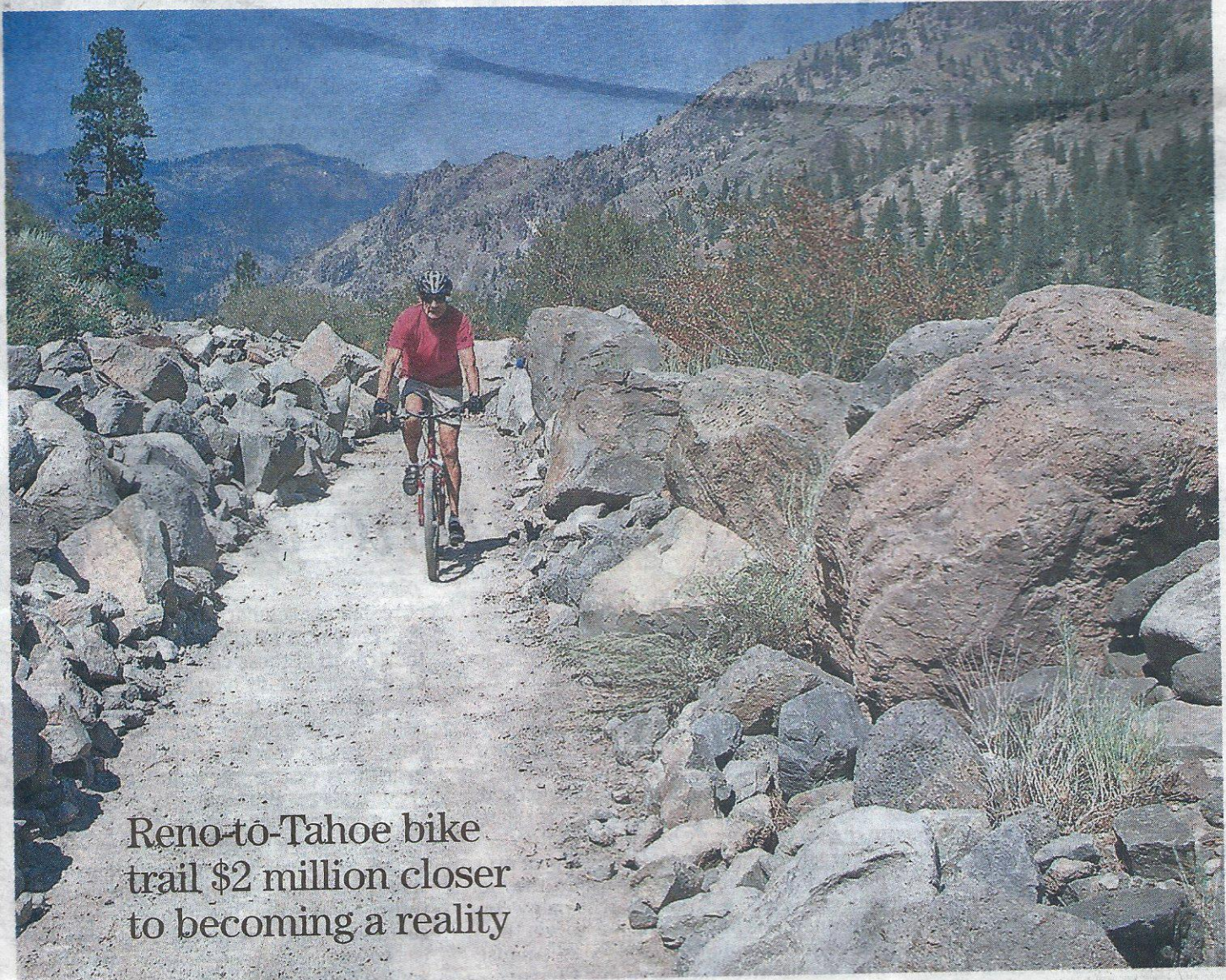




BERGDAHL CASE SENT TO HIGHEST COURT-MARTIAL



Reno-to-Tahoe bike trail \$2 million closer to becoming a reality

PEDALING FORWARD

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The dream of biking from Reno to the shores of Lake Tahoe just got about 2 million steps closer to reality.

That's thanks to more than \$2 million in funding from the Federal Highway Administration is being directed to complete a segment of the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway between Reno and Truckee.

The segment between Floriston and Boca is only about three miles long but it's significant because once it's complete cyclists will be able to ride

from trails and paths in Reno, through Truckee and on to Tahoe City without using roads.

It also means they'll be able to connect even more off-highway riding on U.S. Forest Service roads in the Truckee area and the Tahoe Rim Trail.

The federal money will get to the project by way of California State Parks and the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District.

The private, non-profit Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway organization will need to raise another \$300,000 in matching funds to contribute in order

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Trail

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to receive the public money.

Construction on the segment could take place in 2017 and 2018.

The large amount of money to complete just a few miles of trail is needed because the segment in question is considered one of the toughest spots to build along the entire route.

It goes through steep, rugged and narrow terrain without infringing on property that's already occupied by Interstate 80 and the Union Pacific railroad tracks.

"Historically the railroad got the best land, then the freeway and we are trying to squeeze into what's left," said Janet Phillips, president of the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway.

Although the connection between Reno and Lake Tahoe will be hugely important for cyclists, there's still more work to do to complete the entire Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, which is envisioned as a route connecting Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake.

Even after the Floriston to Boca segment is complete there are still segments between Sparks and Fernley where no trail exists. Phillips said the trail would need to cross private property and bikeway backers haven't yet gotten permission for that. Once the Floriston to Boca segment is done the entire California side will be complete and they'll be in better position to focus on finishing the Nevada segments.