Wise takes third at European X Games

By USSA

TIGNES, France -– It was a storybook gold medal run for 16-year-old Torin Yater-Wallace of Basalt, Colo., who threw down his typical smooth landings and big amplitude. His winning run featured two technical double tricks.

Teammate David Wise of Reno finished third with three cork tricks in his run. Devin Logan of West Dover, Vt., followed in neighbor Kelly Clark’s reign at the European X Games taking the 13th medal for the USA.

Wise’s run landed him a 90.33 and incorporated a switch let rodeo 1080 jap, right side cork 900 tail grab, left side cork 900 nose grab, ally oop rodeo 540 tail grab, left dub cork 1260 mute.

Vonn sets record for World Cup points

By USSA

SCHLADMING, Austria -– Lindsey Vonn of Vail set the women’s single-season Audi FIS World Cup points record Saturday with an eighth place finish in the season slalom finale. The finish elevated her to 1,980 points, 10 more than the former record set by Croatian Janica Kostelic in 2006.

Vonn can set the all-time mark for men and women, surpassing Hermann Maier's single-season record of 2,000 points set in 2000, with a 12th place or better finish in Sunday's giant slalom – the final race of the season.

Austrian Mikaela Kirchgasser won the race as teammate Marlies Schild claimed the slalom title.

World Cup rookie Mikaela Shiffrin was 15th to close the season ranked 17th in the slalom standings. Vonn was 20th.

Julia Mancuso of Squaw Valley was 20th in the race and currently sits fourth in the overall standings.

Vonn has a chance mathematically to capture her first World Cup giant slalom title on Sunday.

Bahrke finishes aerial season ranked 11th

By USSA

VOSS, Norway -– Dylan Ferguson of Amesbury, Mass., took fifth in the FIS Freestyle Aerials World Cup Finals in Voss, Norway, today, locking him into fourth in the season overall standings.

Nevin Brown of Ohio finished a career-best eighth. Dmitri Dashinski of Belarus was the men's winner, with China's Mengtao XU snagging the women's top spot.

Scotty Bahrke of Tahoe City, who picked up a career first win

in Kreischberg, Austria, finished the season ranked 11th.

“World Cup Finals were pretty fun. For me the jumping didn’t go too hot, but the overall experience was awesome,” Bahrke said.

Federal advisory committee to meet in Incline

The Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet from 1:30-4:30pm on March 21 at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village.

LTFAC will address issues related to federal activities at Lake Tahoe. Items on the agenda include finalization of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee vision and discussion of a new communication plan.

LTFAC consists of 20 members representing a broad array of constituencies. The Secretary of Agriculture chartered the first LTFAC in July 1998 to advise the Federal Partnership on programs and projects within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

For more information on the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee, go online.

STPUD ratepayer info to remain confidential

On a 4-1 vote, the South Tahoe Public Utility District board decided not to release ratepayer information to the Citizens Alliance for Responsible Government.

John Runnels, one of the most vocal members of the group, in January first approached the board about wanting addresses for water and sewer customers. The voted was pushed out to March 15 when all five board members would be present.

Runnels spoke at the meeting this week for the need to be able to deliver unbiased information to ratepayers, saying what comes from the district is tainted.

In particular Runnels and his group want to send info to ratepayers about Proposition 218 – the state law that mandates public utility districts notify customers when rates may be increasing. Such a notice will be in the mail to STPUD customers next week. Runnels has called the district's information proganda.

Also speaking at the meeting Thursday for the need to release the ratepayer info was John Cefalu. It was his son and board member Chris Cefalu who was the lone vote to release the data.

"The law requires that for an agency to release customer data they must make the finding that the public benefit must clearly outweigh the negative and the board could not make that finding," Dennis Cocking, South Tahoe PUD spokesman told *Lake Tahoe News*.

In the past Runnels had publicly stated the district intentionally provided misinformation. He was asked to provide

the documentation. He was unable to do so.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Go for the roller coasters, stay for the animals

By Kathryn Reed

VALLEJO – I have yet to meet a roller coaster I didn't like.

Old rickety ones like the Big Dipper at Santa Cruz, or the stomach-in-your-throat Big Shot at the Stratosphere in Las Vegas, or the 85-year-old Cyclone at Coney Island, or Space Mountain at Disneyland. Love them all.

Growing up in the Bay Area we would go to Great America. All those rides. And the games to play. I don't know how long I had that nearly 3-foot-tall stuffed animal in my room.



Six Flags in Vallejo opens March 17 for the 2012 season.

Photos/Kathryn
Reed

Last fall I went to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom for the first time in years. Today begins the 2012 season at this Vallejo park that is the only combined marine life, wildlife, and ride theme park in the United States.

With names like Pandemonium, Hammerhead Shark, Cobra and Voodoo, it’s impossible not to scream. My screams, though, are in exhilaration. Sue’s, well, those were more like screams of fear.

She is one who has to be dragged onto a roller coaster. I learned from my parents you should run to these twisty, turny, loopty-loop contraptions. Then race to get back in line. Food is the only thing that should stop the fun.

And always go on the water ride first thing so you can dry off as the day goes on.

Sue, well, she thought the animals should be seen.

OK, the shows – especially the dolphin one – were entertaining.

Seeing a tiger go after food under water was pretty darn good, too.

It’s definitely one of those places to spend the entire day. We didn’t stay the night, but I have childhood memories of roller coasters being even more fun when the sky was black and those neon lights sparkled.

Things to know:

The park opens today for the season, but won’t be open seven days a week consistently until Memorial Day weekend.

For hours, prices, directions and more info, go online.

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Chowder feed benefits Windjammers Yacht Club

Windjammers Yacht Club’s annual Chowder Feed and membership drive is March 30.

Anyone interested in sailing is welcome.

The cost is $15 per person. RSVP by March 27 to vicecommodorewyc@gmail.com.

The 6pm event is at the Tahoe Keys Marina in South Lake Tahoe.

Click on the flyer or call (775) 771.6869 for more information.

Opinion: KidZone Museum in

financial quagmire

To the community,

This is the first time in seven years we have had to ask our families for emergency support. We are critically low on funds and have already completed all our major fundraising.

However, donations were lower than expected due to the economy and we currently only have $7,000 in our bank account and our staff and myself have already cut our hours to help with this situation.

Our unexpended government grant is restricted to science programs and one science employee. This money is not in the bank – we spend it and the grantor reimburses us. We need to raise $10,000 until additional funding comes in June. We have never had reserves, and always live month-to-month on a very conservative budget. We have been conservative in our expenses, but it does not take much to be in our current situation.

The good part is, it does not take much to get us above water either. If you can give the museum a donation this week, it will help us tremendously. Contact me or you can send your donation to 11711 Donner Pass Road, Truckee, CA 96161.

Appreciatively,

Carol Meagher, KidZone Museum executive director

34.7 million Americans claim Irish ancestory

Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a celebration for all things Irish.



The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City, featuring Irish soldiers serving in the English military. This parade became an annual event, with President Harry S Truman attending in 1948. Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1995, and the president issues a proclamation commemorating the occasion each year.

The number of U.S. residents who claimed Irish ancestry in 2010 was 34.7 million. This number was more than seven times the population of Ireland (4.58 million). Irish was the nation's second most frequently reported ancestry, trailing German.

Thirteen percent of New York state residents said they were of Irish ancestry in 2010. This compares with a rate of 11.2 percent for the nation as a whole.

Seven places in the United States are named Shamrock, the floral emblem of Ireland; Mount Gay-Shamrock, W.Va., Shamrock, Texas, Shamrock Lakes, Ind., Shamrock, Okla., and Shamrock Township in Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri.

Sixteen cities in the United States share the name of Ireland's capital, Dublin. The most populous of these is in California with a population of 46,036.

Nevada’s oldest town strives to keep its roots as it changes

By Anne Knowles

The more things change, the more Genoa wants to stay the same.



That’s the idea, so to speak, behind Destination Genoa, the project to update Nevada’s first town while maintaining its historic integrity and appeal.

The project is a key piece of Douglas County’s economic vitality plan, the county’s nearly 2-year-old, 12-pronged strategy to jumpstart its economy.

“We refer to Genoa as the glue or the hub,” said Dave Whitgob, chair of the Genoa Town Board and designated “champion” of Destination Genoa. “We have committed to make a collaborative effort to draw attention to South Lake Tahoe, Minden and Gardnerville as well.”

Whitgob heads up the Destination Genoa team, which he has affectionately dubbed the “posse,” that includes Randy Falcke, Chad Coons, Dan Aynesworh, Genoa Town Manager Sheryl Gonzales and Lisa Granahan, Douglas County economic vitality manager.

The project is being funded with more than $1.5 million from Douglas County's Redevelopment Agency as well as money from the town and private donations. It consists of several pieces, some of which, like the 1.3-mile trail between David Walley's Hot Springs Resort and the center of town, should be done by year end. The biggest piece – the downtown improvement project – is nearing design completion and is slated to break ground this summer with a ribbon cutting in spring 2013.

The goal is to bring to town more businesses and more tourists. At an update on the economic vitality plan last month, Aynesworth said the town has recently added seven businesses, including three restaurants, a 46 percent spike, while room nights recently went up 6 percent.

Destination Genoa takes elements from previous plans, such as the 10-year-old Genoa Main Street Master Plan, that for one reason or another never got off the ground.

"The difference is all the work Sheryl (Gonzales) did to coordinate public outreach," said Whitgob, which got nearly everyone in town on board this time.

That outreach included two public meetings with public comment as well several meetings with the historical commission and ongoing dialog with the town's businesses. Last fall about two dozen people showed up to take a walking tour outlining the plans.

The downtown improvement project is being designed by Sandra Wendel & Associates, a landscape architect in Gardnerville, and Resource Concepts Inc., a civil engineering firm with offices in Carson City and Zephyr Cove. Gonzales said the design would be completed within weeks, then permits would be applied for and the various pieces would go out to bid, with the goal of breaking ground sometime this summer. This is an artist rendering of what may occur.

The downtown face lift includes new streetlights, walkway,

signage and parking.

Six to 10 reproduction streetlights will join a handful of existing historic lights downtown. The lights have to be custom made, despite availability of some old ones, to comply with Nevada Department of Transportation's "dark skies" rules which require that the lights do not reflect back into the sky, obscuring views of the night sky and stars.

A new, 4- to 6-foot cobblestone walkway will begin at the southern end of town and run to at least Candy Dance Lane, Gonzales said. The walkway will meld with the 8- to 10-foot Walley's Trail made of asphalt.

Landscaping using all native plants, signage and some seating will be placed on Mill and Nixon streets to create corners.

"The southeast corner of Main Street and Genoa Lane with the island with the utility and light will go away and that will become a four-way intersection," Gonzales said.

A non-asphalt parking lot will be added at the north end of town, where the county owns the right-of-way, as well additional designated parking will be created by finishing off the rough edges of Nixon, Mill and Carson streets.

In addition, at least three informational kiosks will be placed around town to help guide visitors to local businesses and sites.

The town has spent $20,000 and is working with Nevada Energy and affected businesses to take down four electrical poles and run the utilities underground.

The Walley's trail, made possible with easements granted by Walley's, should be open by Candy Dance, the town's signature event every September, which brings in the bulk of the revenue that funds the town's annual budget.

A separate project by The Nature Conservancy will double the

length of that trail, extending it to the conservancy’s Whit Hall Interpretive Center on Genoa Lane. In May, the Carson Valley Trails Association expects to open 16 miles of trails called the Genoa Trail System, including the Discovery Trail and the Sierra Canyon Trail, a 9.6 mile trail that connects to the Tahoe Rim Trail.

Private entities are working on other Destination Genoa pieces. The nonprofit that manages the town’s cemetery is working on a beautification project being funded by Sparks casino owner John Ascuaga. And a new town sign made of a covered wagon is being paid for by the Greater Genoa Business Association with the cover being made and donated by North Sails, the Minden-based sail manufacturer. The sign should be installed just off Highway 395 by the town’s third annual Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival in April.