

Kahurangi – Maori Dance Theater of New Zealand

Kahurangi – Maori Dance Theater of New Zealand performs April 30 at MontBleu Casino in Stateline. Doors open at 6:30; performance at 7pm.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors.

For information, call Tahoe Arts Project at (530) 542.3632.

Documentary about youths' quest to find fire

Date: May 4

Time: 6pm (No-Host bar 5:30-6pm)

Location: Assembly Rooms 139 & 141, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village (on the campus of Sierra Nevada College)

Join Graham Kent, Heidi Buck and the Forest Guard Students. This documentary presents a whirlwind year in the life of six home-schooled children the foothills of Northern California who have developed an ingenious invention for the early detection of forest fires. What starts as a local environmental solution evolves into an idea that could have a major global impact after they win top prize at the Global Children's Climate Competition and with it, the chance to have their dream become reality.

Their invention is a network of cameras located around forests that send real-time pictures to hundreds and thousands of desktops, turning people all over the world into Forest Guards. Their Forest Guard concept catches the eye of a top R&D specialist at Sony who invites the kids to work with some of the best engineers and designers in the business to help the Forest Guards develop their concept into a workable prototype. Real-world experience at the forefront of technological design is contrasted with the everyday lives of the kids at home in Meadow Vista, a picture-perfect foothills community of rolling hills, farms, forests, and lakes. But during the worst summer in California history for fires, a major blaze rages dangerously close to their homes – many of them are forced to evacuate. With no sign that things will get any better in summers to come, it couldn't be a better time to raise awareness of forest fires and what we can do to prevent them.

As the first prototypes are tested near Tahoe National Forest, the Forest Guards are invited to the UN's Global Environmental Conference in Copenhagen to present their idea to global environmental and world leaders – and they become ambassadors for the innovations of young people in the ongoing dialogue about the future of our planet.

Learn about this project and how it could save the Lake Tahoe Basin from future forest fires.

Exploring Lake Tahoe

Presentation by Phil Caterino, Tahoe Divers Conservancy

Date: May 13

Time: 6:30pm no-host bar/door opens; 7pm program

Cost: \$10. No-Host Bar.

Location: Assembly Rooms 139 & 141, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village, Nevada (on the campus of Sierra Nevada College)

When we are asked by tourists, "What do you see under there?" the most common response by divers with the Tahoe Divers Conservancy is "not much." Swimming among beautiful waves of granite boulders the size of houses, bright reflections of light from mica studded sandy lake bottom and a generally stark but surreal crystal environment. TDC often describes diving in Lake Tahoe as "Zen Diving". But today the underwater world of Lake Tahoe is disturbingly full of strange, new life.

In just a few years, vast sandy areas that for centuries covered the bottom of Lake Tahoe have disappeared under a carpet of invasive plants. The change is not merely cosmetic. Invasive species will upend the ecology of Lake Tahoe, shifting distribution of species and starving familiar fish of their usual food supply. Eurasian watermilfoil, Curlyleaf pondweed and the Asian clam are all found in Lake Tahoe now. It is not just invasive plants. In summer 2009 scores of brown bullhead catfish were found in Emerald Bay. Once confined to the Tahoe Keys and Taylor Marsh, non-native fish are propagating all over Lake Tahoe.

Phil Caterino has spent the last 40 years working to protect Lake Tahoe. He was the founder of Alpengroup, the Sierra Avalanche Center, the Nevada Conservation League, the Tahoe Divers Conservancy, and the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society. He is a strong advocate for grass-roots activism to engage the public in meaningful projects committed to the preservation of Lake Tahoe.

Program is presented by Squaw Valley Institute and UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

Elton John in Lake Tahoe

Sir Elton John will make his Lake Tahoe debut on July 25 at 8pm.

The legendary singer is part of the Harveys Outdoor Concert Series at Stateline.

Tickets go on sale April 12 at 10am through Ticketmaster. They range from \$95.50 to \$235.50, plus service fees.

EDC sheriff's candidate forum

El Dorado County sheriff's candidates will congregate in El Dorado Hills on April 20 at 7pm in the El Dorado Hills Community Services District Pavillion, 1021 Harvard Way.

Candidates are: John D'Agostini, district attorney's investigator; Larry Hennick, retired sheriff's sergeant; Ernie Hillman, retired sheriff's captain; Bob Luca, retired chief of the California Bureau of Investigation; George Nielsen, Placerville police chief; and Craig Therkildsen, El Dorado County sheriff's captain.

Written questions from the audience will be asked. A member of the League of Women Voters will moderate.

SLT Wedding & Honeymoon Association meeting

South Lake Tahoe Wedding & Honeymoon Association will meet at Tahoe Bowl in South Lake Tahoe on April 7 at 6pm.

Let Lindsay Townsend know if you are able to attend – (530) 543.6113 or townsend-lindsay@aramark.com.

Billie Dutton Uphill race at Squaw

Each spring hundreds of Nordic skiers, snowshoers and fit bodies race up the mountain at Squaw Valley in the annual Billy Dutton Uphill, in honor of late local luminary, Billy Dutton.

The original “run what ya brung” race is an uphill answer to the famous “Chinese Downhill” of the ’70s. Starting from the bottom of KT-22, the course climbs 2,000 vertical feet over 3.2 miles to the finish at High Camp, elevation 8,200.

The Billy Dutton Uphill race is open to all ages. Registration for the April 11 race begins at 7am at Dave’s Deli and the race starts at 8am at the Funitel. The \$20 entry fee includes a T-shirt and goodie bag and all proceeds benefit Far West Nordic’s juniors program.

The always smiling Billy Dutton helped establish the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue (TNSR) in 1976, based on his passion for cross country skiing and his vast knowledge of the Tahoe Basin and the surrounding backcountry.

Gardening class in Placerville

Learn about organic gardening, composting and having a productive garden without using inorganic fertilizers. Location: Veterans' Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville

Date: April 10

Time: 9am-noon

Cost: free

Information: (530) 621.5512

Tahoe Paddle Fest

Tahoe Paddle Fest at El Dorado Beach in South Lake Tahoe is June 25-27.

Celebrate the second annual Tahoe Paddle Fest with non-motorized watercraft from around the world. There will be demonstrations, competitive paddling events, boat skills workshops and exhibitions that feature indigenous boat building and crafts. An engaging celebration of native crafts, arts, culture, live music, and entertainment.

Death Ride

Tour of the California Alps – Death Ride – is July 10.

One of the premier cycling events in the West, the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and the Alta Alpina Cycle Club invite you to participate in the 29th anniversary of the “Death Ride.” It begins and ends at Turtle Rock Park north of Markleeville.