Vonn wins 4th Alpine overall crystal globe

By USSA

SCHLADMING, Austria – Lindsey Vonn of Vail hoisted her fourth Audi FIS Alpine overall crystal globe in five seasons Sunday to close the 2012 World Cup Finals in Schladming.

Vonn, who was three points short of the overall in 2011, also won the downhill, super G and combined titles for a historic 16 career globes and celebrated the all-time highest women's point total with 1,980. Her American high 12 World Cup wins on the season pushed her career total to 53, putting her in the elite company with all-time record holder Annemarie Moser-Proell with 62 and Vreni Schneider's 55.

"I am really happy with the season and it has gone incredibly well. If you had told me at the beginning of the season that I would be second in the giant slalom standings and would win the overall title before the finals, I would have said that is awesome, but not possible," Vonn said. "It is definitely more than I expected. This year I have had a lot of fun. I have tried to enjoy every day that I am out on the hill and it's wonderful to have my family and friends around to share this."

Mancuso has best season since

2008

By USSA

SCHLADMING, Austria -– Julia Mancuso of Squaw Valley fought her way to a fifth-place giant slalom finish in the Audi FIS Alpine Wrold Cup season finale, capping her best season since 2008 with fourth in the overall standings.

Germany’s Viktoria Rebensburg won the race and captured the giant slalom title for the second straight year. Mancuso, who had two victories and four other podiums, finished second in super G, fifth in the downhill standings and ninth in giant slalom.

Lindsey Vonn of Vail was 16th after the first run.

The new science of feelings

By Richard J. Davidson and Sharon Begley, Newsweek

If you believe most pop psychology, you probably assume that most of us react to life events in just about the same way—there is a grieving process, a sequence of events when we fall in love, a standard response to being jilted.

But these one-size-fits-all assumptions are not true. In decades of research into the neurobiology of emotion, I’ve seen thousands of people who share similar backgrounds respond in dramatically different ways to the same experience. Why does one person recover quickly from divorce while another remains mired in self-recrimination or despair? Why does one

sibling bounce back from a job loss while another feels worthless for years? And why can one father shrug off the botched call of a Little League umpire who called his daughter out while another leaps out of his seat and screams at the ump until his face turns purple? The answer that has emerged from my research is that these differences reflect what I call Emotional Style—a constellation of reactions and coping responses that differ in kind, intensity, and duration. Just as each person has a unique fingerprint and a unique face, each of us has a unique emotional profile.

That may seem as obvious as stating that everyone has a unique personality. But personality is not grounded in identifiable neurological mechanisms; it has not been traced to specific patterns of neural activity in the brain. This is where the theory of Emotional Style breaks new ground: through neuroimaging and other methodologies, I have traced Emotional Style—and, specifically, the six components that make it up—to patterns of activity throughout the brain.

In making those discoveries, I have found that, in contrast to the longstanding scientific orthodoxy, Emotional Style arises partly from activity in regions involved in cognition, reason, and logic—functions that textbooks tell us are as unrelated to emotions as apples are to squid. That has come as a shock to defenders of the view that cognition—which many psychologists and neuroscientists consider the most exalted human capacity—and emotion (viewed as a lesser, almost animalistic trait) run on separate, mutually independent brain circuitry: the former in the "highly evolved" frontal cortex and the latter in the limbic system, which in humans is not much different from that of other animals. In showing that cognition and emotion are not so separate after all, these discoveries have rehabilitated emotion. From a behavior that was, as recently as the 1970s, studied for the most part only in rats and other lab animals, human emotion has now assumed as important a place in neuroscience as thinking.

Read the whole story

Stories and crafts at Zephyr Cove library

The Douglas County Public Library, Lake Tahoe branch is presenting Saturday Stories and Crafts on March 24 at 1pm.

Children ages 3 and up may choose a craft to make. All supplies will be provided. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult.

Register for this program by March 23 by calling (775) 588.6411.

LTCC to be site of home and garden show

Lake Tahoe Home and Garden Show will be April 27 and 28 in the gym at Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe.

Vendors and sponsors are being sought for this event put on by Golden Bear Events.

The Friday event is from 4-8pm and Saturday from 10am-6pm.

For more information, call JoAnn at (530) 544.7412 or email jctahoewriter@hotmail.com.

Library uses music to engage young readers

Musical Storytime at South Tahoe library is about music, movement, puppets and singing to capture the attention of your young child as they shimmy their way into literacy.

This free event is the fourth Saturday of each month, with the next one March 24 at 11am.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Heavenly’s Killebrew Canyon is expected to open March 18, making the resort 100 percent open.

• There is a poetry slam at Lake Tahoe Community College on April 26 at 8pm. Free to attend; $5 for competitors. Each competitor should prepare two poems. Sign-ups are 15 minutes before the event.

• Lake Tahoe Unified board President Wendy David receive the Dolores Garcia Spirit of Boardmanship Award, the highest award the El Dorado County School Boards Association gives out.

• Arcadia this month released its latest illustrated book on the history of Lake Tahoe. “Lake Tahoe’s West Shore” traces the evolution of the area from its European discovery in 1844 through its development into one of the world’s prime vacation spot. Carol A. Jensen is the author.

• Here are the weekly Sierra and El Dorado-Tahoeroadwork schedules from Caltrans.

Free heel festival at Sierra

Sierra-at-Tahoe’s 9th annual Telegrass Festival is April 7.

This homegrown event brings out teleskiers from all over Northern California for a celebration of the free heel life. Morning and afternoon clinics for teleskiers of every ability level, equipment demos from top manufacturers, relays and races, live music from regional bluegrass bands, beer tasting, and endless raffle prizes all combine for a festival that lets people free their heel so their mind can follow.

For more information, go online.

Opinion: Candidates not

connecting with the middle class

By Scott Rasmussen

Nearly every national political campaign emphasizes the importance of connecting with the middle class. So how come in the 2012 presidential race, none of the candidates are able to make that connection?

A hint may be found in the results of a Rasmussen Reports survey showing that just 27 percent of voters nationwide believe government management of the economy actually helps the economy. Fifty percent think government economic activism does more harm than good.



Scott Rasmussen

What is especially interesting about the data is the income demographic. Upper-income Americans are evenly divided as to whether government management of the economy helps or hurts. Middle-income Americans, on the other hand, overwhelmingly view government management of the economy as hurtful.

The affluent, perhaps because they can easily gain access to the policymakers, are OK with government management of the economy. They want it done well, and many want it done in a way to benefit their own interests. That’s why a plurality of Americans now believe the United States has a system of crony capitalism rather than free-market competition.

The middle class, without friends in Congress or on Wall Street, has an entirely different view. Broadly speaking, it see the federal government as a burden weighing down both the economy and the middle class. To help the economy, most simply want to reduce the burden. Seventy-seven percent of voters think that the government could help the economy by reducing the deficit. Seventy-one percent think it would help to reduce government spending, and 59 percent think tax cuts would help.

So when a politician talks of helping the middle class with a new government program, it just doesn't ring true.

Most candidates miss this distinction because they tend to hang out with more affluent Americans. They tend to discuss how to make government work rather than how to make the nation work. To some, an issue like the price of gas is primarily a question of how it will impact potential investments in alternative fuels or whether higher gas prices are good because they encourage conservation.

To the middle class, the question of gas prices is much different. Data from the Discover Consumer Spending Monitor shows that half of all Americans don't have any money left over after paying their basic bills each month. For these Americans, rising gas prices force unpleasant lifestyle changes.

To connect with the middle class requires understanding the middle class. Franklin Roosevelt did this in the 1930s. As he expanded the role of the federal government, he explained it in a manner that made sense. His greatest achievement, Social Security, was not sold as a government handout but as an insurance program with people setting aside money during their working years that could be drawn down in retirement. That attitude still resonates with 21st century Americans.

In the 1980s, Ronald Reagan understood the rising frustration with an ever-expanding government. In his first inaugural

address, he said, “Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.” Six out of 10 voters still agree.

America is still looking for the 21st century candidate who can connect with the middle class.

Scott Rasmussen is founder and president of Rasmussen Reports. He is a political analyst, author, speaker and, since 1994, an independent public opinion pollster.

Gang task force members to talk at housing meeting

Lake Tahoe Crime Free Multi-Housing property managers will be meeting March 21, with deputies from the Tri-County Gang Task Force speaking.

All owners and managers of multi-family housing properties are invited to the training titled Keep Illegal Activity out of Rental Properties.

The meeting is at Tahoe Valley Townhomes, 1055 Tata Lane, South Lake Tahoe from noon-1:30pm, with lunch provided by Lakeside Properties.

Call (775) 790.6694 or email laketahoecrimefreeprograms@msn.com for further details.