Placer County opening redevelopment office in Tahoe

Placer County Redevelopment Agency will be opening an office in Kings Beach at 8697 North Lake Tahoe Blvd.

It will be open to the public two days a week when renovations are completed later this month. Office hours are planned for Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10am-3pm.

The satellite office will give the agency a more consistent presence in the Lake Tahoe Basin. With numerous projects in the development, planning and construction phases on the North Shore, having a permanent RDA office with regular hours will enable residents and other interested parties in the area to drop by and discuss the agency's work.

The Redevelopment Agency is involved with numerous projects in the Tahoe basin:

* Domus Housing Development in Kings Beach;

* Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project;

* TRPA Regional Plan Update/Tahoe Community Plans Updates;

* TRPA Chapter 15 Amendment;

* Parking Lot property acquisition and construction in Tahoe City and Kings Beach;

* Ferrari Kings Beach Town Center Community Enhancement Program (CEP) Project;

* BB, LLC Kings Beach Mixed Use CEP project;

* Tahoe City Transit Center;

* Tahoe City Wye Improvements;

* Kings Beach Eastern Gateway Project;

* Tahoe City Gateway Monuments;

* North Lake Tahoe 5-Year Implementation Plan Update;

* Lake Forest Water District/Tahoe City PUD project;

* Tahoe Housing Rehab Assistance Program;

* Kings Beach Everett Property Redevelopment Project; and

* Tahoe Vista Recreation Area Improvements.

Friendship dominates competition for Tahoe riders

By Jessie Marchesseau

KIRKWOOD – Of the 41 competitors hailing from Lake Tahoe resorts at last weekend's The North Face Masters of Snowboarding competition, 14 claim Kirkwood as their home turf.

"Kirkwood's an incredible mountain, and as you can see, we have some of the world's best riders in Tahoe and Kirkwood, right here," said Rosemarie Daiek, one of the weekend's competitors.

Daiek's brother-in-law, Josh, won the North American Freeskiing Championships at Kirkwood the previous weekend.



Rosemarie Daiek, from left, Callan Chythlook-Sifsof, Iris Lazzareschi and Maria DeBari enjoy a moment of celebration on the winner's podium.

Skiers and snowboarders alike, the Kirkwood riders form a fairly tight-knit group. Many of them ride together regularly, they frequently see each other on the slopes, and in a competition like this one, they are all there to cheer each other on.

As Kirkwood rider Adam DeVargas slid past the finish line after his final run on Day 2 of the competition, he was practically mobbed by riders wanting to give him hugs, high-fives and well-deserved pats on the back.

Daiek was one of the first ones waiting to congratulate DeVargas after his run. At more than 6-feet tall, DeVargas is one of the bigger riders at the competition, something he tries to use to his advantage by throwing extra power into his turns. He dwarfed Daiek as she went in for a bear hug.

Daiek, who is 5-feet tall “on a good day,” may not look like she could dominate the forbidden, rocky terrain of the Cirque

the way DeVargas can, but looks can be deceiving. A three-time winner of the Kirkwood Extremes, she won this competition in 2009 and was the only Kirkwood rider to stand on the podium this year, taking home fourth place.

Daiek and DeVargas started competing in big mountain snowboarding in 1996, making them some of the more experienced riders on the tour. In fact, they have been entering competitions since before fellow competitor and Kirkwood rider Casey Lucas ever picked up a snowboard.

Lucas, 25, has been riding for 12 years and competing off and on for the last six. She said snowboarding with the older, more seasoned riders has taught her to keep her chin up, even if she has a bad day.



Adam Trout rides for his friend as reflected on his shirt and board. Photos/Jessie Marchesseau

“They know that every event is a new learning experience for the next contest. So that’s what I learn, is to be humble and appreciate the fact that we’re all out here to have a good time and push each other and progress the sport,” Lucas said. “It’s really great to have people who’ve been doing it for years and years to motivate us youngsters that are coming in

and trying to learn from them.”

The experienced riders are equally as pleased with the company of the younger competitors, especially the skill and charisma they bring to the competitions and to the sport in general.

“The talent’s increased immensely,” DeVargas said of today’s up-and-coming riders. “It’s nice to see when you come out here that everyone’s stomping their landings. You have to really be on your game. And to see the talent that’s coming out now inspires me to go bigger and faster and better.”

Daiek agrees that the caliber of riding has increased tremendously over the last 15 years, as has the number of competitors. When she started, she said there would be four or five women entering any given competition. This weekend, there were more than 30.

“Before, you could milk some turns and now you really gotta go for it if you want something,” Daiek said. “You can’t just take Sally-alley anymore. You’re riding with the world’s best, so it’s awesome.”

One of those Kirkwood up-and-comers is Dave Trout. At 32, Trout has been snowboarding for more than 20 years, but he is relatively new to the freeride competition scene. This is his second year on the tour.



Lake Tahoe riders support each other.

Trout, a New Jersey native, moved to Tahoe four years ago with his friend Beau McGrath. The pair talked about entering competitions together, but McGrath was killed in a plane crash in April 2009.

“We always talked about doing it, so I just wanted to show him that I could do it,” Trout said.

He joined the tour the following winter. Trout’s snowboard and T-shirt still bear the name of his fallen friend with the words “Always ridin by your side.”

Trout pulled off the best finish for the Kirkwood men at this year’s event, taking home ninth.

“You can’t stress out, it’s snowboarding,” he said of competing. “There’s nothing to ever be stressed out about. Just go and ride your snowboard and have fun.”

That philosophy seems to run true for all of the Kirkwood riders.

“This is what I live for,” Lucas said of the fun she is having riding on this year’s competition tour.

Lucas finished third at Crystal Mountain in February, her best finish to date, and plans to continue the tour for years to come.

DeVargas, who has been doing it for 15 years said competing has provided him the opportunity to snowboard new terrain and meet new, talented riders who inspire him to do bigger and better things.

“And that’s what life’s all about, right?” Daiek said. “Going bigger and better.”

Though this was the last stop on the 2011 The North Face Masters of Snowboarding tour, Daiek, DeVargas and Lucas are all looking forward to attending the King of the Hill

competition in Alaska next month.

Elvin Bishop on the South Shore

Elvin Bishop will be at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe on June 11 at 7:30pm.

Tickets at $29, 800.786.8208.

Eric Burdon & The Animals

Eric Burdon & The Animals play Harrah’s Lake Tahoe on May 14 at 7:30pm.

Tickets are $45, 800.786.8208.

Kenny Wayne Sheperd in Stateline

Kenny Wayne Shepherd at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe on April 9 at 7:30pm.

Tickets are $45 – call 800.786.8208.

Unity at the Lake fundraiser

Unity at the Lake “Murder in an English Manor” frundraiser is April 1.

This interactive dinner event is at Embassy Suites, 4130 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, from 6:30-9:30pm.

Cost is $40/per person or $75/two people. Tickets must be bought in advance.

Ten percent of proceeds to benefit Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe.

Call (530) 544.2266 for tickets or information.

Marketing Your Nonprofit workshop

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.

USFS seeks input on Meeks Bay Resort

The. U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is taking public comment until March 18 on a proposal to make water quality, accessibility and utility improvements at Meeks Bay Resort on the West Shore.

The Forest Service wants to implement a variety of water quality best management practices, including slope stabilization using vegetation, constructing storm water infiltration basins, installing bollards or boulders to prevent parking on bare soils, regrading the drive to the main house and creating roof line drip trenches along the cabins and the main house.

The project would improve the accessibility of the parking areas and walkways and provide an accessible walkway to the beach. The Forest Service would also remove power lines from tree and retrofit utility equipment to bring it up to code.

Work could begin this May, with completion in 2012.

For more information on the proposal and how to submit comments, go online or call Ashley Sommer at (530) 543.2615 or via email at asommer@fs.fed.us.

Time management workshop

The North Lake Tahoe and the Truckee Donner chambers of commerce in partnership with the Sierra Human Resources Association are offering “Time Management for Busy People” March 17, 8:30-11:30am (registration at 8am), at Cedar House Sports Hotel, 10918 Brockway Road in Truckee.

This time management workshop includes updated information about prioritizing time to deal with the urgent and important, assessing work-life balance and carving out time for meaningful activities that will make a positive change, as well as 50 high impact tips to beat the clock.

The workshop speaker is Laura Moriarty, president of the SHRA and co-founder of Tahoe Training Partners, a human resources and management-training solutions consulting firm in Lake Tahoe.

Registration is $49 for North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and SHRA members and $59 for non-members if registered before March 11. Last-minute registration runs $59 for North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and SHRA members and $69 for non-members. Seating is limited.

To register and for more information about the workshop, call (530) 573. 0224 or at (530) 581.8764. Attendees can also register online.

TAP’s annual Arts Festival

Tahoe Arts Project’s 10th annual Arts Festival is July 9-10 at South Tahoe Middle School.

This outdoor festival will include art booths, food vendors, children’s art activities, entertainment, and fun for the entire family. This is a juried show and there is space available for artists interested in showing and selling their work.

This is Tahoe Arts Project’s major fundraiser for the year. Tahoe Arts project is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide cultural enrichment and diversity for the community through the arts and education with particular focus on our youth. Tahoe Arts Project has been bringing professional performing arts of various cultures into South Lake Tahoe schools and community for 24 years. All proceeds from the festival will go toward these programs.