

belay-**ted** winter

“**O**ver the summer, I went on a 26-day trip to Lake Siskiyou, California where I rafted and climbed Mount Shasta and

backpacked in the Shasta Trinity Alps. Climbing Mount Shasta was the hardest thing I’ve ever done,” sophomore Tylo Ward said. “The climb lasted three days, climbing at least 2,000 feet per day. On the first day, the vans dropped us off at 6,000 feet up Mount Shasta, where we immediately began climbing in complete snow.”

“After climbing to 8,000 feet, we decided to call it a day and go to bed. They said you dream better when you’re high in elevation, and so I dreamt a vivid picture of bunnies and moose roaming around a forest. Every day we woke up at two a.m. We had to wear headlights and crampons and be geared up with ice picks in hand. Our guide, Jack, told us that we had to hold the ice pick close to our bodies all the time. If we didn’t, we would have to go back down the mountain and begin again.”

“Throughout the journey I belayed, which means leading the group. Belaying is such a huge

responsibility because everyone’s lives are in your hands.”

“On the second day we had reached a point where it was too steep

to climb, so we had to harness ourselves to each other in a group of five and pull ourselves up the mountain. We ended up on top of glacier, which was unstable and moved as we walked up it. After the second day, we began to lose our appetites due to altitude sickness. Our leader forced us to eat because we were losing about a pound each day. Also, it was really difficult to sleep, which wasn’t helpful because I was exhausted and began hallucinating from so little sleep.”

“Once we got to the top of the mountain, I couldn’t believe what I saw. The view was breathtaking. To get down the mountain we had to glissade down it, which means literally getting on your butt and sliding down.”

“Climbing Mount Shasta was a great experience. The physical cost of getting up the mountain was certainly worth the amazing feeling I had.”



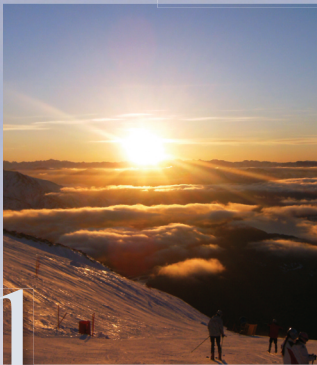
Photo by Haley Schaeffer

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Photo by Kyle Heiner

New Zealand’s **hot** spots

3 Five must-see places in Wanaka, New Zealand according to sophomore Zane Bensing



Photos by Zane Bensing



Photo by AJ Hackett International

1. Treble Cone Mountain: “The whole area is amazing, especially when the sun is rising. On one side it looks like you’re in Switzerland, and the other side overlooks Lake Wanaka.” **2.** Lake Wanaka: “Looking at the lake during sunset was so surreal.” **3.** Snow Park Mountain: “The layout of the park is identical to Boreal and the people were so nice. The park was good size so it was easy to find my way around.” **4.** Lookout Lodge, Albert Town, New Zealand: “Waking up to come outside seeing frost on the grass, thousands of sheep, and the mountain view was amazing.” **5.** Kawarau Bridge, Kawarau New Zealand: “Bungee jumping with AJ Hackett was the craziest thing I’ve ever done. I’m afraid of

anything to do with heights, but it was something I had to do. The countdown started and I was instantly nervous, but as I jumped I yelled, ‘America!’ Everything was such a blur as I was dropping 150 feet. After bungee jumping, it felt like I was full of adrenaline for at least six hours. I couldn’t believe I actually bungee jumped.”