

PALISADES PRESS

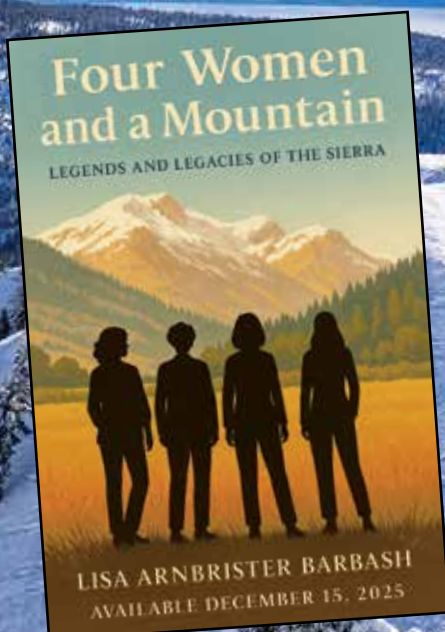
Celebrating Alpine Meadows & Olympic Valley

Early Winter 2025-26

PREPARE FOR TAKE OFF



Big Events on the Horizon



Meet the Author in Quick Turns

What's New for 2025-26

Bennett Braces for Third Olympics

FORGED: The Class of 2025

Daron Rahlves Launches a Deep Dive - Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

SKI IN, SKI OUT

Penthouse Living at Everline Resort



400 Resort Road, Unit 822 824
3 BD 4 BA 1970 SF \$1,895,000

Experience mountain luxury at its peak. This rare top-floor residence offers a full kitchen, three private bedroom suites, a beautiful interior, and a dramatic great room framed by floor-to-ceiling windows, showcasing iconic views of Palisades Tahoe, the golf course, meadow, and surrounding peaks.

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Turn to page 9 to see some of our new listings, price reductions and great opportunities.



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Larry, Chiara and Ron

Eight Peaks. Endless Possibilities.



FEATURED LISTING

PALISADES TAHOE LODGE 302 SKI IN. SKI OUT. REPEAT!

Live the Dream in Olympic Valley's Most Coveted Location! Experience the pinnacle of alpine living in this spacious top-floor Mountainside 1-Bedroom condo at Palisades Tahoe Lodge. Enjoy front-row views of the legendary Wa She Shu ski lift and the awe-inspiring Sierra peaks. Perfectly positioned for year-round adventure—this is mountain living at its finest.



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1 BD | 1 BA | Sold for \$901,000
REPRESENTING BUYERS



201 SHIRLEY CANYON RD | UNIT 159
1 BD | 1 BA | Sold for \$850,000
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Photos by Michael Kennedy

FORGED creator Toni Standteiner

FORGED: The Class of 2025

The Palisades Tahoe community gathered for the 2nd annual *Forged* Unveiling on Nov. 29. This monument, erected by local artist Toni Standteiner, honors decades of legacy, community, and excellence in winter sports. A total of 39 names are engraved on the monument's bronze plaques. Names of coaches, athletes, organizations, and people who have made this mountain what it is today. This project honors the past while creating a narrative for the future of our mountain, our sport, and our community. We are thankful to all of those who have been inducted and look forward to sharing the stories of those to come.

-Statement from Palisades Tahoe

The Artist's Vision

"My inspiration was "It takes a valley." I wanted to recognize the great people and places that foster top quality athletes and a community that come out of this stunning valley. The tall standing steel and bronze figures represent family and community, the copper figures are coaches and mentors, and the vertical rock shows the mountain as the central teacher of all the names here."

For inductee's bios go to:
blog.paladestahoe.com



Bill Hudson

2025 FORGED Inductees

Jimmy King
Osvaldo & Eddy Ancinas
Raymond de Vre'
Ernst Hager
CR Johnson
Tom Kelly Sr.
Errol Kerr
Peter Klaussen
Edith Thys Morgan
Jimbo Morgan
Daron Rahlves
Toni Standteiner
Bill Hudson
The Lake Tahoe Ski Club



Ernst Hager & Tom 'TK' Kelly

Palisades Tahoe Makes Multiple Upgrades for 2025-26 Winter Season

Palisades Tahoe rolls into the 2025-26 winter season with multiple upgrades on and off the mountain, including new snow-making investments, parking program enhancements, elevated après experiences, and a packed calendar of world-class events. Below are some of the highlights. Transportation updates are on page 10.

Improved Snowmaking

Eight fully-automated, fan guns have been installed on the Dance Floor trail at Alpine. These state-of-the-art machines automatically power on and off when conditions are right, making them more energy- and water-efficient than older models.

Three air compressors have been added at Alpine. Air, along with cold temperatures and water, is one of the three essential components of snowmaking. These compressors expand capacity and boost efficiency across the system.

A new pipe and valve system has



Photo by Michael Kennedy

Several fully-automated fan guns have been installed to enhance snowmaking operations.

been installed near the Palisades base area, increasing our ability to make snow on both Mountain Run and the Snow King area. This upgrade improves coverage on two of our most popular trails.

Two wells at Palisades have been rehabilitated, increasing water availability for snowmaking. This investment ensures a more reliable water supply and supports consistent snow coverage throughout the season.

New Lift Access Gates

The resort has replaced 64 existing lift access gates to improve guest flow and reduce congestion in lift lines. In addition, swing-arm turnstiles have been transitioned to flapper-style gates that simply open and close, creating a more seamless entry experience. Guests are reminded they should keep media on the left side of their body when passing through.

Mountain Sports School

Palisades Tahoe is expanding its Mountain Sports School offerings to provide more flexibility and value for guests. New Group Lesson 4 Packs will make it easier for skiers and riders to build skills consistently over multiple days. In addition, a new afternoon mogul clinic is being introduced, designed for intermediate to advanced skiers looking to sharpen their bump technique. These specialty clinics offer passholders a unique opportunity to hone specific skills in a fun, focused group environment.

Pursuit Athlete Team

In addition to the Pro Athlete Team, a new Pursuit Athlete Team is being formed this season. The group will feature rising athletes who are already competing at the professional level or are on track to get there. The program will help develop a high-performance athlete pipeline, enhance athlete growth, and provide a unique opportunity for young athletes to transition into professional careers.



BILL MURPHY
GLOBAL REAL ESTATE ADVISOR | CA DRE 00352874
530.386.1533 | bill.murphy@sothebysrealty.com



Palisades Tahoe Village, #2-312
Olympic Valley, CA
2 BD | 2 BA | \$1,335,000

Enjoy western exposure and world-class panoramic views of the Palisades Tahoe Mountain Run, Tram Rock and Shirley Canyon.

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1 BD | DEN | 2 BA | \$975,000
Enjoy the ultimate in convenience with slope-side living, a covered parking garage and private ski-locker.



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4 BD | 3 BA | \$1,120,000
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Live your best life at Eagle's Nest Lodge



1733 Christy Lane, Olympic Valley, CA

Perched at the west end of Olympic Valley, the Eagle's Nest Lodge is more than a home—it's a front-row seat to one of the world's most iconic ski destinations. With jaw-dropping mountain views and unmatched access to the slopes, this contemporary alpine retreat blends luxury, adventure and style in a way no other property can.

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5 BA

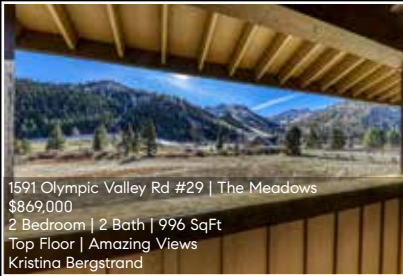
6,815 SF

\$6,595,000

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5.3 Acres | Sunny Lot | Rare Opportunity
1060SandyWay.com
Samantha Hall



1591 Olympic Valley Rd #29 | The Meadows
\$869,000
2 Bedroom | 2 Bath | 996 SqFt
Top Floor | Amazing Views
Kristina Bergstrand



5-424 Village at Palisades Tahoe
\$2,600,000
3 Bedroom | 3 Bath | 1786 SqFt
Top Floor | Vaulted Ceilings
Kristina Bergstrand



#722 /724 Everline Resort
2 Bedroom | 2 Bath
Valley and Mountain Views
Jeff Cleeland



4-327 Village at Palisades Tahoe
\$629,000 | 1 Bedroom | 1 Bath | 580 SqFt
www.22West327.com
Tram Face & Shirley Canyon Views
Suzanne Gale



5-409 Village at Palisades Tahoe
\$850,000 | 1 Bedroom + Den | 1 Bath | 824 SqFt
www.409East.com
Washer/Dryer In Unit
Suzanne Gale



2-216 Village at Palisades Tahoe
\$1,195,000 | 2 Bedroom | 2 Bath | 896 SqFt
www.216NorthFace.com
Updated | Shirley Canyon Views
Suzanne Gale



4-417 Village at Palisades Tahoe
\$1,395,000 | 2 Bedroom | 2 Bath | 1076 SqFt
www.22West417.com
Vaulted Ceilings | Tram Views | Extra Large Deck
Suzanne Gale



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PALISADES TAHOE LODGE SKI IN. SKI OUT. REPEAT!

A rare opportunity to own a premier residence at the base of Palisades Tahoe. This pristine, top-floor condo features vaulted ceilings and breathtaking views of KT-22, Wa She Shu lifts, and serene Cushing Pond—right outside your door. Enjoy the convenience of garage and covered parking, an updated fitness center, indoor and outdoor hot tubs, a pool, ski lockers, and an elegantly renovated lobby.

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and is good for the environment.

OPERATING SCHEDULE

December 6, 2025 – April 19, 2026

WITHIN OLYMPIC VALLEY

Daily 7am–11pm

WITHIN ALPINE MEADOWS

Thursday–Monday 7am–11pm

plus Tuesday and Wednesday 7am–11pm

- December 24–25
- December 30–31
- February 17–18

BETWEEN THE VALLEYS

Daily 5pm–11pm



**DOWNLOAD THE APP
AND RIDE WITH US**

MountaineerTransit.org



Larry Lawrence Receives Lifetime Real Estate Achievement Award



Larry Lawrence, center, with family members, left to right: Ron Gajar, daughter Chiara Gajar, wife Vikki and Luxury Real Estate Network associates at awards presentation.

Larry Lawrence, principal broker and CEO of Lawrence Realty, has been a fixture in Olympic Valley real estate for decades and was recently honored with a Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate Lifetime Achievement Award. Presented twice annually to industry-leading, longtime members of the Luxury Real Estate Network, Larry was selected for this honor to commend his many achievements and his

unwavering dedication to his company and community, according to the network.

"With decades of real estate experience used to guide clients through transactions, refined negotiating skills and distinct attention to detail, Larry repeatedly earns the trust of his clients and respect of his peers," said Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate President Meghan Barry.

Arriving in California as a graduate of Northern Illinois University, Larry transitioned to a local and fully immersed himself in the mountain lifestyle and the real estate community. He began his career becoming a licensed realtor in 1974, a broker in 1977, and established Lawrence Realty in 1985.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, Lawrence Realty has been recognized for "Best Mobile App" in 2013, "Most Innovative Marketing Technique" in 2016, and a "Significant Sale" in 2017. Larry also marked a milestone by receiving the "Billionaire's Club" Award in 2023.

Lawrence Realty is a family owned and operated California real estate business deeply rooted in Olympic Valley, also serving the surrounding communities within North Lake Tahoe and Truckee. Chiara Gajar, his daughter joined him in 1998, creating "A Father Daughter Team". Ron Gajar, Chiara's husband, joined the family business in 2005.

Larry has been a dedicated member of the Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate network for over 17 years and is part of group of more than 130,000 professionals with properties in more than 42 countries and collectively sells over \$300 billion of real estate annually.

Magnus Andersson Named Palisades Alpine Director

Palisades Tahoe recently named Magnus Andersson as Alpine Director, bringing over 15 years of World Cup experience to his new position. Andersson has spent a decade as head coach for Sweden and the U.S., most recently leading the U.S. Women's Team to podium finishes and top standings in Slalom and Giant Slalom. In his new role, he will oversee competitive racing programs, focusing on long-term athlete growth and a world-class development environment.



OLYMPIC VALLEY LISTINGS



700 Olympic Valley Rd.

4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, Den, Game Room, 3 Car Garage
Close to the Slopes with Meadow and Ski Area Views
Elegantly Renovated and Thoughtfully Designed
\$3,750,000

138 Tiger Tail Rd.

4 Bedroom, 3 Bathroom, Recreation Room, 2 Car Garage
Charming Home tucked against
Conservation Preserve Land
Flexible Floor Plan with Several Entries,
Decks and Living Spaces
\$1,650,000



Everline Resort Condos

Studios starting at \$325,000; 1Br's starting at \$525,000;
2Br's starting at \$699,000; 3Br's starting at \$1,595,000;
3Br Penthouses starting at \$1,895,000
Ski-in, Ski-out access to Palisades Tahoe

Village at Palisades Condo #5-417

1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Top Floor Condo
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Ski locker, Underground Parking,
Hot Tubs, Fitness
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Mountaineer Announces Expanded Fleet & Additional Wait Time Improvements

Mountaineer, the free, on-demand winter micro-transit in Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows, is increasing its vehicle fleet size by 15% for this winter season in order to improve wait times.

“Even though Mountaineer’s cumulative average wait time is just eight minutes, we’re adding to our fleet one vehicle in Olympic Valley and one vehicle in Alpine Meadows on Saturdays and Sundays to improve wait times and address passenger survey feedback,” said Joy M. Doyle, Mountaineer executive director.

In addition to more vehicles, Mountaineer Transit Company is working with its service provider on enhancements to the Mountaineer app technology and with Palisades Tahoe’s teams to improve wait time and wait time accuracy. Also, expanded education and communication around when passengers should request a ride to set typical ride wait time expectations is a priority for the upcoming season.

Because Mountaineer’s wait time varies greatly based on demand, it is recom-

ride in the queue cancels, passengers are advised to stay tuned to the app regularly and be ready to go any time after requesting their ride.

Another wait time improvement strategy this season is that Mountaineer drivers will follow a strict protocol of canceling rides if passengers are not curbside within three minutes of their scheduled pick time.

“Our goal with Mountaineer has always been to offer a convenient service that reduces in-valley traffic congestion by getting people out of their personal vehicles,” said Mike Martin, vice president of base area operations at Palisades Tahoe and Mountaineer Transit Company board chair. “Having provided rides to more than half a million passen-



Since 2018, the service has provided nearly 250,000 rides, transported over 500,000 passengers, and removed nearly 90,000 cars from resort community roads.

Mountaineer was created to reduce winter season traffic congestion and improve the guest experience. Since 2018, the service has provided nearly 250,000 rides, transported over 500,000 passengers, and removed nearly 90,000 cars from resort community roads, resulting in a reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by more than 150,000 miles.

Mountaineer Transit Company is the collaborative effort of Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows homeowner’s associations, lodging properties and Palisades Tahoe ski resort. Mountaineer’s mission is to provide winter season transit within Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows to assessed businesses’ guests, employees, owners, and visitors to improve resort traffic congestion, guests’ experiences, and safety. Mountaineer is funded by a microtransit district which includes 1.5% assessment on Palisades Tahoe lift

tickets and pack products, and on transient lodging and vacation rentals within Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows.

Learn more about Mountaineer and its achievements, visit www.MountaineerTransit.org.

CARPOOL PARKING PROGRAM OFFERS REWARD

Palisades Tahoe is introducing Carpool 4+ parking reservations as part of its expanded winter parking program. Each Tuesday at 12 p.m., reservations will open online for the upcoming weekend and holiday periods. Upon arrival, vehicles with four or more passengers can check in with a parking attendant to confirm eligibility. As a thank you for reducing traffic and supporting sustainability, carpool drivers will receive a \$20 resort voucher. For reservations go to PalisadesTahoe.com. *

MOUNTAINEER WINTER 25-26 OPERATIONS SCHEDULE

Fifteen nine-passenger, dog-friendly vans equipped with ski/snowboard racks and one ADA van is scheduled to operate between Dec. 6, 2025 and April 19, 2026 as follows:

- Daily in Olympic Valley from 7 a.m.-11 p.m.
- Thursday through Monday in Alpine Meadows from 7 a.m.-11 p.m., plus Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 a.m.-11 p.m. on Dec. 24-25, Dec. 30-31 and Feb.17-18
- Daily between Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows from 5 p.m.-11 p.m.
- Tahoe Live service December 12, 13, 14 until 2 a.m. within Olympic Valley
- New Year’s Eve service until 2 a.m. within Olympic Valley, within Alpine Meadows, and between the two valleys

mended that passengers request a ride 15-minutes or less during low-demand periods such as midweek, non-holiday, non-powder days. During high-demand periods such as weekends 8-10am and 3-6pm, holidays, and especially on powder days, passengers are asked to request a ride 30-minutes or more in advance of when they want to be picked up. Because drivers may arrive earlier than the app’s expected arrival time if a

gers to date, with some of the busiest days exceeding 2,000 passengers per day, it’s fair to say Mountaineer is well used. We’re committed to continuing to enhance service and by adding capacity and other improvements this winter, we aim to reduce wait times.”

Passengers can request rides through the Mountaineer app, which is a free download available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.



BEYOND THE VALLEY, RIDE TART CONNECT

Placer County’s TART Connect free on-demand, micro-transit service can be used to travel between Olympic Valley and River Ranch to North Lake Tahoe, including Tahoe City and the West Shore daily during TART Connect’s winter operating season. Beginning Dec. 11, 2025, TART Connect will operate from:

- 6-11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday
- 6 p.m.-12 a.m. Friday and Saturday
- Request these rides through the free TART Connect app
- Go to TahoeTruckeeTransit.com

THE MOUNTAIN MONEY MONITOR

Financial Observations from 6,225 feet

by Trent B. Green

AI: Boom or Bubble? Let the Bay Area Be Our Guide

From Dubai to San Francisco, the AI arms race is in full swing. AI has the potential to bring about a monumental change in the role humans play in the labor force. Countries are investing vast resources into Artificial Intelligence as we look to revolutionize the workplace. The United States invested a higher percentage of GDP into AI technology in 2024 than it spent on the Manhattan Project, the Interstate Highway System, or the Apollo Missions in any given year.

Although AI may one day transform global GDP, historically, many transformational technologies, from automobiles to the internet, have endured a crash before their actual adoption curve began.

Since the Great Depression, many technologies that have changed our economy have undergone a predictable cycle. First, there is overinvestment driven by euphoria over the technology.

Companies promising to be at the forefront of technology can achieve astronomical market valuations, creating a bubble. When the bubble bursts, it wipes out many of the companies competing to dominate the new technology. Then,

years of development from the surviving companies eventually led to the full integration of the technology into the economy. In the late 1920s, the excitement surrounding automobiles, radio, and electric appliances led to overinvestment in the stock market, culminating in the 1929 crash. In the late 1990s, Alan Greenspan, then Chairman of the Federal Reserve, warned of "irrational exuberance" in investments in websites with little to no plan to generate profits, which led to the bursting of the dot-com bubble in 2000. Twenty-five years later, with AI stock valuations at record highs, investors must decide whether this is the technology that will break the cycle or whether AI is another bubble waiting to pop.

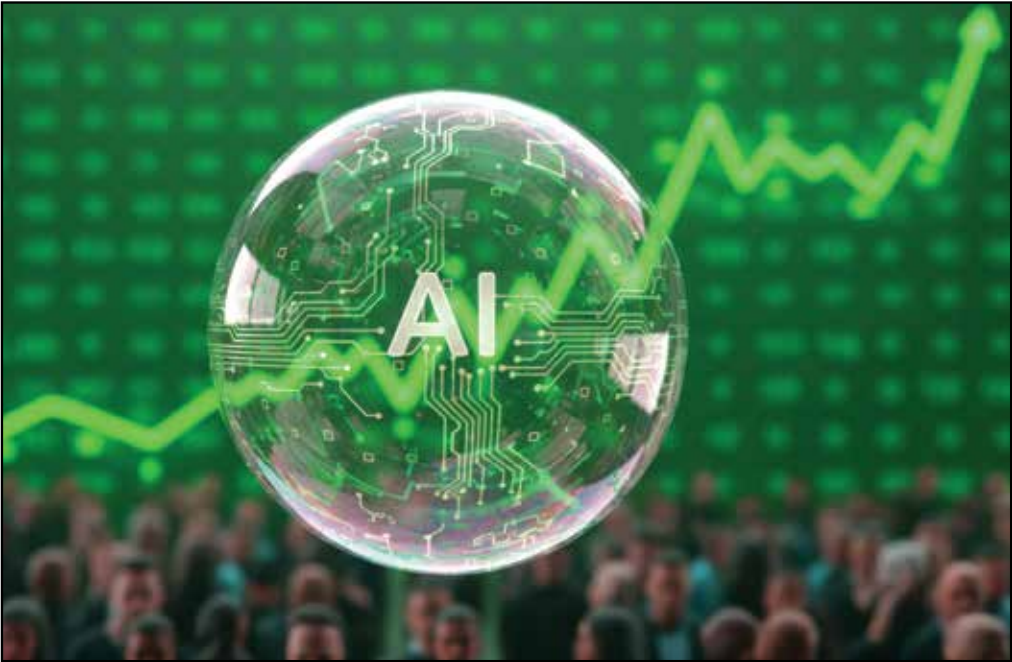
The fear that a bubble is forming is growing rapidly. Google search data shows that interest in "stock market bubble" surged to its highest level in a year, climbing over 90% in October. Many on Wall Street believe the market is overvalued. Warren Buffett, one of the most suc-

cessful investors in history, is withdrawing billions from the stock market. One of the main reasons is that the Buffett Indicator, the ratio of the total stock market valuation relative to the size of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is at an

all-time high of 217%. This means the stock market's value is currently more than twice the size of the United States' annual economic output.

The Buffett Indicator reached its high-

Continued on p. 12



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PROJECTS DUE:
April 22, 2026

ENTERING IS EASY!

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- Choose an environmental issue
- Enlist an advisor (teacher, parent, local leader)
- Create a plan to address your chosen issue
- Put your plan into action
- Report results via our super simple online form

SHANEMCCONKEY.ORG

SHANE MCCONKEY FOUNDATION

Resort Debuts World's First Diesel-Electric Snowcat

This winter the resort will be utilizing a PistenBully 600E+, the world's only diesel-electric snowcat. The innovative transport represents the future of sustainable mountain operations, offering greater power, efficiency, and environmental responsibility than traditional snowcats.

The PistenBully 600E+ is not only quieter than other machines in its class. By combining a diesel engine that runs at an optimal speed with an electric drive train, the 600E+ reduces fuel consumption significantly. In downhill operation, its electric motors act as generators, easing the load on the engine and further improving efficiency.

Beyond sustainability, the 600E+ also enhances performance. With up to 16% more thrust and instant torque, this machine can push higher volumes of snow while consuming less energy. It features a longer chassis for better climbing ability and is capable of covering more ground than any other PistenBully model available in North America.

Palisades Tahoe's 600E+ also comes

equipped with SnowSat LiDAR, an advanced snow depth measurement and fleet management system. This technology allows operators to measure snow depth in real time up to 165 feet around the machine, ensuring that snow is placed exactly where it's needed. The result: fewer passes, reduced fuel use, and slopes that are perfectly built to last longer.

This season, all of Palisades Tahoe's snowcat fleet will operate on 100% renewable diesel, further advancing the resort's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. The fleet now runs on Neste Renewable Diesel, made from 100% renewable raw materials. Over the fuel's lifecycle, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by more than 60%—and up to 75%—compared to fossil diesel. This shift represents a major milestone in the resort's goal to power its operations more sustainably without compromising performance.

Additionally, the PistenBully 600E+ is outfitted with a park push frame, giving operators greater articulation of movement and efficiency in projects such as



Photos courtesy of PT

Introducing the new PistenBully 600E+.

trail transitions and lift ramps.

"We're always looking for ways to operate more efficiently and reduce our environmental footprint," said Sydney Earley,

Director of Health, Safety & Sustainability. "The PistenBully 600E+ helps us do both, combining cutting-edge technology with responsible mountain operations." ❄️

MMM Continued from p. 11

est relative peaks in 2021, 2008, and 2000, all of which coincided with significant market downturns.

The Buffett Indicator is not the only sign of history repeating itself—look no further than the Bay Area. Just as Silicon Valley was the epicenter of the dot-com boom, it is now the heart of the AI frenzy. In the late 1990s, more than 1,500 web-based startups sprang up in the region, driving a surge in housing costs as talent flooded in. Today, over 1,000 AI companies call the Bay Area home, and rents are climbing again—up 11% to 13% in a single year. This mirrors the 20–30% spike seen before the 2000 crash. As web-based companies and startups emerged, unemployment rates declined. Between 1996 and 2000, the Bay Area's unemployment rate steadily fell from 5.6% to 2.4%. This trend reversed in January of 2000, three months before the bubble burst, when the unemployment rate rose from 2.4% to 7.4% by 2003. Today, we are seeing a

similar trend: the unemployment rate in the San Francisco Bay Area has averaged around 3.9% since August 2023, driven by AI industry job growth. However, we are starting to see a change: the unem-

ployment rate rose from 3.6% in May to 4.3% in August. Unfortunately, due to the government shutdown, we do not have unemployment data for San Francisco from August to the present day. However, we expect the unemployment rate to continue climbing due to high-profile AI-driven layoffs from Salesforce, Intel, Meta, Google, and other tech giants in the area.

AI will most likely reshape the global economy, but not before a reality check.

This oversaturation of startups, the spike in rents, and the rise in unemployment all echo the trends of the dot-com bubble. When the dot-com bubble burst,

the Bay Area was devastated, and the ripple effects were felt throughout the entire economy. With California's GDP rivaling India and the Bay Area alone matching Saudi Arabia, an AI-driven correction would not just shake Silicon Valley - it could send shockwaves across the globe. AI will most likely reshape the global economy but not before a reality check. Proponents argue that today's investments are grounded in tangible innovation and real economic potential; however, that potential may be too far down the road to avoid a significant market correction. Indicators such as the Buffett Indicator and surging valuations echo patterns of past bubbles, pointing to a correction. In times like this, we remind ourselves that every time the

press uses the phrase: "This time is different," it never is!

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FOR THE 96146 NEWSLETTER

Your monthly snapshot of what's happening in the Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows: Community- local updates, handy resources, environmental notes, safety tips, events and useful insights.

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PALISADES TAHOE 800-403-0206 Phone numbers are 530 area code unless otherwise noted

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The Village at Palisades Tahoe	584-1000
Red Wolf Lodge	877-344-0686
Everline Resort & Spa	412-7039
Palisades Tahoe Lodge	562-4881
PlumpJack Inn	583-1576

DINING & APRÉS

The Arc	452-4533
Asian Fusion	
Dubliner Irish Pub	584-6041
Coffeebar	580-4200
Euro Snack	
Euro Sweets	581-0600
Everline Resort Restaurants:	583-6300
Cascades	
Iron Road Noodle House	
Sandy's Pub	
Six Peaks Grille	
Fireside Pizza Co	829-0982
Granite Bistro	452-7278
Little Bear	584-6120
Le Chamois	583-4505
Plaza Bar	452-8750
PlumpJack Café	583-1578
Rocker	584-6080
Slot	584-6170
Sunbowl	584-6161
Terrace Restaurant	452-7278
39 North	452-4547
Tremigo Mexican Kitchen	584-6021
Twenty Two Bistro	584-6170
Wildflour Baking Co.	583-1963

RETAIL

Alice's Mtn. Market	581-2014
Adventure Center	581-7536
Gallery Keoki	583-1404
Gold Coast Demo Center & Sport Shop	452-4172
KTees Logo Wear	452-4379
Lather & Fizz	584-6001
The Ledge Board Shop	452-4477
Leffler Leather Goods	925-323-1560
Little Bear	584-6120
Mind Play	584-6133
The North Face Store	452-4365
Oakley	452-4378
Olympic Bootfitters	581-0747
Palisades Tahoe Logo Company	584-6250
Parallel Mountain Sports	452-4478
Patagonia	452-4455
Roark	584-6252
Surefoot Custom Bootfitters	581-2421
Uncorked	584-6090
<i>Some of the above listings are seasonal.</i>	

MISCELLANEOUS

Alpenglow Expeditions	877-873-5376
Info/Lost & Found	452-7185
Mountaineer	MountaineerTransit.org
OV Fire Dept.	583-6111
OV Post Office	583-5126
OV Public Service Dist.	583-4692
Palisades Press	412-0249
Palisades Rentals	452-4115
Palisades Yoga	584-6140
Tahoe Forest Health	
System Clinic	452-4181
TART Connect	TahoeTruckeeTransit.com
Inn Ski Shop	583-2195
SnoVentures	452-4474
Olympic Valley Chapel	581-4011

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Lux Mountain Collections	584-6282
Intero	412-3070
Kennedy Property Management	608-9150
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David Gemme	277-8881
Jovanah McKinney	414-6500
Bill Murphy	386-1533
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USST Veteran Bryce Bennett Braces for Third Olympic Endeavor

As this alpine ski racing season kicks off, the U.S. Ski Team has high hopes for success at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics. Alpine women will be racing at the Tofane Alpine Skiing Centre in Cortina, and the alpine men will be racing at the Stelvio Ski Centre in Bormio; Feb. 4-18.

Palisades Tahoe has been a consistent provider of top tier World Cup athletes for over 60 years. This year is no exception. While the Olympic team won't be named until January, several Palisades Tahoe athletes are in the pipeline.

This past March, Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals landed on home U.S. soil at Sun Valley, ID. It's a rare occurrence to have any World Cup events in the U.S., especially the Finals. During the sunny days of late spring, 25 athletes from each discipline, from around the world, gathered for competition and to finalize World Cup standings and hand out the globes to the winners.

The first event, Downhill, was scheduled for March 22. Reports on the new course on Challenger, Bald Mountain/Sun Valley, was that the steep terrain was packed with lots of

at Squaw, we had such a great crew of kids, going through the Might Mites system, we all pushed each other pretty hard. But we always had such good people. We just had fun," he says. "We were serious, but it was enjoyable. Obviously just skiing KT all the time helped, but what I focus on is all the great people who got me here. Here I am, 32, and still ski racing."

Catching Bennett at the finish of day two training, Bennett was visibly worried about missing the birth of his first child, due the next day – the Finals Downhill. Baby due any day, I asked Bennett how that was going?

"Baby due date tomorrow. It's a lot of stress and not so much the Downhill. I just feel like I should be there. The worst thing I can do is ski slow tomorrow, then it's a real waste of time. If she goes into labor tonight, I'm out. It's just a ski race. It's all good," Bennett said to the surprise of other ski reporters.

It turns out the Downhill was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions (fog and wind). Bennett was able to fly home to Truckee (via a fan's private jet) and



Photos courtesy USST

Local racers Bryce Bennett, above and bottom right, and AJ Hurt are on course for the Olympics.



Both Hurt and O'Brien reminisce about time growing up skiing at Palisades Tahoe. "It was just so much fun," Hurt emphasizes. O'Brien said, "It was a great place to really enjoy skiing; to explore all the terrain. For races like this at Sun Valley, which has lots of terrain, it's equally as important as skiing the course," says O'Brien.

As they head into the 25/26 season, the focus will be on the Olympics, but it's a long path to get there. Copper Mountain, CO hosted World Cup events over Thanksgiving; moving on to men's speed events at Beaver Creek,

CO in early December. It's a win for US athletes to be close to home. Continuing to put his new family first, Bennett will have his family in Colorado, as well as Europe during the racing season.

Keep your eyes on these and other Palisades Tahoe athletes. Olympic heritage runs deep. *

Bennett is a two-time Olympian competing in the Downhill and Alpine Combined in 2018; and the SuperG and DH in 2022. Overall, he had a total of 92 Downhill starts from 2013-2025. That's all a big deal in ski racing.

turns and varying conditions. I had a chance to catch up with U.S. Ski Team veteran, and local Palisades Tahoe athlete, Bryce Bennett after the March 21 training run. Bennett is currently ranked 15 in World Cup DH standings. Bennett has had some top ten DH finishes in recent seasons with a 6th at Wengen, 8th Val Gardena, 7th at Kvitfjell, and 6th at Beaver Creek this past season; and scoring 1st place finishes at Val Gardena in December of 2023 and Bormio in December of 2021. Bennett is a two-time Olympian competing in the Downhill and Alpine Combined in 2018; and the SuperG and DH in 2022. Overall, he had a total of 92 Downhill starts from 2013-2025. That's all a big deal in ski racing.

Even with all his accolades Bryce Bennett is a down-to-earth local guy, praising his hometown hill, Palisades Tahoe, for his success. "Growing up

make it to the birth of his beautiful baby, Kate. "Timing & line", a ski racing adage, worked in Bennett's favor.

Moving on to the tech events, fans cheered on two other athletes with roots at Palisades. Nina O'Brien grew up skiing Mighty Mites, before moving on to Colorado, and eventually Burke Mountain Academy. O'Brien is ranked 14th in World Cup Giant Slalom; is a one-time Olympian; and has 48 World Cup starts. The Sun Valley Finals were good to O'Brien with a 12th in the GS.

AJ Hurt hails from Carnelian Bay and still skis for Team Palisades Tahoe. An up-and-coming tech skier, Hurt has several podiums under her belt, with two 3rd place World Cup wins in 2024, a 7th WC GS at Sestriere in 2025; and a 2nd at GS Nationals; as well as the National Slalom title. Hurt was all smiles about an 8th in the GS Finals at Sun Valley.

Jeff Engerbretson Sets Sights on Milano Cortina



Jeff Engerbretson, an Emmy Award-winning cameraman, will be heading to his second Olympic Winter Games in February. In his last stint for NBC-TV, the Truckee resident garnered a Sports Emmy for Outstanding Technical Team Event at the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

Jeff, who also shoots still photography for Palisades Tahoe, will again be working Olympic alpine events.

At Beijing, COVID-19 restrictions were strictly enforced and limited Jeff's access beyond the race course. He says he's looking forward to returning to a more relaxed atmosphere in Europe.

"I've traveled in Italy a lot and skied there a lot. I love the country and the food. I don't speak the language but always manage just fine."

A 'Fro' Flashback Celebrates Iconic Ski Film *Daydreams*

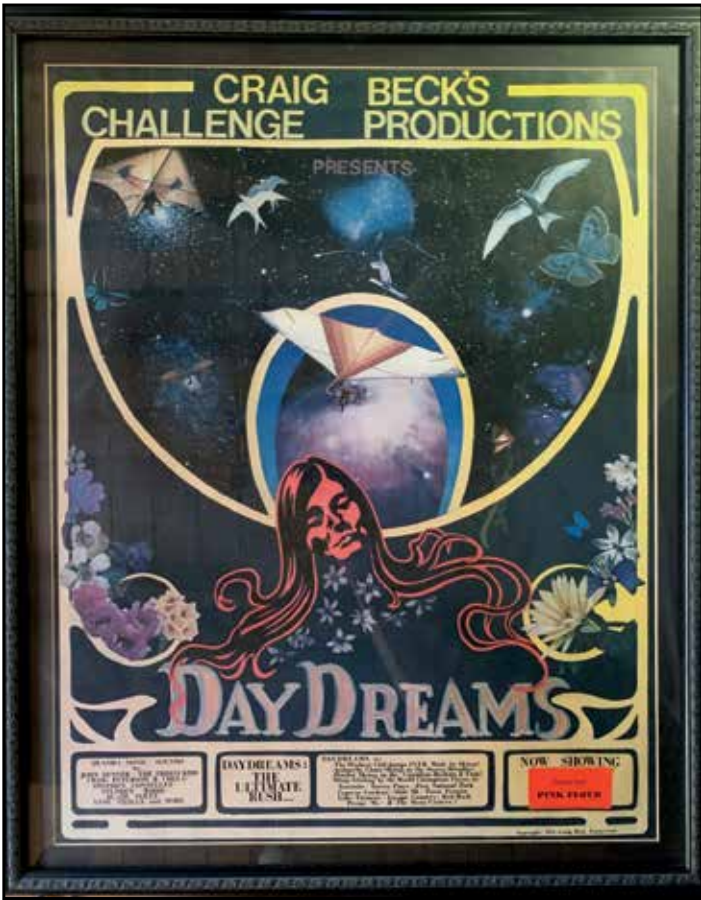
Fifty years ago, the ski-hang gliding film *Daydreams* was shot and edited during the winter of 1974-75 by North Shore resident Craig Beck. Twenty years ago, the late author and *SV Times* columnist Robert "Fro" Frohlich reflected upon the film's lasting impact which was validated in November by a sold-out audience at the Cobblestone Cinema in Tahoe City. Beck, who recently turned 80, says Fro's article which ran in *Tahoetopia* still resonates today, as well as the adventure flick itself. Thus, we present a double flashback.

The Concept

"My basic idea was a fantasy type of film," recalls self-taught filmmaker Beck, 80, who lives in Tahoe Vista on the North Shore. "I wrote it somewhat like a symphony with an introduction, the hills and valleys, and the climax. I didn't want a lot of narration like other ski movies have--no build up of bull. So I set the film to original music plus some which I bought from Pink Floyd."

Big Air

Whether it's skiing the steepest of the steep on "Idiot's" at Alpine Meadows, hang gliding the California coast, carving rowdy lines in the Canadian



Bugaboos, or watching Craig's younger brother Greg uncork a then-record 100 feet of air off Palisades Tahoe's Palisades, *Daydreams* stirs the soul and piques the psyche into an almost paranormal validation of freedom. Scenes swell and crash like teen-age mood swings.

"The big jump is still something that

blows me away," admits Beck who moved to Tahoe with his family in 1960. "I'm still actively filmmaking and I've been privileged to work with today's finest skiers and boarders. However, those guys, back then, defined big air. Greg's jump is truly incredible. We measured it and it was over 100 feet. The damn jump, though a perfect landing, knocked my brother out cold," recalls Craig Beck.

Although Greg's launch into the air is the film's biggest left hook to viewers' jaws, the film follows on with other ecstatic jumps that cross over into Oz. One has to remember that skiing was just growing out of the Jet stick and Bear Cat binding era into new technology. Most of the film's skiers, which included Chris Von Der Ahe, Brady Keresy, Pecos Welch, Earl Downing, and Tuck Rivard, skied on rudimentary equipment in blue jeans and wool shirts. That's what makes some of the jumps--such as the back flip by the late David Burnham off the Palisades into 80 feet of air--even more remarkable.

Mark Rivard was the only one to get hurt. Near the end of filming he broke both ankles jumping off the Palisades.

"I was really upset when Mark hurt himself," admits Craig, who began his journalistic career as a messenger for AP during the Palisades Tahoe Olympics. "Mark was the best and most beautiful jumper. Up until then we'd been filming without any type of injury. But his injuries didn't stop anybody. The next day David did his flip off the Palisades, an incredible feat."

Production

What's more remarkable than the skiing was the film's production. Beck's previous experience up till then had been only a Super-8 ski movie set to music called "Timepiece," and a 16-millimeter short he'd filmed in the Bugaboos.

Daydreams cost \$100,000 to make. Taking out loans to cover costs, Beck did practically everything himself in Orson Wells-like fashion. Beck designed new camera mountings on the wing tips of gliders and inventing unusual dissolve transitions. He was the film's cameraman and he filmed sequences with a beat up, Bell and Howell and Aeroflex cameras. He edited the footage in his own house using a crude A and B roll editing process. He even mastered the original soundtrack (along with Steve Connelley, Blair Pretz, and Ann Vieille). He estimates it took 100 days of filming and 15,000-feet of film to get what he wanted.

"I finished editing the film the night before it was supposed to premiere at the Cobblestone in Tahoe City,"

Continued on p. 18

Former RSC Executive Revisits & Remembers

Thirty years ago, Mary Jane "MJ" Kolassa left her job as the Director of Public Relations at the Resort at Squaw Creek (now the Everline Resort & Spa) and moved to Florida with her husband Dan to pursue job opportunities.



Mary Jane Kolassa at High Camp.

This September, the Kolassa's took what they fondly called their "pilgrimage" to revisit old friends, old haunts and the beautiful scenery of the Tahoe/Truckee region. Renting a lakeside condo in Tahoe City, they were flabbergasted at the growth but warmed by the memories. Here are some MJ's observations and recollections.

Getting Re-acquainted

We recognized the spot where the Big Tree had stood until 1994. And several of the shops and eateries, including Jake's on the Lake. During the week, driving around we stopped and caught a bite and enjoyed the scenery at GarWoods, Sunnyside, River Ranch and Bar of America.

We also enjoyed an afternoon boat rental at Sunnyside Marina, and we cruised towards Emerald Bay, catching sight of the Tahoe Queen while on the water. The coup de grace was taking the tram up to High Camp in Palisades Tahoe. Each winter Dan and I had seasonal ski passes and spent every weekend on the slopes. I was surprised that many trails had been renamed



Photo by John Clausen

'MJ', second on the left at a celebrity event with performers Carol King and Kenny Loggins, center. Joining them, left to right, Bob Cole, President World Wide Stereo; Jeannie Guenard, Conference Planning Manager for RSC/Everline; Leslye Schaefer, Sr. VP Marketing & Promotions for VH-1; and Jack Williams, VP General Sales Manager for American Airlines.

but comforted that many beloved runs still bear their original names (Champs Elysse, Mountain Run, Bailey's Beach, Gold Coast and Siberia Ridge, to name

a few). We used to pull our truck up to the Papoose chairlift, so we headed there to find the simple lift has been replaced by the Far East Express cable

Continued on p. 18

Lisa Arnbrister Barbash Authors Book on Remarkable Women of the Valley

Lisa Arnbrister Barbash has always shown a strong drive to succeed. Whether on the ski slopes where she was a precocious FIS racer and a NASTAR pacesetter, or in business where she ran the popular Fine and Funky clothing boutique in Tahoe City while also launching "Tuff Scentence," a scented nail polish product that gained national acclaim on the Oprah Winfrey Show, the 1980 North Tahoe High School grad has demonstrated a knack for setting goals and achieving them.

In November, Lisa accomplished another lofty achievement, the publishing of her first book, *Four Women and A Mountain*, a tale of four influential women who helped shape the history of Olympic Valley. The four subjects include Gladys "Sandy" Poulsen, Jeanne Router, Sherry McConkey and Lisa's mother, Neata Arnbrister. Together, the four women's stories offer a compelling look at their courage, their resilience, and the things that they did that created a lasting influence our mountain communities.

Palisades Press Associate Editor Nancy Schlarmann-O'Connell, an accomplished writer and historian in her own right and a long-time friend of Lisa, sat down to chat with her former classmate about the new release.

So, have you always been a writer?

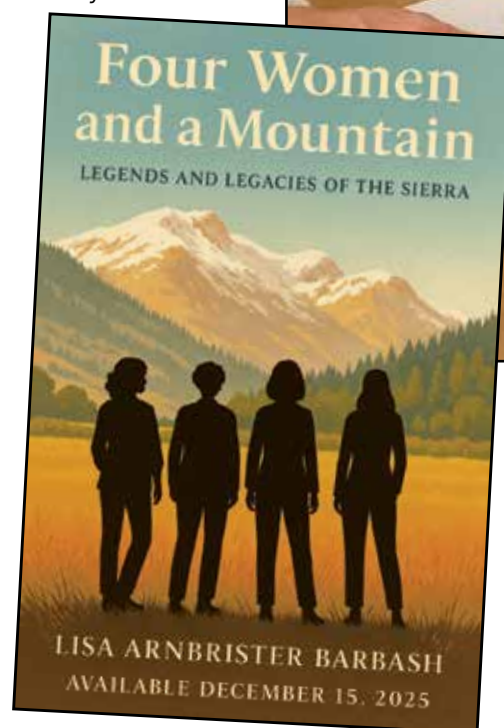
"Not really. I've always been a voracious reader. My mom read to us as kids and I loved reading. I remember Nancy Drew, obviously, when I was a little kid in Tahoe, I read a lot, but I'd never really read the classics until later. And I've always loved writing. I tested out of English 101 in college, and I went straight into English 102.

I was good at it, but writing was never my thing. Reading, for sure, was my thing, and I just read all the time, whenever I could. My favorite book that really kept me going was *Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand. That was my very first, like, towering novel that I just couldn't get enough of other women's voices after I read that.

The idea for writing this book, *Four Women in Mountain*, came from the late Robert Frolich's book, *Mountain Dreamers*. It explores 27 different founders, mostly fathers, who were visionaries of the Sierra. They are stories about these families who have really influenced my life in a lot of ways. I remember being at a race at Mammoth Mountain with Lee Sevison, who knew Andrea Meade Lawrence. Lee took us into Andrea's house, and I saw the Olympic gold medals and met An-

drea. Meeting people who you've idolized was so incredible, and then to find them in Fro's book was really cool.

I started thinking about the women, and I wanted to go back into their histories of how their life started. And all four of these women: Sandy Poulsen, Jeanne Router, Nita Arnbrister, and Sherry McConkey have amazing background stories. We know Sandy Poulsen went from the penthouse at the Sherry Netherlands Hotel in New York City, to the tent-house on the meadow in Olympic Valley.



Jeanne Reuter was a beauty queen, born in San Francisco, and was part of a separated and divorced family which never really happened



A book signing party with Lisa is set for 3:30 p.m., Dec. 19 in Bar One.

back in in 1933. Her father helped build the Golden Gate Bridge. These early upbringings that all four of these women had really influenced their lives going forward.

Sherry McConkey was born in apartheid South Africa, and the segregations laws in place then meant she was considered to be a person of color because she is half Iranian and half Irish. Sherry also says that she's very grateful she was born

blonde-haired and blue-eyed because no one would really think of her as being colored, but by all standards, she was. Her life was very complicated, but also very interesting.

And then there is my mother, Neata, who also I talk about in this book. My mom never knew her mom, ever, because she went through electro-shock therapy and was completely catatonic for almost her mother's whole life. She kept it pretty much in her pocket, and didn't talk a lot about it, but it really affected her early childhood. And fortunately for her, she was raised by her grandmother, who was very loving, and caring."

Was it difficult to write this book?

"This book has been a true labor of love. It took me about two-and-a half years to write, which feels both impossibly long and like the blink of an eye when I think about everything these women entrusted me with.

For the story, I spoke with Russell Poulsen, Jeanne Reuter, Sherry and Ayla McConkey, and my cousin Terri Jimenez – each conversation its own window into a different era of the mountains.

What struck me most, and what ultimately became the heartbeat of the book, was how similar their cores truly are. Every woman shares this fierce devotion to the mountains, this deep love for her husband and family, and this willingness to step forward – sometimes quietly, sometimes boldly – for the greater good of both their loved ones and their community."

Tell us about your background.

"I was born in San Mateo and we moved to San Carlos when I was in second grade. My parents became house flippers. My grandfather taught me how to ski when I was 2 at Dodge Ridge. He was a San Mateo fireman, and he was very happy to teach his grandkids how to ski.

My mother was taught very young, and then my father became a skier because of her. My parents, decided to build a cabin on Highway 88. They bought some property, near Pioneer/Buckhorn. It was really cool growing up this way, because we learned about building really early on. You know, we dug holes in the ground for the poles. It's a round pole house, and it was constructed from the wood that my father got from his employer. For the next five years, we

'What ultimately became the heartbeat of the book, was how similar their cores truly are. Every woman shares this fierce devotion to the mountains, this deep love for her husband and family, and this willingness to step forward - sometimes quietly, sometimes boldly - for the greater good of both their loved ones and their community.'



Lisa's mother, Neata Arnbrister.

would drive from San Carlos up to the cabin. So, you know, we packed our VW bus, and we drive off... up Highway 88 and ski.

Kirkwood had just been built, so this was about 1974, and we would ski there all the time. I was 9 years old, and I won a ski race on Chair 2, at Kirkwood. I beat all the boys, and I was very proud of myself! I won a season pass to ski the next year, and then the rest is history. I just became addicted to it.

We then moved to Tahoe City from San Carlos, but we kept our cabin for years. My parents also started looking into businesses, and they found a health food store, Tahoe City Health Foods, which they bought and turned it into this just little mecca of a health food store. It employed a lot of ski rac-

ers - Edith Thys worked there.

This was in the mid-70's. I was in the school system there, and fortunately for me, I'd ski raced with a lot of them, so I was pre-qualified for FIS as an 11-year-old, as a guest. I got to travel everywhere from the age of 13 on. We were in Europe, America, we were in all over the United States, we even went to Alaska."

And then came Fine 'n Funky?

"There was this little tiny boutique that sold jeans in the Cobblestone. It wasn't doing well, and the owner wanted to sell. I'm not exactly sure how this happened, but my dad won the bid to purchase a lot of his inventory for pennies on the dollar. My mom named it Fine 'n Funky. When we started carrying Guess jeans, the store really just turned around. It became a huge success. I became best friends with one of the founders of Guess Jeans, and that created a whole other dimension of knowing what fashion was about coming out of LA. It was really fun - a very exciting time in fashion."

What was it like growing up and ski racing in Olympic Valley?

"It was so different then. Families in the valley were always hosting kids who came here for races. And the whole community supported the ski racing community, that's for sure. And it's not like that anymore. It's not as casual as it was then. It was completely different. And being exposed to that, you become part of these other people's families. And this happened all over the world, not just in Olympic Valley. Wherever you went, the ski racing community would support the other ski racers, and it was just a really incredible way to grow up. Mark Sullivan was our coach. I just always, always loved him. He was such a good human and an incredible coach. He really loved his kids, loved our community. He was definitely a such a big part of it.

So, it was fun. It was fun. A fun, fun, fun way to grow up. I feel very fortunate."

So might there be another book on the horizon?

"I think so. Now, maybe that I've brought some of these women into the forefront, telling others about their courage, their resilience, the things that they influenced our communities with. I encourage anyone else to keep writing like this about these people who have really meant a lot to them. Halfway through, I wanted to give this to a friend and say, "you write it, I can't do it." Because it was a lot. I had no idea what I was

A Scent of Success Led to Oprah Show

In the mid-90's Lisa Arnbrister Barbash had a brainstorm, and it landed her on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

"I was watching my daughter play with scented markers and thought, why can't nail polish be fun and sensory like that? That little spark became the Tuff Scentence brand that took off faster than I ever expected," she says.

"Celebrities like Cindy Crawford, Scarlett Johansson, Alanis Morissette, and Tori Spelling started wearing it, and that momentum is what landed Oprah—her show aired in February 1999—then Good Morning America and the Today Show. Suddenly, Tuff Scentence was everywhere: Bloomingdale's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Sephora, Nordstrom. It was surreal to see something I created on shelves I'd only ever browsed as a dreamer."

After nearly three decades, Tuff Scentence Scented Nail Polish is back in the beauty spotlight with a revolutionary new formula, the special launch color, "Lake Tahoe Blue," infused with winter-green fragrance.

"So bringing it back now feels both nostalgic and empowering. It's a reminder that a small idea—born from a moment with my daughter—can grow into something iconic. And the whole wild, beautiful journey is right there in the book."



Sherry and Ayla McConkey with Vinnie atop the Eagle's Nest.



Sandy Poulsen in the valley with children, clockwise from top, Wayne Jr., Christian, Lance, and Sandra.

in for. Not only was the writing a lot, but getting it published was another story, and I would love to share it with somebody, sometime to understand, to help them know where to go, and how to make it happen. I've been approached by a few people I know, and they're like, "oh, I want to do a book." I want to tell them, "I will help you." I've just been through it. I'm not a mastermind on it now, but I certainly know where to start. There will be roadblocks that you can't

get around, so you just have to push through.

I really wanted to get this out before the Olympics, because I really feel like this book speaks to the Olympic spirit that was so prominent here when I grew up. And I want to encourage community on this, because this whole process showed me that I have a voice. I wrote a book, and I understand what a that means and looks like. I want to encourage others to find their voice." *

car. Progress indeed!

We were also fortunate to be in town for the Palisades Tahoe Oktoberfest in the Village, which of course, didn't exist back in my day. What a great addition to the base area and what a great spot for people-watching with beers, brats and a lively Bavaria band.

Celebrity Events, Holiday Magic

Lots and lots of great memories came back to us during our return, especially of the made-for-TV celebrity events the resort co-hosted with the ski area. Among them was a 35th Anniversary weekend event celebrating the 1960 Winter Olympics with many former and current day Olympians in attendance.

Another was the VH-1/American Airlines Celebrity Ski for Cystic Fibrosis where Kenny Loggins gave a private performance for event guests which also included Carole King, Kenny G, and VH-1 Stand Up Spotlight host Bobby Collins. It was a great weekend of skiing, socializing and fundraising and generated over \$1.1 million.

During that same weekend my husband ventured out onto the luge course set up for competition among the sports and entertainment attendees, and astounded Olympic speed skater Dan Janssen and others by



Photo provided

MJ and husband Dan on the slopes of the resort in 1996.

holding on and making it to the finish line. Something few celebs/athletes were able to accomplish. During the course of his run, Jansen and others kept saying "Who is that guy? Who is that guy? Ride 'em cowboy!" Finally, as Dan closed in on the finish line I answered, "That's my husband," and they all gave a huge cheer, running

over and helping him off the luge as he came to a somewhat discombobulated stop.

Another great memory was of dining at the resort's formal restaurant Montagne with family who'd flown in from the Midwest for the Christmas holidays and watching the torch light parade down Mountain Run on Christmas Eve

through the restaurant's picture windows. Still gives me goosebumps remembering the majesty of that scene, but also of the warmth from the roaring fireplace in the elegant room.

As I handled public relations at the resort, my husband enjoyed serving as the Sports Editor at the Squaw Valley Times (the precursor to the Palisades Press). Aside from the sports/celebrity events at the resort, among other sporting activities he covered was the Pro/Am Celebrity Golf Tournaments at Edgewood in South Lake Tahoe where Dan and Publisher Bill Jensen interviewed many celebrities ranging from former Vice-President Dan Quayle, Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon to sports legend and Super Bowl hero Joe Namath.

Thanks for the Memories

What a very special place Lake Tahoe and Olympic Valley are; the camaraderie and great times we had here are forever imprinted in our memories and hearts. Too bad it took us 30 years to return. Thanks for the memories and wishing you lots of snow and great skiing this winter! *

Flashback Continued from p. 15

Beck remembers. "I also finished it flat broke and exhausted. I'd been working sometimes for days on end without sleep to get it done. I was obsessed."

On the Circuit

Audiences loved it, but distributing the film became a titanic problem, partially due to Beck's lack of money and marketing experience.

"Whenever it showed I had success. I mean we outsold "Jaws" that same year at the Cobblestone. I booked it from Redding to Santa Cruz, mostly at colleges. In Monterey, I flew up and down the community all day in my hang glider to promote the showing.

I even flew off the Civic Auditorium in Redding," says Beck who once held the World Hang Gliding Altitude Gain Record at over 20,000 feet.

"Then I went to L.A. and just burnt out. I was emotionally drained and all the traveling wasn't helping my marriage. When Dave Burnham died in a motorcycle accident, I was so bummed I shelved it (the film) and I went back to carpentry as a living."

"Skiers Like it."

Through the years Beck has worked on other films including Ski Extreme. While writing a screenplay for a feature-length movie about the life of

Snowshoe Thompson, Beck became heavily involved in resurrecting the historic ski discipline of longboard racing. He formed the National Longboard Association in 1994.

"I still love to make films," says Beck. "A primary passion for me is shooting pictures and putting them together. Daydreams remains very special. When I made my movie ski films were a weak market. Today it's quite another story. Daydreams remains very current in today's big mountain skiing. I'm still surprised by its recognition and the enthusiasm for it by the best skiers today. They like it." *

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Valley à la Carte

The Chalet, Six Peaks Grille Receive National Acclaim

Two resort restaurants were named to the top 10 in the recent USA Today 10 Best Ski Resort rankings. The Chalet at Alpine Meadows was tabbed fourth in the national poll, and the Everline Resort and Spa's Six Peaks Grille came in the eighth spot.



Six Peaks' Chef Chris Watkins

The Chalet's on-mountain restaurant and beer garden was lauded as "a toast to all things German" with schnitzel, brats, monster-size pretzels and Bavarian indulgences.

Six Peaks Grille, under the helm of master chef Chris Watkins, was touted for its Nor-Cal inspired menu, featuring pan seared scallops, Madeira-braised lamb, filet mignon and prime rib eye sourced from regional ranches and sustainably

sourced seafood, and superb wine list. The panoramic, floor-to-ceiling views of the mountain were also highlighted.

Take a Tasty Trek to The Chalet

Embark on a memorable alpine experience with a guided hike under the stars to The Chalet at Alpine Meadows for a cozy, four-course Bavarian-inspired dinner. The adventure begins at Last Chair Bar in the base lodge with a warm welcome and a hot glass of mulled wine. Once everyone has checked in, the ascent begins to the Chalet on a groomed ski trail. The walk takes approximately 15 minutes and follows a moderately pitched route; participants should be prepared for a short uphill trek. Upon arrival, settle in for an intimate dinner at our charming mid-mountain venue. A full bar will be available featuring draft beer, wine, and hand-crafted cocktails for purchase.

This season a \$55 Michael Mondavi Family wine pairing for each course is available for purchase on site. Age 21+, no exceptions.

Patrons should meet at the Last Chair Bar in the main lodge no later than 4:45 p.m. This event usually lasts around 3.5 hours. Dates: Dec. 20, 26, 27; Jan. 23-24 and Feb. 14.

For more information contact the call center at 1-800-403-0206 or email alpinebanquets@palisadestahoe.com

Sunset Happy Hour at High Camp

Sunset Happy Hour at High Camp is the perfect way to cap off a day on the slopes.

After a scenic Tram ride up the mountain to the High Camp complex, guests may step out onto the observation deck for a complimentary drink and soak in the spec-



Photos courtesy PT

The Chalet offers a cozy, alpine ambiance.

tacular mountain and Lake Tahoe views. Inside, The Terrace Restaurant & Bar offers a curated small-plate menu with perfectly paired, featured cocktails and live music.

Après Hour runs from 4-6 p.m. and tickets are \$29 per person which include Tram access and one complimentary drink. Specialty cocktails, wine, and beer are available at the bar. Tickets can be purchased at the base of the Tram Building until 5 p.m. on the day of the event or in advance online. Tickets and drink vouchers must be picked up at the base of the Tram Building. All ages welcome; alcoholic drinks only available for 21+.

Dates: Dec 26-27, 30; Jan. 2-3, 10, 16-18, 23-24; Feb. 15, 20-21.

For more information or assistance with booking call 1-800-403-0206.

Christmas Eve Grand Buffet

Leave the cooking to the Palisades elves this Christmas Eve. Enjoy a sumptuous grand buffet, complete with carving stations and holiday side dishes and desserts. Guests will receive a complimentary glass of champagne upon arrival and a full bar will be available for purchase. Please make reservations by 5 p.m. 12/23 and add every member of party to reservation, even children under the age of 4, for a properly sized table. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Olympic Village Events Center. For more information or dietary concerns, email banquets@palisadestahoe.com.

Ikon Pass holders can use code IKONCHRISTMAS2025 at checkout to save 15%.



Photos courtesy PT

The view at High Camp is spectacular, and the Sunset Happy Hour is the perfect location to savor it.

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR WINE

Any time is time for wine and 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, and offer a Monday Wine Flight Deal and 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 sometimes spin vintage vinyl on weekend and host comedy shows. Tahoewinecollective.com

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Please remember all events are subject to change and weather conditions. For latest updates, go to palisadestahoe.com or the resort app.

Enjoy & Happy Holidays!

Season Kick Off with Tahoe Live.

Tahoe Live is back - and for the first time ever, it's a three-day event. Expanding to a full weekend, the 2025 festival returns to Palisades Tahoe Dec. 12-14 with its most electrifying lineup yet. Tahoe Live blends world-class electronic music with the one-of-a-kind energy of a mountain rave, continuing to redefine the winter music experience. Headliners include Porter Robinson, Zeds Dead, Alison Wonderland, DJ Diesel, LSZEE, San Holo, Jessica Audiffred, and PeekabooTree Thinning. More information at tahoelive.com.

KT-22 Bass Bar Music Series

KT-22 Bass Bar Music Series presented by Coca-Cola, starts Dec. 14 and runs through the season. 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.

Holiday Events

Great Basin Carolers in the Village

Enjoy the sounds of the season with live caroling from the Great Basin Carolers who will spread holiday cheer throughout the resort base from 4-7 p.m., Dec. 20-24.

Here Comes Santa Claus

Enjoy holiday story time, singalongs and family photos with Santa at the Big Chair in The Village from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Dec. 21-24.

Kids Club

From Dec. 19-Jan. 4, kids can enjoy arts and crafts, games and different movies throughout the course of the day. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Runs from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily at the Palisades Tahoe Conference

Room and Front Desk Lobby. Free for hotel guests & \$10 for non-hotel guests.

Magical Memories at Everline

Throughout December, guests and local residents can enjoy a festive schedule of holiday events at Everline Resort & Spa's 20th Annual *Magical Memories* Holiday Showcase.

The resort's life-size gingerbread village, created by its talented team of pastry chefs, is a must-see for the kids. For a full schedule of holiday *Magical Memories* activities visit everlineresort.com.

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

Ski & Ride with Jonny Moseley

Join Olympic gold medalist Jonny Moseley on a tour of the mountain with a follow up après party on Dec. 27 and Dec. 30. Meet at 1:45 p.m. at the big sign in in the Funitel Plaza. Join the Retro Party and Trivia Happy Hour at 4 p.m. at the Olympic Plaza Bar.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Ring in the New Year at Palisades Tahoe's Family Celebration with events crafted with families in mind. The evening includes the annual torchlight parade, fireworks, live music, children's games, and a 9 p.m. East Coast ball drop.

Torchlight Parade

Join in the spectacular LED torchlight parade down Exhibition and then join the revelry in the Olympic House and around The Village. Parade participants start up-loading at 5 p.m. on Exhibition and pre-registration is required.

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. on select dates, including New Year's Eve. Check the Palisades website for more dates.

Alpenglow Winter Sports Speaker Series

The Alpenglow Sports Winter Speaker Series, presented by North Tahoe Chamber, is the largest free community speaker series in the country. Some of the biggest names in the outdoor industry share stories about outdoor adventure and their passion for it.

The series has two simple goals: to inspire and motivate mountain athletes to pursue their outdoor dreams, and to raise funds for nonprofit organizations making a tangible difference in the North Lake Tahoe and Truckee community.

Each event is held at the Olympic Valley Lodge and admission is free. All shows are livestreamed on Alpenglow Sport's YouTube channel. Register for the livestream and receive a free entry in the online giveaway. In-person attendees can buy tickets at the door and win prizes from athlete and event sponsors. Go to alpenglowsports.com.

Speaker Series Schedule

Jan. 2: Chris Benchetler

Jan. 23: Mike Hattrup

Feb. 13: Caite Zeliff & The Headwaters Science Institute

March 6: Dave Nettle

Holly Jolly Strolls

Downtown Tahoe City will transform into a festive winter village this December as the Tahoe City Downtown Association presents the first **Holly Jolly Strolls**, three enchanting evenings of lights, music, shopping, and holiday cheer on Dec. 5, 12, and 19.

Visitors and locals are invited to enjoy extended shopping hours, seasonal treats, lively performances, and free gift wrapping. Go to visittahoecity.com.



The Torchlight Parade down Exhibition is a New Year's Eve tradition.

Eric T. Brandt's New Song Hits Close to Home

Local musician and songwriter Eric T. Brandt and co-writer Kate Dowd recently released their new single, "Coming Home."

The song tells the story of the night they met, a serendipitous encounter in the dark that led to love at first sight and an unexpected kiss that would change both of their lives forever. But beyond the romantic moment that inspired it, "Coming Home" is a reflection on what it means to find your person, to surrender to love, and home to yourself.

Brandt was diagnosed in 2022 with Posterior Cortical Atrophy (PCA), a rare Alzheimer's-related disease that affects vision and spatial awareness. Despite the adversity, he has been determined to continue to create and record music. "Coming Home" is a song born of

From his early days as the voice of the Squaw Valley ski report and Marketing Director at the resort (now Palisades Tahoe), to his decades of songwriting and founding and performing as the leader of the band, The Beer Gardeners, Eric has long embodied the Tahoe spirit: strong, soulful, and full of heart.

"I've always believed in doing what

"Coming Home" is about finding peace, finding gratitude, and finding home in another heart.'

- co-writer Kate Dowd

love and made even more profound
by the awareness of time's fragility.

"Eric's music has always been a reflection of who he is," says Dowd. "Even in the midst of unimaginable challenges, he creates beauty. 'Coming Home' isn't just about the night we met, it's about finding peace, finding gratitude, and finding home in another heart."

In the opening lines, Eric sings of drifting “lost and lonely... with the tide,” while Jenni Charles (Dead Winter Carpenters) answers as the voice of Kate sings, “an angel had told me, I’d been taken for a ride.” When their voices join together on the chorus, “When you stepped into the light, and you walked into my life, I was tired of being alone... and it felt like coming home”, it captures the song’s emotional center: two people finding light in each other after years of darkness.

Later verses paint an intimate picture of love's spark and surrender. "One look in your eyes, and my heart was hypnotized... this hot mess of love was like magic from above." With its soulful arrangement and cinematic warmth, the song feels both timeless and immediate; a classic love ballad grounded in lived truth.

"Eric T," as he is called, has spent his life creating, connecting, and inspiring.

you love while you can," he says. "This song is about recognizing love the moment it appears. That's what "Coming Home" means to me, coming home to love, to peace, and to the truth of who we are."

Kate Dowd has spent more than 30 years as a certified nurse-midwife, dedicated to advocating for compassionate, patient-centered care. She has worked in birth centers, community health clinics, and academic settings, and was recently inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

A passionate advocate for respectful care within the context of systemic racism, Kate founded the California Nurse-Midwives Foundation to expand advocacy and support for families and practitioners across the state. Under her leadership, the foundation has raised over \$1 million for education and equitable care initiatives.

"Coming Home" was produced and arranged by Timothy Drury, who also plays all the instruments. The song was recorded, mixed and mastered at Vineyard Circle Studios in Sonoma. Vocals were Recorded at Round Rock Records in Tahoe City.

For more details, go to www.eric-brandt.com *



Songwriters Kate Dowd and Eric T. Brandt with Kiki.



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<p>Fri. Dec 26</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">KARL DENSON'S TINY UNIVERSE</p> 	<p>\$30 ADV \$35 DOS 8PM</p>
<p>WED. DEC 31</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">The Funk Hunters</p> 	<p>\$50 ADV/DOS 8PM</p>
<p>Sat. Jan. 31</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">GRATEFUL SHRED</p> 	<p>20 ADV 25 DOS 8PM</p>
<p>TUES. FEB. 3</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">ANDY FRASCO</p> <p>★★ AND THE U.N. ★★</p>	<p>\$25 ADV \$30 DOS 8PM</p>
<p>THURS. FEB. 19</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">THE GLOVATERS</p>	<p>\$20 ADV \$25 DOS 8PM</p>

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Amie Engerbretson carves the white carpet.

From the Blog

Amie Engerbretson Signature Women of Winter Camp

Professional skier and big mountain athlete Amie Engerbretson returns to Palisades Tahoe with her Signature Women of Winter Camp, taking place April 6–8. Designed for advanced intermediate and expert skiers, this three-day camp blends personalized coaching, confidence-building, and exploration of Palisades Tahoe's legendary terrain. With support from our Mountain Sports School instructors, participants will progress their skills in a supportive, all-female environment.

A global adventurer, Amie seamlessly transitions between roles behind and in front of the camera,

with a portfolio spanning films, print, videos, and her own podcast, "Long Underwear." Beyond her athletic prowess, Amie is a committed climate advocate, recognized with the 2021 Alliance Member of the Year award from Protect Our Winters for her impactful work in climate action.

To read more about Amy and other prominent Palisades Tahoe athletes visit the resort's website at PalisadesTahoe.com.



Photos courtesy Jeff Engerbretson

Sweetwater Heli to Launch California's Only Heli-Skiing Operation

California is about to land a heli-ski operation in the Sweetwater Mountains. Aptly named Sweetwater Heli, California's only heli-skiing operation is planning on offering exclusive, small-group tours beginning Jan. 30. Skiers and riders will have access to over 180,000 acres of new terrain located a short flight from its base in Bridgeport on the Eastern Sierra.

In a release, Sweetwater Heli states that "It will offer fast access to high-alpine terrain with expert guides and professional pilots. Each day will be built

around small groups, efficient flight rotations, and meticulous avalanche forecasting-ensuring maximum vertical with uncompromising safety."

"I'm incredibly excited to introduce a premium heli-ski experience to California. Having the opportunity for world-class heli-skiing right in our backyard is truly priceless and long overdue. Our team's love for California and everything it offers makes this especially significant," said Brian Kirschenmann, Co-Founder of Sweetwater Heli.

For added convenience, Sweetwater Heli provides tailored heli-ski gear delivered to a client's mountain home or desired hotel and seamless helicopter transfers within the Mammoth and Tahoe/Reno area.

"Heli-skiing in our own backyard has been the ultimate dream. Sweetwater just made that dream a reality. I'm hyped to explore this terrain," said Tim Humphreys, Tahoe-based professional snowboarder.

Go to www.sweetwater-heli.com



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Big Events Bring Big Mountain Fun & Excitement



Photo courtesy PT

Nation's best mogul competitors to soar on Red Dog.

Toyota U.S. Mogul Freestyle Championships

For the second year in a row Palisades Tahoe in partnership with Olympic Valley Freestyle, will host the Toyota U.S. Freestyle Championships from March 27-29 on the legendary Red Dog course. The nation's top moguls and dual moguls skiers will compete for national titles in one of the most challenging disciplines in winter sports.

Town Race League

The Palisades Tahoe Town Race League returns for its second year, with local skiers and snowboarders of all levels competing in a fun series of alpine races. Competition is held every Wednesday night from March 4-April 8. New this year is a team racing format. Each week will also feature a new theme, with prizes for the best-dressed racer.

Rahlves Bonzai Tour Returns

After a 10-year hiatus, the legendary Rahlves' Banzai Tour is making its long-awaited return to Palisades Tahoe, April 10-12. Sponsored by Red Bull, this adrenaline-fueled race was created by U.S. ski icon and Red Bull athlete Daron Rahlves. Combining big mountain freeride terrain with the head-to-head intensity of ski and snowboard cross, the Bonzai on KT-22 promises to bring back the raw, high-speed energy of competitors charging down natural terrain features in a no-holds-barred battle to the finish.

Ski Super Session Debuts

The Natural Selection Tour announces a Ski Super Session, which will serve as the first stage of competition in the 2026 YETI Natural Selection Ski journey. Super

Sessions embrace a collaborative, session-style format that prioritizes progression, creativity and freestyle expression on natural terrain.

This winter, eight of the world's leading freeride and freestyle skiers - four men and four women - will converge at Palisades Tahoe for the high-energy Super Session. Riding on the resort's famously steep, technical, and feature-rich terrain, athletes will have the freedom to approach the face in a session format designed to bring out creativity and style.

Their performance at Palisades Tahoe will wrap up with one man and one woman advancing to compete at the YETI Natural Selection Ski finals in AK where the season's Tour champions will be crowned and then later revealed on Red Bull TV in April.

The Natural Selection Ski Super Session

at Palisades Tahoe will also stream exclusively on Red Bull TV. Super Session winners-the top-finishing man and woman - will be revealed in the episodes as they premiere leading into Alaska's final event.

"I'm stoked to see what these skiers can do as they feed off each other's energy at one of the most hallowed grounds for our sport. Palisades Tahoe was made for an event like this," says Mike Douglas, the head of Natural Selection Ski.



Photo courtesy PT

Locals take their turns in Town League.



Photo provided

Banzai Tour is top to bottom action.

Broken Arrow Skyrace

The Broken Arrow Skyrace, one of North America's largest and the most competitive trail running events returns to Palisades on June 20 with a new multi-year, title sponsorship with ACG (All Conditions Gear), a Nike brand designed for all athletes who seek the challenge, adventure and connection of thriving in the wild.

Through this partnership, the 2026 Broken Arrow Skyrace will feature a \$150,000 prize purse, the largest of any trail running event in the world. Winners of the flagship Broken Arrow 23K will take home \$30,000, and winners of the Ascent and 46K races will take home \$6,000 and \$4,000, respectively. The partnership will also herald the launch of Trail Futures NTN (Nike Trail Nationals), a "youth national championship-caliber event," to encourage the development of the next generation of up-and-coming trail runners.

Launched ten years ago, the Broken Arrow Skyrace originally sought to emulate iconic European mountain races like Sierre Zinal and Zegama-Aizkorri, while simultaneously showcasing the culture, traditions, and values that have always characterized North American trail running; namely the importance of community, and the equal celebration of every runner.

In 2025, the Broken Arrow Skyrace welcomed more than 3,700 runners from 31 countries to the spectacular Palisades Tahoe resort (previously Squaw Valley), home of the 1960 Winter Olympics and was the only U.S. stop on the World Mountain Running Association (WMRA) World Cup and Golden Trail World Series.

"With this unprecedented investment, ACG is demonstrating its commitment to independent trail running events, and the authentic and rich impact that races like Broken Arrow have on trail culture at large," said co-race director Brendan Madigan. "This partnership will allow us to continue to evolve from our current position as the most competitive trail running event in North America to one of the most competitive in the world—while simultaneously driving our sport toward greater inclusivity and innovation." ✱

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