Tahoe Wildlife Forum

Tahoe Wildlife Forum on Jan. 28 from 6-9pm at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, 291 County Club Drive, Incline Village.

A film about coyotes and one on bears will be shown before the discussion begins.

Panelists includes: Madonna Dunbar, IVGID resource conservationist; Rebecca Sawyer Williams, IVGID resource conservation technician; Ann Bryant, director of BEAR League; and Cheryl Millham, director of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Center, with with additional anticipated representation by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Washoe County Sheriff's Department and Washoe County Community Outreach.

For information, contact Jill Falman at (775) 881.7566.

West Slope visitor center may help South Tahoe

By Cathy Locke, Sacramento Bee

A request for a "visitor information" sign on Highway 50 has morphed into a program that El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce officials hope will boost regional tourism and local economies from Davis to South Lake Tahoe.

The chamber in early December received approval to operate a California Welcome Center. Expected to open by the end of March, it will be one of 15 centers so designated statewide.

Read the whole story

Lake Tahoe ski report, Jan. 3



With it being get-away day for so many tourists visiting Lake Tahoe, the slopes are likely to not be crowded today. Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Nevada brothel to start servicing women

By Henry Brean, Las Vegas Review-Journal

In as little as three weeks, the Shady Lady Ranch brothel plans to launch a live-action sociology experiment that could open a whole new market for the state's legal bordellos or destroy the industry altogether.

So go the predictions for what might be the biggest change to hit the brothel business since the credit-card reader: male prostitutes.

By as early as mid-January, Shady Lady owner Bobbi Davis plans to hire two men to start servicing women at her cathouse 150 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Read the whole story

Finch eager for second chance at Olympics

Andy Finch, 28, hopes to make Vancouver his second consecutive Winter Olympics in the snowboard halfpipe competition.

Home resort: Northstar-at-Tahoe

Why did you choose this resort?: I can look out my window and see how good it is at Northstar. Also, itâ€™s the best park and pipe.



Andy Finch

How often are you in Lake Tahoe?: Unfortunately, not enough. But probably about 4 to 8 days a month during the winter.

When you arenâ€™t training and competing where can we find you and what would you be doing? On the Central Coast drowning in some waves or somewhere warm and tropical.

After you win gold in Vancouver, what is your next goal? Honestly, my life is in the hands of God and I will go where he directs me.

How long have you been participating in your sport? I have been competing in snowboarding for 12 years.

Who inspires you most and why? Travis Rice because how big he goes and the flair he adds on his tricks.

Your life is devoted to an event that is over in minutes, how do you prepare for that thrill of victory or agony of defeat? At different moments you will perform better, so I make sure I get my state of mind right so I can perform as well as I can and just have fun. The rest is up to the judges.

Anything else you would like to add? The Olympics was a great experience 4 years ago and it would be a blast to go again. I enjoyed representing our country in a way not many get to.

Publisher's note: *Read about the history of the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympics on Jan. 4.*

Weekend writing workshops

Writing Escape Workshop: A three-hour workshop on a weekend from 10am to 1pm in downtown Truckee.

Play with language and meaning in several writing prompts, generate new material, explore craft, and inspire ourselves to develop a consistent writing practice. Each workshop is different and involves much writing.

For all levels of experience and any genre.

It costs $35 each or $60 for two. The workshops are Jan. 23, March 13 and May 14.

For more info and to sign up, contact Karen Terrey at tangledrootswriting@gmail.com or (530) 386.3901.

Measure G oversight committee needs members

Lake Tahoe Unified School District is soliciting applications for appointment to the Measure G Citizenâ€™s Bond Oversight Committee. Applicants must be a registered voter and reside within the LTUSD boundaries.

The Citizensâ€™ Bond Oversight Committee is responsible for the following:

* Report to the community whether Measure G funds are spent on projects listed in the Measure G Project List and that no funds are used for salaries or general school operating expenses.

* Follow and monitor Measure G projects.

* Receive and review copies of the annual performance and financial audits of Measure G projects as required by Proposition 39.

* Inspect school facilities and grounds for compliance with Proposition 39.

* Review deferred maintenance plans.

* Provide information to the public on the progress of Measure G projects.

Applications are due Jan. 15 at 4:30pm.

Call (530) 541.2850, ext. 225 for questions or to request an application.

Wellness weekend at Hyatt in Tahoe

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe in Incline Village is having a wellness weekend Jan. 29-31.

It will include yoga classes, skincare analysis and a seminar on Strategies for Healthy Living.

For information, call (775) 832.1243 or visit www.laketahoe.hyatt.com.

Truckee's Kistler 14th in slalom

By Elizabeth Karam, USSA

VAL ST. COME, QE -â€“ Megan McJames (Park City, UT) started 2010 with a win in Saturday's NorAm Cup slalom race at Val St. Come. McJames was joined by Canadian's Erin Mielzynski and Eve Routher on the podium.

McJames put together two solid runs to have the fastest time of the day with Mielzynski and Routher trailing in second and third place.

Katie Hitchcock (Sacramento, CA) just missed the podium by two-tenths, landing in fourth. Five other Americans joined McJames and Hitchcock in the top 15 with three out the five finishing in the top 10.

Laurenne Ross (Klamath Falls, OR), Devin Delaney (North

Conway, NH), and Erika Ghent (Edwards, CO) finished seventh, ninth, and 10th. Lindsay Cone (Killington, VT) and Lizzie Kistler (Truckee, CA) respectively finished in 12th and 14th.

The women will be in the starting gate again on Sunday for the second slalom race at Val St. Come.

NorAm Cup, Val St. Come, QE Women’s Slalom

1. Megan McJames, Park City, UT, 1:34.59

2. Erin Mielzynski, Canada, 1:34.61

3. Eve Routher, Canada, 1:34.95

4. Katie Hitchcock, Sacramento, CA, 1:35.18

5. Malin Hemmingsson, Sweden, 1:35.66

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7. Laurenne Ross, Klamath Falls, OR, 1:35.95

9. Devin Delaney, North Conway, NH, 1:36.48

10. Erika Ghent, Edwards, CO, 1:36.51

12. Lindsay Cone, Killington, VT, 1:36.80

14. Lizzie Kistler, Truckee, CA, 1:37.32

DNF: Felicia Byers, Sandy, UT, Vanessa Berther, Bellevue, WA, Julia Ford, Plymouth, NH

Lights coming on at Kirkwood; lifts could run Sunday

Updated Jan. 2 at 4:51pm.

By Kathryn Reed

Lights are slowly returning to Kirkwood and lifts are expected to operate Sunday after a fire destroyed the power plant at Kirkwood on New Year's Day.

Power was restored to the village area in the late afternoon Saturday, with lifts and some residences to have electricity as the evening wears on. All residences are expected to have power by Sunday morning.

"In the next 12 to 14 hours we expect to have everything online," Tim Cohee, said at 4:30pm Saturday. Cohee is senior vice president at Kirkwood.

He said close to 500 people are still in the Kirkwood valley.

A fire in the power house the afternoon of New Year's Day reduced the building to ash, caused thousands of people staying in the resort community to spend the night without lights or heat, and left many hopeful the days of being off the grid are numbered.

Kirkwood Mountain Utilities provides power to the entire Kirkwood Valley, which has less than 700 residences with only a few dozen year-round residents; the ski resort that straddles the El Dorado-Alpine-Amador county border; and lodging facilities that had a few thousand people staying over the New Year weekend.



Kirkwood's power plant goes up in flames Jan. 1. Photo/News 10-ABC

Cohee said the delay in getting the power back on was an L-shaped coupling on one of the 300 transformers also went out. It took a while to find it.

Kirkwood employees bought lanterns and flashlights for those left behind. Cohee said it was like a Western movie watching people walk around with lanterns.

The plant that housed six diesel generators is a total loss, with damages in the millions of dollars. The valley usually used three generators at any one time during the winter, with the others considered backup. They are beyond repair.

Then there is the loss in tourism dollars. On New Year’s Day lifts were closed two hours early. Those people were offered a 50 percent off voucher on a day of skiing. Lodging guests could get a full refund of 20 percent off they stayed in the dark.

The two-week Christmas-New Year’s period is when cash registers go cha-ching at Tahoe resorts. Losing part of this last weekend could add up to big bucks.

Plus, the resort was feeding people who stayed – all gratis.

About 300 people took advantage of free cat skiing on

Saturday. Tubing, snowshoeing and cross country skiing was also available to those who were at Kirkwood. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday were also provided.

This is not the first time fire has erupted at the facility near the decrepit employee housing structure – which survived unscathed.

In November 2004, a blast at the plant caused about $100,000 in damage, had skiers stranded on the chairlifts and created the necessity for another backup generator to be brought in.

The New Year's Day fire is significantly worse. However, no skiers were stranded. The resort closed a couple hours early when smoke was seen in the plant.

Officials thought everything was fine when the smoke dissipated, but then the roof caught fire. It was made of wood, while the walls were brick.

Cohee said a filter on one of the generators created so much smoke you couldn't see inside.

"It burned for over three hours. You could see incredible flames," Cohee said.

Caterpillar brought in two more "Cat in the Boxes" by 9pm Friday. This makes three at the resort.

"We have more portable power than we've had fixed power," Cohee said of the diesel units look like 18-wheelers.

Assuming power can be distributed, Kirkwood plans to use the Cat in the Boxes through the ski season, anticipating only needing one as summer rolls around.

Cohee said construction on a new plant could begin in May.

"We will have a chance to modernize (the plant)," Cohee said. "At the point we get on the grid, that becomes the backup

plant if we lose line power.”

In March, the draft environment impact report and statement will be released by the U.S. Forest Service and Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District for the potential authorization of a 50-year special use permit for the construction, use and maintenance of a KMPUD power line connecting the electrical grid near Salt Springs with Kirkwood Meadows.

The line would connect with an existing Pacific Gas & Electric line. The new line would likely be on Eldorado National Forest land.

The final EIR/EIS could be released in October.

“We would much rather be on the grid. It’s much cleaner more reliable and the power is much less expensive at the end of the day,” Cohee said.