

Specialty plate benefits bike-pedestrian programs

A specialty Nevada license plate supporting safe bicycle and pedestrian programs is now available through the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles.

The specialty plate displays a "Share the Road" message and bicycle and pedestrian image. The plates cost \$61, then \$30 for renewal. Proceeds of \$25 per plate will provide grant money for nonprofit and government organizations to plan and construct bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as support bicycle and pedestrian safety, education and other programs. The grant funding will be awarded by the Nevada Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board and administered through the Nevada Department of Transportation.

The Nevada Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board was created by the Legislature to promote safe bicycling and pedestrian facilities and programs and advise state agencies on safe bicycle and pedestrian policies, program and facilities.

The specialty license plates are available for purchase at Nevada DMV offices. They must be purchased in person. There is also a \$5 plate transfer fee.

El Dorado ordinance fuels outcry over pot-growing boom

By Peter Hecht, Sacramento Bee

The tense public hearing was three hours in Tuesday when a

friend pushed Joyce Hall in her walker to address the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors. The frail, 100-pound woman rose, grasped the lectern with both hands and began to cry.

“You’re going to kill us,” said Hall, 57, a Garden Valley resident and medical marijuana patient who suffers from a rare immune disorder that causes severe weight loss. For the past year, a caregiver has been growing 12 marijuana plants on Hall’s property under a September 2013 county ordinance that permits individual patients to grow 200 square feet of plants in fenced off plots away from neighbors’ property lines.

But El Dorado County Sheriff John D’Agostini, who originally supported the policy, now says the county’s marijuana ordinance was a “big mistake.”

The sheriff blames the ordinance – intended as a compassionate action for local medical marijuana patients – for broadcasting a “weed friendly” message. He says it has attracted criminal profiteers who are ripping up public and private lands and cultivating hundreds of thousands of plants on a scale vastly exceeding county guidelines.

Read the whole story

Pile burning scheduled for LT Basin

The Lake Valley Fire Protection District, California State Parks, Nevada Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service will continue prescribed fire operations near Sugar Pine Point

State Park, Pioneer Trail and Washoan Boulevard, Ski Run Boulevard near Heavenly, Luther Pass, Spooner Summit, and Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park in Slaughterhouse Canyon. Operations will last through the next several weeks as conditions allow.

Smoke from prescribed fire operations is normal and may continue for several days after an ignition depending on the project size. The agencies coordinate with state and local county air pollution control districts and monitors weather conditions closely prior to prescribed fire ignition.

Before prescribed fire operations are conducted, the agencies post road signs around areas affected by prescribed fire, send email notifications and update the local fire information line at 530.543.2600, ext. 6. To receive prescribed fire notifications, send an email to pa_ltbmu@fs.fed.us.

Christmas trees rule in these homes' decor

By Debbie Arrington, Sacramento Bee

What would the holiday season be without trees?

Since ancient times, these symbols of abundance, home and eternal life have been part of winter celebrations. Historians trace the use of evergreens as decorations back to the Egyptians, Chinese, early Hebrews and Scandinavians. By the 16th century, old Tannenbaum had become a regular part of the seasonal decorating inside German homes.

As a melting pot culture, America embraced this tradition as their own. All that holiday history can give tree decorators a

whole world of inspiration, too.

Dozens of decorated trees at six homes will be part of this weekend's "Homes for the Holidays" tour in El Dorado Hills and surrounding communities. Hosted by the Assistance League of Sierra Foothills, this family-friendly tour supports several programs for schoolchildren in El Dorado County.

Read the whole story

Throngs descend on Meyers for tree lighting



Hundreds of people gather in Meyers Dec. 5 for the annual tree lighting. Photo/David Reichel

A light sprinkle was not about to keep the nearly 350 people from attending the annual tree lighting in Meyers on Dec. 5.

As tradition would have it, Santa arrived by special carrier Friday night – via CalStar. And once he made his way to the elaborately decorated Lake Valley fire engine, youngsters formed a long line so they could whisper in his ear what they

would like to find Christmas morning.

Sue Novasel, El Dorado County District 5 supervisor-elect, kicked off the event. New this year was the South Lake Tahoe Children's Choral Society and Sierra-at-Tahoe contributing to the festivities. Rise Designs was a returning vendor.

"The CCC really stepped up and made it a great event – very much a community affair," Kim Wyatt, Meyers Community Foundation board member, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

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– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Ex-Heavenly chief counting down to retirement



Blaise Carrig at Keystone, one of the 11 Vail Resorts

ski areas he oversees. Photo/Vail Resorts/Jack Afflec

By Susan Wood

Blaise Carrig, the skiing guru who led Heavenly Mountain Resort during a critical crossroads, is forging a new path of greener pastures – with a little white stuff mixed in for recreation sake.

That's because soon skiing will no longer involve business.

At 63, Carrig will relinquish his post as president of Vail Resorts' mountain division next August to work as a senior advisor. Patricia Campbell, CEO for Vail's Breckenridge Ski Resort in Colorado, will replace him.

On the horizon for Carrig is full retirement in three years.

"I'll miss the people. I love being around the youthful energy," Carrig told *Lake Tahoe News* by phone.

He added the "juice of the business" in building chairlifts and the "energy of putting out great products."

Waxing poetic, the Boulder resident talks about skiing as if it transcends itself. "I now love to ski the groomers as much as the moguls," Carrig said. "And I still love steep, deep powder."

Carrig is a beautiful skier.

"It's incredibly compelling to be outside in the mountains. It strikes a sense of awe – to move against gravity is as close to flying as you can get," Carrig said.

It's the spirituality of "being in the mountains" that fills him most. "Especially Heavenly, it's an incredibly spiritual place. To see that lake," he said in the awe most avid Tahoe recreationalists have shared through the years.

That stark contrast of white to blue resembles a painting. That is a hobby Carrig plans to do more of in retirement, along with traveling, skiing, paddleboarding and cycling – as well as taking an excursion to Italy. In the winter, he'd like to visit various ski areas with no job to do.

When Carrig was the Heavenly chief from 2002-10, he would often get out of the office and go out on a ski to check on how his workers and the conditions were holding up. His tenure at Heavenly became one in which customer service, above all, took precedence.

Carrig started out at Sugarbush in Vermont as a ski patroller – with no notion of a ski career.

“When I started, I just wanted to pay rent and buy beer. I thought: ‘Wow, they’re paying me to ski’,” he quipped, further identifying with the ski bum label. “It’s been a great career.”

He left Sugarbush in 1997 and hasn’t returned to ski there since. In that time the ski industry has changed immensely.

“I think definitely there was a period of time when it became much more of a business. Back then you worked for the guy who founded the ski area. Now it’s more polished, more service. The ski vacation involves good lodging, good dining,” he explained.

With climate change being on the forefront of how the ski areas deal with a lack of snow, Carrig nonetheless sees a silver lining.

“I think climate change for sure has made the weather more erratic with storms more extreme. But there’s still skiing between Thanksgiving to Easter,” he said, pointing to snowmaking as having a huge impact on the survival of Western resorts such as Heavenly and Northstar. In Colorado the natural snow still “carries the day.”

He sees the industry's future as bright.

He mentioned the evolution of ski technology as contributing to skiing's steady market at least for the large Baby Boomer demographic. Think shaped, fatty and twin tip skis.

"One of the biggest things I've seen a change in is the grooming. It's nothing like the '70s. Now we have these high-end tillers that allow Baby Boomers to ski longer," he said. The new grooming machines make the ski experience smoother and easier on the joints.

It appears Carrig's careful observations will eventually be missed by those he dealt with at Vail Resorts.

CEO Rob Katz commended Carrig's vision in the *Denver Business Journal* but admitted he "will miss his engagement as president." Katz further expressed relief Carrig would at least stay on for a few years as a senior advisor.

One of Carrig's closest peers also gave him a nod of appreciation.

"I think he's had one of the most impressive careers in the ski industry. He's been a key leader in the transformation of our company," said Bill Rock, who's undergoing a change himself. The former head of Northstar went to Utah this fall to run the newly acquired Park City Mountain Resort.

Rock identified the safety and service programs, along with key capital projects, as noteworthy initiatives Carrig has spearheaded for Vail. Carrig and Rock teamed up to advance the \$30 million capital improvement program at Northstar in 2011.

"(It) allowed me to see his experience and insight in action, and it was fun to work with him directly on something so big," Rock told *Lake Tahoe News*.

But all work and no play? After all, it is a recreation business.

“My favorite memories of working with Blaise are any time I got the chance to ski with him. I always learned something, and it’s amazing to see his incredible passion, experience and love for the business come through,” Rock said.

Letter: Davis ready to work for all constituents

To the community,

Now that the campaign signs have been picked up, and the ballot counted finalized, I want to thank my campaign staff for their hard work, determination and dealing with the rigors of this campaign despite their busy schedules. I also want to thank this community for their continued support and for your votes this past election. I have done my very best these past four years to create a Lake Tahoe that we can be proud of and I am thankful for the vote of confidence to be able to continue that work for these next four years. As I have stated from the beginning of this campaign, the only endorsement that matters to me is from you, the voters. I am grateful for your endorsement, and I hear your concerns.



Tom Davis

I am humbled by this community’s faith in me and what I strive

to accomplish everyday as a member of your City Council. Progress in Lake Tahoe is definitely a marathon and not a sprint, and I have done my best to stick to my principals, campaign promises and goals from the very beginning. I will continue to work as hard as I have for you, my fellow citizens to continue to make Lake Tahoe the best that it can be, to live, work and play.

For those of you that didn't vote for me, my job is to represent all the citizens of South Lake Tahoe. So I ask that if you have any comments, questions, concerns or suggestions, please stop and speak with me, call me or join me for coffee. Even when we disagree, I'm always available to listen, learn and try new perspectives and ideas. I believe as a small community, we are all in this together and moving not only our agenda but our city forward, requires hard work and dedication from all of us.

Finally, to my son, Justin, thank you for your time, effort and unwavering dedication to my campaign and me. I could not have asked for a better campaign manager and I would not have been able to accomplish this task without you, your guidance and your hard work.

Now ladies and gentlemen, the hard work begins once again. I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting back to work.

Sincerely,

Tom Davis, South Lake Tahoe councilman, 530.545.1168 or tdavis@cityofslt.us

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Learn about agency efforts to address stormwater pollution and how to get involved at a Dec. 10 5:30-7pm symposium hosted by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and League to Save Lake Tahoe at Lake Tahoe Community College in the Aspen Room.
 - EXL Media team of Lake Tahoe is celebrating its 20-year anniversary of providing media campaigns to local, national and global clients.
 - Diamond Peak Resort has installed two electric vehicle-charging stations.
 - Sugar Bowl Resort will open for top-to-bottom skiing and snowboarding Dec. 6.
 - Alert Tahoe is a new, one-of-a-kind, fire camera and multi-hazard tracking system that Graham Kent with the UNR Seismological Laboratory will be talking about Jan. 8 at 6pm at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center in Incline Village. Cost is \$5.
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Strong opener for women's speed team

By USSA

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta – Laurenne Ross (Bend, Ore.) led a solid effort by the U.S. Ski Team's women's speed squad on Dec. 5 that saw four athletes in the top nine, including Lindsey Vonn

(Vail).

It was the strongest U.S. women's downhill team performance in two seasons.

Tina Maze of Slovenia took the win with Ross fourth, Julia Mancuso (Squaw Valley) seventh, Vonn eighth and Stacey Cook (Mammoth Mountain) ninth. Ross missed the podium 0.03.

It was the first World Cup for Vonn in nearly a year. Her comeback a year ago was cut short by a re-injured knee forcing a second surgery. Vonn felt strong in training all week and was satisfied with her start.

The women race a second downhill Saturday, with super G on Sunday.

Ganong in top 5 at Beaver Creek



Travis Ganong of Squaw places fifth Dec. 5 in Beaver Creek. Photo/Cody

Downard/USSA

By USSA

BEAVER CREEK – It was a huge day Dec. 5 for the Americans in Beaver Creek, with Steven Nyman pulling off a third place podium finish and Travis Ganong of Squaw Valley grabbing fifth place. Kjetil Jansrud of Norway, who won the super G and downhill in Lake Louise last week, took another win and Beat Feuz of Switzerland finished second.

The notoriously well-prepped Audi Birds of Prey course looked fast Friday, with light snow falling in the early morning, but clearing in time for the first run.

Seven Americans ran the downhill. Ted Ligety (Park City) finished in 28, Andrew Weibrecht (Lake Placid, N.Y.) in 30, Marco Sullivan (Squaw Valley) in 38, Jared Goldberg (Holladay, Utah) in 40, Bryce Bennett (Squaw Valley) in 52 and Tommy Biesemeyer (Keene, N.Y.) in 53.

But the story of the day was Nyman, who was in first place for 15 racers and finished in third after an incredible run.

“It’s huge to be on the podium today, especially with 2015 [World Championships] coming up,” relayed Nyman. “I woke up this morning and wasn’t that confident. I had to talk to myself and say ‘OK, this is your opportunity.’”

“Once you get that momentum, it’s hard to stop. I’m hoping I snowball it in,” said Ganong. “I’ve actually been top 10 at every race since Kitzbuhel last year, so I’ve had good consistency there. Hopefully, I can step on top of the podium a couple times this year.”