

Online**Northstar U.S. Grand Prix stop moves to Colorado**

The Sprint U.S. Grand Prix that was originally scheduled to be held at Northstar California Resort from Jan. 8-12 was moved to Breckenridge, Colo. The stop is among five events being used to qualify the 2014 Olympic Team.

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Year in Review: 2013

Tahoe Daily Tribune looks at some of South Lake Tahoe's top stories of 2013.

JANUARY

Missing teen found dead in South Lake Tahoe

The body of Petaluma resident Alyssa Byrne was found Jan. 4 in South Lake Tahoe.

In a Friday morning press conference, Douglas County Undersheriff Paul Howell said a utility worker in an elevated truck saw Byrne's body behind a high snow bank 10 feet off Pioneer Trail between Al Tahoe and Black Bart Avenue about 8:30 a.m.

Police said her body was just off the roadway about 1/2 mile southwest of the Lake Tahoe Community College, where SnowGlobe was held. Her body looked like it had been there for a couple days, he said.

Resorts start up snowcat tours

The draw of backcountry skiing and snowboarding has never been greater.

Backcountry technology has improved dramatically

in recent years and the lure of uncrowded terrain and fresh snow has driven people to look beyond liftlines for their turns.

And South Shore ski resorts have taken notice.

Following promising early season snowfall, both Kirkwood Mountain Resort and Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort have rolled out their backcountry offerings in recent weeks.

Kirkwood's cat tours, included under the resort's Expedition: Kirkwood program, takes guests to Martin Point, past the northwest boundary of the resort, according to a release from the resort.

FEBRUARY

Regional Plan faces court challenge

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Regional Plan Update is headed to court.

On Feb. 11, the Sierra Club and Friends of the West Shore filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging

the TRPA's long-discussed plan for Lake Tahoe's future.

The environmental groups contend the Regional Plan Update violates the TRPA's Bi-state Compact because it will not achieve and maintain the agency's environmental standards, improperly delegates TRPA's project review to local governments and does not reduce the environmental impacts from development to less-than-significant levels.

"Because the Plan Update improperly delegates project review and approval to local governments, fails to require minimum regional standards, and is not supported by an adequate environmental analysis and proper threshold findings, the Plan Update is invalid, such that it must be set aside," according to the suit, which asks for an injunction against implementation of the plan.

Preliminary hearing in Swanson case wraps up

The 1980 killing of 16-year-old South Lake Tahoe gas station attendant

Richard Swanson is headed to trial.

On Feb. 26, following a preliminary hearing that lasted several weeks, El Dorado County Superior Court Judge James Waggoner found there is enough evidence against Andrew Sanford for prosecutors to continue their pursuit of a murder conviction against him.

Sanford is scheduled to be arraigned March 8 at the main courthouse in Placerville. He has pleaded not guilty to the killing.

Giant Tahoe goldfish sparks international interest

At Lake Tahoe, goldfish are an invasive species. On the Internet, they're viral.

Following a story by television station KCRA last week, hundreds of news outlets from around the world picked up the story about Lake Tahoe being home turf for giant goldfish.

And it's true. Researchers have known for years the aquarium dwellers are part of a warm-water fish invasion impacting native fish species and possibility the quality of Lake Tahoe's near-shore environment.

MARCH

Embassy Suites gets new name, renovations

After more than 20 years at the South Shore, Embassy Suites Lake Tahoe

- Hotel & Ski Resort is getting a new name.

Starting next month the hotel will operate as an independent property, according to a statement from Weidinger Public Relations.

"As of April 1, we will become the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel," John Steinbach, the new general manager of the property, said during a phone interview. "We'll continue to operate pretty much the same as we have been."

Whittell's Gardner grabs first in state

All the big names in the high school ski world were there.

The elite Far West crew and the best of the Basin all rolled out for the Tahoe Basin Ski League state finals, but when the snow settled Tuesday it was a wild card who took first.

Whittell's Michael Gardner turned in consistent top 10 times all year long, but Tuesday she stepped up her game. The wild card skier claimed first place in Tuesday's dual slalom, slowly eliminating the competition in head-to-head battles and catapulting her way to the top of the Tahoe Basin Ski League Individual standings with 303 points.

South Shore race named world's No. 1 SUP event of 2012

South Tahoe Standup Paddle's Race the Lake of the Sky has a first place prize all its own.

Finally! There's a BRAND NEW COFFEE SHOP on the Nevada side!
The Bean Bar