

Ski world shakeup involves Squaw's parent firm

By Kathryn Reed

Financially troubled resort owner Intrawest has finally been bought. It's been a slow demise for the Colorado-based firm that was once the largest ski resort operator in the world.

KSL Capital Partners, the parent company of Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows ski resorts, along with Aspen Skiing Company – both Colorado-based firms – are purchasing Intrawest for approximately \$1.5 billion. The deal is expected to close in the third quarter of this year, with KSL and Aspen forming a new company to oversee the Intrawest holdings.

Stratton Mountain in Vermont, Mont Tremblant in Quebec and Steamboat in Colorado are the more well-known resorts owned by Intrawest.

"Intrawest is a collection of remarkable properties in exceptional locations. Each has its own unique story and its own unique sense of place," KSL CEO Eric Resnick said in a statement. "We are committed to honoring the deep traditions of each resort, while working with Intrawest's talented management team and employees to continue to serve both their guests and local communities."

With **Vail Resorts** in February announcing its purchase of Stowe in Vermont, this latest deal shows the competitive nature of the industry and the need for diversification.

Andy Wirth, CEO of Squaw, has worked for Steamboat and Intrawest, so he is taking over known entities.

These companies have a history with one another. In January 2010, Squaw Valley Ski Corp. bought **Squaw Valley Village** from

Intrawest. In 1986, Intrawest acquired Blackcomb Mountain from a division of Aspen Skiing Company. In 2012, **KSL bought** Intrawest's share of Whistler-Blackcomb. (Last year Vail Resort bought **Whistler**.)

Intrawest in 2016 completed the sale of its timeshare business to Diamond Resorts International for \$85 million. Diamond Resorts owns Lake Tahoe Vacation Resort in South Lake Tahoe.

Opinion: As machines wage war, human nature endures

By David H. Petraeus

Over the past quarter century, the information technology revolution has transformed relations between people and between states, including in the conduct of warfare.

For the U.S. military, the manifestations of this revolution have covered the full spectrum from the dramatic to the prosaic. Unmanned aerial vehicles, ships, and ground systems now carry increasingly sophisticated surveillance capabilities and precision guided weapons.



David H.
Petraeus

Less visible, but also hugely important, has been development of the ability to integrate and analyze vast quantities of intelligence from all sources and determine precise locations of friendly and enemy elements.

Finally, we cannot overlook growth of the seemingly matter-of-fact but nonetheless essential reliance on email, video teleconferences, and applications like PowerPoint to communicate, share information, plan, and perform the tasks of command and control.

Information technologies that did not exist at the time of the first Gulf War are now so fundamental to the conduct of military operations that it is difficult to imagine functioning without them. And the growth of the Internet, social media, and now the "Internet of Things" represents a further stage in the information technology revolution whose full consequences are still unfolding. Nonetheless, some preliminary implications of such cyber capabilities for warfare are already clear.

First, cyberspace is itself now an entire new battlefield domain, adding to the existing domains of land, sea, air, subsea, and space. This reality has enormous ramifications for military doctrine, operations, organizational structures, training, materiel, leadership development, personnel requirements, and military facilities. Most significantly, it adds a powerful new element to the challenges of the simultaneous "multi-domain warfare" in which we are now already engaged and for which we need to do more to prepare in the future.

Second, cyber technology is adding another element to the already ongoing dispersion and fragmentation of global power. While no nation has contributed more to the growth of the Internet and the digitized world than the United States (and no nation has developed more sophisticated cyber military capabilities), the nature of these technologies ultimately

presents one more disruptive challenge to the preeminence that the U.S. has enjoyed since the end of the Cold War, as others exploit the potential of offensive cyber capabilities in new and increasingly sophisticated and diabolical ways. Examples of this include the use of cyberspace by extremist networks like ISIS and Al-Qaeda to inspire far-flung terrorist strikes; by Russia to wage ideological and political warfare that seeks to undermine the cohesion and self-confidence of the Western democracies; and by China to collect the technological know-how that is speeding its already rapid rise and undercutting America's conventional military edge and industrial advantages.

Third, cyber capabilities are further blurring the boundaries between wartime and peacetime, and between civilian and military spaces. These are distinctions that have, for various reasons, been eroding in recent decades and which technological developments are now accelerating. At present, it is likewise clear that offensive capabilities are outstripping defensive and retaliatory options. And as long as difficulties in identifying and attributing responsibility for cyberattacks persist, that reality is likely to undercut deterrence and encourage aggression in cyberspace.

Yet even as technological changes inspire us to speculate on the future of warfare, perhaps the most important insights about the implications of the cyber age can be gleaned from the past.

While technology promises to disrupt the conduct of war, it is equally important to recognize what it will not alter—namely, the causes of war, which continue to lie in the character of humanity. As Thucydides documented more than two millennia ago, it is the elemental forces of fear, honor, and interest that are the wellsprings of conflict, and it is often the choices of individual leaders that determine how conflicts develop.

It was for this reason, in fact, that, when I was in uniform, I argued against the concept of “network-centric warfare”—put forward in the late 1990s—and instead contended that a better formulation would be “network-enabled, leadership-centric warfare.” It is, after all, still leaders who determine strategies and make the key decisions. And even as development of autonomous weapons systems and other such capabilities proceeds, parameters for actions by such systems will continue to be established by human beings.

Furthermore, history suggests that humanity’s capacity for technical innovation often outpaces our strategic thinking and development of ethical norms. Indeed, the methodical development of doctrine around nuclear weapons by the “Wizards of Armageddon” in the 1950s and 1960s, which did much to help prevent a nuclear apocalypse, appears to have been the exception rather than the norm.

More typical is the experience of the European powers of the early 20th century, which failed to recognize that the mass industrialized armies they were constructing were the components of a doomsday machine that would unleash a civilizational slaughter that none of the combatants had previously considered possible. As we and other major powers race to develop cutting-edge cyber capabilities—expanding swiftly into realms such as robotics, bioengineering, and artificial intelligence—we would be wise to devote equal energy and attention to considering the full implications of our ingenuity. Security in the century ahead will depend more on our moral imagination—and with it, the ability to develop concepts of restraint—than it will on amazing technological breakthroughs.

This in turn suggests a final reality about warfare in the age of cyber. Regardless of the innovations that lie ahead, technology by itself will neither doom nor rescue the world. Responsibility for our fate, for better or worse, will remain stubbornly human.

Gen. David H. Petraeus (U.S. Army, retired) is chairman of the KKR Global Institute, a Judge Widney professor USC, and a member of the board of Optiv, a global cybersecurity services firm. This essay is part of an Inquiry, produced by the Berggruen Institute and Zócalo Public Square, on what war looks like in the cyber age.

Distraction cited as pedestrian deaths spike

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pedestrian deaths are climbing faster than motorist fatalities, reaching nearly 6,000 deaths last year — the highest total in more than two decades, according to an analysis of preliminary state data.

Increased driving due to an improved economy, lower gas prices and more walking for exercise and environmental factors are some of the likely reasons behind the estimated 11 percent spike in pedestrian fatalities in 2016. The figures were prepared for the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety offices.

But researchers say they think the biggest factor may be more drivers and walkers distracted by cellphones and other electronic devices, although that's hard to confirm.

Read the whole story

Letter: Donor allows warm room to stay open

To the community,

On behalf of the Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless, I would like to thank an anonymous donor who has donated \$4,500 to extend the operating season of the South Lake Tahoe warm room through April 30.

This donation supports our mission of meeting the needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness by providing warm beds and an overnight refuge from the elements to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the winter months.

In addition to emergency winter shelter, the warm room provides access to community resources. This winter, due to an incredible collaboration in our area, our organization has been able to connect guests with county resources including mental health services; drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation programs; employment information; and case management referrals. An intake is performed on warm room guests to gather basic information to assess what resources might be available to her. This season, over 86 percent of warm room guests who provided us with their information reported living in our area – South Lake Tahoe, Stateline, El Dorado/Douglas counties –prior to becoming homeless.

Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless continues to collaborate with community agencies to work together to end homelessness on the South Shore. We appreciate the support of our local community, as we have received donations of funds or supplies from over 200 individuals and businesses this season. To date, our organization has not received any public funds or tax dollars.

Donations are welcomed to aid in funding. Checks can be made

payable to Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless and mailed to PO Box 13514, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151 or on our website at <https://tahoehomeless.org>. We can be contacted at tahoewarmroom@gmail.com or 775.573.0822.

Sincerely,

Marissa Muscat, Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless

Rising home prices in California concern economists

By Mark Glover, Sacramento Bee

Housing affordability – or more precisely, the increasing lack of it – in California has prompted growing concern among economists and segments of the residential real estate industry.

Sung Won Sohn, a professor of economics at California State University, Channel Islands, said last week that “the average person, especially in the Bay Area and Southern California, is essentially priced out of the market. The only way they can buy a home is with a high-paying job or their parents helping them out.”

Experts say rising home costs in California are the result of a stronger economy, high employment levels, relatively strong buyer demand, and most significant, low inventory of homes for sale.

According to the most recent monthly report by Irvine-based real estate market tracker CoreLogic, the median price of a resale house in Sacramento County in February was \$310,500, up

about 11 percent from February 2016. In surrounding counties, prices were significantly higher: \$400,000 in El Dorado County (up 8.4 percent year-over-year) and \$425,000 in Placer (up 3.7 percent). Median sales prices of new homes in February ranged from \$410,750 in Sacramento County to \$493,000 in Placer County to \$540,750 in El Dorado County.

Read the whole story

Grow an abundant tomato harvest in a pot

By Melinda Myers

Harvest and enjoy the garden-fresh flavor of tomatoes right outside your kitchen. Grow them in containers set on your patio, balcony, deck or stairs. You'll enjoy the convenience of harvesting fresh tomatoes just a few feet away from where you prepare your meals. And your guests will enjoy harvesting fresh tomatoes to add to their salad or sandwich.

Tomatoes need warm air and soil to thrive. Containers give you the ability to jump start the season. Plant tomatoes in containers earlier than in the garden and leave them outdoors when it's warm (but bring them inside whenever there's a danger of frost.) Protect your plants with the help of season-extending products like cloches, red tomato teepees or garden fabrics. These will help warm the soil and air around the plants, reducing the number of days to your first harvest.

Select flavorful and disease-resistant varieties for your container gardens. Consider "determinate" tomatoes that are more compact and generally less than 4-feet tall. But don't

eliminate your favorite indeterminate tomato. Just provide a strong tall support for these plants that continue to grow 6 feet and taller throughout the season.



Growing tomatoes in container gardens enables gardeners to jump start the growing season. Photo/Gardener's Supply Company

Grow your tomatoes in a sunny spot that receives at least eight hours of direct sunlight. You'll grow the biggest harvest and reduce the risk of disease.

Fill your container with a quality well-drained potting mix. Add a slow release organic fertilizer to your potting mix if needed. This type of fertilizer feeds the plants for several months. Give the plants an additional feeding midseason or as directed on the fertilizer package.

Check soil moisture daily, water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil slightly moist. Maintaining consistent soil moisture means healthier plants and fewer problems with blossom end rot. This disorder is not a deadly disease, but it causes the bottom of the first set of fruit to turn black.

Reduce your workload by using self-watering pots. These pots can have a 5-gallon reservoir for holding water that moves up into the soil to the plant roots as needed. This means you'll be filling the reservoir less often than you would normally water other planters.

Stake or tower your plants to save space, increase air circulation around and light penetration into the plant. You'll further reduce the risk of disease and increase productivity by growing vertically.

So start gathering your favorite tomato recipes now, as soon you'll be harvesting armloads of tomatoes to use in salsas, salads, sauces and of course BLTs.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening." She hosts "How to Grow Anything: Food Gardening For Everyone" DVD set and the nationally syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" TV and radio segments.

Library talks to focus on geology, Gold Rush

Friends of the South Lake Tahoe Library are putting on two event later this month.

The first is April 25 at 6pm – the Tahoe Rim Trail geology talk.

Dave Schnake, a Tahoe Rim Trail Association board member and crew leader, is a trained geologist and geochemist. He will give the low down on Tahoe geology, answer questions, and maybe even talk about those strange rocks. This presentation is free and open to all. Seats are limited.

The next free talk is April 29 at 3pm. Sierra Nevada native Gary Noy returns to present an illustrated lecture on historical material from his newest book “Gold Rush Stories: 49 Tales of Seekers, Scoundrels, Loss and Luck,” which features 49 unique and sometimes hard to believe stories from the California Gold Rush. Books will be for sale and he will sign them afterward.

The library is at 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.

Tahoe City free summer concert lineup released

Concerts at Commons Beach music series is scheduled to return to Tahoe City on Sunday afternoons this summer from June 18-Sept. 3.

Featuring a mix of touring regional and national artists, as well as local bands, concerts are every Sunday from 4-7pm, with the first and final concerts starting at 3 p.m.

Presented in partnership with the Tahoe City Downtown Association and Tahoe City Public Utility District, Concerts at Commons Beach is North Lake Tahoe’s largest free live music

event. Food and wine are available for purchase from local vendors, and attendees are welcome to bring picnics, blankets and low back chairs to enjoy a fun, relaxing evening by the lake.

The full lineup is **online**.

EDC sheriff adamantly opposed to sanctuary status

By Peter Fimrite, San Francisco Chronicle

Leaning back in his chair, his gold sheriff's badge glinting in a shaft of light, John D'Agostini thought for a second about what he would do if Sacramento legislators imposed San Francisco-style sanctuary laws to protect people living across the state illegally.

His dilemma is part of the complex immigration debate in California, where a bill passed last week by the state Senate would restrict cooperation with U.S. immigration agents everywhere, including not only liberal strongholds but bastions of conservatism like El Dorado County.

To D'Agostini, the proposed law, SB54, is tantamount to coddling criminals, and that doesn't wash in the historic Gold Rush towns and foothill hamlets he serves. He said he would simply refuse to go along.

Read the whole story

Money Matters: 5 tips new investors should know

By Rick Gross

If you are just getting started on investing, it's important to get a grasp on the basics. A proper perspective from the beginning may improve your opportunities for long-term investment success. Here are five concepts that can be helpful for new investors to understand:

1. If you are young, time is on your side

Building wealth through investing is not about getting rich quickly. Rather, it's about taking advantage of what works best for your circumstances. If you have recently entered the workforce and desire to set money aside for the future, your biggest advantage is time. Earnings generated in your portfolio, even if modest in the beginning, can compound over time. Compound interest is a very powerful concept for investors. The more time you give your money to grow, the greater the potential for positive rewards.



Rick Gross

2. Be prepared for market swings

Any variable investment you choose – such as stocks, bonds or

real estate – is subject to fluctuation. History shows that markets move up and down over time. Be prepared to see your portfolio suffer losses at various points throughout your investing life. Historically, markets have recovered from negative periods (although in some circumstances, individual investments such as a specific stock can suffer losses and never recover). Try to maintain a long-term view with your investments by not reacting to day-to-day events. If you have significant time to let your money work for you, this can be to your advantage.

3. Find your comfort level in the markets

Markets are unpredictable, so it's important that you're intentional about the level of risk you're willing to accept. You can choose investments that are less susceptible to fluctuations if you wish. When selecting conservative investments, be sure to consider the effects of inflation. Otherwise you may inadvertently be taking on more risk than you realize. Or, if you are willing to ride those swings, you can take more risk with the hope of earning higher returns. But remember, there are no guarantees. To maintain a consistent investment approach, find a level of risk you can live with over the long-term and invest accordingly.

4. Spread your wealth through asset allocation

Asset allocation is the process of spreading your investment dollars across several categories of investments. The mix of categories, or asset classes, you own is an important factor to your overall portfolio performance. In other words, how you divide your money between stocks, bonds, cash, cash alternatives, mutual funds, and other asset classes will determine the outcome, and hopefully return, you realize.

As you select your investments, consider dividing your money among asset classes that respond differently to market forces. This investment concept, called diversification, can help you

minimize the effect of market swings. If your investments in one class are performing poorly, there's potential for your investments in another class to be performing better. Ideally, gains in one class can help offset losses in another, which can help minimize the overall impact of volatility on your portfolio.

5. Make your long-term financial security a priority

It can be challenging to focus on the long-term when you have other pressing financial obligations, such as paying off student loans or building an emergency fund. However, if you can allocate a small portion of your budget to your future goals, you may ease your financial burden down the road. Consider investing a percentage of each paycheck into a workplace retirement plan or an individual retirement account (IRA). You'll become accustomed to living within the rest of your paycheck while the amount you have earmarked for retirement is given time to grow.

A successful investor maximizes gain and minimizes loss. Though there can be no guarantee that any investment strategy will be effective, and all investing involves risk, keeping these basic principles in mind may help you invest more successfully.

Rick Gross is a financial advisor and private wealth advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services in South Lake Tahoe. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 20 years.