

Heavenly, Northstar to open Saturday

Mother Nature is saying to heck with fall, winter is here – at least in Lake Tahoe.

Storms combined with snowmaking are allowing Heavenly Mountain Resort and Northstar to open Nov. 14 – six days sooner than planned. This is the earliest opening since 2012, and the first time opening six days ahead of schedule since at least 2009.

Heavenly this season had received about 3 feet of white stuff as of Monday afternoon.

Heavenly plans to operate the gondola, Tamarack Express and Dipper Express. Northstar will open with the Big Springs gondola, Vista Express, Arrow Express and Comstock Express. Northstar will also operate a surface lift near the Big Easy Chair to offer children's ski and snowboard lessons.