

15 MINUTES

Meet the autocycle

In 2015, Harley-Davidson enthusiast Stephen Adams purchased the local motorcycle dealership and renamed the place Sierra Steel Harley-Davidson. That shop has done steady business, selling and renting bikes as well as organizing rides. Last year, Adams was approached by Vanderhall Motor Works, a relative newbie on the scene (the company was founded in 2010) whose three-wheeled "autocycles" are an automobile-motorcycle hybrid, with two wheels in front and one in back. He was so impressed he decided to open up a Vanderhall dealership next door to his Harley shop. Check out Vanderhall of Chico online at vanderhallofchico.com or visit in person at 590 E. Fifth St.

What do people like best about your Vanderhalls?

Most enjoy the classic 1930s roadster look, the exhilarating, open-air ride, the heated seats, and the many options. But don't judge them by the description—you have to ride it.

How many models are there?

We have two. The biggest production one is the two-seater Venice. It has a four-cylinder, turbo engine, six-speed automatic transmission and 18-inch wheels. It also has a Bluetooth-



PHOTO BY VIC CANTU

enabled sound system. The other model is the silver, single-seat Speedster, of which only 250 were made.

What sparked your interest in these machines?

I read about them last year, and the founder and chairman, Steve Hall, invited me to tour their plant and take a ride in Provo, Utah. I saw a unique opportunity. When I was growing up, I saw small, exotic sports cars made by the British and Italians. The Vanderhalls have all that image but with modern manufacturing, fuel-injection and turbo engines. I'm a local business that wants to populate the West Coast with Vanderhalls.

How much are they?

The Venice is \$29,950, and we just have one Speedster left, for \$26,950. They are totally unexpected, completely out-of-the-

ordinary, and ridiculously fun. Plus, you'll use it way more than a boat.

Where can people take them for repairs?

They are very reliable and easy to work on since they have a four-cylinder GM turbo motor. We're a full-service repair dealer, or in an emergency you can take them to any GM dealer. One customer lost his in the Camp Fire, and we replaced it since he had insurance.

Any new models in the works?

Yes, later this year we'll have the Edison, which will be all-electric. The other upcoming one is the Carmel, which will be 7 inches wider, a little faster and has suicide doors. It will be out by the end of June, and is getting lots of publicity.

—VIC CANTU

THE GOODS

Rock concerts and recycling



by
Meredith J. Cooper

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When I think back to the best outdoor concerts I've ever been to, my mind wanders to watching Jimmy Page (and his theramin!) with the Black Crowes at the Greek Theatre in L.A., or to the first time I saw my beloved Pearl Jam at Riverport Amphitheatre in St. Louis (it's since been renamed). And then there was Soundgarden and Nine Inch Nails at the Toyota Amphitheatre in Wheatland—my first official date with my boyfriend, Chuck. What memories!

Compared with other places I've lived—St. Louis; L.A.; Riverside; Boulder County, Colo.—Chico has few outdoor venues within an hour's drive. Well, things are about to be kicked up a notch. Rolling Hills Casino and Resort is putting the finishing touches on its new outdoor stage—named, simply, The Amphitheater. Owned by the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Corning casino will have its first show in the new 3,000-capacity venue June 9, when War plays there. Can't wait to see what other groups stop through. For more info, go to rollinghillscasino.com.

REUSE, RECYCLE In the hopes of cutting back on waste as we head into camping and grilling season, U-Haul Moving & Storage of Chico is launching a reusable propane tank program. Funded through a grant from CalRecycle, and administered through the California Product Stewardship Council, the company will be selling 1-pound propane tanks that can be refilled at its store. This Saturday (April 27), head over to 600 Country Drive between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a free tank (while supplies last) in exchange for an empty single-use one.

The U-Haul program is part of a larger, nationwide effort—dubbed ReFuel Your Fun—to cut back on small single-use propane tanks. Retailers can sign up to sell/exchange the tanks and/or to refill them (refill stations require on-site propane). To round out the effort, many parks have been outfitted with recycling bins specifically for single-use tanks. The closest to us, according to a handy map at refuelyourfun.org, are at Black Butte Lake and Woodson Bridge state recreation area.

FREE MARKET OK, so the market itself isn't free, but once again Tractor Supply is hosting a local Market Day (May 18), which is free for vendors to join. What's particularly cool is that it's open to everyone, from newbie crafters and bakers to professional tradespeople. And, there's no fee to join—all you have to do is sign up at tsceventpartners.com by May 15. (Held at both Chico and Oroville locations.) I've been getting back into crafting mode, so I might just see you out there!

NEW URL The website LivingInChico.com has long been "making apartment searching funner," at least for anyone looking to rent from the Hignell Companies. Last week, the local rental giant announced a virtual move—to HignellRentals.com. The site itself hasn't changed much—you'll still find blog posts, available rentals and a resident portal. But with properties as far afield as Sacramento and Redding (and nothing currently available in Chico, or even Butte County), I certainly see why a URL change was in order.

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