

Help the races go on

Contact Silver Dollar BMX via Facebook to donate to the cause.
facebook.com/sdbmx

ing body and its insurer. He said that organization has offered to help defray some costs and to help them get the track going as soon as possible.

He also noted that the new track could become operational before it's 100 percent complete. "We think we can get riding [for] somewhere south of \$700,000."

Worth the effort

In its 20-plus years of operation, Silver Dollar BMX has helped thousands of riders of all ages live their bicycle-motocross-racing dreams. The BMX season is year-round, halting only for a few weeks in December, and is central to the lives of many participants. Without a track in Chico, the closest BMX racing facilities are in Sacramento and Shasta Lake City.

Silver Dollar BMX was not just affected by the forced move, but also struggled during the COVID-19 crisis. The track was closed for most of 2020, then reopened in Feb. 2021.

"Our ridership actually grew significantly

coming out of COVID because we were one of the first sports that was able to reopen," Wysocki said, explaining that BMX is held outdoors, riders wear full face helmets equivalent to face coverings, and that the organization instated social distancing rules so fans sat in the grandstands during competition, then stayed near their vehicles in the parking area between races.

The boon was short lived, as the track was closed down eight months after reopening. Wysocki and Clancy said the track's erratic availability in recent years has hindered riders' progress and advancement, and contributed to the fragmentation of a once-strong strong community.

In addition to being president of the organization's board of directors, Clancy has also been racing for nine years, competing in the sport's 56-and-over class, and spoke firsthand about the effects of the closure.

"BMX is a tight community," Clancy said. "You have families that are traveling together and a lot of relationships are built at the track. It becomes a social network and it sucks when you don't have it.

"It's frustrating," he continued. "I started riding to get into and stay in better shape, and I use it to be in a better mental place. Riding takes my mind off stuff, off all the stresses of life, and without the track it's been a little harder." □



Renderings show what the new Silver Dollar BMX track will look like when completed.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SILVER DOLLAR BMX



MORE **BIKES** CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



NORTH STATE SYMPHONY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

2022-23 Season
Scott Seaton | Music Director

EXPERIENCE
JOY

MASTERWORKS 4: RACHMANINOFF & DVOŘÁK

Guest Artist Charlie Albright, *piano*

Join North State Symphony as they capture in sound the iconic beauty of nature's endless charm. A highlight for this performance is the World Premier of *Lassen Awakes!* by composer Marko Bajzer, 2022 Artist-in-Residence at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Bajzer was awarded a co-commission by the North State Symphony to produce this original piece, and it will be performed before a live audience for the first time at this concert.

PROGRAM:

BAJZER - *Lassen Awakes!* *World Premiere*

RACHMANINOFF - *Piano Concerto No. 2*

DVORAK - *Symphony No. 8*

Saturday, May 13 | 7:30 PM | Cascade Theatre, Redding

Sunday, May 14 | 2:00 PM | Laxson Auditorium, Chico



Tickets to both performances are available at
northstatesymphony.org