

Aspen Daily News

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

A look into Tibetan master's inner circle

Filmed over 20 years by documentarian Jennifer Fox, "My Reincarnation" will be screened at the Wheeler Opera House this weekend. The film chronicles the story of the high Tibetan Buddhist Master Chögyal Namkhai Norbu, and his western-born son, Yeshe. The film follows Norbu's rise to greatness as a Buddhist teacher in the West, while Yeshe, recognized at birth as the reincarnation of a famous spiritual master, breaks away from his father's tradition to embrace the modern world.

Never before has a high Tibetan master allowed such complete access to his private life and it is doubtful that another ever will, according to Fox.

Tickets are \$12. The film starts at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Fox will attend the screening, and engage the audience in a question-and-answer session afterwards on both evenings.

Cops, women play for a cause

The girls are taking on the cops on the ice rink this weekend, to benefit the Aspen Hope Center.

The 2012 "Hockey for Hope" charity game and skate is the second annual, and has intensified one of Aspen's hockey rivalries. The all-women's Aspen Mother Puckers will take on the Aspen Police Department in a head-to-head challenge Saturday night at the Aspen Ice Garden. After last year's win by the Mother Puckers, the Aspen Police are out for revenge.

In addition, a free public skate will begin at 5:30 p.m., when DJs Echo da Funk will be spinning. Silent auction items will be available to bid on. Items from local businesses include Belly Up, Matsuhisa, Stephan Kaelin, P.E. 101, Kemosabe, O2 Aspen and Radio. When the game starts, chili from Smoke will be served, as well as intermission fun that will include a pee-wee scrimmage and chuck-a-puck challenge.

The event runs from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The free skate is from 5:30-6:30 p.m.; the game is from 7-8:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10 per person.

The Aspen Hope Center and the Aspen Police work closely to assist individuals in seeking out and receiving mental health and counseling services. The Aspen Hope Center provides a 24-hour crisis hopeline, 970 925-5858, that can be accessed by anyone at anytime.

'HEAD' at Belly Up

Local film Director Bob Rafelson at 6 p.m. on Sunday will present a special screening of his movie “HEAD,” starring the Monkees at the Belly Up to support the Aspen Youth Orchestra’s upcoming musical exchange trip to Italy. A conversation with Rafelson will follow the screening.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the screening begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are available for \$30 at the Belly Up box office, 544-9800 or at www.bellyupaspen.com [1].

Rafelson is a film director, writer and producer associated with such titles as “Easy Rider,” “Five Easy Pieces,” “The Last Picture Show,” and more recently the “Mountains of the Moon.”

Released in 1968, “HEAD” has since been reclaimed “as one of the great cult movies of its era.” The film will be screened with a newly restored print and soundtrack.

Dine in the dark for a cause

Dine in the dark on Valentines Day and not only experience what it means to be blind, but also to support Challenge Aspen.

The Blind Cafe isn’t just a dinner in the dark. Along with a concert by Rosh and One Eye Glass Broken, the community awareness event also features a special keynote speaker, and questions and answers with a blind wait staff.

Diners will be treated to a three-course meal at the Sky Hotel. There are two seatings: 5 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$175. For more information, log onto <http://theblindcafe.com/aspen-blind-cafe-valentines-day.htm> [2]. Tickets are available by calling 1-800-838-3006 and online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/215857> [3].

Owl Creek Chase this weekend

The annual festival of cross-country skiing in the Roaring Fork Valley, the Aspen Nordic Festival featuring the Owl Creek Chase will begin Saturday and continue on Sunday. The Aspen Nordic Festival features several events for aspiring Olympians, as well as Colorado skiers, but it’s Sunday’s grueling 21-kilometer freestyle event, the Owl Creek Chase, that is the highlight of the weekend.

“The Owl Creek Chase is one of the toughest races in the world,” said race announcer Mike Trecker. “But it’s also one of the most fun; it’s a true cross-country race that starts in Snowmass and finishes in Aspen.”

Several new features highlight this year’s Aspen Nordic Festival, the first of which is a new classic sprint qualifier early on Saturday morning.

“This year’s festival will be the first on FIS sanctioned and standardized trails at the AVSC courses,” Trecker explained. “Holding one additional points race opportunity was something the national governing body wanted to add to the program since Sunday’s Owl Creek Chase is not FIS sanctioned. Rather than holding an additional event on a separate day, the organizers and the USSA decided to hold a short, sprint time trial on Saturday in addition to the standard 5/10K classic

races.”

Races begin at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

— *Aspen Daily News staff*

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[1] <http://www.bellyupaspen.com>

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