

U.S. Freestyle Championships

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association announced Thursday that the U.S. Freestyle Championships will return to Heavenly Mountain Resort for the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Heavenly will play host to men's and women's aerials, dual moguls and moguls events March 29-31, 2013.

Aerials competitions will again be at night under the lights while the competition finish lines will sit in direct view of the California Lodge.

Hot August Nights in Tahoe

Hot August Nights will be on the South Shore Aug. 3-5.

There will be daily show-n-shines with cash and trophy awards, poker walks with cash awards to the winners, a cool car showroom, a classic car auction, automotive exhibits, special night time cruising, vendors, a sock hop and free '50s and '60s style live entertainment daily on all of the outdoor stages.

Car registration is open to all 1972 and older American and European cars and trucks.

For more information, go online.

Earth Day in South Lake Tahoe

South Tahoe Earth Day is returning to the Bijou Community Park in South Lake Tahoe on April 28 from 10am-4pm.

This year's free Earth Day event includes a speakers' stage with talks on aquatic invasive species, the history of Lake Tahoe, the story of Tahoe Tessie, and edible plants of the Sierra.

The Kid Zone area will be full of recycle-themed arts and crafts, such as milk-carton wallets and sun print papers, and the Bounce House will help kids bounce out that extra energy.

A variety of events will be happening throughout the day, highlighted by the Sugar Pine Foundation's native tree planting at 11:30am and the "Ballad of Aquatic Invasive Species" sing-along at noon.

Reception for Stacy Hicks

Bona Fide Books will host an art reception for Sierra photographer and writer Stacy Hicks on May 5 from 5:30-7:30pm.

It will feature 16 black and white images from her collection "What Remains".

The event in Meyers is free.

Hicks, who lives in Strawberry, says that her photographs reveal the things that people often don't see, and this is

what she finds most interesting in her subjects.

Hicks also contributed to “Tahoe Blues: Short Lit on Life at the Lake”, a book about life at Lake Tahoe featuring local writers that will come out June 8 from Bona Fide Books.

Hicks’ work will be on display at Bona Fide Books May 1-27. Bona Fide HQ is located at 1069 Magua Street, No. 4, behind the Getaway Café in Meyers.

For more information, contact Kim Wyatt at editor@bonafidebooks.com.

Sample the Sierra

Imagine sipping a big, bold El Dorado County wine, perfectly paired with fare from the region’s best chefs, prepared with fresh seasonal produce grown within a 100 miles from where you stand. This is what Sample the Sierra is all about.

Now in its third year, this farm-to-fork festival celebrates food, wine, and art in the Sierra Nevada.

The event is Sept. 2 from 1-5pm on Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe.

For more information, including ticket prices, call (775) 588.1728, ext. 303 or email Emily@TahoeChamber.org.

Author Mike White to speak

The Douglas County Public Library in Minden is bringing back Nevada outdoor author Mike White on May 15 from 4:30-6:30pm.

The award-winning author will give a presentation of some of the best Nevada hikes as featured in his books "50 Classic Hikes in Nevada" and "Backpacking Nevada". Spanning the entire state of Nevada, the presentation is designed to inspire and inform lovers of the outdoors about a spectrum of trails, from a half-hour stroll to an all-day jaunt. He will be available to sign books after the presentation.

The Douglas County Public Library is located at 1625 Library Lane in Minden. For more information, call (775) 782.9841.

Grapes & Gates

The Heavenly Ski & Snowboard Foundation's 11th annual Grapes & Gates gourmet food and wine tasting event is May 2 from 6-9pm at Edgewood Tahoe in Stateline.

The evenings highlight will be the award presentation. The foundation will present the inaugural Bill Killebrew Award. Killebrew has been an integral part of creating opportunities for youth to enjoy and participate in snowsports.

Heavenly Freestyle Team head coach Jere Crawford, recipient of the USSA Freestyle Coach of the Year Award, will also be honored.

For tickets, call Aimi Xistra-Rich at (530) 314.9285.

CTA president to speak

California Teachers Association President Dean Vogel will be visiting Lake Tahoe Community College on May 7 for an evening of discussion about the current state of California's public education system.

This is Vogel's first official visit to the Lake Tahoe Basin since becoming CTA president. Teachers, students, school staff and administrators, and all community members interested in the health of public education are welcome to attend the 5-7pm event at the Duke Theatre.

Vogel will begin by sharing the educator's perspective on the problems K-12 schools and community colleges face in California, and how CTA's organizing plan can help to improve public education in our state. He'll also discuss school funding and Gov. Jerry Brown's tax initiatives on November's ballot.

Following his remarks, Vogel will host a Q&A session and an informal reception. Light refreshments will be served.

CTA's Higher Education Director Theresa Montaña will also be available to discuss issues within the California State University system and the community colleges.

This event is being hosted by LTCC's Classified Employees Union and Faculty Association.

Truckee Donner Land Trust dinner

The Truckee Donner Land Trust benefit dinner at the River Ranch is June 7.

The restaurant will donate 30 percent of of the evening's proceeds to the land trust. Reservations (530.583.4264) must be made at least a day in advance, and diners must say they are dining for the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

The event is from 6-9pm. River Ranch is on the corner of Highway 89 and Alpine Meadows Road.

The Great Bike Ride

The Great Bike Ride is the annual kick-off event each May in support of Bike Month. The bike ride begins at noon May 1 in the breezeway of Building A at the El Dorado County Government Center.

Bring a bicycle and a helmet. T-shirts will be given to all participants.

Participants will ride along the El Dorado Trail from Forni Road to the Weber Creek Bridge or Missouri Flat Road.

If you plan to participate and want a complimentary lunch from Friends of the El Dorado Trail – RSVP no later than April 27 to Joni Rice at jrice@edctc.org.

Register online and log miles in support of Million Mile May. This year's cycling goal for the Sacramento Region is 1.5

million miles. National Bike to Work Day is May 18.