Carson Valley Visitors Authority website wins awards

Just days after receiving notification of an Outstanding Website Award from the Interactive Media Awards, the website of the Carson Valley Visitors Authority has been recognized with a WebAward for Outstanding Achievement in the Travel category from the Web Marketing Association.

It was one of 16 travel sites recognized out of thousands.

“If you judge the importance of the award by the other sites named, we are at the top of top,” Bill Chernock of the visitors authority said in a statement. “Among the other 15 honorees are Universal Orlando for its Harry Potter attraction site, and the visitor sites for Kentucky, Oklahoma, Philadelphia, the Bahamas and Britain. Those organizations have a lot of resources to produce their sites.

“We had great partners in John Merry at NetPilot Web Solutions and Bruce Rettig of Charter Advertising/Design and our job now is to keep adding good content and encouraging users to add information and share the site.”

Restoring Cold Creek’s meander in High Meadow

By Kathryn Reed

Freel Peak at 10,000-plus feet looms in one direction. Monument Pass in another. Behind the neighboring mountain is the Sky chairlift at Heavenly. Through the trees, though not

visible until the descent, is Lake Tahoe.

Not a bad work environment.

This is High Meadow.



Excavator Billy Newman puts sod into the new channel of Cold Creek at High Meadow. Photos/Kathryn Reed

But High Meadow could be more aptly named Construction Meadow. This is because of the multi-year restoration project that started in August. By the time U.S. Forest Service crews complete the project in 2012, Cold Creek will meander like it did before cattle grazed in the meadow, willows will sprout from the bank, the dead beetle-infested lodgepoles will be hauled away, and wildlife will have returned to the area.

“The goal here is in five years we don’t want people to know we’ve been here,” said Stephanie Heller, hydrologist with the Forest Service and project lead.

Eighty of the 280 acres in the meadow are being restored.

This land was bought from a family trust in 2003, with a private cabin still on the property near the entrance to the

area off High Meadow Trail, which is off Pioneer Trail on the South Shore.

The area was last grazed eight years ago. Cows like willows – that's why there aren't any. Crews are starting to plant them along the new channel.

Work will wrap up for the season on Oct. 15. Next year it's all about letting the vegetation along the new stream channel take hold. Filling in the old channel will take place in 2012.

The $2 million meadow restoration is being paid for with money from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

What the public will notice most once the meadow project is done is that this flat, expansive land mass will be wet in the spring, more lush and possibly producing wildflowers like not seen by current generations.

"Now the stream doesn't get out of the bank," Heller said. "It will average 30 days each year out of the bank. It helps get the fine sediment on the flood plane. The meadow should be a lot greener. Now it browns up early."

The 18 people working on the project are all Forest Service employees. Driving in (which is only allowed in a Forest Service vehicle) it looks more like a major construction site than a serene meadow. Boulders and smaller rock, along with piles of dirt are under the power lines. Felled trees are in a pile.

Everything being used in the meadow restoration is native. Those piles of rocks about a quarter mile away are being dumped on Tuesday into the freshly dug new channel to create a stream riffle. The dirt will be used to fill what will be the old channel of Cold Creek.

Excavator Billy Newman delicately places swatches of sod. His precision is incredible, making it look like the large yellow

piece of equipment is being operated with velvet gloves.

Building the stack sod bank will help establish vegetation on the bank.

“I think the restoration is broader than sediment. This will be a major habitat restoration,” Heller explained.

She anticipates this project benefiting the area’s entire ecosystem – aiding the goshawks that nest nearby, creating amphibian habitat, having Cold Creek potentially be home to various fish species, macro invertebrates, butterflies, and warblers and other birds calling the high elevation meadow home.

At 7,700 feet, this is the highest meadow restoration project the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has undertaken. Cookhouse Meadow, off Luther Pass, was at 7,300. Big Meadow, one day, will resemble its sister meadow.

The meadow restoration is one of four projects in the area. Aspen stand restoration, fuel reduction and trail maintenance are the other projects.

While Heller and her crew work on the meadow, Jacob Quinn, USFS trails coordinator, is working downstream on 2.2 miles of trail along Cold Creek.

“We tried to maintain the character of it,” Quinn said of the trail. The work to reconstruct the existing trail and reroute some areas will be done by the Oct. 15 grading deadline.

Next summer the plan is to rebuild the trail to Monument Pass. The road to Star Lake will be turned into a trail.

The aspen restoration is necessary because with years of fire suppression conifers have crowded out the smaller trees. As this higher elevation some of the shimmering leaves are already yellow.

Trees being taken out are ones encroaching on the aspens, the beetle-ravaged stands and the ones posing a fire threat.

For more information about the project, click here.

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Mountain bike clinics at Northstar

Three days of Bikeskills mountain bike clinics with professional mountain bikers such as Steve Peat, Greg Minaar, Cedric Gracia, Cameron Zink, Leigh Donovan and more.

The Sept. 24-26 clinics are from 11:30am-4pm at Northstar-at-Tahoe.

Meet at the Bikeskills tent at mid-mountain 15-20 minutes prior to clinic start time. Click here to find out about the various clinics.

To register, call (530) 562.2267.

For more information about Bikeskills, click here.

Composting lecture

The South Lake Tahoe Garden Club will host a public meeting on Sept.28 at the College Demonstration Garden Pavilion. Guest speakers will be John Marchini from South Tahoe Refuse and

Craig Witt from Full Circle Compost in Carson Valley.

They will discuss the current program taking garbage from Tahoe to the valley and turning it into rich black compost.

The program will be an opportunity to learn about an “Earth Friendly” project and to see the newly renovated college garden.

Bring a sack lunch if desired. Light refreshments will be served before the noon presentation.

For more information, call (530) 541.4654

Nevada Day run-walk

Event: Nevada Day Classic 8k Run & 2 Mile Run/Walk

Date: Oct. 30

Time: 8am

Location: The Nugget, Carson City

Age categories: 12 and under, 13-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over

Awards: Will be determined by event sponsors

Course description: This is a classic road course through the streets of west Carson City.

Beneficiary: Special Olympics of Nevada

Mail registration to: Tahoe Mountain Milers Checks payable to: Tahoe Mountain Milers

214 W. Applegate Way, Carson City, NV 89706

Registration: online

Packet pick-up: CV Sports, at 911 Topsy Lane will be hosting packet pickup and registration Oct. 29 between 3-7pm.

Race day pick-up: 6:45-7:45am second story of The Nugget Casino

Fee: Early pre-registration $30 up to Oct. 16; $35 after Oct. 16. Walk in registration on race day $40

$5 Sagebrush Stomper and Tahoe Mountain Miler discount applies to early pre-registration only.

Information: Tom Wion, tomleewion@hotmail.com or (775) 882.0410.

Living Voices – Discovering the Northwest

Discover a unique combination of theater, video and live interaction that creates a high impact experience and an unforgettable journey through history with Living Voices presented by Tahoe Arts Project.

Witness the dynamically changing Northwest at the turn of the century. The expansion of the railroad, the discovery of gold, labor struggles, and world war – these are the passages experienced by a young Swedish immigrant and her community. As she interacts with her African, Asian, and Native American neighbors you'll discover the diversity of the American experience.

The Northwest Passages' program is Oct. 1 at 7pm at the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center.

Suggested donation of $5.

For more information, call Tahoe Arts Project at (530) 542.3632.

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90 years of voting power

In honor of the 90th anniversary of right of women to vote, South Lake Tahoe AAUW will welcome members, guests, and the public on Oct. 9 at 10am at the Aspen Room at Lake Tahoe Community College.

The program, "Ninety Years of Voting Power: Changes, Challenges and Choices," features a panel with Kathay Lovell, Kim Walli, and Nancy Epstein. The speakers will address their role as women in the political arena.

The event is free.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call (530) 541-1299 or email slocumsrus@msn.com by Oct. 7.

Offenbacher to talk about Pakistan climb at SNC

Todd Offenbacher, world-class climber and Resort Sports

Network host, will be speaking at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village on Sept. 28 in the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, rooms 139/141, from 7-9pm.

Widely known for founding and hosting the Tahoe Adventure Film Festival, a high-energy event in its eighth season that showcases 10-minute clips from the best adventure sports films of the year, Offenbacher is also intensely devoted to rock climbing in some of the world's most remote and challenging terrain. This passion led the South Shore resident and three other climbers to a remote region of Pakistan to attempt a first ascent on the colossal, unclimbed granite face of Shingu Sharpa. The expedition was unsuccessful. Undeterred, the climbers journeyed back to the region, one year after a massive land slide had destroyed the nearby village of Kande.



Todd Offenbacher

Recipient of the Mugs Stump Award and the Lyman Spitzer Grant from the American Alpine Club, Offenbacher's presentation "A Return to Pakistan" recounts the tale of a climbing epic that includes a broken leg at 5,500 meters, natural disasters, Taliban road blocks, and a mountain culture based on religion, honor, and respect. Long before the world was introduced to the acclaimed book "Three Cups of Tea," Offenbacher and his fellow companions worked alongside Greg Mortenson and the Central Asia Institute offering aid to the people of Kande whose lives had been ruined by the natural disaster.

For more information on the presentation "A Return to

Pakistan,”contact Library Director Betts Markle at (775) 881.7511 or emarkle@sierranevada.edu.

Chamber music at LTCC

An Evening of Intimate Chamber Music with special guest Maureen Leonard, piano Trio Brio, a group of local professional musicians, will perform at Lake Tahoe Community College’s Duke Theater Sept. 25.

Musicians are David Brock, piano, Pat Crane, viola, and Darrell Moore, clarinet compose the chamber group.

The concert begins at 8pm and will include classical, romantic, and modern era music. A portion of the proceeds from the concert will be donated to LTCC’s music department piano fund.

The evening’s program will open with W.A. Mozart’s, Trio in Eb major, K. 498 also known as “The Bowling Alley Trio” for its nine-note opening theme. Next on the program is a unique solo piece by Max Reger: the Suite No. 1 for Viola, Op. 131d, No. 1. This work is romantic and baroque in compositional structure, played by Pat Crane, viola. Trio Brio then will present two of Max Bruch’s “Eight Pieces” Collection.

In celebration of the 200th birthday of Frederic Chopin, special guest Maureen Leonard will present three works from the piano livre of this composer. The concert concludes with the engaging and virtuosic – Trio pour Clarinette, Alto et Piano by Jean Françaix. This five movement work is sometimes serene, sometimes animated, sometimes jazzy, sometimes frenetic, and sometimes just humorous.

Tickets are $15 general admission, $10 students with ID card, $20 reserved stage seating by piano. All tickets are available one hour in advance of the performance at the theater box office.

The LTCC Theater is located in the Fine Arts wing of the LTCC campus at 1 College Drive, South lake Tahoe.

For further information or to purchase reserved seating advance tickets, call (775) 781.4702.

Kings Beach playground about to get new equipment

Kings Beach is getting new playground equipment.

The North Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Directors awarded the bid and authorized the general manager to execute a contract with Dyer and Associates for purchase and installation of playground equipment, fall material and curbing. The playground equipment will include a play structure for children ages 5–12, swing sets and spring rider play equipment.

There will be tot swings for younger children and traditional swing sets for older children.

The only swing sets in the district are those at Kings Beach Elementary School, which do not include tot swings. This equipment will all meet current playground safety and ADA standards. This playground equipment will replace the old equipment that was removed last year because it did not meet current safety standards.

The district’s Recreation and Parks Commission had been spearheading grant writing and fund-raising efforts that had brought in more than $35,000. In addition, a grant has been submitted to the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association for an additional $44,000, with the remaining $61,000 for the project having come from the district’s Recreation and Parks reserves.

The North Tahoe Public Utility District provides sewer and water service to the residents of Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Carnelian Bay, Cedar Flat and Agate Bay. The district owns, manages and maintains the North Tahoe Regional Park in Tahoe Vista which provides recreation opportunities to residents and visitors. In addition, the district owns and/or maintains all of the public beaches in the district including Kings Beach State Recreation Area, Tahoe Vista Recreation Area, and Secline Beach to name just a few. The North Tahoe Event Center in downtown Kings Beach is also owned and managed by the district.