

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT 2008 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Year-End Highlights for Vail Golf Club, Dobson Ice Arena, Sports, Youth Programs, Tennis, Gymnastics, Nature Center and Nordic Center

(Vail)--The Vail Recreation District (VRD) Board of Directors and staff reported a productive and financially strong year for 2008. What follows are the 2008 events, projects, activities and people that contributed to supporting the VRD's mission to offer diverse and exceptional recreation opportunities that enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of all its residents and guests. Foremost among these is a continued strengthening of its partnerships with the Town of Vail, as well as economic stewardship, both which will allow continuation of VRD programs and offerings for thousands of Vail Valley residents and visitors for future years.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2008**Planning and Partnerships**

- In July, the VRD and Town of Vail defined next steps for recreational programming following what both Vail Town Manager Stan Zemler and VRD Executive Director Mike Ortiz called an historic agreement between the two organizations. The 10-year agreement outlines repairs and replacement needs for the facilities and areas including the Vail Golf Club, Tennis Center, Dobson Ice Arena, Ford Park athletic fields and VRD Youth Services in the LionsHead parking structure. The agreement also continues to allow the VRD to operate programs and services out of the town-owned facilities. A five-year capital plan is being used by both entities to outline next steps for moving forward. Based on needs defined in the plan, the VRD will contribute 48 percent and the town 52 percent through 2012. Once capital plan items are completed, cost-share for projects is anticipated to result in an annual 69 percent contribution by the VRD and 31 percent contribution by the town.
- The VRD hired Kevin Atkinson of Phelps-Atkinson Design in October to move forward with a master planning process for the Vail Golf Course. The master plan will serve as a guide for enhancements to the course and is not intended for a redesign. Items that will be reviewed include aesthetics and usage of materials such as rock on the tee boxes, upgrades to tee boxes, sand traps, course routing, playability, safety, clubhouse location and needs and overall enjoyment of the golf course.

**Environment**

- The VRD replaced all its original 1979 lighting at Dobson Ice Arena in April with energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs. By replacing all the lights in the facility, the VRD will reduce its light energy usage by 50 percent, resulting in a carbon dioxide

output reduction of 120 tons per year. This equates to removing 21 cars off the road per year or saving over 10,000 gallons of gas. The new lighting provides lighting similar to the National Hockey League and has improved visibility and enhanced the experience for skaters and spectators in the arena.

Leadership

- The VRD Board of Directors welcomed new board member Jeff Wiles and welcomed back incumbent Michelle Hall following its special district election on May 5. Wiles replaced outgoing member Scott Proper who did not run for re-election. Hall and Wiles will serve four year terms and join Joe Hanlon, Ken Wilson and Rick Sackbauer whose terms end in 2010.

Awards and Recognition

- The VRD was recognized as a finalist for the Vail Valley Partnership's Vail Valley Success Awards for the marketing campaign of the year. VRD staff attended the Partnership's annual award's gala in early 2008 where it received an honorable mention for the campaign.
- In November, the VRD's La Sportiva Vail Mountain Trail Running Race Series was named best running race series for the second time in four years by regional magazine *Colorado Runner*. The five-race series was selected as the top choice by voters via a poll from the magazine's Web site. Nearly 20 runners completed all five races in the series, which took a total of 1,400 competitors along 45 miles of trails for a total elevation gain of 13,492 feet. The race series will return in June 2009.
- The Vail Golf Club also received designation as "Best Places to Play" by *Golf Digest* in July 2008. The course was rated among 6,000 other courses in North America and evaluated by 20,000 *Golf Digest* readers.



Safety Improvements

- In July, the VRD completed installation of the Vail Golf Club's new state-of-the-art lightning notification system, which spans from the east end of the Vail Golf Club to the west end of the Ford Park athletic fields. The \$27,000 system, a Thorguard system that is used at all U.S. Golf Association Championships, was installed as a means to encourage users to stop play immediately, whether on the golf course or an athletic field, and seek shelter when the system sirens are sounded. The sirens were sounded 27 times from July through the end of October.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Throughout 2008, the VRD Board and staff closely monitored expenditures and incoming revenue allowing the organization to meet its mission of providing diverse recreational programs and opportunities for residents and guests. The VRD's adopted budget for 2009 will allow the organization to continue to provide these high quality and cost efficient programs and activities, while remaining financially conservative given the current economic uncertainties.

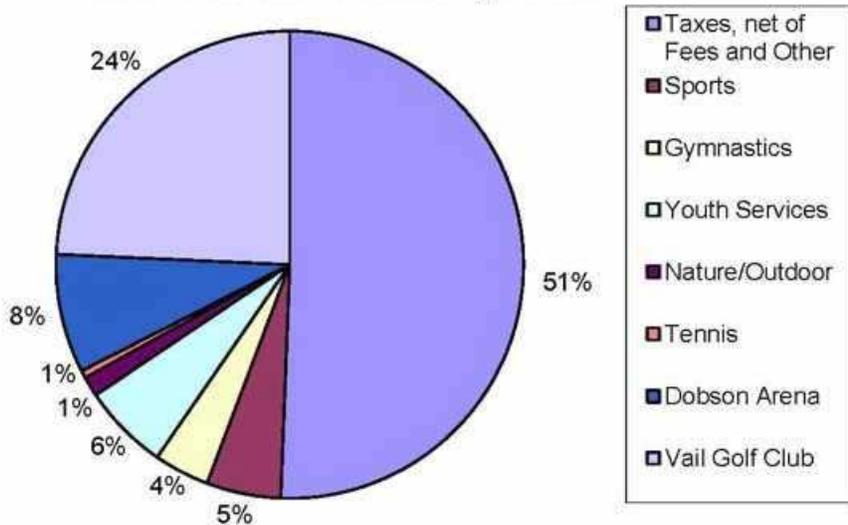
2008

- The VRD began 2008, for the first time in many years, with a sufficient fund balance of \$1.25 million. The VRD Board works to keep the fund balance at a minimum of \$1.25 million annually.
- The VRD is projected to finish the year with a \$485,000 increase in fund balance

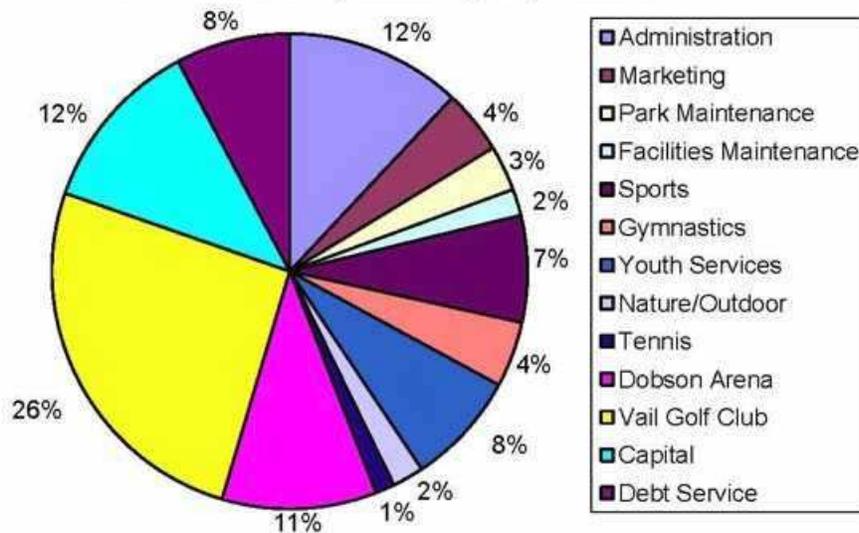
bringing the balance to nearly \$1.8 million. This increase, which is primarily attributed to postponement of golf course retaining wall work, will be rolled forward to allow for construction of the walls in 2009.

- Joint funding between the town and VRD allowed long-deferred capital maintenance of the town-owned, VRD-managed facilities to begin in 2008. These improvements were identified in the Borne Report, a study commissioned by the VRD in 2006-07, that provides recommendations on immediate and long-term maintenance and replacement needs. The VRD also made necessary additions and replacements to its fleet of vehicles and maintenance equipment, which included the purchase of a new \$160,000 snowcat to groom the Vail Nordic Center track.

2008 Forecasted Revenues By Source



2008 Forecasted Expenses By Department



2009

- The 2009 budget anticipates an ending fund balance of \$1.26 million but includes

\$300,000 of contingency spending for potential revenue deficiencies or construction cost overruns.

- Plans to rebuild golf course retaining walls and associated tee boxes three and seven were approved by the board for 2009, as well as replacement of the golf course's 40-year-old irrigation system. The combined \$3.5 million expenditure will be cost-shared with the Town of Vail. Work on the project will commence in spring 2009 and the VRD anticipates offering 17 to 18 holes for play throughout the duration of the work. The retaining walls are scheduled to be completed in spring 2009 and the irrigation system is scheduled to be completed in fall 2009.
- Revenues from the Vail Golf Club, the second largest revenue source for the VRD, are anticipated to decrease in 2009 during the irrigation replacement work and due to forecasts for a slow economy. As such, the VRD anticipates an overall decrease of 21 percent in golf course revenues as budgeted for 2009. Day-to-day operations and customer service levels at the golf club will be maintained offering the best experience possible during the 2009 season.
- The VRD has budgeted funds to meet U.S. Department of Justice American Disability Act requirements at the Vail Golf Club and Youth Services office and Imagination Station in LionsHead. This work will also be cost-shared with the Town of Vail.

VAIL GOLF CLUB

In May, the Vail Golf Club opened for its 42nd season of operation and generated \$1.4 million in revenue throughout its season. The golf club is the second largest funding source for the VRD, with the first being collection of property taxes. It continues to be an essential component in the VRD's financial growth. Throughout the golf season, nearly 24,993 rounds were played, up 351 rounds over 2007.

Golf Swing Analysis

- In March, the VRD announced an incorporation of a 3D golf swing analysis machine to the Vail Golf Club. The new technology allows golfers to record, analyze and critique their swings with the help of Head Golf Professional Jeanne Sutherland. Other features of the golf swing analysis technology include opportunities to track progress of the golfer's swing and compare it with their favorite professionals.



Clinics

- Three weekly clinics were held including the Weekly Ladies' Clinics, Coors Coaching Hour and Par Challenge and Competitor's Clinics with a total of 350 participants.

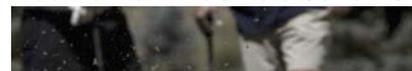
Leagues

- Three leagues offered approximately 169 members play throughout the week. This included a Senior, Men's and Ladies League.
- Each league held 16 events, including Club Championships.

Events

The First Tee Junior golf program returned for its second year at the Vail Golf Club with 175 participants who learned life skills through the game of golf. The program offered four summer sports camps for ages six to 17 years. Additionally, a junior team of 10 competed against other local courses. The program is sponsored by the Vail Valley Youth Foundation. Other events included:

- The Colorado Junior Golf Association Tom Whitehead Tournament was held June 25 and included a double shotgun start with 220



participants, up 60 participants over the 2007 event.

- The Monday Sundowner returned with approximately 40 participants per week offering a local's scramble that included nine holes of golf followed by appetizers and cocktails at Happy Valley Grill.
- In May, the Vail Golf Club offered free 15-minute golf lessons during Play Golf America's Free Lesson Month, which is designed to bring new people to the sport of golf or help existing golfers improve their game. The lessons attracted 35 participants who enjoyed a free lesson from professionals at the golf club.
- In June, the golf club hosted the annual Fred and Judy Alexander Family Golf Clinic with approximately 230 children and parents participating, up 100 participants over 2007.
- In July, the Vail Golf Club offered an all-day golf seminar that provided 20 players with more in-depth, one-on-one instruction than a typical golf lesson. Instructors included Vail Golf Club Head Professional Jeanne Sutherland; Jennifer Orr, a Titleist certified golf fitness instructor and licensed physical therapist; and John Eliot, Ph.D., who works with professional baseball and basketball players, as well as Professional Golf Association Tour players.
- In November, the Coal Bucket Classic returned for the third time since 2006 offering 45 golfers a chance to play golf in Vail before the beginning of ski season.

SPORTS

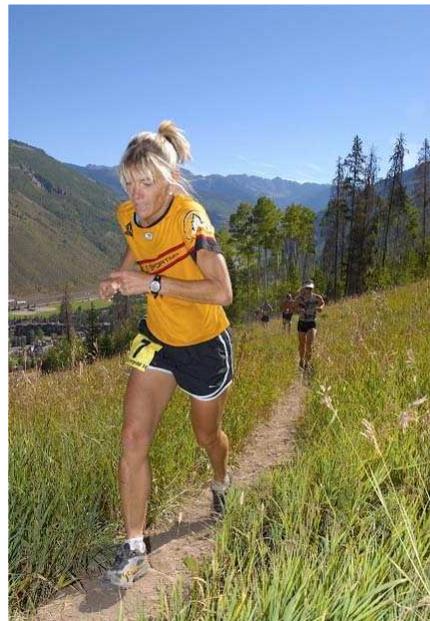
The VRD Sports Department organized a wealth of activities in 2008 including the annual trail running and mountain bike event series, youth sports camps and youth and adult recreation leagues for volleyball, softball, basketball, soccer and more.

Sponsorships

- Throughout the year the VRD's Sports Department garnered over \$55,000 in cash through corporate sponsorships and over \$60,000 in prizes for merchandise and support services. Sponsorships remain a crucial component to the success of the sports department programs.

Trail Running

- In June, the La Sportiva Vail Mountain Trail Running Series kicked off its five-race series with over 1,400 runners competing throughout the summer. Competitors participated from nearly all 50 states, plus international locations including Mexico, Canada and France to name a few. Nearly 20 runners completed all five races in the series, which took runners along 45 miles of trails for a total elevation gain of 13,492 feet. The annual Vail HillClimb attracted the largest number of competitors with over 350 runners participating.
- In June, the VRD worked with the Vail Valley Charitable Fund (VVCf) and organized the first-annual La Sportiva Summer Solstice Twilight Trail Run as a benefit for the VVCf. Approximately 170 participants ran in the Summer Solstice race raising thousands of dollars for the VVCf. Runners also enjoyed free food and live music. The 2nd annual La



Sportiva Summer Solstice benefit race is scheduled to kick off the VRD's trail running series on June 20, 2009.

- The July Berry Picker race served as a selection race for the U.S. Mountain Running Team. The VRD has held more U.S. Mountain Running Team selection races than any other organization in the U.S.
- The running race series also was named Colorado's "Best Trail Running Race Series" for the second time in four years by *Colorado Runner* magazine in its November/December 2008 issue.
- Joining 2008 series title sponsor La Sportiva were Vail Resorts, FirstBank of Vail, Vail's Mountain Haus, SmartWool, Tiga Advertising, Howard Head Sports Medicine Centers, Steadman Hawkins Sports Medicine Clinic and Foundation, Vail Daily, Joint Juice and Gatorade.

Mountain Biking

- In May, the VRD celebrated 25 years of mountain bike racing in the Vail Valley and kicked its race series off with over 340 riders in the Eagle Classic at Eagle Ranch. As part of the 25th anniversary celebration, on June 25, 210 participants also tested their strength in the 25th Anniversary Davos Dash. Throughout the six-race series, over 1,521 riders competed for \$5,200 in cash and \$30,000 in prizes.
- The Adventure Ridge Youth Mountain Bike Series continued to grow with 130 youth participants throughout the series, resulting in a 100 percent increase in youth participation over 2007.
- Sponsors of the 2008 races included Vail Resorts, Inc., Beaver Creek Resort, Adventure Ridge, Bud Light, FirstBank of Vail, Plum TV, East West Resorts, Rocky Mountain Bicycles, Street Swell, Rocky Mountain Reprographics, AAA Mini Storage, Arrigoni Woods, Vail Valley Ear, Vail Daily, Steadman Hawkins Sports Medicine Clinic and Foundation, Nose and Throat Group and Vail Valley Foundation.

Adult Sport Leagues

- The VRD continued to offer adult sports leagues throughout the year with eight basketball teams, 18 indoor soccer teams, six summer volleyball teams, 22 winter volleyball teams, 40 softball teams, 17 8v8 co-ed summer and seven fall soccer teams and eight adult flag football teams.
- Team participation increased in nearly all the leagues.

Youth Sports

- Over the summer, the VRD hosted 10 youth sports camps, including volleyball, lacrosse, soccer, baseball and basketball, plus the MiniHawks camps. Over 600 local and visiting youth participated in at least one camp. Nearly all the camps experienced an increase in participation.
- The VRD also hosted a new Girl's Soccer Academy in July with 75 participants who learned tips and techniques from an all-female coaching staff.
- Over 40 children, grades one through six, participated in the six-week High Country Hoops basketball camp.
- NBA All-Star and All-Pro Sydney Moncrief and his award winning staff returned for their third year and coached 42 participants during the VRD's Back to Basics All-Star Basketball Camp. Moncrief and his staff are scheduled to return in August 2009.
- Colorado State University head volleyball coach Tom Hilbert returned for his fourth



year and led 40 participants in an individual skills volleyball training camp for three days. Hilbert will return in June 2009.

- Youth sports camp sponsors include Antlers at Vail, KidSPORT, Vail Daily, Vail Realty, Evergreen Lodge, Dave Honda's Vail Sports Medicine Physical Therapy, Peak Resort Services, Simba Run Vail Condominiums, Howard Head Sports Medicine Centers and Foundation and American National Bank.

Teva Mountain Games at Vail

- In early June, the VRD organized two additional running races and three separate mountain bike races for the Teva Mountain Games at Vail. Nearly 450 runners and 362 mountain bikers participated in the races.

Tournaments

The VRD athletic fields continued to draw some of the largest sports competitions in the nation, while serving as home field for The Vail Rugby Club and Pepi's Soccer Club. This year field rentals accounted for \$27,000 in revenue. A study of the Kick It! 3v3 Soccer Tournament, which brought 1,600 participants to the Vail Valley, reported that teams stayed an average of two nights, three days and spent nearly \$300 per day during the event. The study also reported the tournament generated approximately \$1 million in retail revenue for the Town of Vail and an estimated \$42,000 in sales tax revenue for the town. Such figures showcase the benefits of holding more tournaments in Vail, utilizing VRD playing fields and other facilities. Tournaments held throughout the season include:

- King of the Mountain Volleyball Tournament: 400 participants.
- Vail Lacrosse Shootout and Warrior Colorado Lacrosse Tournament: 5,000 participants.
- Vail Invitational Soccer Tournament: 600 participants.
- Kick-It 3v3 Soccer Rocky Mountain Regional Finals: 1,600 participants.
- Vail Valley Soccer Club Challenge Cup: 2,400 participants.

YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Department hosted over 800 individual children, ages two through 14, in a variety of camps and activities throughout the year. Participation in programs increased by 100 children compared to 2007 and nearly 300 more than 2006. In addition to hosting families from 22 states, Youth Services also provided programming to families visiting from Canada and Mexico.

Summer Camps

- Extreme Camp Vail, for ages eight to 13 years, returned for the third year and offered 65 children an array of outdoor activities including caving, rafting and trips to Water World, Glenwood Caverns and Elitch Gardens.
- Camp Eco Fun continued to be a favorite for local children, ages four to 11, who were interested in having fun while learning about nature. The camp was full nearly every available day during the summer with 1,500 camp spaces filled. Children benefited from the VRD's partnership with Gore Range Natural Science School interns and guest speakers including a beekeeper, Ute and Ogallala Sioux Native Americans, HawkQuest and Vail Mountain Rescue.
- Pre Kamp Vail, for ages two-and-a-half months to five years, filled 715 camp spaces out of 750 spaces available. Youth Services is proud to operate the only summer camp geared specifically for preschool-aged children that is staffed with highly trained early childhood educators. This program focuses on recreation and takes participants on an adventure every day including trips to the Eagle County Airport, TV8 weather studio, Spraddle Creek Ranch and numerous swimming outings.



- Camp Vail offered 11 weeks of activities throughout the summer filling 3,725 spaces out of 3,952 spaces available. Children who attended this multi-faceted camp experienced many of the VRD's offerings including golf, ice skating, gymnastics and the Vail Nature Center. In addition, children enjoyed special days such as the Camp Vail Carnival where children played on inflatables. On Pirate Day, children navigated their way through a Pirate Treasure Hunt and during Water Wars, children were given a chance to dunk their counselors in a dunk tank.
- Youth Services also managed Vail's skatepark and offered lessons for the second summer since the skatepark's return to the top deck of the LionsHead parking structure in 2007. Approximately 100 children participated in skateboard lessons throughout the summer.

School Year Programs

- KidZone, the after school recreation program at Red Sandstone and Edwards Elementary Schools, returned for the 2007-08 school year offering children three hours of after school programming including sports and art enrichment activities, plus homework help. The program at Red Sandstone Elementary has been underway for more than 20 years and averaged 22 children per day. In its fifth year at Edwards Elementary, attendance increased over 2007-08 with an average of 21 children participating per day. Children benefited from an increased offering of enrichment activities such as martial arts, art classes, cooking and fencing.
- As part of KidZone, School's Out Camp took place providing activities for 21 days during the Thanksgiving, winter and spring break periods. Over 500 Vail Valley youth participated in the program where they had a chance to sled, Nordic ski, tour local businesses and more.
- The Early Childhood program provided children ages three to five with 12 hours of weekly activities through Discovery Bunch and Jumpin' Gym Kids. Discovery Bunch children learned through a storybook curriculum including arts and crafts, gross motor activities and cooking. These children also had a chance to participate in Preschool Sports where they ice skated or participated in gymnastics activities. Jumpin' Gym Kids provided preschool physical education to children attending Vail Childcare and Children's Garden of Learning.

Events/Activities

- In April, Youth Services hosted the annual LionsHead Easter Egg Hunt with 200 participants.
- In July, Camp Vail children created a float and entered it in the Vail America Day's July 4th parade. Approximately 30 children walked and rode the parade route with their counselors.
- In August, the VRD hosted a children's activities tent during the annual Rubber Duck Race sponsored by Vail Valley Rotary. Approximately 100 children made crafts to take home and won prizes in carnival-type games.
- In October, Youth Services organized the 16th Annual Trick or Treat Trot and Halloween coloring contest. Over 500 children enjoyed safe trick or treating at nearly 100 merchants throughout Vail Village and LionsHead. Another 200 children entered the annual coloring contest.
- In December, Youth Services organized a Santa's Workshop at Imagination Station. Over 30 families enjoyed making crafts to give as gifts, eat or just enjoy the process of creating with family.



Imagination Station

- Imagination Station received over 2,750 visits throughout the year offering an indoor learning and discovery center for ages two through 12. Children learn about electricity, kinetic energy, flight, the human body, sound and much more as they play in the different exhibits. Children enjoy freezing their shadows, building giant marble tracks and more.
- Youth Services looked forward to the 2008-09 winter season at the Imagination Station after over 300 children and parents participated in the season opening party in November.

Sponsors

- Sponsors and partners of Youth Services programs included BrightStart for Eagle County Kids, Eagle County School District, CopyCopy, Alpine Bank, KidSPORT, First Bank of Vail, Maximum Comfort Pool and Spa, Vail Resorts, Inc., Vail Valley Rotary, Parent's Handbook, Vail Daily, TV8 and Plum TV.

DOBSON ICE ARENA

One of Vail's long-standing venues, Dobson Ice Arena offered the community great hockey and ice skating opportunities in 2008 and served as a venue for unique events and groups. In 2009, Dobson will celebrate its 30th anniversary of offering skating and events for Vail Valley residents and guests.



New in 2008

- Dobson replaced all lighting in the facility with energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs. The facility had operated with its original lighting from 1979 until the change over. By replacing the lights, the VRD will reduce its light energy usage by 50 percent. The replacement lighting provides the rink with NHL quality lighting for optimal skating and events in the arena.

Groups and Events

- ShowTime Skating made a third appearance in July, providing 40 participants with an opportunity to focus on performance ice skating during a performance for the annual Vail America Days celebration called "High School Musical on Ice." Two other ShowTime skating performances took place in December featuring 40 participants in a "Society of Superheroes on Ice" event.
- In January, the Disco Biscuits performed, followed by two Michael Franti shows in February.
- In March, the annual Detroit Red Wings Alumni and Vail Mountaineers Alumni game took place to benefit the Vail Eagle Hockey Association.
- In April, 2,500 members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) returned to Dobson, using the facility for the Colorado Chapter's annual meeting.
- In May, Dobson hosted the Lippizaner Stallions who performed to a sold out crowd.
- In June, Dobson hosted the 2008 Educational Artistic Gymnastics League and Education System (E.A.G.L.E.S) State Championships at Dobson Ice Arena, with 500 athletes participating.
- Dobson hosted a private party for a group



winter trip offering dinner and dancing for the large group of attendees.

- Dobson hosted Spring Back to Vail in April with Gov't Mule and Kottonmouth Kings during two separate shows.
- In December, Dobson hosted Vail Snow Daze with Big Head Todd and the Monsters and Leftover Salmon playing separate shows.
- Dobson also played host to 13 Mexican dances over the course of 2008.

Camps

- Both the Greg Carter Hockey Camp and Bob Johnson Hockey School were hosted in the arena with over 140 participants. Greg Carter Hockey Camp returned to Vail for the fourth time, while the Bob Johnson Hockey School returned for its 24th year.

Classes and Leagues

- In January, the fifth season of VRD Mini Mites (ages five to six years) and Mites (ages seven to eight years) began with 31 children participating. The program also took place in October through a joint venture with the Western Eagle County Metropolitan Recreation District to offer valley-wide skating and accounted for 60 participants.
- The VRD's Learn to Skate, Junior Prep/Freestyle and StoryTime skating returned in the fall with 69 participants.
- The adult leagues increased in team participation throughout the year including 28 teams and 380 participants during the summer session; 15 teams and 225 participants during the fall session; 16 teams and 240 participants during the spring session; and 16 teams and over 240 participants during the winter session. The women's hockey league continued to see growth in participation with 60 participants and four teams. The league was created in 2006.

VAIL NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center hosted thousands of visitors from across the world in 2008, June through September, who participated in a variety of learning opportunities.

- New this year, the Nature Center hosted a program in cooperation with the Vail Local Marketing District Advisory Council called Starry Nights. Starry Nights took place Saturday evenings in July and August and featured astronomers from the CU Boulder Fiske Planetarium. Over 150 participants enjoyed the free evening programs and learned about Vail's night time sky while enjoying s'mores by a campfire.
- Also new in 2008, the Nature Center introduced a fly-fishing program at the Nature Center, which offered educational clinics that taught not only fly-fishing techniques, but also ecosystem and entomology (study of insects) to participants. The new program introduced the sport of fly-fishing to approximately 180 participants and is scheduled to return in June 2009.
- Additional learning opportunities included:
 - Camp Eco Fun: children spent a half day learning about local flora and wildlife at the



- Nature Center and the other half with Youth Services.
- Family programs throughout the week that included Starry Nights, beaver pond tours, a nature speaker series and Wednesday Family Fun Nights.
- Morning bird walks and afternoon flower walks.
- Hiking programs.

Groups, Clubs and Programs

- The Nature Center hosted several groups throughout the summer, including local school groups, day camps from the Front Range, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, church groups and senior citizen clubs.
- Approximately 15 people participated in an annual hut trip, which led participants to the Eiseman Hut for two nights, three days.
- The adult Nature Center Hiking Club membership grew 15 percent over 2007 with approximately 45 members hiking trails four times per week throughout Vail and Eagle County. Club members hiked over 400 miles throughout the summer.
- Approximately 120 children from day camps outside of Vail, including the Beaver Creek Day Camp, visited the Nature Center throughout the summer.
- In the spring and fall, the Nature Center worked with local schools hosting grades kindergarten through second for field trips. Approximately 300 local school children participated in the field trips. Nearly every student within the Eagle County School District visits the Nature Center by third grade.
- The Nature Center partnered with the Gore Range Natural Science School (GRNSS) to present the Eagle Explorers Junior Naturalist Program. The program offered children ages six and older an opportunity to learn more about the Eagle River watershed. The program is a joint venture among GRNSS, VRD, Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, Colorado Ski Museum and the White River National Forest.
- In the fall, approximately 60 children from Eagle County's Youth Volunteer Corps participated in four working days to help clean, repair, pull weeds and assist with Nature Center upgrades.
- Throughout the year, the Nature Center worked with various senior groups in Eagle County organizing activities including hiking and biking in the summer and snowshoe and free on-mountain ski tours during the winter.



VAIL GYMNASTICS CENTER

In its fourth year of operation, the Gymnastics Center hosted approximately 445 participants per week in one of the many programs offered at the center. This includes gymnastics, trampoline, fencing, birthday parties and martial arts programs. The center experienced a record year for tourists visiting from across the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

State Meet

- In June, the VRD hosted the 2008 Educational Artistic Gymnastics League and Education System (E.A.G.L.E.S) State Championships at Dobson Ice Arena. The championships brought nearly 500 athletes, plus their families to



Vail for two days of championship gymnastics over the Father's Day weekend. The VRD plans to bid on the tournament for a 2010 return.

Gymnastics Programs

- The VRD-managed gymnastics program operated 50 classes per week ranging in ages from preschool to adult, plus five competitive team classes per week.
- Approximately 290 students participated in the Gymnastics Center learning programs for ages five through 12 including preschool programs and boy's and girl's classes.
- Approximately 40 students participated in the weekly adult gymnastics program.
- Approximately 30 students participated in the weekly ski and snowboard trampoline class that taught trampoline safety and ski and snowboard trick techniques.

Special Programs

- The Gymnastics Center hosted 60 birthday parties with approximately 12 to 20 family members attending. The parties include coaching on equipment and an area for food and drink.
- During the fall, the Gymnastics Center hosted Ski and Snowboard Club Vail and Team Summit as part of the team's fall training schedule.

Competition Highlights

- The Vail Gymnastics Team participated in the 2008 Colorado State Championships, with the Level 4 Team placing first in the Small Teams category.
- Several team members also competed in USA Gymnastics, a national competitive league, in which participating members qualified for the state meet.



TENNIS CENTER

The Ford Park Tennis Center offered a full range of tennis activities for juniors and adults on its 12 courts, eight of which are considered some of the best clay courts in the state. The Tennis Center was open from Memorial Day weekend through September and hosted up to 650 participants weekly during peak season, mid-June through August. Programs included:

- Monday Pro Am, Tuesday morning 60 and older double matches, Wednesday morning ladies' drop-in matches, Thursday morning Club 50 tennis matches and Sunday evening doubles matches.
- The Tennis Center hosted a variety of junior lessons with over 200 participants throughout the summer.
- Approximately 115 participants competed in the annual Bill Wright Colorado Clay Court Open and Senior Tennis Tournament in August. The tournament is a U.S. Tennis Association sanctioned event with competitors from across the nation. The tournament was sponsored by Vail Mountain Haus, Billy's Island Grill, Wilson Sporting Goods and FirstBank of Vail.



PARKS DEPARTMENT

The Parks Department entered its 31st summer season in 2008 providing users of the VRD's athletic fields and facilities with amazing areas to recreate. The Parks Department is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the athletic fields, outdoor sand volleyball courts and softball fields, as well as the playing field at Donovan Park. With training camps, league play and tournaments, the athletic fields were used nearly every day throughout the spring, summer and fall.

VAIL NORDIC CENTER 2007-08

During the 2007-08 winter season, the Vail Nordic Center, which operates out of the Vail Golf Club, offered Nordic skiing and snowshoeing to approximately 5,400 day pass users and over 400 season pass holders.

- Nordic Center business owners Mia Stockdale and Shane Sluder offered 270 lessons throughout the season on its 17 kilometers of set track and 10 kilometers of separate snowshoeing trails.
- The Nordic Center also continued to be the training site for Ski and Snowboard Club Vail's Nordic athletes, local high school and middle school teams and Paralympic athletes from Australia.
- The Nordic Center offered a new women-only cross country ski program and taught 40 participants classic and skate skiing throughout the winter.
- In January, the Nordic Center hosted its first annual open house featuring free demos, free lessons and refreshments. Approximately 90 participants took advantage of the free lessons during the open house.
- Each November the Nordic Center hosts a Nordic Ski Swap, which raises money for the local Nordic Ski Club.



PARTNERSHIPS

- During the summer, the VRD proudly partnered with the Gore Range Natural Science School to provide world-class programming at the Vail Nature Center. The partnership improved the ability for the Nature Center to offer information about Vail's streamside trails and plant and animal exhibits to all ages.
- The VRD continued to work closely with the White River National Forest and U.S. Forest Service. VRD programs that take place on Forest Service land operate under a special use permit from the White River National Forest.
- The VRD continued to work with many community organizations including: AAA Mini Storage, Arrigoni Woods, Alpine Bank, American National Bank, Antlers at Vail, Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, Beaver Creek Resort Company, Billy's Island Grill, BrightStart for Eagle County Kids, Bud Light, Coors, CopyCopy, East West Resorts, Evergreen Lodge, FirstBank of Vail, Gatorade Endurance, Gore Range Natural Science School, Howard Head Sports Medicine, JointWorx, KidSPORT, La Sportiva, Larabar, Maximum Comfort Pool & Spa, Parent's Handbook, Plum TV, Rocky Mountain Bicycles, Rocky Mountain Reprographics, Rotary, Simba Run, Skating Club of Vail, Steadman Hawkins Sports Medicine Clinic and Foundation, TIGA Advertising, TV8, U.S. Forest Service and Vail Daily.
- The VRD awarded cash and in-kind services to over 20 children in Eagle County through its Eagle County Youth Activities Grant and Tom Slaughter, Jr. Memorial Youth Recreation Grant programs. These grant programs

provide school-aged children financial aid to participate in recreation including skiing, snowboarding, basketball, gymnastics and other programs offered in Eagle County.

PEOPLE

Staff, Board and Volunteers

- In May, the VRD welcomed Jeff Wiles and incumbent Michelle Hall who were elected to four year terms. Wiles replaced outgoing member Scott Proper who did not seek re-election. Terms of remaining members Joe Hanlon, Rick Sackbauer and Ken Wilson will continue to the 2010 election. The VRD board worked to guide VRD staff throughout the year to seek innovative methods to offer quality programming and activities for Vail Valley residents and guests.
- VRD Executive Director Mike Ortiz and Marketing Director Jamie Gunion joined a delegation from Vail in April for a peer resort trip to Park City. The fact-finding trip included visits to and information gathering about recreation programs and facilities including a skatepark, trails, field house, recreation center, sports complex, turf management and ice arena. VRD staff plans to join future delegations to continue learning more about Vail's peer resort towns.
- The VRD Board of Directors recognized the following employees for their service including Vail Nature Center Director Tom Gaylord for 10 years, Gymnastics Director Heather Gilger for five years and VRD Director Mike Ortiz and Sports Director Joel Rabinowitz for 15 years.
- In June, the VRD hosted the Mike Janelle Memorial Mountain Race, in which community member and mountain bike racer Mike Janelle was remembered by renaming of the trails at what was formerly known as the Berry Creek race.
- The VRD welcomed Scott O'Connell as the organization's first facilities maintenance director. O'Connell's, whose previous experience includes General Manager of the Game Creek Club for Vail Resorts, Inc., responsibilities include capital projects for VRD assets, as well as building and maintenance for the district.
- Heather Gilger was promoted to Gymnastics Director following the departure of David Ward. Gilger, who in addition to being an instructor at the Gymnastics Center for five years, competed in USA Gymnastics since age 7 and successfully competed through Level 10.
- Also in 2008, the VRD welcomed Lori Gordon as its new Assistant Financial Manager. Gordon replaced Amy Ludke, who after 10 years with the VRD moved to Arizona to be closer to her family. Gordon, who has lived in the area for three years, worked at Gallegos Corporation before joining the district.
- Volunteers donated more than 160 hours to make upgrades and improvements to the Nature Center facility throughout the year.
- A special thanks to Scott McClarrinon who provided race-action photography throughout both the running race and mountain bike race series.
- Throughout the year, countless hours by hundreds of volunteers also helped the VRD continue to provide quality affordable sports recreation programs to both local users and guests.

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