Ability Celebration at Alpine Meadows

Disabled Sports USA Far West, located at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, will host its weeklong Ability Celebration March 22-26.

Participants from around the country will gather at Alpine Meadows for a week of rehabilitation camps and ski race competition; culminating in an evening of fine dining, entertainment, and silent auction to benefit the Disabled Sports center and its ongoing programs.

Each winter, Disabled Sports offers ski and snowboard instruction to students living with paraplegia, quadriplegia, amputation, autism, multiple sclerosis, visual impairment, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, head injuries, and muscular dystrophy.

As part of a week of skiing and celebration, 25 active-duty U.S. soldiers and marines will ski Alpine’s slopes March 23, March 25 and March 26 for the Wounded Warrior Ability Ski & Snowboard Camp. The camp is the result of a partnership between the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project and Disabled Sports USA Far West.

Call (530) 583.4232 for more information.

S. Tahoe General Plan up for

discussion

The South Lake Tahoe Planning Commission is having a public hearing on the city’s General Plan and associated environmental documents on March 24 at 3pm at the Lake Tahoe Airport.

The City Council is expected to vote on the document May 3, also at the airport. The council meeting starts at 9am, but at this time the General Plan public hearing is not set for a specific time.

Heavenly Ski Foundation Gala

The Heavenly Ski and Snowboard Foundation’s 25th Anniversary Gala is March 18 from 6:30-9:30pm at Heavenly’s California Lodge on Saddle Road in South Lake Tahoe.

The event will feature a Champagne toast, heavy gourmet hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction and a cash beer and wine bar. Advance tickets are $40. They may be purchased by calling Foundation Director Aimi Xistra-Rich at 530.314.9285 or by e-mail at aimix@heavenlyfoundationteam.org.

Tickets will also be available at the door of the event for $45; however, advance purchase is recommended, as quantities are limited.

Ski report: Freshies higher up



Powder and wind on the upper slopes.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe

Cloe is a 5-year-old pure bred Bengal. She came to the shelter after being abandoned in a rental house.

Although Cloe is very scared and hides often at the shelter and hides often, she loves to cuddle.



She is also very vocal and talks to everyone.

Any family interested in Cloe should do some research about Bengals before meeting her.

Cloe is spayed, microchipped and vaccinated.

She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes.

Call (530)573.7925 for directions, hours and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Susan Baumflek

Workshop to help nonprofits with marketing

Workshop – Marketing Your Nonprofit on March 31 form 9am-noon at the DWR Center-Meiling Room, 948 Incline Way Incline Village.

This workshop will focus on increasing your marketing and presentation skills with Lee Koch and Leslie Brown

Expand your skills in:

• Public speaking

• Using an elevator speech

• Developing a captivating and professional presentation style

• Generating enthusiasm for your nonprofit

• Increasing awareness of your organization.

Admission is $20.

Call or email Tahoe CAN for more information at (775) 298.0119, info@tahoecan.org.

Polar plunge to raise money for Special Olympics

Hundreds of brave souls with warm hearts will take the plunge in the chilly waters of the South Shore at Zephyr Cove to raise much needed funds for Special Olympics Northern California and Nevada.

The Polar Plunge on March 19 is not a swim. It’s a party. Dress up in a crazy costume, dip your big toe or your whole body and then off to the post plunge party.

2011 schedule:

10am – Registration

11:30am – costume parade and judging

Noon – Plunge

12:30pm – Post Plunge Party.

For more information, see the flyer.

Opinion: Truckee Meadows' water quality among the best

By Mark Foree

Recently, an inaccurate story regarding the quality of drinking water in the Truckee Meadows surfaced again.

You may remember that back in December 2009 a report from the Environmental Working Group ranked the quality of our water as among the worst in the nation. Truckee Meadows Water Authority responded to that story, stating that the report was inaccurate and misleading. That is still the case today, and we are again in the position of defending our great water quality.

We thoroughly reviewed the data that EWG used over a year ago, when the initial report was issued. We found that much of its data on TMWA's water was inaccurate. An example of one major error is that EWG was rating drinking water, yet it used test data from untreated sources (samples taken prior to treatment) and reported it as water delivered to our customers.

We immediately spoke with EWG regarding its numerous inaccuracies, and they assured us that they would correct the data. That was a year ago. Because EWG has since stopped all communication with TMWA, I sent a certified letter to it last August, pointed out all of the errors and again asked it to correct the data and modify its report. This inaccurate information is very upsetting, as no one takes our water quality more seriously than me and our entire staff at TMWA.

Mark Foree is general manager of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Read the whole story

Vail Resorts spending millions to upgrade its ski resorts

By Kathryn Reed

Vail Resorts plans to spend $83 million to $90 million in the upcoming building season on its six ski resorts in California and Colorado. Exactly how much of that will come to Heavenly or Northstar is not being disclosed per company policy.

However, during a March 12 media tour of both resorts, the men in charge of the respective resorts divulged some nuggets.

Although prices will not be disclosed until today, Heavenly Mountain Resort General Manager Pete Sonntag said two passes for 2011-12 would allow skiers to ride at Heavenly and Northstar-at-Tahoe – the Epic Local and the Tahoe Value.



Dylan exchanges his snowboard for a tub at Heavenly. Photos/Kathryn Reed

This season people who bought a Heavenly pass could ski at Northstar and Sierra-at-Tahoe per an agreement of the sale of Northstar from Booth Creek (which still owns Sierra) to Vail Resorts. Sierra will not be part of the pass equation for the 2011-12 season.

Sonntag, whose background is ski school, plans to elevate the experience for people taking lessons.

“We’re going to get rid of the yurts. We are going to build a new ski school facility,” Sonntag said. “That starts to complete the picture up here.”

He was referencing all the changes near the top of the gondola, including the Tamarack Lodge that opened this season.

Russ Pecoraro, spokesman for Heavenly, said the lodge near the lift with the same name was just what the resort needed and is doing a brisk business. This was Heavenly’s first new lodge in 30 years.

A smoker using black walnut and cherry wood has been installed. A lunch for less special, like other Vail properties, has been instituted. The interior, especially where food is purchased, has the feel of Two Elk at Vail and Spruce Saddle at Beaver Creek.

Bob Offerle, general manager of Tamarack Lodge, knows how to take care of vegetarians because he is one. The veggie melt with its roasted green chilis and sautéed mushrooms is one of the big sellers. Most days a vegetarian chili is also available.

Something different at this lodge compared to others in the industry is a free refill on coffee, hot cocoa and soda.

“It’s not just a great building, you have to have great product,” Sonntag said.

The lodge will be open year-round, but closed in May and

October. This coincides with when the gondola is taken offline for maintenance.

Other improvements at Heavenly for next season include installing more snowmaking and lift maintenance. Two trails off the Galaxy lift will be created.

Although replacing the Galaxy chair is in the master plan, Sonntag would not give a date when the two-seater would be upgraded.

Nor would he speculate when the California Lodge would be revamped. What will make that dramatically different is lodging will be a component of it.

Heavenly is not waiting for a recreation bill in Congress to be passed for it to move forward with creating more summer experiences for guests. Although the winter tubing hill will be open while folks from the Tour of California cycling event are in town in mid-May, a summer tubing hill will be created. Essentially, plastic matting is used instead of snow.

It costs $30 an hour to tube, plus the $32 gondola ride. Newbies to the sport, if one can call tubing a sport, seemed to be converts after experiencing the thrill of whirling down the slick white stuff Saturday.

For Vail Resorts' California resorts, Northstar will be experiencing the most upgrades – a lift, lodge and runs. *Lake Tahoe News* will bring readers specifics about those improvements in a future story.

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2 suspected of passing forged checks in S. Tahoe

By Ryan Lillis, Sacramento Bee

Two people were arrested in South Lake Tahoe on Friday on suspicion of passing forged American Express Travelers Cheques.

Olewasami Brown, 35, of Pittsburg and Annette Powell, 35, of Merced were arrested in a hotel on Ski Run Boulevard, according to the South Lake Tahoe Police Department.

Read the whole story