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OF THE BIG BEAR GRIZZLY

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Glenn Jacklin with wife Marie on vacation at Angelsea, Australia.



Glenn Jacklin enjoys some water sports with son Grant on the Colorado River.

By Janet Dooley

In addition to his rugged good looks, the first thing you notice about Glenn Jacklin is his accent. Yes, Jacklin is from Melbourne on the southeast tip of Australia.

And, besides his accent, he's like most Americans, most Californians and most Big Bearians — into outdoor sports, his family and service to his community.

Jacklin grew up and attended school in Melbourne. He went to the Phillip Institute of Technology, now called the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and received a bachelor's degree in applied science with a minor in the Department of Education.

Jacklin first came to the U.S. on a ski exchange visa to Vail, Colorado, in 1999 after being a ski

instructor in Canada one winter.

"I came out and ran the sporting activities, basically — tubing hill, ice skating rink, adventure play, snowmobile track," Jacklin said. "And in summer it was mountain bike tours."

He then applied for a green card through the lottery program, which grants a foreign national the right to live and work permanently in the United States. But disaster struck right before he was set to move here.

"I was awarded that (green card) right before 9/11, and that set me back two years," Jacklin said. "They just put a hold on all green cards."

Jacklin spent the time in Australia substitute teaching, mostly in high school.

"I would take every shift every day just to get the money to get an airfare again," Jacklin said.

When he finally got the OK to come back to

MEET

GLENN JACKLIN

An Australian transplant finds a home, a family and a life of service in Big Bear

Vail, he again worked at the ski resort and then at Home Depot, where he worked his way up to assistant store manager.

In Vail he met and married Marie, Big Bear chiropractor Larry Poland's daughter. But the long winters were starting to get to Jacklin.

"Got sick of the snow," Jacklin said with a laugh.

Every time he went out, he had to clear a foot of snow off the car. So he and Marie packed up and moved back to her hometown in 2006.

"I knew it was a wintry place, but it was mild compared to Vail," Jacklin said.

After meeting Director Reese Troublefield in 2007, Jacklin applied for a position with Big Bear Valley Recreation and Parks District. He went from recreation coordinator to supervisor and then superintendent.

In 2020, Jacklin took on the job of deputy director for special districts working from the office in San Bernardino.

"Which meant I looked after all the parks in the county, all the roads in the county that were special districts, cemeteries, trash department," Jacklin said. "It was a mix of everything."

But the commute was killing him, so in 2023 Jacklin took the position of chief public health officer for six months before taking on his now job of general manager for the Big Bear City Community Services District, now in its 60th year.

The CSD is responsible for sewer, water and trash for the unincorporated east end of Big Bear Valley. It also works through a Joint Powers Authority with the City of Big Bear Lake for fire protection and with Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency for sewage treatment.

"We're a special district, which means we're supposed to fly under the radar because we're a service," Jacklin said. "You're not supposed to think about us. Everything runs smoothly."

Jacklin and Marie have two children, daughter Elisa, 15, and son Grant, 12. He's active in sports with them and scouting.

In Australia, Jacklin had been a lifeguard, but mainly liked team sports. These days he's more into individual pursuits. He and Grant are planning a trip to scale Mt. Whitney in October, so they've been getting in a lot of hiking.

When not hiking, Jacklin likes to mountain bike on the many trails in Big Bear. He also helps on camping trips with both kids.

Since he moved to Big Bear 20 years ago, Jacklin has been working for Big Bear's benefit. He became a U.S. citizen in February 2011.

"This year is my even year," Jacklin said. "Twenty-seven years living in Australia, 27 years living in America. I become more American as each day goes on."

Mountain Meals

Big Bear's culinary delights

Big Bear Lake Village

572 Social Kitchen & Lounge

American: Lunch and dinner.

A vibrant eatery serving crowd-favorites like burgers, wood-fired pizzas, fresh salads, and craft cocktails. 572 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0307, 572social.com.

Amangela's Sandwich & Bagel House

Bagels/Sandwiches: Breakfast and late lunch.

A cozy spot known for fresh-made bagels, hearty sandwiches, crisp salads, and warm soups—perfect for a quick, delicious bite any time of day. 40729 Village Drive, Unit 1, Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0015, amangelas.com.

AV Bar & Nightclub

Bar: Lunch and dinner.

Known for its high-energy atmosphere, this venue offers crowd-pleasers such as loaded fries, sliders, and handcrafted cocktails. 664 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-7377, avbigbear.com.

Barrel 33

American/Wine/Beer Tasting: Lunch and dinner.

Offering a relaxed, wine-bar vibe, this spot features artisan flatbreads, shareable charcuterie boards. 40754 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0838.

Bear Noodle Bar

Asian Fusion: Lunch and dinner.

A warm, inviting eatery known for its rich ramen, wok-tossed noodles, savory rice dishes, and shareable appetizers. 603 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-366-0332.

Cowboys Wandering Western Kitchen & Bar

American: Lunch and dinner.

Enjoy a range of hearty, Western-style fare like sloppy joe sandwiches, BBQ grilled chicken with fries, cowboy caviar salad, BLT wraps, mac 'n' cheese and smash burgers—all popular menu items locals rave about. 40692 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-366-0261, cowboyswandering.com.

El Jacalito Grill

Mexican: Lunch and dinner.

Flavor-packed Mexican favorites like sizzling fajitas, slow-cooked carnitas, birria, tacos, and house margaritas make every meal a delicious experience. 535 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-3537, eljacalitogrill.com.

Fire Rock Burgers & Brews

Burgers and Beer: Lunch and dinner.

Juicy burgers, crispy fries, hearty sandwiches and cold brews — perfect for a satisfying meal



A hot and flavorful plate of mixed fajitas is among the Mexican favorites served at Nuevo Vallarta Grill in Big Bear Lake.

any time of day. 618 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0696, firerockburgersandbrews.com.

Himalayan Restaurant

Indian/Himalayan/Nepalese: Lunch & dinner.

Warm Himalayan flavors like momos, spicy curries, hearty dal and naan, and fragrant biryanis — a satisfying feast for adventurous food lovers. 672 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-3068, himalayanbigbear.com.

Jasper's Barbeque

Barbecue: Lunch and dinner.

Smoky, slow-cooked barbecue with tender ribs, juicy brisket, pulled pork, and bold house-made sauces — a carnivore's paradise that's packed with flavor in every bite. 607 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-366-0232, jasperssmokehouse.com.

La Bamba

Mexican: Lunch and dinner.

Bold, flavor-packed Mexican eats — sizzling fajitas, loaded tacos, cheesy enchiladas, and refreshing margaritas make every meal delicious. 587 Bonanza Trail, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-7696, labambamexicangrillbigbearca.com

La Pergola Trattoria

Italian: Dinner.

Elevated Italian cuisine for true food lovers — house-made pastas, wood-fired pizzas, creamy risottos, and decadent desserts crafted with fresh, high-quality ingredients. 40821 Village Dr, Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0555, lapergolabigbear.com

Masala Craft Indian Cuisine

Indian: Lunch and dinner.

Bold, aromatic Indian dishes made for food lovers — think creamy tikka masala, spicy vindaloo, garlic naan straight from the tandoor, and fragrant biryanis, all crafted with rich spices and fresh ingredients. 40760 Village Drive, Suite A, Big Bear Lake. 909-791-1239.

Muchacho's Tortilla Bar

Mexican. Lunch and dinner.

Serving up bold, modern Mexican flavors with dishes like carne asada tacos, sea and land tacos, hearty burritos, and fresh shrimp ceviche,

alongside creative bites like tamales Navidad. 40760 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-415-1077, muchachosurbancaantina.com

Murray's Saloon & Eatery

American: Lunch and dinner.

Laid-back spot serving hearty comfort food like juicy burgers, loaded fries, wings, and cold beers. 672 Cottage Lane, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-1444, murraysbigbearlake.com.

Oaksides Restaurant & Bar

American: Lunch and dinner.

Craft-driven dishes featuring fresh, locally sourced ingredients — gourmet burgers, creative small plates, seasonal salads designed for adventurous eaters. 40701 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-5555, oaksiderestaurant.com.

Old German Deli

German: Lunch and early dinner.

Authentic German flavors for food lovers — hearty sausages, house-made schnitzel, fresh pretzels, and rich potato dishes. 40645 Village Dr, Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0515.

Peppercorn Grille

Steakhouse/Italian: Lunch and dinner.

Bold flavors for food lovers — from macadamia nut crab cakes and artichoke spinach dip to lobster ravioli, Alaskan salmon, and juicy Angus steaks, finished with house-made desserts. 553 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-5405, peppercorngrille.com.

Pita House Mediterranean Cuisine & The Tippy Bear

Mediterranean: Lunch and dinner.

Enjoy fresh Mediterranean-inspired flavors featuring favorites like savory gyros, flavorful shawarma, hummus, fresh salads, and handcrafted pitas in a welcoming mountain-town setting. 560 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-2511

Rosa's Mexican Restaurant

Mexican: Lunch and dinner.

Find classic Mexican favorites like loaded nachos, flavorful tacos, hearty burritos and savory enchiladas that locals often mention in reviews. 646 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-203-2755.

Big Bear Lake Village

Royal Thai Bistro

Thai: Lunch and dinner.

Authentic flavors with dishes like spicy basil stir-fry, green curry, pad Thai, and fresh spring rolls — perfect for adventurous eaters craving bold, fragrant cuisine. 40766 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-2808. royalthaicafebigbear.com.

Saucy Mama's Pizzeria

Pizzeria: Lunch and dinner.

Flavor-packed comfort food with favorites like cheesy pizzas, loaded pastas, hearty sandwiches, and wings smothered in bold sauces — perfect for a satisfying, casual meal. 618 B Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0165.

Steinerhaus at the Qt

Barbecue/Steakhouse: Lunch and dinner.

This cozy Alpine-inspired spot serves up stand-out sausages, schnitzel, and house-made pretzels, and it's only open on Saturdays. 41126 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 714-916-1753

Stella Luna

American/Vegan: Brunch, lunch and dinner.

Offering a farm-to-table scratch kitchen with popular dishes like the vegan chorizo burrito, focaccia with balsamic, grilled veggie sandwiches, and fresh salads. 40696 Village Dr., Big Bear Lake. 909-366-0261, stellalunarestaurant.com.

Stillwells Restaurant and Lounge

American: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

A classic American dining experience that draws visitors and foodies with well-reviewed main dishes like prime rib, New York steak, orange roughy, baby back ribs, and hearty burgers, alongside comforting favorites done well. 40650 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-3121, stillwellsbarandgrill.com

Sweet Basil Bistro

Italian: Lunch and dinner.

Delivering an elevated, cozy dining experience with standout dishes like tender filet mignon, braised lamb chops, house-made pastas, fresh seafood specials, and indulgent desserts such as tiramisu. 40629 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-9212, sweetbasilbistro.net.

Teddy Bear Restaurant

American: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Step into a charming, family-friendly spot where classic comfort food takes center stage, featuring hearty burgers, fluffy pancakes, chicken-fried steak, homemade meatloaf, and generous, home-style portions. 583 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-5415, teddybearsrestaurant.com.

The Bear Trap

American: Lunch and dinner.

Experience a lively, rustic eatery where hearty mountain fare takes center stage, featuring juicy steaks, baby back ribs, fresh seafood, and generous burgers in a warm, inviting atmosphere. 40433 Lakeview Drive., Big Bear Lake.

The Copper Q

Bakery: Breakfast, Lunch and early dinner.

Serving artisan sandwiches and handcrafted pastries alongside favorites like the spinach artichoke chicken sandwich, turkey pesto panini, breakfast burrito, BLT on a croissant, and indulgent sweet treats like carrot cake and scones. 645 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-4777.

The Cookshak

Barbecue: Lunch and early dinner.

The menu features bold Southern style BBQ and hearty comfort fare, highlights slow smoked brisket, juicy pulled pork and ribs, flavorful Po'boy sandwiches, crispy fish & chips, and juicy burgers stacked with robust toppings. 40611 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0137, cookshak.com.

Tropicali

Hawaiian: Lunch and dinner.

A bright island-inspired menu, it delights with fresh favorites like the Tahiti poke bowl, Kraken poke bowl, teriyaki chicken bowl, and Hawaiian pulled pork. 40771 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0499. osotropicali.com.

Village Piza

Pizzeria: Lunch and dinner.

Serving up classic thin-crust pizzas like the Village Special, pepperoni, and meat lovers, alongside hearty Italian-style sandwiches such as the meatball and pastrami sub. 40568 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-8505. pizzabigbear.com



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Village Sports Bar

Sports bar: Lunch and late night. Known for crowd pleasers like juicy burgers, crispy wings, loaded nachos, and cold beers that pair perfectly with the lively sports bar atmosphere. 40789 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0099. villagesportsbar.com

Whiskey Dave's

Sports Bar: Lunch and late night. A lively, music filled hangout known for hearty comfort fare like tender ribs, stacked burgers, smoky BBQ plates, and cold drinks that pair perfectly with live bands and good times. 40740 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-3283. whiskeydaves.com

Big Bear Lake/Big Bear Blvd.

Alley Oops Sports Bar

Sports Bar: Lunch and late-night. Enjoy pizza, burgers, wings, flatbreads and street tacos while catching the game in a lively, family-friendly atmosphere. 40625 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-2695, bowlingbarn.com.

Alpine Country Coffee Shop

American/Mexican: Breakfast, lunch & dinner. A cozy café serving freshly brewed coffee and espresso drinks alongside breakfast classics like pancakes, omelets, and hearty sandwiches. 41546 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-1959.

Benny's Family Restaurant

American: Breakfast, lunch and late dinner. This welcoming diner offers hearty meals for

the whole family, from breakfast favorites to burgers, sandwiches, and homestyle dinners. 41196 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-7844. bennysfamilyrestaurant.com

Café Crepe

Café: Breakfast and lunch. Enjoy sweet and savory crepes, fresh salads, sandwiches, and a variety of coffee and specialty drinks in a cozy café setting. 41003 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0460. cafecrepebigbear.com

De La Nonna Big Bear

Pizzeria: Lunch and dinner. Serves hearty Italian favorites like pizza, salads, and classic entrees alongside wine and desserts in a warm, family-style atmosphere. 40770 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-547-9797, delanonna.com.

Dynasty

Chinese: Lunch and dinner. Serving up classic Chinese favorites like General Tso's chicken, fried rice, lo mein, and savory stir fried dishes with a range of proteins and vegetables. 40989 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-7887, bigbeardynasty.com.

El Rincon Restaurant

Mexican/American: Breakfast and lunch. Offering authentic Mexican cuisine with dishes like tacos, enchiladas, burritos, and sizzling fajitas. 42011 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-366-0394. elrinconbigbear.com

Fuji Restaurant

Japanese: Lunch and late dinner.

Offers fresh sushi, flavorful teriyaki and tempura dishes, and traditional Japanese bento boxes in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. 41025 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-8108.

Gaby's Latin Flavors

Bolivian/Mexican/American: Lunch & dinner. Delighting food lovers with bold Latin flavors, featuring tacos with inventive fillings, handcrafted empanadas, savory pupusas, and vibrant rice and bean dishes. 41618 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-353-8839, gabysbigbear.com.

Get the Burger

Burgers: Lunch and dinner. Serving juicy, handcrafted burgers, loaded fries, and classic American comfort foods with a variety of toppings and flavorful combinations for burger enthusiasts. 42151 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-8800, gettheburger.com.

Grizzly Manor Café

American: Breakfast and lunch. Features hearty, home-style breakfasts and classic comfort dishes like pancakes, omelets, burgers, and daily specials. 41268 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-6226, grizzlymanorcafe.com.

Hacienda Grill

Mexican: Lunch and dinner. Bold flavors with sizzling fajitas, enchiladas, tacos, and fresh guacamole. 41787 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-8667, haciendagrill.net.

Laguna Grill

Mexican: Lunch and dinner. Dig into juicy burgers, cheesy quesadillas,

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zesty tacos, loaded fries, and fresh, crunchy salads for a fun and flavorful meal. 40844 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-2679.

Maggio's Pizza

Pizzeria: Lunch and dinner.

Grab a slice of cheesy, gooey pizza, hearty calzones, crispy wings, and fresh salads for a deliciously fun, casual bite. 42160 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-8815, maggiospizza.com.

Mountain Munchies

Sandwiches: Lunch and early dinner.

Indulge in piled high deli sandwiches like a hearty Reuben or Big Bear Club, burgers, crispy fries, and savory hot melts. 42171 1/2 Big Bear Blvd., Suite H, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-7767, mtmunchies.com.

Nuevo Vallarta Grill

Mexican: Lunch and dinner.

Serving Mexican favorites like tacos, enchiladas, burritos, and sizzling fajitas, paired with fresh salsas. 40949 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-7355.

Old Country Inn

American: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Serving classic comfort food like hearty breakfasts, juicy burgers, savory sandwiches, and homestyle dinners in a cozy, welcoming atmosphere. 41126 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-5600, oldcountryinnrestaurant.com.

PJ's & Waffles

Comfort Food: Brunch and lunch.

Start your day with made-to-order waffles and comforting breakfast favorites, served daily in a

casual, welcoming setting. 41078 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0333, pjsandwaffles.com.

Red Baron Pizza

Pizzeria: Lunch and dinner.

Featuring specialty pies like the BBQ chicken, meat lovers, or the house Red Baron special piled high with toppings, plus wings, cheesy bread bites, and sandwiches. 42173 1/2 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-4744, redbaronpizzasportsbar.com.

Sandy's Sports Bar & Restaurant

Sports Bar: Dinner. Fri/Sat Breakfast & lunch.

Featuring classic pub fare like juicy burgers, loaded nachos, wings, sandwiches, and hearty entrees. 40951 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-366-0461.

Sonora Cantina

Mexican. Lunch and dinner. Fri/Sat: Breakfast.

Offering vibrant cuisine with dishes like sizzling fajitas, cheesy enchiladas, zesty tacos, and fresh guacamole. 41144 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-8202, sonoracantinarestaurant.com.

The Pines Lakefront

American: Dinner. Weekend Lunch.

Picture yourself lakeside, savoring a juicy prime rib or fresh salmon with mushrooms, then sealing the deal with a rich bread pudding or crème brûlée. 350 Alden Road, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-5400, thepineslakefront.com.

Wyatt's Grill & Saloon

American Bar: Weekend Dinner.

Savor juicy Tri Tip Sliders, crispy jalapeño poppers, and warm peach cobbler. 42900 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-585-3000, bigbearerevents.com.

W. Big Bear Lake/Boulder Bay

Azteca Grill

Mexican: Lunch and dinner.

Dive into sizzling carne asada fajitas, zesty shrimp tacos, cheesy enchiladas del mar, and crunchy beef or chicken taquitos with homemade salsa and guac that'll have your taste buds dancing like a fiesta. 40199 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-2350, aztecabigbear.com.

Big Bear Mountain Brewery

Brewery: Lunch and dinner.

Raise a cold pint of handcrafted amber ale or tangerine wheat and bite into classic burgers, a tangy Cuban sandwich, crispy fries or buffalo wings in a laid back mountain brewpub that's perfect after a day on the trail. 40260 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0616, bigbearmountainbrewery.net.

Blanca and Pierre's

American: Breakfast and lunch.

Wake up your taste buds with fluffy pancakes, hearty chorizo and egg burritos, classic Eggs Benedict, or rich biscuits and gravy paired with a steaming cup of coffee that feels like a warm welcome. 39170 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-4566.

Pho Big Bear

Chinese/Vietnamese: Lunch and dinner.

Slurp up steaming rare steak & brisket pho, savory shrimp pho, crunchy egg rolls or fresh spring rolls in a cozy, flavor packed bowl that hits the spot after a chilly mountain walk. 40210 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0068.



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Piza Kama – Scratch Pizza Bar

Pizzeria: Lunch and dinner.

Grab a slice of smoky Aloha or Margherita pizza, build your own cheesy pie, and crunch into fresh arugula salad. 39212 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 626-566-0260. pizakama.square.site

The Bear Trap Taproom

Tap Room: Lunch and dinner.

Sip a crisp craft beer on tap alongside juicy smash burgers, cheesy pepperoni pizza, loaded nachos, and crispy tater tots in a laid back mountain brewpub that's perfect after a day on the trails. 40433 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake.

W. Big Bear Lake/Boulder Bay

Country Kitchen

American: Breakfast and lunch.

Enjoy hearty comfort classics, from crispy chicken and waffles to savory wraps, biscuits and gravy, and satisfying all-day breakfast favorites.. 39904 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-0364.

Moonridge/Big Bear Lake

Captain's Anchorage

Steakhouse/Seafood: Dinner.

Enjoy classic steak and seafood favorites, from rich clam chowder and prime rib to lobster, scallops, and decadent desserts, in a cozy historic setting beloved since 1947.. 42148 Moonridge Way, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-3997, captainsanchorage.com.

The Deli at Dank Donuts

Doughnuts/Sandwiches: Breakfast & late lunch.

Crunch into fluffy blueberry and maple fritter donuts, sip rich cold brew, AND bite into hearty Reubens, buffalo chicken hoagies, or turkey club sandwiches. 42612 Moonridge Road., Big Bear Lake. 909-547-6053. dankdonuts.com

The Moonridge Room

Beer Bar: Lunch and late dinner.

Sink your teeth into loaded animal style waffle fries, crispy shrimp torpedos and rolled chicken tacos, smash down a juicy burger "saucer", and share pretzels with rich beer cheese. 42530 Moonridge Road, Big Bear Lake.

Big Bear City

BJ's Restaurant and Sandwich Shop

American/Burgers: Lunch.

Enjoy hearty roast beef, turkey, or pastrami sandwiches piled high with fresh fixings, juicy burgers, and classic grilled melts. 110 E. Big Bear Blvd. Big Bear City. 909-585-2938.

Broadway Café

Burgers/Sandwiches: Breakfast, lunch & dinner. Dig into a bacon avocado cheeseburger, smoky Southwest BBQ burger, or chili cheese tots and don't sleep on the breakfast burrito that locals rave about. 1117 W. Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear City. 909-585-7682.

Cocina de Mexico

Mexican: Late breakfast and early dinner.

Taco lovers, rejoice—these sizzling carne asada tacos, cheesy quesadillas, and zesty enchiladas bring fiesta vibes to every bite. 300 W. Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear City. 909-547-6999.

La Paws Restaurant

Mexican: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Savory shredded beef tacos, cheesy enchiladas, and a wet carne asada burrito piled high with red sauce are just a few of the crave worthy bites. 1128 W. Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear City. 909-585-9115.

Lumberjack Café

American Diner: Breakfast and lunch.

Fluffy sourdough pancakes, hearty corned beef hash with eggs, and a chorizo breakfast burrito packed with flavor are some of the classic comfort food bites that folks rave about. 1001 W. Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear City. 909-585-2129.

No Name Pizza

Pizzeria: Lunch and dinner.

Crispy crust pizzas loaded with spicy pepperoni, Italian sausage, BBQ chicken, or a colorful veggie medley, plus take and bake classics and fresh garden salads. 1112 W. Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear City. 909-585-4840, nonamepizzamenu.com.

TacosTao

Food Truck: Lunch and dinner.

Grilled carnitas, burritos, and street style tacos piled high with tender meats and fresh toppings keep folks coming back. 1041 W. Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear City. 408-680-6425.

Thelma's Family Restaurant & Bakery

American Diner: Breakfast and lunch.

Fluffy omelets, hearty biscuits & gravy, cinnamon roll French toast, juicy burgers, and that famous chicken pot pie are just a few of the crave worthy plates people gush about. 337 W. Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear City. 909-585-7005.

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Around the Bear

From mountain adventures to festive gatherings, discover what's going on around town

Weekly

Monday Meet and Mingle, First Monday of the Month, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Bear Valley Senior Center, 42651 Big Bear Blvd, Big Bear Lake. Seniors are invited to make connections and enjoy fun presentations.

Farmers Market, every Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Big Bear Convention Center, 42900 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. Browse booths with fresh produce, flowers, crafts and collectibles. Through September.

Family Game Time, Every Tuesday, 4 p.m. at the Big Bear Lake Branch Library, 41930 Garstin Drive. Play board games, video games and group participation games. 909-866-5571

Karaoke with Crucial Karaoke and Taco Night, Every Tuesday, 5-8 p.m., Stillwell's 40650 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake.

Bear Mountain Ladies Golf Club, every Wednesday at 8 a.m. at Bear Mountain Golf Course, 43092 Goldmine Drive, Big Bear Lake. Play golf weekly from May to October. Open to all, including beginners if they have taken lessons and know basic rules of the game. Membership is required for \$30 per year.

Wyatt's Country Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m., Wyatt's Grill and Saloon, Big Bear Convention Center, 42900 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-585-3000, bigbearevents.com

Bingo, Every Thursday, noon to 4 p.m. at the Big Bear Valley Senior Center, 42651 Big Bear Lake. bigbearparks.com

Nikki Sparks Country Rock, Every Thursday, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Azteca Grill, 40199 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake.

Dance Lessons, Every Friday, 5-6 p.m. at the Big Bear Lake Convention Center, 42900 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. Hosted by the Big Bear Community Dance Association. Singles and couples are invited. Free.

Honky Tonk Weekends, Every Friday & Saturday, 4-10 p.m., Wyatt's Grill and Saloon, Big Bear Convention Center, 42900 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-585-3000

Nikki Sparks Country Rock, Every Friday & Saturday, 6-9 p.m. at Stillwell's, 40650 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake.



Yoga, meditation and mindful fun take center stage at the Big Bear Yoga Festival, Oct. 2-4.

Nature Walks, Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive, Fawnskin. Join a California Naturalist on a guided hike through our half-mile Nature Discovery Trail in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Wildflower Walk, 10:30 a.m. and noon at the Baldwin Lane Ecological Reserve, 44999 North Shore Drive. The reserve opens with walks at 10 a.m., guided by Discovery Center volunteer naturalists. 909-382-2790

American Legion Post 584 Karaoke and Dinner, Every Saturday, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., 41606 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. Veterans and their families are welcome. Call 909-866-4845.

Live Music At Barrel 33, Every Saturday & Sunday, 5-8 p.m. at 40754 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. www.barrel33bigbear.com

Pebble Plain Nature Walk, 9:30 a.m., Moonridge Pebble Plain. Join leaders on a tour of the pebble plains. bearvalleyedtrust.org

American Legion Post 584 Breakfast, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 41600 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. Veterans and their families are welcome. Call 909-866-4845.

Sept. 24

Boozy Bingo Night, 5-7 p.m. at Barrel 33, 40754 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. Play bingo while enjoying beer and wine. \$20 pays for entrance and one drink. barrel33bigbear.com

Sept. 25-28

American Veterans Traveling Tribute, 8 a.m. Sept. 25 to 1 p.m. Sept. 28 at Swim Beach, 41218 Park Ave., Big Bear Lake. The display will include the traveling Vietnam Wall replica and the Cost of Freedom Tribute honoring other major wars and conflicts.

Sept. 26

Let's Fiesta, 6-11 p.m. Sunnybrook Estate, 42488 Moonridge Road, Big Bear Lake. This fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Big Bear Lake features cuisine by Tacos Tao and DJ music. Fun for children from 6 to 9 p.m. \$50 for adults, \$10 for teens 13-18 years old and \$5 for kids 12 and younger. To register: 951-227-2407 or portal. clubrunner.ca/7188/events. Click on "Latin American Fiesta Celebration."

Oct. 2-4

Big Bear Yoga Festival at the Big Bear Lake Performing Arts Center, 39707 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. Yoga and meditation sessions, art therapy, kids' activities and vendor expo. Register at bigbearyogafestival.com.

Oct. 3-4

Biggie's Adventure Outpost, noon to 2 p.m. at Snow Summit, 880 Summit Blvd., Big Bear Lake. Big Bear Mountain Resort provides free youth activities.

Oct. 9-10

Big Bear Kodiak Ultra Marathon, starting and ending at The Village in Big Bear Lake. This three-day festival include race distances from 10K to 100 meters, along with food and rink, a DJ and a parade. kodiak.utmb.world/register

Oct. 10

Bear Crawl in the Village, 2 p.m. at 652 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. Enjoy drinks and community bonding. The event concludes with a party, DJ and bear costume contest. Tickets are \$65 and include a commemorative glass and a drink at 10 bars and restaurants. Proceeds support the Big Bear Alpine Zoo and Grace's Place Foundation. <https://tinyurl.com/3hfuv442>

Oct. 14-17

Plein Air Art Competition Show at Destination Big Bear, 713 Stocker Road, Big Bear Lake. Painters have been working outdoors on their art since Sept. 12. At this exhibit, they show their creations in the competition gallery. bigbear.com/pleinair

Oct. 17

Sidewalk astronomy, 7-9 p.m. at 40754 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake (outside Barrel 33). Peer through telescopes provided by the Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society to see stars and planets up close.

Share your events
Email editor@bigbeargrizzly.net



Two bands from Germany will perform at Oktoberfest.

Prost to Oktoberfest!

Good food, live music and Bavarian fun welcome locals and visitors

By Janet Dooley

Yes, the harvest is in. The bratwurst are made. And the beer is brewed. It's time for the 56th Big Bear Lake Oktoberfest, Sept. 12 through Nov. 14.

Monica Marini, managing director of the Big Bear Lake Convention Center, has been running the family event at the center with her husband since 2001 and has been Burgermeister, or mayor, for the past three years.

She said the very first Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, was a wedding celebration. Now, it's one large party with family-style seating. When you sit next to other people at a long table, you get to know them.

Marini said they try to keep that feeling of Gemütlichkeit, or friendliness and well-being, alive.

"We have, over the years, people who met their significant other here and ended up get-

ting married," she said.

Marini said she works with a variety of German food providers to get the authentic taste of Germany. The sausages, strudels and pretzels are ready to go, but the sauerkraut and dumplings are made in-house. The sauerkraut is her mother's recipe, and the herbs and spices are a state secret.

The shape of the Convention Center was built to resemble the large tents in Germany that are set up for Oktoberfest. The decorating starts in mid-August.

"It's a huge undertaking," Marini said. "There's starting to be a lot of blue and white (the colors of Bavaria) around here."

In addition to eating, drinking and camaraderie, Oktoberfest is known for its contests, music and German (and some silly) dances.

Part of Oktoberfest's heritage since 1972, the Oktoberfest Queen contest is for locals



Contestants try to outlast each other holding a full pint held out at arm's length in the stein holding contest.



General good fun at Oktoberfest.

only. She is judged on how many one-liter, five-pound steins she can carry.

"We're now in the process of recruiting local ladies, and practice has started," Marini said.

Marini said most queens can hold 16 or 17 steins. The all-time record was set by Bonnie Kelso in the 1970s at 21 steins. That's 105 pounds!

The stein-holding contest is open to all guests. Each weekend will see contests of 20 people vying to outlast each other while holding a full pint at arm's length.

"All our contests we do during Oktoberfest are free for our guests," Marini said.

The log-sawing contest pits teams of two — both women, both men or "Hansel and Gretel" coed teams — in a timed battle to saw through a 6- to 8-inch-diameter log.

"It's a little bit of a challenge," Marini said.

The safe slam is back by popular demand. Late in the evenings, men and women see how fast they can down a liter of nonalcoholic beer.

"On the last Saturday, we have our championships," Marini said. "So, anybody who won one of the contests throughout Oktoberfest can come back for free on the last Saturday and can compete to be the champion for the year."

Marini engages traditional Bavarian dancers and bands. Two bands from Germany will perform — The Alpen Bavarian Band and the Franken Rebellion. Other musicians will be more local German-American bands. One is an all-women band called the Lady Hosens, who



The log sawing contest pits teams of two in a timed battle to saw through a six- to eight-inch diameter log.

will show off some yodeling skills.

"We have found with Oktoberfest, the more our guests interact and get involved, obviously the more fun they're going to have," Marini said. "And so we really encourage a lot of crowd involvement."

The Gaudi Truppe is a host-and-hostess fun patrol team. They perform and lead the crowd in German songs and dances. A crowd favorite

is the Chicken Dance, where dancers get to shake their tail feathers.

"It always fills up the dance floor," Marini said. "People love the Chicken Dance."

Marini said Oktoberfest is a chance to let your hair down and have fun.

"Where else to enjoy an event than under the beautiful pines of Big Bear," she said.

Winter Safety Starts Before the Snow Falls

Cooler mornings and shorter days mean winter isn't far behind. Before temperatures drop and snow begins to accumulate, now is the time to make sure your home, including natural gas equipment, is ready for the season ahead.

Don't Wait for the First Snow

In areas that experience heavy snowfall, winter preparation starts outside before the snowy season begins.

Snow and ice can place significant weight on natural gas meters, regulators, and surrounding piping, potentially damaging equipment and creating safety concerns. Snow sliding from a roof or building up around a meter can also put infrastructure at risk.

That's why Southwest Gas encourages customers in heavy snowfall areas to install a structurally engineered snow shelter.

A properly installed shelter helps prevent snow and ice from accumulating directly on natural gas equipment and reduces the potential for damage that could interrupt service used for heating, cooking, hot water, and other everyday needs.

For the safety of customers and the community, Southwest Gas will suspend service if damage from snow or ice is discovered at a natural gas meter or surrounding piping. Service can be restored once snow and ice have been cleared, adequate meter protection has been installed, and applicable local requirements have been met.



Clear It Carefully

Even with a snow shelter in place, keeping the area around natural gas equipment clear is important.

When possible, use a broom to gently remove snow and ice from meters, regulators, and outdoor appliances.

When shoveling, plowing, or using a snow blower, avoid piling snow on or around the meter. Customers should also be aware of snow and ice accumulating on rooftops or gutters above natural gas equipment.

Natural gas appliances require proper exhaust and ventilation. It's important to know the location of air supply and exhaust ducts, and keep them free of snow, ice, leaves, or other debris. Keeping vents clear can prevent operational problems for appliances and the accumulation of carbon monoxide in buildings.

Give Your Heating System a Checkup

Preparing for winter isn't only about what happens outside.

Fall is also a good time to have natural gas appliances and heating equipment inspected by a licensed professional. Southwest Gas does not perform appliance inspections, but customers can find licensed contractors through the company's Contractor Referral Program.

From October 1 through November 30, customers can also take advantage of a \$100 Residential Home Heating Inspection per unit from a participating licensed contractor.

Know the Signs of a Natural Gas Leak

Winter preparedness also means knowing what to do in an emergency.

A natural gas leak may be indicated by a distinct sulfur-like odor, similar to rotten eggs, even if it's faint or momentary; a hissing or roaring sound coming from the ground or aboveground pipeline; or seeing dirt or water blowing in the air, unexplained dying vegetation; or standing water continuously bubbling.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately and, from a safe place, call 911 and Southwest Gas at 877-860-6020.

For snow shelter information and additional natural gas safety resources, visit swgas.com.

PAID ADVERTISING

Adventure awaits at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, where Hazel enjoys some time outside in her mountain home. Stop by and meet Hazel and her fellow animal residents at the zoo's new location.



Adventure Awaits IN BIG BEAR

From outdoor adventures to local landmarks, discover what makes Big Bear Valley a year-round destination.

Action Tours. Zipline, Segway tours. Snowshoe tours in the winter. 40957 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-0390, actiontourscalifornia.com

Alpine Slide at Magic Mountain. Alpine Slide, Soaring Eagle, go-karts, water slide, mini golf and Mineshaft Coaster open daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Snow play in the winter. 800 Wildrose Lane, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-4626, alpineslidebigbear.com

Amazing Scavenger Hunt Adventure. Smartphone scavenger hunt. Follow clues and puzzles to explore Big Bear Lake and Big Bear Lake Village. urbanadventurequest.com

Bear Mountain Golf Course and Driving Range. Golf course open daily, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through September. Driving range open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through September. 43092 Goldmine Drive, Big Bear Lake. 909-585-8002, bigbearmountainresort.com

Bear Mountain Golf Course Offering a 9-hole course, driving range, practice areas,

golf lessons, a pro shop and food and beverage service for golfers of all skill levels. 43101 Goldmine Drive, Big Bear Lake. bigbearmountainresort.com

Bear Valley Stage Lines. Carriage rides in the Village. Hayrides, special events. Pedder Road at Pine Knot Avenue, Big Bear Lake. 909-584-2277, bigbearcarriages.com

Big Bear Alpine Zoo. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Last entry at 3:30 p.m. Meet the resident animals at the new location. 747 Clubview Dr., Big Bear Lake. 909-584-1299, bigbearzoo.org

The Bowling Barn. Bowling, glow bowling, bowling leagues, snack bar, game room, sports bar. Fun for the entire family, electronic scorecard. 40625 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-878-2695, bowlingbarn.com

Big Bear Jeep Experience. Off-road Jeep tours where you drive the Jeep. 42011 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-420-5828, bigbear-jeepexperience.com

Big Bear Speedway and Snow Play. Snack bar, video games. Ropes course and speedway open Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Winter activities include tubing, glow tubing. 42825 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake, 909-585-0075, bigbearsnowplay.com

Big Bear Valley Historical Museum, Eleanor Abbott Museum. Local history artifacts, blacksmith demonstrations, panning for gold, souvenir shop. Open through Labor Day holiday weekend on Saturdays, Sundays and holiday. 800 B Greenway Drive, Big Bear City. 909-585-8100, bigbearhistory.org

Chirp Nature Center. Special events, crafts, bird walks, gift shop, wild bird supplies. 578 Bonanza Trail, Big Bear Lake. 888-412-4477, chirpforbirds.com

Gold Rush Mining Adventures. Mining for cool stuff, old Western town. 40016 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-5678, gold-rushminingco.com

Helicopter Big Bear. Helicopter tours around Big Bear Valley and beyond. *Big Bear Airport Terminal, 501 W. Valley Blvd., Big Bear City. 909-585-1200, helicopterbigbear.com*

Mountain Room Escapes. Games, puzzles, escape rooms. Daily from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. *40588 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake. 877-584-6427, mountainroomescapes.com*

Rim Nordic Bike Park and Ski Area. Summer activities include mountain bike riding and racing, State Route 18, across the road from Snow Valley, Running Springs. *909-867-2600, rimnordic.com*

Snow Summit. The resort offers summer fun for all ages, including mountain biking, hiking, scenic sky chair rides, a downhill bike park, basecamp activities, bike rentals and outdoor dining. *880 Summit Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 844-462-2327, bigbearmountainresort.com*

Snow Valley Resort. Visitors can enjoy summer activities including a downhill bike park, hiking, scenic sky chair rides, bike rentals, outdoor dining and a full-service bike shop. *35100 State Route 18, Running Springs. 909-867-2751, snow-valley.com*

The Village area of Big Bear Lake. Shopping, dining and live entertainment. *Pine Knot Avenue and Village Drive, Big Bear Lake.*

Wyatt's Grill & Saloon and the Convention Center at Big Bear Lake. Indoor and outdoor dining, special events, dancing and live music. Home of Big Bear Lake Oktoberfest and Maifest. *42900 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-585-3000, bigbearevents.com*

Yosemite Axe Throwing. Try your skill at hitting a target with an axe. Open daily. Hours vary. *41530 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. 909-647-3069, yosemiteaxe.com*

Marinas, Boat Tours, Fishing Charters

Big Bear Charter Fishing. Fishing charters open daily 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. *Holloway's Marina, 398 Edgemoor Road, Big Bear Lake. 800-475-3166.*

Big Bear Cruiser. Newest tour boat on the lake, providing a smaller setting. Hours vary. Call 909-866-3218 for more information or to book a tour. *Big Bear Marina, 500 Paine Court, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-3218, bigbearmarina.com*

Big Bear Lake Pirate Ship — Time Bandit. Take a lake tour on a pirate ship. Daily 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Holloway's Marina, 398 Edgemoor Road, Big Bear Lake. 909-878-4040, bigbearhollowaysmarina.com*

Big Bear Marina. Pontoon, fishing boat rentals, watersports, lake tours, boat repair, boat launch and slips. Hours of operation vary. *500 Paine Court, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-3218. bigbearmarina.com*

Cantrell Fishing Guide Service. Guided fishing charters. Open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. *Pine Knot Marina, 400 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-585-4017 or 909-744-0935.*

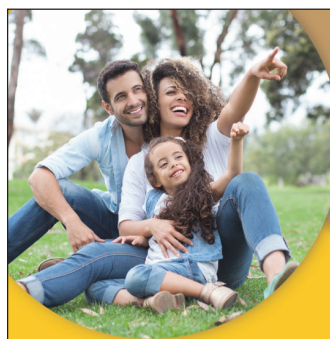
Fish Big Bear Charter Service. Fishing charters. Open daily 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Big Bear Marina, 500 Paine Court, Big Bear Lake. 909-255-2834.*

Lucky Bear Fishing Charters. Fishing charters and eagle sighting tours. Open daily 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. *Captain John's Fawn Harbor & Marina, 39369 North Shore Drive, Fawnskin. 909-866-7303, luckybearfishing.com*

Miss Liberty Paddlewheel Tour Boat. Narrated 90 minute tour of Big Bear Lake featuring lake history. *439 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-8129, pineknotmarina.com*

Pine Knot Marina. Lake tours, personal watercraft, paddleboard, boat and kayak rentals, fishing charters, watersports school. Boat slip rentals and maintenance services. *439 Pine Knot Ave., Big Bear Lake. 909-866-7766, pineknotmarina.com*

Pleasure Point Marina. Boat rentals and paddleboard rentals. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. *603 Landlock Landing, Big Bear Lake. 909-866-2455, pleasurepointmarina.net*



2022 WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

With safety as our No. 1 priority, we have updated our 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan with:



Increased Vegetation Management



State-of-the-art Equipment Upgrades



Proactive Operational Improvements

Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. is going above and beyond state-mandated safety standards to protect customers and the community from the risk of wildfires.

To learn more about our wildfire mitigation efforts:
 www.bvesinc.com/safety  (800) 808-2837



Big Bear comes alive with color in the fall, as golden aspens, oaks and maples paint the mountain landscape in brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red.

Chasing FALL COLORS

Explore Big Bear's trails for spectacular autumn views

By Christie Walker

As days grow shorter and nighttime temperatures drop, the deciduous trees of Big Bear transform, putting on a colorful show, with aspen, cottonwood and willow trees turning various shades of gold, while the oaks and maples flash shades of orange, red and amber.

Why does this happen? It all has to do with green chlorophyll. As sunlight decreases, chlorophyll breaks down, halting the food-making process and preparing the tree for winter. The orange and yellow colors we see in fall are always there, hidden under the green mask of chlorophyll, to be "magically" revealed when the chlorophyll dissipates. The red and purple colors are a result of trapped sugars reacting to sunlight in the cooling leaves.

Most people don't care why it happens, only that it's beautiful to behold. Big Bear offers the perfect combination of sunny days and cool, crisp nights just above freezing to create the most vibrant fall colors in Southern California.

Mid- to late October is usually the peak season for leaf-peeping in the Big Bear Valley, with The Village offering the highest concentration of colorful trees in an easy-to-access location.

Village Drive and Pine Knott are a photographer's delight, with an autumn palette of brilliant colors lining both sides of the street. Feeling more adventurous? Check out these local trails for up-close-and-personal leaf-peeping explorations.

Towne Trail **Easy 3-mile round trip**

You'll find shades of gold, amber and orange among the evergreens on this relatively flat trail that stretches from The Village to Snow Summit. Access is off of 2N08 at Knickerbocker Road.

Castle Rock Trail **Intermediate 2-mile round trip**

A favorite fall hike, the Castle Rock Trail winds through a dense forest of pine and oaks. The oak and serviceberry trees will turn a lovely gold, with the higher-elevation trees turning first. In addition to the fall colors, a spectacular panoramic view of Big Bear Lake is the cherry on top, rewarding those who make it to the top. Parking for the trail is at the Castle Rock Trailhead parking lot, located at the intersection of Big Bear Boulevard and Talbot Drive. Parking is free.

Mountain Top Loop **Easy 1-mile loop**

Take the Scenic Sky Chair at Snow Summit (a fee is required) to access this one-mile loop for a bird's-eye panoramic view of the changing foliage of the forest below and Big Bear Lake.

Woodland Trail **Easy 1.5-mile loop**

Located on the North Shore across from the Carol Morrison East Boat Ramp, the Woodland Trail is perfect for families. Here, you will find oaks and serviceberry trees sporting their fall colors. Trailhead parking requires an Adventure Pass.

ADA-FRIENDLY TRAILS

Alpine Pedal Path **Easy 7-mile round trip**

Paved and mostly flat, the Alpine Pedal Path on the North Shore of Big Bear Lake follows the edge of the lake from Stanfield Cutoff to Serrano Campground. Views of the lake and the South Shore mountains are part of the journey to find fall colors.

Happy Hills Trail **Easy 1-mile round trip**

Located in Big Bear Lake behind the Performing Arts Center, the Happy Hills Trailhead is a fully paved trail that weaves through numerous deciduous trees, making it a great place to view all the fall colors.



Wire mesh around the roots will keep pests out of your garden.



Stacked firewood should have a fire-resistant tarp.



Gonzalez Garage will teach you how to install your traction devices.

Ready for Winter

A little fall preparation goes a long way in the mountains

By Janet Dooley

As we soak up the last days of summer — hitting the trails, reading trashy novels, swatting mosquitoes at the backyard barbecue — there's something tickling at the back of our brains.

Did I forget to eat all the watermelon? No, got plenty of that. Did I enjoy the many special events this summer? You bet. Did I get a tan? Well, sort of.

What could it be?

Wake up! It's September! Time to think about fall and preparing for a mountain winter.

It's time to change the furnace filter, get the chimney cleaned and check the door and window seals.

There are plenty of services to call in Big Bear, but if you're a do-it-yourself kind of person, DIY might have the answer for you.

Store manager Carlos Arévalo said customers start purchasing more tarps and rakes now to clean and prepare their yards for cooler weather.

"And patio covers, barbecue covers, chairs and table covers," Arévalo said. "It's sometimes hard for us to keep it in stock. They buy everything off the shelf."

Customers start to stock up on firewood and wood racks as the weather reminds them of what's to come, he said. Ice melt is another big item. And some will splurge on outdoor heaters to enjoy a few more hours outdoors.

"What I noticed in the past couple of years is indoor painting and drywall repair in winter," Arévalo said. "It's cold, but I guess indoor work is still going on."

Arévalo suggested making sure your plumb-

ing is all good.

"Because you don't want to have plumbing issues as it's snowing or the roads are closed," he said.

And don't forget to replace last year's broken snow shovels and ice scrapers.

Good night, gardens

Fran Wyman, a member of "A" Garden Club, said now is the time to put your garden to bed for fall and winter.

"Don't wait for your trees to be dormant — apple trees, stone fruit, ornamentals — to prune them back," Wyman said. "You want to prune them for height and size and shape now before they go into dormancy."

Wyman said Big Bear has another three to four weeks until the leaves turn and we transition to autumn.

The next thing to consider is insulating bushes and trees. Snow provides some insulation. But during years of little snowfall, like last winter, the wind chill can cause more harm by lowering the temperature by up to 20 degrees.

"Mulch, mulch, mulch," Wyman said.

She said there are a hundred ways to get mulch, from chipped bushes and trees to wheat straw, leaves and grass clippings to purchased mulch.

Wyman had ideas for potted plants. If you cannot bring them into a garage or protected area, plants could be put, pot and all, into the ground and mulched for protection. And if there's no room for that, maybe layers of bubble wrap will provide a bit of warmth.

Now is the time to plant bulbs. And you'll have a much better chance of getting flowers if

you plant them with the roots surrounded by chicken wire mesh or other gopher-proof baskets.

And remember to drain and dry any irrigation system. She likes to use compressed air to get all the water out to avoid freezing and breaking any pipes and solenoids. A professional can help here.

"Don't assume it's dry," Wyman said.

Cars need extra care

Diana Estrada, service writer at Gonzalez Garage in Big Bear City, said it's also time to think about what your vehicles will go through this fall and winter.

"Usually when it gets colder, like when it's dropping into the 30s at night, then we start taking measures on your washer fluids," Estrada said.

The fluids need to be changed to something with a bit more alcohol in it so they don't freeze. Gonzalez Garage will change the washer fluid when someone comes for an oil change.

"Some customers like to get more aggressive tires for the winter," Estrada said. "So, check your tire tread. Make sure you have the correct mud and snow tires for up here."

Estrada also suggested checking to make sure the four-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive systems are working correctly. For vehicles without 4WD or AWD, Estrada likes cables over chains.

"They tend to snap less," she said. "If they do snap, they tend to do a little less damage to the car, like take out a brake hose."

Some cars will only accept a certain type of cable or chain. Teslas, for example, need a snow sock. Some oversized tires require chains. Gonzalez Garage will teach you how to install your traction devices.

Check for coolant leaks because the heater system works off the coolant system, she said.

Gonzalez Garage is family-run. Estrada's father, Daniel, is co-owner with his brother Miguel. Miguel's daughter, Aline, also works in the business.

RECOVERY ROCKS

A night of live music, community and sober fun under the stars



September is National Recovery Month, and the Breakthrough Task Force is tuning up for an all-new sober event under the stars. The second annual Recovery Rocks concert is slated for 6-8 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Big Bear Discovery Center Amphitheater, with sponsorship from Visit Big Bear and Grocery Outlet.

Recovery Rocks features a live performance by local musical talent Dragonwolfe, playing classic rock from a variety of eras sure to get attendees dancing.

Recovery Rocks is a free, sober event open to all ages. No alcohol, substances or paraphernalia are permitted on the premises. No tickets are required to attend.

An expo of vendors with resources, snacks and beverages is planned. Seating is available, but

concertgoers can bring their own folding chairs.

"We understand that the road to recovery isn't easy, and sometimes fun seems out of reach," said Stephanie Koch, BTF prevention program coordinator. "We hope that those in recovery can join fellow community members to take advantage of this opportunity, and that Recovery Rocks will become an event they can look forward to every year."

Breakthrough Task Force is a local coalition based in Big Bear Lake under Rim Family Services' Environmental Prevention Program. Its mission is to reduce underage access to and use of drugs and alcohol. Find more information at rimfamilyservices.org.

The Big Bear Discovery Center Amphitheater is at 40971 North Shore Drive, Fawnskin.

Yoga, Nature & Connection

Big Bear Yoga Festival has yoga and meditation sessions, sure, but it also includes hikes, music, vendors and more.

Hosted by Leafy for Wellness Foundation, the entire weekend, Oct. 2-4, is full of indoor and outdoor fun at the Big Bear Lake Performing Arts Center.

A Welcome Celebration awaits everyone Oct. 2. The main part of the festival, vendors and afterglow party are on Oct. 3. The final day, Oct. 4, features a hike, more yoga and a picnic brunch.

Yoga classes include tai chi, a drum circle, hatha fascia flow, slow-down yoga, forest bathing, nature-based meditation and vocal activation.

Creator classes include guided painting art therapy with yoga, blue chakra yoga, an introduction to Ayurveda, hatha yoga with restorative gardening, and elevation and vibrational alignment.

And there are activities for kids, including kids yoga, nature hikes and arts and crafts.

The Creator Village is the vendor expo, featuring wellness, art and handmade goods all in one space.

Please bring a yoga mat and any props you prefer to use. A blanket or meditation cushion is helpful if you plan to participate in meditation. Comfortable clothing will allow you to move freely.

For more information and to register, visit bigbearyogafestival.com.

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