Bike ride around Tahoe may impact traffic

Motorists should expect to see thousands of bicyclists all around Lake Tahoe during Sunday's annual America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride.

Northbound traffic on Highway 89 in Emerald Bay from Spring Creek Road to Vikingsholm Vista Point will be held to through traffic from 6:30-8:30am on June 7. The southbound lane will remain open.

There are no other planned highway closures for the ride, but motorists should be prepared to share the road with bicyclists on Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe, Highway 89 along the West Shore and up to Truckee and back (for 100-mile riders) and Highway 28 from Tahoe City around to the East Shore on the Nevada side, where riders will connect back with Highway 50 and ride back down to the South Shore.

Riders will start and finish at Lake Tahoe Hard Rock. The start is at 6am, with most riders expected to be done by 5:30pm. Event organizer Curtis Fong said he expects more than 3,000 riders for the 24th annual event.

Bicyclists will be instructed to travel in single file and motorists are reminded to obey the 3-foot buffer law when passing riders, according to Caltrans.

Entry forms available for Tahoe tennis tourney

The Tahoe Tennis Classic is so popular that it has become a four-day tournament, July 30-Aug. 2.

Teams are already signing up for the 32nd annual event. The all doubles event (women's, men's, mixed) at Zephyr Cove Tennis Club each year features teams from across the country as well as those from the Tahoe-Truckee-Reno area.

Levels of play include:

Age group divisions (combined age)

100-plus Men's Century

130-plus Men's Super Century

Unrestricted Age Divisions

Women's	Men's	Mixed
10.0 (A+)	10.0 (A)	10.0 (A)
9.0 (A)	8.0 (B)	8.0 (B)
8.0 (B)	7.0 (C)	7.0 (C)
7.0 (C)		

The entry deadline is July 27. The fee is $70 per player for the first event, $30 for the second, and includes a player dinner party on that Saturday, a raffle, and a commemorative T-shirt. Everyone is guaranteed a minimum of two matches. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Foundation.

Complete information about the event and an entry form are

available online.

Youngsters pedal to school in bike challenge



Sierra House students ride to school June 3 on Black Bart Avenue with teacher Mandy Miller. Photo/Rebecca Bryson

Expect to see lots of young cyclists on the roads until the end of the school year.

All Lake Tahoe Unified School District elementary schools are participating in the Tahoe Bike Challenge. Businesses, agencies, kids and individuals are tabulating the number of miles pedaled between June 1-14. Plus, there are a number of

events throughout the basin associated with the challenge.

Teachers and parents are riding with the youngsters to and from school. Expect to see lots of riders on Pioneer Trail, Black Bart, Glenwood, Tahoe Island, Sawmill Pond, North and South Upper Truckee and Apache.

There will be a bike rodeo Thursday at 9:25am at the magnet school. It ends at 2pm.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Volunteers sought for bike path cleanup

As part of the Tahoe Bike Challenge there will be a community bike path cleanup on June 13 from 10am-noon.

Volunteers may meet at one of four locations throughout South Lake Tahoe to pick up litter. Afterward volunteers will be treated to lunch League to Save Lake Tahoe office (2608 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe). All ages are welcome and all supplies will be provided

RSVP by by filling out this form.

Those who ride to the cleanup will be entered into a raffle.

Time to work on Van Sickle Connector Trail

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association will celebrate the 23rd anniversary of National Trails Day on June 6 from 10am-2pm.

American Hiking Society's National Trails Day is the country's largest celebration of trails.

TRTA is putting on a trail building day to complete maintenance work on the Van Sickle Connector Trail on the South Shore. For this special workday the Tahoe Rim Trail Association will be providing lunch for all of our pre-registered volunteers.

For more information, contact Morgan Fessler at morganf@tahoerimtrail.org or 775.298.4489.

Boat show adds Elvis-themed dinner

The South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic is having a dinner fit for the king.

The Fifties and Fins theme includes the Pink Hour and some of Elvis' favorite foods. The July 24 6pm event is at the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association Beach and Pool site.

Like the boat show, shuttles will be provided from the Keys parking locations. Dress as your favorite 50s icon.

Elvis turns 80, but that's not the only milestone birthday we

will celebrate this evening. The Thunderbird, George Whittell Jr.’s magnificent Hacker Craft Commuter turns 75 years old.

The boat show is July 24-25 at the Tahoe Keys Marina. It is from noon-5pm on Saturday and 11am-5pm Sunday.

This year’s theme, 50s & Fins, will honor those boats built between 1950 and 1959.

For more info and tickets, go online.

Tahoe Bike Challenge begins with 2 organized rides

The Tahoe Bike Challenge kick-off – Ready, Set, Pedal – is June 1 from 4-6pm.

The party is at Pearl Izumi at the Y. There will be to rides. The 5-mile route partially goes through the Tahoe Keys and over to the bike trail on Eloise Avenue. The 10-miler is along Lake Tahoe Boulevard, up Ski Run Boulevard, down Pioneer Trail, then Al Tahoe Boulevard back to Lake Tahoe Boulevard.

Rides will begin and end at Pearl Izumi beginning at 4:30pm. Bike swag will be given to all attendees.

Turf buyback sprouts endless possibilities

Publisher's note: ***This is one in a random series of stories about what it's like to go through the South Tahoe Public Utility District turf buyback program.***

By Kathryn Reed

I'm exhausted and overwhelmed, and I haven't turned over one blade of grass. It's going to be a long summer, or two.

My front yard – the only place where there is grass – has never been much to look at. It became less functional years ago when a tree removal company parked a crane on it. It made croquet balls hop instead of roll. Then there was the summer I spread fertilizer, but didn't water it immediately.

Why would I want to keep watering a lawn I didn't like?

And with South Tahoe Public Utility District installing a water meter last summer, how much I pay to water that grass is about to change. Something had to be done.

I got myself on the waiting list for the turf buyback program last year and this year I am part of the program.



Donielle Morse, left, and Lannette Rangel with South Tahoe PUD take turf measurements. Photos/Kathryn Reed

Last week Donielle Morse and Lannette Rangel with STPUD came out to measure the turf – 804-square-feet; and have me sign a contract – I must keep the new stuff in for five years, plant native or low water consuming plants over 35 percent of the area, and use a better, low water use irrigation system. They told me other particulars to ensure I will qualify for the $1,206 rebate check.

The buyback program is open to all South Tahoe PUD water customers. The most anyone will get is $3,000. The equation is $1.50 per square foot.

They took pictures and will do the same when I call for the final inspection.

I'm supposed to keep a list of all the plants I use, create a sketch of where things go and have stats about the irrigation system. (Hand watering is also an option.) I have a sprinkler system so it seems logical to convert it.

I ask about transplanting things from the back to the front.

That’s OK, but they suggest I ask the TRCD about how well specific vegetation does when moved.

That afternoon Jennifer Cressy with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District came out. The free consultation is part of the program. She gives me ideas about how to relocate some of the established plants I have and says others aren’t transplantable.

“Talk nice to it the whole time,” she says of the bushes I’m eyeing to move. She also says to make sure my shovel is sharpened. (I didn’t bother to tell her I’ve never thought about sharpening a shovel before.)

She peruses the other things growing in the back and points out how the roses would be easy to transplant. Hmmm. I hadn’t thought about that and suddenly see potential.

I already knew all sides of the house were going to be disturbed in this remake. It might get messier and more complicated, though, than I anticipated. It’s a good thing I have two seasons to get the turf out and have the area revegetated.



Jennifer Cressy with Tahoe Resource Conservation District shows where to thin a bush before replanting it.

“One of the easier techniques is composting the lawn in place if you are doing it yourself,” Cressy tells me.

Cressy introduced me to the term sheet mulching. I have since read more about it. It seems like an easier alternative than what I thought I was going to have to do, which was haul away all of my grass. Some of the literature even says I won’t have to take all the grass out, but instead I could kill it by blocking out the sun.

With a sod cutter I’d need to be wary of tree roots.

Cressy offers simple tips – like when ordering soil amendment, get extra for future projects; have any deliveries be dumped onto a tarp so it’s easier to scoop it up at the end; plant shallow rooted vegetation near trees because the trees absorb so much water; pay attention to where snow is shoveled or dumped by the city so flexible bushes go there.

When it comes to what to plant that is determined on a site-by-site case. I’m on an extremely high water table so that will make a difference in what I can plant compared to someone who is on a slope.

“Climate and native appropriate plants” are what we all should be shopping for.

Cressy throws out the idea of a raised vegetable bed near the door. She adds that edibles and plants that smell good should be near the walkways.

I’m on information overload. But she gets me thinking. Next step – put a design onto paper.

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Notes:

· Tahoe Resource Conservation District has a wealth of landscaping information online – not just for those taking out

turf.

· More information about South Tahoe PUD's turf buyback program is online. The website also has information about the current water restrictions.

· The Evans' Family Garden in the Angora burn area has examples of appropriate vegetation for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

· Here is a list of landscaping workshops for the do-it-yourself gardeners, landscapers and landscape managers.

Mountain bike specific helmets on the rise

By Aaron Gulley, Outside

After years of chasing the lightest, most minimal shapes for cross-country riders, helmet companies have started building lids with more rear coverage and added safety features.

Bell wasn't the first into this space, but it made a splash with the launch of its Super two years ago. This year, BRG Sports, owner of Bell and Giro, has pushed to equip many of its helmets with MIPS—a thin plastic sheath in the helmet that allows the shell to move independently of the head, thus absorbing up to 50 percent of the rotational forces in a crash— after the company purchased a stake in the technology.

But are these helmets really safer or is it all just marketing

hoopla?

There’s no clear-cut answer to that question, because the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) testing used since 1998 in the U.S. is a pass-fail standard. Consumers have no way of appraising claims about increased coverage, oblique strikes, or the forces that a helmet absorbs and transfers to riders.

Read the whole story

Tahoe ice skaters bring home awards



The Tahoe Snowflakes production skaters (ages 6 to 14), from left, Grace Zanetti, Keatyn Louise, Zoe Wanzer, Olive Hamner-Jillson, Carly Cox, Kiara Furrer, Allana Jones, Anett Fenyvesi, Kylie Muskovitz, Sophia Purvance and Olivia Herrera. Photo/Provided

The Tahoe Snowflakes took first place in the production number category at the all stars competition at Vacaville Ice Sports.

The May 24 event was an artistic showcase competition sanctioned by the Ice Skating Institute.

The production number consists of all the skaters from all the teams.

Also in first place was the oldest of the synchronized age-group teams which consisted mostly of South Tahoe Middle School skaters, and two fifth-graders.

The two younger teams placed second in their respective categories.

Tahoe skaters also fielded a couple, and seven solo events at this competition. Two of the solos, Olive Hamner-Jillson and Summer Furrer, as well as the couple consisting of Olive Hamner-Jillson and Kiara Furrer were selected by the judges for an encore presentation of their routines.

The Tahoe Snowflakes will end the competitive season at the Ice Skating Institute’s District 14 Championships, aptly named Skate at the Lake. This competition will be at the South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena June 12-14.

– Alex Furre, Snowflakes assistant coach