Throngs of motorcyclists to descend on region for Street Vibrations

By Reno Gazette-Journal

When Street Vibrations roars into Northern Nevada on Wednesday, the five-day celebration for the first time will take over downtown Reno, downtown Sparks and Virginia City.

For the first time in years, bikers will be able to park their bikes on Virginia Street from Second to Sixth streets.

“From day one, people in the motorcycle rally always believed they had a god-given right to park under the Reno Arch,” said Randy Burke Roadshows Inc., the event’s producer.

And the tricked-up, custom bikes are what people come to see.

Read the whole story

Kirkwood opening treetop zipline routes

Kirkwood Mountain Resort this week is opening Northern California’s first complete treetop zipline tour.

Kirkwood Canopy Tours will feature nine ziplines and three suspension bridges, with views of the Kirkwood Valley.



Height and weight restrictions apply.

Learn more about Kirkwood’s zip tour experience here.

Fight over snowmobiles on public lands

By Jeff Delong, Reno Gazette-Journal

Insisting peaceful winter sports are increasingly being disrupted by noisy snowmobiles, critics are asking the government to alter the way the machines are managed on national forest land.



Snowmobile groups say the petition filed by a coalition of 90 conservation and recreation groups is an attempt to unfairly restrict their sport with unnecessary regulations.

The dispute is the latest example of mounting conflicts between those favoring motorized play on public land and others who insist the practice is bothersome and environmentally damaging.

“We acknowledge that snowmobiles are a popular winter use and that they have their place,” said Mark Menlove, executive director of Winter Wildlands Alliance, the Boise, Idaho-based

group leading the effort.

Read the whole story

Restoring Cold Creek's meander in High Meadow

By Kathryn Reed

Freel Peak at 10,000-plus feet looms in one direction. Monument Pass in another. Behind the neighboring mountain is the Sky chairlift at Heavenly. Through the trees, though not visible until the descent, is Lake Tahoe.

Not a bad work environment.

This is High Meadow.



Excavator Billy Newman puts sod into the new channel of Cold Creek at High Meadow. Photos/Kathryn Reed

But High Meadow could be more aptly named Construction Meadow. This is because of the multi-year restoration project that started in August. By the time U.S. Forest Service crews complete the project in 2012, Cold Creek will meander like it did before cattle grazed in the meadow, willows will sprout from the bank, the dead beetle-infested lodgepoles will be hauled away, and wildlife will have returned to the area.

“The goal here is in five years we don’t want people to know we’ve been here,” said Stephanie Heller, hydrologist with the Forest Service and project lead.

Eighty of the 280 acres in the meadow are being restored.

This land was bought from a family trust in 2003, with a private cabin still on the property near the entrance to the area off High Meadow Trail, which is off Pioneer Trail on the South Shore.

The area was last grazed eight years ago. Cows like willows – that’s why there aren’t any. Crews are starting to plant them along the new channel.

Work will wrap up for the season on Oct. 15. Next year it’s all about letting the vegetation along the new stream channel take hold. Filling in the old channel will take place in 2012.

The $2 million meadow restoration is being paid for with money from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

What the public will notice most once the meadow project is done is that this flat, expansive land mass will be wet in the spring, more lush and possibly producing wildflowers like not seen by current generations.

“Now the stream doesn’t get out of the bank,” Heller said. “It will average 30 days each year out of the bank. It helps get the fine sediment on the flood plane. The meadow should be a lot greener. Now it browns up early.”

The 18 people working on the project are all Forest Service employees. Driving in (which is only allowed in a Forest Service vehicle) it looks more like a major construction site than a serene meadow. Boulders and smaller rock, along with piles of dirt are under the power lines. Felled trees are in a pile.

Everything being used in the meadow restoration is native. Those piles of rocks about a quarter mile away are being dumped on Tuesday into the freshly dug new channel to create a stream riffle. The dirt will be used to fill what will be the old channel of Cold Creek.

Excavator Billy Newman delicately places swatches of sod. His precision is incredible, making it look like the large yellow piece of equipment is being operated with velvet gloves.

Building the stack sod bank will help establish vegetation on the bank.

“I think the restoration is broader than sediment. This will be a major habitat restoration,” Heller explained.

She anticipates this project benefiting the area’s entire ecosystem – aiding the goshawks that nest nearby, creating amphibian habitat, having Cold Creek potentially be home to various fish species, macro invertebrates, butterflies, and warblers and other birds calling the high elevation meadow home.

At 7,700 feet, this is the highest meadow restoration project the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has undertaken. Cookhouse Meadow, off Luther Pass, was at 7,300. Big Meadow, one day, will resemble its sister meadow.

The meadow restoration is one of four projects in the area. Aspen stand restoration, fuel reduction and trail maintenance are the other projects.

While Heller and her crew work on the meadow, Jacob Quinn, USFS trails coordinator, is working downstream on 2.2 miles of trail along Cold Creek.

“We tried to maintain the character of it,” Quinn said of the trail. The work to reconstruct the existing trail and reroute some areas will be done by the Oct. 15 grading deadline.

Next summer the plan is to rebuild the trail to Monument Pass. The road to Star Lake will be turned into a trail.

The aspen restoration is necessary because with years of fire suppression conifers have crowded out the smaller trees. As this higher elevation some of the shimmering leaves are already yellow.

Trees being taken out are ones encroaching on the aspens, the beetle-ravaged stands and the ones posing a fire threat.

For more information about the project, click here.

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Mountain bike clinics at Northstar

Three days of Bikeskills mountain bike clinics with professional mountain bikers such as Steve Peat, Greg Minaar, Cedric Gracia, Cameron Zink, Leigh Donovan and more.

The Sept. 24-26 clinics are from 11:30am-4pm at Northstar-at-Tahoe.

Meet at the Bikeskills tent at mid-mountain 15-20 minutes

prior to clinic start time. Click here to find out about the various clinics.

To register, call (530) 562.2267.

For more information about Bikeskills, click here.

Arborist training in Nevada

The Nevada Shade Tree Council, the Nevada Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service are sponsoring an arborist training series to improve tree care skills and prepare those interested in taking the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist Examination.

The series is in three eight-hour sessions from Oct. 5-7 at the Nevada Library and Archives, 401 North Carson St. The $85 registration fee and application are due Sept. 24.

A registration form may be downloaded or by request to Tony Dietz at (801) 214.5804.

An ISA Certified Arborist Examination will Oct. 8 at the same location. Contact ISA at www.isa-arbor.com for information on the exam.

Register for annual Kokanee

Trail Run

Annual Kokanee trail runs are Oct. 3.

The Half Marathon starts at 9am. The children’s half-mile Tadpole Trot will begin at 9:15am. The 5K and 10K Trail Runs begin at 10am.

There will be a course briefing 10 minutes before the start of the race.

Walkers welcome in the 5K and 10K.

On-site registration begins at 8am at the Taylor Creek Snow Park. You can save yourself some time on race day by registering at Camp Richardson Resort Oct. 2 from noon to 4 pm.

Taylor Creek Snow Park is 3.5 miles north of the South Lake Tahoe Y on Highway 89. Parking at the immediate event site is limited. Satellite parking is available at the Lake Tahoe Visitor Center and Camp Richardson Resort (approximately half to 1 mile away). Participants are encouraged to arrive early to allow for the extra time needed to walk to the event site. Carpool whenever possible.

All net proceeds benefit the Tahoe Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization which supports U.S. Forest Service environmental education programs at Lake Tahoe.

For more information, email kokaneetrailruns@yahoo.com, call (530) 577.0700 or (530) 318.0516, or go to the website.

South Tahoe native opens baseball academy in Reno

By Reno Gazette-Journal

Former MLB pitcher Bob Ayrault opened The Yard, a full-service baseball academy, in Reno last week.

The Yard, located at 4060 Kietzke Lane, offers specialized sports training, lessons, clinics and cage time for players and coaches. Individual and group lessons are offered seven days per week.

Lessons cost $45 per 30 minutes, $70 per hour or $50 per coach for two-hour Little League coaching clinics.

Ayrault, who was born in South Lake Tahoe, played two years in the major leagues.

To schedule group or private lessons or for more information on The Yard, call (775) 771.0326 or visit www.AyraultsTheYard.com.

Cycling endeavor benefits North Shore nonprofit

As the first rays of the rising sun illuminate the Sierra Nevada mountains Sept. 25, three members of the Elijah Bleu's cycling team will depart from Fort Bragg bound for Truckee.

The three riders – Hardy Bullock, Carey Thrasher and Ken Bossung – plan to ride nonstop for 300 miles in support of the

mentoring programs made possible by nonprofit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada County and North Lake Tahoe. Their 30-hour ride, which will take them through the communities of Willits, Clear Lake, Colusa, Marysville, Grass Valley, Nevada City, Downieville and Sierraville, includes more than 20,000 feet of climbing.

Team leader Bullock is no stranger to endurance cycling.

“Last year, friends and supporters helped me raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters when I rode in the Everest Challenge – 239 miles with 29,000 feet of climbing,” Bullock said in a statement. “After that ride, I made a promise to myself and to the kids who need the positive support of Big Brothers Big Sisters that I would continue to raise money and awareness through challenging events… and this will be, by far, the most difficult cycling event we have ever attempted.”

The ride will finish at Elijah Bleu’s House of Coffee & Good Eats (10115 Donner Pass Road) in downtown Truckee, with a welcome-home party at 11am Sept. 26.

Members of the public as well as volunteers and children involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program are invited to meet the riders at 10am that Sunday at the new Truckee Recreation Center (8924 Donner Pass Road, at the Pioneer Center Roundabout) to ride the final mile with them down the hill to Elijah Bleu’s, where free food and beverages await.

Individuals or businesses interested in supporting the fundraising efforts of Hardy, Carey and Ken may email info@elijahbleus.com or call (530) 582.1040.

Kokanee Salmon Festival on South Shore Oct. 2-3

This fall marks the 21st year the Taylor Creek Visitor Center will host the Kokanee Salmon Festival.



The event takes place the weekend of Oct. 2-3 from 10am-4pm. The Taylor Creek Visitor Center is located three miles north of South Lake Tahoe on Highway 89.

This free family event encourages participation by children and their parents in a variety of educational and entertaining events.

Participants can learn about the natural wonders of Taylor Creek and take part in many fun activities, including a delicious salmon barbecue, Kokanee trail runs, children's activities, educational and streamside programs, and much more.

Wild Things returns Saturday afternoon at 2 in the Lake of the Sky amphitheater. This free program features live animals that may include a black bear, bald eagle, barn owl, turkey vulture, a beaver, and snakes. Because of the live animals on stage, attendees are asked to leave their dogs and other pets at home. New to the festival is a giant 40 foot inflatable fish for children to explore. "Sammy Salmon", the official mascot of the festival, will make appearances each day.

Both Saturday and Sunday, visitors can learn about the natural wonders of Taylor Creek from Forest Service biologists, as they stroll along the accessible Rainbow Trail. This peaceful walk meanders through forests, meadows and marsh lands to the creek where the Kokanee Salmon spawn within a few feet of your

own feet. A close-up view of this natural event is available in the underground Stream Profile Chamber located along the Rainbow Trail.

With the popularity of the Kokanee Salmon Festival at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center and the Oktoberfest at Historic Camp Richardson Resort, which occurs the same weekend, the parking lot at the visitor center fills quickly. Visitors are encouraged to ride a bike or walk along the bike path between Camp Richardson and the visitor center or take public transportation from South Lake Tahoe. BlueGo and the Nifty Fifty trolley will provide special service for these events and may be reached by calling (530) 541.7149.

For more information and a complete schedule of activities, contact the Taylor Creek Visitor Center at (530) 543.2674 or visit the webpage.