Cal researchers to monitor cubs rehabbed in South Tahoe

By Barbara Barte Osborn, Modesto Bee

Two orphaned year-old bear cubs that were placed in a man-made den near Truckee on Wednesday will be remotely photographed as they move in and out of the den.

Employees at UC Berkeley's Sagehen Creek Field Station plan to display the photos as they become available on the station's website.

Photos of the cubs' relocation will be posted around the middle of next week, until photos of den activity become available, said Jeff Brown, the station's manager.

Read the whole story

Radon continues to be a problem at ZCES

Radon is an issue that won't go away in Douglas County School District.

Thousands of dollars have been spent trying to mitigate the matter at schools on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. However, tests in December show that the problem is persisting.

For more details, click here.

Guide to Alpine skiing at the Olympics



By Ron Judd, Seattle Times

Modern alpine ski events in the Olympics mirror those of the World Cup, a winter-long series of races organized and controlled by the International Ski Federation, or FIS. The races are the downhill, slalom, giant slalom, super-G, and alpine combined.

Read the whole story

Passing of ‘Bonanza’ actor conjures up memories

By Ian McMillan, Yorkshire Post

Dangdangerlang dangerlang dangerlang dang, der lang lang lang!

There goes the map, smouldering outwards in grainy black and white from Virginia City to Carson City and beyond, to the shores of Lake Tahoe, and here come the Cartwrights, galloping towards the front of the TV screen on their magnificent steeds: Hoss, Adam, Pa and Little Joe, role models all, carriers of the Wide-Brimmed Hat Of Truth in a shabby and

exhausted world.

Readers of a certain age may now be explaining the previous paragraph to younger people, but many of us remember the sheer gut-wrenching excitement of Bonanza on a Friday night (I’m sure it was Friday) as the Cartwright family fought on the side of good in the dusty 19th century Wild West.

Read the whole story

Winter skills workshops

Join volunteer outdoorsman Bill Holt and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association for a one-day winter skills workshop. This class will be offered Feb. 20 and March 6.

The class will begin with classroom time in the morning and outdoor navigation in the afternoon. Your map and compass will be provided; bring lunch and winter clothing suitable for an afternoon of snowshoeing.

The class will include: challenges of winter navigation, using a map to navigate, handson exercises and using compasses.

Location: DWR Nonprofit Center, 948 Incline Way, Incline Village

Cost: $25

Register in advance, as space is limited to 12 participants.

For more information or to sign-up for this class, call (775) 298.0012 or email programs@tahoerimtrail.org.

Fairmont Chateau Whistler – luxurious mountain lodging

By Susan Wood

WHISTLER, British Columbia – On first impression, second impression and lasting impression, the majestic nature of the Fairmont Chateau Whistler comes across as striking.

Outside the slopeside window, in particular from the 10th floor, the views invigorate and excite.

Opening the small, standing-room-only balcony door offers mountain breezes off the Wizard Express chairlift runs, which is just steps away from the resort.



Chateau Fairmont Whistler Photo/Provided

Directly below, a hot tub and drink at the Mallard Lounge fire pits beckon the weary. There are even poolside cocktails from the lounge if going for a longer soak in hot water. Expect a crowd in late afternoon.

The hotel comes with the grand distinction of being the first with ski-in, ski-out access to Whistler Blackcomb.

The hotel's grandeur complements the mountain whose base it sits at. It is practically a village unto itself. One never needs to leave the premise – it's like an inclusive resort without one bill. This isn't a resort just for skiers and snowboarders. Non-hotel guests can also enjoy the restaurants, shops and spa.

The management and staff have thought of everything in the world of hospitality. And their enthusiasm to please guests is evident in every level of staff. Listening to them interact with customers proved the importance they put on guest relations.

And now, the biggest international sporting event will be staged in their backyard. They're booked for the occasion. The Olympics are Feb. 12-28.

"We are welcoming the world during the 2010 Winter Games to Whistler – this incredible year-round destination. We will be looking to maximize how we can benefit from the exposure of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and being on the world stage," General Manager Roger Soane told *Lake Tahoe News*.

By most standards, the Fairmont Chateau Whistler is more than a hotel. It's an experience.

The lobby has that grand hotel, high-ceiling architectural style that gives the visitor a sense of arriving in luxury. Accents of art and antiques dot the common areas and deck the halls. One hallway leads to 28,000 square feet of conference- and meeting-room space – with a new 12,000-square-foot ballroom for events.

The hotel was last remodeled in 1997.

Being a four-season resort, the patio also features a lap pool with underwater music. Another swimming pool starts outside and spills indoors to the spa and workout area. Inclement weather and chilly Canadian temperatures have a way of

bringing people in swimsuits inside to a balmy room where steam billows from the sauna and the inside hot tub. A full fitness center and spa with a variety of treatments provide places to work the muscles then work out the kinks. (See more on that in a future *Lake Tahoe News* story.) Recommended: a hot stone massage can be just the answer for muscles wanting to succumb to heat and pressure.

Ideas abound for those who stay in for the day to eat, drink, be pampered, shop and wander to their heart's delight.

One hallway meanders past the Mallard Lounge and Terrace, with inside seating flanking a dual-sided wood fireplace with cushy chairs. Settling in by the fire on the cozy sofa is certainly an option if one is accustomed to eating at a coffee table. Recommended: the mountain burger with French fries and a razzle dazzle drink rarely mixed at home. (You won't be hungry the next morning until viewing the menus again.)

A full breakfast buffet including an omelet bar is set up in the Wildflower restaurant, which is transformed into a fine dining option for dinner. Fondue is served in the Wildflower entryway in mid-afternoon. Recommended: the seafood chowder is a perfect complement to the wild salmon with maple syrup glaze accompanied by local British Columbia wines.

Light meals can be picked up at the Portabello Market and Fresh Bakery downstairs.

On this level are also the ski valet, shops and galleries.

And aside from a comprehensive adults and kids in-room dining menu, even Fido can get food. The Fairmont is pet-friendly. All shapes, sizes and pedigrees can be found stepping in and out of elevators and rooms.

Along with a slew of amenities, views come standard in the 550 rooms at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler – of the Upper Whistler Village, valley and slopes.

The touches of creature comforts and convenience are important here.

Spacious closets allow room for ski boots and extra clothing that comes with winter travel. A coffee and tea maker pulls out on a shelf from the television cabinet with a refreshment rack close by.

When lounging on the comfy bed or on the Internet at the work desk, use the fluffy bathrobe to live in and expect to be plenty warm.

Note: careful with the heating controls because you could be sweating by the time you wake up. The towels are a bit worn and should not be laundered with the standard hotel detergent that has a distinct chemical smell.

And bring your wallet. Rooms start at $337 a night, and luxury goes up from there.

The Fairmont Chateau Whistler provides a la carte romance plans and multi-day skier packages. The resort can arrange activities designed to fill an outdoor enthusiast’s day in winter and summer – including playing at the resort’s 18-hole golf course and scheduling mountaintop barbecues and glacier picnics.

Other notables:

The hotel features a rooftop wedding chapel.

They grow herbs on-site.

Singer Seal gave an impromptu performance after his marriage proposal to model Heidi Klum.

The hotel was featured on the “The Bachelor”.

Where to go:

The Fairmont Chateau Whistler is located on Chateau Boulevard

at the base of Blackcomb Mountain in the Upper Village of Whistler, about 90 miles north of Vancouver off the Sea to Sky Highway. The Chateau is part of the Fairmont’s chain of luxury hotels situated on the beaches from Hawaii to Bermuda and the urban digs from New York to San Francisco.

Reservations:

Call 800.606.8244 or (604) 938.8000

Email chateauwhistler@fairmont.com

Website – www.fairmont.com/whistler

ngg_shortcode_0_placeholder

Training dates for CASA in South Tahoe

There are many children in South Lake Tahoe who are in need of a special â€œvoiceâ€. These are children that have been abused or neglected and have not had a voice to speak for their safety and needs.

The South Lake Tahoe branch of CASA El Dorado County is offering a spring training class for adults interested in becoming a volunteer advocate and a powerful voice in court for children.

An introduction to our Court Appointed Special Advocate program will be March 4 from 4-5pm. Classes will continue for four weeks from 4pm-5pm: March 9, March 11, March 16, March 18, March 23, March 25, March 30 and April 1.

Plus, two additional Saturday trainings from 9am-2pm on March 3 and March 27.

Each person completing the training is then eligible to become a CASA.

CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge and advocate for a childâ€™s best interest in court. Many of these children have been removed from their homes and are placed in foster care.

The CASA volunteer is often the only consistent person in their life during a traumatic time, serving as an advocate, a mentor and a friend.

The CASA program in South Lake Tahoe is serving more than 90 children but has children waiting. The requirements of a volunteer are simple: a heart for children and a few hours of time.

Call Kelly Parker or Amanda Morozumi at the CASA office at (530) 573.3072 for more information and to sign up for the training.

NDOT conducting wind survey

Drivers can log onto www.nevadadot.com/wind before March 31 to take a brief survey and provide feedback on the wind warning system located along highways 395 429 between Reno and Carson City.

Winds are frequently high in the area. In the past 16 years, approximately 30 high-profile vehicles such as commercial trucks, RVs, campers, buses and truck-trailers have crashed in the valleyâ€™s severe winds.

Nevada Department of Transportation has had a wind warning system in place since the early 1980s to prohibit high-profile vehicles during high winds. In 1996, NDOT installed the current wind advisory system that automatically posts wind warnings and prohibitions based on wind speed.

While not behind the wheel, drivers can also dial 511 or log onto www.nvroads.com for wind closure information.

Now, NDOT has embarked on a study to evaluate any new technologies that may further improve the system. The study will recommend whether the system may need to be updated or modified, and also evaluate the best high wind warning system for the new Interstate 580 freeway being built between Mt. Rose Highway and north Washoe Valley.

Oscars at Opal benefit for TAP

Oscars at Opal is a benefit for Tahoe Arts Project, the organization that brings music and theater to students in the schools on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.

The event is March 7 at MontBleu Opal Lounge at Stateline.Â Doors open at 4:30pm, with the telecast stating at 5pm.

Tickets are $50.

For tickets or more information, call (530) 542.3632.

Lake Tahoe ski report, Feb. 7



It’s a powder day in Lake Tahoe. Read the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe, for all of the details.