World Cup tour begins this weekend

By USSA

SOELDEN, Austria – Olympic gold medalists Bode Miller (Franconia, N.H.), Lindsey Vonn (Vail), Julia Mancuso (Olympic Valley) and Ted Ligety (Park City) will be in the start gate when the 2011 Audi FIS Alpine World Cup tour kicks off this weekend in Soelden.

Action begins Saturday with women's giant slalom, followed by the men on Sunday. Also in the women's gate are four-time Olympian Sarah Schleper and 2010 Olympian Megan McJames (Park City).

Mancuso was on the 2007 opening podium with a second to kick off a record season that put her in contention for the overall title. She and Vonn have been preparing for the weekend in nearby Pitztal, with Schleper and McJames joining them for the last day of training before heading to Soelden.

"We had four good days on some hard ice at Pitztal," said women's Head Coach Alex Hoedlmoser. "Lindsey is unbelievably confident now on the ice and Julia is doing some great things with her new skis. We've done everything we needed to do to prepare for this weekend."

In addition to Miller and Ligety, men's starters also include Olympians Tim Jitloff (Reno), Tommy Ford (Bend, Ore.) and Nolan Kasper (Warren, VT) plus Warner Nickerson (Gilford, N.H.) and Will Gregorak (Longmont, Colo.).

Miller and Ligety have been on the Soelden podium with Miller winning the race in both 2003 and 2004. Ligety has started his season with a top-3 in Soelden each of the last three years. In 2008 and 2010 Soelden set the stage for Ligety to ascend to

the overall discipline title for GS.

“Bode has been over here for a solid month now and Ted came over a few days earlier than the rest of the guys, so they’re ready to go,” said men’s technical Head Coach Mike Day. “We’ve had two really good days of training so far in Stubai, but we’re going to head over to Pitztal to ski on some hard ice that they made over there.”

Nickerson, who is training with the U.S. Ski Team leading up to the race, earned his slot by landing four GS podiums during races in New Zealand this summer, including a pair of Australia New Zealand Cup wins.

It will be the first start in Soelden for Kasper and also for Gregorak, who will make his World Cup debut. Gregorak was fifth in GS at the 2010 World Junior Championships.

Opinion: Re-elect Reid to fifth term

Publisher’s note: ***This editorial is from the Oct. 17, 2010, Reno Gazette-Journal.***

Nevadans already are burdened with a U.S. senator whose personal indiscretions have made him largely ineffective.

Now they’re being told that they should jettison a four-term senator who has risen to the most powerful post in the Congress in favor of a woman who consistently was voted least effective member of the Assembly during her four terms in the Nevada Legislature.

Even members of Republican Sharron Angle’s own party recognize

the absurdity of the proposition. Such prominent Republicans as Reno Mayor Bob Cashell, Sparks Mayor Geno Martini, State Senator Bill Raggio and former Nevada first lady Dema Guinn have announced their support for incumbent Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader – and they've been unfairly vilified for their temerity.

Other Republicans offer a particularly dubious rationale for supporting Angle: Get rid of Reid now; we can deal with Angle in six years.

Reid, seeking his fifth term in the Senate, is far from perfect, but he remains an effective advocate for Nevada's interests in the nation's capital, a skillful politician who has used his position to make a difference in his home state and help the nation work its way out of some very difficult times. He should be re-elected.

Read the whole story

Meeting to decide where to spend money on North Shore forests

The Nevada/Placer County Resource Advisory Committee will meet Nov. 5 at the Placer County Water Agency (144 Ferguson Road, Auburn) beginning at 10am. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on which projects the RAC will recommend for funding.

The public is invited to attend.

The RAC has more than $390,000 to allocate for Round 2 project proposals.

These projects must benefit National Forest System land in either Placer or Nevada county and can include: improving the maintenance of existing infrastructure; enhance forest ecosystems; restore and improve land health and water quality; road, trail and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration; soil productivity improvement; improvements in forest ecosystem health; watershed restoration and maintenance; control of noxious or exotic weeds; restoration, maintenance, and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat and the re-establishment of native species.

For additional information, contact Joanne Roubique, Truckee district ranger (530) 587.3558, Jennifer Montgomery, RAC chair (530) 889.4010 or Ann Westling, public affairs officer (530) 478.6205.

TY&FS has cause to celebrate this month

Tahoe Youth & Family Services is celebrating two birthdays this month.

The first celebration is Oct. 28 from 11am-5pm to mark the Gardnerville office turning 1.

There will be cake, coffee, cookies and cider during the open house at 1422 Mission St., Gardnerville.

The second party is Oct. 30 from 11am-5pm to recognize the

agency's thrift store Hope's Closet being 1 year old.

Hope's Closet is at 2277 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe in the log cabin next to Enterprise Car Rental.

South Tahoe attempting to fix parking nightmares

By Kathryn Reed

Parking in South Lake Tahoe is atrocious. No one disagreed. And all loosely agreed solving the problems will take creative thinking, and recognizing the various sections of town are not all the same when it comes to use and traffic patterns.

About 30 people, mostly property and business owners, gathered at Riva Grill for about two hours Thursday afternoon to talk about how better to serve their driving customers – which is the bulk of people.

Despite years of planners saying the future would see people using their cars less, that theory has never been realized.

"People are going to drive their cars to get where they want to go. That is not going to change," John Cefalu said.



John Cefalu

Cefalu has lived here for decades and has property in multiple

locations along Highway 50.

One of his concerns is where people are going to park once Lakeview Commons is finished. He gave a bit of history how there was a time when people could park on the highway. Caltrans finally stopped that practice, which is how Harrison Avenue was created as a frontage road.

Property owners in the area have not been able to agree on a plan that the city wants to develop to alleviate congestion and making parking less nightmarish. Cefalu said an idea to create one-way streets had traction with owners, which could help with parking.

A meeting the evening of Oct. 21 was for the public to express what they would like to see. Only one member of the public showed up. (The National League Championship Series with the San Francisco Giants was at the same time.)

The areas of focus covered in the grant are Ski Run Boulevard and Harrison Avenue. But the consultants doing the work are also looking at the Stateline area.

A $30,000 grant from the state's Community Development Block Grant program is paying for a team from Kimley-Horn and Associates, which has offices throughout the country including Reno, to create a plan to improve the situation.

The underlying focus is economic development. Without parking that works, people may not frequent a business. With the lousy reputation the Heavenly Village debt-ridden city-owned garage has year-round and the paid Ski Run Marina lot has during the summer, locals in particular stay away from those areas.

Those gathered want to work on changing public perception.



Business and property owners on Oct. 21 discuss parking in South Tahoe. Photos/Kathryn Reed

Janis Rhodes and Brett Wood of the consulting firm are tasked with gathering the information and coming up with solutions by early summer. How to pay for whatever changes might be proposed will be an issue tackled when the ideas come to light.

“They must deliver solutions to the parking problem that the city can deliver,” Nancy Kerry, the city’s housing-redevelopment manager, told *Lake Tahoe News* before the meeting. “We know parking is an issue.”

Metered street parking, parking garages, reconfiguring streets, changing public perception about paid parking, paying attention to public transit-walkers-cyclists, and approving future projects with adequate parking were all broached in the daytime meeting.

Most in the audience agreed more parking and paid parking are likely to be more prevalent in South Tahoe in the near future. And they agreed it would be the locals, who are used to free parking, who will probably be the hardest to convince this is what’s needed.

The consultants started work in July by speaking with nearly 300 people to gather their thoughts on parking in the city. They also have read the 10 or so parking studies the city has commissioned over the years.

In the in-person survey, which mostly tourists answered, about 70 percent said they would be willing to pay for parking.

Another survey is being conducted online through at least the end of the year.

This is another opportunity for locals and tourists to weigh-in on parking in town and help direct change.

“During summer we spend more time turning people away than parking them,” Riva Grill manager Scott Craig told the group.

He and others wouldn’t mind a multi-story parking garage to be built to accommodate people.

When the Ski Run Marina project was approved parking was inadequate. It’s worse now that businesses occupy the commercial area and Tahoe Queen has multiple cruises nearly daily, but always in the summer.

“At least 150 people, if not more, work in this area. That’s the same number of parking spots,” said Mansoor Alyeshmerni, owner of Ski Run Marina.

When the city and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency approved the marina development the powers that be touted an integrated bus system for the South Shore, but that reality is teetering in and out of bankruptcy court; and despite all the planning for bike trails, asphalt is the missing component to make that real.

Still, Lisa O’Daly with the California Tahoe Conservancy asked if business owners have noticed more people walking or cycling on trails that her agency has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on – mostly in planning.

Brian Des Rochers, president of the Ski Run BID, said he does see people using the sidewalks on the boulevard.

Wood, the consultant, said in the online surveys that have been completed a number of people have commented on how this is not a walking town.

Cefalu brought up how his Fox gas station plows its sidewalks, but he can't get neighboring businesses to do the same.

This all tied into a discussion about the tourists' experience when they are in town – the ability to walk, contend with traffic and park.

Tahoe traffic stop leads to 'pot factory' in Chico

By KRCR-TV

CHICO – A traffic stop led drug agents to an alleged pot factory in Chico where they recovered $1.5 million worth of marijuana.

It started October 14 when officers pulled over a driver for speeding on Highway 89 near Lake Tahoe. The driver Robert Daniels, 62, of Chico, gave the the CHP permission to search his truck. CHP officers said they found more than 100 pounds of marijuana in the bed of the Ford. Investigators say the marijuana was processed and stowed in duffel bags.

Daniels claimed it was for medical purposes, but California law does not allow the transport of medical marijuana. Daniels could not provide proof of enough patients to account for the amount of marijuana in the truck.

Read the whole story

Cold, wet weather forecasted for Tahoe this weekend

By National Weather Service

Low pressure near the British Columbia coast will direct a plume of moisture into the Sierra and Western Nevada this weekend.

Light rain and snow may reach the Sierra as early as Friday night, with the heaviest precipitation occurring late Saturday night and Sunday.

Snow levels Saturday will start between 7,000 and 8,000 feet, then rise to near 10,000 feet by Sunday. Light snow accumulations are possible in the Sierra above 8,000 feet Saturday and Saturday night.

As a front moves into the area Sunday, heavy rain is likely to affect the northern Sierra from the Lake Tahoe Basin north into Plumas and Lassen counties. Rainfall amounts up to 1 inch are possible, with potential for higher amounts along and west of Highway 89.

Gusts over the Sierra ridges could approach 100mph during this time.

A colder system may reach the area Monday night and Tuesday, with a chance for snow levels to lowering to 7,000 feet or less across the Sierra and Western Nevada.

LTCC fall speaker series

The Geology Club at Lake Tahoe Community College has teamed with the Tahoe-Baikal Institute to present the Fall Speaker Series.

The presentations will be in the Aspen Room at the Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe.

They are free.

· Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species: Oct. 27th 7:30-8:30pm presented by Sudeep Chandra, UNR professor, and Nicole Cartwright of TahoeRCD

· After the Angora Fire: Nov. 3 from 6:30-7:30pm, presented by Susie Kocher and Daylin Wade, California Tahoe Conservancy.

· Bringing Environmental Education to Lake Baikal: Nov. 10 from 6:30-7:30pm, presented by Joy Barney Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Swollen Members at MontBleu

Swollen Members take the stage at MontBleu in Stateline on Nov. 13 at 8pm. Doors open at 7pm.

Tickets are $15 in advance at the box office, or $25 at the door.

Collie Buddz at MontBleu

Collie Buddz from the isle of Bermuda has done something not impossible but something once seemingly implausible. He's become the most buzz-worthy current reggae artist over the past few years.

He's bringing his brand of music to MontBleu in Stateline on Nov. 12 at 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are $15 in advance at the casino or $25 at the door.

In summer 2007, Buddz' Columbia Records self-titled debut album stormed the charts entering the Billboard Reggae Chart at first position. The reggae singjay became an international star when this album then went on to debut across the world at the top of every chart from Japan to Germany.

Incorporating influences from hip-hop to soca, Collie's music nevertheless has a rock-solid foundation in reggae – and its power to connect ghetto reality with the highest heights of human aspiration – that is a rarity even in Jamaica. But, to say he's connected to the Caribbean community would be an understatement. Buddz, born Colin Harper, has become the Caribbean culture's resident ambassador.

In spite of averaging an 11-month yearly touring schedule since 2007, Buddz is prepared to release a sophomore album.

Wanting to release music more frequently and with fewer restrictions, Buddz's affiliation with Columbia Records/Sony Music Entertainment ended in 2008. He has since founded his own independent record label, Harper Digital alongside his brother, Smokey, and DJ Genie, while working with his longtime management group Mojiza Management.