass Count

Snow grooming is more than just driving a machine across the slope - it's an intricate process involving teamwork, strategic snow management, terrain shaping and fine-tuning the blade angles to create the smoothest, safest surface possible.

As Jeff navigated through narrow passages between trees and across wide-open runs, he shared what it takes to be a good groomer: from reading snow conditions and adjusting for obstacles and steep terrain, to making every pass count. And all this at night, often in whiteouts, while the mountain is empty to allow the groomed snow to properly cure.

State-of-the-Art Technology

Stepping into the cockpit of the 600 PistenBully Snowcat is like stepping into a high-tech command center. One of the standout features in each of the PistenBully Snowcats is SNOWsat, a revolutionary technology system that uses satellite data and GPS radar to measure snow depth and density with incredible precision.

“This system allows us to measure snow depth from over 100 feet away,”

Jeff explained. With this kind of data, groomers can ensure an even, consistent snow surface, vital for the perfect skiing experience.

The SNOWsat touch-control terminal allows Jeff to view the snow depth on the left side of the screen and a terrain map on the right, giving him a clear, real-time view of the mountain's conditions.

Jeff pointed out another cool feature on the terminal called the “pass counter.” It records travel frequency, displaying colors where he's been, and how the colors change as he goes over the same area. “It's like mowing a lawn, but on a much bigger scale, tracking our efficiency and location.”

Operators know where they are and where they're supposed to be at any given moment - especially when visibility is poor. The pass counter also helps operators en-

sure every inch of the groomable mountain gets the attention it needs.

The Unsung Heroes of the Mountains

With the Snowcat's tiller down, (the rotating attachment located at the back of the machine), Jeff made a series of final passes over the runs, creating the smooth corduroy texture that welcomes skiers and snowboarders at Palisades Tahoe every morning.

So, the next time you step onto a perfectly groomed run, take a moment to appreciate the unsung heroes of our mountains - people like Jeff Morrison and his team - and the equipment and technology that goes into shaping the slopes we all love.

For more insights into grooming at Palisades Tahoe, check out the Palisades Tahoe blog.✱

Valley's First PistenBully Served as Santa's Sleigh



Photo courtesy Russell Poulsen

Wayne Poulsen, co-founder of the resort, owned and operated the first PistenBully in America. This family photo was taken behind the original home of the Poulsens and was built in 1946. Up until a few years ago it was Graham's Restaurant.

“This was our version of a Santa Sleigh,” says Russell, son of Sandy and Wayne Poulsen who is holding Rudolph in the photo.

Russell shared that he and his family used to ski the groomed slopes behind their dad in what is now called the Resort Run and Poulsen's Gully.

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WINTER & SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KT-22 Bass Bar Music Series Saturdays

December 1 - March 31

President's Day Weekend Music & Fireworks

February 16

Paramount + The Lodge

February 28 - March 2

Pain McSchlonkey

March 22

Mothership Classic

March 23

US Mogul Freestyle Championships

March 28 - 30

Amie Engerbretson Signature Camp

April 4 - 6

33rd Annual Cushing Crossing

May 3



75 **PALISADES
TAHOE**

