Tahoe Rim Trail looking for trail builders

Join the Tahoe Rim Trail Association for volunteer trail building workdays at the Kingsbury North Trailhead in Stateline on the Daggett Summit Trail System Project. Workdays are Tuesdays and Saturdays (9am to 4pm) in July.

Learn new skills, meet like-minded trail enthusiasts, and give back to your community by joining a volunteer trail crew. Volunteers of all skill levels and ages are welcome—no prior experience necessary. To join a volunteer work crew, register online at www.tahoerimtrail.org or contact Amanda at (775) 298.0239 trails@tahoerimtrail.org. Groups are welcome to participate. Registration is necessary,

This is the second trail building season of the multi-year Daggett Summit project, which will connect the Tahoe Rim Trail with the Van Sickle State Park, re-route the TRT off of paved roads, and provide stunning views of Lake Tahoe to more people.Last year we 3.8 miles of trail were built.

Volunteers should bring their own lunch, water, sunscreen, bug spray, and backpack. Volunteers must wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, boots, and work gloves. The Tahoe Rim Trail Association will provide hard hats, trail building tools and expert crew leaders.

Trail Building Workdays:

July 20 at Kingsbury North Trailhead Stateline

July 24 at Kingsbury North Trailhead Stateline

July 27 at Kingsbury North Trailhead Stateline

July 31 at Kingsbury North Trailhead Stateline.

Sample the Sierra blends food, wine and art

Sample the Sierra is a cooperative effort of El Dorado County organizations, growers, producers and businesses to increase awareness of the region’s bounty, heritage, culture and activities through a market-to-table event featuring tastings from the Sierra Nevada’s best chefs and restaurants – all created with local produce, and paired with tastings from local wineries and breweries.

Food and wine tasting will be Aug. 21 from 1-4pm, however, other activities start an hour earlier and end an hour later.

It all takes place on Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe.

The event marketplace will also include regional products such as honey, jams, olive oil and soaps. A juried, original art show will feature pottery, painting, photography and handmade crafts by regional artists and artisans.

Live entertainment, including music, storytellers, acoustic musicians, and regional presentations and activities will round out the program.

Sample the Sierra has openings for growers, wineries, breweries, chefs/restaurants, marketplace vendors, entertainment and artists. Event sponsorships are also available at many levels.

For more information, contact TahoeChamber.org – call (775) 588.1728 or email Natalie@TahoeChamber.org.

Tahoe Derby Dames bring a feminism-punk style to oval

By Austin Fay

A blur of black and green whizzes by with clenched fists and bared lime-green mouth guard. She earns one point for each of the five members of the opposite team she laps during a two-minute period, or “jam” in roller derby lingo.

Trying to block Carey “Crazy” Jenkins, several of her opponents hook skates and tumble, arms outstretched they cross the rink and nearly land in the pine cones at trackside.



Roller derby is all the rage at Bijou Community Park. Photos/Austin Fay

For the past two and a half years, the Tahoe Derby Dames have been colliding with other teams.

The team consists of about 20 Lake Tahoe Basin women who love road rash and full contact competition. In addition to making

cash donations to local charities, they raised $10,000 to pay for a cement track in Bijou Community Park through ticket sales at home games.

Three nights a week the Tahoe Derby Dames sharpen their craft in anticipation of the next monthly bout.

At the last bout in Bijou Community Park, more than 400 people showed up to cheer their local derby girls on. At this month's bout the team is expecting even more people.

Make no mistake about it, this kind of roller derby is real and on its way to becoming officially sanctioned by the Women's Flat Track Derby Association.

Points are scored by a skater called the "jammer" who passes the opposing team's skaters in the pack. It's essentially two skaters racing against each other, dipping and diving through a cluster of women who don't want them to pass.

That's where it gets a little brutal as the players try to block one another. There are strict rules about where contact can take place, but roller derby is a physical sport.

Roller derby has been around for much of the past century. It became popular in the 1960s and '70s as sports entertainment, with scripted matches and action punctuated by good guys and gals beating the evil team.

Drew Barrymore helped bring roller derby back in vogue with the movie "Whip It" in 2009.

Today's players are an unusual blend of feminism and punk, raw strength and agility. It is a game of strategy, too, and many of the over-the-top track characters contrast the athletes' meek or highly accomplished real lives.

The games became so popular that the Women's Flat Track Derby Association was established in 2004 to promote the sport by "facilitating the development of athletic ability,

sportswomanship and good will among member leagues.” Not all women’s roller derby teams belong to the league, but the league hopes to offer rookie groups like the Tahoe Derby Dames an opportunity to join.

Former coworkers, loose social connections and enthusiasts now make up a loyal team with a camaraderie not found in many places in the players’ lives. A recent dive taken on the “really, really, really hard track” by Hollie “Jinn Beam” Straubinger caused a gnarly imprint of her fishnet stockings on her hip which later led to a staph infection.

With names like Piratella, Valigator, Ghostface KillHer, Ganjzilla, and Poisoned Peach, derby names become alter egos.

“Typically in your everyday life, you’re a mom, you’re an employee, you’re a wife, that sort of thing. When they come on the track, they put that all aside,” said the hard-as-nails referee Kera “Lepra C” Amsterdam. Some players like Julie “Mad Maggie” Roulain come out three nights a week to relieve stress or to decompress from her daily life.

Christine Mendoza works is a physical therapy assistant at Barton Memorial Hospital by day, but three nights a week assumes a persona on the rink better known as “Fiona Fearless.”

Players maneuver jobs, stress, children and husbands the other four nights of the week. “It becomes a juggling act,” Mendoza said.

“It’s something I’ve wanted to do since I was a kid. I’ve just never lived in a town where there was a team,” said Allison Green, schoolteacher and three-week Tahoe resident clad in mismatched loaner kneepads and wrist guards. “I’m here to allow my inner badass to come out.”

Endurance is what it will boil down to in the upcoming match. The next bout is against the Silicon Valley Killabytes and

will probably be one of the toughest teams the league has faced yet.

The Killabytes are a bigger, more advanced, sea-level dwelling team, so taking advantage of the low oxygen concentration in the air along with a strong home team turnout is essential for the team’s win. Last home game a player was suspended for throwing an elbow, which is illegal. There’s a chance she’ll be out for the season.

The team is always recruiting new girls, with newbie practices on Monday nights at 6. Helmet is required.

The Tahoe Derby Dames lock horns with the Silicon Valley Killabytes on July 24 at 6pm. Gate’s open at 5, and there’s a beer garden, a raffle. Bring a lawn chair to Bijou Park off Al Tahoe Boulevard. The cost is $10, with those 10 and younger free. Plus, it goes to a good cause. Relay for Life receives the first $200.

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Origami for children at Douglas County Library

Origami will be featured at the Douglas County Public Library in Zephyr Cove on July 29 at 1:30pm.

Dennis Little has shared his hobby of Japanese paper folding for many years at the library. He will tell the history of origami and bring examples of his projects. During past programs children made fish, Olympic medals, cranes, boxes, and many more items. Come for an enjoyable hour to learn about

this ancient craft and make a project to take home. For ages 5 and up; adults are welcome, too. Parents may help younger children with their projects. Sign up by July 28 to participate.

The library is located at 233 Warrior Way in Zephyr Cove. For more information, call (775) 588.6411 or go to douglas.lib.nv.us.

Markleeville Art Gallery reception

Markleeville Art Gallery is having a reception July 20 from 5-8pm.

Some of the artists featured in gallery will be attedning the event.

For more information, call (530) 694.2787.

Tolliver scores ACC record win; fans turn out in droves

By Emerson Marcus, Reno Gazette-Journal

STATELINE – Even with an 11-point lead, Billy Joe Tolliver refused to change his strategy today in the final round of the American Century Championship at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course.

His final drive was proof.

The 44-year-old former NFL quarterback blasted a 373-yard drive that set him up for a 128-yard approach shot, an eventual eagle and an all-time tournament record score.



Billy Joe Tolliver kisses his third ACC trophy on July 18. Photo/Provided

“He rope hooked it and it was the biggest drive I’ve ever seen on that hole,” said actor Jack Wagner.

Tolliver went into the final hole tied with former quarterback Chris Chandler’s 2007 record of 78, but gained six points with the eagle on the 18th hole and finished with an 88. It was his third ACC win (1996, 2005 and 2010).

Read the whole story

Nevada tourism agency scores

with Google technology

Google has chosen the Nevada Commission on Tourism's online winter ski commercial as a success-story case study after it attracted 8 million viewers in seven targeted markets.

JoLyn Laney, NCOT's deputy director for marketing and advertising, will to participate in an advertisers' panel discussion of in-stream video at the Destination Marketing Association International Convention in Ft. Lauderdale July 21-23.

NCOT was among the first tourism entities in the country to use Google's new technology, in-stream video, which places video ads into online video programs, including television segments, in a commercial break format as on regular television. Viewers who were exposed to the ad in markets where it appeared were 33 percent more likely to consider Nevada as a vacation destination than were those who saw other NCOT online ads that did not use Google's technology, NCOT's research showed.

Tracking technology showed 45 percent of the viewers watched the entire 30-second commercial that appeared on in-stream video. The lively ad showed skiers on snowy Sierra Nevada mountain slopes overlooking blue Lake Tahoe.

Google used a process called geo-targeting to show the NCOT ad in designated marketing areas that offer convenient travel to Nevada and are home to skiers and snowboarders aged 25 to 54 with high-level household income: Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Francisco Bay Area, Dallas, Seattle, Chicago and Phoenix.

NCOT's research company, TNS Custom Research, and its Digital Marketing Effectiveness Study enables the tourism agency to track the effectiveness of its advertising campaigns and measure the return on investment, which last winter, when the ads ran, was $22 for each $1 invested. NCOT is funded by hotel

room tax revenue that visitors pay, not by the state general fund.

Thai One On making money for Relay for Life

Thai One On is this week’s featured restaurant for Taste of Tahoe. Taste of Tahoe is a fund raiser for the South Shore’s Relay for Life.

Eating at the Kingsbury Grade restaurant now through July 24 means a portion of the proceeds go to the local Relay for Life, which in turn is a money-maker for the American Cancer Society.

El Dorado rolls out red carpet for film executive

By Miranda Simon, Sacramento Bee

El Dorado County saluted film producer Lincoln Lageson during a Saturday evening event where his latest Hallmark movie,”Jack’s Family Adventure,” was screened.

The film was shot at The Grace Foundation, an equine rescue and rehabilitation facility in El Dorado Hills. Lageson also produced another film shot in El Dorado County, “Out of the Woods,” a Hallmark movie starring Ed Asner and Jason London,

which debuted in 2005.

Lageson, who has said his parents grew up in Nevada City, used that town as the backdrop for his film “The Christmas Card,” a Hallmark movie that aired in 2006.

Read the whole story

Special wine tasting at Truckee’s Artisans Market

The Artisans Market Place co-op in the courtyard in Truckee is having a special wine tasting among the flowers with Grant Ramey of Grant Eddie Winery on July 23 fro 5-7pm.

This California foothill winery produces more than a dozen varietals, all estate grown and bottled. Thirty-five-years of finely honed wine-making skills and artistry has led to numerous prestigious awards. The current line-up features 10 medal winners including two golds and three silvers from the 2010 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition and two double gold awards from the Best of Appellation competition.

Grant and his partner Eddie Schulten combine their growing and blending mastery to produce some wines from the rough soils of Yuba County.

Also present at the complimentary wine tasting will be creations from the co-op artists featuring Tom Beebe’s curving wine racks, Toni Rockwell’s glass-topped wine stoppers, Nichole Busse’s jeweled wine charms, and potter Brian Watson’s wine goblets.

Expect a few surprises.

Attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

The Artisans Market Place is located at 10382 Donner Pass Road in Historic Brickelltown, just west of Commercial Row, Truckee (east of Burger Me). The art co-op features 19 local artisans and is open daily 11am to 6pm.