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Early Winter 2023-24

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What Does El Niño Have in Store for '24?

World Cup & WinterWonderGrass Return

Holiday Happenings

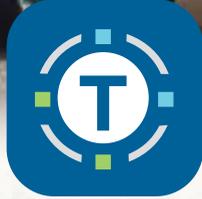
Awards & Accolades Abound

Chuck Patterson Makes Tracks
at Alpine by Jeff Engerbretson



Photo: Ryan Salm

Photo: Ryan Salm



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AROUND THE RESORT

Return of the World Cup, WWG Highlight Upcoming Season



Photo by Ernie Brassard

OVER THE MOON: Last year's season was nothing short of incredible, and the stage could be set for an encore.

So how does the resort follow the phenomenal 2022-23 season? Optimistically, of course.

While expecting a repeat of last year's incredible snowfall would be stretch, there are certain aspects of last season that are already in place. The high-tech Base to Base Gondola, which debuted last year linking Palisades and Alpine Meadows, is ready for its second season as well as the high-speed, six-passenger Red Dog lift. The Stifel Men's World Cup returns for its second straight run and the ever-popular WinterWonderGrass festival, one of the most popular alpine resort musical events in the country, is back for its eighth year.

Major investments for the 2023-24 season include a multi-million dollar make-over of the Gold Coast mid-mountain lodge and the creation of new dining options, a new Funitel haul rope, five new PistenBully snowcats and new winch picks to offer superior grooming, and the acquisition of two new properties dedicated to housing resort employees.

El Niño Returns

After a four-year break, El Niño is back, leaving many to wonder what it means for the upcoming Sierra winter.

El Niño is the temporary warming of the eastern Pacific Ocean near the equator. When the water temperature rises a half-degree Celsius above nor-

mal over a three-month period, that is considered to be an El Niño pattern.

When the water rises 1.5 degrees Celsius above normal, that's considered a strong El Niño – which may be the case this winter so say the forecasters.

But it comes with no guarantees.

Several sources say there is a 30

years, four of those were El Niños and three were La Niñas.

So what's in store for this season? Only time will tell.

Resort Shows Commitment to Community

Palisades Tahoe made significant contributions to the community during the 2022-23 season, reaffirming its commitment to philanthropy in the areas of community, leadership, and environment. Underlining its dedication to creating meaningful change, the resort has donated over \$1.5 million in cash and in-kind donations throughout the 2022-23 season. This substantial commitment reflects the organization's mission to be a positive force within the

local community. A total of 98 organizations received support through cash or in-kind donations from Palisades Tahoe during this period. The beneficiaries encompass a diverse range of causes, all aligned with Palisades Tahoe's core values. Some of the organizations that Palisades Tahoe supports include: Mountain Housing Council, High Fives, Military to the Mountains, Excellence in Education: Skiing for Schools, Foster the Sierras, Share Winter Foundation, Sierra Avalanche Center, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California and the National Forest Foundation.

One standout recipient of Palisades Tahoe's philanthropic efforts is SkiDUCK, an organization dedicated to providing skiing and snowboarding experiences for financially disadvantaged, minority and at-risk youth. Since the 2009-10 season, Palisades Tahoe has been an instrumental sponsor of SkiDUCK, contributing over 12,000 free lift tickets, rentals and lessons to support the organization's mission.

Clint Lunde, Executive Director of SkiDUCK, expressed his gratitude, stating, "Palisades Tahoe's wonderful rentals staff and ski and snowboard instructors always make our SkiDUCK kids feel welcomed, and help ensure a wonderful experience in a totally new environment. Together, Palisades Tahoe and SkiDUCK are making magic happen in the mountains and changing kids' lives."

O'Brien, Bennett Earn U.S. Ski Team Spots

In what has become the norm, Team Palisades Tahoe placed multiple athletes on the Stifel U.S. Alpine Ski Team for the 2023-24 season.

Nina O'Brien was named to the Women's A Team and veteran Bryce Bennett once again will be competing on the Men's A squad.

The two TBT athletes join two-time Olympic champion and winningest alpine skier in history Mikaela Shiffrin, 2022 Olympic silver medalist Ryan Cochran-Siegle, seven-time World Cup downhill podium finisher Breezy Johnson and top seven in the world slalom rank and 2023 world champion Paula Moltzan on the 55-member roster.

TPT members Keely Cashman and AJ Hurt made the Women's B Team, and Erik Arvidsson is on the Men's B. Alix Wilkinson earned a spot on the Women's C and Allison Mollin on the Women's D. ✨



Photo courtesy Ryan Salm/PT

The B2B and the Stifel Men's World Cup are back for a second straight season.

percent chance this winter's El Niño could be historically strong - matching the might of the 2019 El Niño winter--one of the top five snowpacks on record. Research at the UC Berkeley's Central Sierra Snow Lab at the top of Sinner Summit shows that out of the top 10 snowiest years at the lab, five of those were El Niños and four were La Niñas. And in the 10 lowest snowfall



Photo courtesy USST

Bryce Bennett returns to the U.S. Ski Team roster for the 2023-24 season.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORT

West-End Olympic Valley Two Bed | Two Bath Condo Sales

	ACTIVE	IN ESCROW	SOLD – LAST 12 MONTHS
Village	1 (Asking \$1.2m)	1 (Asking \$935k)	3 (Average \$952k)
Lodge	-	-	3 (Average \$1.29m)
Valley View	-	-	1 (Sold for \$1,000,000)*
Meadows	-	1 (Asking \$895k)	1 (Sold for \$795k)
Christy Hill	-	-	2 (average \$869k)

**Sold by Bill Murphy*

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Everline Introduces New Director, Parking & Locker Memberships



Photos courtesy Everline

Everline Resort & Spa recently named Andre Priemer as managing director of the luxury 405-room, ski-in, ski-out resort. In his role, Priemer will oversee the daily operations and management of the property, including the on-site spa, more than 47,000-square feet of functional meeting space, the championship links-style golf course and multiple on-site restaurants.

"I look forward to providing world-class service and curating an unforgettable bespoke experience for our guests at Everline Resort & Spa," said Priemer. "Having lived in the Lake Tahoe area for almost 11 years, my top priorities are support for our colleagues, as well as the local community and its members. I am also dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of our incredible destination."

Originally from Frankfurt, Germany, Priemer developed a passion for hospitality from a young age. His mother worked as a training manager for an international hotel chain. As a child, Priemer loved visiting her at work. He was always impressed by the staff's professionalism and dedication to their craft. With his organic interest in the industry, Priemer attended the College of Hotel Management in Marburg, Germany where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Management.

Priemer has three decades of hospitality management experience. Following his graduation in 1995, Priemer held leadership roles with Hilton Hotels Worldwide, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, COMO Hotels, Luxury Hotels & Resorts, and Starwood Hotels.

"Olympic Valley is unlike any

other place. With a majestic mountain range and breathtaking views, I am lucky to call Lake Tahoe my home," he says.

'Lock & Leave' Program

The "Lock and Leave" season-long membership is designed to help locals enjoy convenient parking and locker access for a seamless day on the slopes. It includes access to premium on-site lockers where guests can store their gear throughout the winter without having to carry it back and forth from their car each day. It also provides daily valet parking, and direct access to the property's Resort Chair Lift connected to Palisades Tahoe.

The resort will also offer shorter one-day, two-day, and three-day membership options that provide locker access and parking in its self-parking lot.

For more information call 530-412-7034. *



Everline's Andre Priemer

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New Reservation Parking System Aims to Enhance Visitor Experience



Photos courtesy, PT

In an effort to mitigate traffic on regional roadways during peak times, Palisades Tahoe has implemented a new reservation-based parking system for the 2023-24 winter season. On Saturdays, Sundays, and select holidays, a parking reservation will be required for ALL parking lots on both sides of the resort.

Monday through Friday, parking is free at both Palisades and Alpine and parking will be first come, first served. Reservations are NOT required midweek, with the exception of some holiday blackout dates.

There are no designated spots or sections for parking reservations and guests can park anywhere in the lot. However,

guests will need to indicate whether they will be parking on the Palisades or Alpine side.

Reserve in advance paid parking is currently available for all weekend/holiday dates for the season but is subject to selling out.

In an issued statement the resort said, "The parking program will reduce the numbers of cars on the road and encourage guests to carpool and use alternative transportation options. Through these measures, our parking program contributes to alleviating traf-

fic congestion and creating a more sustainable transportation environment.

"The program looks to provide an improved on-mountain experience and provide assurance there will be a parking space for guests without them having to arrive hours before first chair. The potential benefits of the program include a reduction in traffic, improved traffic flow, a better guest and employee experience, less impact on our community and a reduction in our carbon footprint."

For more information on the program go to palisadetahoe.com

Mountaineer Enters Sixth Season

The Mountaineer Transit Company, which was created in Dec. 2018, enters its sixth season of operation, providing free, on-demand app-based transportation to

residents and guests of Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows. The service generally operates from mid-December to mid-April, and has been very well-received. As of January 2023, the system had transported 200,000-plus passengers; averaging 500 a day during winter operations.

"It has had a tremendous impact on the resort community," says executive director Joy Doyle, "and the ripple effect has been phenomenal throughout the entire Tahoe Truckee area."

The ridership numbers have been so positive that last year, MTC's funding was given another five-year extension.

Mountaineer employs a fleet of 10, dog-friendly Sprinter type vans which can accommodate nine passengers and are equipped with ski and snowboard racks. Rides are provided within Olympic Valley from 7 a.m.-11 p.m. daily and within Alpine Meadows from 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs.-Mon. with extra days over holiday periods. Service between the two valleys runs from 5-10 p.m. daily. Once a reservation is made, riders can board the shuttle at the Transit Center located at the east end of the Village and in front of the Alpine Meadows base lodge. ✨

To request a ride and view the operating schedule, download the Mountaineer app at mountaineer-transit.org.



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THE BULLWHEEL

Dedicated to Robert Frohlich

by Bill Jensen

Acknowledging an Abundance of Amazing Achievements

Shannon Bahrke to be Inducted into U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame

Raymond de Vré distinctly remembers the day a 12-year-old Shannon Bahrke came out to join the Squaw Valley (now Palisades Tahoe) Freestyle Ski Team. As the SVFST head coach, de Vré had spent years exhorting and cajoling Shannon's parents, Dick and Trilla Bahrke, to get Shannon

lar one. In 12 years on the national team, she claimed 27 World Cup podium finishes, seven first places, six national titles and in 2003 she captured a World Cup title. She was also on three Olympic teams and six World Cup championship teams. In 2002, she claimed an Olympic silver moguls medal at Salt Lake City in front of family and friends and took a bronze in 2010 at Vancouver to become the first U.S. women's freestyle skier to win multiple Olympic medals.

"From the beginning I saw a person who loved to be challenged," says de Vré, "She had a competitiveness and willingness to work hard which was very noticeable."

With her dyed hair, fearless skiing style and natural exuberance, Bahrke's electrifying runs endeared herself to her coaches and teammates, as well as spectators and the media. She was also the first female to pull off a "D-spin," a spectacular move which consists of a backflip with a 360-degree turn in mid-air.

"It didn't matter what color the medal was, Shannon was just always so happy to make the podium," says de Vré. "She competed with enthusiasm and joy."

Bahrke, now 43, lives in Salt Lake City where she and her husband Matt Happe (she goes by Bahrke when it



Bahrke soared to the podium twice in the Olympics.

preceded her on the SVFST.

"I remember watching him win the gold medal in 1998 on TV with other members of the freestyle team," she recalls. "And when he won it was just so incredible. It made us believe that anything was really possible. Then one day he just walked into our locker room, and he knew all our names and asked us how things were going. I was in awe."

Although Moseley was older, he remembered his younger teammate's tenacity.

"Shannon competed well under pressure but what stood out was her interest in savoring the pain: hiking, iterating, learning and doing it over and over again. Raymond and all great coaches respond when they see you dig into the work. It motivates them to keep pushing you."

Now pushed to the very pinnacle of her sport, Bahrke will accept her place in the Hall of Fame the weekend of March 20-23 in Park City, practically in her own backyard.

"It's just crazy," says Bahrke, "I can't even imagine being that 12-year-old girl thinking she would one day be doing this. I am just so grateful and owe so much to my coaches, my parents and the Tahoe community for supporting me and celebrating this with me. My heart and soul is in Tahoe." ❄️



Bahrke and Coach de Vré were a winning combo.

Photo provided

to join the team - but to no avail. "I had all but given up, but then one day Shannon shows up holding her mother's hand and Trilla says to me, "OK, you want her; she yours."

The rest is history. In March of 2024, Bahrke will become a member of the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Bahrke's freestyle career was a stel-

State Championship Completes Cycle for NTHS Volleyball Coach Chiara Gajar

As they say, "What goes around, comes around." Olympic Valley resident Chiara Lawrence Gajar had such a "full circle moment" in November when the third-year coach of the North Tahoe High School girls varsity volleyball team guided her squad to the title in the Nevada 2A state championship in Las Vegas. This was the fifth state trophy in the school's history and the previous championship was in 1990 - when Chiara was an all-state performer as only a sophomore.

More remarkably her daughter Stella, a junior, is a member of the current cham-

pionship team, and like her mom before her, earned all-state honors along with being named the tournament's Best Defensive Player. Her teammates Alana Henricks and Miya Casci, were also tabbed as all-state and Miya the state tournament MVP.

The Lakers had a dominant season, finishing 28-2 overall and 18-0 in league play before sweeping GV Christian High School in the state championship match to cul-

Continued on next page



NEVADA 2A STATE CHAMPIONS: Top: Coach Chiara Gajar, Sienna Hartman, Stella Gajar, Shuna Hernandez, Lola Williams, Emma Andrade, Alana Hendricks, Harper Johnson, Coach Davin Pease Bottom: Miya Casci, Jules McAndrews

Jeff Engerbretson Earns Emmy for Olympic Coverage

As a professional sports cameraman, Jeff Engerbretson has seen his share of special moments.

Now he has one his own.

The 58-year-old Truckee resident recently received an Emmy for his work at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing where he worked for NBC-TV shooting the start of the alpine ski races. He was part of the 30-plus-member crew who received the award for Outstanding Technical Team Event.

"The Olympics had been a dream for along time," says the veteran cameraman. "It was awesome to finally get to shoot one, and winning an Emmy, well that's just unbelievable."

Engerbretson's "dream job," came with several challenges: working in a foreign country with rigid

All photos provided



Engerbretson at home in Truckee with his new hardware.

Beaver Creek, Aspen and at Palisades, his home mountain.

"I was disappointed I wasn't available last year, but I did work the Women's World Cup a few years back which was on Red Dog so I know the course well. It will be fun to work at home."

In the summer, Engerbretson works as a tree trimmer and that tree climbing experience has served him well in his wintertime profession.

"The directors know I'm comfortable with heights and working with crampons to get in some of the more riskier locations. Sometimes it's a bit scary just to get into your position," he says.

And that "position" sometimes means hanging out the door of a moving helicopter as he

Mohler and with skiers Robbie Hunt-oon Tom Day and Kevin Andrews, Later that morning we hiked Granite Chief Peak and ran into Scot Schmidt, Steve McKinney and Franz Weber. Literally all of my heroes. I knew right away I was in the right place!"

Engerbretson, and eventually his young daughter Amie, graced the covers of the resort brochures and soon were in demand for national publications and TV and film shoots. Today, Amie (amieski.com) is one of the most well-known female skiers in the world, while her father found fame on the other side of the camera.

"I always wanted to eventually go behind the camera so by late 90's I slowly transitioned," he says. "My father Dave was an outdoor writer and photographer. He was western field editor for Fly Fisherman Magazine as well as a freelance writer and he wrote several books. He's in the Idaho State Hall of Fame. He showed me it was possible to travel the world chasing a passion. And that's pretty much what I've been doing - chasing the camera." *



On the icy Olympic slopes in China.

COVID protocols and at a ski venue with frigid Antarctic-like temperatures.

"I was warned it was cold over there but the first few days were still surprising," says Engerbretson who is also a Palisades Tahoe photographer. "At minus 10 degrees everything is hard: cables are stiff, tripod heads don't like to move and operating a camera and all the buttons is tough enough with thin gloves but thick gloves made it really frustrating. The view finder not only fogged, but the fog instantly froze solid so the conditions made everything difficult."

This winter Engerbretson will be shooting the X Games along with three World Cup races:

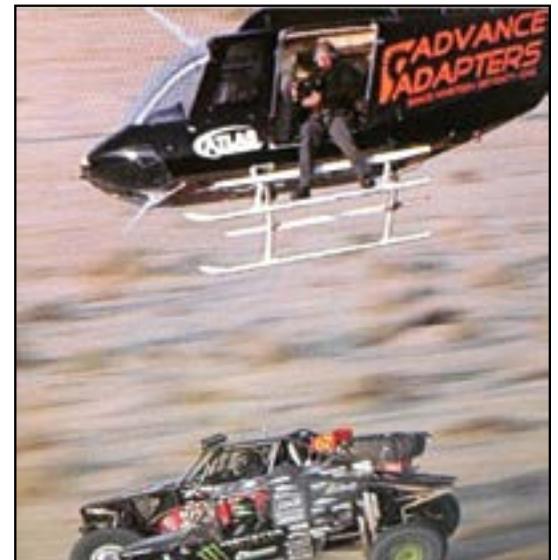
'During my first photo shoot, I ran into Scot Schmidt, Steve McKinney and Franz Weber. Literally all of my heroes. I knew right away I was in the right place!'

has done for several off-road motor races.

"Shooting from a heli is awesome to begin with but sometimes we get to within 6-8 feet of a racer," says Engerbretson "We're going so fast all the dust is way behind you."

Engerbretson moved from Idaho to Olympic Valley in 1986 and actually started his career in front of the camera as a ski athlete/model for the Palisades marketing department where his former wife Nancy worked as an intern.

"My first photo shoot was 'early ups' on Mainline pocket with photographer Chaco



Shooting from a bird's-eye view.

State Championship

minate a 24-game win streak.

"The championship win as a coach was more overwhelming than I expected," says Chiara. "My assistant coach, Davin Pease, and I were so proud to see all our athletes play great volleyball and support each other along the way. Each athlete embraced their role on the team, put in the effort and together they succeeded

"As a player, you work hard on the court; your efforts have a direct result on the score; and you thrive off the en-

ergy in the gym. As a coach you work over the course of the season, creating a culture and experience where the athletes want to work hard and have fun doing it; you see the progress and do all you can to get the team to play at the level they are capable of when it really counts. You need them to believe in the process and in themselves.

"This year they all played with so much heart and determination. Seeing my daughter and her teammates (my players) win the state championship game was

a big exclamation point at the end of a dominating volleyball season."

Following her high school career at North Tahoe, Chiara went on to play volleyball at the University of San Francisco and then directed her energy back to the mountains, excelling in skier cross. Although she only competed for a few years, in that time she won the Winter Gravity Games and took a silver and a bronze in the Winter X Games.

Chiara's athletic genes were not only passed on to her daughter but to her

son Toby as well. As a second-year member of the rowing club at UCLA, he earned a seat in the four-man boat (and only boat UCLA sent) to recently compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, the biggest three-day regatta in the world. Chiara and her husband Ron were thrilled to attend and watched Toby's team earn a medal out of the 44 entries in their event.

Perhaps someday in the future there will be more "full circle" moments for the Gajar family." *

Renowned Filmmaker, Hang Glider Craig Beck Soars in New Direction

by David E. Carmazzi

Legendary local ski filmmaker and hang glider Craig Beck has added another noteworthy chapter to his life - he just self-published his first book. *The Horse Murderer's*, is a novel based on a tragic series of actual local events and takes the reader on a fast-paced ride full of action, drama, great humor and several notable characters.

Seventy-eight years young Beck started his ski career shuttling film for photographers at the 1960 Olympic Games held in the valley. Although he barely knew how to ski, he was strong and healthy and just emulated the others on the mountain as he negotiated the tricky traverse from the jig-back tram to Squaw Peak. Beck went on to produce several ski movies, including the 1975 classic *Daydreams* which included great skiing, hang gliding and music and shot mostly on location in the valley. Beck, who came from a family of renowned pilots, holds a "Masters" rating from the U.S. Hang Gliding Association and has logged thousand of hours flying, including sail planes which are commonly called gliders.

The Horse Murderer's locales and other story elements come straight from his own exciting life adventures and experiences. The novel is quick-paced and an entertaining read full of relatable characters such as a brave helicopter pilot, corrupt gun dealer, a road-kill gathering old lady, a dirty sheriff and strong women - including the law enforcement hero.

Beck has been thinking of this story for over 40 years. He had spent many



cruel deed. An underlying theme to *The Horse Murderer's* is just that. The book is dedicated to "the preservation of the wild mustangs and the people who help them".

Beck and his wife Cindy are familiar with mustangs having had two for several years at his home in Carnelian Bay. They are familiar with the breed and its problems; so bringing awareness

The Horse Murderer's locales and other story elements come straight from Beck's own exciting life adventures and experiences.

hours flying over the Nevada desert near the Virginia Range and Washoe Lake area and would regularly see herds of wild mustangs running freely below him. And he embraced their wildness and the sheer spectacle.

Then a time came in the mid-80's when hundreds of mustangs were being "mysteriously" slaughtered throughout their range from Carson City to Virginia City and further north outside of east Reno. He said he had a hard time fathoming the kind of people that could do such an evil and

through *The Horse Murderer's* is much more than a creative venture, it is a also raises awareness about a worthy cause. Beck reminds us the slaughters continue to this day.

"I want people to understand the implications to human beings when horses are slaughtered or other cruelty is done to animals," he says.

Then in December 1999 two incidents, (ultimately found not to be related), again triggered his interest in the story he had to tell. It's these two random acts of real violence that



Craig & Cindy Beck cared for mustangs and know their plight well.

serve as the fictional backdrop for the book. First, 34 wild mustangs were found shot down just east of Reno near Lockwood. Days later, a sniper randomly shot at several moving cars on I-80 west near Boomtown. At least six cars are hit and one person injured. One of the victims was Olympic Valley skier

John Morrison who was struck through the chin before the bullet lodged in his chest. Morrison was able to drive himself to the Verdi Fire Dept. before being transported to Washoe Medical

who own guns, including the dealers and military types". But there are also plenty of good guys and gals to keep it mixed up on the positive side.

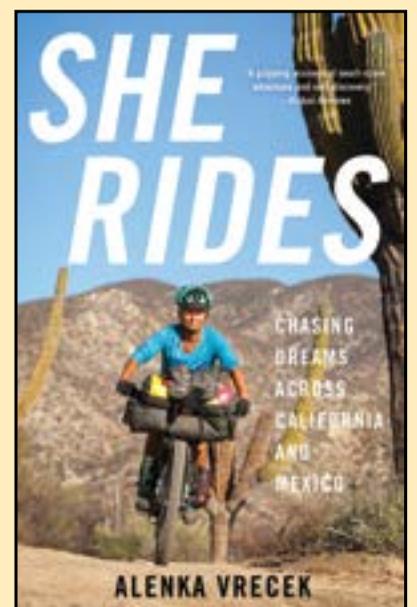
Speaking with Craig and looking forward he tells me this is the first of a trilogy, the second is better (and almost done) titled *Stormrider*, and he wants to see them all made into movies. The novel is action-packed and moves quickly, contains a great descriptive sequence of hang gliding, has plenty of horses (some narrative is from the mustangs' point of view). He says, "I let my imagination run."

I found it fun and entertaining, now available on Amazon or Barnes and Noble. ✨

She Rides Goes into 2nd Printing

In 2018, following a long stint of physical and emotional challenges, Alenka Vrecek, a 54-year-old former Palisades Tahoe ski instructor and coach, began a solo mountain bike ride from her home in Carnelian Bay to her second home in Baja, Mexico—a journey of over 2500 miles. Averaging 52 miles per day along the Sierra Divide and encompassing over 158,000 in vertical feet (like climbing Mt. Everest five times) Vrecek reached her destination in two months, arriving one day before Thanksgiving.

During the course of her trek, Vrecek posted about her adventure on a blog which prompted many of her friends to encourage her to write a book. Although she says she didn't consider herself a writer, a new challenge was conceived and an inspiring book was born: 'She Rides, Chasing Dreams Across California & Mexico.' The book is now entering its second printing and is available in bookstores and Amazon. Upcoming book events are posted on her site alenkavrecek.com



QUICKTURNS

with Jimmy King

'The King of the Mountain' Celebrates 50-Year Career

by Liz Worgan

This season marks the 50th anniversary for Palisades Tahoe Mountain Manager Jimmy King who has been with the resort since 1973. During his 50 decades of service he has become an indispensable "jack of all trades" and was made Mountain Manager in 1991. In the spring of 2019, King was recognized for his career and awarded the Dave McCoy Lifetime Achievement Award by the California Ski Industry Association.

"In my 40-plus years of being in this industry, I cannot think of anybody more deserving and worthy as the recipient of the Dave McCoy Lifetime Achievement Award," said Casey Blann, PT's retired vice president of mountain operations and project manager for the B2B. "He's the go-to guy. He will do anything, anytime for anyone who works for him."

The following interview by Liz Worgan can also be found on the Palisades Tahoe blog (palisadestahoe.com) and is published with permission.

What was your first season at Palisades Tahoe and what was your job?

I started on Nov. 19, 1973 in Lift Maintenance. It stormed really early that year, and there was a lot of snow by mid-November. They hadn't put all the chairs on Sq**w One yet, so I was helping to hang chairs. Then I became a lift operator for about three months. Then they hired me full-time as a lift mechanic.

How long were you a lift mechanic?

For years and years and years. I went from being a mechanic to being the Manager of Upper Lifts. (At Palisades, we have both an Upper Lift Maintenance and a Lower Lift Maintenance department). I also worked on Lower Lifts for a while. I helped out everywhere I could – even on the tram or on the [old] gondola. Back then, we had a very old PHB gondola, which was replaced twice before it was turned into the Funitel.

What memorable experiences did you have as a part of Lift Maintenance?

Building lifts was the most fun. We used to build all of our lifts in-house in the summertime. I learned how to do this from Yan [Kunczynski]. I spent time with him all over the west coast for part of a couple of summers learning how to build lifts, and then came back here full-time. We built Olympic Lady after it was wiped out by an avalanche. We

built KT-22. We built Far East. We built Shirley Lake, Silverado, Granite Chief, Emigrant, Bailey's Beach. All of those we built in-house. Those were some of the best parts of my career.

Was there a chairlift that was the most fun to build?

Yes. There's no question. Silverado was the most fun. It took two years to build, and

'I come to work no matter what the conditions are with a smile on my face. I don't think a lot of people in the world can say that.'

we had to hike in and hike out every day. In the winter, people ski over those cliffs under the lift line, but in the summer, we had to belay down them with ropes every day. It was hard work.

Can you talk about your cable splicing experience?



In 2019, King was awarded the Dave McCoy Lifetime Achievement Award by the California Ski Industry Association.

Yes, one thing that I did learn how to do, which there are not many people who can do it in the world, is cable splicing. I really enjoy it. When management changed, we stopped doing our own splicing quite as

much, but back in the day, we did all of that ourselves.

Did you always know you wanted to be the Mountain Manager?

It was always in my heart, yes. One thing I have also always enjoyed doing is building lifts.

Is there any season that particularly stands out?

Actually, two years ago in December really stands out. It was the snowiest Christ-



'The King' atop his alpine throne.

being in a snowcat. To be up there in the middle of a blizzard, alone with the other snowcat operators, when you can't even see your blade... that is the cat's meow.

You have worked a little bit in every Operations Department, that experience serves you well as Mountain Manager, right?

I do have to do a little bit of everything, from snowmaking to assisting Ski Patrol. I'm here for accidents and rescues. After all this time, my knowledge of the mountain is pretty cool.

What has the hardest part of your job been?

Safety. Keeping the team members safe is always the scariest and hardest part. What we do is fairly dangerous, and we try to keep everyone as safe as possible.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part is wintertime. Not many people love their job the way I do.

What are you most excited about this winter?

I look forward to having enough snow to put in the Silverado access road every year. I'm still just having a total blast. I'm hoping for a really good winter, and when I say that, I mean a lot of snow that we can get into full operations as soon as possible.

Do you still ski?

I do, and I learned to snowboard, too. When we were thinking about allowing snowboarding at the resort (late '80's), they gave a bunch of us snowboards and boots to learn all about it. So we did! I didn't get real good, but I was good enough to ride Shirley Lake. I preferred skiing. I'm a skier.

What do you like to do when you're not at the mountain?

I like mountain biking and surfing.

What keeps you coming back every year?

My job is one of the most fun jobs that anyone could ever imagine – in any industry, anywhere in the world. I come to work no matter what the conditions are with a smile on my face. I don't think a lot of people in the world can say that. ✨

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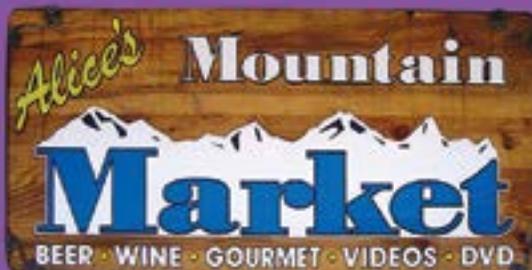
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Valley à la Carte

Sunset Happy Hour at High Camp

As the sun sets behind the snow-capped Sierra, High Camp hosts a "Sunset Happy Hour" from 4-6 p.m. on selected dates for a unique, high altitude après experience. Savor the sights of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding Sierra peaks while enjoying Happy Hour drink and dining specials. Cost is \$21 per person which includes Tram access and choice of one complimentary wine or beer. Appetizers and full bar menu are available for purchase.

Guests can start loading the Tram starting at 3:30 p.m. Current dates include Dec. 22-23, Dec. 28-29 & Jan.14. More dates are expected to 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.

Perfect Pairings

Once again the resort is offering a series of Winter Pairings Dinners at High Camp with select libations matched with specially-prepared heavy appetizers. The evening features family-style communal seating and the meal is served as a four-course plated dinner.

On Jan. 20, High West Whiskey will be the featured beverage. Dinners start at 6 p.m.; tram leaves at 5:45 p.m. For more information call 1-800-403-0206 or email mailto:banquets@palisadestahoe.com

Snowshoe Dinners 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.

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

Snowshoe Tours are scheduled for Dec. 27, Jan. 20, Feb. 10 & 14 and March 8 & 16. More 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 alpine-banquets@palisadestahoe.com.

When it's Time for Wine

The holidays are made for celebrating and what better way than with good friends and good wine. 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



Diners enjoy the Chalet's Bavarian ambiance.



Photos courtesy PT

The view at High Camp is spectacular, and a Sunset Happy Hour or a Winter Pairings Dinner is the perfect occasion to savor it.

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. Uncorkedtahoe.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 spin vintage vinyl on weekends. Tahoewinecollective.com

River Ranch Toys for Tots & Winter Welcome

The River Ranch Lodge hosts the 14th annual Toys For Tots and Winter Welcome Party on Dec. 12 and expands the fun with a Local Makers Sip and Shop.

Festivities run from 3-8 p.m. and include complimentary holiday treats, an extended Happy Hour and yuletide favorites from the North Tahoe Jazz Band starting at 6 p.m. Donate an unwrapped toy to spread some holiday joy. River-ranchlodge.com.

Christmas Eve Dinner

Let Santa's Helpers do the cooking on Christmas Eve. Enjoy a delicious grand buffet, complete with carving stations, holiday side dishes and desserts. Guests will receive a complimentary glass of champagne upon arrival, and afterwards a full bar will be available for purchase. Please make reservations by 5 p.m., Dec. 12. Reservation should include every member of the party, even children under the age of 4, to insure a properly-sized table. Dinner is hosted at the Olympic Valley Events Center and starts at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$90 for adults, \$29 for children 5-12 and free for children 4 and under. Excludes tax and gratuity. For reservations email banquets@palisadestahoe.com. ❄️

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VALLEY VIBE



Photo courtesy Chris Beck

Ho, ho, ho, let it snow!

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But as history has proven, it's not a matter of if, it's when.
And when Mother Nature decides when, it will be then.
But no matter what's on the ground, there will still be plenty of holiday magic in the air.

Please remember all events are subject to change and weather conditions.

For latest updates, go to palisades-tahoe.com or the resort app.
Enjoy & Happy Holidays!

Tahoe Live Presents REZZ & Diesel

The 2023-24 winter season at Palisades Tahoe kicks into high-energy mode with night-time concerts headlined by REZZ and Diesel (aka Shaquille O'Neal) Dec. 15-16 in The Village.

LIVE is partnering with Disco Donnie Presents to bring this exciting event to the resort for two nights of EDM. With more artists still to be announced, Tahoe Live 2023 will feature top-notch performances from midtempo bass star Rezz and NBA legend-turned-DJ, DIESEL, a.k.a. Shaquille O'Neal.

Concert goes will also have access to various food vendors and several outdoor bars and beer gardens.

Tahoe LIVE at Palisades follows notable successes, including last summer's Tahoe Live in South Shore, Salt Lake City Live, Park City Live and Billboard Winterfest. For ticket information go to tahoelive.net.



Photo by Michael Kennedy/PP

The Base to Base Gondola, linking Alpine Meadows and Palisades, is available for sightseeing.

Magical Memories at Everline

Throughout December, guests and local residents can enjoy a festive schedule of holiday events at Everline Resort & Spa's 18th Annual Magical Memories Holiday Showcase. Activities include snow shoe tours, cookie decorating classes, a holiday bear making factory, "Breakfast with Santa" and more. The resort's life-size gingerbread village, created by its talented team of pastry chefs, is also a must-see for the kids.

"We are thrilled to announce the annual Magical Memories holiday showcase at our beautiful North Lake Tahoe resort," said Larry Colton, director of sales and marketing of Everline Resort & Spa. "The Magical Memories holiday tradition is a special time for our guests and local community to come together in celebration

of the holidays."

For a full schedule of Magical Memories activities, please visit everlineresort.com or call (530) 412-7034.

Learn to Ski & Ride Special

The best time to learn a life-long sport is on Dec. 9-10 All-inclusive package includes a two-and-a-half-hour, half-day beginner lesson, rental equipment and limited beginner lift ticket for \$109. For more details go to palisades-tahoe.com.

Guided Snowshoe Tour Under the Stars

Experience a guided snowshoe tour up the Mountain Run. Participants will embark on a three quarter-mile loop that

surrounding mountains is from one of the resort's three enclosed lifts. Palisades Tahoe is the only resort in America which has a Gondola, an Aerial Tram, and a Funitel. Sightseeing Package allow all-day unlimited access to ride these three lifts. For more information go to Palisadestahoe.com.

Disco Tubing

"Saturday Night Fever" on a new level! Disco Tubing has become a hit for all ages and is so popular tickets are available only online. Sessions are 55 minutes long and start at the top of the hour, beginning at 5 p.m. Snow tubing is for adults and kids at least 40" tall and all tubers must be able to independently get in and out of their own tube. Adult and child sized tubes available; one person per tube. Winter boots recommended; ski boots not permitted. Operations weather and conditions permitting. Dates: Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 17, 18 & 24- 25. For tickets go to Events & Activities page at PalisadesTahoe.com.



Photo courtesy PT

Night Fever: Disco tubing is fun for the entire family.

ARC'TERYX Presents Tahoe Winter Film Tour

There are no uncommon journeys in the mountains because everyone's path is different. Join the tour on Jan. 20 at the Olympic Village Events Center for an evening of featured films premiering for the first time in Tahoe and explore ideas, share stories and get stoked for winter. Ticket proceeds will support the Washoe Tribe Cultural and Outdoor Expedition Program. Arc'teryx Athletes Michelle Parker, Elena Hight, Tatum Monod and Sam Kuch will be in attendance. Refreshments will be provided, including food and alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages.

Reception runs from 6-7 p.m. with screenings to follow.

Alpenglow Winter Speaker Series

The popular free winter speaker series once again returns to the Palisades Tahoe Event Center and each event benefits a non-profit.

For more information go to Alpenglowsports.com

begins and ends at the Plaza Bar in The Village. Adventure starts with a complimentary beverage and ends with a glass of champagne and a wide selection of hearty appetizers. Cash bar available. Snowshoes are provided free of charge and warm clothes advised. Meet at Plaza Bar at 4:30 p.m., tour starts at 5 p.m. Open to 21 and over. Cost is \$125. Dates: Dec. 7 & 11, Jan. 3, 17 & 31, Feb. 12 & March 4 & 18, To make a reservation call 800-403-0206 or email alpinebanquets@palisadestahoe.com

Great Basin Carolers in the Village

Enjoy the sounds of the season in The Village. Live caroling from the Great Basin Carolers will spread holiday cheer as they perform throughout the resort base over the Christmas weekend.

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Blast from the Past



'Disney's Christmas on Ice'

On Dec. 21, 1990, CBS-TV broadcast "Disney's Christmas on Ice" to a nationwide audience. The 60-minute special was shot at the new ice rink at High Camp and the newly opened Resort at Squaw Creek (now Everline).

Directed by Don Ohlmeyer, Disney characters performed with ice skating stars Peggy Fleming, Tai Babilonia, Randy Gardner, David Cousins, Gary Beacom, Judy Blumberg, Katarina Witt and Scott Hamilton who arrived several days early to scope out the locations. Here, Hamilton poses with SV marketing execs Bill Jensen and Debbie Kelly-Hogan. High Camp photo courtesy of David E. Carmazzi captures Cousins skating with Tigger and Pino.

Skiing the High Sierra & Beyond

In Skiing the High Sierra and Beyond, join Jim and John Morrison on January 4 on a walk/ski through iconic peaks and destinations, including Lake Tahoe, the High Sierra and remote mountain regions of the world. From the old growth trees of

Rubicon Peak to the steps of Red Slate couloir, from the ruggedness of the Matterhorn to the intensity of the Messner, from sunrises in Emerald Bay to sunsets over Mt. Everest, the Morrison brothers epitomize how the ski dream is meant to be chased. Presentation starts at 6 p.m.

Event will benefit the Send It Foundation.

If There's a Will, There's a Way: An Evening with Elyse Saugstad

Despite winning the Freeride World Tour in 2008, being named Freeskiing Magazine's Skier of the Year in 2018, and

winning the Powder Video Award's Best Female Performance (twice), Elyse Saugstad has found herself on the outside of the ski industry looking in. While hurdles throughout her ski life have been omnipresent, Saugstad has chiseled out a highly successful career through determination and grit.

Join Saugstad on January 17 for a funny, honest and down-to-earth presentation about what it means to be a successful woman and mother in the ski industry. This event will benefit The Courage Project.

Chapel Hosts Christmas Pageant & Candlelight Service

The historic Olympic Valley Chapel hosts a Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 24. Costumes and refreshments to be provided. Chapel is located at 444 Shirley Canyon Rd. around the corner from Palisades Tram. More information at olympicvalleychapel.org.

Ring in the New Year Palisades Style!

Join in the spectacular LED torchlight parade down Exhibition and then join the revelry in the Plaza Bar and around The Village. A New Year's Eve balloon drop at 9 p.m. on the KT deck is followed by fireworks and a live DJ. The parade start at 5 p.m. on Exhibition and pre-registration is required. ✨

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WinterWonderGrass: *Strummin' Around the Mountain*



Village gets the party started. Over the weekend in the main venue attendees will find an open-air outdoor main stage, three side stages (tented and heated), plus daily beer, whiskey, and spiked seltzer, complimentary tastings for those 21 and over, from 3-5 pm.

"The intention behind WinterWonderGrass and all our Bonfire Entertainment events is to hold space for a mindful, clean and comforting fan experience," says Scotty Stoughton who started WWG in Colorado 2013. "First and foremost, we create this for the people, the communities and our artists. WWG is itself a community; our attendees share our passion for protecting the environment, tasty craft brew, authentic music and collective kindness."

WinterWonderGrass has always embraced sustainable awareness and also includes a lively kids zone and local food vendors as part of the festival.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.winterwondergrass.com *

'WWG is itself a community; our attendees share our passion for protecting the environment, tasty craft brew, authentic music and collective kindness.'

- Scotty Stoughton, founder WWG

WinterWonderGrass Tahoe has announced the 2024 lineup for its eighth anniversary festival to be held April 5-7 at Palisades Tahoe.

The immensely popular, open-air music and brews festival brings together some of the best in bluegrass and Americana over a period of three days, amidst the resort's spectacular mountain backdrop.

The 2024 lineup consists of over two dozen bands across the four stages, including Sierra Ferrell, The Devil Makes Three, Paul Cauthen, The Infamous Stringdusters, Kitchen Dwellers, Andy Frasco & the U.N., Sierra Hull, Pickin' on the Dead, The Lil Smokies, Lindsay Lou, Sam Grisman Project, Winter Wonderwomen, Diggin' Dirt, Boot Juice, Cast Iron, Two Runner and others.

The free Thursday Kickoff Show in The



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